

**CRCP**  
**CONSUMER RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
**OF PAKISTAN**

August 8, 2009

Senator Mian Raza Rabbani  
Chairman Special Parliamentary Committee for  
Working out Modalities for Constitutional Reforms  
Parliament House Islamabad  
Tel: 051-9103134

**Subject: Proposal for Special Parliamentary Committee for  
Working out Modalities for Constitutional Reforms**

Dear Mr. Rabbani,

Freedom of information (FOI) legislation represents the basic right-to-know legal process by which citizens may ask for government held information and receive it freely or at minimal cost, barring standardized exceptions. Promotion of a culture of FOI in public bodies helps a great deal in the attainment of objectives of transparency and accountability in the public sector. In many countries there are constitutional guarantees for the right of access to information, but usually these are unused if specific legislation to support them does not exist. In case of Pakistan, we do have FOI Ordinance 2002 and FOI Rules 2004, although with many snags. However, these laws lack the constitutional backing. We therefore propose that Article 19-A may be added as under:

“19-A. Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of information subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of privacy of individuals and national security”.

Best regards,

  
Abrar Hafeez  
Secretary General