



Comparative Analysis of Right to Information Laws in Pakistan

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BACKGROUND

The 18th Constitutional Amendment to the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan inserted 19-A in 2010, states ‘Right to information: Every citizen shall have the right to have access to information in all matters of public importance subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law.’ Pakistan is a federal state. The federal government and all provinces were required to enact effective Right to Information (RTI) to fulfil the constitutional obligation.

Acting on Article 19-A of constitution of Pakistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) was the first province to promulgate Right to Information Ordinance in August 2013, followed by the enactment of the same through KP Provincial Assembly in November 2013. It was followed by Punjab province through enactment of Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act in December 2013. These two laws had changed the RTI landscape in Pakistan and can truly be called the post 18th constitutional amendment effective RTI laws in Pakistan. Sindh province also enacted Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2016 in March 2017. This was followed by enactment of Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act in October 2017. Balochistan was the last of province in Pakistan to enact Balochistan Right to Information Act in 2021. Gilgit Baltistan (GB) and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) have still no RTI laws¹.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This is the first of its kind analysis since the enactment of RTI laws by all provinces of Pakistan and at the federal level. The purpose of this comparative analysis is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the provincial and national RTI laws in Pakistan vis-à-vis national and international best principles. It will also help enactment of effective RTI laws in GB and AJK, based on the experiences of the existing RTI laws in Pakistan, if and when the concerned governments decide to enact RTI laws.

¹ Constitutionally, GB and AJK are not part of Pakistan, though Pakistan has full administrative control over these areas. Therefore, the provisions of constitution of Pakistan, including Article 19-A, don’t apply over GB and AJK. However, Article 22 of Interim Constitution of AJK 1974 states “Right to Information. - Every State Subject shall have the right to have access to information in all matters of public importance subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law”. Gilgit Baltistan is the only ‘administrative province’ of Pakistan with no legal or constitutional provision for right to information as right to information is not included Part II “Fundamental Rights” of The Gilgit-Baltistan (Empowerment and Self-Governance) Order, 2009’

Lastly, the research will add on to strengthening and reforming the emerging RTI regime in Pakistan and will provide a ready reference for the RTI practitioners, civil society, journalists and human rights activists in Pakistan.

1. Table for Comparative Analysis of RTI Laws in Pakistan.

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>1. PREAMBLES</p> <hr/> <p>a) Except The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act, all RTI laws in Pakistan have referred to Article 19-A of constitution of Pakistan.</p> <p>b) Preambles of RTI laws in Pakistan acknowledge importance of RTI for fundamental rights, making governments more accountable to citizens, promotion of democracy and reducing corruption.</p>				
<p>To provide for ensuring transparency and access to information in the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.</p> <p>WHEREAS Article 19A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides that every citizen shall have the right to access to information in all matters of public importance, subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS transparency of information is vital to the functioning of democracy and</p>	<p><i>An Act to provide for transparency and freedom of information in the Punjab.</i></p> <p>Preamble.—Whereas it is expedient 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</p>	<p>To provide for promoting transparency in the working of every public authority by setting out a practical regime for every citizen to secure access to information in a rapid and low cost manner under the control of public authorities, the constitution of a Sindh Information Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.</p> <p>WHEREAS Article 19A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides that every citizen shall have the right to access information in all</p>	<p>To provide for the right to information in transparent and effective manner, subject only to reasonable restrictions imposed by law</p> <p>WHEREAS Government believes in transparency and the right to have access to information to ensure that the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have improved access to records held by public authorities and promote the purposes of making the Government more accountable to its people, of</p>	<p>To provide for ensuring transparency and access to information in Balochistan.</p> <p>Whereas Article 19-A of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Proves that every citizen shall have the right to access to information in all matter of public importance, subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by the law.</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>also to improve governance, reduce corruption, and to hold Government, autonomous and statutory organizations and other organizations and institutions run on Government or foreign funding, more accountable to its citizens and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS it is essential that citizens shall have right to information to participate meaningfully in a democratic process and further to improve their involvement and contribution in public affairs;</p>	<p>importance; and, to provide for ancillary matters;</p>	<p>matters of public importance, subject to regulations and reasonable restrictions imposed by law;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS transparency and access to information are essential principles of democracy which not only enable the populace to hold the Governments and their institutions accountable but also help in improving the system of governance;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS it is essential that all citizens shall have right to information to participate meaningfully in the democratic process and further to improve their involvement and contribution in public affairs;</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, it is expedient to provide for transparency and freedom of information to ensure that all citizens have better access to</p>	<p>improving participation by the people in public affairs, of reducing corruption and inefficiency in Government, of promoting sound economic growth, of promoting good governance and respect for human rights;</p> <p>AND WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for a law which gives effect to the fundamental right of access to information, as guaranteed under Article 19A of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and international law, whereby everyone shall have the right to have access to all information held by public bodies subject only to reasonable restrictions imposed by law, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;</p>	<p>And whereas it is essential that citizens shall have right to information to participate meaningfully in the democratic process and further to improve their involvement and contribution in public affairs.</p>

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		<p>public information, to make the Government more accountable to citizens, to enforce the fundamental right to information in all matters of public importance, to ensure transparency in all Government matters and to provide for ancillary matters;</p>	<p>STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS</p> <p>The proposed Bill is intended to promote a two way flow of Informatron i.e. from the government to the people and vice versa for strengthening and safeguarding the public's "right to know", especially in the back drop of Afticle 19A of the Constitution, which explicitly recognizes this right as a fundamental human rig h t.</p> <p>WHEREAS, Right to know is an inallenable birth right of an individual and is universally recognized in a democratic drspensation. In a constitutional governance, public officials are the custodians of the public records and documents, and the people, the real sovereigns, have the right of</p>	

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			<p>access to all public records, subject to law and except the material disclosure of which may be harmful to national security, relations with the friendly countries and privacy of the life, home, family and honour of the citizens of Pakistan.</p> <p>WHEREAS, access to information is an essential pre-requisite to the people's realization of their ideals of good and transparent governance and for which it is necessary to ensure that the citizens of Pakistan should have the fullest possible access to public records.</p> <p>Therefore, in pursuance of the aforesaid objectives, this Bill is being introduced to ensure that the citizens of Pakistan may have the fullest possible access to public records.</p>	

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<h2 style="color: #8B4513;">2. SHORT TITLE, EXTEND AND COMMENCEMENT</h2>				
<p>a) 25th Constitutional amendment in 2018 under the Article 246 has explicitly mentioned that all tribal areas in Balochistan (Article 246, B-(ii) Zhob district, Loralai district (excluding Duki Tehsil), Dalbandin Tehsil of Chagai district and Marri and Bugti Tribal territories of Sibi district) shall stand merged with Balochistan. Therefore, there was no need mention tribal areas in Balochistan RTI Act and the Balochistan RTI Act is also applicable to the whole province.</p> <p>b). After the enactment of Balochistan RTI Act, now all provinces in Pakistan have provincial RTI laws. Information commissions under all RTI laws have been established except Balochistan.</p>				
<p>1) 1. This Act may be called the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Act, 2013.</p> <p>2. It extends to the whole of the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.</p> <p>3. It shall come into force at once.</p>	<p>1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Act 2013.</p> <p>(2) It extends to the whole of the Punjab.</p> <p>(3) It shall come into force at once.</p>	<p>1. (1) This Act may be called the Sindh Transparency and Right to Information Act, 2016.</p> <p>(2) It shall extend to the whole of the Province of Sindh.</p> <p>(3) It shall come into force at once.</p>	<p>1. This Act may be called the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017.</p> <p>(2) It shall apply to all public bodies of the Federal Government.</p> <p>(3) It shall come into force at once.</p>	<p>1) 1. This Act may be called the Balochistan Right to Information Act, 2021.</p> <p>1) 2. It extends to the whole of Balochistan, except the Tribal Areas.</p> <p>1) 3. It shall come into force at once.</p>

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3. DEFINITIONS

a) While Punjab, Sindh and Pakistan RTI laws include any court in the definition of public body, the KP and Balochistan has restricted the ambit of the respective RTI laws to lower judiciary only.

b) The ‘applicant’ is defined as citizen of Pakistan in all RTI laws in Pakistan. Legal person as applicant is included only in Punjab and Sindh RTI laws. The legal person as ‘applicant’ should be included in all RTI laws.

<p>2. Definitions: In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-</p> <p>(a) “complaint” means any allegation in writing made by or on behalf of a requester that his request for information has not been dealt with by a public body in accordance with the rules and procedures set out in this Act, including where he has been wrongfully denied access to all or part of that record;</p>	<p>2. (a)“applicant” means a citizen of Pakistan or a legal person registered or incorporated in Pakistan, seeking information under this Act and includes a person authorized on behalf of the legal person;</p> <p>(b)“Commission” means Punjab Information Commission established under this Act;</p> <p>(c)“Commissioner” means an Information Commissioner and includes the Chief Information Commissioner;</p>	<p>2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context –</p> <p>(a) “Applicant” means a citizen of Pakistan or a legal person registered or incorporated in Pakistan, seeking information under this Act;</p> <p>(b) “Commission” means the Sindh Information Commission established under this Act; “Commissioner” means an Information Commissioner and includes the Chief Information Commissioner;</p> <p>“Document” means any order or decision made and duly notified;</p>	<p>2. Definitions—In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—</p> <p>(i) “appeal” means any grievance lodged in writing by an applicant with the Information Commission in accordance with section 17;</p> <p>(ii) “applicant” means a citizen of Pakistan, as defined in law, who lodges a request or any person who is acting for or on behalf of such a person;</p> <p>(iii) “designated official” means an official of a public</p>	<p>2) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context. –</p> <p>a) “Act” means the Balochistan Right to Information Act, 2021.</p> <p>b) “Applicant” means a person who is citizen of Pakistan, seeking information under this Act and includes a person authorized on this behalf.</p> <p>c) ‘Complaint’ means any allegation in written made by or in behalf of an applicant</p>
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<p>(b) Public Information Officer means an officer of a public body designated under section 6 of this Act;</p> <p>(c) “employee or official” in relation to a public body means a person employed in a public body whether permanently or temporarily and includes consultants;</p> <p>(d) “Government” means the Government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;</p> <p>(e) “information” means material which communicates meaning and which is held in recorded form;</p> <p>(f) “Information Commission” means the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission established under section 24 of this Act;</p>	<p>(d)“complaint” means a complaint made, in writing, to the Commission by an applicant on one or more of the following grounds:-</p> <p>(i) wrongful denial of access to information;</p> <p>(ii) non provision of information within the stipulated time;</p> <p>(iii) refusal to receive and process the request from an applicant;</p> <p>(iv) furnishing false, misleading or incomplete information;</p> <p>(v) charging fee or cost for provision of information in excess of the requisite fee;</p>	<p>“complainant” means a complaint made, in writing, to the Commission by an applicant on one or more of the following grounds:</p> <p>(i) wrongful denial of access to information;</p> <p>(ii) non provision of information within the stipulated time;</p> <p>(iii) refusal to receive and process the request from an applicant;</p> <p>(iv) furnishing false, misleading or incomplete information;</p> <p>(v) charging fee or cost for provision of information in excess of the requisite fee;</p> <p>(vi) deliberate destruction of information to avoid its disclosure;</p> <p>(vii) failure of a public body to implement the provisions regarding proactive disclosure; or</p>	<p>body designated in accordance with section 9; (iv) “Information Commission” means the Pakistan Commission on Access to Information established in accordance with section 18;</p> <p>(v) “information” means information based on record;</p> <p>(iv) “national security” means the matters pertaining to the integrity, security or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof;</p> <p>(vii) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules or regulations made under this Act;</p> <p>(viii) “principal officer” means-</p> <p>(a) in case of the Federal Government Ministers and Divisions, the Secretary thereof and</p>	<p>that is request for information has not been dealt by a public body in accordance with the rules and procedures set out in this Act, including where he has been wrongly denied access to record or information.</p> <p>d) Commission means The Balochistan Information Commissioner established under this Act.</p> <p>e) ‘Commissioner’ means an information commissioner and includes their Chief Information Commissioner;</p> <p>f) ‘Complainant’ means,-</p> <p>(i) an applicant; and</p> <p>(ii) a person acting for an on behalf of an applicant.</p> <p>g) ‘employee or official’ in relation to a public body means a person employed in</p>

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<p>(g) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act;</p> <p>(h) “Province” means the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;</p> <p>(i) “Public body” means:</p> <p>(i) any department or attached department of the Government;</p> <p>(ii) Secretariats of Chief Minister and Governor of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;</p> <p>[(iii) Secretariat of the Provincial Assembly, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa alongwith the Members of the Assembly and the Assembly itself;]</p> <p>(iv) any Office, Board, Commission, Council or any</p>	<p>(vi) deliberate destruction of information to avoid its disclosure;</p> <p>(vii) failure of a public body to implement the provisions regarding proactive disclosure; or</p> <p>(viii) violation of any other provision of the Act by a public body;</p> <p>(e) “Government” means Government of the Punjab;</p> <p>(f) “information” means any information held by a public body and includes any memo, book, design, map, contract, representation, pamphlet, brochure, order, notification, document, plans, letter, report, accounts statement, project proposal, photograph, audio, video, drawing, film, any instrument</p>	<p>(viii) violation of any other provisions of the Act by a public body;</p> <p>“Government” means the Government of Sindh;</p> <p>“Information” means any information held by a public body and includes any memo, book, design, map, contract, representation, pamphlet, brochure, order, notification, document, plans, letter, report, accounts statement, project proposal, photograph, audio, video, drawing, film, any instrument prepared through electronic process, machine-readable documents and any other documentary material regardless of its physical form or characteristics;</p> <p>“Prescribed” means prescribed by the rules or regulations made under the Act;</p> <p>“Public Body” means:</p> <p>(i) a department, attached department, autonomous or</p>	<p>(b) in all other cases, the head or chief executive of the public body by whatever designation identified;</p> <p>(ix) “public body” means— (a) any Ministry, Division, attached department or subordinate office, including autonomous bodies of the Federal Government;</p> <p>(b) any Federal and any municipal or local authority set up or established by or under any Federal law;</p> <p>(c) the National Assembly and the Senate including their secretariats, committees and members;</p> <p>(d) any statutory corporation or other body corporate or institution set up or established or owned or controlled or funded by the Federal Government</p>	<p>a public body whether permanently or</p> <p>(i) information means any information held by a public body and includes memo, books, design, map, contract, representation, pamphlet, order, notification, document, plans, letter, report, accounts, statement, project proposal, photograph, audio, video, drawing, film, any instrument prepared through electronic process, machine readable documents and any other documentary material regardless of its physical form or characteristics.</p> <p>(j) information commission’ means The Balochistan Information Commission stashed under Section 17 of this Act;</p>

