



Right to Information:

Proactive Disclosure by the Public Bodies of Punjab



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The State of Proactive Disclosure of Information in Punjab under The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013

Right to Information has been deemed critical for strengthening system wide transparency and accountability thus leading to good governance. Article 19A of the Constitution of Pakistan recognizes the Right to Information of every citizen of the country. Pursuant to this insertion by the Eighteenth Amendment Act 2010, Punjab enacted The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013. The Act envisages “to provide for transparency and freedom of information to ensure that citizens have improved access to public information; to make the Government more accountable to citizens; to enforce the fundamental right of access to information in all matters of public importance.” The Act requires all public bodies of the province to proactively disclose certain information and further creates the Punjab Information Commission to facilitate the application of the provisions of the Act.

The Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan (CRCP) has been actively campaigning for Freedom of Information / RTI laws and their implementation in the country for the past 17 years. CRCP holds the distinction of formulating and presenting first ever Model Law on Freedom of Information. It actively engaged with the federal and KP governments for putting across consumer concerns with respect to RTI laws. Advocacy measures undertaken by CRCP include advocacy for improvements in the existing RTI laws; submission of information requests; engagement with the Federal Ombudsman; preparation of model rules of business for FOI Ordinances; public awareness through seminars, walks, information materials, etc.; preparation of training modules; capacity building workshops; assessment of the state of RTI in government departments; and advocacy to access laws in the provinces and district governments. Three years have passed since the enactment of The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 and it is imperative to gauge its implementation by the public bodies.

This brief presents review of proactive disclosure by 80 public bodies (including provincial

Departments along with a few of their allied organizations, autonomous bodies, and public sector companies) of Punjab. Websites of these bodies have been taken as a proxy for rightful medium of proactive disclosure. The scale used to categorize disclosure comprises 1) Not Applicable (N.A.), 2) Not Addressed, 3) Nascent, 4) Insufficient, 5) Good, and 6) Excellent. Requirements laid down by the Act for proactive disclosure have been taken as parameters for defining scale i.e. complete fulfillment of requirement has been awarded excellent scale and incremental lack of fulfillment brings organization to the lowest category of 'Not Addressed'. Norms and criteria set for discharge of its functions has been reviewed subjectively owing to the variance of scope of activities and functions. Moreover, absence of standardized criteria has also been taken into account and organizational documents describing objectives or operational plans / strategy papers along with annual reports have been considered as disclosure.

Public bodies in the current ranking have been ranked on a scale of 0 to 100 where 100 is the highest. The scale is explained in the following lines:

Not Applicable: Two parameters of Section 4 of The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013 fall under this category for majority of the organizations i.e. 1) amount of subsidy and details of beneficiaries if the public body provides any subsidy; 2) particulars of the recipients of concessions, permits or authorizations granted by the public body. A score of 0 has been allocated for this category.

Not Addressed: This category has been assigned to criteria that have not been addressed by the available online content. For example, appointment of Public Information Officers (PIOs) by the public bodies needs to be proactively disclosed on the website. List of PIOs made available on the website of the Punjab Information Commission is a welcome step but it has been categorized as 'Not Addressed' under this ranking.

Nascent: Organizations rated 'Nascent' under the given parameters fall short on showing significant progress. Availability of updated / complete information i.e. budget, public information officer etc., legal instruments used / enforced by the organization i.e. law, rules, regulations, notifications, circulars, opportunity for public to provide input in the decision making process etc. If, the information available on website is of basic nature and is in rudimentary form; the performance of public body has been rated 'Nascent'. A score of 3 has been allocated for this category.

Insufficient: Performance of a public body rated 'Insufficient' owes to its partial fulfillment of requirements laid down by the law. Budget of last year / budget without expenditures etc., missing information with respect to role/ responsibilities/ functions of the organization, incomplete reporting on norms and criteria set by organization for discharge of its functions (formulation of objectives, documentary proof of strategic planning to achieve the assigned functions / objectives), directory of officers and staff with only designations and contact details while remuneration and other details are missing etc. A score of 5 has been allocated for this category.

Good: This category has been assigned to requirements where majority of the parameters have been fulfilled by the organization and only one parameter is missing. For example, last year's budget shared on the website without detail of heads but otherwise complete information on estimates of income and expenditure has been rated in this category. Other requirements laid down by the law have been rated likewise. A score of 7 has been allocated for this category.

Excellent: Meets all the requirements of proactive disclosure. A score of 10 has been allocated for this category.

