

- (j) information which is not exempt information by virtue of this section, is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or is likely to, prejudice—
- (i) the prevention or detection of crime;
  - (ii) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders;
  - (iii) the administration of justice;
  - (iv) the assessment or collection of any tax or duty or of any imposition of a similar nature;
  - (v) the operation of the immigration controls;
  - (vi) the maintenance of security and good order in prisons or in other institutions where persons are lawfully detained; and
  - (vii) any civil proceedings which are brought by or on behalf of a public body or arise out of an investigation conducted.

**17. Third parties.**—(1) Where a request 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 obtaining its consent to the disclosure of the information or record or its objections to disclosure.

(2) Where a third party objects to disclosure under sub-section (1), its objections shall be final.

**18. 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 19 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 that it acted in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

**19. Information Commission.**—(1) Within six months of the commencement of this Act, the Government shall establish Pakistan Commission on Access to Information to be known as the Information Commission.

(2) The Information Commission shall enjoy operational and administrative autonomy, except as specifically provided for by this Act.