

# Table of Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xii</i>
<i>Abbreviations</i>	<i>xiii</i>
<i>Latin Maxims and Phrases – General Explanations</i>	<i>xv</i>
<i>Table of Cases</i>	<i>xvi</i>
<i>Editorial Note</i>	<i>xxxii</i>

## **Case Notes Clustered under Subject Matter with Keywords, Legal Principles and a Guide to Sections**

❖ <b>Annual Reports / Minutes of Meetings / Meetings (Drafts / Extracts) / Documents Relating to the Administration of Public Authorities</b>	<b>1</b>
❖ <b>Appeal Mechanism (on Appeal to the Commission, Section 32)</b>	<b>2</b>
a. Addition of Parties / Respondents	2
b. Information Requestor not Required to Show Reasons (Section 24 (5) (d))	4
c. Failure on Part of PA to Plead Exemptions in Section 5 (1) to Deny Information	6
d. Further (additional) Information Cannot be Asked for in Appeal	8
e. Jurisdictional Defects (Requesting Information and First Appeal Process, Sections 23, 31 and 32)	10
(i) <i>Information Request / First Appeal filed to Different PAs</i>	10
(ii) <i>Time Bar in Appeals</i>	11
(iii) <i>Failure to File Proper Documentation</i>	12
f. Jurisdictional Defects (Incorporated Bodies as 'Citizens'/Information Requestors / Appellants, Section 43)	12

g. New Exemptions may be Pleaded by PA in Appeal	14
h. No Fees for Release of Information upon Appeal to Commission (Rule 11)	14
i. Redressal of Substantive Grievances in Procedure or Law not within Scope of Section 32	16
❖ Article 14A, 1978 Constitution	20
❖ Building and Construction Approvals	21
❖ Burden of Proof (Section 32 (4))	28
❖ Cabinet Decision / Cabinet Memorandum awaiting Decision (Section 5 (1) (m))	29
❖ Commercial Confidence, Trade Secrets, Intellectual Property and Competitive Interests of Third-Party (Section 5 (1) (d))	30
❖ Communication between a Professional and a Public Authority (Section 5 (1) (f))	35
❖ Confidential Information given by a Third-Party (Section 5 (1) (i) read with Section 29)	36
❖ Confidential Source of Information (Section 5 (1) (h) (ii))	41
❖ Consumer Rights	41
❖ Contempt of Court / Prejudice to the Maintenance of the Authority and Impartiality of the Court (Section 5 (1) (j)) / <i>Sub Judice</i>	43
❖ Contracts	50
❖ Cooperative Societies	51
❖ Correspondence between Public Officials	54
❖ Declarations of Assets and Liabilities	56
❖ Defense of State / National Security / Territorial Integrity (Section 5 (1) (b) (i))	60

❖	<b>Definition and Meaning of Terms</b>	<b>64</b>
	a. Definition of Information (Section 43)	64
	b. Definition of Public Authority (Section 43)	65
	c. Information in 'possession, custody or control' (Section 3 (1))	67
❖	<b>Disaster Relief and Government Relief Programs</b>	<b>71</b>
❖	<b>Draft Laws</b>	<b>75</b>
❖	<b>Duties of Public Authorities</b>	<b>76</b>
	a. Duty of other officials to assist Information Officer, Section 23 (3)	76
	b. Duties of Information Officer and Designated Officer to Adhere to Timelines	77
	c. Duty of IO not to insist on Sri Lankan citizens to 'prove' citizenship	78
	d. Duty of PA to appoint IO / Publicly Disclose Details of IO and DO	79
❖	<b>Education</b>	<b>80</b>
	a. Examinations Results and Transcripts, Integrity of Examinations (Section 5 (1) (I))	80
	b. Schools, Universities and Educational Institutions: Admission and Internal Procedure	84
❖	<b>Employment - Related</b>	<b>95</b>
	a. Appointments, Recruitments, Promotions, Transfers, Extensions, Suspensions and Termination of Employment	95
	b. Employee Benefits	116
	c. Disciplinary Inquiries / Reports	119
	d. Salary Details	125