Given the diversity of design and content arrangement, (except the ones designed / powered by the Punjab Information Technology Board that follow a standardized design but content arrangement varies) CRCP accorded all possible leverage by considering and categorizing scattered information on the websites. The review of online content was conducted between November 25, 2016 and December 20, 2016. Online content about 9 provincial

Departments is available on the portal of Punjab Government as they do not have their respective websites. Information presented there has also been reviewed and comment has been made accordingly on the absence of website.

The matrix given in the brief makes abridged use of the following requirements of 'Proactive Disclosure' laid down by Section 4 of The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013:

Proactive Disclosure: Subject to the provisions of The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013, a public body shall proactively disclose:

- a. particulars of the public body, its functions and duties;
- b. powers and functions of its officers and employees;
- c. norms and criteria set by the public body for the discharge of its functions;
- d. Acts, Ordinances, rules, regulations, notifications, circulars and other legal instruments being enforced, issued or used by the public body in the discharge of its functions;
- e. a statement of categories of information being held by the public body;
- f. a description of its decision-making processes and any opportunities for the public to provide input into or be consulted about decisions;
- g. a directory of its officers and employees with their respective remuneration, perks and privileges;
- h. budget of the public body including details of all proposed and actual expenditures;
- i. amount of subsidy and details of beneficiaries if the public body provides any subsidy;
- j. particulars of the recipients of concessions, permits or authorizations granted by the public body;
- k. facilities available with the public body for obtaining information held by it;
- l. name, designation and other particulars of the public information officer of the public body; and
- m. any other information that the Government may notify in the official Gazette.

S. No.	Public Body	Particulars, Functions and Duties	Powers and Functions of Officers and Staff	Norms, Criteria for Discharge of Functions	Legal Instruments Used for Discharge of Functions	Statement of Categories of Information	Decision Making Process and Public Participation	Staff Directory	Budget	Obtaining Information	PIOs	RTI Score	Ranking
1	Punjab Revenue Authority (https://pra.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	10	10	10	10	10	7	10	10	10	97	1st
2	Punjab Municipal Development Fund Company (http://pmdfc.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	7	10	10	10	10	0	10	10	10	87	2nd
3	Punjab Information Commission (http://www.rti.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	5	7	10	0	10	7	7	10	0	66	3rd
4	Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Multan (http://www.bisemultan.edu.pk/)	10	10	7	7	0	7	3	7	10	0	61	4th
5	Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Gujranwala (http://www.bisegrw.com/)	10	10	3	10	0	7	3	7	10	0	60	5th
6	Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Faisalabad (http://www.bisefsd.edu.pk/)	10	7	10	7	0	7	3	5	10	0	59	6th
7	Punjab Public Service Commission (http://www.ppsc.gop.pk/)	10	5	10	5	0	7	0	10	10	0	57	7th
8	Local Government & Community Development Department (http://lgcd.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	7	0	0	7	3	10	54	8th
9	Punjab Education Foundation (http://pef.edu.pk.pefsis.edu.pk/)	10	0	7	7	0	3	5	7	3	10	52	9th
10	Excise, Taxation, and Narcotics Control Department (http://www.excise-punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	7	7	0	3	3	3	10	50	10th
11	Punjab Metro Bus Authority (http://www.pma.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	7	3	10	50	10th
12	Punjab Daanish Schools and Centers of Excellence Authority (http://daanishschools.edu.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	7	5	7	3	0	49	12th
13	Directorate of Staff Development (http://www.dsd.edu.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	7	10	5	0	49	12th
14	The Punjab Educational Endowment Fund (http://www.peef.org.pk/index.asp)	10	5	10	0	0	7	3	10	3	0	48	14th
15	Government College University Lahore (http://www.gcu.edu.pk/)	10	0	7	7	0	7	3	7	7	0	48	14th
16	Lahore Transport Company (http://www.ltc.gop.pk/)	10	0	7	0	10	7	0	10	3	0	47	16th
17	Punjab Examination Commission (http://www.pec.edu.pk/)	10	0	0	7	0	0	7	10	3	10	47	16th
18	Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Authority (http://www.pida.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	7	3	7	3	0	47	16th
19	Punjab Police (http://punjabpolice.gov.pk/)	10	0	10	10	0	0	0	3	3	10	46	19th
20	Labor Department (http://www.punjablabour.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	3	3	3	10	46	19th
21	Lahore Waste Management Company (http://www.lwmc.com.pk/)	10	7	7	10	0	0	0	7	3	0	44	21st

