

GOA STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION
 "Kamat Towers" 7th Floor, Patto Plaza, Panaji, Goa – 403 001
 E-mail: spio-gsic.goa@nic.in Website: www.scic.goa.gov.in

Appeal No. 51/2025/SCIC

Brian Fernandes,
 H. No 5/F-5,
 Olvaddo, Carmona,
 Salcete-Goa 403717.

---Appellant

V/s

1. Maria Amita Gracias,
 The Headmistress & Public Information Officer,
 Sacred Heart of Jesus High School,
 Carmona, Salcete-Goa

2. The Dy. Director of Education & First Appellate Authority,
 South Education Zone,
 Margao, Salcete-Goa.

----Respondents

Shri. ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR - State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC

Relevant Facts Emerging from the Appeal

Second appeal received on	- 27/01/2025
First Hearing on	- 18/06/2025
Decision on the Second Appeal on	- 05/08/2025

Information sought and background of the Appeal

1. Shri. Brian Fernandes filed an application dated 27/01/2025 under RTI Act, 2005 before the Commission after his earlier Appeal No.77/2024/SCIC dated 28/03/2024 was remanded back to the First Appellate Authority to decide in the first appeal dated 02/02/2024 filed by the Appellant.
2. After the Commission remanded back the Appellant's appeal to the First Appellate Authority, the first appeal of the Appellant was heard by the FAA (Dy. Director of Education, South Educational Zone, Margao) on 06/01/2025 and disposed the matter vide order dated 08/01/2025 which read as under - *"The information sought by the Appellant is already provided by the SPIO/Headmistress, Sacred Heart of Jesus High School, Carmona, Salcete Goa. The Appellant when called upon was not able to prove "Larger Public Interest" involved in seeking such a humongous information, though Appellant stated that the he suspects the school is involved in overcharging admissible fees".*

Facts Emerging in Course of Hearing

3. Pursuant to the present Appeal No. 51/2025/SCIC filed by the Appellant, parties were notified fixing the matter for hearing on 18/06/2025 for which Appellant appeared in person but Respondents absent. Later, Adv. Onkar Asolkar appeared for Respondent PIO. Matter adjourned to 10/07/2025.

4. During the hearing on 10/07/2025, Adv. Vinod Korgaonkar who appeared on behalf of the Respondent PIO, objected to the filing of the present second appeal as it was remanded back to the First Appellate Authority by the Commission.

During the course of hearing it was found that the Appellant need only certified copies of Page Nos. 50-54 and 180-190 of the Handbook on School Administration which is in possession of the Respondent PIO and was inspected by the Appellant at the office of the Respondent PIO on 20/01/2024.

5. Presiding Commissioner directed the Respondent PIO to produce the said Handbook on School Administration on the next date of hearing i.e. 05/08/2025.

6. Matter took up for final hearing on 05/08/2025 for which Appellant appeared in person and Respondent PIO appeared along with Adv. Vinod Korgaonkar.

Complying with the instruction of the Presiding Commissioner, Respondent PIO produced the Handbook on School Administration. Advocate for the Respondent PIO expressed reservation over furnishing copies of the Page No. 50-54 and 180-190 to the Appellant as the Handbook is only for private circulation among the Headmasters with regard to the School Administration.

7. Since the Respondent PIO has allowed the Appellant to inspect the Handbook on School Administration at the office of the PIO on 20/01/2024, there is no ground in denying copies of certain pages of the said handbook to the Appellant.

8. As the Handbook on School Administration is not originated from the office of the Respondent PIO but issued by the Headmaster's Association, Respondent PIO will be able to furnish xerox copies of the sought pages of the Handbook and not 'certified copies'.
9. Commission directed the Respondent PIO to furnish Xerox copies of the Page No.50-54 and 180-190 of the Handbook on School Administration to the Appellant. The Xerox copies shall submit at the Registry of the Commission on 7th August 2025 and the Appellant shall collect the same from the Commission after 7th August 2025.

DECISION

With the above directions to the Respondent PIO, present Appeal No. 51/2025/SCIC is disposed.

Aggrieved party if any, may move against this order by way of a Writ Petition as no further Appeal is provided against this order under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

- Proceeding stands closed.
- Pronounced in open Court.
- Notify the parties.

Sd/-

(ARAVIND KUMAR H. NAIR)
State Chief Information Commissioner, GSIC