

PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE

Under the RTI Act in Sri Lanka -
Ranking Key Public Authorities in 2024



August 2025

Proactive Disclosure

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Chanmini Perera and Lakwijaya Bandara

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Verité Research first developed and tested the methodology for this assessment in 2017 with the support of the World Bank. The methodology was formulated based on the Sri Lankan legal and regulatory framework and on international good practices by a team at Verité Research. This report is the third in a series of reports that will continue to assess the progress of online proactive disclosure by public authorities.

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1. Executive Summary

Verité Research adopted a methodology used since its first report in 2017 to assess the online proactive disclosure of information by 32 Cabinet Ministries and the Offices of the President and Prime Minister. Monitoring was conducted from June 1, 2024, to July 1, 2024, and is published in this report even after the change of ministry portfolios, to ensure that progressive changes are still effectively quantified and recorded.

The methodology for the study was based on the legal requirements for proactive disclosure set out under Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act, and Regulation No. 20 under the Act. Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act apply only to ministries (thereby excluding the Offices of the President and the Prime Minister). Regulation No. 20 applies to ‘all public authorities’, including ministries and the Offices of the President and Prime Minister.

The public authorities were ranked based on their online proactive disclosure of information pertaining to 30 categories of information, which were further divided into 11 subcategories. The categories of information include:

1. Institutional Information
2. Organisational Information
3. Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes
4. Public Services
5. Public Policy, Legislation and Regulation
6. Public Participation
7. Public Procurement and Subsidies
8. Budgets, Expenditure and Finances
9. Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information
10. Prior Disclosures of Information
11. Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act.

The public authorities received a content disclosure score, a usability score, and an overall composite score, and were accordingly placed within the following bands:

0%-10%: unsatisfactory

11%-40%: moderately unsatisfactory

41%-60%: moderately satisfactory

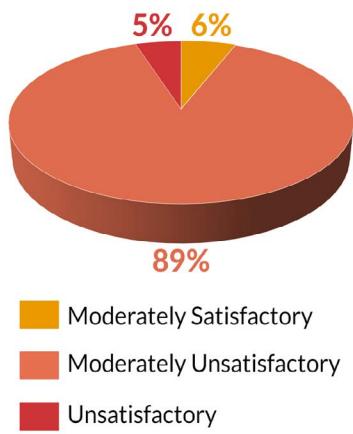
61%-80%: satisfactory

81%-100%: highly satisfactory.

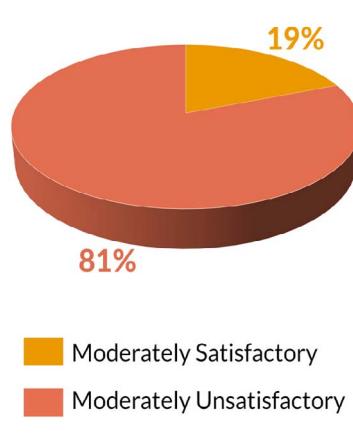
The 2024 assessment of online proactive disclosure shows modest but measurable improvement since 2017, though overall progress remains limited. The proportion of public authorities in the 'moderately satisfactory' band for overall composite scores has doubled since 2022, while those in the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band have decreased, with notable individual gains such as by the Office of the Prime Minister in 2024. Improvements were recorded in content disclosure, but critical gaps persist in areas like public participation, publication of tender awards, prior disclosures, and RTI-related information. The usability of published information remains weak, with language bias limiting accessibility for non-English speakers, and the government openness score stagnating at 33% since 2022. Overall, while there has been incremental improvement in proactive disclosure, the slow pace and persistent deficiencies indicate that transparency and accountability goals under the RTI Act are far from being fully realised.

1.1. OVERALL COMPOSITE SCORES

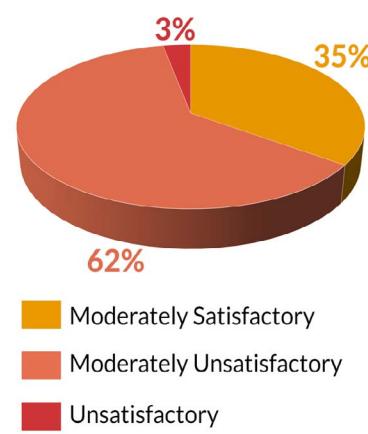
Overall Composite Score (2017)



Overall Composite Score (2022)



Overall Composite Score (2024)



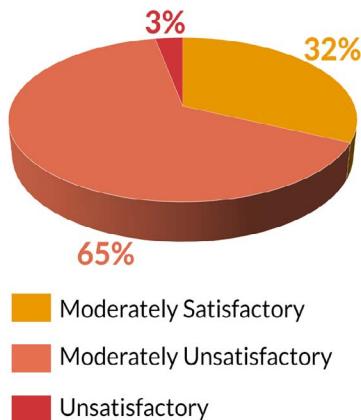
In 2017, the majority of the public authorities fell within the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band, and some public authorities also fell within the 'unsatisfactory' band. In 2022, there was some improvement with the percentage of public authorities within the 'moderately satisfactory' band increasing and no public authorities scoring within the 'unsatisfactory' band. There has been progress in overall composite scores, in 2024, as the number of public authorities in the 'moderately satisfactory' band has doubled and the number of public authorities in the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band has reduced from 25 in 2022 to 21 in 2024.

The public authorities with the highest overall composite scores were the Ministry of Health (52%), the Ministry of Fisheries (50%), and the Ministry of Public Administration (49%).

The public authorities with the lowest overall composite scores were the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division) (18%), the Ministry of Investment Promotion (13%), and the Ministry of Trade (8%).

In terms of individual performance, the progress made by the Office of the Prime Minister in 2024 is particularly noteworthy. Previously ranked last with a composite score of just 13%, it has now advanced to 4th place overall, reflecting a significant 34% improvement.

1.2. COMPONENT 1 - CONTENT DISCLOSURE



In terms of **content disclosure**, the majority of the assessed public authorities scored within the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band. Compared to 2017 and 2022, the percentage of public authorities that came within this band has decreased by 24% and 12%, respectively. There has been an increase in the number of public authorities that fall within the 'moderately satisfactory' band. Public authorities tended to disclose more up-to-date and complete information in the *Budgets, Expenditure, and Finances, Institutional Information, and Organisational Information*. However, some of this information was only available on secondary websites, such as the Ministry of Finance (i.e. for budgets).

The public authorities with the highest content disclosure scores were the Ministry of Health (55%), the Ministry of Public Administration (50%) and the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (50%).

The public authorities with the lowest content disclosure scores were the Ministry of Public Security (17%), the Ministry of Investment Promotion (14%), and the Ministry of Trade (8%).

Proactive disclosure was also analysed under three thematic areas:

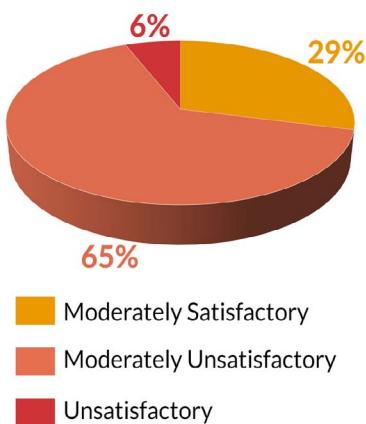
1. Public accountability
2. Public accessibility
3. Disclosures pertaining to the right to information

Public accountability focuses on the disclosure of financial information on the use of public funds, government decision-making and regulatory information. All public authorities received a full score for the *Budgets, Expenditure and Finance* category. However, only 6% of the public authorities scored full points for disclosing *Successful Awards and Publication of Awards*, indicating that while tender notices are published, the corresponding awards of these tenders are not publicised. The thematic analysis on public accountability also revealed that public authorities generally disclosed project and activity reports but failed to disclose content on their internal rules, regulations, decision-making processes, and outcomes.

Public accessibility was analysed across three criteria, namely, *Public Participation, Organisational Information, and Public Services*. In 2024, public authorities have shown improvement over the previous year by disclosing more content across all three categories, but disclosure remains below 50%. Disclosure of information pertaining to *Public Participation, including details on public meetings and consultations*, was limited. Low content disclosure in this area may impede public participation in government decision-making.

The findings of the thematic analysis on disclosures pertaining to the right to information suggest a lack of effective implementation of the RTI Act and its regulations by public authorities. 6 public authorities failed to publish the *Contact Information of the Information Officer and/or the Designated Officer*. The proactive disclosure of information already provided under the RTI Act would also greatly enhance the efficiency of exercising the right to information - the majority of public authorities scored 0 points in this particular category. Further, the majority of public authorities performed inadequately in disclosing information about prior public investments under Section 9 of the RTI Act. Disclosure levels for both Prior Disclosures of Information and Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act remain below 10%.

1.3. COMPONENT 2 - USABILITY



In terms of **usability**, the majority of public authorities scored within the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band.

The language in which most information was disclosed was English, followed by Sinhala and Tamil. One of the key findings of the report is the existence of a language bias in the disclosure of information. Language bias was assessed by using a public authority's score for information disclosure in English as a benchmark to compare the public authority's information disclosure scores for Sinhala and Tamil languages. The language bias scores indicate that the Ministry of Wildlife and the Ministry of Public Administration are the most language-friendly public authorities. They are the only 2 public authorities in the 'low bias' band for all three language bias analyses. The assessment highlighted that the Ministry of Investment Promotion was more likely to prioritise English content over Sinhala for 2024, as it is the only public authority with 100% bias. This bias presents a challenge to the accessibility of information, particularly for non-English speakers.

The government openness score represents a weighted combination of the content disclosure rating (75%) and the usability rating (25%). Seven years since the RTI Act was fully operationalised in Sri Lanka, the government openness score remains unchanged from the 2022 assessment at 33%. The low government openness score demonstrates the need for the government to improve its overall content disclosure and usability ratings.

The report concludes by emphasising the need for public authorities to improve the proactive disclosure of information, particularly in Sinhala and Tamil languages, to ensure that the RTI Act is effectively implemented to foster a culture of transparency and accountability in public authorities.

2. Introduction

The year 2024 marked seven years since the operationalisation of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the ‘RTI Act’) in Sri Lanka.⁰¹ The right of access to information was enshrined in the Sri Lankan Constitution as a fundamental right,⁰² and given effect through the RTI Act, which was enacted by the Sri Lankan Parliament in August 2016, and operationalised in February 2017. The enactment of the RTI Act represented a landmark shift in governance, giving citizens the power to access information and creating a legal and institutional norm of information disclosure, rather than one of secrecy.

The Act provides a framework for the administration and enforcement of a citizen’s right to access information held by public authorities, with limited exceptions.⁰³ It provides for both request-based (reactive) and proactive disclosure of information. While reactive disclosure of information is a transaction between the requester and the public authority, the responsibility for the proactive disclosure of information lies solely with public authorities – all institutions within government, and other specified institutions outside of government. In this report, Verité Research assesses the extent to which public authorities comply with the proactive disclosure requirements outlined in the RTI Act and the Regulations there under,⁰⁴ on their own websites and selected centralised websites.

Proactive disclosure of information refers to the release of information by a public authority⁰⁵ of their own volition, without citizens needing to specifically request it. This may be done on the public authority’s premises, on their online platforms, or through other means of dissemination. Proactive disclosure recognises that access to information for many people depends on public authorities actively publishing and disseminating key categories of information, regardless of a citizen making a request. Therefore, proactive disclosure can: (i) promote accountability by making the government operate “in the eyes of the public” so that there is public supervision of government decision-making, and (ii) act as a deterrent to public sector wastage and corruption by making it more difficult to conceal misbehaviour and inefficiency.⁰⁶ Proactive disclosure is also crucial in attaining greater transparency, which can lead to higher levels of trust in government.⁰⁷

There are a few guiding principles that should be enshrined in a proactive disclosure regime. These principles prescribe that information should be available, findable, relevant, comprehensible, low-cost or free, and up to date.⁰⁸ Availability requires that information be proactively disclosed through multiple communication channels. Findability mandates that information should be organised so that it is easy to find. The principle of relevance requires that the information itself is of value, and that it is organised in ways that are meaningful to the end user. Comprehensibility envisions that information should be disclosed in full and in a manner comprehensible to the public. The principle of low-cost or free information prescribes that information should be made available free of charge or based on reasonable, pre-established fees. The final principle of proactive disclosure requires that information be up to date, i.e. it should be timely and correct.

In Sri Lanka, proactive disclosure is regulated under the RTI Act and the Regulations and Guidelines issued thereunder. The key provisions include Sections 8, 9, 10, 14, and 26 of the Act and Regulations 20 and 3, as outlined in Annex 03. Section 8 of the Act places a duty on every minister to biannually publish a report

containing information relating to their respective ministry, whilst Section 9 mandates disclosures in respect of projects, the value of which exceeds USD 100,000/- (in respect of foreign funded projects) and LKR 500,000/- (in respect of locally funded projects). Section 10 requires public authorities to submit Annual Reports to the Right to Information Commission (hereinafter RTIC). Section 14 provides that it is the duty and function of the RTIC to monitor performance and ensure due compliance by public authorities of the duties imposed on them by the RTI Act, including proactive disclosure.⁰⁹ Finally, Section 26 of the RTI Act - whilst not explicitly dealing with proactive disclosure - requires public authorities to display details of Information Officers and fees to be charged in a conspicuous place within the premises of the public authority and on the official website of the public authority.

The RTIC has also issued regulations and guidelines under the RTI Act. Foremost of these is Regulation No. 20, which sets out a public authority's obligations with respect to proactive disclosure under the Act. Under Regulation No. 20, all public authorities are required to 'routinely disseminate', a minimum level of key information.¹⁰ Regulation 3 requires public authorities to display details of the Information Officer and Designated Officer in their office in the official languages.¹¹ Guidelines issued by the RTIC under Section 8 stipulate that the reports by the ministers may be published and disseminated through as many public mediums as possible, regularly updated, and presented in a form that is easily understood.¹² As with Section 8, the RTIC has issued guidelines on Section 9, which require ministries to disclose specific information relating to projects.¹³

Verité Research developed a methodology in 2017 to evaluate the level of public authorities' adherence to online disclosure obligations under the RTI Act and Regulations thereunder. Its first report was published in December 2017, assessing 55 public authorities, ten months after the RTI Act came into effect. The second report in the series was released in September 2023, evaluating 31 public authorities. This is Verité Research's third iteration of the report, evaluating the compliance of public authorities with their mandated online proactive disclosure requirements. This report assessed information available online from June 1, 2024, to July 1, 2024. Although the ministries have changed since July 2024, a comparison of former ministries against the current ministries shows a significant overlap and continuity in the ministries' functions. As a result, the findings set out in this report remain relevant for public officials and ministry leadership (See Annex 01).

By monitoring, evaluating, and ranking the websites of 34 key public authorities, this report aims to support the successful implementation of proactive disclosure of information under the RTI Act in Sri Lanka.

3. Methodology in Brief

Verité Research first developed the methodology for this assessment in 2017, supported by the World Bank (for a detailed methodology, see Annex 02). The methodology evaluates and compares the proactive disclosure of information by various public authorities online, under the RTI Act.¹⁴ The third in the series, this report assesses 32 cabinet ministries¹⁵ in existence as of May 2024, and the Offices of the President and Prime Minister. For the 2024 assessment, these 34 public authorities were closely monitored for a month from June 01, 2024, to July 01, 2024.

For online proactive disclosure, Verité Research monitored the websites of the public authorities themselves, and certain other official online websites where information related to a public authority could be located, such as the Department of Government Printing, Department of Project Management and Monitoring, PROMISe.lk (e-government procurement), and the Ministry of Finance for budget information.

The online proactive disclosure of the said 34 public authorities was assessed across 11 main categories and 30 subcategories thereunder (for the full list of categories and subcategories, see Annex 02). The assessment has two main components: **(i) content disclosure and (ii) usability.** A public authority's content disclosure rating is weighted at 75% of the full score, while its usability rating is weighted at 25%. After calculating the overall content disclosure and usability rating separately, these two ratings were combined to arrive at an overall composite score for each public authority assessed.

Content Disclosure

Based on the legal obligations of the ministries and other public authorities under the RTI Act, Verité Research monitored the online disclosure of information of 32 ministries across all 30 subcategories. Due to the non-applicability of certain disclosure obligations, content disclosure by the Office of the President and the Office of the Prime Minister was monitored only across 23 subcategories.

For scoring, each subcategory was assigned to one of four 'types' of information. Type 1 assessed subcategories where the up-to-dateness of information is relevant, and Type 2 assessed subcategories where completeness is relevant. Type 3 assessed subcategories where both up-to-dateness and completeness are relevant. Type 4 encapsulated the remaining subcategories that required unique scoring formats.

Exhibit 1 below illustrates the scale used in scoring each subcategory according to the type of information the subcategory correlates with.

Exhibit 1: Subcategory Scoring

| Type | Rating | | | | |
|------|--|--|---|---|---|
| | Unsatisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory | Satisfactory | Highly Satisfactory |
| 1 | No information (0 points) | N/A | N/A | Information published - dated or unknown whether current (1 point) | Up-to-date information published (2 points) |
| 2 | No information (0 points) | N/A | Information published but no details on whether complete (1 point) | Information published - but incomplete (2 points) | Complete information published (3 points) |
| 3 | No information (0 points) | Information published - but no information on whether up-to-date or complete (1 point) | Information published - up-to-date but unknown whether complete (2 points) | Information published - up-to-date but incomplete (3 points) | Up-to-date and complete information published (4 points) |
| 4 | No information on Projected Budget for 2023 (0 points) | N/A | N/A | Information published -but not disaggregated (1 point) | Disaggregated information published (2 points) |
| | No contact information of Information Officer or Designated Officer (0 points) | N/A | N/A | Information Officer's or Designated Officer's contact information published (1 point) | Both Information Officer's and Designated Officer's contact information published (2 points) |
| | No information on Legislation that the public authority is tasked with implementing (0 points) | <25% of legislation that the public authority is tasked with implementing is published (1 point) | >25% of legislation that the public authority is tasked with implementing is published (2 points) | >50% of legislation that the public authority is tasked with implementing is published (3 points) | 100% of legislation that the public authority is tasked with implementing is published (4 points) |

Thus, a score was assigned for each subcategory based on the type of information to which the subcategory correlates. Finally, each public authority's overall content disclosure score was calculated as a percentage of the total possible points across all applicable subcategories. For instance, if Ministry 'A' receives a total score of 50 across all subcategories, and the maximum possible points across all applicable subcategories is 104, then the ministry's overall content disclosure score is calculated as $(50/104)*100$. Furthermore, based on the overall content disclosure score, public authorities were rated using the following scale: (a) unsatisfactory, (b) moderately unsatisfactory, (c) moderately satisfactory, (d) satisfactory, or (e) highly satisfactory.

Usability

Usability was scored across all 30 subcategories of information and included three aspects: (i) language accessibility, (ii) ease of access, and (iii) format. Under **language accessibility**, public authorities were given a score for disclosing information in all three languages across all subcategories. Ease of access was assessed by the 'click rate' – i.e., the total number of clicks required to access information on a website. While the **ease of access** was monitored in all three languages, scoring was assigned only on disclosures made in English. **Format** was assessed based on whether the information disclosed could be easily reused. Although the format of information was monitored in all three languages, the format score only considered the English score, following the same rule as ease of access.

The overall usability score was calculated as a percentage of the total points for language accessibility, ease of access, and format. For the usability component, too, public authorities were rated using the same scale of (a) unsatisfactory, (b) moderately unsatisfactory, (c) moderately satisfactory, (d) satisfactory, or (e) highly satisfactory.

Overall content disclosure and usability ratings were based on the following scale:



Government Openness

After completing the 2022 proactive disclosure assessment, Verité Research developed a formula to measure 'government openness'. **This score is calculated by looking at the total content disclosure rating (across all categories) and the total usability rating for all public authorities.** The government openness score represents a weighted combination of the content disclosure rating (75%) and the usability rating (25%) for all public authorities.

Limitations

The scope of this research is restricted to proactive disclosure online, on the official websites of the selected public authorities. It does not assess the proactive disclosure of information by the public authorities using other means, such as information published at the physical premises of the public authorities, in newspapers, or on social media platforms.

The second limitation in the assessment is that it does not monitor the separate websites of departments, state ministries, or other bodies that fall under the purview of ministries, or bodies that fall under the Offices of the President and Prime Minister. The main reason for this limitation was the sheer volume of departments and agencies (approximately 400+ institutions) falling under the 34 public authorities considered.

