

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.
Ph: 0172-2864120

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Sh. JagjitSingh , S/o Sh. Balwant Singh
DhabKhushal, Joya 2, House No. 57,
Near Gurudwara, Tehsil Jalalabad,
Distt.Fazilka - 152024

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o DC, Fazilka

First Appellate Authority
O/o DC, Fazilka

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 4760 OF 2025

Present : (i) Sh. Jagjit Singh, appellant
(ii) For the respondent- None for the respondent

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 19.05.2026 vide which one last opportunity was given to the respondent to appear before the Commission and state his case.

2. The appellant states that partial information has been provided to him.

3. The respondent is not present today.

4. In view of the above, the appellant is given an opportunity to point out deficiencies , if any in the information provided, to the respondent before the next date of hearing with a copy to the Commission. On receipt of the deficiencies, the respondents are directed to remove the same before the next date of hearing.

5. Further, it has also been observed that the respondent is again not present today. He has even not bothered to inform the Commission about his absence for today's hearing. This shows that the respondent has no regard for the orders issued by the Commission. This is indeed a serious matter. The Commission observed that there is complete negligence and laxity in the public authority in dealing with the RTI application. It is abundantly clear that such matters are being ignored and set aside which reflects disrespect towards that RTI act 2005 itself. The Commission expressed its displeasure on the casual and callous approach adopted by the Respondent in responding to the RTI application. It was felt that conduct of Respondent was against the spirit of the RTI Act 2005, which was enacted to ensure greater transparency and effective access to the information.



APPEAL CASE NO. 4760 OF 2025

Such kind of behavior of a Government servant needs to be condemned and such employees need to be taught a good lesson so that rest of the employees have a right kind of message to wake up and perform their duties under the RTI Act for ensuring complete transparency and due accountability in the governance affairs of the public authorities.

6. Therefore, the Commission deem it appropriate to issue show cause notice under section 20 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005, to **PIO, O/o DC, Fazilka**, as to why penalty be not imposed upon him for willful delay / denial in providing the information to the RTI applicant. *He is directed to file reply to the show cause notice in writing before the next date of hearing along with the point-wise reply pertaining to the RTI of the appellant*

In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may note that in case he does not file his submission and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him ex-parte.

7. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. **To come up on 10.09.2026 at 11:30AM for further proceedings through Video conferencing facility in the O/o DC, Fazilka.** Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

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Sh.Iqbal Singh Rasulpur, (m-8872200515)
c/o Advocate SP Singh Dhaliwal, Off,
Street No. 4, Guru Nanak Nagar, KachaMalk Road,
Jagraon, Distt.Ludhiana - 142026

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Principal Secretary, Home Affairs and
Justice Punjab, Chandigarh

First Appellate Authority
O/o Principal Secretary, Home Affairs and
Justice Punjab, Chandigarh

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 2964 of 2024

Present : (i) None for the appellant
(ii) For the respondent-Sh Attinderpal Singh, SrAsstt. (79865-39568)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 02.06.2026 vide which

2. The appellant is not present today. However, he has sent an e-mail through which he has sought exemption from today's hearing. He has also intimated that he has not received the information. Copy of the mail is taken on record.
3. The respondent has again requested for some time today. The respondent has filed the same in writing also.
4. In view of the above, opportunity is again given to the respondent to provide information to the appellant before the next date of hearing, under intimation to the Commission office. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **25.08.2026 at 11:30AM** for further proceedings in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date :21.07.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh. Rahul, S/o Sh. Ram Kumar,
18-B, AmbeyValley , Village SatyeWala
Ferozepur-152004 (M-9530556586)
(RTI Application no.85930)

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o GLADA, Ludhiana

2.Public Information Officer,
O/o ADC (G), Ferozepur

First Appellate Authority
O/o GLADA, Ludhiana

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 481 OF 2024

Present : (i) Sh Rahul , appellant
(ii) For the respondent- None for the respondent

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 14.05.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. The appellant states that the information has not been provided to him.
3. The respondent O/o ADC (G), Ferozepur is not present today.
4. The perusal of the case file shows that the respondent O/o ADC (G) Ferozepur is not present today. They have neither informed the Commission about their absence nor filed any reply. Looking at the lackadaisical attitude of the respondents, the Commission, the Commission deem it appropriate to issue show cause notice under section 20 (1) of the RTI Act , 2005, to **PIO , O/o ADC (G) Ferozepuras** to why penalty be not imposed upon him for willful delay / denial in providing the information to the RTI applicant. He is directed to file reply to the show cause notice in writing before the next date of hearing.

In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may note that in case he does not file his submission and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him ex-parte.

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APPEAL CASE NO. 481 OF 2024

5. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **03.09.2026 at 11:30AM** for further proceedings in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

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Sh. Ankit Sehgal,
C/o Bombay Studio near Main
Post Office Chowk, Pathankot.

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o XEN, Public Works Department B&R,
Pathankot.

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Superintending Engineer,
Public Works Department B&R,
Construction Circle, Pathankot.

