

## **At the Right to Information Commission of Sri Lanka**

### *Padmasena Dissanayaka v. Ministry of Education*

RTIC Appeal/32/2017 (Conducted as part of the Meeting of the Commission on 31.07.2017)

**Chairperson:** Mr. Mahinda Gammampila

**Commission Members:** Ms. Kishali Pinto-Jayawardena

Mr. S.G. Punchihewa

Dr. Selvy Thiruchandran

**Appellant:** Mr. Padmasena Dissanayaka

**Notice issued to:** Mr. B A Abeyrathne, Principal, Royal College (IO---not at the time the request was made)

Dr. Madura M Wehella, Additional Secretary (Educational Quality Development Branch)

Mr. H. Hewage, Additional Secretary (Administration and Finance) (IO)

**Appearance/ Represented by:** Mr. P. Wickramasinghe Deputy Principal Royal College

Dr. Madura M. Wehella Additional Secretary (Educational Quality Development Branch)

Mr. H. Hewage Additional Secretary (Administration and Finance)

Mr. Prasad Weerasiri (Assistant Director Education- National Operation Room)

The Secretary of the Ministry of Education Mr. S. Hettiarachchi was represented by Dr. Madura M. Wehella Additional Secretary (Educational Quality Development Branch), Mr. H. Hewage Additional Secretary, Administration and Finance (Information Officer) and Mr Prasad Weerasiri, Assistant Director Education- National Operation Room. The Principal, Royal College was represented by Mr. P. Wickramasinghe, Deputy Principal, Royal College.

The Appellant had requested the detailed monthly accounts of the School Development Society (SDS) of Royal College Colombo from March 2016 to date (14 February 2017).

Explaining the process in place with regard to information requests received under the Right to Information No 12 of 2016. Dr Wehella stated that the Principals of National Schools have been appointed as Information Officers as of 19.06.2017. Mr Hewage is the Information Officer to whom information requests pertaining to the Ministry must be directed and the Designated Officer is Mr.S. Hettiarachchi, Secretary to the Ministry.

**Order:**

At the time of the Appellant's request, the Principal of Royal College had not been appointed as an Information Officer. However this amounts to a technical defect which would be futile to take the same into account given that, Mr. Wickramasinghe, the Deputy Principal of the aforesaid College representing the Principal stated that the information had been provided to the Appellant by registered post on 26. 07. 2017 with a covering letter dated 25.07.2017. In response to this claim by the Public Authority, the Appellant stated that he had not received the said information at the time of the hearing.

A copy of the said information which is furnished before the Commission is directed to be given to the Appellant. The Appellant informed the Commission that he would peruse the same and invoke the jurisdiction of the Commission if needed. The Appellant is apprised of the fact that if any new information is asked for, that must be by way of a fresh information request filed under and in terms of the RTI Act, No 12 of 2016.

The Appeal is hereby concluded.