

**R. Muthukumaran v. Jaffna Ramanathan Hindu Ladies College/Zonal
Education Office, Valikamam**

RTIC Appeal (Documentary Proceeding)/[RTIC 1192]/[2019]- Order adopted as part of the formal meeting of the Commission on 20/08/2019.

Order under Section 32 (1) of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016 and Record of Proceedings under Rule 28 of the Right to Information Rules of 2017 (Fees and Appeal Procedure)

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: R. Muthukumaran
Notice issued to: Designated Officer, Zonal Director of Education, Valikamam

RTI Request filed on	11/10/2018
IO responded on	18/12/2018
First Appeal to DO filed on	30/11/2018
DO responded on	No Response
Appeal to RTIC filed on	24/01/2019

Brief Factual Background:

The Appellant by information request dated 11/10/2018 requested the following information.

Certified copies of the pages of the log entry book of J/Ramanathan Hindu Ladies College from the date 10/02/2012 to the date when Mrs V. Shanmugaratnam (former principal) finally signed and handed over her responsibilities and was taken over by the new principal.

As the IO failed to respond within the time period stipulated under the Act the Appellant on 30/11/2018 lodged an appeal with the DO. The IO responded on 18/12/2018 stating that the log entry is an essential and confidential document between the Department of Education and the school. Therefore the copy of the log book will not be produced to anyone without the prior approval of the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, and to rewrite the appeal to the Ministry of Education, Jaffna. The Appellant thereby by letter dated 28/12/2018 lodged an appeal with the Zonal Education Office, Valikamam. As the DO failed to respond within the time period stipulated under the Act the Appellant preferred an appeal to the Commission on 24/01/2019.

Matters Arising During the Course of the Hearing:

The Commission drew its attention to RTIC Appeal (In-Person Hearing)/[RTIC 1251]/[2019] *R.Muthukumaran v the Ministry of Education*, where the Ministry of Education stated that the Zonal Education Office Valikamam had requested permission to release the information requested, and where by letter dated 30/07/2019 the Ministry of Education had permitted the release of information. Thereafter, the Zonal Education Office Valikamam had by letter dated 08/08/2019 requested J/Ramanathan Hindu Ladies College, to release the said information. The Ministry had further agreed to take the responsibility of ensuring that the information requested was handed over to the Appellant.

Order:

Since the information is conveyed to the Appellant, through RTIC 1251/2019, the matter is concluded.

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).

The Appeal is concluded.