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 3141 OF 2023

Present : (i) None for the appellant
(ii) For the respondent-Sh Gaganpreet Singh, clerk (9888891703)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 14.05.2026 vide which the appellant was given an opportunity to point out deficiencies to the respondent

2. The appellant is not present today. However, he has sent an e-mail through which he has sought exemption from today's hearing. He has also filed the copy of the deficiencies sent to the respondent, through the said e-mail which is taken on record.
3. The respondent states that they have provided the information to the appellant.
4. In view of the above, the copy of the deficiencies as filed by the appellant, is handed over to the respondent today with directions, to provide the complete information to the appellant, after the removal of the said deficiencies, before the next date of hearing. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **12.08.2026 at 11:30AM** for further proceedings in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

Date :21.07.2026

(Dr. Bhupinder S Bath)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Shri Ankit Sehgal, (98886 25152)
R/o C/o Bombay Studio,
Near Post Office Chowk, Pathankot.

...Appellant

VERSUS

Public Information Officer,
O/o Executive Engineer,
Provincial Division,
Public Works Department (B & R),
Jalandhar

First Appellate Authority,
O/o Superintending Engineer,
Construction Circle No.-01,
Public Works Department (B & R),
Jalandhar

...Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5509 OF 2023

Present : (i) None for the appellant
(ii) For the respondent-Sh Rajesh Kumar, Clerk (95012-88504)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 22.04.2026 vide which an opportunity was given to the appellant to appear before the Commission and state his case.

2. The appellant is not present today. However, he has sent an e-mail through which he has sought exemption from today's hearing. He has also filed his submission through the said e-mail which is taken on record.

3. The respondent states that the information has been provided to the appellant.

4. After going through the documents placed on record, it has been ascertained that the appellant is not satisfied with the information provided. Hence, the respondent is given one last opportunity to provide the complete information to the appellant, as demanded through his RTI application, before the next date of hearing. Further, the appellant is also given a last opportunity to appear before the Commission and state his case failing which, appropriate orders in his absence shall be passed.

5. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **03.09.2026 at 11:30AM** for further proceedings in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.
sd/-

Date :21.07.2026

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sector 16, Chandigarh.
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Sh.Surjit Singh, S/o Sh.Gokul Singh,
VPO Jarg, Tehsil Payal, Distt. Ludhiana-141415
(9855900321)

.....Appellant

Vs

Public Information Officer
O/o Tehsildar, Payal, Distt. Ludhiana

First Appellate Authority
o/o SDM, Payal, Distt. Ludhiana

.....Respondent

APPEAL CASE NO. 5057 OF 2025

Present : None for the parties.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 21.05.2026, passed by the Commission vide which respondent was not present and the appellant appeared through CISCO Webex stated that that the information provided to him is misleading.

2. Today again neither the appellant nor the respondent is present. The appellant has sent a letter vide which he has requested for online hearing of his case. Respondent has also sent a letter dated 01.07.2026 that the information has been sent to the appellant. Since both the parties are not present today, the above said appeal case is adjourned on **03.09.2026 at 11.30 AM** through CISCO-Webex (video-conferencing application). **The CISCO-Webex meeting ID of this bench is 25154060883 and password is 12345.** Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

Date :21.07.2026

(Dr. Bhupinder S Bath)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh.Paramjeet Singh, S/o Sh.Sukhdev Singh
R/o Village MauliBaidwan
Tehsil and Distt. SAS Nagar -140308
(M-9463836813)

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Labour commissioner, Punjab
Mohali

First Appellate Authority
O/o Labour commissioner, Punjab
Mohali

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 648 of 2024

Present : (i) Sh.Paramjeet Singh, appellant along with Sh Sanjeevkumar
(ii) For the respondent- ShGurdev Singh, Labourinspector(9463997819) and
ShBaljeet Singh, clerk (76965-72849)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 25.05.2026 vide which the respondent was directed to bring the complete information in the Commission office.

2. The appellant states that he has not received the information.

3. The respondent states that the information/reply had been sent to the appellant through registered post but the same had been returned back in their office as undelivered. Further, he has brought the copy of the same today which is handed over to the appellant. The appellant has gone through the same and states that he is not satisfied with it.

4. After hearing both the parties and perusing the documents placed on record, it is ascertained that the respondent has sent the reply/information to the appellant mentioning that the information sought by appellant is not traceable in their official record and that intimation regarding the same has been sent to SHO, Thana Sohana, SAS Nagar, to file an DDR regarding the same.

5. After hearing both the parties and perusing the documents placed on record, it is ascertained that the respondent has not provided the information to the appellant on the pretext that the information sought cannot be located in their record. The respondent cannot evade his responsibility to provide the information simply because it cannot be located. Efforts have to be made by the respondent to locate the information demanded and provide the information to the appellant . However, an opportunity is given to the respondent-**PIO O/o Labour Commissioner, Punjab, Mohali** to furnish the necessary information to the appellant or be present personally on the next date of hearing and furnish an affidavit regarding the action taken by the respondent for the missing record along with the copy of DDR.



APPEAL CASE NO. 648 of 2024

6. Further, it has also been observed that the department had not implemented the Section 4 of the RTI Act 2005. Respondent may note that *according to Section 4, every public authority shall maintain all its records duly catalogued and indexed in a manner and the form which facilitates the Right to Information under this Act and ensure that all records that are appropriate to be computerized, within a reasonable time and subject to availability of resources, computerized on connect through a network all over the Country on different systems.* Hence, failure to maintain proper records cannot be used as a ground to deny information under the RTI Act.

7. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **03.09.2026 at 11:30AM** for further proceedings in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

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Sh.Vikramjit Singh, (M-9888920912)
S/o Late Sh. Daljit Singh, # 411, Street No. 4,
Darshan Singh Nagar, Patiala – 147001
(RTI application no. 190996)

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Chief Engineer, PWD B&R
Patiala

Public Information Officer
O/o Language Department, Bhasha Bhawan,
Sheranwala Gate, Patiala

First Appellate Authority
O/o Chief Engineer, PWD B&R
Patiala

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 4514 OF 2025

Present : (i) None for the appellant
(ii) For the respondent-Sh. Vijay Kumar, Sr. Assistant (8146685511)

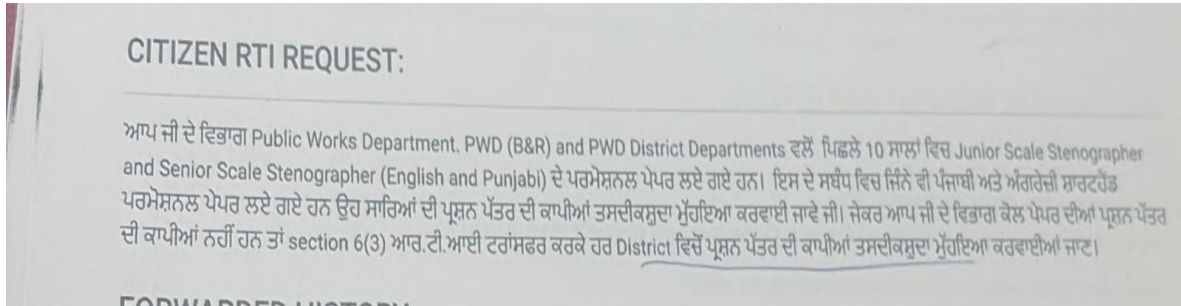
ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 14.05.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. Respondent states that the information, as exists in their office has been provided to the appellant.
3. The appellant is absent today. He has sent deficiencies, to the Commission, which is handed over to the respondent today in the Commission.
4. After going through the case file , it is observed that the appellant demanded information from the department on 08.06.2025 which is as follows:-



APPEAL CASE NO. 4514 OF 2025



Further the perusal of the case file shows that the respondent has sent his reply that the information, as exists in their department has been provided to the appellant and the rest of the information is lying with the Language Department, Punjab. During the last hearing information was sent to the appellant alongwith the orders and directed him to point out deficiencies , if any. Today the appellant sent his deficiencies which is as under:-

APPEAL CASE NO. 4514 OF 2025

Shri Vikramjit Singh,
S/o Late Shri Daljit Singh,
411, Street No 04,
Darshan Singh Nagar, Patiala-147001
.....Appellant

Public Information Officer,
Chief Engineer, PWD, B&R,
Patiala.

First Appellate Authority,
Chief Engineer, PWD, B&R,
Patiala.
.....Respondents

(Written Submission / Deficiencies)

Regarding the aforementioned Appeal Case No. 0245 of 2026, which is scheduled for hearing on 2026-07-21 at 11:30 AM as per the interim order dated 21.05.2026. I humbly submit that I am unable to attend the proceedings on the specified date owing to indispensable personal exigencies. Nevertheless, I wish to present my formal written submission/deficiencies for consideration in this matter.

ਆਪ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਵਿਭਾਗ Public Works Department, PWD (B&R) and PWD District Departments ਵਲੋਂ ਪਿਛਲੇ 10 ਸਾਲਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ Junior Scale Stenographer and Senior Scale Stenographer (English and Punjabi) ਦੇ ਪਰਮੇਸ਼ਨਲ ਪੇਪਰ ਲਏ ਗਏ ਹਨ। ਇਸ ਦੇ ਸਬੰਧ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਿੰਨੇ ਵੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਅਤੇ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਸ਼ਾਰਟਹੈਂਡ ਪਰਮੇਸ਼ਨਲ ਪੇਪਰ ਲਏ ਗਏ ਹਨ ਉਹ ਸਾਰਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਨ ਪੱਤਰ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ ਤਸਦੀਕਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਮੁੱਹਇਆ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾਵੇ ਜੀ। ਜੇਕਰ ਆਪ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਕੋਲ ਪੇਪਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਨ ਪੱਤਰ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ ਨਹੀਂ ਹਨ ਤਾਂ section 6(3) ਆਰ.ਟੀ.ਆਈ ਟਰਾਂਸਫਰ ਕਰਕੇ ਹਰ District ਵਿੱਚੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਸ਼ਨ ਪੱਤਰ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀਆਂ ਤਸਦੀਕਸ਼ੁਦਾ ਮੁੱਹਇਆ ਕਰਵਾਈਆਂ ਜਾਣ।

Regarding the correspondence received via Departmental Letter No. 1249 dated 25.02.2026, in conjunction with the order issued on 21.05.2026, it is observed with concern that the documentation provided pertains to only two examination previous shorthand papers from the preceding decade. The department has summarily declined the provision of the remaining records, asserting their custody resides with the Language Department. I beg to reiterate that my initial application explicitly stipulated that in the absence of such records within your immediate office, **certified copies must be procured from respective districts by invoking Section 6(3) of the RTI Act.** Despite this, no such transfer of my request has been executed. Consequently, I humbly pray before the Hon'ble Commission to take cognizance of this deficient response and issue peremptory directions to the department to transfer the RTI application to the Language Department, Patiala, to ensure the full disclosure of the requested information.

