

Chairman,  
Land Reform Commission  
475, Kaduwela Road,  
Ganahena,  
Battaramulla.

Date: 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2017

Dear Sir,

**Requesting Information as per the Right to Information Act No 12 of 2016**

In accordance with the Right to Information Act No. 12 of 2016, we hereby request access to (or a copy of) all records relating to land policy and development, as follows:

1. How many acres of land are in the control of the Land Reform Commission (LRC)?
2. Can I have access to records of the lands which are held by the LRC?
3. How many acres of land have been allocated by the LRC for development projects and other public purposes, on long-term leases over 20 years during the last 5 years?

We would like to be informed of the amount of fees payable by us in order to obtain this information.

Our details are as follows:

**Name:** Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL)

**Address:** No. 5/1, Elibank Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka.

**Telephone number:** 0114369781/ 0114369782

We would like to obtain this information in the form of a written document with certification as per Section 27 (3) (c) of the Act, for the period from 2012 to 2016.

We expect to receive a response as soon as possible, pursuant to the time durations provided under Sections 24(4) and 25 (1)(2) of the 2016 Act.

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If our request for information is denied we would kindly prefer to receive a written justification explaining why it was so denied.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular loop followed by a horizontal line and a vertical stroke.

**Asoka Obeyesekere**  
**Executive Director**  
**Transparency International Sri Lanka**

**Appeal to the Designated Officer**

Designated Officer,

Chairman,  
Land Reform Commission

Public Authority: Land Reform Commission

**Appeal Form**

1. **Name of Person Appealing :** Transparency International Sri Lanka
2. **Address :** 5/1, Elibank Road, Colombo 05
3. **Contact Number (if any):** +94114369781 / +94114369782 / +94114369783  
**Fax Number :** +94112501707
4. **Email Address (if any):** ed@tisrilanka.org
5. **Date request made to Information Officer :** 07<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
**Registration Number :** Not provided  
**Did you receive a reply from the Information Officer ? Yes/No :** No

**6. Grounds for Appeal:**

- i. The Information Officer refuses a request made for information
- ii. Information Officer refuses access to the information on the ground that such information is exempted from being granted under Section 5
- iii. **Non -compliance with time frames specified in the Act**
- iv. The Information Officer granted incomplete, misleading or false information
- v. The Information Officer charged excessive fees
- vi. The Information Officer refused to provide information in the form requested
- vii. The requestor has reasonable grounds to believe that information has been deformed, destroyed or misplaced to prevent the requestor from having access to the information

Details:

**Non -compliance with time frames specified in the Act**

Transparency International Sri Lanka submitted and received acknowledgment for the request to the Land Reform Commission on 07<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The request was acknowledged by Mr. Senarath, under s. 25 (1) of the RTI Act 2016, the information officer is obliged to decide on whether information can be provided or not and prescribe the fee to be paid within 14 working days. Such information should have been communicated to TISL by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March at the expiration of the 14 working days, but no such communication was made. We therefore file this appeal to the Designated Officer as prescribed by the RTI Act 2016 and request for the information requested to be provided.

**7. Brief description of information requested:**

1. Number of acres of land which are in the control of the Land Reform Commission
2. Whether we can access the records of the lands held by LRC
3. Number of acres of land which have been allocated by the LRC for development projects and other public purposes on long-term leases over 20 years during the period of 2012 - 2016 (last 5 years)

**8. If Appeal has not been submitted within the specified time period, cause of delay [s. 31(5)]:**

N/A

**10. Any other details:**

The LRC did not have an appointed information officer at the time of making the request and so the request was addressed to the Chairman of the Land Reform Commission as per Section 23 (1) (b) of the 2016 Act. However, the request was received and acknowledged by the Secretary of the LRC, Mr. Senarath. Upon inquiry, we were informed that the information can be collected from the IT manager. On communicating with the IT manager we were informed that he is not the information officer and that an information officer has not yet been appointed.

Furthermore, a Designated Officer has not been appointed and in consideration of the prescribed process in which we ought to file our appeal to the Designated Officer we direct our appeal to the head of the authority, the Chairman of the Land Reform Commission.

Date: 10/3/17 .....

Signature: 

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S.C. Asoka Obeyesekere  
Executive Director  
Transparency International Sri Lanka.