

18 May 2014

Subject: NON-PROVISION OF INFORMATION

To the Director Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat Muhammad Ashfaq Ahmed,

Dear Sir,

This is in reference to 3 complaint: Complaint No. HQR/0002450/14, HQR/0002451/14, and HQR/0002451/14 filed with the the Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat regarding non-provision of information by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications.

I do not find the response of the Ministry of IT & Telecom satisfactory. As a citizen, I have the right to information under Article 19-A of the Constitution of Pakistan.

The queries submitted to the Ministry were pertaining:

1. Surveillance carried out over the internet;
2. Content filtration software being employed to filter content on the iternet;
3. The directives to block websites; and
4. The process of the formation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Evaluation of Websites.

In response, the Ministry of IT & Telecom has cited Article 8, section e, f, and i of the Freedom of Information of Act that pertain to national security, classified record, and record excluded in public interest.

However, the nature of my request pertains to an issue that affects the access to information and freedom of expression of all citizens of Pakistan. For this reason, we request Wafaqi Mohtasib to request the Ministry of IT & Telecom to submit a satisfactory response.

Further, the Ministry has not specified in document No. 5-1/2005-DFU that was sent in reponse to both complaint No. HQR-0002450/14 and HQR/0002451/14 that which request specifically they are responded to.

I pray that the Ministry will specify its response in context of the questions asked, in the larger public interest of transparency, freedom of information, and citizen engagement, like the leadership of the PML-N government has promised.

Thank you for your prompt response and assistance.

Yours Sincerely

Usama Khilji