Vikramjit Singh
ਹਸਤਾਖਰ

ਮਿਤੀ- 18.07.2026



APPEAL CASE NO. 4514 OF 2025

5. From the above , it is observed that the remaining information sought by the appellant pertains to the Language Department, Punjab. As per the record, the respondent has already informed the appellant accordingly. The Commission has also taken on record the written submissions filed by the appellant. After considering the submissions of both parties and examining the available record, the Commission is of the view that, since some information of the RTI application primarily relates to the Language Department, Punjab its presence is necessary for the proper and effective adjudication of the matter.

6. Accordingly, the Language Department is hereby impleaded as a necessary party in the present appeal. The Public Information Officer/competent officer of the Language Department shall appear before the Commission on the next date of hearing along with the complete relevant record and shall file a comprehensive written reply addressing the queries raised in the RTI application. The department shall also furnish the information, if held by or under its control, strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005. ***Copy of the RTI be sent to the Language Department, Punjab alongwith the orders.***

7. To come up on **12.08.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

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Sh Avtar Singh, (M-8872277674)
S/o Sh Harbans Singh,
H.No 134, Ward no. 6,
Village Batta, PO Garangan,
Tehsil Kharar, Distt Mohali

..... Appellant

Public Information Officer,
O/o BDPO, Kharar, Distt Mohali

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o ADC (D) Mohali

.....Respondent

AC No.3681 of 2024

Present : (i) Sh. Avtar Singh, appellant
(ii) For the respondent- None for the respondent

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 12.05.2026 vide which an opportunity was given to the appellant to appear before the Commission and state his case.

2. The appellant Sh. Avtar Singh states that he is not satisfied with the information provided.

3. The respondent-PIO is neither present today nor he has informed the Commission about his absence.

4. A careful perusal of the record reveals that the respondent is absent today without any intimation. Moreover, no communication explaining such absence has been received by the Commission. Such non-compliance demonstrates a casual and indifferent approach towards the statutory obligations under the RTI Act and reflects a lack of respect for the proceedings of the Commission. The Commission expresses serious concern over the conduct of the respondent. Nevertheless, in the interest of natural justice, **one final and last opportunity** is granted to the PIO, BDPO, Kharar to file a detailed and point-wise reply to the RTI application, furnish the same to the appellant, and place proof of such service on record before the next date of hearing. He is also directed to personally appear before the Commission. The respondent is hereby put on clear notice that any further failure to comply with the directions of the Commission, or failure to appear on the next date of hearing without sufficient cause, shall be viewed seriously and may invite appropriate action as permissible under the provisions of the RTI Act. No further indulgence shall be shown in the matter. To come up on **12.08.2026 at 11:30AM** for further proceedings in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

sd/-

Date :21.07.2026

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

CC: BDPO, Kharar, Distt Mohali (to ensure compliance)

RTI Helpline - 01722864100

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Sh Nitin Kumar Garg, (M-7814322100)
C/o Police Public diary,
15A, Shastri Nagar, Model Town,
Ludhiana

..... Appellant

Public Information Officer,
O/o SMO, Civil Hospital, Pathankot

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o Civil Surgeon, Pathankot

.....Respondent

AC No.4979of 2025

Present : None for the parties.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 13.05.2026 passed by the Commission.

2. The appellant is not present today. He has informed telephonically that he shall not be able to attend the hearing today. He has also sent an e-mail intimating that he has not received the information. Respondent is also absent today. He has not informed the Commission about his absence for today's hearing.

3. A careful perusal of the record reveals that the respondent has persistently failed to participate in the proceedings. Despite repeated opportunities, the respondent has neither appeared before the Commission on the previous date of hearing nor submitted any written response to the RTI application. Moreover, no communication explaining such absence has been received by the Commission. Such continued non-compliance demonstrates a casual and indifferent approach towards the statutory obligations under the RTI Act and reflects a lack of respect for the proceedings of the Commission.

4. The Commission expresses serious concern over the conduct of the respondent. Nevertheless, in the interest of natural justice, **one final and last opportunity** is granted to the respondent to file a detailed and point-wise reply to the RTI application, furnish the same to the appellant, and place proof of such service on record before the next date of hearing. The respondent is hereby put on clear notice that any further failure to comply with the directions of the Commission, or failure to appear on the next date of hearing without sufficient cause, shall be viewed seriously and may invite appropriate action as permissible under the provisions of the RTI Act. No further indulgence shall be shown in the matter.

