

June 20, 2024,

TL2024/0620/3A

The Secretary,
Ministry of Commerce and Textile
Islamabad

Subject: Uploading of Information about PIOs on the website of Ministry of Commerce and Textile, Govt of Pakistan as per Section 5(1)h of Federal Right of Access to Information Act 2017

Dear Sir,

Transparency International Pakistan would like to bring to your attention the lack of information regarding a designated Public Information Officer (PIO) in accordance with the Right of Access to Information Act 2017 on the ministry's website: <https://www.commerce.gov.pk/> accessed on June 13, 2024.

Section 5(1)h - Publication and availability of record, Right of Access to Information Act 2017 is quoted below for your reference,

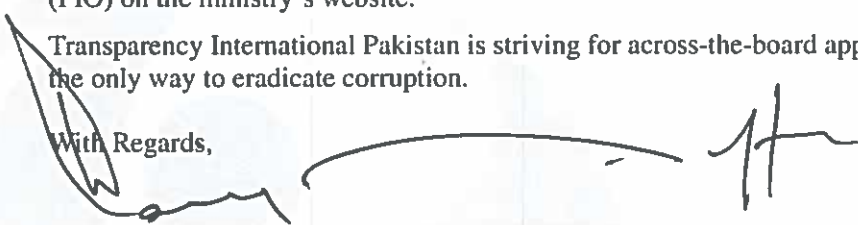
"the methods whereby information in the possession or control of the public body may be obtained and the prescribed fee required along with the name, title and contact details of the designated officials;"

TI Pakistan acknowledges the fact that Access to Information laws are an important step towards transparency and social accountability. TI Pakistan has been striving for the enactment and implementation of RTI laws in Pakistan since 2002 so that the citizens are able to exercise their right to information.

Transparency International Pakistan requests the Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Textile, Govt of Pakistan to issue directives for the compliance with Section 5(1)h Federal Right of Access to Information Act 2017 and upload the mandatory information including the methods whereby information in the possession or control of the public body may be obtained and the particulars of public information officer (PIO) on the ministry's website.

Transparency International Pakistan is striving for across-the-board application of Rule of Law, which is the only way to eradicate corruption.

With Regards,



Advocate Daniyal Muzaffar
Trustee/Legal Advisor
Transparency International Pakistan

Copies forwarded for the information with request to take action under their mandate to:

1. Principal Secretary to the PM, PM House, Islamabad
2. Chief Information Commissioner, Govt of Pakistan, Islamabad
3. Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad



Note:

This is to clarify that Transparency International Pakistan is not a complainant, it acts as a whistleblower and operate under Article 19-A, of the Constitution of Pakistan which gives the right to public to know how government is being run by public officers. Article 19-A makes the right to access of information pertaining to a public authority a fundamental right, and a three member bench in case of Mukhtar Ahmad Ali vs the Registrar, Supreme Court of Pakistan, Islamabad, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the landmark judgment on 16 October 2023, in CP No. 3532/2023, has declared that

“What previously may have been on a need-to-know basis Article 19A of the Constitution has transformed it to a right-to-know, and the Access to information is no longer a discretion granted through occasional benevolence, but is now a fundamental right available with every Pakistani which right may be invoked under Article 19A of the Constitution”