

**PUNJAB STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION**  
**Red Cross Building, Near Rose Garden,**  
**Sector 16, Chandigarh.**

Ph: 0172-2864112, Email: - [psic23@punjabmail.gov.in](mailto:psic23@punjabmail.gov.in)  
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Sh.Gurmeet Singh  
S/o Sh. Nacchhattar Singh,  
Village – Pedhan,  
P. O. –AjnodaKalan,  
Tehsil – Nabha,  
Distt. –Patiala (Punjab)  
(M.-6284048167)

....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,  
O/oTheBlock Development  
andPanchayat Officer(Rural),  
Patiala (Punjab)

First Appellate Authority,  
O/oThe District Development  
andPanchayat Officer,  
Patiala (Punjab)  
...Respondents

**Appeal Case No. 2073 of 2025**

Date of RTI Application	Date of Reply, if any of SPIO	Date of First Appeal made, if any	Date of decision/reply, if any of FAA	Date of Second Appeal received in the Commission
22.11.2024	03.12.2024	21.01.2025	--	28.03.2025

**Present: Appellant:**Sh. Gurmeet Singh, Adv. Sudhirsharma  
**Respondent:**Sh. Jagwant Singh (PanchayatSecty.)

**ORDER:**

1. The appellant has filed the present appeal before the Commission, and the matter has been fixed for hearing today.
2. During the hearing, the Respondent, Sh. Jagwant Singh, Panchayat Secretary, submitted that an amount of Rs. 4,900/- towards documentation fee was demanded from the appellant within 30 days, but the same was not deposited. He further stated that the appellant was also offered an opportunity for inspection of the record, however, he did not avail the same. The respondent is present today along with the relevant record.
3. The appellant, Sh. Gurmeet Singh, along with Adv. Sudhir Sharma, appeared late during the proceedings and made written submission.
4. In view of the above, the Commission directs the appellant to visit the office of the respondent for inspection of the relevant record on a mutually convenient date and time, within 15 days of receipt of this order, and obtain the required information after payment of the applicable fee. The Respondent PIO is instructed to facilitate the inspection, provide the information accordingly, and send the compliance report to the Commission.
5. **Next hearing on 03.02.2026 at 11.00 AM at Punjab State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.**

Chandigarh  
19.11.2025

Sd/-  
(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)  
State Information Commissioner, Punjab.

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Sh. Gurinder Singh Mehndiratta (Reporter),  
S/o Sh. Amar Singh,  
MohallaHarnampura,  
Kotkapura, Distt. - Faridkot(Punjab)  
(M.-9872810153)

....Appellant

V/s

- i) Public Information Officer,  
O/oThe Deputy Commissioner,  
Faridkot(Punjab)
- ii) Public Information Officer,  
O/oThe Executive Officer,  
Nagar Council,  
Kotkapura,Distt. - Faridkot(Punjab)

...Respondents

**Complaint Case No. 428 of 2024**

:-

Date of RTI Application	Date of Reply, if any of SPIO	Date of Complaintreceived in the Commission
18.07.2024	22.07.2024	28.11.2024

**Present: Complainnat:**Sh. Gurinder Singh Mehndiratta  
**Respondent:**Absent

**ORDER:**

1. The Complainant filed above mentioned complaint case in the Commission. Accordingly, the case is fixed for today.
2. **Complainant**, Sh. Gurinder Singh Mehndiratta appeared and submitted that despite the lapse of a considerable period, **no response whatsoever has been provided to him by the Respondent PIO** on his RTI application.
3. **Respondent** is absent without any intimation.
4. In view of the unexplained absence of the Respondent PIO and the admitted delay in responding to the RTI application, **the Respondent PIO/APIO, is hereby directed to appear in person on the next date of hearing and file a detailed and cogent reply explaining the reasons for the delay** in furnishing the information, without fail.
5. **Next hearing on 03.02.2026 at 11.00 AM at Punjab State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.**

Chandigarh  
19.11.2025

Sd/-  
(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)  
State Information Commissioner, Punjab.

