

CRCP
CONSUMER RIGHTS COMMISSION
OF PAKISTAN

July 21, 2008

Ms. Sherry Rehman
Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting
Ministry of Information
4th Floor, Cabinet Block, Pak. Secretariat
Islamabad

Subject: Recommendations for Improvement of Freedom of Information Bill, 2008

Dear Ms. Rehman,

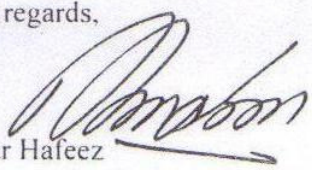
In pursuance of our preliminary comments on the Freedom of Information Bill, 2008 submitted to your good office on July 3, 2008, Consumer Rights Commission of Pakistan (CRCP) is pleased to submit recommendations for improvement of the Bill. These recommendations are based on a critical analysis of the Bill conducted by FOI experts, deliberations of a consultation organized by CRCP on July 14, 2008 specifically for discussion on the Bill. Moreover, CRCP solicited feedback and comments of international experts and organizations. In addition to our recommendations, the comments sent by the international experts and organizations are enclosed.

We are certain that you will give due consideration to these recommendations and improve the FOI Bill 2008 in line with universal principles of FOI, international best practices, and ground realities of Pakistan. We believe that this Bill is worth enactment if it has substantial improvements vis-à-vis the existing laws. The recommendations, if incorporated, will improve the Bill substantially.

Although the analysis and recommendations are self-explanatory, we are available to give a presentation on the proposed changes. CRCP is also available to provide any other technical assistance for improving the Bill, and for the promotion of FOI in Pakistan.

We look forward to your response.

Best regards,


Abrar Hafeez
Secretary General

Copy to: Ministry of Law, Justice and Human Rights

Handwritten: 22/7/08
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
R&I Research, Law & Policy
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