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<p>other Body established by, or under, any law;</p> <p>(v) subordinate judiciary i.e. Courts of District and Sessions Judges, Courts of Additional District and Sessions Judges, Courts of Senior Civil Judges, Courts of Civil Judges and Courts of Magistrates;</p> <p>(vi) Tribunals;</p> <p>(vii) anybody which is owned, controlled or substantially funded by one of the above, including enterprises owned by the Province; and</p> <p>(viii) any other body which undertakes a public functions;</p> <p>(j) “record” means information which is recorded in any form;</p> <p>(k) “request for information” shall include a request for</p>	<p>prepared through electronic process, machine-readable documents and any other documentary material regardless of its physical form or characteristics;</p> <p>(g) “prescribed” means prescribed by the rules or regulations made under the Act;</p> <p>(h) “public body” means—</p> <p>(i) a department, attached department, autonomous or semiautonomous body of the Government, a company of the Government or a special institution;</p> <p>(ii) a local government constituted under the Punjab Local Government Act 2013 (XVIII of 2013) or any other law for the time being in force;</p>	<p>semiautonomous body of the Government, a company of the Government or a special institution created by the government.</p> <p>(ii) a local government constituted under the Sindh Local Government Act, 2013 or any other law for the time being in force;</p> <p>(iii) Secretariat of Governor of Sindh;</p> <p>(iv) any Court, Tribunal, Office, Board, Commission, Council, or other body functioning in the province of Sindh;</p> <p>(v) Provincial Assembly of Sindh;</p> <p>(vi) statutory body established under a provincial law; and</p> <p>(vii) a non-government organization substantially financed by the Government or a local government;</p> <p>(viii) Secretariat of Chief Minister, Sindh;</p>	<p>(e) any court, tribunal, commission, or board under the Federal law;</p> <p>(f) any incorporated or unincorporated body of the Federal Government functioning under the control or authority of another public body or wherein one or more public bodies own or have controlling interest or provide substantial funding;</p> <p>(g) any other organization which undertakes a public function, to the extent of that function; and</p> <p>(h) a non- government organization which directly or indirectly receives or has received public funds, subsidy, tax exemptions, piece of land or any other benefit involving public funds and any other nongovernmental organization or body</p>	<p>(k) Prescribed’ means prescribe by rules made under this Act.</p> <p>(l) ‘province’ means the province of Balochistan;</p> <p>(m) ‘public information officer’ means a public information officer designated under section 6 of this act;</p> <p>(n) ‘Public Body’ means:</p> <p>(i) any department or attached department of the Government;</p> <p>(ii) Secretariat of the Provincial Assembly, Balochistan;</p> <p>(iii) Subordinance Judiciary e.g. courts of district and sessions judges, courts of additional district and sessions judges, courts of senior civil judges, courts of</p>

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<p>information and a request for a specific record;</p> <p>(l) “requester” means any citizen, who has made a request for information under this Act; and</p> <p>(m) “third party” means a person other than the person making a request for information or a record.</p>	<p>(iii) Secretariat of Governor of the Punjab;</p> <p>(iv) any court, tribunal, office, Board, Commission, Council, or other body substantially financed by the Government;</p> <p>(v) Provincial Assembly of the Punjab;</p> <p>(vi) statutory body established under a provincial law; and</p> <p>(vii) a non-government organization substantially financed by the Government or a local government;</p> <p>(i) “public information officer” means a public information officer designated under section 7 of the Act; and</p>	<p>“designated official” means a public information officer designated under section 7 of the Act; and Government;</p> <p>(k) “right to information” means the right to obtain information accessible under the Act and includes the right to:</p> <p>(i) Inspect any work or document;</p> <p>(ii) take certified copy of a document; and</p> <p>(iii) obtain copy of information in electronic form.</p>	<p>registered under any law for the time being in force; (x) “record” means a public record as defined in section 6;</p> <p>(xi) “request” means a request for access to information and includes a request for access to a specific record and</p> <p>(xii) “right of access to information” means the right of access to information accessible under this Act which is held by or under the control of any public body and includes the rights of access to information, documents, or record in digital or printed form, as the case may be,</p>	<p>civil judges and courts of magistrate, office, Board, Commission (including the Balochistan public service commission, council or any other body established by, or under, any law,</p> <p>(v) Tribunal</p> <p>(Vi) any body which is owned, controlled or substantially founded by one of the above, including enterprises owned by the province or which undertake public function;</p> <p>(vii) a local government constituted under the Balochistan Local Government Act 2010 (Act V of 2010)</p> <p>(viii) a non-governmental organization financed by the Government or a local Government;</p>

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	(j)“right to information” means the right to obtain information accessible under the Act and includes the right to— (i) inspect any work or document; (ii) take notes, extracts or certified copy of a document; (iii) take certified sample of any material; and (iv) obtain copy of information in electronic form.			(o) ‘record’ means information which is recorded in any form; (p) ‘request for information’ means and includes a request for information and a request for information and a request for specific record. (q) ‘Rules’ means rules made under this Act.

4. RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND OVERRIDING OTHER LAWS

a) Punjab, Sindh and Pakistan RTI laws are very explicit on the overriding powers of the respective laws. KP RTI law uses ‘notwithstanding’ clause while Balochistan RTI law doesn’t specify the overriding powers. This overriding powers of the RTI laws have made the Pakistan Official Secret Act 1923 redundant. Before these laws, disclosing public information was illegal. Now, not disclosing information is illegal, except exempted information.

3. Right to information. ---(1) Every citizen shall subject to the provisions of this Act and any rules made under it, have the right to access any	3. Access to information.— Subject to the provisions of this Act, an applicant may, in the prescribed manner,	3. Every public Body shall at all times endeavor to maintain transparency in discharge of its functions.	3. Right to have access to information not be denied— (1) Subject to the provisions of the Act, no applicant shall be denied access to information	3) An Applicant in the prescribed manner, shall subject to the provisions of this Act and any rules made under it, have the right to
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>information or record held by a public body.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, and subject to the provisions of this Act, no requester shall be denied access to any information or record.</p> <p>(3) This Act shall be interpreted so as,-</p> <p>(a) to advance the purposes of this Act; and</p> <p>(b) to facilitate and encourage, promptly and at the lowest reasonable cost, the disclosure of information.</p>	<p>exercise the right to information.</p> <p>22. Interpretation: This Act, the rules and regulations shall be interpreted so as to advance the purposes of this Act and to facilitate and encourage, promptly and at the lowest reasonable cost, the disclosure of information and effective implementation of right to information.</p> <p>1) The provisions of this Act shall take precedence over the provisions of any other law.</p> <p>2) An exception mentioned in section 13 shall take precedence and any exception or limitation in any other law on right to information may not be construed to extend the scope of the exception in this</p>	<p>4. Access to Information: Subject to provisions of this Act and any rules made therein, an Applicant may, in the prescribed manner, exercise the right to acquire information and/or record held by any Public Body.</p> <p>20. This Act and the rules shall be interpreted so as to advance the purposes of this Act and to facilitate and encourage, promptly and at the lowest reasonable cost, the disclosure of information and effective implementation of right to information.</p> <p>22. The provisions of Act shall take precedence over the provisions of any other law.</p>	<p>or record held by the public body. (2) This Act may be interpreted so as to advance its purposes as set out in the preamble and to— (a) promote the right of access to information; and (b) facilitate and encourage promptly the disclosure of the information at the lowest and reasonable cost.</p> <p>25. Act to override other laws-- The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.</p>	<p>access any information or record held by a public body, as mentioned under this Act.</p>

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	Act, although such provision in other law may elaborate on the exception mentioned in section 13.			

5. MAINTENANCE AND INDEXING OF RECORD

a) While all RTI laws in Pakistan provide for maintenance and indexing of record, no mechanism is in place and no power is available with information commissions to ensure maintenance and indexing of record by public bodies. The importance of information management and digitization can't be overlooked for proactive disclosure of information as well as responding to information requests.

<p>4. Maintenance and Indexing of Record.</p> <p>Subject to the provisions of this Act and in accordance with the rules as may be prescribed, each public body shall ensure that all of the records which it holds are properly maintained, including so as to enable it to comply with its obligations under this Act, and in accordance with any relevant rules or</p>	<p>8. Maintenance and indexing of information.– (1) Subject to provisions of this Act and the rules or regulations, a public body shall maintain information relating to the body in an easily accessible form.</p> <p>(2) A public body shall, within the time prescribed by the Commission for any special or general categories of information, computerize or maintain in electronic form the information to enable–</p>	<p>5. Proper Maintenance of Records</p> <p>Subject to the provisions of this Act and any rules made herein, each Public Body shall ensure that all of the records which it holds are properly maintained so as to enable it to comply with its obligations this Act, and in accordance with any relevant rules or standards established by the Sindh Information Commission.</p>	<p>4. Maintenance and indexing of record— (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and rules made thereunder, the principal officer of each public body shall ensure that the record held by that body is properly maintained, so as to enable it to comply with its obligations under this Act.</p> <p>(2) Each public body shall bring its record management practices in line with the</p>	<p>4) Subject to the provisions of this Act and in accordance with the rules as may be prescribed thereunder, each public body shall ensure that all of the records which it holds are properly maintained, including so as to enable it to comply with its obligations under this Act, and in accordance with any relevant rules or standards established by the Information Commission.</p>
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
standards established by the Information Commission.	(a) easy retrieval of information; and (b) easy and authorized electronic access of information by an applicant		secretariat instruction, 2004 or any other instructions of the Federal Government.	

6. PUBLICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF RECORD /PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

- a) While all these laws provide for an elaborate list of documents/record to be disclosed proactively, there is no punitive powers with Information Commissions to ensure public disclosure by public bodies. The concerned governments should ensure that all public bodies disclose the information proactively, through directives and provision of sufficient resources.
- b) If the public bodies disclose the information/record mentioned in the respective RTI laws, it will be a major step in improving transparency and accountability. It will also help reduce the number of information requests filed with the public bodies.
- c) A unique feature of the Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017 is the declaration of public record. All RTI laws in Pakistan provide for exempted information only and rest of the information is public. The international best principals of RTI laws also dictate that only the list of exempted information should be narrowly drawn, and information/record not exempted is considered public.

<p>5. Publication and Availability of Record. The following categories of information shall be duly published by public bodies in</p>	<p>4. Proactive disclosure.– Subject to the provisions of this Act, a public body shall proactively disclose–</p>	<p>6. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a Public Body shall proactively disclose and publish:</p>	<p>5. Publication and availability of the record— (1) The principal officer of each public body shall, within six months of the commencement of this</p>	<p>5) The following categories of information shall be dully published by the public bodies in an up-to-date fashion and in a manner</p>
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>an up-to-date fashion and in a manner which best ensures that they are accessible to those for whom they may be relevant, including over the Internet, subject to reasonable restrictions based on limited resources:</p> <p>(a) Acts and subordinate legislation such as rules, regulations, notifications, bye-laws, manuals and orders having the force of law in the Province, including being made available at a reasonable price at an adequate number of outlets to ensure reasonable access by the public;</p> <p>(b) information about the public body, including its organization, functions, duties, powers and any services it provides to the public;</p> <p>(c) a directory of its officers and employees, including a</p>	<p>(a) particulars of the public body, its functions and duties;</p> <p>(b) powers and functions of its officers and employees;</p> <p>(c) norms and criteria set by the public body for the discharge of its functions;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(e) a statement of categories of information being held by the public body;</p> <p>(f) a description of its decision-making processes and any opportunities for the public to provide input into</p>	<p>a) Particulars of its organization, functions and duties;</p> <p>b) Powers and functions of its officers and employees;</p> <p>c) Norms and criteria set by it for the discharge of its daily functions;</p> <p>d) Rules, regulations, notifications circulars, instructions and other legal instruments being enforced, issued or used by it or being used by its employees in the discharge of its functions;</p> <p>e) Statement of categories of information that are under its control;</p> <p>f) Description of its decision making processes;</p> <p>g) Details of all its administrative and developmental decisions;</p> <p>h) Directory of its officers and employees with their qualifications and respective</p>	<p>Act, ensure that the following categories of the information and record are duly published including uploading over the internet or in a manner which best ensures that these are accessible subject to reasonable restrictions based on limited resources: a) description of the public body's organization and functions, duties, powers and any services it provides to the public, including a directory and any services it provides to the public, including a directory of its officers and employees, indicating their duties that these are accessible subject to reasonable restrictions based on limited resources; b) statutes, statutory rules, regulations, bye-laws, orders and notifications, etc. applicable to the public body disclosing the date of their</p>	<p>which best ensures that they are accessible to those for whom they may be relevant, including over the internet, subject to reasonable restrictions based on limited resources.</p> <p>a) Acts, Ordinances and subordination legislation such as rules, regulations, notifications, bye-laws in the province, including being made available at a reasonable price at an adequate number of outlets to ensure reasonable access by the public.</p> <p>b) information about the public body, including its organisation, functions, duties, powers and any services it provides to the public;</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>description of their powers and functions and their respective remunerations, perks and privileges;</p> <p>(d) norms and criteria set by the public body for the discharge of its functions, including any rules, manuals or policies used by its employees to this end;</p> <p>(e) a description of its decision making processes and any opportunities for the public to provide input into or be consulted about decisions;</p> <p>(f) relevant facts and background information relating to important policies and decisions which are being formulated or have been made and which affect the public;</p> <p>(g) a detailed budget of the public body, including proposed and actual expenditures;</p>	<p>or be consulted about decisions;</p> <p>(g) a directory of its officers and employees with their respective remuneration, perks and privileges;</p> <p>(h) budget of the public body including details of all proposed and actual expenditures;</p> <p>(i) amount of subsidy and details of beneficiaries if the public body provides any subsidy;</p> <p>(j) particulars of the recipients of concessions, permits or authorizations granted by the public body;</p> <p>(k) facilities available with the public body for obtaining information held by it;</p> <p>(l) name, designation and other particulars of the public</p>	<p>remuneration, perks and privileges;</p> <p>i) Budget including details of all proposed and actual expenditures;</p> <p>j) Manner of execution of subsidy programs;</p> <p>k) Full particulars of the recipients of concessions, permits or authorizations granted by it;</p> <p>l) Facilities available with the public body for obtaining information held by it;</p> <p>m) Complete particulars of its public information officer;</p> <p>n) Any other information as may be prescribed.</p> <p>o) maintenance of record in respect of applications received and action taken thereto,</p> <p>(2) For the purpose of Subsection 1, every public body shall disseminate all information as widely as possible including the internet</p>	<p>respective commencement or effect;</p> <p>c) substantive or procedural rules of the general application evolved or adopted by the public body, including any manual or policies by its employees;</p> <p>d) relevant facts and background information relating to important policies and decisions which have been adopted, along with a statement of policies adopted by the public body and the criteria, standards or guidelines upon which discretionary powers are exercised by it;</p> <p>e) the condition upon which members of the public body can acquire any license, permit, consent, approval, grant, allotment or other benefits of whatsoever nature from any public body or upon which transactions,</p>	<p>c) a directory of its officers and employees, including a description of their powers and functions and their respective remunerations, perks and privileges.</p> <p>d) norms and criteria set by the public body for the discharge of its functions, including any rules, manuals or policies used by its employees to his end;</p> <p>e) a detailed budget for the public body, including proposed and actual expenditure;</p> <p>f) details about any subsidy or benefit programmes operated by the public body, including details about the</p>