The third limitation is that the report is limited to an assessment of Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act and Regulation 20 thereunder. Section 10 of the RTI Act is not monitored in this assessment. The 2024 assessment omitted Section 10 in the interest of enabling comparisons to be drawn between the 2017 and 2022 assessments. Similarly, Section 26 was not specifically monitored, as the required disclosures under Section 26 are also captured under Regulation 20.

4. Findings on Content Disclosure

4.1. CONTENT DISCLOSURE OF 34 PUBLIC AUTHORITIES UNDER THE RTI ACT AND REGULATIONS

This section of the report presents the scores and ranks that public authorities received for content disclosure under Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act and Regulation 20 thereunder.

Section 4.1.1. ranks **ministries** according to the **fulfilment of obligations under Section 8** of the RTI Act.

Section 4.1.2. ranks **ministries** according to the **fulfilment of obligations under Section 9** of the RTI Act.

Section 4.1.3. ranks **ministries** according to their **fulfilment of obligations under both Sections 8 and 9** of the RTI Act, i.e. the overall fulfilment of their statutory obligations.

Sections 4.1.1., 4.1.2., and 4.1.3. assess the content disclosure of ministries only. This is because Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act impose content disclosure obligations only on ministries.

Section 4.1.4. ranks **public authorities** according to the **fulfilment of their obligations under Regulation No. 20** – this includes the Offices of the President and the Prime Minister.

Lastly, to obtain an overall picture of all 34 public authorities assessed, section 4.1.5. **compares the performance of public authorities' content disclosure in terms of statutory and regulation-based obligations**.

All sections draw comparisons between the previous assessments in 2017 and 2022.

4.1.1. Content Disclosure by Ministries Under Section 8 of the RTI Act

This section assesses the compliance levels of ministries under Section 8 of the RTI Act. **The data shows that overall, ministries have made significant progress in disclosing content required under Section 8 online over the years.**

The following scores on Content Disclosure were assessed in all three languages, as Section 8 of the RTI Act requires the trilingual disclosure of all content. Therefore, if a ministry had disclosed content in any one of the languages, they would have received a partial score, and if content was disclosed in all three languages, they would have received a full score. Separately, trilingual disclosure of information was also assessed as a distinct component of Usability (language accessibility) in Chapter 5 of this report.

Exhibit 2 below presents the score for the **ministries** under the subcategories of information, the disclosure of which is required under Section 8, including on availability of the information in all three languages (for a full list of subcategories, see Exhibit 76).

Exhibit 2: Section 8 (Content Disclosure in all Three Languages)



Exhibit 2 shows that while 7 ministries scored within the ‘satisfactory’ band, the majority of ministries (15 out of 32) scored within the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band. 10 ministries scored within the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band.

In 2022, the Ministry of Public Administration achieved a score of 81%, positioning it as the sole ministry in the ‘highly satisfactory’ band. However, in 2024, the ministry scored 69% and fell to the ‘satisfactory’ band. The Ministry of Fisheries, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation, and the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing scored within the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band in 2017 and 2022. In 2024, they have risen from the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band to the ‘satisfactory’ band.

Exhibit 3: Section 8 (2024)

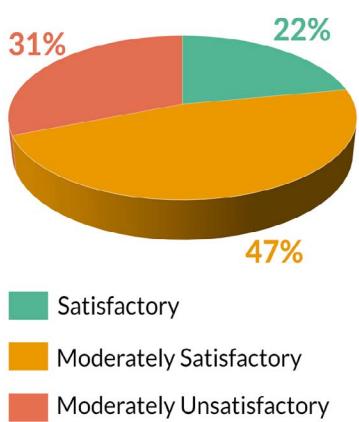


Exhibit 4: Section 8 (2022)

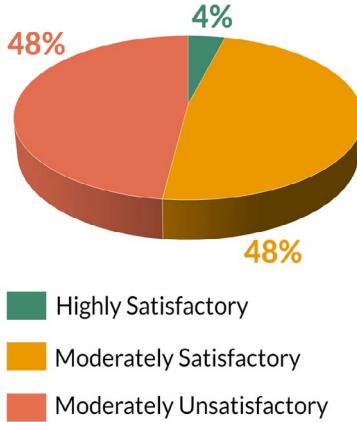
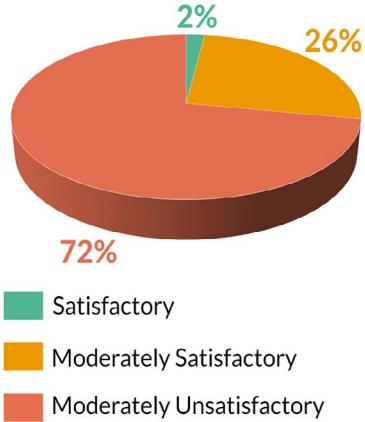


Exhibit 5: Section 8 (2017)



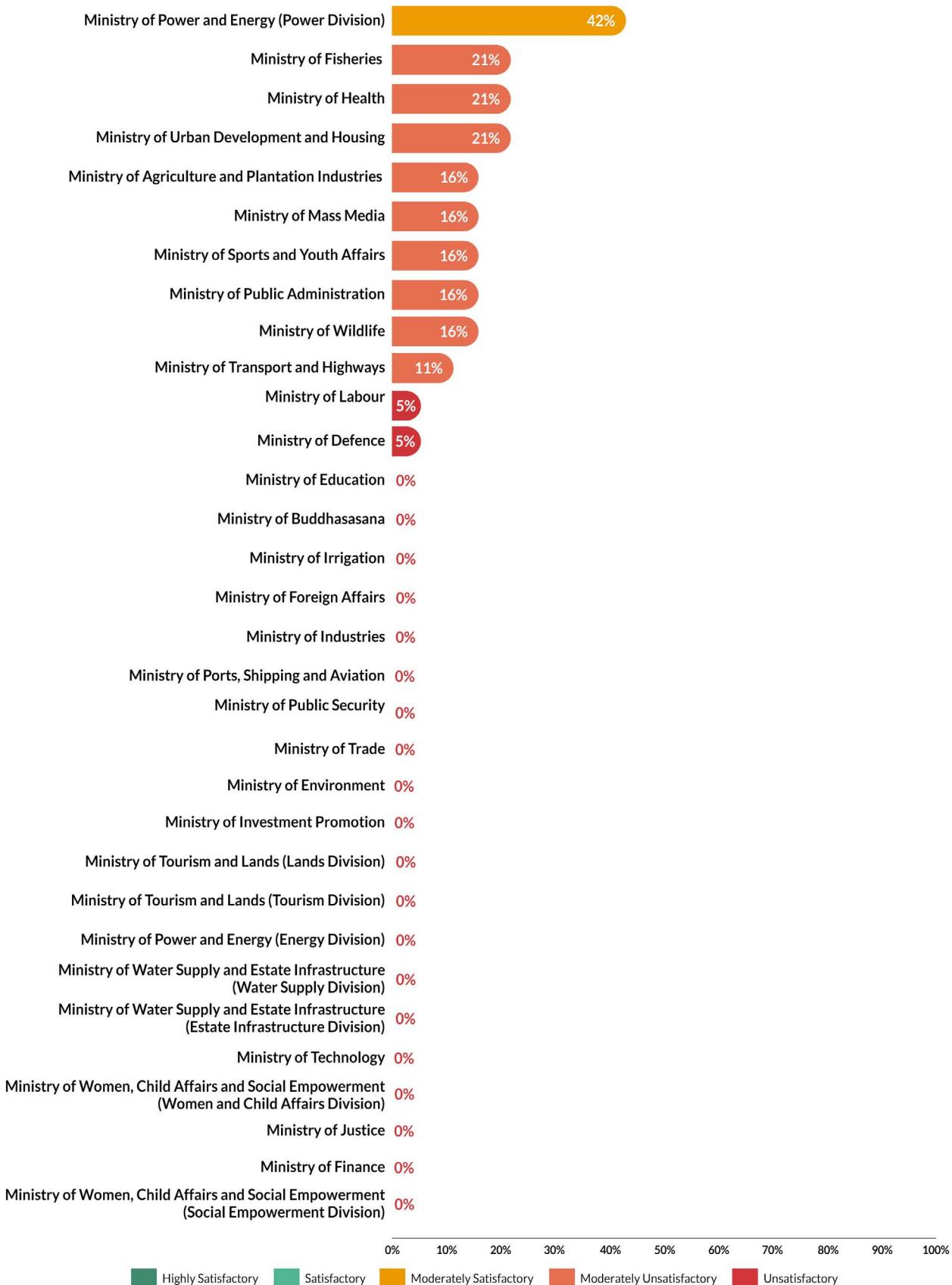
A comparison across all three years reveals significant improvements in both the ‘satisfactory’ and ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ bands. The percentage of ministries rated as ‘satisfactory’ has risen from just 2% in 2017 to 22% in 2024. Likewise, the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band has shown notable progress, with the percentage of ministries rated as ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ dropping from 48% in 2022 to 31% in 2024. Compared to 2017, this band has decreased by a total of 41%, indicating that more ministries are gradually aligning with Section 8 requirements.

However, unlike in 2022, no ministry reached the ‘highly satisfactory’ band in 2024. Additionally, the percentage of ministries in the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band has declined by 1% in 2024. Despite these setbacks, overall content disclosure under Section 8 has improved compared to 2017 and 2022.

4.1.2. Content Disclosure by Ministries Under Section 9 of the RTI Act

This section evaluates the compliance levels of statutory requirements imposed on the assessed ministries under Section 9 of the RTI Act. **The findings indicate a decline in overall content disclosure by ministries under this section.**

Exhibit 6 provides the ranking of ministries for their content disclosure under five subcategories of information (for a complete list of subcategories, see Exhibit 76).¹⁶ Ministries are assigned a score and ranked according to content disclosure in English only, as unlike Section 8, Section 9 does not require content to be published in all three languages.

Exhibit 6: Section 9 (Content)

The majority of ministries, accounting for 63% (20 out of 32), failed to achieve even a single point in 2024. In 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture was the only ministry to receive a 'satisfactory' score. However, in 2024, no ministry achieved a score high enough to fall into this band. In fact, the score of the Ministry of Agriculture fell from 68% in 2022 to 16% in 2024. The Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) was the sole ministry to obtain a 'moderately satisfactory' score under Section 9 in 2024, out of a total of 32 ministries.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation and the Ministry of Public Administration, which achieved the highest scores for content disclosure under Section 8, scored 0% and 16% respectively for content disclosure under Section 9.

Exhibit 7: Section 9 (2024)

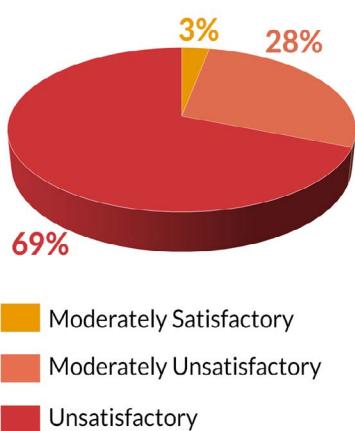


Exhibit 8: Section 9 (2022)

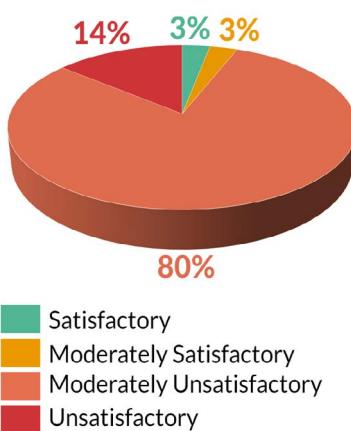
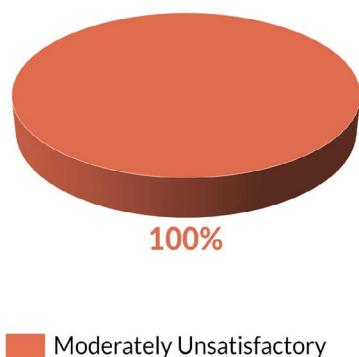


Exhibit 9: Section 9 (2017)



In 2017, all the ministries received a 'moderately unsatisfactory' score. There was somewhat of an improvement in 2022, where 80% of the ministries scored a 'moderately unsatisfactory' score. In the 2024 assessment, however, 69% of the ministries are in the 'unsatisfactory' band and, unlike in 2022, no ministry has scored in the 'satisfactory' band. The ministries rated as 'unsatisfactory' are as follows:

1. Ministry of Labour
2. Ministry of Defence
3. Ministry of Education
4. Ministry of Buddhasasana
5. Ministry of Irrigation
6. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
7. Ministry of Industries
8. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation
9. Ministry of Public Security
10. Ministry of Trade
11. Ministry of Environment
12. Ministry of Investment Promotion
13. Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Lands Division)
14. Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division)
15. Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division)

-
16. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division)
 17. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division)
 18. Ministry of Technology
 19. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division)
 20. Ministry of Justice
 21. Ministry of Finance
 22. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Social Empowerment Division)

Out of these 22 ministries, the Ministry of Buddhasasana, the Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been in the ‘unsatisfactory’ band since 2017. Furthermore, in the 2022 assessment, 2 ministries were in the ‘satisfactory’ and ‘moderately satisfactory’ bands. However, there is only 1 ministry in the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band in the 2024 assessment.

The overall analysis in this section shows that content disclosure under Section 9 of the RTI Act has remained very poor among the ministries since 2017. Moreover, compared to the 2022 assessment, content disclosure under Section 9 has declined.

4.1.3. Combined Ranking of Ministries for Content Disclosure Under Section 8 and Section 9 of the RTI Act

This section ranks ministries based on their combined scores for Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act and compares their performance with the previous two assessments. The analysis shows that **ministries have demonstrated gradual progress in content disclosure compared to 2022 and 2017**.

Exhibit 10 provides the ranking of ministries based on the fulfilment of their statutory obligations under both Section 8 and Section 9 of the RTI Act. The score is calculated by combining the individual scores the ministries received under Sections 8 and 9 of the Act.

Exhibit 10: Combined Ranking Under Section 8 and Section 9

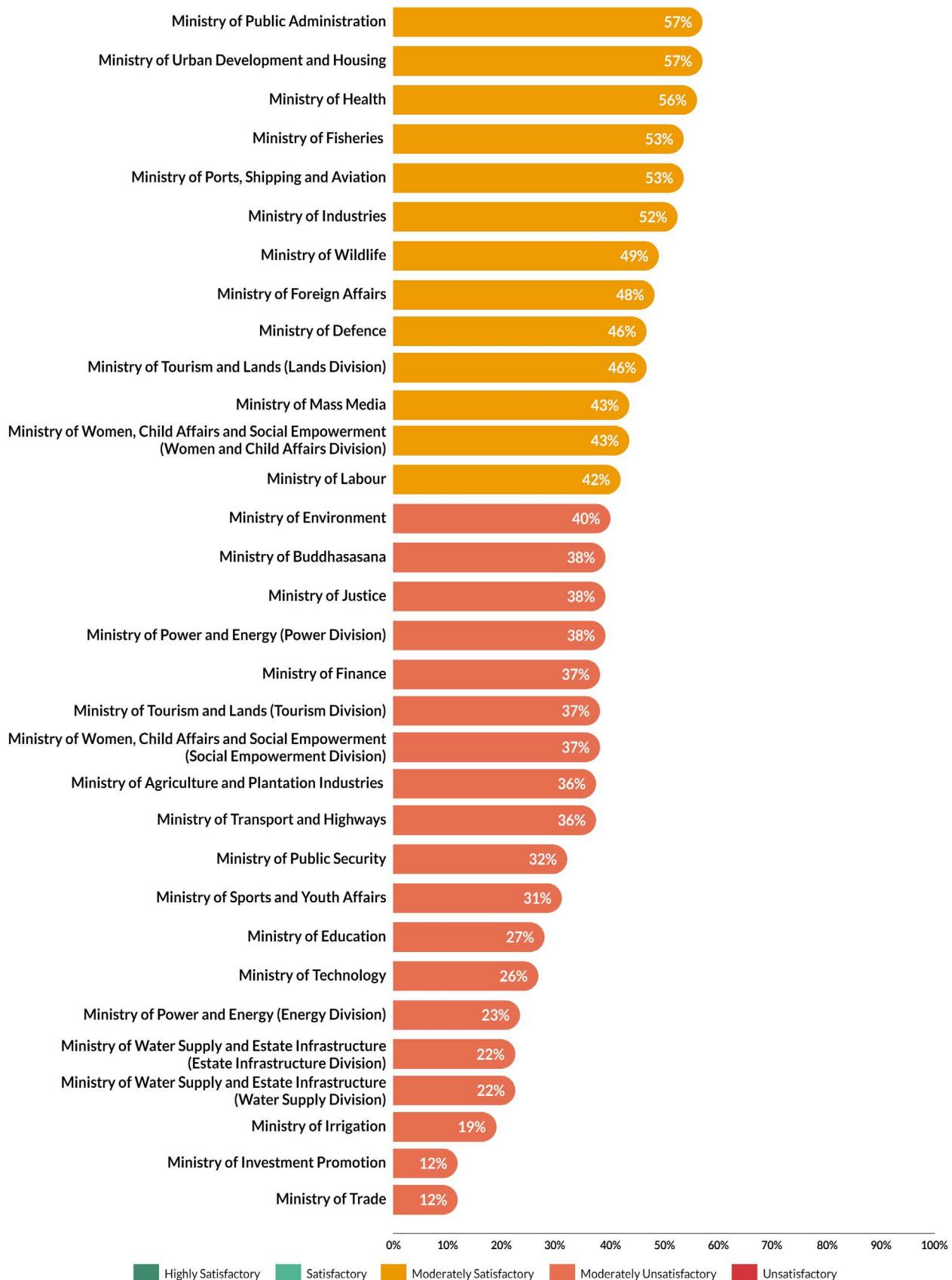
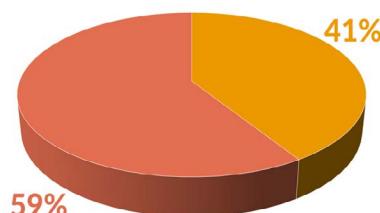


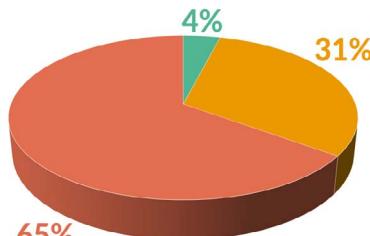
Exhibit 10 shows that the majority of ministries scored in the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band in 2024.

Exhibit 11: Section 8 and Section 9 (2024)



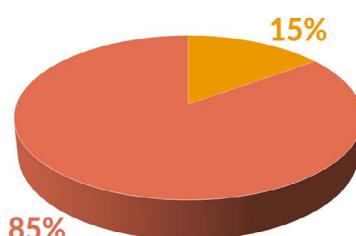
- █ Moderately Satisfactory
- █ Moderately Unsatisfactory

Exhibit 12: Section 8 and Section 9 (2022)



- █ Satisfactory
- █ Moderately Satisfactory
- █ Moderately Unsatisfactory

Exhibit 13: Section 8 and Section 9 (2017)



- █ Moderately Satisfactory
- █ Moderately Unsatisfactory

Exhibits 11,12, and 13 illustrate a positive trend in content disclosure by ministries. While the percentage of ministries in the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band has declined, the proportion in the 'moderately satisfactory' band has steadily increased. **This data highlights the gradual progress ministries have made over the years in disclosing content under Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act.**

4.1.4. Content Disclosure by Public Authorities Under Regulation No. 20 Under the RTI Act

This section outlines the proactive disclosure requirements under Regulation No. 20 and analyses the scores that all 34 assessed public authorities (not only ministries) received for proactive disclosure requirements under Regulation No. 20. **The data demonstrates that content disclosure by public authorities under Regulation No. 20 has gradually increased from 2017 to 2024.**

Regulation No. 20 provides for the following subcategories of content disclosure:

1. Organisational structure
2. Names and contact information of executive-grade public officials
3. Disaggregated payment information pertaining to remunerations, emoluments, and allowances of executive-grade public officials
4. Internal rules, regulations and instructions
5. Project and activity reports
6. Strategic plan
7. Circulars and regulations
8. Legislation
9. Policy memoranda and draft legislation
10. Details regarding public meetings and consultations
11. Publication of tenders
12. Successful awards and publication of awards
13. Information index

14. RTI requesting procedures
15. Mandate
16. Functions and powers
17. Decision-making procedures
18. Description of services offered to the public
19. Accessing public services
20. Projected budget for 2024
21. Disbursements in 2023
22. Information Officer's and Designated Officer's contact information
23. Fee schedule
24. Minister's report as per Section 8 of the RTI Act
25. Publication of information supplied under RTI

Exhibit 14 ranks the proactive disclosure of public authorities under the above 25 subcategories of information. As public authorities are not required to disclose information in the official language¹⁷ by Regulation No. 20, public authorities are assigned scores according to the content disclosure made in any language.

