



December 20, 2016.

Mr. Shahbaz Sharif
Chief Minister of Punjab
Lahore, Pakistan.

Subject: Whistle Blower Protection, Right to Services and Right to Information Act

Honorable Chief Minister, Mr Shahbaz Sharif,

Transparency International Pakistan's research has stressed the importance of the Right to Information, Whistle Blower Protection and Right to Services Act for the progress of integrity and the elimination of corruption from the country. These laws serve as oversight elements to promote rule of law.

The Province of Punjab has been in the forefront in providing services to its citizens in a transparent manner. We express our acknowledgment of the Right to Information Act passed in 2013 in Punjab. We are very proud to say that International experts assessed and evaluated the Punjab RTI Act, 2013 as one of the best internationally. TI Pakistan has noted the implementation of the law by Punjab's Information Commission for better transparency and accountability.

However, there is still room for improvement in this law as this Act is silent on providing legal, administrative and employment related protection to whistleblowers for disclosing corruption. It transmits the perception that by doing so government is least interested to reduce corruption. Actually, risk of corruption is significantly intensified in situations where the reporting of malpractice is not sheltered. Therefore, protection of whistleblower is crucial to encourage the reporting of misconduct, fraud, and corruption. Similarly the enactment of the Right to Services Law will ensure that citizens are provided services to which they are entitled transparently.

Transparency International-Pakistan, would like to meet members of the assembly in the Punjab's Assembly conference room, preferably by December 31, 2016, while the assembly is in session. We would like to discuss the salient features of TI Pakistan proposed Whistle Blower Protection and Right to Services Laws and the implementation of the RTI laws with the members of the Punjab Assembly.

We look forward for a favorable response.

Best Regards,

Syed Adil Gilani