e.	Pensions, Gratuity, Employee Trust Fund and Employee Provident Fund	130
f.	Trade Unions	131
❖	<b>Environment and Wildlife</b>	<b>133</b>
a.	Reports, Policy and Permits	133
b.	Management Reserves	135
c.	Agreements / Projects / Statutory Duties (Impacting on)	136
❖	<b>Expenses of Public Officials / politicians</b>	<b>139</b>
a.	Vehicle Allowances and Travel Expenses of Public officials / Politicians	139
❖	<b>Fiduciary Relationship (Section 5 (1) (g))</b>	<b>143</b>
❖	<b>Financial Policy and Taxation</b>	<b>145</b>
a.	Financial Reporting and Audits	145
b.	Premature Disclosure of Policies (Section 5(1) (c))	148
c.	Tax Contributions	151
❖	<b>Inspection of Information</b>	<b>152</b>
a.	Commission's Powers of Inspection of Information Denied by PA (Section 15 (c))	152
b.	Permission to Inspect by the Appellant (Section 27 (3) (a))	157
❖	<b>Institutional Decisions and Internal Procedures in Public Authorities</b>	<b>163</b>
❖	<b>Insurance Claims</b>	<b>181</b>
❖	<b>Investment Details / Market Transactions</b>	<b>181</b>
❖	<b>Issuance of Licenses</b>	<b>183</b>

❖	<b>Land</b>	<b>186</b>
	a. Acquisitions / Vesting Orders	186
	b. Maps, Plans and Survey Reports	189
	c. Property Disputes	192
	d. State Lands	193
	e. Compensation / Valuation Details for the Purposes of Payment of Compensation	194
	f. Other Land Related Issues	197
❖	<b>Law Reform</b>	<b>200</b>
	a. Amendment of the Declarations of Assets and Liabilities Law (1975) to Require the President to file a Declaration of Assets and Liabilities <i>qua</i> President	200
	b. Enactment of a Law Protecting Whistleblowers	201
❖	<b>Legal Fees</b>	<b>202</b>
❖	<b>Life and Liberty (Urgent Appeals) (Section 25 (3))</b>	<b>205</b>
❖	<b>Migrant Workers</b>	<b>206</b>
❖	<b>Militarisation of Civil Functions / Military Acquisitions (<i>inter alia</i>, Land)</b>	<b>207</b>
❖	<b>Parliamentary Privilege / Provincial Council Privilege (Section 5 (1) (k))</b>	<b>208</b>
❖	<b>Personal Information (Section 5 (1) (a))</b>	<b>210</b>
	a. Personal Information (salary details do not amount to)	210
	b. Personal Information (marks afforded to candidates at interviews do not amount to)	212
	c. Personal Information (statistical data does not amount to / Section 5 (1) (a) applicable to the 'privacy of the individual', not group interests)	212

d. Personal Information (does not include documents of record)	213
e. Personal Information (does not include Declarations of Assets and Liabilities)	214
f. Personal Information (educational qualifications of parliamentarians not protected)	215
g. Personal Information (entry and departure details of others <i>et al</i> , protected)	215
h. Personal Information (of a confidential source in relation to law enforcement, protected)	217
i. Personal Information (of prisoners, protected)	218
j. Personal information (of witnesses at an inquiry relating to sexual harassment protected)	218
k. Personal Information (of sexual abuse victims, protected)	219
<b>❖ Police Complaints, Inquiries &amp; Related Documents, Complaints, Follow – up Action on Complaints / Motor Vehicles and Motor Accidents</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>❖ Policy Decisions</b>	<b>225</b>
<b>❖ Political Victimization</b>	<b>226</b>
<b>❖ Prejudice to the Prevention or Detection of Crime, Apprehension or Prosecution of Offenders (Section 5 (1) (h))</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>❖ Prejudice to International Agreements, Bi-lateral Agreements and Obligations under International Law (in Confidence) / Section (5 (1) (b) (ii))</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>❖ Preservation of Records by the PA (Section 7) / Information over Ten Years Old</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>❖ Priority of RTI Act (Section 4)</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>❖ Prisoners / Prison Regulations</b>	<b>240</b>

❖ Proactive Disclosure (Regulation 20)	242
❖ Procedural Matters	244
Duty to Transfer (Regulation 4 (6))	244
❖ Procurement	247
❖ Projects (Information Relating to)	253
❖ Public Health / Medical Records (Section 5 (1) (e))	255
❖ Public Interest (Section 5 (4)) / Public Funds	260
❖ Qualifications (Educational and Professional) of Public Officials / Politicians	270
❖ Religious Affairs	271
❖ Reports (Presidential Commissions of Inquiry)	272
❖ Severability (Section 6)	273
❖ Sports and Team Selection	278
❖ State Resources used for Political Propaganda	279
❖ Statistical Data	281
❖ Trust Funds and Memorial Foundations	282
❖ Welfare / State Charitable Benefits	283
<i>Table of References</i>	287
<i>Index</i>	288