Exhibit 14: Regulation 20 (Content Disclosure)



According to Exhibit 14, 50% of the public authorities fall within the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band, and only the Ministry of Health has received a 'satisfactory' score.

Notably, in 2022, the Ministry of Public Administration achieved a rating of 'satisfactory'; however, it has since declined to the 'moderately satisfactory' band due to underperformance in content disclosure under Section 9, relative to the 2022 assessment. Additionally, the Ministry of Trade obtained a score of 22% during the 2022 assessment, placing it in the last position for two consecutive assessments.

Exhibit 15: Adherence to Regulation 20 (2024)

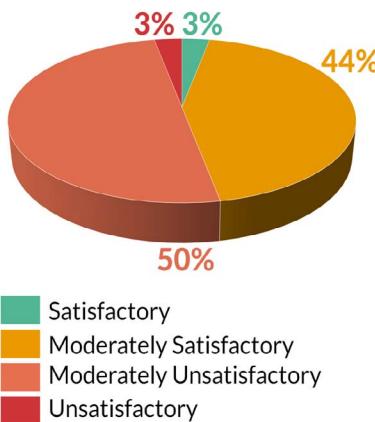


Exhibit 16: Adherence to Regulation 20 (2022)

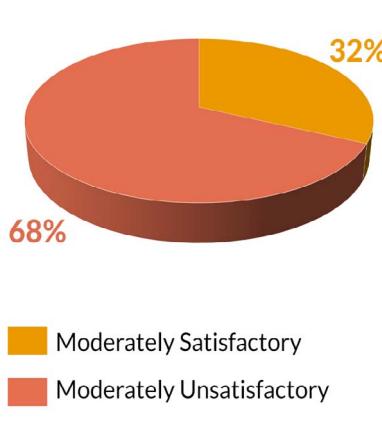
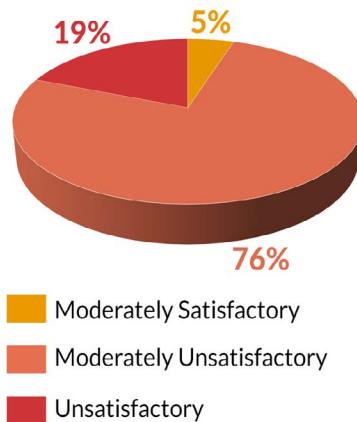


Exhibit 17: Adherence to Regulation 20 (2017)



In 2022 and 2017, the majority of public authorities were rated in the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band. However, this year the percentage of public authorities under this band has decreased to 50%. Meanwhile, the number of public authorities rated as 'moderately satisfactory' has increased compared to the previous assessments, raising the percentage from 32% in 2022 to 44% in 2024. Therefore, the data indicates an improvement in public authorities' compliance with the requirements of Regulation No. 20.

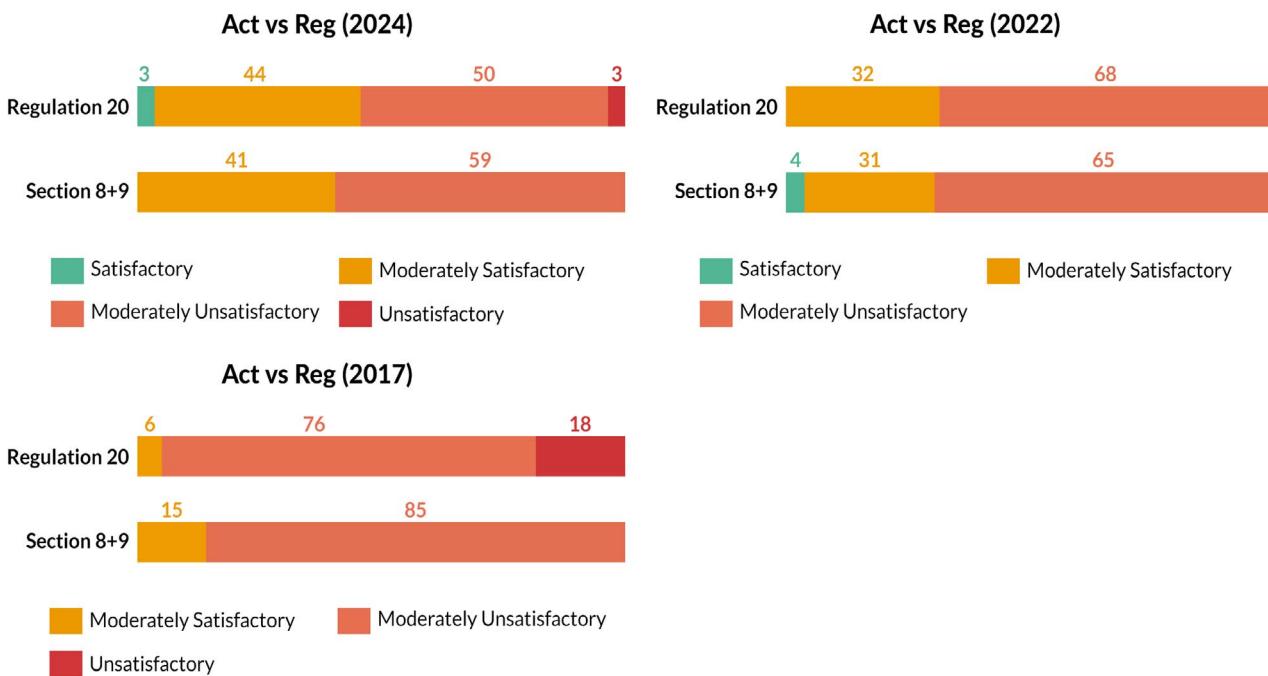
4.1.5. Overall Content Disclosure by All Public Authorities Under the RTI Act and Regulation 20

The following section compares the level of content disclosure under the RTI Act and Regulations. Annex 4 presents the overall compliance with content disclosure obligations under Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act and Regulation No. 20.

Exhibit 18 presents the percentage scores for adherence to Sections 8 and 9 in comparison to Regulation 20 in 2017, 2022, and 2024 in the form of a bar chart. This Exhibit illustrates the following:

1. Overall, public authorities have demonstrated a notable improvement over the years in content disclosure under both the RTI Act and Regulation 20. In 2017, only 6% of public authorities received a 'moderately satisfactory' score. However, this percentage increased to 32% in 2022 and further to 44% in 2024, reflecting significant progress in compliance and transparency.
2. In 2024, public authorities have demonstrated greater content disclosure under Regulation 20 compared to content disclosure under Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act.
3. In terms of Sections 8 and 9, public authorities have not performed well when compared to 2022. While 4% of public authorities fell within the 'satisfactory' band in 2022, none have reached this band in 2024.

Exhibit 18: Adherence to S.8 and S.9 and Regulation 20 in 2017, 2022, and 2024



4.2. CONTENT DISCLOSURE BY CATEGORY AND THEMATIC AREA

In this section, the report discusses content disclosure across 11 categories (for a full list of categories, see Exhibit 76) and three different thematic areas, namely, public accountability, public accessibility, and disclosures pertaining to the right to information.

4.2.1. Content Disclosure by Category

The 11 categories of information were scored individually by calculating the number of points scored by all public authorities for each category as a percentage of the total number of points possible for that category.

Analysis of content disclosure by category shows that public authorities have failed to fully disclose even basic information such as organisational details, operational functions, and decision-making processes. Additionally, the disclosure of critical information, including public procurement data and information required under Section 9 of the RTI Act, also remains significantly low, despite the Act being in operation for seven years.

The highest scoring categories for public authorities on average were (i) *Budgets, Expenditure and Finances*, (ii) *Institutional Information*, (iii) *Organisational Information*, and (iv) *Categorisation of, and Systems for, Accessing Information*. *Budgets, Expenditure, and Finances* is the only category in which all public authorities received a score of 100%.

Institutional Information was a high-scoring category with a score of 60%. The 2017 assessment highlighted that most public authorities failed to achieve the maximum points possible because they disclosed the information but did not indicate the up-to-dateness or completeness of information on their websites. This trend was observed in both the 2022 assessment (where public authorities only disclosed 48% of the content they were supposed to disclose on Institutional Information) and the current assessment. In 2024, 18 public authorities received full points for this category, 15 public authorities scored 1 point, meaning that although they had published the mandated content, they had not date-stamped it. In scoring this category, if the up-to-dateness of the content could be confirmed using annual reports, points were awarded for the content being up-to-date. Similarly, the up-to-dateness of content provided on Functions and Powers was checked using the most recent Gazettes setting out the functions and powers assigned to the Cabinet ministries.¹⁸

Exhibit 19: Content Disclosure by Category

| Categories/ Subcategories | A. Institutional Information | B. Organisational Information | C. Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes | D. Public Services | E. Public Policy Legislation and Regulation | F. Public Participation | G. Public Procurement and Subsidies | H. Budgets, Expenditure and Finances | I. Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information | J. Prior Disclosures of Information | K. Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Total | 123 | 159 | 139 | 119 | 92 | 19 | 58 | 204 | 170 | 12 | 39 |
| Maximum | 204 | 340 | 476 | 272 | 400 | 102 | 238 | 204 | 502 | 136 | 608 |
| Percentage | 60 | 47 | 29 | 44 | 23 | 19 | 24 | 100 | 34 | 9 | 6 |

Except for in the Budgets, Expenditure and Finances category, content disclosure across the 10 remaining categories remains low.

4.2.2. Content Disclosure by Thematic Areas

4.2.2.1. Public Accountability

Proactive disclosure is vital in advancing public accountability.¹⁹ For the public to act as an accountability mechanism and scrutinise government policy and decisions, the public must be sufficiently informed about the government's work. This section focuses on specific categories of information that enable public oversight of government operations, namely (i) financial information - the use of public funds and (ii) government decision-making and regulatory information.

4.2.2.1.1. Financial Information – The Use of Public Funds

The categories that contain information on the use of public funds are: Budgets, Expenditure and Finance, and Public Procurement and Subsidies. **Out of these 2 categories, all public authorities have received a full score for the Budgets, Expenditure and Finance category.** The scores for information disclosure in the Budgets, Expenditure and Finance and the Public Procurement and Subsidies categories were 100% and 24% respectively.

In assessing the *Budgets, Expenditure and Finance* category, public authorities' primary websites did not disclose information on the *Projected Budget for 2024* that would improve financial accountability. Instead, much of the information was available on the Ministry of Finance's website.

The sub-categories under *Budgets, Expenditure and Finance* scored as follows:

1. Projected Budget for 2024 – 100%
2. Disbursements for 2023 – 100%

For the public authorities, the *Projected Budget for 2024* category was scored based on the published Budget Estimates for 2024.²⁰ The Budget Estimates report included a breakdown of estimated expenditure for 2024

and 2023 by the ministry, along with expenditure for 2022. Therefore, although these public authorities did not provide information on the *Projected Budget for 2024* on their primary websites, this sub-category was assessed using Budget Estimates for 2024 on the website of the Ministry of Finance.

Under *Public Procurement and Subsidies*, 44% of public authorities scored 0. The sub-categories under *Public Procurement and Subsidies* scored as follows:

1. Publication of Tenders – 33%
2. Successful Awards and Publication of Awards – 9%

Some public authorities (15%) scored full points for *Publication of Tenders*, having provided lists of downloadable, dated tender notices. However, only 6% of public authorities scored full points for disclosing *Successful Awards and Publication of Awards*. The public authorities that scored full points were the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation and the Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division). **This indicates that while tender notices are published – likely in the interest of reaching a wide audience – the corresponding awards of these tenders are not publicised.** The lack of information sharing by public authorities can lead to a culture of opacity, where the government may seem hesitant to reveal its activities.²¹

To ensure full transparency in financial information, public authorities must go beyond disclosing budgets, expenditures, and financial data. They should also provide details on tenders, tender awards, public procurement, and subsidies.

Exhibit 20: Where Does the Budget Go?

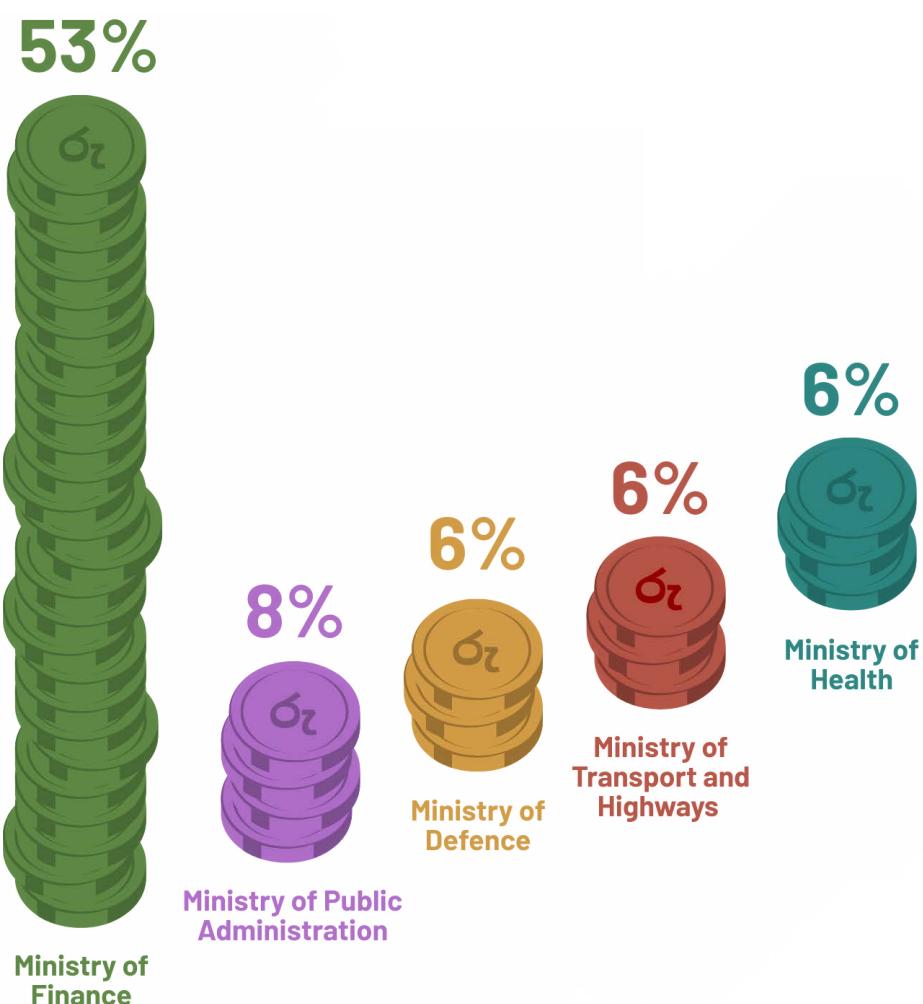


Exhibit 20 illustrates the public authorities that received the highest proportions of the Budget Estimates for 2024:

1. The Ministry of Finance
2. The Ministry of Public Administration
3. The Ministry of Defence
4. The Ministry of Transport and Highways and;
5. The Ministry of Health.

Together, these ministries account for nearly 79% of the proposed government expenditure for 2024. Exhibit 21 below considers the scores awarded for financial information disclosure by these public authorities. The proactive disclosure of financial information, including budgetary allocations and expenditures of these public authorities, is important to ensure transparency on: (i) how public funds are used once allocated and (ii) whether the use of public funds is aligned with the economic and social needs of the country at the time.

Exhibit 21: Financial Information Disclosure by Public Authorities that Received the Highest Proportion of the Budget

| | Ministry of Finance | Ministry of Public Administration | Ministry of Defence | Ministry of Transport and Highways | Ministry of Health |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Projected Budget for 2024 (Out of 2) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Disbursements for 2023 (Out of 4) | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Publication of Tenders (Out of 4) | 3 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Successful Awards and Publication of Awards (Out of 3) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

The *Projected Budgets for 2024* for these public authorities were available on the Ministry of Finance website. The Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Health have published details regarding *Disbursements for 2023* on their websites.

4.2.2.1.2. Government Decision-Making and Regulatory Information

Public policies are defined as “anything a government chooses to do or not to do”.²² It is important that public authorities proactively disclose decision-making and regulatory information on their websites so that there is transparency in how policy decisions are made. Proactive disclosure of this information promotes public scrutiny of government decision-making, which promotes vertical accountability of the government to the electorate.²³

There are two categories that can be classified as decision-making and regulatory information, and content disclosure under both these categories remains below 30%. The two categories are:

1. Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes
2. Public Policy, Legislation, and Regulation.

First, there are four sub-categories under the main category of *Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes*:

- a. Internal rules, regulations, and instructions: *listed on the website*.
- b. Strategic plan: *listed on the website*.
- c. Project and activity reports: *reports on completed/ongoing projects listed on the website*.
- d. Decision-making procedures: *listed on the website*.

Under this category, public authorities generally disclosed project and activity reports but failed to disclose content on their internal rules, regulations, decision-making processes, and outcomes. This imbalance was observed in 2017 and 2022 as well. This opaqueness can impede the ability of citizens to scrutinise these decision-making processes.

The highest-scoring public authority in this category was the Ministry of Public Administration (scored 13 points out of the possible 14 points). The ministry published:

1. Up-to-date and complete internal rules on its website – these rules/notices could easily be obtained by year and by service;
2. Several internal guidelines that the ministry used for its activities;
3. Several detailed and up-to-date project reports; and
4. The decision-making procedures and schemes for the promotion of recruitment within the ministry.

The Ministry of Public Administration has consistently disclosed information, scoring 6 out of 14 points in both 2017 and 2022. In 2024, the score improved as a result of disclosing more 'up to date' information than in past assessments. The other public authorities that obtained the highest points (out of 14 points) in this category were:

1. Ministry of Health – (scored 10/14)
2. Ministry of Industries – (scored 9/14)
3. Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division) – (scored 8/14)

The Ministry of Agriculture, which achieved the highest score of 11 out of a possible 14 points in this category in 2022, was only able to score 7 points in 2024. This decline is primarily attributed to their failure to disclose current information.

Overall, 50% of the public authorities scored 0 for *Decision-Making Procedures*, and 65% of the public authorities scored 0 for *Internal Rules, Regulations, and Instructions*, although several public authorities published circulars and regulations on their websites. 41% of public authorities scored 0 for both sub-categories. These public authorities include:

1. Ministry of Irrigation
2. Ministry of Mass Media
3. Ministry of Trade
4. Ministry of Wildlife
5. Ministry of Investment Promotion
6. Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division)
7. Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division)

8. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division)
9. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division)
10. Office of the President
11. Ministry of Technology
12. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division)
13. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Social Empowerment Division)
14. Ministry of Justice

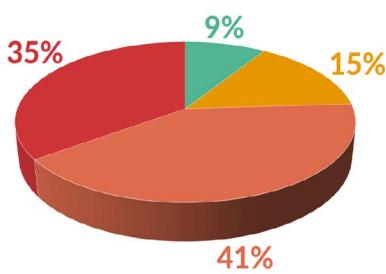
The Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division), Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division), Ministry of Irrigation, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division), Ministry of Wildlife and Office of the President scored 0 points in the 2022 assessment as well.