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22	Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority (http://ppra.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	3	7	5	0	42	22nd
23	Punjab Information Technology Board (https://www.pitb.gov.pk/)	10	0	5	7	0	0	0	7	3	10	42	22nd
24	Punjab Institute of Cardiology (http://pic.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	3	5	7	0	42	22nd
25	Punjab Resource Management Program (http://prmp.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	5	7	7	0	3	5	5	0	42	22nd
26	University of Engineering and Technology Lahore (http://www.uet.edu.pk/)	10	0	7	0	0	7	3	7	7	0	41	26th
27	Agriculture Department (http://www.agripunjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	10	7	0	0	3	7	3	0	40	27th
28	Child Protection and Welfare Bureau (https://cpwb.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	3	10	0	7	0	7	3	0	40	27th
29	School Education Department (http://schools.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	3	7	3	0	40	27th
30	Finance Department (http://finance.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	3	0	3	5	38	30th
31	Management & Professional Development Department (http://mpdd.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	0	3	3	5	38	30th
32	Punjab Curriculum and Textbook Board (http://www.ptb.gop.pk/)	10	0	5	7	0	3	3	7	3	0	38	30th
33	Irrigation Department (http://irrigation.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	7	0	0	0	10	3	0	37	33rd
34	Mines and Minerals Department (http://www.mnm.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	0	7	3	0	37	33rd
35	Planning and Development Department (http://www.pndpunjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	7	0	0	3	7	3	0	37	33rd
36	Population Welfare Department (http://pwd.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	37	33rd
37	Punjab Saaf Pani Company (http://saafpani.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	7	0	0	3	0	37	33rd
38	Health Department (http://health.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	3	3	3	0	36	38th
39	Higher Education Department (http://www.hed.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	3	3	3	0	36	38th
40	Food Department (http://food.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	7	0	0	3	5	3	0	35	40th
41	Nursing Examination Board Punjab (http://www.nebp.edu.pk/)	10	0	7	7	0	3	0	5	3	0	35	40th
42	Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Lahore (http://www.biselahore.com/index.php)	10	0	0	0	0	7	3	7	7	0	34	42nd
43	Zakat and Ushr Department (http://www.zakat.gop.pk/)	10	0	7	7	0	0	3	3	3	0	33	43rd
44	Special Education Department (http://sed.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	5	10	0	0	3	0	3	0	31	44th

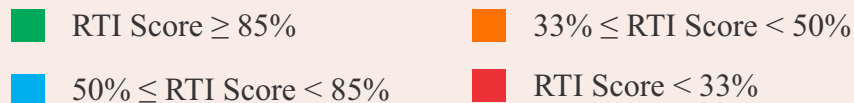
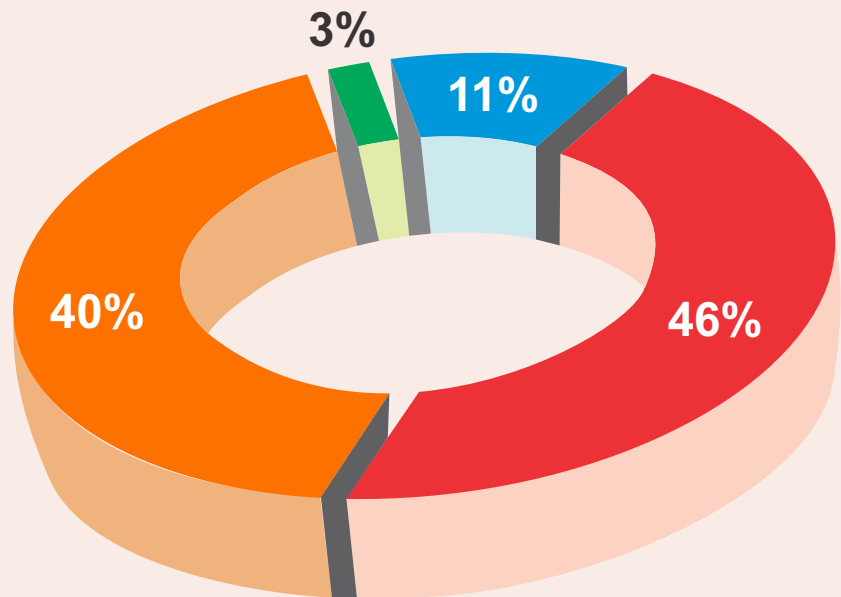
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45	Forest, Wildlife & Fisheries Department (http://fwf.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	0	0	3	0	30	45th
46	Punjab Emergency Service (http://www.rescue.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	7	0	0	3	0	3	0	30	45th
47	Public Prosecution Department (http://prosecution.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	10	7	0	0	0	0	3	0	30	45th
48	Social Welfare Department (http://swd.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	7	0	0	3	0	3	0	30	45th
49	Lahore Development Authority (http://www.lda.gop.pk/)	10	0	7	10	0	0	0	0	3	0	30	45th
50	Provincial Disaster Management Authority (http://pdma.gop.pk/)	10	0	10	3	0	0	0	3	3	0	29	50th
51	Energy Department (http://energy.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	5	7	0	0	3	0	3	0	28	51st
52	Women Development Department (http://wdd.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	5	7	0	0	3	0	3	0	28	51st
53	Urban Unit (http://uu.urbanunit.gov.pk/index.aspx)	10	0	5	0	0	0	0	10	3	0	28	51st
54	Industries, Commerce and Investment Department (http://icid.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	3	0	27	54th
55	WASA Lahore (http://www.wasa.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	3	7	27	54th
56	Punjab Prisons (http://www.prisons.punjab.gov.pk/inspectorate_of_prisons)	10	0	3	7	0	3	0	0	3	0	26	56th
57	Punjab Forensic Science Agency (http://pfsa.gop.pk/)	10	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	26	56th
58	Lahore Arts Council (http://lac.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	3	7	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	26	56th
59	Cooperatives Department (http://cooperatives.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	0	7	0	0	3	0	3	0	23	59th
60	Environment Protection Department (http://epd.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	0	7	0	0	3	0	3	0	23	59th
61	Housing, Urban Development & Public Health Engineering (http://www.hudphed.punjab.gov.pk/)	7	0	3	7	0	0	0	3	3	0	23	59th
62	Office of the CM Punjab (http://www.cm.punjab.gov.pk/)	7	0	5	0	0	7	0	0	3	0	22	62nd
63	Punjab Privatization Board (http://www.ppb.gop.pk/)	0	0	7	7	0	0	3	0	3	0	20	63rd
64	Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (http://rwmc.org.pk/)	10	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	18	64th
65	Lahore Parking Company (http://lepark.punjab.gov.pk/)	10	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	18	64th
66	Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Rawalpindi (http://www.biserwp.edu.pk/)	5	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	5	0	18	64th
67	Transport Department (No Website)	7	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	15	67th
68	Punjab Agriculture and Meat Company (http://www.pamco.bz/)	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	13	68th