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AC No.4979of 2025

5. The appellant is also directed to ensure his presence on the next date of hearing. Since the matter has already remained pending for a considerable period owing to the respondent's continued non-cooperation, the Commission intends to proceed towards final adjudication on **11.08.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

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Sh Nitin kumarGarg, (M-7814322100)
C/o Police Public diary,
15A, Shastri Nagar, Model Town,
Ludhiana

..... Appellant

Public Information Officer,
O/o XEN, Construction Division,
PWD B&R Batala, DisttGurdaspur

.Vs

First Appellate Authority
O/o SE, Construction PWD B&R Circle,
Pathankot

.....Respondent

AC No.4982 of 2025

Present : (i) None for the appellant
(ii) For the respondent-Sh Rajbir Singh, JE (75084-49277)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 13.05.2026 vide which the respondent was given an opportunity to appear before the Commission and state his case.

2. The appellant is not present today. He has informed telephonically that he shall not be able to attend the hearing today. He has also sent an e-mail intimating that he has not received the information.
3. The respondent states that the information demanded by the appellant is voluminous. Hence, he was informed to inspect the relevant record and identify the information required.
4. In view of the above, the appellant is directed to inspect the relevant record in the O/o respondent. Hence, the applicant shall visit the office of respondent ***on any working day with prior appointment***, inspect the relevant records, identify the documents copies whereof are required by him; and the respondent shall provide copies thereof, according to his RTI application, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the RTI Act, 2005. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing this, the Commission shall proceed to decide the matter on the basis of the material available on record and may issue appropriate directions in accordance with law. To come up on **17.09.2026 at 11:30AM** in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties. sd/-

Date :21.07.2026

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,
Sector 16, Chandigarh.
Ph: 0172-2864120

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Sh. Neeraj Sharma, S/o
Late Sh. Janak Raj, R/o NearPaniWali
Tanki, Guru Ram Dass Nagar,
CheemaChak, Malerkotla,Road
Khanna, Distt. Ludhiana

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Tehsildar, khanna,
Distt. Ludhiana

First Appellate Authority
O/o SDM, Khanna,Distt. Ludhiana

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 4577 OF 2025

Present : (i) ShNeeraj Sharma, appellant
(ii) For the respondent- None

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 19.05.2026 vide which last opportunity was given to the respondent to appear before the Commission and state his case.

2. The appellant ShNeeraj Sharma states that the information provided to him is not complete. He has filed the copy of deficiencies today, which is taken on record.

3. The respondent is not present. He has not even bothered to inform the Commission about his absence.

4. In view of the above, the copy of the deficiencies as filed by the appellant, is sent to the respondent along with these orders with directions, to provide the complete information to the appellant, after the removal of the said deficiencies, before the next date of hearing. A careful perusal of the record reveals that the respondent has failed to participate in the proceedings. Despite repeated opportunities, the respondent has neither appeared before the Commission on the previous date of hearing nor submitted any written response to the RTI application. Moreover, no communication explaining such absence has been received by the Commission. Such continued non-compliance demonstrates a casual and indifferent approach towards the statutory obligations under the RTI Act and reflects a lack of respect for the proceedings of the Commission.

4. The Commission expresses serious concern over the conduct of the respondent. Nevertheless, in the interest of natural justice, **one final and last opportunity** is granted to the respondent to file a detailed and point-wise reply to the RTI application, furnish the same to the appellant, and place proof of such service on record before the next date of hearing. The respondent

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APPEAL CASE NO. 4577 OF 2025

is hereby put on clear notice that any further failure to comply with the directions of the Commission, or failure to appear on the next date of hearing without sufficient cause, shall be viewed seriously and may invite appropriate action as permissible under the provisions of the RTI Act. No further indulgence shall be shown in the matter. To come up on **02.09.2026 at 11:30AM** in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

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Sh. JasbirSingh, Guru Nanak
Nagar, Village Bholapur, PO Ramgarh
Chandigarh Road, Distt. Ludhiana -141123

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Vigilance Officer
Director Health and Family Welfare,
ParivarKalyanBhawan, Sector 34A,
Chandigarh

2. Public Information Officer,
O/o Commissioner, Food and Drugs
Administration, Punjab, Kharar,
Distt. Mohali

First Appellate Authority
O/o Vigilance Officer
Director Health and Family Welfare,
ParivarKalyanBhawan, Sector 34A,
Chandigarh

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 375 OF 2024

Present : (i) ShJasbir Singh, appellant
(ii) For the respondent- ShRajwinder Singh, Supdt. (9588882650) ShSukhjot Singh, Clerk
(98558-24169) O/o respondent no. 2 and Dr TejinderKaur, CVO (98150-24552)
Ms Manmeet Kaur, Steno (9888233111) O/o respondent no. 1

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 14.05.2026 vide which the respondent no. 2 was directed to file his reply on affidavit. Further, the respondent-PIO was also directed to be present personally on the next date of hearing i.e today.

2. Today PIO-ShRajwinder Singh, Supdt is appearing personally. He has filed his reply on affidavit which is handed over to the appellant. The appellant has gone through the same and states that he is not satisfied with it.