Second, the *Public Policy, Legislation and Regulation* category consists of three sub-categories, and they are:

- a. Circulars and regulations: *circulars and regulations that have been issued since January 1, 2016 listed on the website.*
- b. Legislation: *listed on the website.*
- c. Policy memoranda and draft legislation: *listed on the website.*

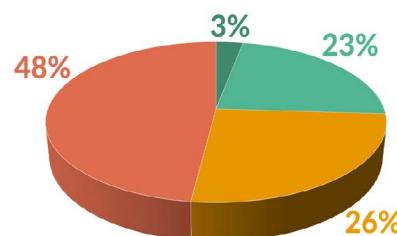
In 2017, 18% of the public authorities monitored scored 0 for Policy Memoranda and Draft Legislation. In 2022, 13% of public authorities scored 0, and 84% scored between 1 and 3 points out of a possible 4 points. However, this time **the majority of the public authorities failed to disclose policy memoranda and/or draft legislation.** Only 26% of the public authorities scored between 1 and 3 points out of a possible 4 points. This is 58% less than the 2022 assessment. Only the Ministry of Fisheries scored 3 points for this subcategory, as the ministry had a section called 'Decisions and Policies', where they published policies and memoranda. One of these examples includes Cabinet Memorandums.²⁴

Exhibit 22: Public Policy, Legislation and Regulations (2024)



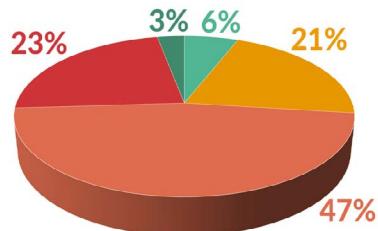
- █ Satisfactory
- █ Moderately Satisfactory
- █ Moderately Unsatisfactory
- █ Unsatisfactory

Exhibit 23: Public Policy, Legislation and Regulations (2022)



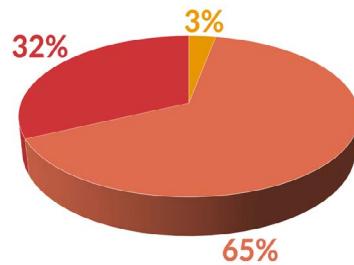
- █ Highly Satisfactory
- █ Satisfactory
- █ Moderately Satisfactory
- █ Moderately Unsatisfactory

Exhibit 24: Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes Content Disclosure (2024)



- Highly Satisfactory
- Satisfactory
- Moderately Satisfactory
- Moderately Unsatisfactory
- Unsatisfactory

Exhibit 25: Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes Content Disclosure (2022)



- Moderately Satisfactory
- Moderately Unsatisfactory
- Unsatisfactory

Exhibit 24 illustrates that only 21% of the public authorities scored over 41% for *Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes*, coming under the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band. Furthermore, the chart illustrates that the majority (70%) of public authorities scored below 41% for *Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes*, falling either in the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ or ‘unsatisfactory’ bands. The relatively poor performance of public authorities in the *Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes* category limits the public’s ability to participate in government decision-making processes.

Comparison between Exhibits 22 and 24 illustrates that in 2024, a majority of the public authorities (70% or above) have failed to disclose information beyond a ‘moderately satisfactory’ level, both under *Public Policy, Legislation and Regulations* and *Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes*. Therefore, in this instance, **public authorities have not only failed to disclose information about public policies, legislation and regulations but also to disclose the decision-making processes that have led to these policies, as they are largely unavailable.**

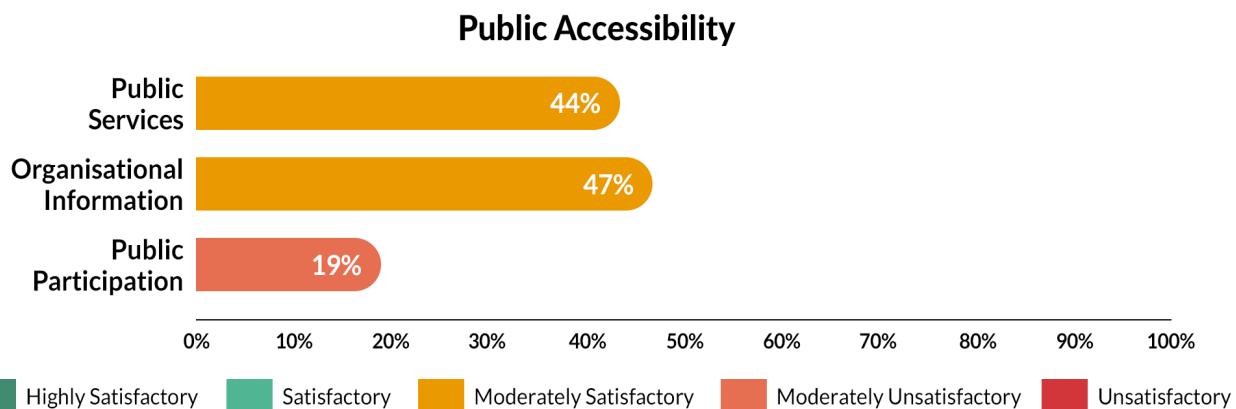
4.2.2.2. Public Accessibility

The categories that contain information on public accessibility are: *Public Participation, Organisational Information, and Public Services*. Content disclosure under these categories provides the process for utilising public services and engaging with public authorities. Such information enables the public to obtain timely services from the government, participate in public meetings, and identify which public officers to approach when obtaining public services or information. In 2024, public authorities have shown improvement over the previous year by disclosing more content across all three categories, but disclosure still remains below 50%.

Exhibit 26 below presents the categories relevant to promoting public accessibility and their corresponding scores.

Exhibit 26: Public Accessibility

| Categories | Public Accessibility Percentage Score |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Public Participation | 19 |
| Organisational Information | 47 |
| Public Services | 44 |



Public participation is an important aspect of good governance.²⁵ **Disclosure of information pertaining to Public Participation, including details on public meetings and consultations, was limited.** In 2024, only the Ministry of Labour scored full points for this category of a possible 3 points. The ministry had posted about the meeting dates for the 'Jayagamu Sri Lanka' program and also included details about the previous Jayagamu Sri Lanka programs. Furthermore, the ministry had also published news about taking public comments on a Labour Law Amendment (May 2023). Hence, the Ministry of Labour scored full points. Compared to 2022, in 2024, the public authorities have performed better. In 2022, the Public Participation percentage was only 1%. Apart from the Ministry of Labour, there are 4 more public authorities that scored 2 points in 2024.

Improvement could also be seen in the disclosure of the *Public Services* category, which includes two subcategories: the *Description of Services Offered to the Public* and *Access to Public Services*. This was an underperforming category during the last assessment, where the public authorities only scored 25% for the content disclosure in this category. However, **in 2024, content disclosure in the category has increased by almost 19%**. Out of the 34 public authorities monitored, 8 public authorities scored 8/8 for content disclosure on public services the public authority offers. However, 10 public authorities scored 0/8. These public authorities are:

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries
2. Ministry of Irrigation
3. Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
4. Ministry of Trade
5. Ministry of Investment Promotion
6. Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division)
7. Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division)
8. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division)
9. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division)
10. Office of the President

However, **with regard to Organisational Information, out of the 34 public authorities monitored, only 1 public authority's website did not have this information, namely, the Ministry of Trade.** It must be noted that the Ministry of Trade showed poor performance in this category in 2022 as well. The Ministry only scored 1 out of a possible 10 points in 2022. The remaining public authorities have published some information under this category. The Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) scored the highest points for this category with 8/10 points. The Ministry scored points for this category as follows:

1. Its organisational structure on the website (2/2 points scored)
2. Up-to-date names and contact information of its officials (4/4 points scored)
3. Disaggregated salary information that was up-to-date but was incomplete (2/4 points scored)

Like in 2022, most of the public authorities provided an organisational chart and the names and contact information of executive-grade public officials. Apart from the Ministry of Labour, only the Ministries of Finance, Environment, and Ports, Shipping, and Aviation scored 1 point each for disclosing some outdated salary information. The remaining public authorities scored 0 for this subcategory.

Although public authorities have improved their information disclosure across these three categories compared to the previous assessment, the overall content disclosure remains insufficient, as it still falls below 50% in all three categories.

4.2.2.3. Content Disclosure Pertaining to the Right to Information

The three categories of information disclosure closely linked to the right to information are: *Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information, Prior Disclosures of Information, and Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act*. Proactive disclosure under these three categories is especially important to enable the effective exercise of the right to information by enabling citizens to:

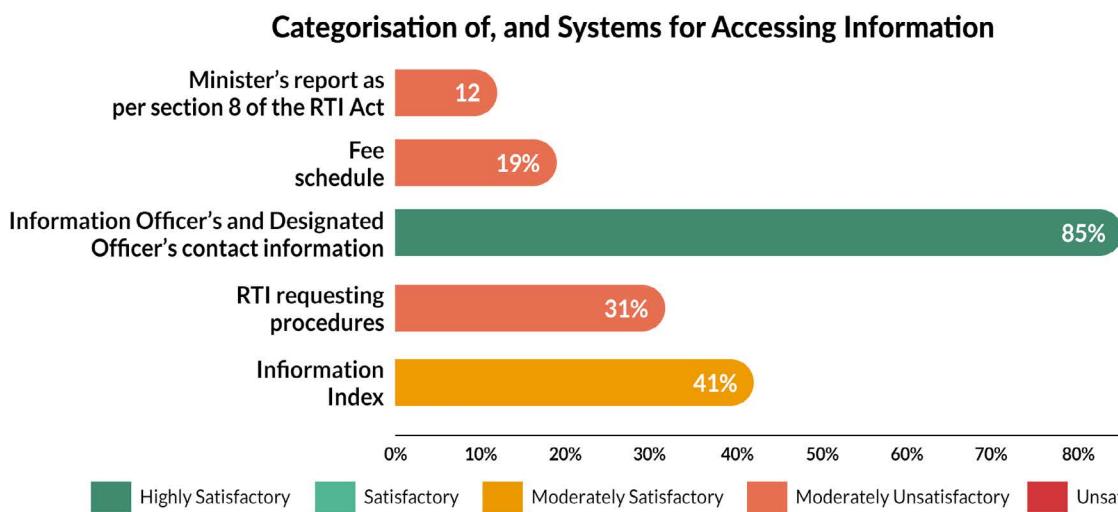
1. Submit information requests
2. Access information that public authorities are required to disclose under Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act
3. Access information that has been previously disclosed in response to RTI requests.

Overall, public authorities have struggled to provide sufficient information across all three categories, with disclosure levels for both Prior Disclosures of Information and Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act remaining below 10%.

Exhibits 27, 31, and 32 provide the subcategory scores for these categories of information.

Exhibit 27: Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information

| Subcategories | Percentage Score |
|--|------------------|
| Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information | |
| Information index | 41 |
| RTI requesting procedures | 31 |
| Information Officer's and Designated Officer's contact information | 85 |
| Fee schedule | 19 |
| Minister's report as per Section 8 of the RTI Act | 12 |



Most of the public authorities provided an *Information Index* containing their publications. The majority of the public authorities also published the contact information of the Information Officer and Designated Officer. However, the following public authorities failed to publish contact information for both the Information Officer and the Designated Officer:

1. Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
2. Ministry of Trade
3. Ministry of Investment Promotion
4. Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division)

It is important to note that the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs did not publish details of both the Information Officer and the Designated Officer in 2022 as well.

The following public authorities failed to publish the contact information of either the Information Officer or the Designated Officer:

1. Ministry of Public Security
2. Ministry of Wildlife

Seven years since the RTI Act was fully operationalised in Sri Lanka, the requirement to publish the *Contact Information of the Information Officer and Designated Officer* has still not been fully implemented by public authorities. This information is relatively simple information for public authorities to publish, and the failure to publish this information indicates that information requests cannot be easily addressed and submitted to the relevant officer.

Where regulations containing *Fee Schedules* were published on the website of public authorities, scores were awarded. Out of the 11 public authorities that published *RTI Requesting Procedures*, 10 public authorities provided a date stamp and so were awarded 4 points. For example, the Office of the Prime Minister clearly outlined the process for submitting an information request.

In 2017, the *Information Index* subcategory percentage score was only 18%. In 2022, the score for this subcategory increased to 74%. However, during the monitoring period in 2024, the subcategory score decreased to 41%. This is mainly because many public authorities failed to publish either up-to-date content or complete information on their website.

In 2017, no public authority published a Minister's Report as per Section 8 of the RTI Act. In 2022, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and the Ministry of Irrigation published this report, but they were outdated. During the 2024 monitoring period, the Ministries of Ports, Shipping and Aviation, Urban Development and Defence scored full points for this subcategory. **A good practice was seen in the Ministry of Ports website, as they had a dedicated webpage for RTI annual reports. The reports from 2019 are also available on the website.**

Exhibits 28, 29, and 30 present the scores for the *Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information* in terms of how public authorities scored in 2024, 2022, and 2017, respectively.

Exhibit 28: Content Disclosure for Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information (2024)

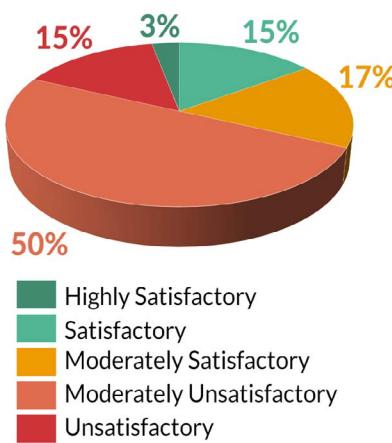


Exhibit 29: Content Disclosure for Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information (2022)

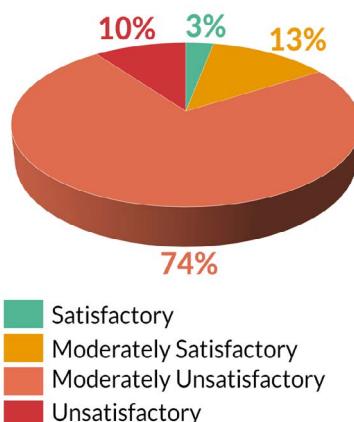
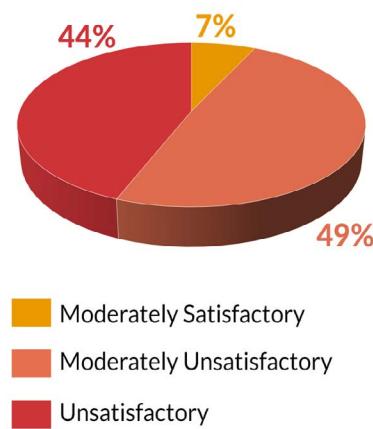


Exhibit 30: Content Disclosure for Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information (2017)



In 2017, 44% of public authorities fell within the 'unsatisfactory' band for this category. In 2022, the size of the 'unsatisfactory' band significantly reduced. While the majority of the public authorities scored within the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band in 2022, 16% of the public authorities scored within the 'satisfactory' and 'moderately satisfactory' bands.

In the 2024 assessment, 35% of the public authorities were placed in the 'moderately satisfactory' band. In comparison, this is 19% more than the 2022 assessment. No public authority achieved a score in the 'highly satisfactory' band in either the 2017 or 2022 assessment. But in 2024, the Office of the Prime Minister was placed within the 'highly satisfactory' band, which can be attributed to the following:

1. Scored full points for publishing the information index;
2. Scored full points for providing the RTI requesting procedures;
3. Scored full points for publishing contact information for the Information Officer and the Designated Officer; and
4. Provided clear instructions and information on how to submit an information request and a fee schedule, even though both these notices were undated.

In 2017, the Ministry of Health scored the highest number of points (9/15 points) for the *Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information*. The score of the Ministry of Health decreased to 5/15 in 2022. However, in 2024, the Ministry of Health, along with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Wildlife, Tourism and Lands (Lands Division), scored 10 out of the possible 15 points, and the Office of the Prime Minister scored 10 out of the possible 11 points. The Ministry of Defence scored the second-highest score for this category, with 12 out of the possible 15 points. The Ministry of Defence only scored 6 out of 15 in 2022. This shows that this ministry has improved in terms of content disclosure in this category.

Despite the slight increase in the ‘unsatisfactory’ band in 2024 compared to 2022, overall, public authorities have improved their level of content disclosure for the *Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information* category.

Exhibit 31: Prior Disclosures of Information

| Subcategories | Percentage Score |
|---|------------------|
| Prior Disclosures of Information | |
| Publication of information supplied under RTI | 9 |

Prior Disclosures of Information

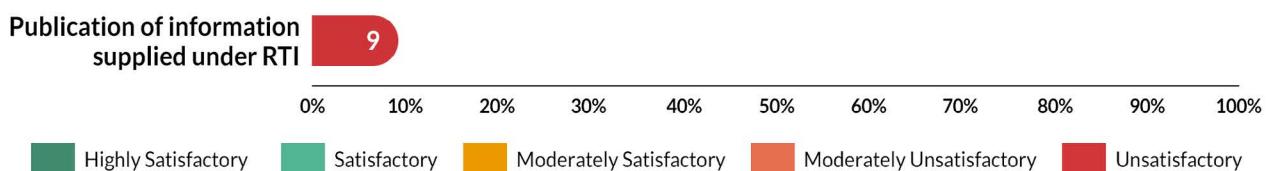


Exhibit 31 presents the percentage score for the proactive disclosure of information that was previously requested via information requests under the RTI Act. Proactively disclosing this information would reduce the volume of information requests in the future. It also reduces the administrative burden on Information Officers to process these requests.

4 public authorities scored 1 point each for disclosing the number of information requests received and answered. The Ministry of Ports and the Ministry of Urban Development scored 3 out of a possible 4 points for disclosing the dates of information requests, a summary of the information requested, the name of the party requesting the information, and the date the request was answered. Exhibit 31 reveals that the scoring for this subcategory was generally poor, with only 7 public authorities being awarded a score other than 0 for this category.

Exhibit 32: Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act

| Subcategories | Percentage Score |
|---|------------------|
| Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act | |
| Notification of project commencement | 15 |
| Pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of projects | 2 |
| Terms and conditions of investment (including expected costs, benefits, and rate of return) | 7 |
| Detailed project costs (including disaggregated budgets) | 9 |
| Monitoring and evaluation reports | 2 |

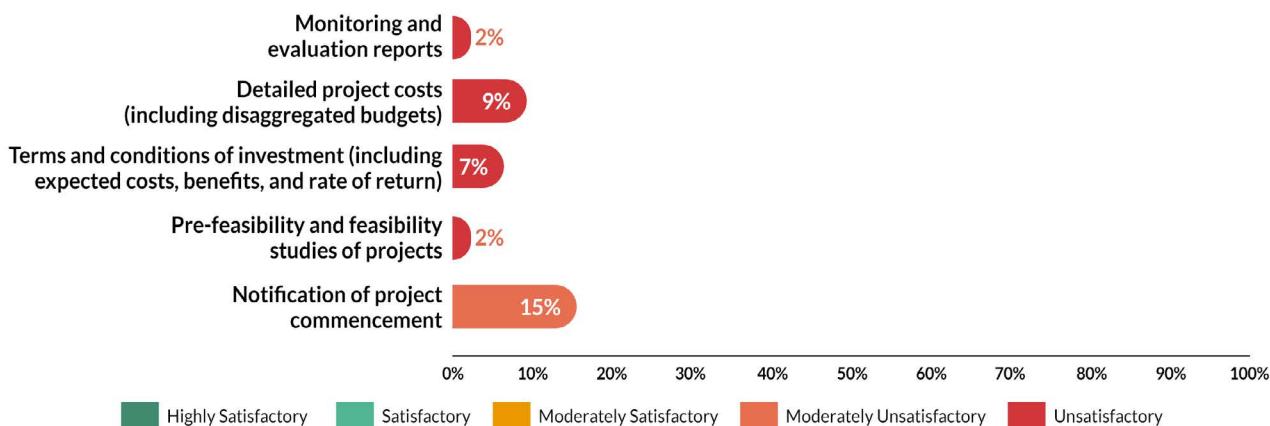
Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act


Exhibit 32 presents the total percentage score for each of the subcategories under *Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act*. Only the Ministries of Fisheries and Health scored any points for *Monitoring and Evaluation Reports*. Both ministries published outdated reports from 2018. Several public authorities were awarded only 2 points for *Detailed Project Costs*. This information was provided on the public authorities' websites and included the total estimated cost of projects and the total cumulative expenditure. The Ministries of Agriculture and Health published outdated and incomplete *Feasibility Studies of Projects* on their websites. The Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Fisheries published some outdated information on *Terms and Conditions of Investment*. However, the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) scored 3 out of the possible 4 points for this subcategory.

In 2017, public authorities scored 13%, which improved to 15% in 2022, marking the highest overall category score. However, in 2024, the score declined significantly to 6%. This trend indicates that public authorities performed relatively better in 2022 compared to both 2017 and 2024, as more overall content was disclosed, especially regarding the notification of project commencement.

Exhibit 33: Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act (2022 and 2017)

| Subcategories | Percentage Score | |
|---|------------------|------|
| | 2022 | 2017 |
| Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act | | |
| Notification of project commencement | 15 | 6 |
| Pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of projects | 4 | 3 |
| Terms and conditions of investment (including expected costs, benefits, and rate of return) | 7 | 1 |
| Detailed project costs (including disaggregated budgets) | 46 | 50 |
| Monitoring and evaluation reports | 3 | 3 |

4.2.3. Content Disclosure on Most Discussed Topics

Exhibit 34 presents the most discussed topics in Parliament between January 1, 2024, and July 1, 2024, according to data analysed by Manthri.lk, a parliamentary monitoring platform.²⁶ Exhibit 34 also presents the ministries under whose purview these topics fall.

Exhibit 34: Ministries Assigned to the Most Discussed Topics in Parliament

| Most Discussed Topics in Parliament | Ministries Assigned |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Economy and Finance | Ministry of Finance |
| Governance, Administration and Parliamentary Affairs | Ministry of Public Administration |
| Justice, Defence and Public Order | Ministry of Justice |

Exhibit 35 examines the content disclosure compliance of the public authorities under whose purview the most discussed topics in Parliament fall. Although the Ministry of Public Administration held 2nd place for content disclosure and scored well for several categories, the ministry also scored 0 points for 2 categories of information, namely *Public Procurement and Subsidies* and *Prior Disclosures of Information*.

