

Bahirathy Rasanen v. Zonal Education Office Valikamam Zone

RTIC Appeal (In-Person Hearing)/[982/2019]- Record of Proceedings under Rule 28 of the Right to Information Rules of 2017 (Fees and Appeal Procedure) and Order adopted as part of the formal meeting of the Commission on 30/04/2019.

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

Appellant: Bahirathy Rasanen

Notice issued to: Designated Officer, Zonal Education Office, Valikamam Zone

Appearance/ Represented by:

Appellant: Dr. B.J.Rasanen, Senior Lecturer Gr. I, University of Jaffna

PA: Absent

RTI Request filed on	30/10/2018
IO responded on	No response
First Appeal to DO filed on	17/11/2018
DO responded on	No response
Appeal to RTIC filed on	17/12/2018

Brief Factual Background:

The Appellant by information request dated 30/10/2018 requested the following information.

1. Copies of a document called “Calculation of the teaching in Government approved unaided private schools” or a similar document that states the teacher/student ration of Jaffna College and contains the approval of private school branch of the ratio for years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018, together with any information for the calculation of this ratio for 2019.

2. Copies of any written communication that exists for the above mentioned ratio and government approval of teachers since 2013 until 30/10/2018 for Jaffna College, including communication on any excess teachers and the 16 teachers appointed by the school but not approved by the branch according to the documents attached.

As the IO failed to respond within the time period stipulated under the Act, the Appellant on 17/11/2018 lodged an appeal with the DO. As the DO too failed to respond within the time period stipulated under the Act the Appellant preferred an appeal to the Commission on 17/12/2018.

Matters Arising During the Course of the Hearing:

The Public Authority was absent.

Order:

As per Section 39(c) of the RTI Act, every person who fails or refuses to appear before the Commission when requested to do so commits an offence under this Act. The PA is directed to respond to the information request by the next date of hearing. The PA is directed to file Written Submissions if it wishes.

The Appeal is adjourned.

Next date of hearing: 13/08/2019