3. In view of the above, the appellant is given an opportunity to file his rejoinder regarding the affidavit filed by the respondent on the next date of hearing. To come up on 24.09.2026 at **11:30AM** in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

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Sh. Rawinderjit Singh, (M-9815188356)

S/o ShKanwarRajinder Singh,
Village KotliThablan, PO Parowal,
Tehsil Batala, DisttGurdaspur

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Block Development and Panchayat Officer,
Block FatehgarhChurian, DisttGurdaspur

First Appellate Authority
O/o District Development and Panchayat Officer,
Gurdaspur

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 38 OF 2023

Present : (i) Sh. Rawinderjit Singh, appellant
(ii) For the respondent- Ms. KulvirKaur, GRS (88475-61040) and ShSatnam Singh,
Panchayat Secy (98725-26353)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 06.05.2026 vide which an opportunity was given to both the parties to appear before the Commission and state his case.

2. Today the respondent states that the information has been provided to the appellant.

3. The appellant states that the information provided to him is not complete. Further, he has also brought the copy of deficiencies, in the information provided.

3. In view of the above, the copy of the deficiencies as brought by the appellant, is handed over to the respondent today with directions, to provide the complete information to the appellant, after the removal of the said deficiencies, before the next date of hearing. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **18.08.2026 at 11:30AM** for further proceedings in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date :21.07.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Bath)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Sh. Navneet Kumar Garg, Advocate
#427, Lawyers Chambers Complex,
District Courts,, Bathinda.

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Bathinda Development Authority,
Bathinda.

First Appellate Authority
O/o Chief Administrator Bathinda Development Authority,
Bathinda.

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5708 OF 2024

Present : (i) None for the appellant
(ii) For the respondent-ShShaminder Singh, SrAsstt. (98555-08208) and
Sh Vishal Anand, Clerk (84271-51009)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 14.05.2026 vide which a show-cause notice was issued to the respondent-PIO.

2. The appellant is not present today. He has filed an e- mail through which he has sought exemption from today's personal hearing. He has also mentioned therein that the information provided to him, pertaining to point no. 6 is not true and accurate. Further, he has also requested that his case be heard through online mode.

3. The respondent states that the rectified information pertaining to point no. 6, has been sent to the appellant.

4. After going through the documents placed on record, it has been ascertained that the respondent has sent the information pertaining to point no. 6 to the appellant but he is not satisfied with it. Hence, the respondent is directed to file his detailed reply, pertaining to point no. 6 of the RTI application, on the next date of hearing. Further, the respondent is also given an opportunity to file his reply to the show-cause notice on the next date of hearing.

5. To come up on **17.09.2026 at 11:30AM through Video-conferencing in the O/o DC Bathinda.** Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Date :21.07.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
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Sh.Iqbal Singh Rasulpur, (M-8872200515)
c/o Advocate SP Singh Dhaliwal, Off,
Street No. 4, Guru Nanak Nagar, KachaMalk Road,
Jagraon, Distt.Ludhiana - 142026

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana

First Appellate Authority
O/o Commissioner of Police, Ludhiana

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 2965 of 2024

Present : None for the parties.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order date 02.06.2026 passed by the Commission vide which respondent sought time.

2. The appellant is not present today. However, he has sent an e-mail through which he has sought exemption from today's hearing. He has also intimated that he has not received the information.

3. The respondent is also absent today. He has sought time. He has sent an e-mail regarding the same which is taken on record.

4. A careful perusal of the record reveals that the respondent has persistently failed to participate in the proceedings. Despite repeated opportunities, the respondent has neither appeared before the Commission on the previous date of hearing nor submitted any written response to the RTI application. Moreover, no communication explaining such absence has been received by the Commission. Such continued non-compliance demonstrates a casual and indifferent approach towards the statutory obligations under the RTI Act and reflects a lack of respect for the proceedings of the Commission.

4. The Commission expresses serious concern over the conduct of the respondent. Nevertheless, in the interest of natural justice, **one final and last opportunity** is granted to the respondent to file a detailed and point-wise reply to the RTI application, furnish the same to the appellant, and place proof of such service on record before the next date of hearing. The respondent is hereby put on clear notice that any further failure to comply with the directions of the Commission, or failure to appear on the next date of hearing without sufficient cause, shall be viewed seriously and may invite appropriate action as permissible under the provisions of the RTI Act. No further indulgence shall be shown in the matter.

RTI Helpline - 01722864100

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APPEAL CASE NO. 2965 of 2024

5. The appellant is also directed to ensure his presence, either personally or through an authorized representative, on the next date of hearing. Since the matter has already remained pending for a considerable period owing to the respondent's continued non-cooperation, the Commission intends to proceed towards final adjudication on **18.08.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

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Sh. Tejinder Singh Advocate, (M : 9041004313)
Civil Court, Tehsil Complex,
Backside SanjhKender, Phillaur-144410.

appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Secretary, Regional Transport Authority,
Patiala

First Appellate Authority
O/o Secretary, Regional Transport Authority,
Patiala.

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 212 OF 2024

Present : (i) None for the appellant
(ii) For the respondent-Sh. Tirath Singh, Jr.Assistant-cum-PIO (9464745370)

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 03.06.2026 passed by the Commission vide which the respondent was not present.

2. Today the appellant, Shri Tejinder Singh, did not appear despite due notice. However, written submissions filed by the appellant have been taken on record and duly considered. In his written submissions, the appellant has stated that neither has he received the compensation of ₹1,000/- as directed by the Commission nor has the requisite information been furnished.