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69	Human Rights and Minorities Affairs Department (No Website)	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	69th
70	Parks and Horticulture Authority Lahore (http://www.pha.gop.pk/)	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	69th
71	Punjab Halal Development Agency (http://phda.com.pk/)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	8	71st
72	Information and Culture Department (No Website)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	72nd
73	Services and General Administration Department (No Website)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	72nd
74	Livestock Department (http://www.livestockpunjab.gov.pk/)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	6	74th
75	Auqaf and Religious Affairs Department (No Website)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	75th
76	Board of Revenue (No Website)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	75th
77	Communication and Works Department (No Website)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	75th
78	Youth Affairs, Sports, Archeology & Tourism Department (No Website)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	75th
79	Home Department (No Website)	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	79th
80	Law and Parliamentary Affairs Department (http://www.punjabcode.punjab.gov.pk/)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	79th

Way Forward:

CRCP understands that great deal of efforts is needed to fully realize the benefits of RTI law in the province. It intends to build on its initiative of strengthening the campaign for RTI by undertaking periodic rankings of public bodies of the province. As a first step, this ranking will be communicated to all the public bodies with a request to revisit their websites and address the RTI requirements. Example of public bodies ranking high may be followed. In the coming years, the ranking criteria will be made more rigorous and publication of annual report and indexing of information by the organizations shall also be included as ranking parameters. Effort will be made to apprise the provincial legislators, especially relevant Standing Committee of the Punjab Assembly, about the need of legislative oversight of implementation of The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013. CRCP further resolves to actively engage with the public bodies and civil society organizations for building their capacities to implement the law in letter and spirit for the advantage of consumers.

Proactive Disclosure of Information by Public Bodies in Punjab



EXCELLENT DISCLOSURE

Only 2 out of the reviewed 80 public bodies have scored more than 85% on the RTI scale

GOOD DISCLOSURE

Only 9 out of the reviewed 80 public bodies have scored 50% or more but less than 85% on the RTI scale

INSUFFICIENT DISCLOSURE

32 out of the reviewed 80 public bodies have scored 33% or more but less than 50% on the RTI scale

NASCENT DISCLOSURE

37 out of the reviewed 80 public bodies have scored less than 33% on the RTI scale

Top 5 Public Bodies on Proactive Disclosure of Information

- 1 Punjab Revenue Authority
- 2 Punjab Municipal Development Fund
- 3 Punjab Information Commission
- 4 BISE Multan
- 5 BISE Gujranwala

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