

FEES PAYABLE UNDER RTI ACT :

Karnataka Information Commission in their Order No. KIC 213 COM 2007 has laid down broad guidelines for levy of further fee when information sought under RTI Act. The gist of the order is reproduced below:

“7. There are indeed various procedures/system for obtaining information and copies of documents from public authorities. For example RTC extracts are being issued under “BHOOMI”, Certified copies of orders are being issued by Courts, Khatha and Birth and Death Certificates are being issued by BBMP. Nothing under law prevents the citizens from seeking copies of such documents under Right to Information Act, 2005. According to information available with the Commission, Karnataka High Court is already allowing the citizens to obtain copies of its orders under the Act.”

“8. As regards fees payable, Commission is of the view that to begin with , it may not be desirable to tinker with the existing structure of fee being charged including search fee, copying fee etc., fixed by the public authorities. However, in case an applicant feels that the fee being charged is exorbitant, he can always approach the Commission through a complaint. “

“9. Accordingly, Commission directs that the Respondent as well as the concerned public authority namely Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps shall take steps to ensure that in addition to any existing procedures for providing information and copies of documents, the Department shall also provide same information, copies of documents etc. In response to the applications made by citizens under Right to Information Act, 2005. All provisions of the Act and the rules, including the time limits, shall mutatis-mutandis apply to the disposal of such applications”.

While collecting fee under RTI for providing information PIOs are required to be guided by the above order. This will specifically applies to Certified copies of Documents registered and Encumbrance Certificates are sought under the Act. For all other information fee at the rate of RS. Two per page of A4 size is to be levied. In respect of information sought in Electronic Format a fee of Rs.50 is to be levied as prescribed under the Karnataka Right to Information Rules, 2005.