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<p>(h) details about any subsidy or benefit programmes operated by the public body, including details about the amount or benefits provided and the beneficiaries;</p> <p>(i) particulars of the recipients of concessions, permits, licences or authorizations granted by the public body;</p> <p>(j) the categories of information held by the public body;</p> <p>(k) a description of the manner in which requests for information may be made to the public body, including the name, title and contact details of all Public Information Officers; and</p> <p>(l) such other information as may be prescribed.</p> <p>(2) Public body shall also publish an annual report on what they have done to implement their obligations under this Act, which shall</p>	<p>information officer of the public body; and</p> <p>(m) any other information that the Government may notify in the official Gazette.</p> <p>9. Annual report of public bodies.— A public body shall publish in electronic form or otherwise an annual report of its activities under this Act during the previous financial year by 31 August each year in such manner as may be prescribed and make the report available for public inspection free of charge and for purchase at a reasonable cost.</p>	<p>where possible so that all citizens have easy access to it.</p> <p>(3) Every public body shall endeavour to ensure proactive disclosure of information as explained in sub-section (1) of section 6.</p>	<p>agreements and contracts, including, contracts of employment which can be entered into with the public body, along with particulars about the recipients of any concession, permit, license or authorization granted by the public body;</p> <p>f) a description of its decision making processes as defined in the Federal government’s secretariat instructions, 2004 and any instructions for the time being in force for the public to provide any input into or be consulted about decisions;</p> <p>g) detailed budget of the public body; including proposed and actual expenditures, original or revised revenue targets, actual revenue, receipts, revision in</p>	<p>amount or benefits provided and the beneficiaries.</p> <p>g) particulars of the recipients of concessions, permits, licenses or authorizations granted by the public body.</p> <p>h) a description of the manner in which requests for information may be made to the public body, including the name, title and contact details of all designated officers, and</p> <p>i) such other information that the government may notify in the official gazette.</p>

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<p>include detailed information about the requests for information which they have received, and how they have processed these requests.</p> <p>(3) The annual report under sub-section (2) shall be formally forwarded to Speaker Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and to the Information Commission, who shall take such action on the report as they may deem appropriate.</p>			<p>the approved budget and the supplementary budget;</p> <p>h) 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;</p> <p>i) reports including performance reports, audit reports, evaluation reports, inquiry or investigative reports and other reports that have been finalized;</p> <p>j) such other matters which the principal officer of the public body deems fit to be published in the public interest;</p> <p>k) such other information as may be prescribed; and</p>	<p>2) Public body shall also publish an annual report on what they have done to implement their obligations under this Act, which shall include detailed information about the requests for information which they have received, and how they have processed these requests.</p> <p>(a) such report shall be forwarded to the information commission</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
			<p>l) camera footages at public places, wherever available, which have a bearing on a crime: Provided that if the information or record pertains to a period earlier than the year 2008, the same shall be published within reasonable time.</p> <p>8. Computerization and Voluntary Disclosure of record--- Each public body shall endeavour to ensure within the time prescribed in section 5 and, that all record accessible under this Act is computerized and is available online so that authorized access to such public records is facilitated.</p> <p>6. Declaration of the public record-- Subject to the provisions of section 7, the</p>	

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
			<p>following record of all public bodies is hereby declared to be the public record, namely:-</p> <p>a) policies and guidelines;</p> <p>b) transactions involving acquisition and disposal of property and expenditures are undertaken by a public body in the performance of its duties and functions;</p> <p>c) information regarding grant of licenses, allotments and other benefits, privileges, contracts and agreements made by a public body; d) final orders and decisions, including decisions relating to members of public; and</p> <p>e) any other record which may be notified by the Minister-in-Charge of the Federal Government as public record for the purposes of this Act.</p>	

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
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7. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL/PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

a) All RTI laws in Pakistan provide for designation of official/public information officers in concerned public bodies. The duration for such appointments varies from 30 days (in case of Pakistan RTI law) to 120 days (in case of KP and Balochistan RTI laws). However, under all these laws, such time has already been lapsed and the public information officers/designated official should have been appointed by now. As Balochistan Information Commission has not yet established, therefore there is no mechanism to implement this provision in Balochistan province.

b) Except Balochistan RTI law, all RTI laws in Pakistan put the responsibility on head of public body/principle officer to act as public information officer/designated officer if the public information officer or official is not designated.

c) In KP, Punjab and Balochistan RTI laws, the term used is Public Information Officer. In Sindh and Pakistan federal RTI law, the term used is Designated Official. Public Information Officer is all inclusive term and convey the proper meaning and responsibility under the RTI laws.

<p>6. Designation of Official</p> <p>(1) On commencement of this Act, a public body shall within a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days, designate and notify an officer to act as Public Information Officer for the purposes of this Act, with whom request for information under this Act may be lodged.</p> <p>(2) In case no such official has been designated or in the</p>	<p>7. Designation of public information officers</p> <p>(1) A public body shall, within sixty days of the commencement of this Act, designate and notify as many officers as public information officers in all administrative units or offices under it, as may be necessary.</p>	<p>7. (1) Appointment of Designated official (1) Every public body, within a period of 45 days from the commencement of this Act, designate and notify an officer or any appropriate number of the officers to act and serve as a designated officer(s) not below the grade of BPS-16 with whom the request for information under this Act may be lodged.</p>	<p>9. Designated Official -- Each public body shall, within thirty days of the commencement of this Act, notify one or more designated officials, not below the rank of an officer in BPS - 19 or equivalent; Provided that where no designated official has been notified or he is absent or not available, principal officer of the public body shall be the designated official: Provided further that in case of non- government</p>	<p>6. (1) On commencement of this act, a public body shall within a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days, designate and notify and officer to act as Public Information Officer in all administrative departments/Sub-ordinance Offices/Units/Districts or offices under it, for the purpose of this Act, with whom request for</p>
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>event of the absence or non availability of the Public Information Officer], the person in charge of the public body shall be the Public Information Officer.</p> <p>(3) The Public Information Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that requests for information are dealt with in accordance with this Act and generally for promoting full compliance by the public body with its obligations under this Act.</p>	<p>(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a public information officer shall provide information to an applicant, and shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed to achieve the purpose of this Act.</p> <p>(3) The public information officer may seek necessary assistance of any other officer of the public body.</p> <p>(4) Any officer whose assistance has been sought under subsection (3) shall render all assistance to the public information officer seeking his assistance and for purposes of any contravention of the provisions of this Act, such</p>	<p>(2) In case, no such officer is appointed, the person in-charge of the public body shall be deemed as a Designated Official.</p> <p>(3) The Designated Official shall be responsible for ensuring full compliance of the provisions of this Act.</p>	<p>organization, it may designate a senior officer as per its organizational structure.</p> <p>10. Function of Designated Official –</p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, the designated official shall be responsible for ensuring that requests are dealt with promoting full compliance by the public body of its obligation under this Act.</p> <p>(2) A designated official, as may be prescribed, assist applicant who is having problems due to any disability in describing the information sought in sufficient detail to</p>	<p>information under this Act may be lodged.</p> <p>2) The Public Information Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that requests for information are dealt in accordance with this Act and generally for promoting full compliance by the public body with its obligations under this Act.</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
	other officer shall be deemed as public information officer.		enable the public body to locate that information.	

8. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

a) Balochistan RTI law is the only RTI law in Pakistan which makes it binding on applicant to provide 'reason' for information request. Asking for reason from applicant that why the information is required or what is the utility of information requested is considered against the national and international best practices. The preambles of the RTI laws in Pakistan provide sufficient reason for disclosure of information and responding to information requests.

b) Balochistan RTI laws is the only RTI law in Pakistan which makes it binding on the information requester to provide copy of CNIC.

c) Request for information is free under all RTI laws in Pakistan.

<p>7. Request for Information</p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, every citizen may lodge a request for information with a public body through the Public Information Officer.</p> <p>(2) A request for information shall be made in writing and lodged in any manner in which</p>	<p>Application procedure. –</p> <p>10 (1) An applicant may make an application to a public information officer on an information request form or on plain paper and the public information officer shall acknowledge receipt of the application.</p>	<p>8. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, any applicant may make an application for obtaining information of the public body. The said application may be made in any form or manner to the Designated Official and duly acknowledged;</p> <p>(2) The Applicant shall be required to provide adequate</p>	<p>11. Requests. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder, a citizen of Pakistan may make a request to a public body through the designated official.</p> <p>(3) Any written request that identifies the information or record sought in sufficient detail, to enable the public</p>	<p>7. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, an applicant may lodge a request for information which is of public importance/interest or interest of applicant with the public body through a public Information Officer.</p> <p>2) Any request for information shall be made in</p>
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>the public body has the facilities to receive it, including in persons, by mail, by fax or by e-mail.</p> <p>(3) Any written request for information which identifies the information or record sought in sufficient detail to enable the public body to locate it, and which includes an address for delivery of the information or record, shall be treated as a request for information.</p> <p>(4) Subject to sub-section (3), a public body may provide an optional form for making requests for information, with a view to assisting requesters to make request.</p> <p>(5) In no case shall a requester be required to provide reasons for his request.</p>	<p>(2) A public body shall make easily available to the public the information request form both in printed and electronic form.</p> <p>(3) An applicant shall not be required to provide reasons for request for information and shall only be required to provide an adequate description of the information and the details necessary to provide the requisite information.</p>	<p>description of the information and the details necessary to provide the requisite information.</p>	<p>body to locate it, and which includes a complete address and contact details for delivery of the information or record, shall be treated as request.</p> <p>(4) Subject to sub-section (3), a public body may provide a prescribed form for making requests. (5) In no case shall an applicant be required to provide reasons for his request.</p>	<p>writing and lodged in any manner in which the public body has the facilities to receive it, including in person, by mail, by fax or by e-mail: provided that such application, mail, fax or email, shall be accompanied by a copy of computerized National Identity Card of the applicant or the purpose of identity of such applicant.</p> <p>3) any written request for information which identifies the information or record sought in sufficient detail to enable the public body to locate it, and which include an address for delivery of the information or record, shall be treated as a request for information.</p> <p>4) Subject to sub-section (3) a public body may provide an optional farm for making requests for information with</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
(6) Where a request for information is received by a public body, the requester shall be provided with a receipt acknowledging the request, including the date and name of the official responsible for processing it.				<p>a view to assisting applicant to make request.</p> <p>5) The applicant shall be required to provide appropriate reason for his request.</p> <p>6) Where a request for information is received by a public body, the applicant shall be provided with the receipt acknowledging the request, including the date and name of the official responsible for processing it.</p>

9. ASSISTANCE TO REQUESTER

a) Balochistan RTI law is very elaborate on providing assistance to the information requester, followed by KP and Punjab. Sindh and Pakistan RTI laws are silent on such assistance. Such assistance ranges from writing information request on the information requester behalf, description of information and conveying the procedures for further actions, in case information request is denied.

<p>8. Assistance to Requester</p> <p>(1) A Public Information Officer shall take all</p>	<p>10. 4) Where an applicant is having difficulty making a request, including because he cannot describe the</p>			<p>8. 1) An Information Officer shall take all reasonable steps</p>
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>reasonable steps to assist any requester who needs such assistance.</p> <p>(2) In particular, Public Information Officer shall assist any requester who is having problems describing the information sought in sufficient detail to enable the public body to locate that information, or who needs help due to disability.</p> <p>(3) Where a requester is unable to provide a written request, a Public Information Officer shall reduce the request to writing, and provide the requester with a signed, dated copy of it.</p>	<p>information in sufficient detail or because he is disabled or illiterate, the concerned public information officer shall provide reasonable assistance to the applicant.</p>			<p>to assist any applicant who need such assistance.</p> <p>2) in particular, an information officer shall assist any applicant who is having problems describing the information sought in sufficient details to enable the public body to locate that information or who needs help due to disability.</p> <p>3) Where an applicant is unable to provide a written request, an information officer shall reduce the request into ..</p> <p>4) under Public Information Officer decides not to provide the information, he shall intimate to the applicant the</p>

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				reasons for such decisions along with a statement that the applicant may file an internal re-view or a complaint under the Act.

10. WHERE INFORMATION IS NOT HELD

a) All RTI laws in Pakistan, except Sindh Right to Information Act 2016, provide for procedures where the information is not held with the public body from whom the information is requested.