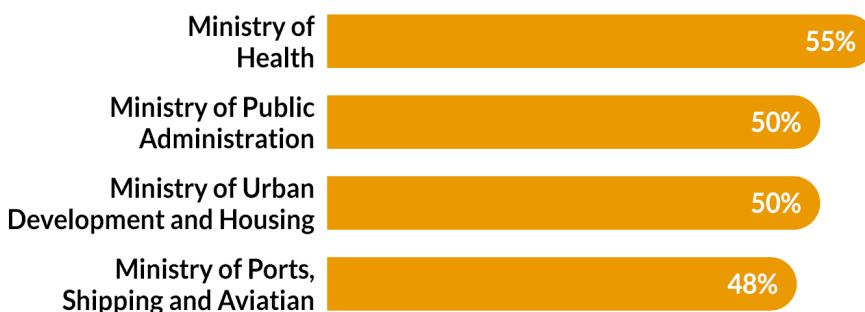
Despite the fact that areas falling under the purview of the Ministries of Finance and Justice were frequently discussed in Parliament, content disclosure on their websites was relatively poor (see Exhibit 35). For example, the Ministry of Finance scored 0 points for 3 categories of information. The Ministry of Justice scored 0 points for 2 categories of information.

Exhibit 35: Content Disclosure of Public Authorities Linked to Most Discussed Topics in Parliament

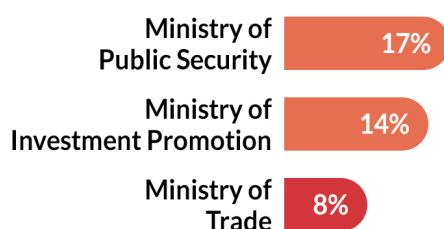
| | Ministry of Finance | Ministry of Public Administration | Ministry of Justice |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Institutional Information | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Organisational Information | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes | 5 | 13 | 1 |
| Public Services | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| Public Policy Legislation and Regulation | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| Public Participation | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Public Procurement and Subsidies | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Budgets, Expenditure and Finances | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Prior Disclosures of Information | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act | 0 | 3 | 0 |

4.3. OVERVIEW OF CONTENT DISCLOSURE

In terms of content disclosure, the public authorities with the highest scores are:



The public authorities with the lowest content disclosure scores are:



Across all 11 categories, the most up-to-date and complete information was disclosed in the following categories:

Exhibit 36: Categories with the Most Complete and Up-to-Date Information

| 2017 | Percentage Score | 2022 | Percentage Score | 2024 | Percentage Score |
|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Budgets, Expenditure and Finances | 67% | Budgets, Expenditure and Finances | 82% | Budgets, Expenditure and Finances | 100% |
| Institutional Information | 49% | Institutional Information | 48% | Institutional Information | 60% |
| Public Policy, Legislation and Regulation | 35% | Organisational Information | 45% | Organisational Information | 47% |

Overall, Budgets, Expenditure and Finances and Institutional Information have been disclosed consistently throughout the years.

Across all 11 categories, the least amount of information disclosed was in the following categories:

Exhibit 37: Categories with the Least Content Disclosed

| 2017 | Percentage Score | 2022 | Percentage Score | 2024 | Percentage Score |
|--|------------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|
| Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information | 14% | Public Participation | 1% | Public Participation | 19% |
| Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act | 13% | Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act | 15% | Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act | 6% |
| Prior Disclosures of Information | 0% | Prior Disclosures of Information | 6% | Prior Disclosures of Information | 9% |

Overall, *Prior Disclosures of Information* and *Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act* has been the least consistently disclosed information over the years.

Notably, *Prior Disclosures of Information*, which requires public authorities to proactively disclose information that has been requested by citizens in previous RTI requests, is a category directly linked to the right to information. Content disclosure under this category is particularly important because it can make the RTI process more efficient by (i) avoiding the need for citizens to submit RTIs if the information they are looking for is already published online, and (ii) reducing the burden on public authorities to answer the same request for information multiple times.²⁷ However, *Prior Disclosures of Information* is one of the lowest-scoring categories and thus, there is an ‘unsatisfactory’ level of RTI-related content being proactively disclosed. This has been one of the lowest-scoring categories since 2017. In 2017, this category received a score of 0%, and in 2024, it has only increased to 9%.

5. Findings on Usability

'Usability' is the second of the two major components that the proactive disclosure of public authorities was assessed for. The assessment of usability looks at three main indicators:

1. Language
2. Ease of access
3. Format

Section 5.1. ranks public authorities according to language accessibility in the English language, Sinhala language and Tamil language. Section 5.2 ranks public authorities according to their scores for ease of access to information disclosed on their websites. Section 5.3 ranks public authorities according to their scores for how reusable the information disclosed on their website is, in terms of format. Section 5.4 ranks public authorities according to their overall usability scores in terms of language, ease of access and format. As an additional component, Section 5.5. analyses the difference in the usability of information in all three languages by assessing the degree of 'language bias' in public authorities' websites. Section 5.6 ranks the public authorities for overall usability, taking into consideration language accessibility, ease of access, and format across all three languages. Finally, section 5.7 provides an overview of usability scores.

5.1. LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY

The highest-scoring public authorities for each language were determined by calculating the average percentage score across the 34 websites for each language. The maximum total points in each language that each public authority could obtain is 30 points. However, some subcategories did not apply to certain public authorities (e.g. the Offices of the President and the Prime Minister could score only a maximum of 23 points since subcategories such as *Legislation* and the *Minister's Report as per Section 8 of the RTI Act* do not apply to the Offices of the President and Prime Minister).²⁸ Thus, across all the public authorities assessed, a total of 1,006 points could be scored in each language.

The public authorities that scored above the average percentage score for English (section 5.1.1.), Sinhala language (section 5.1.2.) and Tamil language (section 5.1.3.) are listed in the sections below.

Annex 06 presents all public authorities assessed in alphabetical order, and their usability scores for the English, Sinhala, and Tamil languages.

5.1.1. English Language

English language accessibility has declined in the current assessment. Out of 1,006 possible points, the total points of all 34 public authorities for language accessibility in English was 454 points (overall English

percentage score of 45%). The public authorities that scored the highest for English language accessibility are presented in Exhibit 38 below. In this year's assessment, the majority of public authorities (47%) fall under the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band, and compared to last year, the overall score for English language accessibility has declined.

Exhibit 38: English Percentage Ranking



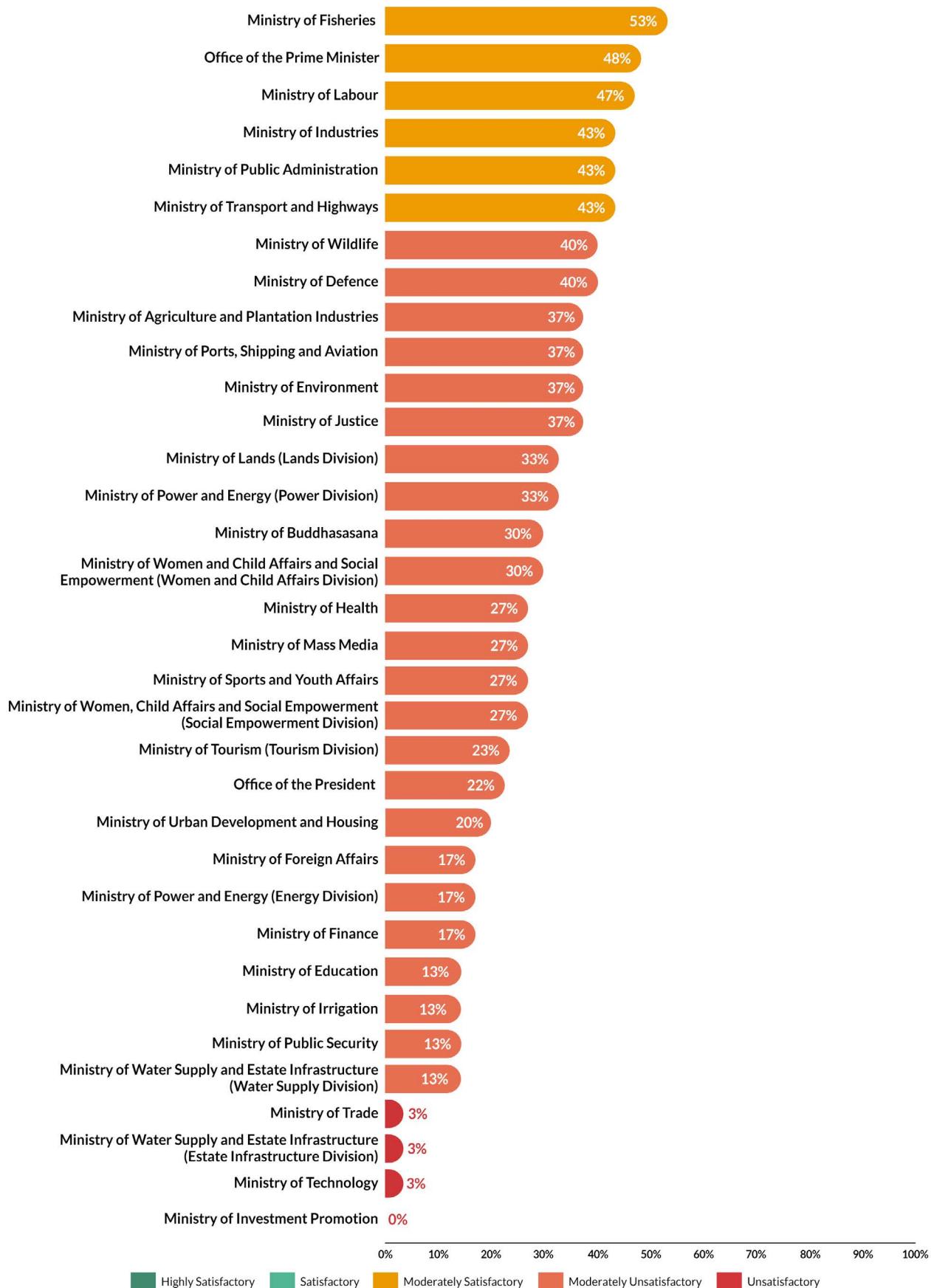
The public authorities that scored the lowest for English language accessibility are the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division) (27%); the Ministry of Investment Promotion (23%); and the Ministry of Trade (13%).

The public authorities that scored the lowest for English language accessibility in 2022 were the Ministry of Technology (30%), the Office of the President (26%), and the Office of the Prime Minister (17%). It is worth noting that in 2024, the Office of the Prime Minister achieved a significantly improved score of 53% securing the second-highest score. **A year-to-year comparison suggests that the overall score of public authorities has slightly declined from 49% in 2022 to 45% in 2024.**

5.1.2. Sinhala Language

Sinhala language accessibility by the public authorities was ‘moderately satisfactory’. Out of 1,006 possible points, the public authorities received an aggregate total of 270 points for Sinhala language accessibility (overall Sinhala language percentage score of 27%). The aggregate score has declined compared to 2022, where the percentage score was 37%. In 2017, the aggregate score was 27%. This indicates that **Sinhala language accessibility has deteriorated**. In 2022, the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Transport and Highways scored in the ‘satisfactory’ band. However, in 2024, none of the public authorities scored above the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band. Most of the public authorities (24 out of 34) have scored in the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band for Sinhala language accessibility, which are presented in Exhibit 39 below.

Exhibit 39: Sinhala Language Percentage Ranking



The public authorities that did not score or scored the lowest for Sinhala language accessibility were the Ministry of Investment Promotion (0%), the Ministry of Trade (3%), the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division) (3%), and the Ministry of Technology (3%). All these ministries are rated under the ‘unsatisfactory’ band. However, in 2017 and 2022, no public authority obtained a score lower than 10% for Sinhala language accessibility.

Overall, language accessibility in Sinhala has declined significantly, dropping from 37% in 2022 to 27% in 2024, returning to the same level recorded in 2017. This regression highlights the need for renewed efforts to improve Sinhala language accessibility in public disclosures.

5.1.3. Tamil Language

Language accessibility in Tamil has steadily declined, highlighting a worsening gap in Tamil language accessibility. Out of a possible 1,006 points, the public authorities collectively scored 198 points for language accessibility in Tamil, amounting to an overall percentage score of 20%. Comparatively, the aggregate score was 24% in 2017 and 29% in 2022. This indicates a decline in Tamil language accessibility by the public authorities compared to both 2017 and 2022. In 2022, the Ministry of Public Administration achieved a score above 60%, placing it within the ‘satisfactory’ band. However, in 2024, none of the public authorities were placed in the ‘satisfactory’ band. Instead, the majority of the public authorities (20 out of 34) fell into the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band, while 11 out of 34 public authorities scored in the ‘unsatisfactory’ band. The 3 public authorities that scored the highest for language accessibility in the Tamil language are presented in Exhibit 40 below.

Exhibit 40: Tamil Language Percentage Ranking



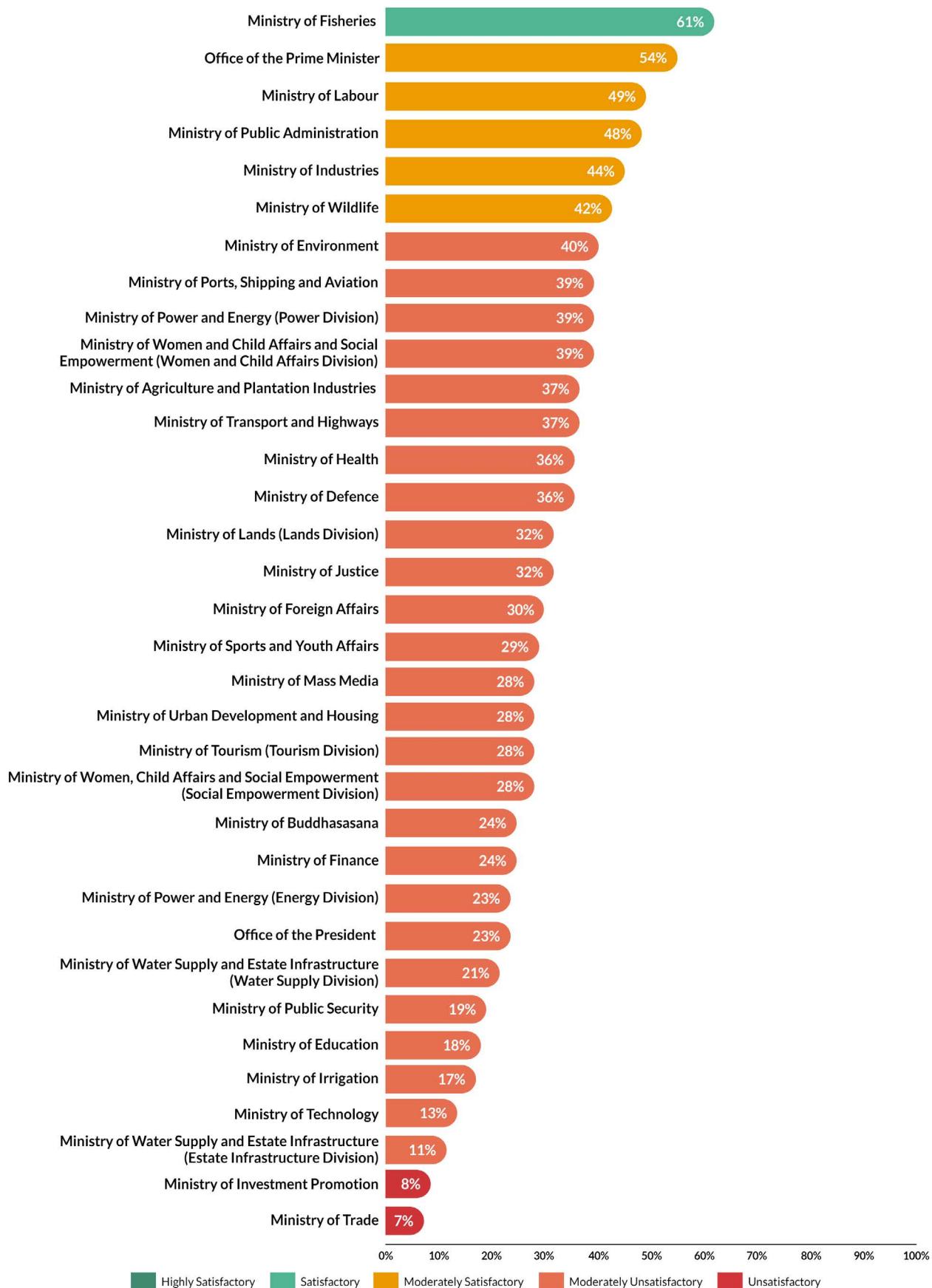
The public authorities that did not score or scored the lowest for Tamil language accessibility were the Ministry of Technology (0%), the Ministry of Investment Promotion (0%), the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division)(3%), the Ministry of Trade (3%), and the Ministry of Education (3%). The Office of the Prime Minister, which was one of the lowest-ranking public authorities in this category in 2022 with a score of 13%, has leapt to the ‘satisfactory’ band with a score of 43% in 2024.

The proactive disclosure of information in Tamil has declined over the years, with the overall score dropping from 29% in 2022 and 24% in 2017 to just 20% in 2024. This downward trend underscores a growing gap in Tamil-language accessibility.

5.1.4. Overall Language Accessibility Scores

Overall, as shown in sections 5.1.1., 5.1.2., and 5.1.3., language accessibility across all three languages, English, Sinhala and Tamil, has deteriorated. A comparison between the overall language accessibility scores of the last two assessments further supports this statement. Exhibit 41 below provides the overall language accessibility scores for each public authority, which were calculated using the average of individual language scores in English, Sinhala and Tamil.

Exhibit 41: Overall Language Accessibility



The Ministry of Fisheries is the only public authority to receive a ‘satisfactory’ score in 2024. In 2017, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs tied for first place with a score of 50%. In 2022, the Ministry of Public Administration took the lead with a score of 67%.

Exhibit 42 below illustrates that in 2024, the majority of public authorities (26 out of 34) received a ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ score.

Exhibit 42: Overall Language Accessibility (2024)

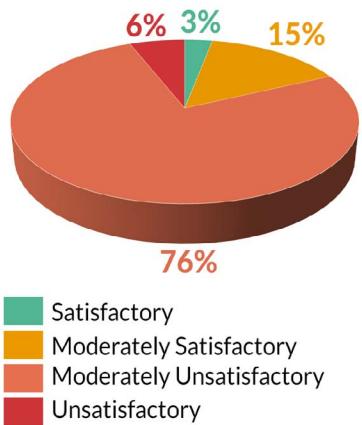


Exhibit 43: Overall Language Accessibility (2022)

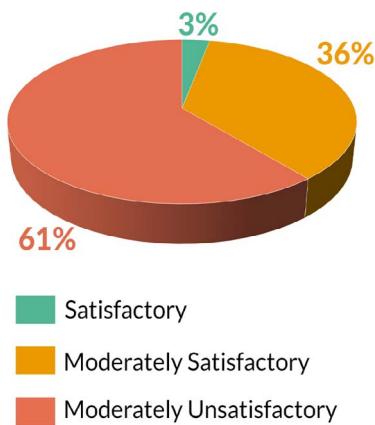
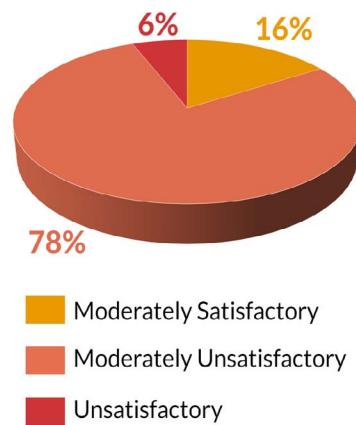


Exhibit 44: Overall Language Accessibility (2017)



Language accessibility in all three languages has worsened in 2024. Exhibit 44 illustrates that in 2017, the majority of public authorities scored in the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band, with a score of 78%, and 16% of the public authorities received a ‘moderately satisfactory’ score. In 2022, there were some improvements in overall language accessibility, with the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band decreasing to 61% and the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band increasing to 36%. However, Exhibit 42 indicates that in 2024, the public authorities are backsliding in this category, with 76% of the public authorities positioning within the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band. The percentage of public authorities in the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band declined beyond the percentage in 2017 to 15%. However, at least one public authority remains in the ‘satisfactory’ band, similar to 2022. In conclusion, **language accessibility in English, Sinhala, and Tamil has worsened, as reflected in the comparison of overall scores from the previous two assessments.**

5.2. EASE OF ACCESS

‘Ease of Access’ refers to the user-friendliness of websites, including the ease of locating and using the information available. **Since the majority of the public authorities fall under either the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ or ‘unsatisfactory’ band, it indicates that accessing information online remains challenging and not user-friendly.**

Ease of access was measured using the number of clicks it took to access a particular subcategory of information and was scored accordingly. The score for usability only considers the English ease of access score. All public authority websites had a tab system with sub-navigation. Information such as *Mandate, Functions and Powers, Legislation, Project Reports and Tenders* was generally easy to locate through the tabs provided. However, locating information such as *Budget, Disbursements, Disaggregated Payment Information, and Decision-Making Procedures* would often require clicking through several links. Ease of access for Sinhala and Tamil information was also low, as for most websites, tabs for Sinhala and Tamil language content would merely lead back to the page with English content.

