

K. Prasannakumar v University Grants Commission

RTIC Appeal (Documentary Proceeding)/ 1751/2019 – Minute adopted as part of the formal meeting of the Commission on 02.09.2020

Chairperson: Mr. Mahinda Gammampila
Commission Member: Ms. Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena
Commission Member: Mr. S.G. Punchihewa
Commission Member: Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran
Commission Member: Justice Rohini Walgama

Director-General: Mr. D G M V Hapuarachchi

Appellant: K. Prasannakumar

Notice issued to: University Grants Commission

RTI Request filed on	12.04.2019
IO responded on	No Response
Appeal to DO filed on	26.06.2019
DO responded on	No Response
Appeal to RTIC filed on	30.07.2019

Brief Factual Background:

The Appellant filed Information Request dated 12.04.2019 requesting the following information from the Public Authority:

- 1. The number of children of the estate workers from Kandy, Nuwara-Eliya, Badulla, Kegale, Rathnapura who have been selected to the university entrance during 2014-2019.*
- 2. The names of the universities where the above stated students enrolled and the selected courses of them.*
- 3. The number of students who have been graduated from the above stated students.*
- 4. The details and the current status pertaining to the committee established by the Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa to establish a private university in Nuwara-Eliya district*

As the Information Officer failed to respond within the time stipulated under the Act, the Appellant preferred an appeal to the Designated Officer dated 26.06.2019. As the Designated Officer too failed to respond within the time stipulated under the Act, the Appellant appealed to the Commission on 30.07.2019.

Matters Arising During the Course of the Hearing:

Responding to the notice issued by the Commission, the Public Authority, by writing dated 13.08.2020, has drawn the attention of the Appellant to a response dated 12.12.2019, purportedly issued by the Information Officer stating that the Public Authority has arrived at a decision at its 1021st meeting held on 07.11.2019, recommending the Appellant to “refer the provisions on “University Order” given in the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978.”

Order:

The Commission observes that in responding to the information request made by the Appellant, a mere reference to a “University Order” will not suffice. The “University Order” to which the Appellant’s attention is adverted to, in the letter sent by the PA, is general in nature, and makes no reference to a specific date or title of said “University Order.” The Commission hereby directs the PA to provide information that is specific to and addresses the information request made by the Appellant.

Order is conveyed to both parties in terms of Rule 27 (3) of the Commission's Rules on Fees and Appeal Procedures (Gazette No. 2004/66, 03.02.2017).

Next Date of Hearing: 13.10.2019