<p>9. Where Information is not held.</p> <p>(1) Where a public body does not hold information or records which are responsive to a request, and it is aware of another public body which does hold the information, it shall forward the request to that public body, and it shall inform the requester of this.</p> <p>(2) Where a public body does not hold information or</p>	<p>11. Transfer of application. (1) Where an officer of a public body other than the concerned public information officer receives an application for access to information, such officer shall immediately transfer the application to the concerned public information officer under intimation to the applicant and the public information officer shall process the</p>		<p>12. Where information requested for is not held--- Where a public body does not hold information or record, the applicant shall be informed accordingly within ten working days of the receipt of the request</p>	<p>9. (1) Where a public body does not hold information or records, which are responsive to a request, and it is aware of another public body which does hold the information, it shall forward the request to that public body, and it shall inform the applicant of this.</p> <p>2) Where a public body does not hold information or records, which is responsible</p>
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>records which are responsive to a request, and it is not aware of any other public body which does, it shall return the request to the requester, informing him of this.</p>	<p>application as if he had received it under section 10.</p> <p>(2) If the information or part of the information requested in an application is not available with the public body or the office of the public body, the public information officer shall, within seven days and under intimation to the applicant, transfer the application to the public information officer to whom the application should have been made for provision of the information or part of the information.</p> <p>(3) If the public information officer does not know the public body or the office where the requested information or part of the information may be available, he shall inform the</p>			<p>to a request, and it is not aware of any other public body which does, it shall return the request to the applicant, informing him of this.</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
	<p>applicant that the requested information or part of the information is not available with the public body.</p> <p>(4) If an application is transferred to another public information officer under subsection (2), the other public information officer shall process the application as if the other public information officer received the application under section 10.</p>			

11. PROCEDURE FOR DISPOSAL OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

- a) All RTI laws in Pakistan provide for elaborate procedure for disposal of information requests.
- b) Balochistan RTI law has introduced a very novel feature for disposal of information request. The law makes it binding on the PIO to take approval of the head of public body for responding to information requests, even when the information request is accepted, and the application is entitled to receive information. Such approval is unnecessary and should be omitted and PIO should be fully authorized to implement the provisions of the RTI law.
- c) All RTI laws provide for conveying the reason for rejection of information request to information requester and the specific exemption clause, if applied.

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
d) Pakistan federal RTI law goes apposite to the Balochistan RTI law and states that if information request is denied, such denial shall have written approval of head of public body.				
<p>10. Procedure for Disposal of Request</p> <p>(1) A Public Information Officer shall provide a written notice in response to a request for information.</p> <p>(2) The notice shall indicate that:</p> <p>(a) the request has been accepted and the requester is entitled to receive the information or record, subject to the payment of any applicable fee; or</p> <p>(b) the request has been rejected on the basis that it does not comply with the rules relating to such requests, but only after assistance has been offered to the requester</p>	<p>10. (8) Where the public information officer decides not to provide the information, he shall intimate to the applicant the reasons for such decision along with a statement that the applicant may file an internal review or a complaint against the refusal under this Act.</p> <p>(9) The information from, or the copy of, any public record supplied to the applicant under subsection (1) shall contain a certificate at the foot thereof that the information is correct or the copy is a true copy of such public record, and such certificate shall be dated, signed and stamped by the public information officer.</p>	<p>8. (5) Where the Designated Official decides not to provide the information, he shall intimate the Applicant the reasons for such decision along with a statement that the Applicant may file an internal review;</p> <p>(6) The information or the copy of any public record supplied to the Applicant shall contain a certificate at the foot thereof that the information is correct or the copy is a true copy of such public record, and such certificate shall be dated, signed and stamped by the Designated Official.</p>	<p>13. Procedure for acceptance and refusal of requests-- (1) The designated official shall provide a written acknowledgement in response to a request. (2) The designated official shall process the request and by notice in writing inform the applicant that---</p> <p>a) A request has been acknowledged and the applicant is entitled to receive the information or record, subject to the payment of the prescribed fee. On payment of the fee, the designated official shall provide the requested record, or</p> <p>b) The request has been rejected</p> <p>i) on the basis that it does not comply with the provisions of this act and the</p>	<p>10 (1) An Information Officer shall provide a written notice in response to a request for information.</p> <p>2) The notice shall indicate that:</p> <p>a) the request has been accepted and an applicant is entitled to receive the information or record, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Administrative Department concerned or the head of public body as the case may and on payment of any applicable fee; or</p> <p>b) The request has been rejected on the basis that it</p>

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<p>in accordance with section 8; or</p> <p>(c) the request has been rejected on the basis that the information is already available in published form, including in the official Gazette or in another generally accessible form, such as a book, in which case the notice shall direct the requester to the place where the information may be found; or</p> <p>(d) the request has been rejected on the basis that it is vexatious, including because it relates to information which is substantially the same as information that has already been provided to the same requester; or</p> <p>(e) the request has been rejected, in whole or in part, on the basis that the</p>			<p>rules made thereunder but only after requisite assistance has been offered to the applicant as mentioned in sub-section (2) of section 10; ii) on the basis that the information is already available in a generally accessible form in which case the notice shall indicate to the applicant the place from where the information may be found; iii) on the basis that it is incorrect, because it relates to information which is substantially the same information that has already been provided to the same applicant during last six months; or iv) in whole or in part, on the basis that the information is exempt subject to section 7 or section 16, in which the notice shall specify the exact exception, relied upon and specifying details regarding the right of the</p>	<p>does not comply with the rules relating to such requests, but only after assistance has been offered to the applicant in accordance with Section 8; or</p> <p>c) the request has been rejected on the basis that the information is already available in published form, including in the official gazette or in another generally accessible farm, such as a book, which case the notice shall direct the applicant to the place where the information may be found; or</p> <p>d) The request has been rejected or on the basis it is vexatious, including because it relates to information</p>

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<p>information is exempt, in which case the notice shall specify the exact exception relied upon and include details regarding the right of the requester to appeal against this decision.</p> <p>(3) Where information or a record is provided in accordance with clause (a) of sub-section 2, it shall be accompanied by a certificate, which may be affixed to the information or record at the foot thereof, as appropriate, to the effect that the information is correct or, as the case may be, the copy is a true copy of such public record, and such certificate shall be dated and signed by the Public Information Officer.</p>			<p>applicant to appeal against this decision.</p> <p>(3) Where information or a record is provided in accordance with clause (a) of sub-section (2), it shall be accompanied by a certificate which may be affixed to the information or record at the foot thereof, or as appropriate, to the effect that the information is incorrect or, as the case may be, copy is a true copy of the original records and such certificate shall be dated and signed by the designated official. (4) Where the designated official refuses a request, he shall, before informing the applicant of such refusal, obtain written approval of the principal officer of the public body</p>	<p>which substantially the same as information that has already been provided to the same applicant; or</p> <p>e) the request has been rejected on the basis that the information is exempt, in which case the notice shall specify the exact exception relied upon and include details regarding the right of applicant to appeal against this decision.</p>

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12. TIMELINES FOR RESPONDING

- a) Under all RTI laws in Pakistan, the timeline for information concerning life and liberty of the individual is 2 days.
- b) KP and Pakistan federal RTI laws have same timelines for responding to information requests by PIOs/designated officials, e.g. 10 working days which can be extended to further 10 days if the request requires searching huge record. Under Punjab RTI law, the timeline for responding to information request is 14 working days which can be extended to further 14 days, if the request requires search through large number of record. Under Sindh and Balochistan RTI laws. The timeline for responding to information request is 15 days. However, under Sindh RTI law, the designated official can take further 10 days and under Balochistan the timeline can be extended to further 15 days if the nature of the information request is complex.
- c) Punjab and Sindh RTI laws have pinned point the responsibility on PIO/designated official, the KP, Pakistan federal and Balochistan RTI laws put the responsibility on concerned public body to respond to information request.

<p>11. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a public body shall be required to respond to a request for information in accordance with section 7 as soon as possible and in any case within ten working days of the receipt of request.</p> <p>(2) The period stipulated in sub-section (1), may be extended by a maximum of a further ten working days</p>	<p>10. (7) The public information officer shall respond to an application as soon as possible and in any case within fourteen working days, provided that this may be extended by a maximum of a further fourteen working days where this is necessary, including because the request requires a search through a large number of records or consultation with a third party or any other</p>	<p>8. (3) The Designated Official shall respond to the application as soon as possible and in any case within fifteen (15) working days. In case, the required information is not readily available, the Designated Official shall intimate the Applicant and take another ten (10) working days for responding to the application.</p> <p>(4) Information needed to protect the life or liberty of any</p>	<p>14. Time-limit of responding---</p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a public body shall be required to respond to a request as soon as possible and in any case within ten working days of receipt of the request (2) The period stipulated in sub-section (1) may be extended by maximum of further ten working days, where it is necessary when the request requires a search through a large number of</p>	<p>11. (1) subject to the provisions of this Act, a public body shall be required to respond to a request for information in accordance with Section 7 as soon as possible and in any case within 15 working days of the receipt of request.</p> <p>2) The period stipulated in sub-section (1) may be</p>
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<p>where this is necessary because the request requires a search through a large number of records or records located in different offices, or consultation with third parties or other public bodies.</p> <p>(3) Information needed to protect the life or liberty of any individual will be provided within two working days.</p>	<p>public body, but the public information officer shall provide the information relating to life or liberty of a person within two working days of the receipt of the application.</p>	<p>individual shall be provided within two working days;</p>	<p>records or records located in different offices or consultation is required with third parties or other public bodies. (3) Information needed to protect life and liberty of any individual shall be provided within three working days</p>	<p>extended by a maximum of a further 15 working days where this is necessary because the request requires a search through a large number of records or record located in different offices or consultation with third parties or other public bodies.</p> <p>3) Information needed to protect the life or liberty of any individual will be provided within two working days.</p>

13. FARM FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION

a) All RTI laws in Pakistan provide for expanded farm of receiving of receiving information request/providing information including, physical copy, email, electronic copy, or inspect documents.

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<p>12. Where an applicant has indicated a preferred means for accessing information, such as a physical copy (attested), an electronic copy or an opportunity to inspect certain records, the public body shall provide access in that form unless to do so would unreasonably interfere with its operations or harm the document.</p>	<p>10. (5) Where an applicant has indicated a preferred form of access, including a physical copy, an electronic copy or an opportunity to inspect documents, the public body shall provide access in that form unless doing so is likely to interfere with its operations or harm the document and in that case the information shall be provided in such form as may serve the purpose.</p>	<p>8. (2)The said application may be made in any form or manner to the Designated Official and duly acknowledged;</p>	<p>11 (2) A request under sub-section (1) shall be in writing and made in any manner in which the public body has the facilities to receive it, including in person, by email, fax, online or e-mail.</p>	<p>12. Where an applicant has indicated a preferred means for accessing information, such as a physical copy (attested), an electronic copy or an opportunity to inspect certain records, the public body shall provide access in that form unless to do so would unreasonably interfere with its operations or harm the document.</p>

14. FEE FOR INFORMATION REQUEST

- a) Under all RTI laws in Pakistan, there is no charges/no fee for filing information request.
- b) There are different mechanisms for levying charges on reproduction of information and provision of such information. In case of Balochistan, information up to 10 pages is free. In case of KP, information up to 20 pages is free. Sindh, Punjab and Pakistan federal RTI laws provide for prescribing fee or accordance with ‘a centrally set schedule of costs stipulated by the commissions.

<p>13. Fee for Request (1) It shall be free to lodge requests for information.</p>	<p>10. (6) The public body shall not charge any fee for making a request other than cost of reproducing or sending the information in accordance</p>	<p>8. (7) The public body or the Designated Official shall not charge any fee for making a request other than cost of reproducing or sending the</p>	<p>15. Fee for requests-- Prescribed fee may be charged for the cost of reproducing</p>	<p>13. 1) It shall be free to lodge requests for information.</p>
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>(2) Fees may be charged for the actual costs of reproducing information and sending it to the requester, in accordance with any schedule of fees which may be adopted by the Information Commission.</p> <p>(3) No fee shall be charged for the first twenty pages of information provided, or where the requester is below the poverty line.</p>	<p>with a centrally set schedule of costs stipulated by the Commission.</p>	<p>information in accordance with a centrally set schedule of costs stipulated by the Sindh Information Commission.</p>	<p>information and sending it to the applicant.</p>	<p>2) Fee may be charged or the actual costs of reproducing information and sending it to the applicant, in accordance with any schedule of fees which may be adopted by the information commission.</p> <p>3. No fee shall be charged for the first ten pages of information provided, or where the requester is below the poverty line.</p>

15. INTERNAL REVIEW

a) KP and Pakistan federal RTI laws don't provide for internal review. Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan RTI laws provide for internal review, in case the information request is rejected, or information delayed or in case of incomplete delivery of information.

b) While under Punjab and Balochistan RTI laws, it is optional for information requester to request for internal review, the Sindh RTI law makes it binding on the information requester to file for internal review before filing complaint with information commission.

	<p>12. Internal review.– (1) If an applicant does not file a complaint with the</p>	<p>9. Internal Review (1) Where the Designated Official decides not to provide the information,</p>		<p>14 (1) If an applicant does not file a complaint with the commission, he may request</p>
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	<p>Commission, he may request the head of the public body for internal review of any decision of the public information officer in relation to what the applicant regards as involving–</p> <p>(a) a failure by the public information officer to comply with any provision of this Act including failure to communicate decision within the specified time; or</p> <p>(b) unreasonable behaviour by the public information officer in the exercise of any discretion under the Act; or</p>	<p>the Applicant shall request the head of the public body for internal review of the said decision, in relation to what the Applicant regards as involving.</p> <p>a) a failure by the Designated Official to comply with any provision of this Act including failure to communicate decision within the specified time; or</p> <p>b) unreasonable behaviour by the Designated Official in the exercise of any direction under the Act; or</p> <p>c) provision of incomplete, misleading or false information under the Act; and</p> <p>d) any other matter relating to requesting or obtaining access to information.</p> <p>(2) The Applicant shall, within sixty (60) days from the date of communication of the decision</p>		<p>the head of the public body for internal review or any decision of the public information officer in relation to what the application regards as involving. –</p> <p>a) a failure by the public information officer to comply with any provision of this Act including failure to communicate decision within the specified time; or</p> <p>b) Unreasonable behaviour by the public information officer in exercise of any discretion under the Act; or</p> <p>c) provision of incomplete, misleading or false information under the Act; or</p> <p>d) any other matter relating to requesting or obtaining access to information.</p>

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	<p>(c) provision of incomplete, misleading or false information under the Act; or</p> <p>(d) any other matter relating to requesting or obtaining access to information.</p> <p>(2) An applicant shall, within sixty days from the date of communication of the decision of the public information officer or failure of the public information officer to provide information within the stipulated time, submit a request, in writing, under subsection (1) and specify remedy which the applicant seeks against the decision of</p>	<p>of the Designated Official or his failure to provide information within the stipulated time, submit a request, in writing, under sub-section (1) and specify remedy which the Applicant seeks against the of the Designated Official.</p> <p>(3) The officer before whom an application for internal review is filed under this Section may exercise any of the powers of the Designated Official under this Act and shall, within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the application:</p> <p>Confirm, modify or reverse the decision of the Designated Official;</p> <p>Notify the decision of internal review to the Applicant including reasons for the decision; and</p>		<p>2) An applicant shall, within sixty days from the date of communication of the decision of the public information officer or failure of the public information officer to provide information within stipulated time, submit a request, in writing under the subsection (1) and specify remedy which the applicant seeks again the decision of the public information officer.</p> <p>3) The officer before whom an application for internal review is filed under the section may exercise any of the powers of the public information officer under this Act and shall within fourteen days of the receipt of the application.-</p>

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	<p>the public information officer.</p> <p>(3) The officer before whom an application for internal review is filed under this section may exercise any of the powers of the public information officer under this Act and shall, within fourteen days of the receipt of the application–</p> <p>(a) confirm, modify or reverse the decision of the public information officer;</p> <p>(b) notify the decision of internal review to the applicant including reasons for the decision; and</p> <p>(c) order departmental action against the public information officer if found negligent in performance of duties under this Act.</p>	<p>Order departmental action against the Designated Officials if found negligent in performance of duties under this Act.</p>		<p>a) confirm, modify or reverse the decision of the public information officer;</p> <p>b) notify the decision of internal review to the applicant including reasons for the decision; and</p>

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16. EXEMPT INFORMATION

- a) All RTI laws in Pakistan provide an elaborate list of excepted information.
- b) Except Pakistan federal RTI law, all RTI laws in Pakistan provide for harm test.
- c) In no RTI laws in Pakistan, except Pakistan federal RTI law, noting on the files and minutes of the meetings are exempted.