Exhibit 45 below provides a ranking of public authorities according to the ease of access to information on their websites.

Exhibit 45: Ease of Access



The Ministry of Fisheries received the highest score with 62%, the Office of the Prime Minister ranked 2nd with a score of 61%, and 6 other public authorities scored between 50% and 60% (inclusive of 50% and 60%). 19 public authorities (56%) scored between 11% and 40% coming under the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band. Only the Ministry of Trade scored below 10% for ease of access. In this category, the performance of the Office of the Prime Minister has significantly improved compared to 2022. **The Office of the Prime Minister was ranked last in the previous assessment with a score of 9%. By 2024, the score has risen by 52%.**

As noted earlier, the majority of the public authorities were scored for *Budgets, Expenditure and Finance information* based on the Ministry of Finance's Budget Estimates for 2024. These public authorities scored 0 for ease of access, as this information was accessed on a completely separate government website. Public authorities also scored 0 for ease of access for *Legislation and Policy Memoranda and Draft Legislation*, where this information was accessed on the website of the Department of Government Printing.

The analysis highlights that **many public authorities have failed to ensure that information is easily accessible to the public, and it is forcing the public to navigate a complex and cumbersome process to obtain information.**

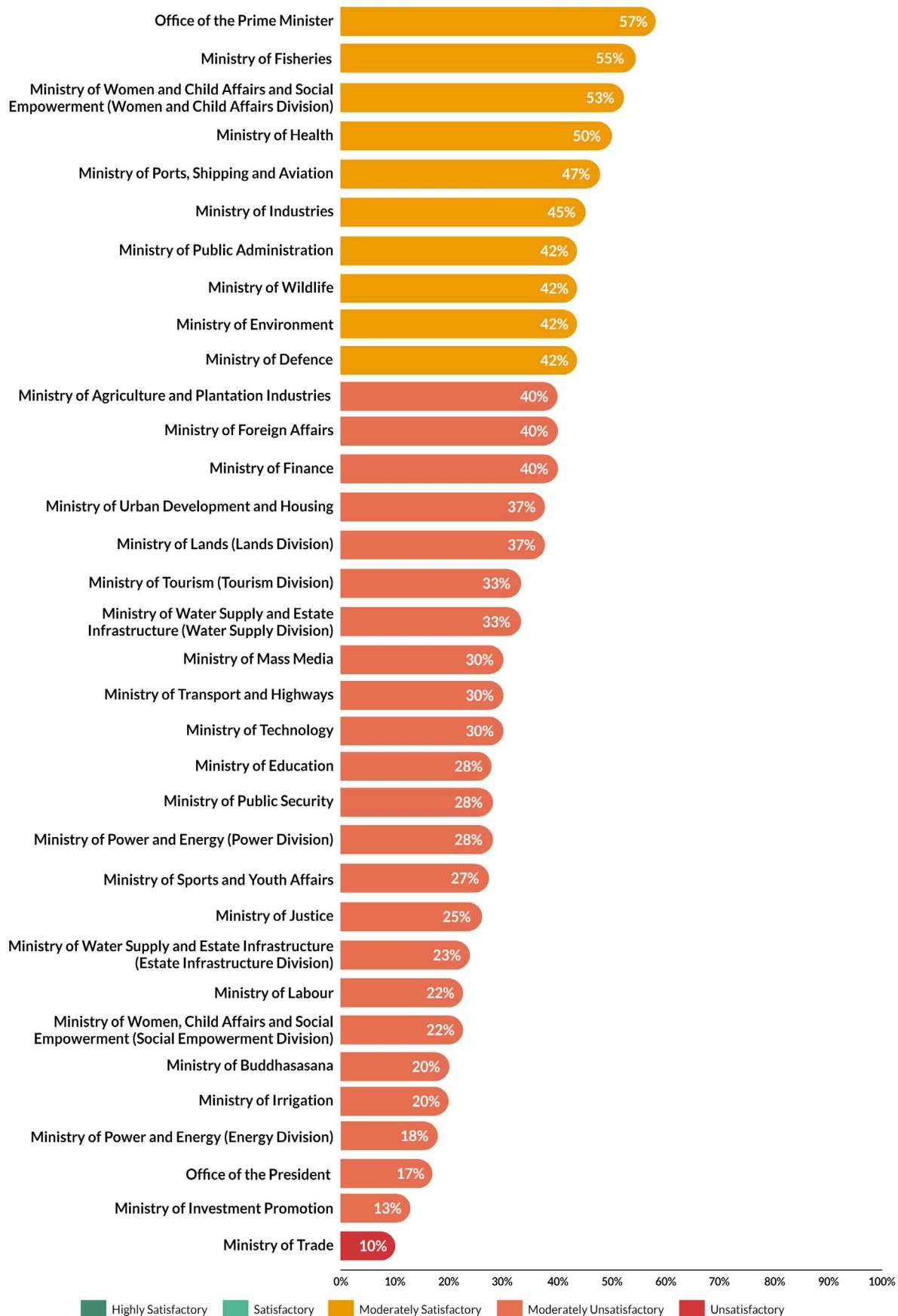
5.3. FORMAT

The last aspect of usability examined is the format in which public authorities disclose information. The format of information disclosed varied between public authorities and across subcategories of information. As noted in the detailed methodology in Annex 02, the format was assessed according to the following scale:

1. Extraction-friendly (i.e. information can be easily reused and shared, e.g. easily extractable/downloadable files, spreadsheets, PDF files that do not 'jumble' the content when copy pasted): **2 points – Satisfactory**
2. Low re-usability (i.e. cannot be easily copied and pasted, non-reusable datasets and documents): **1 point – Moderately Unsatisfactory**
3. Not reusable (i.e. images, scans, screenshots or locked PDF): **0 points – Unsatisfactory.**

Generally, public authorities published information in formats that were not reusable. While documents could be downloaded, their contents could not be seamlessly copied and pasted. Public authorities rarely provide financial data in MS Excel format. As noted in the 2017 assessment, these lapses in reusability affect the public's ability to utilise and analyse government information effectively. In assessing Budgets, Expenditure and Finance from the Budget Estimates for 2024 on the Ministry of Finance's website, all public authorities scored 1 for format. This is because the 2024 budget estimates are published as a partially reusable PDF; while the content can technically be copied and pasted, the text and numbers become disorganised (jumbled), losing their original format.

Exhibit 46 below presents each public authority's score as a percentage of the total possible format score each public authority could have obtained for all applicable subcategories.

Exhibit 46: Format

In 2017, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance were the top scorers in format, each scoring over 60%. In 2017, most of the public authorities (65%) fell into the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band, with the lowest scoring at 10%. By 2022, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Transport and Highways took the lead with scores of 53%. While 29% of the public authorities scored in the 'moderately satisfactory' band, a significant 68% remained in the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band. Notably, the Office of the Prime Minister was the only public authority which scored below 10% for format in 2022.

In 2024, the Office of the Prime Minister emerged as the top scorer for format, achieving a score of 57%. This represents a remarkable improvement from 2022, when it received the lowest score of just 9%. While 29% of the public authorities scored within the 'moderately satisfactory' band, 68% fell into the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band. Notably, compared to 2022, the percentages of public authorities in both the 'moderately satisfactory' and 'moderately unsatisfactory' bands have remained unchanged.

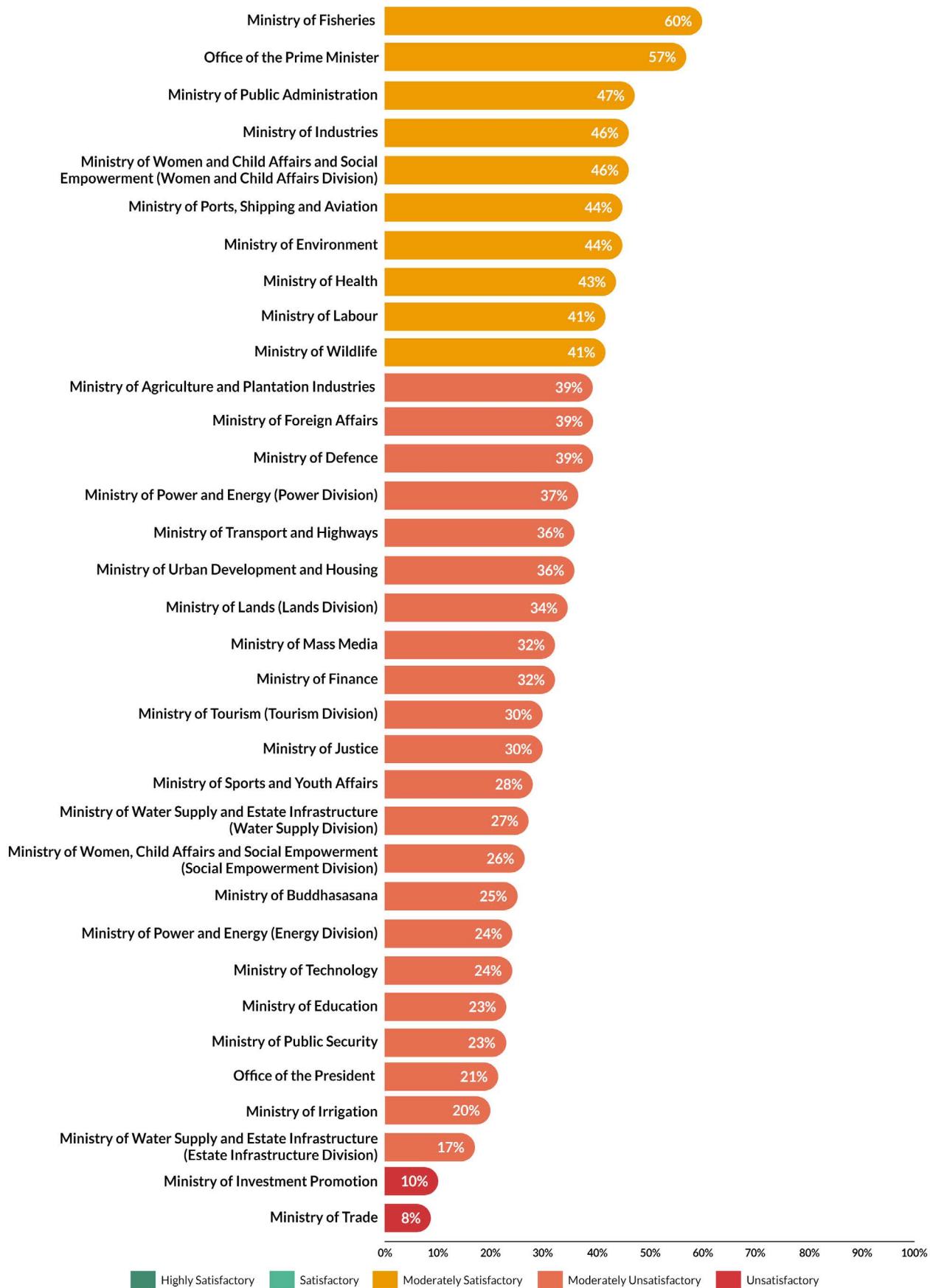
The individual scores of public authorities indicate that the disclosed information is not presented in a user-friendly format. This issue impacts not only the format scores but also negatively affects the overall usability scores of public authorities.

5.4. OVERALL USABILITY

This section examines the overall usability scores of public authorities, which are calculated using language accessibility in English, Sinhala, and Tamil, as well as ease of access and format scores only in English. In 2024, public authorities have failed to improve language accessibility, ease of access, and format scores. **Overall usability has declined compared to previous assessments, reflecting a failure to ensure language accessibility across all three languages, facilitate easy access, and enhance the reusability of information.**

Exhibit 47 below presents the public authorities in order of ranking for overall usability.

Exhibit 47: Overall Usability



The Ministry of Fisheries secured the top spot in the rankings, achieving a score of 60% for overall usability. In contrast, the Ministry of Investment Promotion and the Ministry of Trade were placed in the 'unsatisfactory' band, with scores of 10% and 8%, respectively. Notably, no public authority fell into this band in 2022. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Public Administration, which ranked first in 2022 with a score of 61%, has dropped to third place this year with a reduced score of 47%.

Exhibit 48: Overall Usability (2024) Exhibit 49: Overall Usability (2022) Exhibit 50: Overall Usability (2017)

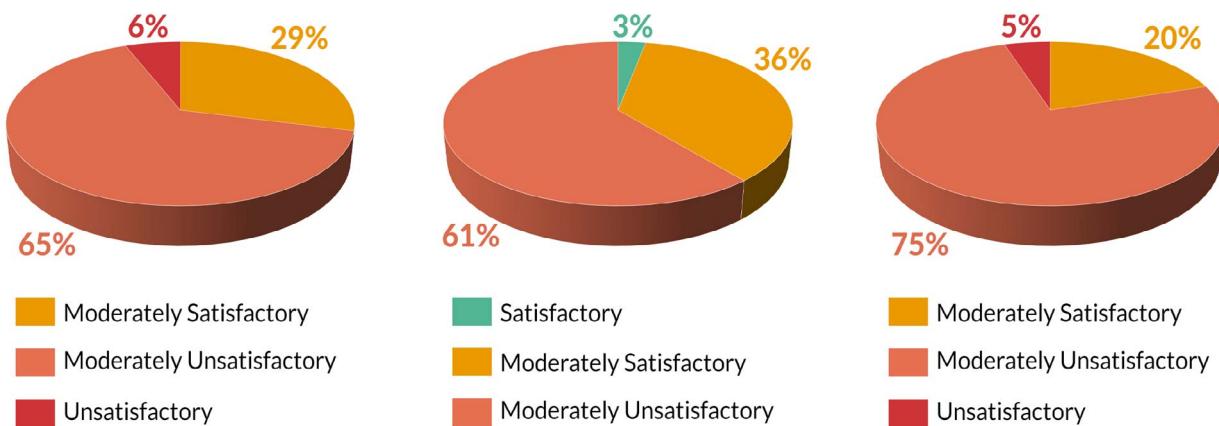


Exhibit 50 reveals that in 2017, a significant proportion of the public authorities were categorised within the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band, while 5% were classified as 'unsatisfactory'. By 2022, there was a slight improvement in usability; most of the public authorities continued to fall within the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band, with no public authorities in the 'unsatisfactory' band and a few advancing to the 'moderately satisfactory' band. However, **as of 2024, the usability of information published by the public authorities has declined compared to 2022, with a substantial 71% remaining below the 'moderately satisfactory' band.**

Information disclosure holds no real value if it is not usable, as it ultimately undermines citizens' right to information. The decline in usability scores suggests that public authorities have paid little to no attention to ensuring the disclosure of accessible and user-friendly information. To truly shift away from a culture of secrecy, public authorities must not only disclose information but also prioritise its usability.

5.5. LANGUAGE BIAS

The Official Language Policy of Sri Lanka identifies Sinhala and Tamil as the 'official languages' of Sri Lanka.²⁹ However, section 5.1.1. above illustrates that the highest aggregate score for language accessibility is for content disclosure in English.

This section analyses the difference in the proactive disclosure of information in all three languages by assessing the degree of 'language bias' in public authorities' websites.

Assessing language bias involves examining language accessibility in English and using this as the benchmark for comparisons to language accessibility in Sinhala (discussed in Section 5.5.1.) and Tamil (discussed in Section 5.5.2.). Language accessibility in English is used as the benchmark for comparison in the section because the majority of the public authorities disclose information in English rather than in Sinhala or Tamil (as evidenced by section 5.1.1.). Language bias was also assessed between Sinhala and Tamil languages (discussed in section 5.5.3.).

5.5.1. English-Sinhala Language

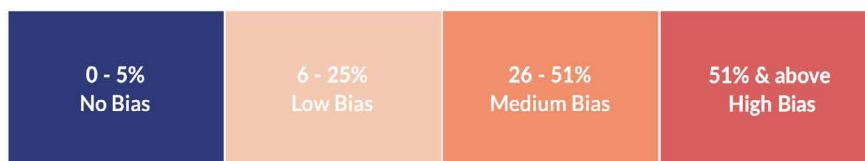
The language bias between English and Sinhala was calculated by taking the percentage difference in the public authority's total scores for language accessibility in English and Sinhala.

Calculation method:

$$\text{Language Bias} = (\% \text{ of English language score} - \% \text{ of Sinhala language score}) / \% \text{ of English language score}$$

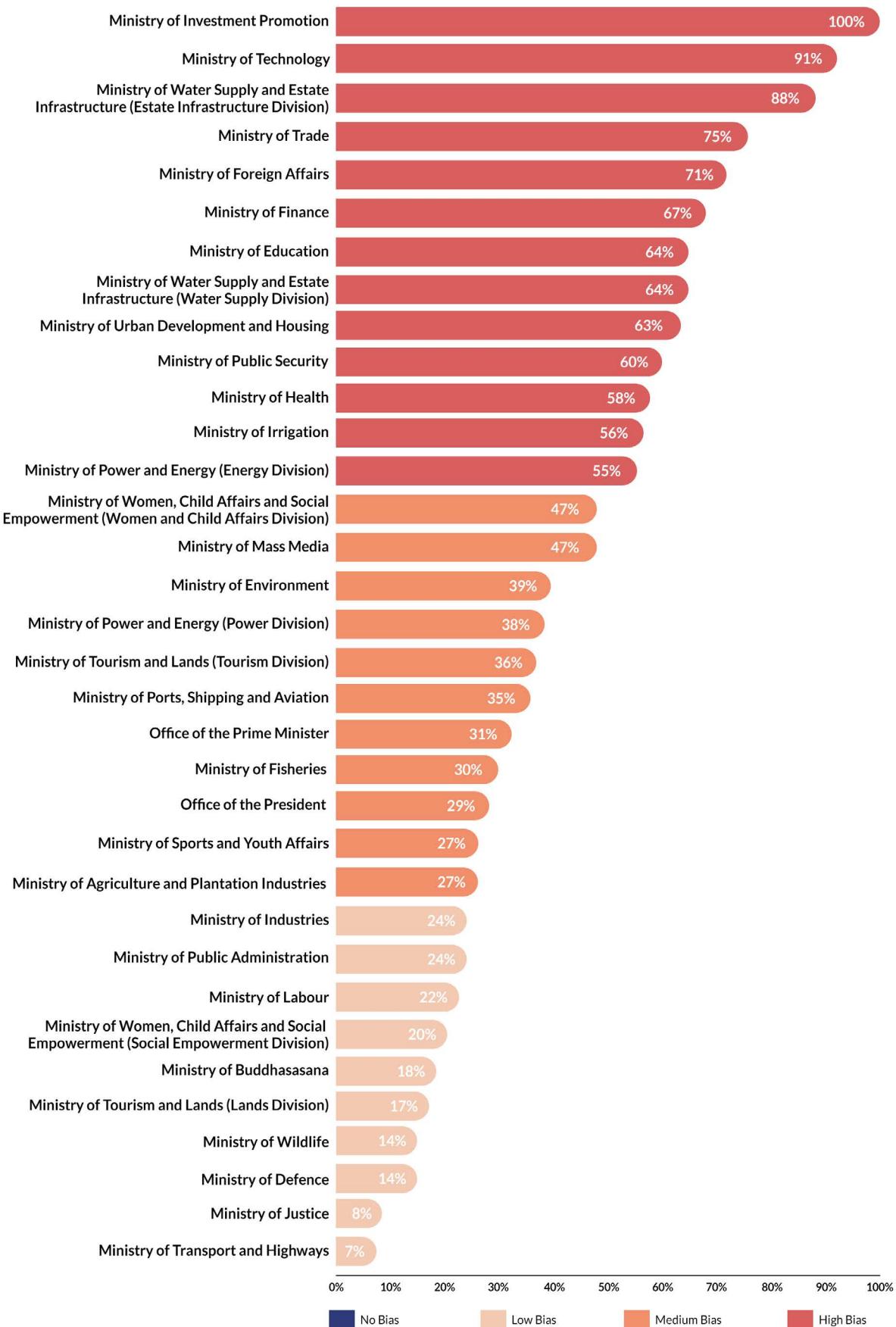
Therefore, bias is the relative rather than the absolute difference between language accessibility in English and Sinhala. This method of calculating bias ensures that public authorities that have higher levels of total disclosure are not disadvantaged in the calculation of bias. A higher bias indicates that the public authority is more likely to prioritise English over Sinhala language content.

