

A

Bill

1. **Short title, application and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Right of access to Information Act, 2016.

(2) It shall apply to all public bodies of the Federal Government.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Definitions.**—In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,

(i) “appeal” means any grievance lodged in writing by an applicant with the Information Commission in accordance with section 18;

(ii) “applicant” means a citizen of Pakistan who lodges a request or any person who is acting for or on behalf of such a person;

(iii) “designated official” means an official of a public body designated in accordance with section 9;

(iv) “Information Commission” means the Pakistan Commission on Access to Information established in accordance with section 19;

(v) “information” means information based on record;

(vi) “national security” means the matters pertaining to the integrity, security or defence of Pakistan or any part thereof;

(vii) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules or regulations made under this Act;

(viii) “principal officer” means—

(a) in case of the Federal Government’s Ministries and Divisions, the Secretary thereof; and

(b) in all other cases, the head or chief executive of the public body by whatever designation identified;

(ix) “public body” means—

(a) any Ministry, Division, attached department or subordinate office, including autonomous bodies of the Federal Government;

(b) any Federal and any municipal or local authority set up or established by or under any Federal law;