3. The respondent appeared before the Commission and submitted that he has brought compensation amount today in the Commission. The respondent further states that he has brought the original record today in the Commission.

4. The Commission has carefully considered the submissions made by the respondent and examined the record produced during the hearing. Accordingly, the respondent is directed to ensure that the awarded compensation of ₹1,000/- and the complete information sought under the RTI Act are furnished to the appellant within 20 days from the receipt of this order, under intimation to the Commission.

5. During the course of hearing, it further transpired that the officer Sh.Tirath Singh representing the department is holding the post of Junior Assistant and has been designated as the Public Information Officer. The Commission has examined this issue in the light of the authoritative Larger Bench judgment of the Punjab State Information Commission rendered in Complaint Case No. 2301 of 2013.



APPEAL CASE NO. 212 OF 2024

6. The Larger Bench, after an elaborate consideration of the provisions of Section 5 of the Right to Information Act, 2005, the notifications issued by the Government of Punjab and the relevant service rules, categorically held that the expression used in Section 5 is “officer” and not “employee”. The Larger Bench further observed that Senior Assistants, Accountants and Superintendents, being part of the ministerial establishment, do not satisfy the requirement of an “officer” within the meaning and intent of Section 5 of the RTI Act. It was further emphasized that the duties and responsibilities entrusted to a Public Information Officer involve statutory obligations and quasi-judicial functions requiring due application of mind, and therefore such responsibilities ought to be discharged by officers possessing adequate authority and administrative control.

7. The Commission respectfully follows the aforesaid Larger Bench decision, which continues to hold the field. The practice of designating ministerial staff or junior officials as Public Information Officers is contrary to the legislative intent underlying Section 5 of the RTI Act and adversely affects the effective implementation of the Act.

8. Accordingly, the State Transport Commissioner, Punjab, is directed to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing notifications/orders regarding the designation of Public Information Officers and Assistant Public Information Officers in all Regional Transport Authority (RTA) offices and Regional Transport Officer (RTO) and other offices under his administrative control throughout the State of Punjab. The State Transport Commissioner shall ensure that only Gazetted Officer-level officers are designated as Public Information Officers (PIOs) and Assistant Public Information Officers (APIOs) in strict compliance with Section 5 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 and the Larger Bench decision of this Commission in Complaint Case No. 2301 of 2013 dated 10.06.2014. A compliance report, along with copies of the revised notifications/orders, shall be submitted before this Commission on the next date of hearing.

9. To come up on **24.09.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

CC; State Transport commissioner, Sector 17, Chandigarh

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Sh.Ajit Singh Talwandi
Village NikkuChak, PO Hajipur
Tehsil Mukerian, Distt.Hoshiarpur

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o DDPO, Hoshiarpur

First Appellate Authority
O/o DDPO, Hoshiarpur

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 5630 of 2024

Present : (i) Sh.Ajit Singh Talwandi the appellant
(ii) For the respondent- None for the respondent

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 14.05.2026, passed by the Commission vide which the respondent was not present.

2. Today Sh.Ajit Singh Talwandi the appellant states that no information has been given to him so far.

3. Respondent is also absent today. He has not informed the Commission about his absence for today's hearing.

4. The perusal of the case file shows that the appellant filed RTI with the department on 07.05.2024, but after lapse of more than two years no information has been given to him so far. This shows that the respondent has no regard for orders issued by the Commission. This is indeed a serious matter. Therefore, the Commission deem it appropriate to issue show cause notice under section 20 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005, to PIO o/o DDPO, Hoshiarpur as to why penalty be not imposed upon him for willful delay / denial in providing the information to the RTI applicant. He is directed to file reply to the show cause notice in writing before the next date of hearing.

In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may note that in case he does not file his submission and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him ex-parte

5. To come up on **08.09.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Date :21.07.2026

Sd/-
(Dr. Bhupinder S Bath)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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Ms. GursimranKaur,
804, MIG, Jamalpur Colony
Ludhiana - 141010

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o Food Safety Officer,
Patiala -2

First Appellate Authority
O/o District Health Officer,
Patiala

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 147 OF 2024

Present : None for the parties.

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 03.06.2026 vide which the copy of deficiencies, as filed by the appellant was sent to the respondent with directions, to remove the same and provide the rectified information to the appellant.

2. The appellant is absent today. She has sent an e-mail intimating that the respondent has not provided the rectified information and that action be taken against the respondent-PIO for the same.

3. The perusal of the case file shows that the respondent has not attended any hearing in the Commission. A careful perusal of the record reveals that the respondent has persistently failed to participate in the proceedings. Despite repeated opportunities, the respondent has neither appeared before the Commission on any of the previous dates of hearing nor submitted any written response to the RTI application. Moreover, no communication explaining such absence has been received by the Commission. Such continued non-compliance demonstrates a casual and indifferent approach towards the statutory obligations under the RTI Act and reflects a lack of respect for the proceedings of the Commission.