<p>14. A public body shall not be required to disclose information which falls within the scope of the exceptions provided for in sections 15 to 21 of this Act, provided that:</p> <p>(a) exceptions in other laws (secrecy provisions) may not extend the scope of the exceptions in this Act, although they may elaborate on an exception that is provided for in this Act;</p> <p>(b) the fact that information has been classified is irrelevant to the question of whether or not it falls within</p>	<p>13. Exceptions.— (1) A public information officer may refuse an application for access to information where disclosure of the information shall or is likely to cause harm to—</p> <p>(a) national defence or security, public order or international relations of Pakistan;</p> <p>(b) a legitimate privacy interest, unless the person concerned has consented to disclosure of the information;</p> <p>(c) the protection of legally privileged information or of</p>	<p>10. (1) The designation officer or the public body may refuse an application for access to information where disclosure of the information, in their opinion, shall or is likely to:</p> <p>a) if it Causes harm to sovereignty and national integrity, that includes, national defence, security, public order and international relations of the country;</p> <p>b) Affect private sector interest, not related to public sector, unless the person</p>	<p>7. Exclusion of certain records.--- Nothing contained in section 6 shall apply to the following records of all public bodies, namely:--- a) Noting on the files, subject to a final decision by the public body;</p> <p>b) Minutes of meetings,, subject to a final decision by the public body;</p> <p>c) Any intermediary opinion or recommendation, subject to a final decision by the public body;</p>	<p>15. 1) A public information officer may refuse an application for access to information where disclosure of the information shall or is likely to cause harm to-</p> <p>a) national defence or security, public order international relation of Pakistan;</p> <p>b) a legitimate privacy interest, unless the person concerned has consented to disclosure of the information;</p>
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<p>the scope of the exceptions provided for in this Act, which must always be accessed directly, at the time of a request, based on clear and objective considerations;</p> <p>(c) where only part of a record or the information falls within the scope of the exceptions provided for in this Act, that part shall be severed and the rest of the record or information shall be provided to the requester;</p> <p>(d) even where information falls within the scope of an exception provided for in this Act, the information shall still be provided to the requester where, on balance, the overall public interest favours disclosure of the information;</p> <p>(e) for the purposes of clause (d), there shall be a strong presumption in favour of the</p>	<p>the rules relating to breach of confidence;</p> <p>(d) the legitimate commercial interests of a public body or a third party, including information subject to third party intellectual property rights;</p> <p>(e) the life, health or safety of any person;</p> <p>(f) the prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice;</p> <p>(g) the ability of the Government to manage the economy; or</p> <p>(h) the effective formulation of or success of a policy either by its premature disclosure or by restraining the free and</p>	<p>connected has consented to disclosure of the information;</p> <p>c) Affect protection of legally privileged information or of the rules relating to breach of confidence;</p> <p>d) Affect legitimate intellectual property rights;</p> <p>e) Cause harm to life, health or safety or property of any person;</p> <p>f) Reveal the identity of a confidential source or hamper investigation of a case;</p> <p>g) Affect prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice;</p> <p>h) Affect the fundamental rights of a citizen;</p>	<p>d) Record of the banking companies and financial institutions relating to the accounts of their consumers;</p> <p>e) Records relating to defence forces, defence installations or connected therewith and ancillary to defence an national security excluding all commercials and welfare activities</p> <p>f) Records declared as classified by the Minister-incharge of the Federal Government Provided that the Minister-in-Charge of the Federal Government shall have to record reasons as to why the harm from disclosure of information outweighs public interest and further</p>	<p>c) summaries and noting on files;</p> <p>d) the legitimate commercial interest of a public body or a third party, including information subject to third party intellectual property rights;</p> <p>e) the life, health and safety of any person;</p> <p>f) resulting commission of an offence</p> <p>g) the prevention, investigation, inquiry, detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice.</p> <p>h) the ability of the government to manage the economy; or</p>

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<p>disclosure of information that exposes corruption, criminal wrongdoing, other serious breaches of the law, human rights abuse, or serious harm to public safety or the environment; and</p> <p>(f) the exceptions set out in sections 15 to 18 of this Act, shall cease to apply after a period of twenty years, provided that this may be extended, in exceptional cases, for up to a maximum of another fifteen years, with the approval of the Information Commission.</p> <p>15. International relations and security.--A public body may refuse a request for information the disclosure of which would be likely to cause grave and significant harm to international relations or national security.</p>	<p>frank provision of advice within the Government.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in subsection (1), if the Commission determines that the public interest in such disclosure outweighs the harm that shall or is likely to be caused by such disclosure, it may direct the public information officer to provide the information.</p> <p>(3) Where a part of a document is covered by an exception in subsection (1), any information in the document which is not covered by an exception shall be disclosed if it is reasonably severable from the rest of the document.</p> <p>(4) Where the information is refused, the public information officer shall,</p>	<p>i) Cause damage to the economy as a result of premature disclosure of the proposed introduction, abolition or variation of any tax and affecting the economy of the country; or</p> <p>j) Affect the formulation of or success of a policy either by its premature disclosure or by restraining the free and frank provision of advice within the Government.</p> <p>k) Affect the fair evaluation of a candidate in a test, competition, examination, interview etc.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub section (1), if the Commission determines that the public in such disclosure outweighs the harm that shall or is likely to be caused by such disclosure, it may direct the Designated</p>	<p>that information pertaining to allegation of corruption and violation of human rights shall not be excluded;</p> <p>g) Record relating to the personal privacy of any individual; and</p> <p>h) Record of the private document furnished to a public body either on an express or implied condition that information contained in any such document shall not disclosed to a third party.</p> <p>16. Information exempt from disclosure—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act--- (a) a public body shall not be required to disclose exempt information— (i) provided</p>	<p>i) the effective formulation of or success of a policy either by its premature disclosure or by restraining the free and frank provision of advice within the government;</p> <p>j) reveal the identity of a confidential bases of information in relation to an investigation;</p> <p>k) facilitate an escape from legal custody;</p> <p>l) the security of any property system, including a building, a vehicle, a computer, a computer system or a communication system;</p> <p>m) cause significant damage to the legitimate financial interests of the public body, including by giving an unreasonable advantage to any person in relation to contact while that person is seeking to enter into with the</p>

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<p>16. Disclosure harmful to law enforcement.---A public body may refuse a request for information the disclosure of which would be likely to:</p> <p>(a) result in the commission of an offence;</p> <p>(b) harm detection, prevention, investigation, inquiry or prosecution in relation to an offence, or the apprehension of an offender;</p> <p>(c) reveal the identity of a confidential source of information in relation to an investigation;</p> <p>(d) facilitate an escape from legal custody; or</p> <p>(e) harm the security of any property or system, including a building, a vehicle, a</p>	<p>within the time-limit specified under section 10, inform the applicant specifying–</p> <p>(a) the reasons on account of which and the provision of this Act under which the requested information is refused;</p> <p>(b) procedure for internal review or complaint against the decision; and</p> <p>(c) name and designation of the person who may provide full or limited access to the exempted information.</p> <p>(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, any information mentioned in subsection (1) may be disclosed by a public information officer if the information is more than fifty years old but the Commission may, in an appropriate case</p>	<p>Official to provide the information.</p> <p>(3) Where a part of a document is covered by an exception in sub section (1), any information in the document which is not covered by an exception shall be disclosed if it is reasonably severable from the rest of the document.</p> <p>(4) Provided, that the information withheld in accordance under this law shall be declassified after a period of ten years;</p>	<p>that where only part of a record or the information falls within the scope of the exceptions provided for in this Act, that part shall be severed and the residual record or information shall be provided to the applicant; and (ii) if its disclosure is likely to cause damage to the interests of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in the conduct of International Relation. Explanation: -- In this section, “international relations” means the relations between Pakistan and (i) the Government of any other foreign state; and (ii) organization of which only States are members. (b) information may be exempt if its disclosure is likely to- (i) result in the commission of an offence; (ii) harm the detection, prevention, investigation or inquiry in a particular case; (iii) reveal the</p>	<p>public body or by revealing information to a competitor or the public body.</p> <p>2) Where apart of a document is covered by an exception in sub-section (1), any information in the document which is not covered by an exception shall be disclosed if it is reasonably severable from the rest of the document.</p> <p>3) Where the information is refused, the public information officer shall, within the time limit specified under section 10 inform the applicant specifying-</p> <p>a) the reason on account of which and the provision of</p>

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<p>computer system or a communication system.</p> <p>17. Public economic affairs.--- A public body may refuse a request for information the disclosure of which would be likely to:</p> <p>(a) cause grave and significant damage to the economy as a result of the premature disclosure of the proposed introduction, abolition or variation of any tax, duty, interest rate, exchange rate or any other instrument of economic management; or</p> <p>(b) cause significant damage to the legitimate financial interests of the public body, including by giving an unreasonable advantage to any person in relation to a contract which that person is seeking to enter into with the public body or by revealing</p>	<p>on application of a public body or otherwise, extend this time period of fifty years to a further twenty years.</p>		<p>identity of a confidential source of information (iv) facilitate an escape from legal custody; or (v) harm the security of any property or system, including a building, a vehicle, a computer system or a communication system; (c) information is exempt if its disclosure under this Act would involve invasion of privacy of an identified individual, including a deceased individual other than the applicant. This exception shall not apply where... (i) third party has consented to the disclosure of the information;</p> <p>(ii) the person making the request is the guardian of the third party or the next of kin or the executor of the will of the deceased third party; (iii) the third party is or was an official of a public body and the information relates to his</p>	<p>the Act under which the requested information is refused.</p> <p>b) procedure for internal review or complaint against the decision; and</p> <p>c) name and designation of the person who may provide full or limited access to the exempted information.</p> <p>4) notwithstanding anything contained in this section, any information mentioned in subsection (1) may be disclosed by a public information officer if the information is more the fifty years old but the commission may, in an appropriate case on application of a public body or otherwise, extend</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>information to a competitor of the public body.</p> <p>18. Policy making.---A public body may refuse a request for information the disclosure of which would be likely to cause serious prejudice to the deliberative process in a public body by inhibiting the free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views, or cause serious prejudice to the success of a policy through premature disclosure of that policy.</p> <p>19. Privacy.---(1) A public body may refuse a request for information the disclosure of which would encroach on the privacy of an identifiable third party individual, other than the requester, including an individual who has been deceased</p>			<p>functions as a public official; (d) information is exempt if and so long as its disclosure is likely to cause- (i) damage to the economy as a result of premature disclosure of a proposed introduction, abolition or variation of any tax, duty, interest rate, exchange rate or any other instrument of economic management; (ii) damage to the financial interests of the public body by giving an unreasonable advantage to any person in relation to a contract which that person is seeking to enter into with the public body for acquisition or disposal of property or supply of goods or services; or (iii) damage to lawful commercial activities of the public body; (e) information may be exempt if its disclosure is likely to cause serious prejudice to the— (i) defence or security of</p>	<p>this time period of fifty to a further twenty years.</p> <p>16. A public body may refuse a request for information which is privileged from production in legal proceedings, unless the person entitled to the privilege has waived it.</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>for less than twenty years. (2) The exception in sub-section (1) shall not apply where:</p> <p>(a) the third party has effectively consented to the disclosure of the information;</p> <p>(b) the person making the request is the guardian of the third party, or the next of kin or the executor of the will of a deceased third party; or</p> <p>(c) the third party is or was an official of a public body and the information relates to his function as a public official.</p> <p>20. Legal privilege.---A public body may refuse a request for information which is privileged from production in legal proceedings, unless the person entitled to the privilege has waived it.</p>			<p>Pakistan; or (ii) the capability, effectiveness of armed forces of Pakistan or other law enforcement agencies; (f) information is exempted if its disclosure is likely to endanger life, liberty, health or safety of any individuals;</p> <p>(g) information may be exempt if—</p> <p>(i) the information was obtained from a third party and on its communication it would constitute an actionable breach of confidence; or (ii) the information was obtained in confidence from third party and it contains a trade secret or if communicated it may prejudice the commercial or financial interests of that third party; (h) information may be exempt if it is privileged from production in legal proceedings, unless the</p>	

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>21. Commercial and confidential information.---A public body may refuse a request for information if the information:</p> <p>(a) was obtained from a third party and to communicate it would constitute an actionable breach of confidence; and</p> <p>(b) was obtained in confidence from a third party and it contains a trade secret or to communicate it would be likely to seriously prejudice the commercial or financial interests of that third party.</p> <p>22. Third parties.---(1) Where a request for information relates to information or a record provided on a confidential basis by a third party, the public body shall endeavour to contact that third party with a view to</p>			<p>person entitled to the privilege has waived it; (i) information may be exempt if its disclosure is likely to- (i) cause prejudice to the effective formulation or development of government policy; (ii) frustrate the success of policy, by premature disclosure of that policy; (iii) undermine the deliberative process in a public body by inhibiting the free and frank provision of advice or exchange of views; (iv) undermines the effectiveness of a testing or auditing procedure used by the public body; (v) prejudice the proceedings in a court or a tribunal; and (vi) disclose privileged information shared between counsel and the client; (j) information in respect of a crime may not be exempt, except information relating to- (i) the prevention</p>	

