

The Right to Information Commission

G. Balachandran,
No.72,
5th Lane,
Colombo 03.

-Appellant-

RTIC App/No : 160/2023

Vs.

Human Rights Commission,
No.14,
R. A. De Mel Mawatha,
Colombo 04.

-Public Authority-

Before : 1. Justice Upaly Abeyrathne (Rtd.) - Chairman
2. Ms. Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena (Attorney-at-Law) - Commissioner
3. Mr. Jagath Liyana Arachchi (Attorney-at-Law) - Commissioner
4. Mr. A.M. Nahiya - Commissioner

Appearance : The Appellant participated via Zoom Technology

The Public Authority represented by Mr. A.S Nilantha, Human Rights Officer / Information Officer

Written Submission :

The Appellant : - Not submitted

The Public Authority : - Not submitted

Date of Hearing : 07.06.2023 & 31.08.2023

Decided on : 31.08.2023

Decision of the Commission:

Factual Background:

The Appellant by the request dated 28.10.2022, requested the below information,

1. *Certified copy of the inquiry report of the investigations conducted by the commission on the Digana riots in 2018 or any draft versions of the report.*
2. *Certified list of HRCSL Commissioners and/or appointed officials to conduct the inquiries on the Digana riots in 2018.*
3. *Certified copy of the schedule of locations and dates of when inquiries were conducted and the no. of participants who made written or oral submissions.*
4. *Certified copy of an up-to-date report of the total cost incurred with regard to the inquiry report on the investigations of the Digana riots in 2018.*
5. *Certified copy of the no. of complaints received to the HRCSL pertaining to the Digana riots in 2018.*
6. *Certified copy of the findings and recommendations pertaining to the complaints mentioned above.*

Information requested period – 2018-2022

As the Information officer failed to respond within the time period stipulated in the Act, the appellant lodged an appeal to the Designated Officer 25.11.2022. As the Designated officer failed to respond within the time period stipulated in the Act, the Appellant preferred an appeal to the Commission dated 02.02.2023.

Consideration:

The Public Authority agreed to release information requested by the Appellant before 11.09.2023. Accordingly, we decide that Mr. Ranjith Uyangoda, Secretary, Designated Officer of the Public Authority and the Information Officer of the Public Authority, Mr. A.S Nilantha, (Human Rights Officer) should release the said information to the Appellant with copies to the Commission.

For the completeness of this decision, we place on record that, in terms of Rule No. 11 of Right to Information Commission Rules of 2017, the Public Authority is not entitled to charge any fee from a citizen for the release of the information upon a decision made by this Commission.

The Director General is directed to convey the Decision to the Appellant, the Information Officer and the Public Authority.

Appeal concluded.