4. The Commission expresses serious concern over the conduct of the respondent. Nevertheless, in the interest of natural justice, **one final and last opportunity** is granted to the respondent to file a detailed and point-wise reply to the RTI application, furnish the same to the appellant, and place proof of such service on record before the next date of hearing. The respondent is hereby put on clear notice that any further failure to comply with the directions of the Commission, or failure to appear on the next date of hearing without sufficient cause, shall be viewed seriously and may invite appropriate action as permissible under the provisions of the RTI Act. No further indulgence shall be shown in the matter.

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APPEAL CASE NO. 147 OF 2024

5. The appellant is also directed to ensure his presence, either personally or through an authorized representative, on the next date of hearing. Since the matter has already remained pending for a considerable period owing to the respondent's continued non-cooperation, the Commission intends to proceed towards final adjudication on **03.09.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the Commission. Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

Date :21.07.2026

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

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ShManjeet Kumar Suman, (M-96501-74523)
35, Near ShriRavidasGurudwara,
Village Badshahpur, Jalandhar-144023

..... Appellant

.Vs

Public Information Officer,
O/o SSP, Jalandhar (Rural)

First Appellate Authority
O/o SSP, Jalandhar (Rural)

.....Respondent

AC No.319 of 2024

Present : (i) Sh Manjeet kumar Suman, Appellant
(ii) For the respondent- None

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 03.06.2026 vide which an opportunity was given to the respondent to appear before the Commission and file his point wise specific reply, indication the position of each issue as to whether the information has been supplied, and if not the reason thereof.

2. The appellant states that he has not received any information/reply from the respondent. He has filed his submissions vide e-mail dated 09.07.2026 which is taken on record.

3. The respondent is not present today. The perusal of the case file shows that the respondent is absent for third consecutive hearing, which shows that he has no regard for the orders issued by the Commission. Such kind of behavior of a Government servant needs to be condemned and such employees need to be taught a good lesson so that rest of the employees have a right kind of message to wake up and perform their duties under the RTI Act for ensuring complete transparency and due accountability in the governance affairs of the public authorities. The appellant also demands that he be compensated for the detriment suffered by him in getting the information.

4. Therefore, the Commission deem it appropriate to issue show cause notice under section 20 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005, to PIO, O/o SSP, Jalandhar (Rural) as to why penalty be not imposed upon him for willful delay / denial in providing the information to the RTI applicant. He is directed to file reply to the show cause notice in writing before the next date of hearing.

In addition to his submission, the PIO is also hereby given an opportunity under Section 20(1) proviso thereto, for a personal hearing before the imposition of such penalty on the next date of hearing. He may note that in case he does not file his submission and does not avail himself of the opportunity of personal hearing on the next date fixed, it will be presumed that he has nothing to say and the Commission shall proceed to take further proceedings against him ex-parte.

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AC No.319 of 2024

5. Both the parties are directed to appear, in person, on the next date of hearing for deliberations, failing which the case will be decided on merit, ex-parte. To come up on **03.09.2026 at 11:30AM** for further proceedings in the Commission office. Copy of the orders be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

CC: DGP, Pb , Punjab Police Hqrs, Sector-9, Chandigarh (for intimation)

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Sh.Ashok Kumar Joshi, (M-9814622755)
S/o Sh.HariKrishan Joshi,
R/o MohallaSarafa, Near BabapuraJi,
Distt. SBS Nagar

Appellant

Versus

Public Information Officer,
O/o DC, SBS Nagar

2. Public Information Officer,
O/o Nagar Council, Rahon,
Distt SBS Nagar

First Appellate Authority
O/o DC, SBS Nagar

Respondents

APPEAL CASE NO. 131 OF 2024

Present : (i) Sh. Ashok Kumar Joshi the appellant
(ii) For the respondent- None for the respondent

ORDER

This order may be read with reference to the previous order dated 03.06.2026 passed by the Commission .

2. Respondent is absent today. He has not informed the Commission about his absence for today's hearing.

4. The appellant, Shri Ashok Kumar, appeared and submitted that the information sought under Point No. 2 has been received. However, the information relating to Point No. 1 has still not been furnished.

5. The Commission notes that during the previous hearing, Respondent No. 2 had submitted that the information sought under Point No. 1 pertained to records approximately 20 years old. Since the appellant was not satisfied with the said explanation, the Commission had directed the respondent to file a detailed affidavit.

6. The Commission further observes that due to an inadvertent typographical error in the previous order, it was recorded that the respondent was directed to file a detailed reply on affidavit pertaining to Point No. 2. The said direction shall be read as pertaining to Point No. 1.

7. Respondent No. 2/PIO, Nagar Council, Rahon, is hereby granted one last opportunity to file a detailed affidavit specifically with regard to Point No. 1, clearly explaining the availability or non-availability of the record. The affidavit shall be filed before the next date of hearing with a copy to

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APPEAL CASE NO. 131 OF 2024

the appellant. Failure to comply with these directions or non-appearance on the next date shall constrain the Commission to proceed further in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005, without granting any further opportunity.

8. To come up on **10.09.2026 at 11.30 AM** for further proceedings in the office of Deputy Commissioner, SBS Nagar (Nawanshaher). Copy of the order be sent to the parties.

Sd/-

(Dr. Bhupinder S Batth)
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Date :21.07.2026

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