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>obtaining either his consent to disclosure of the information or record or his objections to disclosure.</p> <p>(2) Where a third party objects to disclosure, his objections shall be taken into account, but the decision as to whether or not the information falls within the scope of the exceptions in this Act shall be assessed by the public body on the basis of objective considerations.</p>			<p>or detection of crime; (ii) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders;</p> <p>(iii) the administration of justice;</p> <p>(iv) the operation of the immigration controls excluding exit control list (ECL); (v) the maintenance of the security and good order in prisons or in other institutions where persons are lawfully detained; and (vi) any civil proceedings which are brought by or on behalf of a public body or arise out of an investigation conducted; and (k) the exemptions set out in section 16 shall cease to apply after every twenty years and that record of public bodies shall be made public.</p>	

17. COMPLAINTS / APPEAL

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>a) The Sindh RTI law is very regressive as far as the complaint with information commission is concerned. It put the burden of proof of showing that the designated official has violated the law on the complainant.</p> <p>b) All RTI laws in Pakistan provide for maximum 60 days (except Sindh which is 45 days) to decide on complaints.</p>				
<p>23 (1) Anyone who believes that his request has not been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this Act has the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commission to this effect.</p> <p>(2) Complaints under sub-section (1) shall be free of charge.</p> <p>(3) The Information Commission shall decide any complaint within a period of sixty (60) days.</p> <p>(4) In an appeal, the public body shall bear the burden of proof of showing that it acted in accordance with the provisions of this Act.</p>	<p>6. (2) The Commission shall decide a complaint within thirty days of its receipt or, for good reasons to be recorded in writing, within sixty days.</p>	<p>11. (1) Anyone who believes that his request has not been dealt in accordance with the provisions of this Act has the right to lodge a complaint with the Commission to this effect.</p> <p>(2) Complaint under sub-section (1) shall be free of charge.</p> <p>(3) The Commission shall decide any complaint within a period of forty five (45) days.</p> <p>(4) In an appeal, the Applicant shall bear the burden of proof of showing that the Designated Official or Public Body has acted in violation of this Act.</p>	<p>17. Appeal--- (1) An applicant who is not satisfied by decision of the designated official or where no decision has been communicated to him within the time fixed for such decision, he may, within a period not exceeding thirty days after either receiving a decision or after the time-limit for such a decision has passed, prefer an appeal to the Information Commission. (2) An appeal under sub-section (1) shall be free of charge. (3) The Information Commission established under section (18) shall decide an appeal under sub-section (1) within a period of sixty days. (4) The public body shall, in an appeal under sub-section (1), bear the burden of proof of showing</p>	<p>17. 1) an application who believes that his request has not been dealt in accordance with the provisions of this act has the right to loge a complaint with the information commission to this effect.</p> <p>2. Complaints under sub-section (1) shall be free of charges.</p> <p>3. the information Commission shall decide any complaint within a period of sixty (60) days.</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
			that it acted in accordance with the provisions of this Act.	4. In an appeal, the public body shall bear the burden of proof of showing that it acted in accordance with the provisions of this act

18. INFORMATION COMMISSIONS

- a) All RTI laws in Pakistan provide for establishment of information commission as independent statutory bodies.
- b) Except Balochistan, information commissions have been established under all RTI laws. The 120 days period for establishment of information commission under Balochistan RTI law has lapsed long ago.
- c) While all RTI laws in Pakistan provide for one chief information commission and two information commissioners (total 3), the Balochistan RTI laws provides for one chief information commission and three commissioners (total 4). The total number of information commissioners shall remain three so in case of dissenting opinions, the majority order on complaint should prevail.
- d) A very novel feature of the Sindh Information Commission is establishment of commission offices in district headquarters. However, there are no details how these offices will be staffed.
- d) The period of service of information commissioners varies from three (KP, Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan) to four years (Pakistan federal RTI law)
- e) Except Punjab, the tenure of the information commissioner is non-extendable.
- f) All laws also provide elaborate mechanism for removal of information commissioners.

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>24. (1) On the commencement of this Act, Government shall within a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days, establish a Information Commission to be known as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Information Commission.</p> <p>(2) The Information Commission shall be an independent statutory body, which shall enjoy operational and administrative autonomy from any other person or entity, including the Government and any of its agencies, except as specifically provided for by law.</p> <p>(3) The Information Commission shall be headed by the Chief Information Commissioner, who shall be a retired Senior Government Servant not below the rank of</p>	<p>5. Punjab Information Commission. – (1) The Government shall establish a Commission, to be called ‘Punjab Information Commission’.</p> <p>(2) The Commission shall consist of not more than three Information Commissioners to be appointed from amongst the following:-</p> <p>(a) a person who has been or is qualified to be a Judge of the High Court;</p> <p>(b) a person who is or has been in the service of Pakistan in basic scale 21 or equivalent; and</p> <p>(c) a person from civil society having a degree based on sixteen years of education from a recognized institution</p>	<p>12 Sindh Information Commission.</p> <p>(1) The Government shall within a period of one hundred (100) days from the commencement of this Act, establish an Information Commission to be known as the Sindh Information Commission.</p> <p>(2) The Information commission shall be an independent statutory body, which shall enjoy operational and administrative autonomy from any other person or entity, including government and any of its agencies, except as specifically provided for by law.</p> <p>(3) The principal seat of the Information Commission shall be located at the provincial capital, and the Information Commission offices at each District Headquarters.</p>	<p>18. Information Commission--</p> <p>(1) Within six months of the commencement of this Act, the Prime Minister shall establish Pakistan Commission on Access to Information be known as the Information Commission.</p> <p>(2) The Information Commission shall enjoy operational and administrative autonomy, except as specifically provided for by this Act. (3) The Information Commission shall comprise of three commissioners to be appointed by the Prime Minister, with the following composition; namely a) one member shall be from amongst the persons qualified to be a Judge of a High Court; b) one member who has been in service of Pakistan in BS-22 or equivalent; and c) one member shall be from civil society having a degree based</p>	<p>18. (1) commencement of this Act, Government shall within a period of one hundred and twenty (120) days, establish a Information commission to be known as Punjab Information Commission.</p> <p>2) The information commission shall be an independent statutory body, which shall enjoy operational and administrative authority from any other person or entity, including government and any of its agencies, except as specifically provided for by law.</p> <p>3) The information commission shall be headed by the Chief Information Commissioner, who shall be a retired senior Government</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>BPS-20 and shall be appointed by Government.</p> <p>(4) The Information Commission shall comprise of two other Members to be known as Commissioners, who shall be appointed in the following manner:</p> <p>(a) one Advocate of High Court or Supreme Court, who is qualified to be a Judge of High Court; and</p> <p>(b) A person from civil society having experience of not less than fifteen years in the field of mass communication, academic or right to information.</p> <p>(5) The Chief Information Commissioner and the Commissioners shall hold office for a term of three years from the date on which they</p>	<p>and experience of not less than fifteen years in the field of mass communication, academic or right to information.</p> <p>(3) The Government shall, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and until so prescribed as are determined by the Government, appoint the Commissioners.</p> <p>(4) The Government shall nominate one of the Commissioners as Chief Information Commissioner who shall be the chief executive of the Commission.</p> <p>(5) No person shall be appointed as Commissioner if he is more than sixty-five years of age on the date of appointment.</p>	<p>(4) The Information Commission shall comprise of three members appointed by the Government on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and until so prescribed, as are determined by the Government.</p> <p>(5) The Information Commission shall be headed by the Chief Information Commissioner, who shall be a retired Senior Government Servant not below the rank of BPS-20 and shall be appointed by the Government.</p> <p>(6) The Information Commission, besides the chief Information Commissioner shall comprise of two other Members to be known as Commissioners, who shall be appointed in the following manner:</p> <p>a) One Advocate of High Court or Supreme Court, who is</p>	<p>on sixteen years of education from a recognized institution and experience of not less than fifteen years in the field of social sciences; (4) No person shall be considered for appointment as Commissioner under sub-section (3) unless he is less than sixty-five years of age at the time of such appointment. (5) The Information Commission shall be headed by the Chief Information Commissioner, who shall be appointed by the Prime Minister form amongst the Commissioners. (6) The Chief Information Commissioner and the Commissioners shall hold office for a term of four years from the date on which they assume charge of their office and shall not be eligible for such reappointment. (7) The Chief Information Commissioner and the</p>	<p>servant not below the rank of BPS-20 and shall be appointed by Government.</p> <p>4) The information commission shall comprise of three other members to be known as commissioners, who shall be appointed in the following manner:</p> <p>a) a person, who is qualified to be a judge of High Court;</p> <p>b) a person who is or has been in the service of Pakistan in BPS-20 or equivalent;</p> <p>c) a person from civil society having experience of not less than fifteen years in the field</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>assume office and shall not be eligible for re-appointment.</p> <p>(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (5), the Chief Information Commissioner and Commissioners shall not hold office after they have attained the age of sixty-five (65) years.</p> <p>(7) A Commissioner may not hold any other public office, or be connected with any political party or be running any business or pursuing any profession at the time of or during their appointment to the Information Commission.</p> <p>(8) A Commissioner may be removed by a positive vote of not less than two of the other Commissioners on grounds of failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Information Commission without cause, inability to</p>	<p>(6) A Commissioner shall hold office for a term of three years extendable for another three years.</p> <p>(7) A Commissioner shall not hold any other public office or any other office of profit or be connected with any political party and shall not engage himself in any business or profession during the period he holds office of the Commissioner.</p> <p>(8) Subject to subsections (9), (10) and (11), a Commissioner shall be liable to removal on grounds of misconduct or physical or mental incapacity.</p> <p>(9) Before removing a Commissioner, the Government shall communicate the charges to</p>	<p>qualified to be a Judge of High Court; and</p> <p>b) A person from the civil society having experience of not less than fifteen (15) years in his profession.</p> <p>(7) The Chief Information Commissioner and the Commissioners shall hold office for a term of three (03) years from the date on which they assume office and shall not be eligible for reappointment.</p> <p>(8) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (5), the Chief Information Commissioner and Commissioners shall not hold office after they have attained the age of sixty-five (65) years.</p> <p>(9) A Commissioner may not hold any other public office, or be connected with any political party or be running any</p>	<p>Commissioners shall not hold any other public office or be connected with any political party at the time of or during their appointment in the Information Commission and, once appointed, they shall work on full time basis and may not run any business or pursue any profession during their</p> <p>tenure as the Chief Information Commissioner and Commissioners. (8) The Chief Information Commissioner and Commissioners shall be removed if there are serious complaints of mental and physical incapacity and misconduct against them, which are materially inconsistent with the status of being Chief Information Commissioner or, as the case may be, a Commissioner. The complaint shall be lodged</p>	<p>of mass communication, academic or right to information.</p> <p>5) The government on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed and until so prescribed as are determined by the Government appoint the commissioners.</p> <p>6) The Chief Information Commissioner and the Commissioners shall hold office for a term of three years, from the date on which they assume office and shall not be eligible for re-appointment.</p> <p>7) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (5),</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>perform the duties of a Commissioner, falling foul of the conditions for being a Commissioner as set out in sub-section (6), or conduct which is materially inconsistent with the status of being a Commissioner, provided that a Commissioner who has been removed pursuant to this sub-section shall have the right to appeal that removal before the courts.</p>	<p>the Commissioner and afford him reasonable opportunity to explain his position.</p> <p>(10) If the Government is not satisfied with the defence offered, it may refer the case to Provincial Assembly of the Punjab for an open enquiry by a Special Committee to be constituted by the Provincial Assembly.</p> <p>(11) If the Committee finds the Commissioner guilty of any of the charges mentioned in subsection (8), the Government shall remove the Commissioner.</p> <p>(12) If Provincial Assembly of the Punjab is dissolved and the situation mentioned in subsection (8) has arisen, the Speaker of the Provincial Assembly shall constitute a special committee and such</p>	<p>business or pursuing any profession at the time of or during their appointment to the Information Commission.</p> <p>(10) A Commissioner may be removed by a positive vote of not less than two of the other Commissioners on grounds of failure to attend three consecutive meetings of the Information Commission without cause, inability to perform the duties of a Commissioner, failing to fulfill conditions for being a Commissioner or conduct which is materially inconsistent with the status of being a Commissioner.</p> <p>(11) Notwithstanding any other Section, the Government may initiate the process of removing any Commissioner on the grounds of misconduct and physical or mental incapacity. Provided that before making</p>	<p>before a five member Parliamentary Committee comprising two Senators nominate by the Chairman Senate and three Members of National Assembly nominated by the Speaker National Assembly. The Speaker National Assembly shall nominate one of the five members as the Chairperson of the said Parliamentary Committee: Provided that where the National Assembly stands dissolved the Parliamentary Committee shall comprise five Senators and Chairman Senate shall nominate one of the five Senators as Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee. (9) The parliamentary Committee shall consider the complaint, record reasons and present its recommendation to the Prime Minister who shall implement the recommendations within</p>	<p>The Chief Information Commissioner and commissioners shall not hold officer after they have attained the age of sixty five (65) years.</p> <p>8) A commissioner may not hold any other public officer or be connected with any political party or be running any business or perusing any profession at the time of or during the period, the holds office of the commission.</p> <p>(20) (1) Subject to subsection (2) (3) (4) and (5) a commissioner shall be liable to removal on grounds of misconduct or physical or mental incapacity keeps himself absent in three consecutive meeting of the information Commissioner</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
	<p>special committee may exercise the powers of special committee of the Provincial Assembly until the election of the new Provincial Assembly.</p>	<p>any such decision, the government shall communicate the charges to the Commissioner and afford him reasonable opportunity to explain his position.</p> <p>(12) If the Government is not satisfied with the defence offered by the Commissioner, it may refer the case to the Provincial Assembly for an enquiry by a Special Committee to be constituted by the Speaker of Provincial Assembly.</p> <p>(13) If the Committee finds the Commissioner guilty of any of the charges mentioned in subsection (10), the Government shall remove the Commissioner</p>	<p>thirty days from the date of receipt of such recommendations.</p>	<p>without any reasonable cause.</p> <p>(2) Before removing a commissioner, the Government shall Communicate the charges to the commissioner and afford him reasonable opportunity to explain his position.</p> <p>(3) If the Government is not satisfied with his reply/explanation offered, it may refer the case to the provincial Assembly of Balochistan for an open inquiry by a special committee to be constituted by the Provincial Assembly.</p> <p>(4) If the Committee finds the Commissioner is guilty of</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
				<p>any of the charges mentioned in sub-section (1), the Government shall remove the commissioner.</p> <p>(5) If the Provincial Assembly of Balochistan is dissolved and the Situation mentioned in sub-section (1) has arisen, the Speaker of the Balochistan Assembly shall constitute a special committee which may Exercise the powers of special committee of the Balochistan Assembly until The election of the new Balochistan Assembly.</p>

19. FUNCTIONS OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS

- a) All laws pin the basic function of the information commission to receive and decide on complaints.
- b) All information commission in Pakistan has power of civil court.