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Sh. Ramandeep Singh Ahluwalia,  
H. No. 458, Ward No.18, Street No.2,  
Adjoining Street No. 15/2 L,  
Krishna Nagar, Khanna, District Ludhiana (Punjab)  
(M.- 94645-00405)

.....Appellant

V/s

Public Information Officer,  
O/o The Executive Officer,  
Nagar Council,  
Khanna, District Ludhiana (Punjab)

...Respondents

**Complaint Case No. 366,367,368,369,370,371,372 of 2024**

Date of RTI Application	Date of Reply, if any of SPIO	Date of Complaint received in the Commission
08.07.2024	--	17.09.2024

**Present: Complainant:** Sh. Ramandeep Singh Ahluwalia  
**Respondent:** Adv. Gulshan Mehta (Counsel for PIO)

**ORDER:**

1. The above seven complaint cases filed by the Complainant were taken up together as the issues involved are similar; **therefore, a single interim order is being passed to avoid duplication of proceedings and to ensure consistency in adjudication.** The Complainant appeared and submitted that he has already filed his detailed written submissions and the same may kindly be taken as his separate submission in each of the seven cases. The request is accepted and his written submissions are taken on record accordingly.
2. The Complainant has objected to the appearance of Adv. Sh. Gulshan Mehta on behalf of the Respondent PIO. The Complainant has further contended that these proceedings are complaints under Section 18 of the RTI Act, 2005 and he is seeking **imposition of penalty under Section 20(1) and initiation of disciplinary action under Section 20(2)** against the Respondent PIO for alleged malafide denial and habitual non-compliance. He has clarified that **he is not seeking supply of information but punitive action only.** He has also asserted that the information sought by him is connected with **larger public interest.**
3. On the other hand, Adv. Gulshan Mehta has filed a memo of appearance in all seven cases on behalf of the Respondent PIO and submitted written arguments. He submits that the RTI applications filed by the Complainant seek extremely voluminous, non-specific and wide-ranging information covering the entire record of the public authority,

**Contd. Pg. 2**

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including internal vetting processes, measurement books, resolutions, bills and other related documents, including information belonging to third parties. He contends that collection and compilation of such information would **disproportionately divert the resources** of the Municipal Council and is therefore hit by Section 7(9) of the RTI Act. He has relied upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *CBSE v. Aditya Bandopadhyay* (Civil Appeal No. 6454/2011). He has also stated that the Complainant has submitted multiple RTI applications seeking similarly voluminous information.

4. The memo of appearance filed by Adv. Sh. Gulshan Mehta in these seven connected complaint cases is taken on record and **accepted for the purpose of representing the Respondent PIO**, without prejudice to the objections raised by the Complainant, which shall be decided at the stage of final order.
5. In view of the rival contentions, the Commission is of the opinion that before passing a final order, **both parties must file specific rejoinder** on the issues raised, namely:
  - (i) The applicability and scope of Section 18 jurisdiction in the present cases;
  - (ii) The Complainant's objections regarding representation by counsel;
  - (iii) The Respondent PIO's justification for the alleged denial of information, including reliance upon Section 7(9) and other statutory grounds;
  - (iv) The Complainant's claim of larger public interest involved;
  - (v) The question of whether the circumstances attract action under **Section 20(1) and 20(2)** of the RTI Act.
6. Accordingly, **both parties are granted 15 days' time** from the date of this order receipt to file their rejoinders/submissions, case-wise, addressing the above points. The same shall reach the Commission before the next date of hearing, failing which **the Commission shall proceed on the basis of the available record**.
7. The **final order** in all seven complaint cases shall be passed only after consideration of the rejoinders filed by both parties.
8. **Next hearing on 15.01.2026 at 11.00 AM at Punjab State Information Commission, Red Cross Building, Madhya Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh.**

Chandigarh  
19.11.2025

Sd/-  
**(Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal)**  
State Information Commissioner, Punjab.