Language bias was based on the following scale:



The data suggests that 38% of the public authorities are more likely to publish information in English than in Sinhala. Exhibit 51 presents the language bias against the Sinhala language using language accessibility in English as the benchmark.

Exhibit 51: Bias Against Sinhala Language



In 2022, the Board of Investment exhibited a significant bias toward English content, recording a ‘high bias’ score of 92%. The Ministry of Transport and Highways, which had a bias score of 0% in 2022, recorded the lowest bias score in 2024 at 7%. In contrast, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, which also had a ‘low bias’ score in 2022, achieved a ‘high bias’ score of 63% in 2024, placing it in the ‘high bias’ band. Overall, this assessment suggests that the Ministry of Investment Promotion is more likely to prioritise English content over Sinhala for 2024, as it is the only public authority with 100% bias.

The Ministries of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division), Mass Media, Environment, Power and Energy (Power Division), and Tourism all fell within the ‘low bias’ band in 2022 but have moved to the ‘medium bias’ band for 2024 due to increased scores. Public authorities that were in the ‘low bias’ band for 2024 have, on average, remained consistent with the scores obtained in 2022.

Though there were 7 public authorities in the ‘no bias’ band in 2022, this time none of the public authorities are placed in that band. The language bias between English and Sinhala indicates that in 2024, a majority of the public authorities have disclosed their information in English rather than in Sinhala.

5.5.2. English-Tamil Language

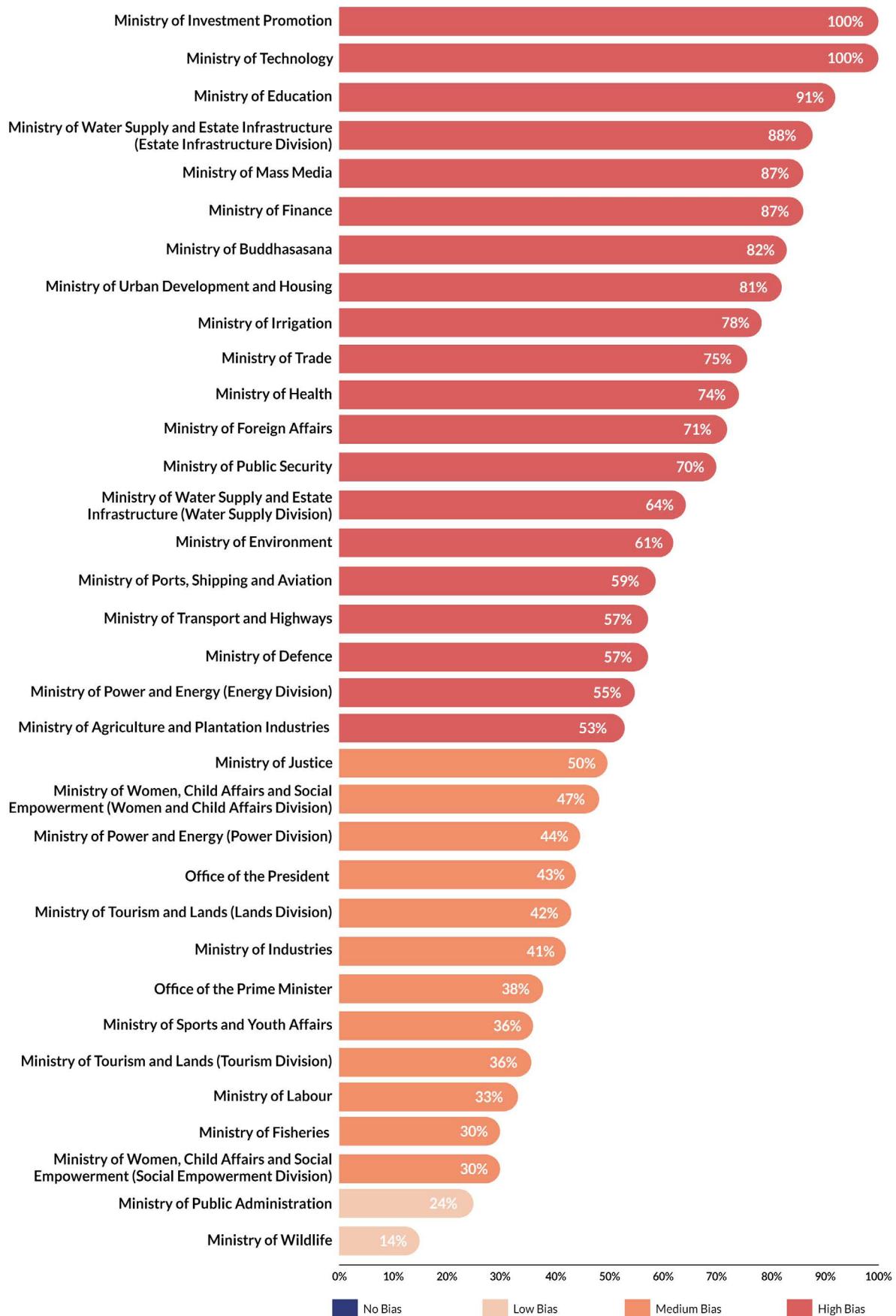
The language bias between English and Tamil was calculated by taking the percentage difference in the public authority’s total scores for language accessibility in English and Tamil.

Calculation method:

$$\text{Language Bias} = (\% \text{ of English language score} - \% \text{ of Tamil language score}) / \% \text{ of English language score}$$

This assessment revealed that the majority of the public authorities were more likely to prioritise English content over Tamil language content. Exhibit 52 presents the language bias against the Tamil language using language accessibility in English as the benchmark.

Exhibit 52: Bias Against Tamil Language



In 2022, there were two public authorities in the ‘no-bias’ band, namely, the Ministry of Wildlife and the Office of the President. This means that these 2 public authorities have disclosed information equally in English and Tamil. As of 2024, the only 2 public authorities that were placed in the ‘low bias’ band are the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Wildlife. These 2 ministries had a language bias score of 24% and 14% respectively.

Exhibit 53: Sinhala Language Bias (2024)

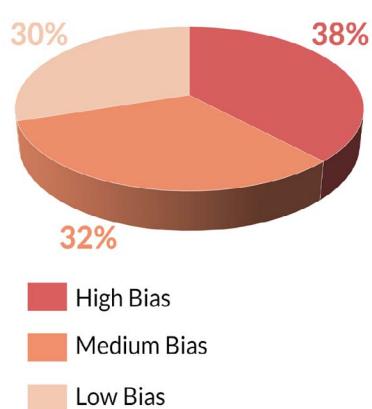


Exhibit 54: Tamil Language Bias (2024)

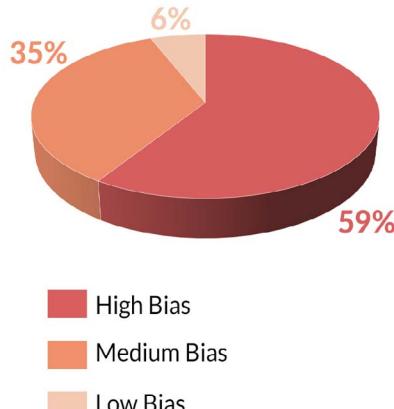


Exhibit 55: Sinhala Language Bias (2022)

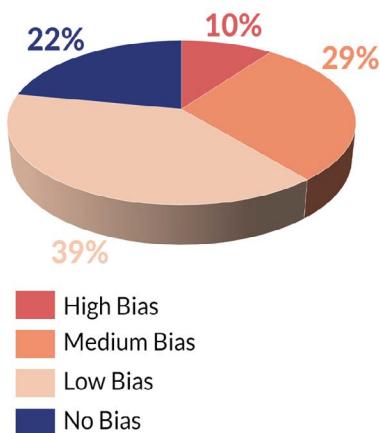
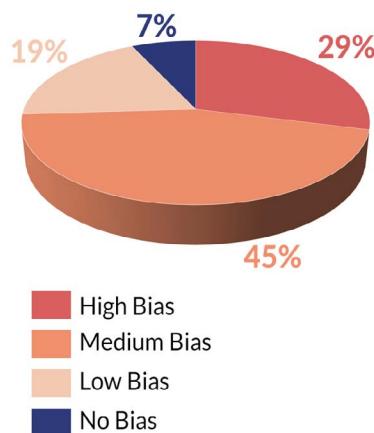


Exhibit 56: Tamil Language Bias (2022)



In 2022, there was a higher language bias score against the Tamil language than against the Sinhala language. This indicates that more public authorities prioritised Sinhala language disclosure over Tamil language disclosure (using English content as the benchmark). This has not changed in 2024, meaning **there has been no improvement in terms of disclosing information in Sinhala and Tamil when English is used as the benchmark**.

Interestingly, in 2024, 38% (against Sinhala) and 59% (against Tamil) of public authorities received a ‘high bias’ score, including key ministries such as the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Health, both of which are among the top five ministries with the highest budget allocations in 2023 (see Exhibit 20). This indicates that these authorities are more likely to disclose information in English rather than in Sinhala or Tamil. In this context, it is crucial to ensure a balanced approach to language accessibility; otherwise, the information will cater to only a small, select audience, undermining its accessibility and inclusivity.

5.5.3. Sinhala Language-Tamil Language

The language bias between Sinhala and Tamil was calculated by taking the percentage difference in the public authority's total scores for language accessibility in Sinhala and Tamil.

Calculation method:

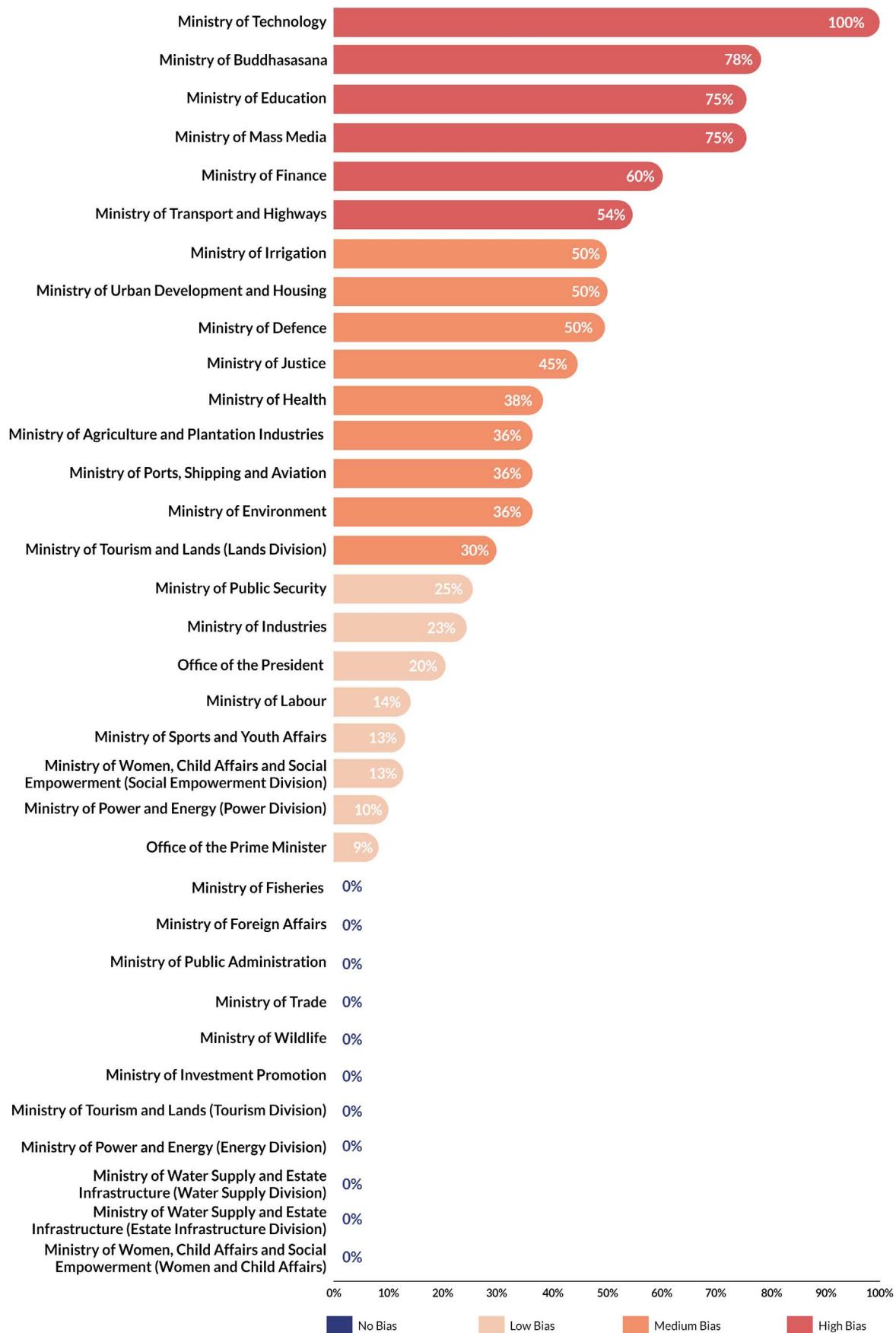
$$\text{Language Bias} = (\% \text{ of Sinhala language score} - \% \text{ of Tamil language score}) / \% \text{ of Sinhala language score}$$

Therefore, this bias is the relative rather than the absolute difference between language accessibility in Sinhala and Tamil. This method of calculating bias ensures that public authorities that have higher levels of total disclosure are not disadvantaged in the calculation of bias. A higher bias indicates that the public authority is more likely to prioritise the Sinhala language over Tamil language content.

This assessment revealed that only 32% of the public authorities have received a 'no bias' score, while the rest are divided between the other bias bands. Thus, a majority of public authorities have given priority to the Sinhala language in disclosing information.

Exhibit 57 presents the language bias against the Tamil language using language accessibility in Sinhala as the benchmark.

Exhibit 57: Bias Against Tamil Language



This assessment revealed that 11 public authorities fall within the ‘no-bias’ band. Regardless of the scores received for content disclosure, these public authorities have maintained a balance between official languages in disclosing information. On the other hand, 6 public authorities have fallen into the ‘high bias’ band. Among them are some crucial ministries, including the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Education.

The following 8 public authorities demonstrated ‘no bias’ between Sinhala and Tamil languages, even after scoring more than 1 for content disclosure in Sinhala and Tamil:

1. Ministry of Fisheries
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Ministry of Public Administration
4. Ministry of Wildlife
5. Ministry of Tourism (Tourism Division)
6. Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division)
7. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division)
8. Ministry of Women and Child Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Wildlife, and the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division) remained in the ‘no bias’ band as in the last assessment. This indicates that these 3 public authorities are not biased towards either Sinhala or Tamil.

The above data shows that most of the public authorities prioritise Sinhala when disclosing information. To promote inclusivity and uphold the right to information, public authorities must ensure that disclosures are consistently available in all three languages—Sinhala, Tamil, and English.

5.6. LANGUAGE ACROSS USABILITY

The assessment of ‘usability’ in 2017 only comprised language accessibility in English, Sinhala, and Tamil, ease of access, and format scores in English. In 2022, this was expanded to include ease of access and format scores in both Sinhala and Tamil. The language across usability score includes public authorities’ performance in terms of language accessibility, ease of access, and format, in English, Sinhala, and Tamil. This added element enables an analysis of how usable each public authority’s website is in all three languages. **Compared to 2022, public authorities have not achieved any significant progress in terms of usability scores across all three languages in 2024.**

Exhibit 58 below presents the public authorities in order of ranking for overall usability, taking into consideration language accessibility, ease of access, and format in all three languages. In contrast, Section 5.4. assessed overall usability using ease of access and format scores only in English.

Exhibit 58: Language Across Usability



Under Section 5.4., the majority of the public authorities scored within the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band, and 10 public authorities fell within the ‘satisfactory’ band. However, when overall usability is calculated considering the ease of access and format scores for all three languages, the number of authorities that fall under the ‘satisfactory’ band decreases to just 4, and the majority of the public authorities are placed under the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band.

Public authorities such as the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division), the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Labour, which were previously in the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band for overall usability, have now moved down to the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band when scores for ease of access and format in all three languages were considered.

On the other hand, the Office of the Prime Minister, which scored only 8% in the 2022 assessment, demonstrates the most significant improvement. Previously in the ‘unsatisfactory’ band in 2022, it is now one of the 3 public authorities in the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band. This progress underscores how effectively the Office of the Prime Minister has prioritised information disclosure in all three languages, with a focus on enhancing accessibility across these languages.

Exhibit 59: Language Across Usability (2024)

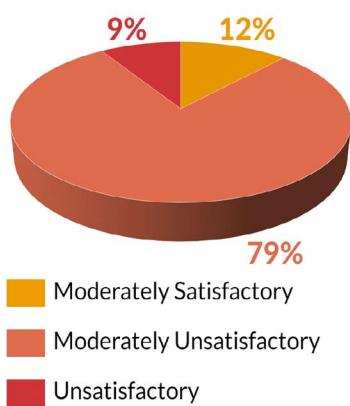
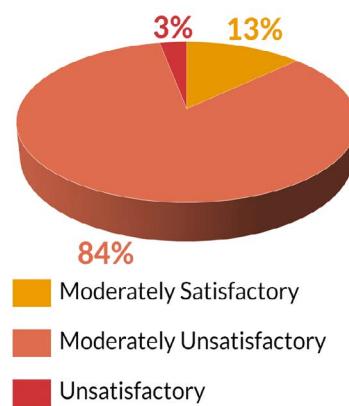


Exhibit 60: Language Across Usability (2022)



When the scores of overall usability (Exhibit 47) are compared with the language across usability (Exhibit 58), it shows that usability scores are lower across all three languages compared to English. Public authorities’ websites are more usable in English, and less usable in the Sinhala and Tamil languages. This indicates that content in Sinhala and Tamil is more difficult to access and use.

Despite Sri Lanka’s Official Language Policy, the proactive disclosure of information by the public authorities in Sinhala and Tamil is notably low (see Exhibits 39 and 40). Furthermore, the information that is made available in Sinhala and Tamil tends to be less user-friendly in terms of format and accessibility (see Exhibit 58). This means that information disclosed in Sinhala and Tamil is: (i) more difficult to access, and (ii) less likely to be in a format that can be reused when compared to information disclosed in English. This observation was made in the 2022 assessment as well.