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>c) Subsection 4 of section 25 of KP RTI Act 2013 was introduced through amendment in 2015 which requires at least two commissioners to decide a complaint. After introduction of this clause, the KP information commission mostly remained disfunction. A commissioner form legal background has not been appointed since November 2019. This clause should be omitted, and the information commission should be able to decide even if there is one commissioner available.</p>				
<p>25. 1) The Information Commission shall have a primary responsibility to receive and decide on complaints.</p> <p>(2) The Information Commission shall, in addition to its complaints function, conduct the following activities:</p> <p>(a) set rules and minimum standards regarding the manner in which public bodies are required to manage their records, in accordance with section 4 of this Act;</p> <p>(b) designate further categories of information which may be subject to proactive disclosure, in</p>	<p>6. (1) The Commission may–</p> <p>(a) conduct an inquiry, on its own accord or on a complaint, and may direct a public body to disclose information to an applicant or in a proactive manner;</p> <p>(b) determine the public interest in terms of section 13;</p> <p>(c) resolve any inconsistencies in the application of the provisions of this Act or the rules or regulations.</p> <p>(2) The Commission shall decide a complaint within thirty days of its receipt or, for good reasons to be</p>	<p>13. Functions of the commission.</p> <p>(1) The Commission may:</p> <p>(a) conduct an inquiry on a complaint and may direct a Public Body to disclose information to the Applicant;</p> <p>(b) determine the public interest in terms of Section 10 (2) of this Act;</p> <p>(c) resolve any inconsistencies in the application of the provisions of this Act or the rules or regulations;</p> <p>(2) The Commission shall decide a complaint within forty five (45) days of its receipt and pass appropriate orders including recommending disciplinary proceedings against delinquent officials</p> <p>(3) The Commission may exercise the powers of a Civil court to:</p>	<p>19. Functions of the Information Commission-- (1) The Information Commission shall have the primary responsibility to receive and decide on appeals under Section 17. (2) The Information Commission shall, in addition to its functions under sub- section (1), performs the following functions, namely;---</p> <p>(a) compile a user friendly handbook in Urdu and English describing in easily comprehensible from the rights established by and how to make request under this Act; (b) have an accredited accountant to conduct an audit of its accounts on annual basis; (c) compile a comprehensive bi-annual</p>	<p>19) 1. The Information Commission shall have a primary responsibility to receive and decide on complaints.</p> <p>2. The Information Commission shall, in addition to its complaints functions, conduct the following activities:</p> <p>a) set rules and minimum standards regarding the manner in which public bodies are required to manage their records, in accordance with section 4 of this Act;</p> <p>b) designate further categories of information, which may be subject to proactive disclosure, in</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>accordance with sub-section (l) of section 5 of this Act;</p> <p>(c) adopt a schedule of the fees that public bodies may charge for providing information to requesters, in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 13 of this Act;</p> <p>(d) approve or reject extensions to the maximum period that information may be kept confidential, in accordance with clause (f) of section 14 of this Act;</p> <p>(e) compile a user-friendly handbook, in Urdu and English, describing in easily comprehensible form the rights established by, and how to make a request for information under, this Act;</p> <p>(f) refer to the appropriate authorities cases which reasonably disclose evidence</p>	<p>recorded in writing, within sixty days.</p> <p>(3) The Commission may exercise the powers of a civil court to—</p> <p>(a) summon and enforce attendance of persons, compel them to give oral or written evidence on oath and to produce documents or information;</p> <p>(b) examine and inspect information;</p> <p>(c) receive evidence on affidavits;</p>	<p>a) summon and enforce attendance of persons, compel them to give oral or written evidence on oath and to produce documents or information;</p> <p>b) examine and inspect information;</p> <p>c) receive evidence on affidavits;</p> <p>requisition relevant information from any office; and issue summons for witnesses or documents.</p> <p>(4) While inquiring into a complaint, the commission or any person authorized by the Commission, may examine any information on spot.</p> <p>(5)The Commission shall facilitate the application of the provisions of this Act and may: issue directives to public bodies for preservation, management, publication, publicity and access to information;</p>	<p>report both describing its own activities, including an overview of the audited accounts and providing an overview of the activities undertaken by all public bodies to implement this Act. This report shall be laid before the Parliament; (d) ensure that all the information under section 5 is made public; and (e) ensure implementation of this Act and the record to be made public under this Act.</p>	<p>accordance with sub-section (1) of section of this Act;</p> <p>d) adopt a schedule of the fees public bodies may charges for providing information to applicant, in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 13 of this Act;</p> <p>d) approve or reject extensions to the maximum period that information may be kept confidential, in accordance with clause (f) of section 15 of this Act,</p> <p>e) compile a user-friendly handbook, in urdu and English, describing in easily comprehensible from the rights established by and how</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>of criminal offences under this Act;</p> <p>(g) compile a comprehensive annual report both describing its own activities, including an overview of its audited accounts, and providing an overview of the activities undertaken by all public bodies to implement this Act, taking into account the information provided by individual public bodies pursuant to sub-section (2) of section 5 of this Act; and</p> <p>(h) have an accredited accountant conduct an audit of its accounts on an annual basis, and provide a copy of its audited accounts to the Provincial Assembly and the Department of Finance.</p>	<p>(d) requisition information from any office; and</p> <p>(e) issue summons for witnesses or documents.</p> <p>(4) While inquiring into a complaint, any Commissioner subject to distribution of work by Chief Information Commissioner or any other person authorized by the Commission, may examine any information on spot.]</p> <p>(5) The Commission shall facilitate the application of the provisions of this Act and may—</p> <p>(a) issue directives to public bodies for preservation, management, publication,</p>	<p>prescribe the procedure for accessing information from a public body;</p> <p>advise and provide support to the Government to make necessary laws and procedures for implementation of the right to information;</p> <p>provide technical and other support to the public bodies for effective enforcement of right to information;</p> <p>conduct training of the Designated Officials;</p> <p>undertake mass awareness campaign to create awareness about the Act, rules and regulations;</p> <p>establish an information web-portal;</p> <p>compile a user handbook in Urdu, Sindhi and English, containing such information in easily comprehensible form and manner, as may reasonably be required by an applicant; and</p>		<p>to make a request for information under, this Act;</p> <p>f) refer to the appropriate authorities cases which reasonably disclose evidence of criminal offices under this Act;</p> <p>g) compile a comprehensive annual report both describing its own activities, including an overview of its audited accounts, and providing an overview of the activities undertaken by all public bodies to implement this Act, taking into account the information provided by individual public bodies pursuant to sub-section (2) of section 5 of this Act; and</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>(3) The Information Commission shall have the power to:</p> <p>(a) monitor and report on the compliance by public bodies with their obligations under this Act;</p> <p>(b) make recommendations to Government for reform both of a general nature and in relation to specific public bodies;</p> <p>(c) make formal comments on any legislative or other legal proposals which affect the right to information;</p> <p>(d) co-operate with or undertake training activities for public officials on the right to information and the effective implementation of this Act; and</p>	<p>publicity and access to information;</p> <p>(b) prescribe the procedure for accessing information from a public body;</p> <p>(c) advise and provide support to the Government to make necessary laws and procedures for implementation of the right to information;</p> <p>(d) provide technical and other support to the public bodies for effective enforcement of right to information;</p> <p>(e) conduct training of the public information officers;</p> <p>(f) undertake mass awareness campaign to create awareness about the Act, rules and regulations;</p>	<p>i) compile guidelines for use by Designated Officials.</p> <p>(6) The Commission shall prepare an annual report on the implementation of the provisions of this Act during a financial year and submit it to the Government.</p> <p>(7) The annual report of the Commission shall, in particular, contain the following information:</p> <p>(a) status of right to information law, rules, regulations and procedures;</p> <p>(b) Progress on implementation of the freedom of information law, including district and department-wise summaries of information requests showing current status of each information request;</p> <p>(c) Hurdles being faced in the implementation of freedom of information law; and</p> <p>(d) Budget, expenses and other organizational matters.</p>		<p>h) have an accredited accountant conduct an audit of its accounts on an annual basis, and provide a copy of its audited accounts to the Provincial Assembly and the Department of Finance.</p> <p>i) Compile guidelines for use by the public information officers.</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>(e) publicize the requirements of this Act and the rights of individuals under it.</p> <p>(4) While deciding a complaint, the Information Commission shall consist of at least two members or one member and the Chief Information Commissioner and the decision of the Commission shall not be invalid on the ground of existence of any vacancy.</p>	<p>(g) establish an information web-portal;</p> <p>(h) compile a user handbook in Urdu and English, containing such information in easily comprehensible form and manner, as many reasonably be required by an applicant; and</p> <p>(i) compile guidelines for use by the public information officers.</p> <p>(6) The Commission shall prepare an annual report on the implementation of the provisions of this Act during a financial year by 31 August and shall lay it before Provincial Assembly of the Punjab.]</p> <p>(7) The annual report of the Commission shall, in particular, contain the following information:-</p>			

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
	<p>(a) status of right to information law, rules, regulations and procedures;</p> <p>(b) progress on implementation of the freedom of information law, including district and department-wise summaries of information requests showing current status of each information request;</p> <p>(c) hurdles being faced in the implementation of freedom of information law; and</p> <p>(d) budget, expenses and other organizational matters.</p>			

20. POWER OF INFORMATION COMMISSIONS

- a) For the implementation of the RTI laws, the respective RTI laws equip the information commissions with punitive powers.
- b) The best practice is to attach fine with salary. The high inflation rate in Pakistan makes the specific amount unreasonable after some time.
- c) Breaching orders of the information commissions is tantamount to contempt of court.

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>26. (1) The Information Commission shall have all powers, direct or incidental, as are necessary to undertake its functions as provided for in this Act, including full legal personality, and the power to acquire, hold and dispose of property.</p> <p>(2) The Information Commission shall also have the power to conduct inquiries, in relation to either a complaint or other matters connected with the proper implementation of this Act, and when conducting such an inquiry, the Information Commission shall have the powers of a Civil Court under Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) 1908 in respect of the following matters:</p> <p>(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling them to give</p>	<p>15. Penalty on public information official.— Where a public information officer has, without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application, has not furnished information within time limits, or <i>malafidely</i> denied the request or knowingly gave incorrect, incomplete or misleading information, the Commission may, after providing sufficient opportunity of defense to the public information officer, direct the public information officer to pay fine not exceeding two days' salary for each day of delay or to pay fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees.</p>	<p>15. Penalty on Designated Official. Where a Designated Official has, without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application, has not furnished information within time limits, or with malafide intent denied the request or knowingly gave incorrect, incomplete or misleading information, the commission may, after providing sufficient opportunity of defence to the Designated Official, direct the said officer to pay fine which may extend to ten percent (10%) of his basic pay.</p>	<p>20. Powers of the Information Commission— (1) The Information Commission shall have all the powers, direct or incidental, as are necessary to perform its functions as provided for in this Act and the power to acquire, hold and dispose of property including power to— a) monitor and report on the compliance by public bodies with their obligation under this Act; b) co-operate with or undertake training activities for public officials on the right of access to information and the effective implementation of this Act; c) publicize the requirements of this Act and the rights of individuals thereunder; d) conduct inquiries in relation to an appeal and for this purpose shall have the powers of a civil court in respect for the following matters:---</p>	<p>18) 3. the Information Commission shall have the powers to:</p> <p>(a) monitor and report on the compliance by public bodies with their obligations under this Act;</p> <p>(b) make recommendations to Government for reform both of a general nature and in relation to specific public bodies;</p> <p>(c) make formal comments on any legislative or other legal proposals which affect the right to information;</p> <p>(d) co-operate with or undertake training activities for public officials on the right to information and the</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>oral or written evidence under oath;</p> <p>(b) requiring public bodies and to produce documents or things;</p> <p>(c) inspect the premises of public bodies; and</p> <p>(d) examining and inspecting information.</p> <p>(3) When deciding a complaint, the Information Commission shall have the following powers:</p> <p>(a) to order a public body to disclose information to a requester or to take such other reasonable measures as it may deem necessary to compensate a requesters for any failure to respect the provisions of this Act;</p>			<p>i. summoning and enforcing the attendance of witness and compelling them to give oral or written evidence on oath; and ii. requiring public bodies to produce records as defined in section 6 pertaining to the appeal; e) order a public body to disclose information to an applicant or to take such other reasonable measures as it may deem necessary to remedy any failure to implement the provisions of this Act; f) impose on the official a fine equivalent to his salary for one day, for a maximum of a hundred days, who has acted willfully to obstruct any activity which is required to be undertaken by this Act; including preventing or delaying the disclosure of information to an applicant; g) appoint its employees in prescribed manner; and h) the Information Commission after</p>	<p>effective implementation of this Act; and</p> <p>(e) publicize the requirements of this Act and the rights of individuals under it.</p> <p>4. The information Commission shall have all powers, direct or incidental, as are necessary to undertake its functions as provided for this Act, and the power to acquire, hold and dispose of property.</p> <p>5. The information Commission shall also have the power to conduct inquires, in relation to either a complaint or other matters connected with the proper implementation of this Act,</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>(b) to impose a daily fine of upto Rs.250 per day, upto a maximum of Rs. 25,000, on any official who has acted wilfully to obstruct any activity which is required to be undertaken by this Act, including with a view to preventing or delaying the disclosure of information to a requester; and</p> <p>(c) to require a public body to take such general measures as may be required to address systematic failures to respect the provisions of this Act, including by appointing a Public Information Officer, by conducting training for its employees, by improving its record management, by publishing information on a proactive basis and/or by preparing and publishing an annual report.</p>			<p>determination of willful destruction of record shall refer such matters to the relevant agencies. (2) Non-compliance of a decision of the Information Commissioner under the clauses (e) and (f) of sub-section (1) may, if it has not been appealed against within thirty days, be dealt with in the same way as contempt of court.</p>	<p>and when conducting such an inquiry, the information commission shall have the powers of a Civil Court under Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), 1908 in respect of the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the to give oral or written evidence under oath; b) requiring public bodies and to produce document or things; c) inspect the premises of public bodies; and d) examining and inspection information <p>22. Where a public information officer has, without any reasonable cause, refused to received an application, has not</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>(4) A decision of the Information Commission under sub-section (3) shall, if it has not been appealed against within 30 days, be registered with the Court of the District and Sessions Judge of the concerned district and any failure to respect the decision shall be dealt with in the same way as any contempt of court.</p>				<p>furnished information Within time limits, or malafidely denied the requests or knowingly gave Incorrect, incomplete or misleading information, the commission may, after Providing sufficient opportunity of defence to the public information officer to pay fine not exceeding two days salary for each day of delay or to pay fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees. Provided that imposition of such fine shall not adversely impact terms and conditions of his services; however, on repetition, the order for his designation to perform as information officer may be withdrawn and other person may be designated as information officer in his place.</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<h2 style="color: #A52A2A;">21. FUNDING OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONS</h2>				
<p>a) All RTI laws in Pakistan make it binding on the concerned governments to make sure that the information commission have sufficient funding.</p>				
<p>27. (1) Government shall make such a budgetary allocation to the Information Commission as it may require to discharge its responsibilities effectively, including by establishing a secretariat and hiring the requisite staff to enable it to conduct its business properly, and shall provide the funds indicated through a reasonable schedule of payments throughout the year.</p> <p>(2) For purposes of implementing sub-section (1), the Information Commission shall present a budget proposal to Government.</p>	<p>14. Allocation of funds.– The Government shall allocate adequate funds to the Commission to enable it to establish a secretariat, hire the requisite staff to conduct its business properly, and promote access to information among the public, public servants and civil society.</p>	<p>14. Government shall allocate adequate funds to the commission to enable it to establish a secretariat, hire the requisite staff to conduct its business properly, and promote access to information amongst the public, public servants and civil society.</p>	<p>21. Funding for the information Commission— The federal Government shall make annual budgetary allocation to the information commission to discharge its functional under this Act;</p>	<p>21. (1) Government shall make such a budgetary allocation to the Information Commission as it may deem appropriate to discharge it responsibilities effectively, including hiring the requisite staff to enable it to conduct its business properly, and shall provide the funds indicated through a reasonable schedule of payment throughout the year.</p> <p>(2) For purpose of implementing sub-section (1), the Information Commission shall present a budget proposal to Government.</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
(3) The Chief Information Commissioner and Commissioners shall be entitled to such remuneration and allowances as the Government may determine.				(3) The Chief Information Commissioner and Commissioners shall be entitled to such remuneration and allowances as the Government may determine.

22. OFFENCES

a) Except Punjab and Pakistan federal RTI laws, all RTI in Pakistan laws provides for punishment for misuse of information obtained under the respective RTI laws. Sindh RTI laws provides for heavy fine of Rs100,000 and three months imprisonment. KP RTI laws provides for maximum Rs5,000 fine and up to two years imprisonment. Balochistan RTI laws also provide for up to two years imprisonment and fine which shall not be less than Rs10,000. These are very regressive provisions, causing deterrence to information requesters, and kill the very purpose of laws explained in the preamble. While all laws have very detailed list of the excepted information, how come the information which are not excluded can be misused or used for ulterior motives.

<p>28. Offence.---(1) It is a criminal offence willfully to:</p> <p>(a) obstruct access to any record with a view to preventing the exercise of a right provided for in this Act;</p>	<p>16. Offence.– In addition to any other action under any other law, any person who destroys a record which at the time it was destroyed was the subject of an application for access to information, internal review or complaint, or otherwise obstructs access to information which is the</p>	<p>15 (1) Whosoever misuses the information obtained under this law with malafide intentions to exploit, the Information Commission may punish with a fine of Rs.1,00,000/- or an imprisonment of three months, or with both;</p>	<p>22. Offences— (1) Any person who acts willfully to obstruct the implementation of this Act including by</p> <p>a) obstructing access to any information or record with a view to preventing the exercise of a right provided for in this Act; b) obstructing the performance by a public body</p>	<p>23) 1. Any person who;</p> <p>a. Destroys a record which at the time it was destroyed was the subject of an application for access to information, internal review or complaint;</p>
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>(b) obstruct the performance by a public body of a duty under this Act;</p> <p>(c) interfere with the work of the Information Commission; or</p> <p>(d) destroy a record without lawful authority.</p> <p>(e) use the information obtained for malafide purposes with ulterior motives with facile, frivolous design.</p> <p>(2) Anyone who commits an offence under sub-section (1), shall be liable to a fine not exceeding rupees five thousand (5000) or imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years.</p> <p>(3) All the offences mentioned in sub-section (1), shall be bailable, non-cognizable and triable by the District and</p>	<p>subject of an application, internal review or complaint, with the intention of preventing its disclosure under this Act, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees or with both.</p>	<p>15. (2) Whosoever misuses the information obtained under this law with malafide intentions to exploit, the Information Commission may, after providing sufficient opportunity of defense to that person, impose a penalty on that person, which may extend to Rs.1,00,000/-</p> <p>16. In addition to any other action under any other law, any person who destroys a record which at the time it was destroyed was the subject of an application for access to information, internal review or complaint, or otherwise obstructs access to information which is the subject of an application; internal review or complaint, with the intention of preventing its disclosure under this Act, or violates any provision of this Act, shall commit an offence punishable</p>	<p>of a duty under this act; c) interfering with the work of the Information Commission; or (d) destroying a record without lawful authority, shall be punishable with a fine not exceeding fifty thousand Rupees. (2) In addition to any other action that may be taken under any other law for the time being in force, any person who willfully destroys a record which at the time it was destroyed was the subject of an application for access to information or appeal, with the intention of preventing its disclosure under this Act, commits an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine which shall not be less than one hundred thousand Rupees or with both.</p>	<p>b. Obstructs access to information which is the subject of an application, internal review or complaint, with intention of preventing its disclosure under this Act;</p> <p>c. Obstructs the performance by a public body of a duty under this Act;</p> <p>d. Destroys a record without lawful authority; Or</p> <p>e. Uses the information obtained for malafide purposes with ulterior motives with facile; frivolous design.</p> <p>2. such person shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
Sessions Judge of the concerned district, on the complaint file by the Information Commission.		with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years six months or with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees or (10%) percent of his basic pay or with both		which may extend to two years or fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees or with both.
<h3>23. INDEMNITY AND BAR OF SUITS</h3> <hr/> <p>a) all RTI laws provide for indemnity and bar of suits.</p>				
29 (1) No one may be subject to any legal, administrative or employment-related sanction, regardless of any breach of a legal or employment obligation, for releasing information on wrongdoing, or which would disclose a serious threat to health, safety or the environment, as long as they acted in good faith and in the reasonable belief that the information was substantially true and disclosed evidence of wrongdoing or a serious	<p>17. Cognizance of offence under this Act.— A court shall not take cognizance of the offence punishable under section 16 of this Act except on a report in writing of the facts constituting such offence made with the previous sanction of the Commission or an officer authorized by the Commission.</p> <p>18. Bar of suits etc.— A court shall not entertain a suit,</p>	<p>17. No Court shall entertain a suit, application or other proceeding in respect of any decision made under this Act and the decision shall not be called in question otherwise than by way of an internal review or a complaint under the Act.</p> <p>21. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done in</p>	<p>23. Indemnity—No suit, prosecution or legal proceedings shall lie against the principal officer, designated official or any other person of a public body in respect of anything which in good faith is done or purported to have been done under this Act and the rules made thereunder.</p>	<p>24. A court of competent jurisdiction shall not take cognizance of the offence punishable under section 22 of this Act except on a report in writing of the fact constituting such offence made with the previous sanction of the Commission.</p> <p>25. No one may be subject to any legal,</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>threat to health, safety or the environment.</p> <p>(2) For purposes of sub-section (1), wrongdoing includes the commission of a criminal offence, failure to comply with a legal obligation, a miscarriage of justice, corruption or dishonesty, or serious maladministration regarding a public body.</p>	<p>application or other proceeding in respect of any decision made under this Act and the decision shall not be called in question otherwise than by way of an internal review or a complaint under the Act.</p> <p>23. Indemnity. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of this Act or any rules or regulations made under the Act.</p>	<p>pursuance of this Act or any rules made under the Act.</p>		<p>administrative or employment related sanction for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be</p> <p>done in pursuance of this Act or any rules made there under.</p>

24. RECRUITMENT

a) Only Pakistan federal RTI law makes it binding on the Pakistan information commission to make appointments through Federal Public Service Commission.

			<p>24. Recruitment in Information Commission— Excluding the Chief Information Commissioner</p>	
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
			and commissioners, appointment of officers and staff in information commission from BS-16 and above shall be made through Federal Public Service Commission in line with the Federal Public Service Commission Ordinance, 1977 (XLV Of 1977)	

25. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

a) Only KP RTI law provides for the whistleblower protection. KP also enacted the KP Whistleblower and Vigilance Commission Act 2016. However, no such commission has been established yet under the Act.

30 (1) No one may be subject to any legal, administrative or employment-related sanction, regardless of any breach of a legal or employment obligation, for releasing information on wrongdoing, or which would disclose a serious threat to health, safety or the environment, as long as				
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
<p>they acted in good faith and in the reasonable belief that the information was substantially true and disclosed evidence of wrongdoing or a serious threat to health, safety or the environment.</p> <p>(2) For purposes of subsection (1), wrongdoing includes the commission of a criminal offence, failure to comply with a legal obligation, a miscarriage of justice, corruption or dishonesty, or serious maladministration regarding a public body.</p>				

26. POWER TO REMOVE DIFFICULTIES

a) All RTI laws in Pakistan empowers the respective information commission to remove difficulties for giving effect to the provision of these laws.

31. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order in the Official Gazette, make such provisions	21. Power to Remove Difficulty. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order in	19. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order in the official Gazette, make such provisions not	28. Power to remove difficulty—If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, the Federal Government may	26. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provision of this Act, Government may, by order in the official Gazette, make such
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.	the official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.	inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for removing the difficulty.	make such order, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as deemed necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty; Provided that no such order shall be made after expiry of one year from the commencement of this Act.	provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of Act as appears to it to be necessary Or expedient for removing the difficulty.

27. POWER TO MAKE RULES /REGULATIONS

a) All RTI laws in Pakistan empowers the respective information commissions to make rules/regulation for smooth functions and effective implementation of the RTI laws.

32. Government in consultation with the Information Commission may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.	<p>19. Power to make rules.– (1) The Government, in consultation with the Commission and by notification in the official Gazette, may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.</p> <p>(2) The rules shall also provide elaboration of the</p>	18. The Government in consultation with the commission may by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying the purposes of this Act within sixty (60) days after establishment of the Commission.	<p>26. Power to make rules—The Federal Government may, by notification in the official gazette and within one hundred and twenty days from commencement of this Act, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.</p> <p>27. Powers to make regulations—The Information Commission may make</p>	<p>27. Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.</p> <p>28. Subject to the provision of the Act and the rules, the Commission may, by notification, in the official</p>
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
	<p>following provisions of this Act:-</p> <p>(a) procedure for proper maintenance, indexing and storage of information, including details of information to be published in an electronic form;</p> <p>(b) procedure for filing of request for information and a schedule of the costs for providing the information;</p> <p>(c) handling and internal review mechanisms;</p> <p>(d) information that shall be included in the annual report of each public body;</p> <p>(e) procedure for publishing, displaying and obtaining the annual report;</p> <p>(f) designation of public information officers, and if required, any other official</p>		<p>regulations, not inconsistent with the provisions of the rules made under section 26, regarding its internal procedures and, without limiting the generality for the forgoing, it may make regulations regarding -- (a) record management standards; and (b) fee that may be charged for requests; and (c) procedure for processing of appeals</p>	<p>gazette make regulations to give effect to the provisions of this Act and the rules framed thereunder.</p>

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
	<p>delegates, and their duties and responsibilities;</p> <p>(g) procedure for removal of a Commissioner, including definition of misconduct;</p> <p>(h) finances, budgeting and staffing related to the Commission and its secretariat;</p> <p>(i) responsibilities of Commissioners, mechanism for taking decisions, quorum requirements and procedures in case of non-availability of one or more Commissioners;</p> <p>(j) provisions regarding imposition of penalties or fines; and</p> <p>(k) any fees that may be charged by a public body in carrying out the provisions of this Act.</p>			

KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
	<p>20. Power to Frame Regulations. Subject to this Act and the rules, the Commission may, by notification, frame regulations to give effect to the provisions of the Act and the rules</p>			

28. REPEAL

a) All laws have repealed Freedom of Information Laws and Ordinances.

<p>33. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Right to Information Ordinance, 2013 (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ordinance No. VII of 2013) is hereby repealed.</p>	<p>25. Repeal. The Punjab Transparency and Right to Information Ordinance (IV of 2013) is hereby repealed.</p>	<p>23. The Sindh Freedom of Information Act, 2006 is hereby repealed.</p>	<p>29. Repeal—The Freedom of Information Ordinance, 2002(XCVI of 2002) is hereby repealed.</p>	<p>29. The Balochistan freedom of information Act, 2005 (Act No. VI of 2005) is hereby repealed.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of the freedom of information Act, 2005 (Act No. VI of 2005) hereinafter referred as the repealed Act, any rules, orders and notification issued, anything done, action taken, obligation, liability,</p>
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KP RTI Act 2013	Punjab Transparency and RTI Act 2013	Sindh Transparency and RTI Act 2016	Pakistan Right of Access to Information Act 2017	Balochistan RTI Act 2021
				penalty or punishment incurred, inquiry or proceeding commenced, officer appointed or person authorised jurisdiction or powers conferred under any of the provision of the repealed Act, if not inconsistent with the provision of this Act, shall continue to be in force,, and shall deemed to have been respectively made, issued, done, taken incurred, commenced, appointed, authorized, conferred under this Act.



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