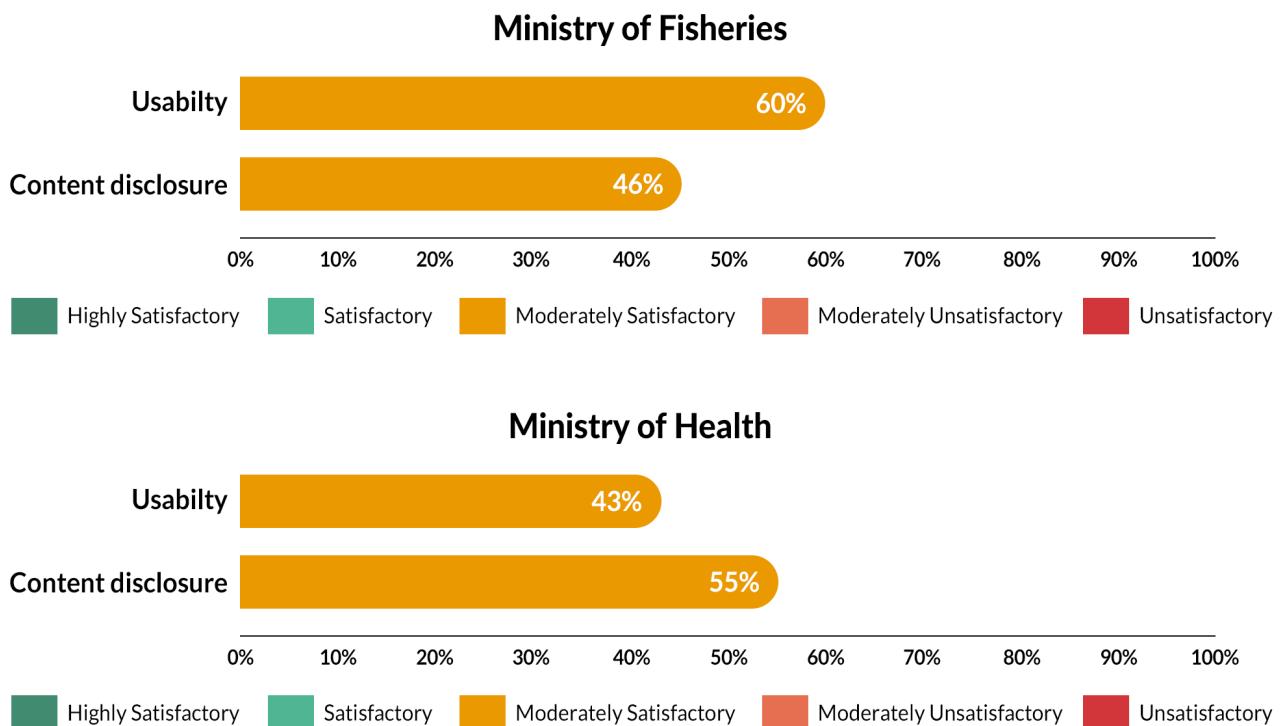
5.7. OVERVIEW OF USABILITY

In terms of usability, the public authorities with the highest scores are:



It is essential to note that achieving a high content disclosure score does not necessarily guarantee a high usability score. This is illustrated in Exhibit 61. Although the Ministry of Fisheries received a content disclosure score of only 46%, the usability of its information is significantly higher than that of the Ministry of Health, which received the highest content disclosure score. Although the Ministry of Health achieved the highest score for content disclosure, its usability score is lower at 43%. This suggests that, despite disclosing more information than other public authorities, the Ministry of Health is not effectively presenting it to the consumers. A high level of content disclosure, therefore, does not mean that the content disclosed is easily usable.

Exhibit 61: Content Score vs Usability (Ministry of Fisheries vs Ministry of Health)

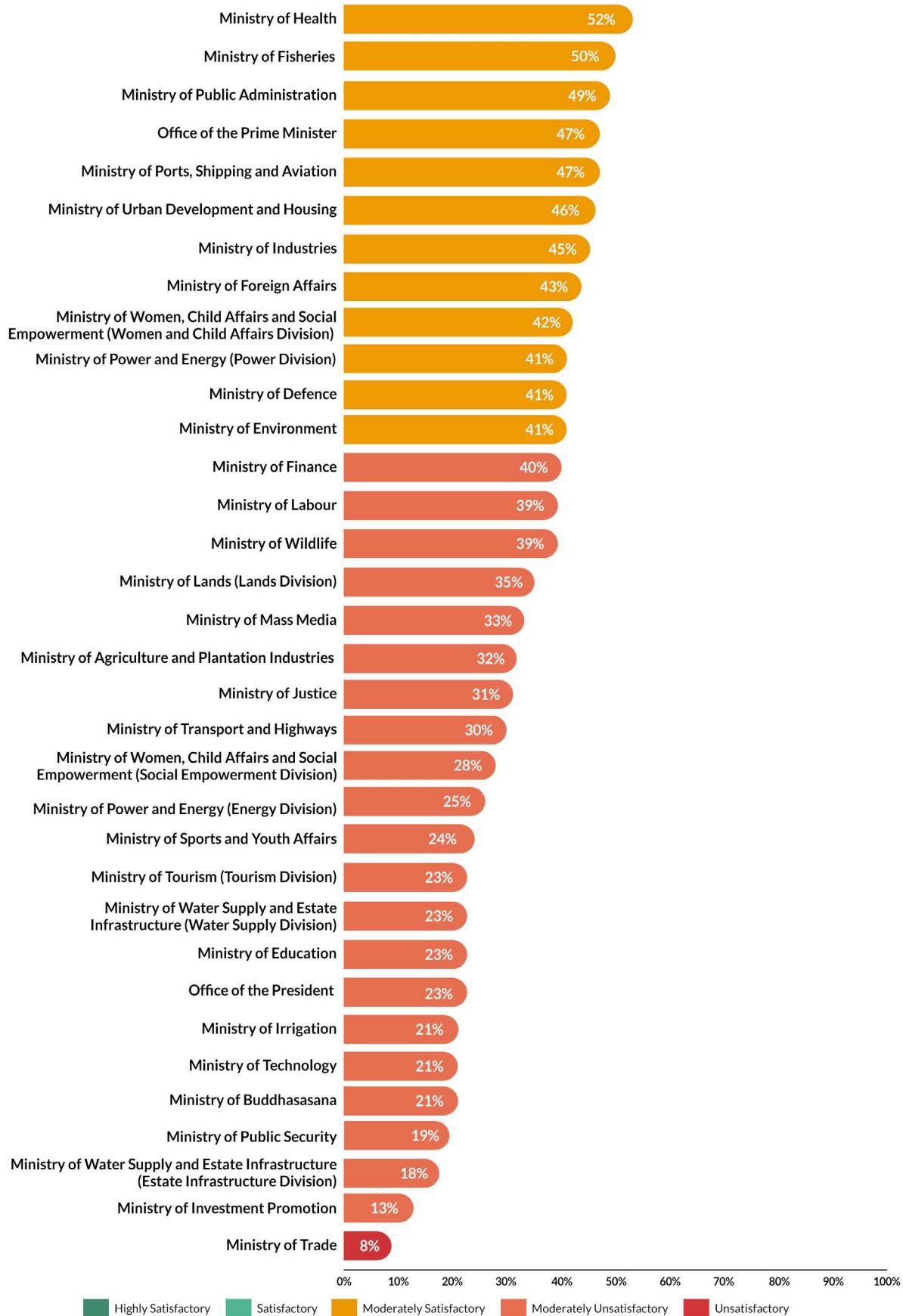


6. Overall Findings

The composite scores obtained by the public authorities are discussed in this section, providing a comparative analysis with previous assessments. It highlights notable changes in performance, offering insights into improvements or declines among individual public authorities and discusses key trends where necessary. **The composite scores of the public authorities have improved compared to the last assessment, as a significant improvement can be seen in both the 'moderately satisfactory' and 'moderately unsatisfactory' bands in 2024.**

Exhibit 62 presents the overall composite scores for all public authorities, calculated using a weighted combination of content disclosure (75%) and usability (25%) scores.

Exhibit 62: Composite Scores



In terms of composite scores, 21 public authorities fell within the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band, 12 were in the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band, and one was categorised as ‘unsatisfactory.’ **Compared to the 2022 assessment, there has been progress in overall composite scores, as the number of public authorities in the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band has doubled this year. Similarly, the number of public authorities in the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band has reduced from 25 in 2022 to 21 in 2024.**

The top 3 public authorities with the **highest overall composite scores** are presented in Exhibit 63.

Exhibit 63: Public Authorities with the Highest Overall Composite Scores in 2017, 2022, and 2024

| Rank | 2017 | Percentage Score | 2022 | Percentage Score | 2024 | Percentage Score |
|------|--|------------------|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| #1 | Ministry of Health | 47 | Ministry of Agriculture | 57 | Ministry of Health | 52 |
| #2 | Ministry of Education | 42 | Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government | 53 | Ministry of Fisheries | 50 |
| #3 | Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs | 42 | Ministry of Justice | 44 | Ministry of Public Administration | 49 |

The 3 public authorities with the **lowest overall composite scores** are presented in Exhibit 64.

Exhibit 64: Public Authorities with the Lowest Overall Composite Scores in 2017, 2022, and 2024

| Rank | 2017 | Percentage Score | 2022 | Percentage Score | 2024 | Percentage Score |
|------|---|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--|------------------|
| #1 | Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development | 9 | Office of the President | 18 | Ministry of Water and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division) | 18 |
| #2 | Ministry of Foreign Employment | 7 | Ministry of Technology | 17 | Ministry of Investment Promotion | 13 |
| #3 | Ministry of Development Assignments | 7 | Office of the Prime Minister | 13 | Ministry of Trade | 8 |

In terms of individual performance, the progress made by the Office of the Prime Minister in 2024 is particularly noteworthy. Previously ranked last with a composite score of just 13%, it has now advanced to 4th place overall, reflecting a significant 34% improvement. Thus, the Office of the Prime Minister’s rating improved from the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ to the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band. Similarly, the Ministry of Health has shown commendable progress, securing the highest composite score this year after moving up 3 places from the previous assessment. This progress can be attributed to both of these public authorities excelling in content disclosure.

Conversely, the Ministry of Trade received the lowest score in 2024, of just 8%. This marks a decline from its 2022 score of 21%, leading to its downgrade from the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band to the ‘unsatisfactory’ band.

7. Findings - General Trends on Content Disclosure and Usability

This section discusses noticeable trends regarding the proactive disclosure of information by public authorities. Section 7.1. ranks public authorities with respect to their content disclosure and reveals that there has been an improvement in content disclosure from 2017 to 2024. Section 7.2. and section 7.3. discuss content disclosure trends among the top-ranking public authorities and the bottom-ranking public authorities, respectively. These two sections reveal that both the top-ranking and bottom-ranking public authorities scored poorly for *Prior Disclosure of Information*, *Prior Disclosure of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act*, and *Public Participation*. Section 7.4. examines how, for scoring each of the 34 public authorities, some information could not be located on the primary website, and therefore, content was scored using alternative government websites.

7.1. RANKING CONTENT DISCLOSURE

Content disclosure was monitored in English, Sinhala and Tamil. Public authorities were awarded points for disclosing up-to-date and complete information, regardless of the language in which it was disclosed. Therefore, the assessment of content disclosure was language-neutral.

Exhibit 65: Content Disclosure

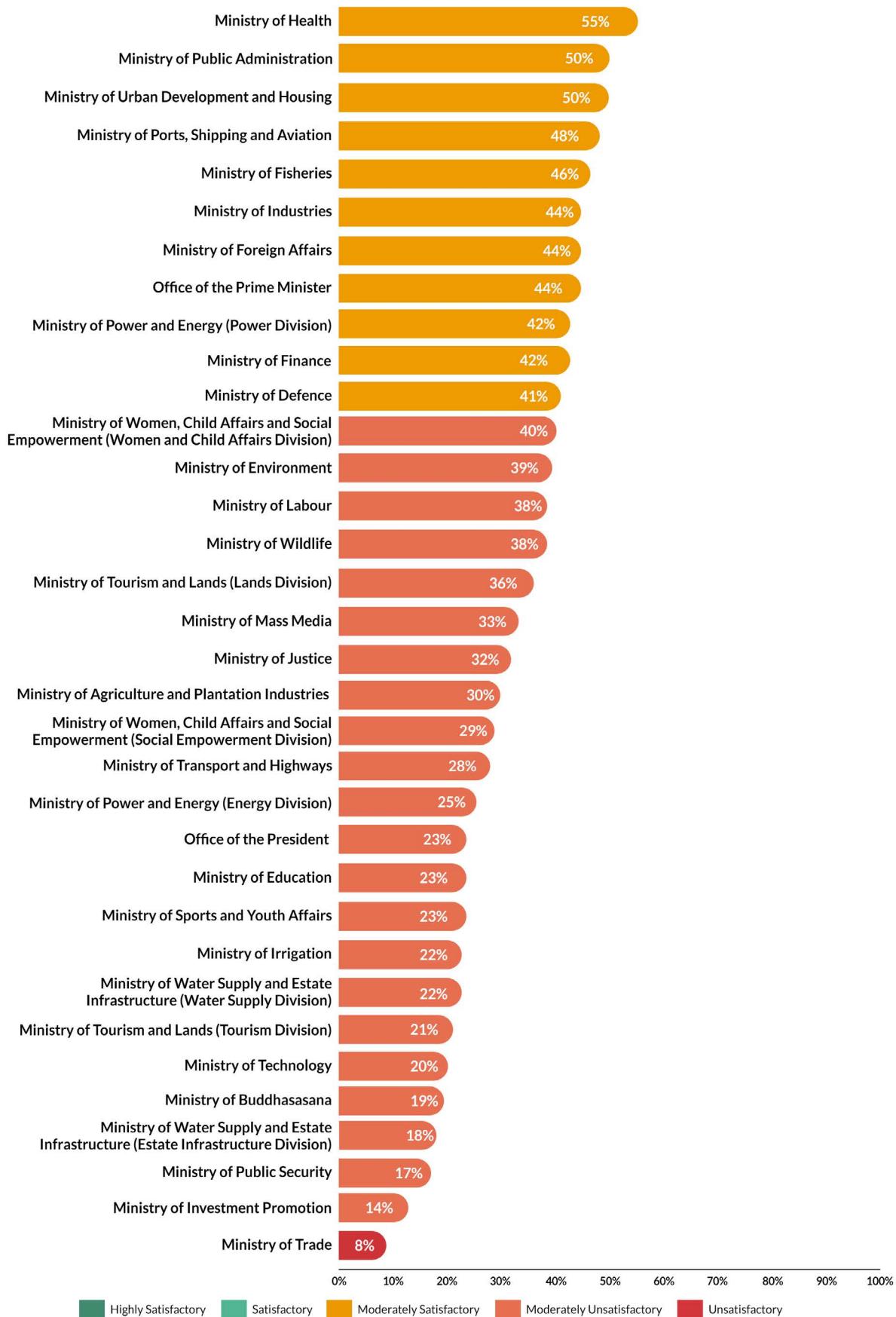


Exhibit 65 presents the content disclosure percentage scores of each public authority together with their corresponding band. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Administration and the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing received scores within the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band and hold the top 3 positions in terms of content disclosure. While 32% of the public authorities have received a ‘moderately satisfactory’ score, the majority of the public authorities (65%) have received a ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ score for content disclosure in 2024.

Exhibit 66: Content Disclosure (2024)

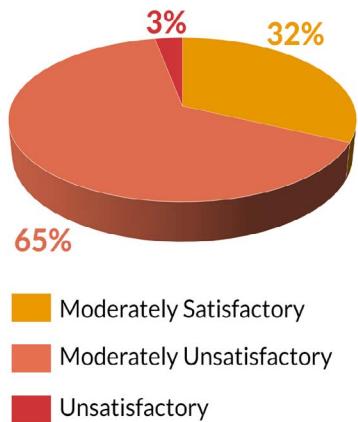


Exhibit 67: Content Disclosure (2022)

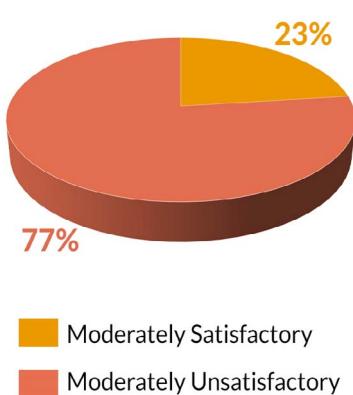


Exhibit 68: Content Disclosure (2017)

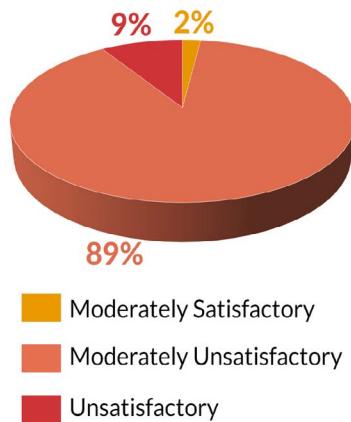


Exhibit 66 shows that in 2024, the majority of the public authorities scored within the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band. However, compared to 2017 and 2022, the percentage of public authorities that came within this band has decreased by 24% and 12%, respectively. On the other hand, in comparison to 2017 and 2022, there has been an increase in the number of public authorities that fall within the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band. This improvement highlights a positive shift in the public authorities’ rankings. In 2022, only 23% of the public authorities fell into the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band, compared to just 2% in 2017. In 2024, this percentage has risen to 32%, reflecting a continued upward trend. Additionally, it is worth noting that this year’s assessment saw 1 public authority in the ‘unsatisfactory’ band, which was not seen in 2022.

A further comparison of Exhibits 66, 67, and 68 reveals that content disclosure has generally improved in 2024, as there are more public authorities in the ‘moderately satisfactory’ band. However, the majority of the public authorities remain in the ‘moderately unsatisfactory’ band, and this suggests that all the public authorities need to commit to increasing their level of content disclosure.

7.2. CONTENT DISCLOSURE TRENDS: TOP-RANKING PUBLIC AUTHORITY WEBSITES

The 4 public authorities that scored the highest for content disclosure are: the Ministry of Health (overall content disclosure score of 55%), the Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (overall content disclosure score of 50% each), and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation (overall content disclosure score of 48%).

Exhibit 69 below provides the individual category scores for each of the public authorities ranking in the top ten, including the 4 highest-scoring authorities mentioned above.³⁰

Exhibit 69: Content Disclosure of the Public Authorities Ranking in the Top Ten

| Rank | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 | #7 | #8 | #9 | #10 | #10 |
|--|----|--|--|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Name of the Public Authority | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ministry of Health | 3 | Ministry of Public Administration | Ministry of Urban Development and Housing | Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation | Ministry of Fisheries | Ministry of Industries | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Office of the Prime Minister | Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) | Ministry of Finance | Ministry of Defence |
| Institutional Information (out of 6) | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| Organisational Information (out of 10) | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes (out of 14) | 10 | 13 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Public Services (out of 8) | 4 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 4 |
| Public Policy Legislation and Regulation (out of 12) | 6 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 9 | 5 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 8 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 7 | 4 |

| Rank | #1 | #2 | #2 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #5 | #5 | #6 | #6 | #7 | #8 | #9 | #10 | #10 |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Name of the Public Authority | Ministry of Health | Ministry of Public Administration | Ministry of Urban Development and Housing | Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation | Ministry of Fisheries | Ministry of Industries | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Office of the Prime Minister | Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) | Ministry of Finance | Ministry of Defence | Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division) | Ministry of Environment | Ministry of Labour | Ministry of Wildlife | |
| Public Participation (out of 3) | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Public Procurement and Subsidies (out of 7) | 5 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Budgets, Expenditure and Finances (out of 6) | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information (out of 15) | 10 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| Prior Disclosures of Information (out of 4) | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| Rank | #1 | #2 | #2 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #5 | #5 | #6 | #6 | #7 | #8 | #9 | #10 | #10 |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Name of the Public Authority | Ministry of Health | Ministry of Public Administration | Ministry of Urban Development and Housing | Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation | Ministry of Fisheries | Ministry of Industries | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Office of the Prime Minister | Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) | Ministry of Finance | Ministry of Defence | Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division) | Ministry of Environment | Ministry of Labour | Ministry of Wildlife | |
| Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act (out of 19) | 4 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | N/A | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Total Score | 57 | 52 | 52 | 50 | 48 | 46 | 46 | 34 | 44 | 44 | 43 | 42 | 41 | 40 | 40 | |
| Max Score | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 77 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | |
| Percentage Score | 55 | 50 | 50 | 48 | 46 | 44 | 44 | 44 | 42 | 42 | 41 | 40 | 39 | 38 | 38 | |

In the 2022 assessment, the Ministry of Agriculture ranked first among the public authorities in the top 10. However, in 2017, the Ministry of Health held the top position. In the 2024 assessment, the Ministry of Health reclaimed the number one position from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Exhibit 69 reveals that several of the public authorities ranking in the top 10 scored high in some categories, such as:

1. Budgets, Expenditure and Finances,
2. Organisational Information,
3. Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes, and
4. Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information.

However, the public authorities ranking in the top 10 were inconsistent in their content disclosure across all the categories, as these high-ranking public authorities also scored very poorly for:

1. Prior Disclosures of Information,
2. Public Participation, and
3. Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act.

Exhibit 19 identifies these 3 categories as the lowest-scoring categories overall. Therefore, Exhibit 69 and Exhibit 19 demonstrate that public authorities are generally reluctant to disclose in *Prior Disclosures of Information*, even in the case of the top-ranking public authorities. The same observation was made in the 2022 and 2017 assessments.

Out of the public authorities in the top 10, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division) were the only public authorities to score any points for *Prior Disclosures of Information*. The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation scored 3 out of 4 points in this category.

The individual category scores in Exhibit 69 reveal that the Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) scored 8 out of a possible 19 points for *Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act*. The Ministry's score was the highest out of all 34 public authorities for this category. The Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) disclosed information under this category in two ways:

1. The 'Projects' page on the website is broken down into four divisions.
 - i. Future projects
 - ii. Ongoing projects
 - iii. Past projects
 - iv. Newly awarded projects

These pages listed several projects and provided the objectives, benefits, components, budget information, and frameworks for the projects; and

2. The website provided quarterly progress reports of the development projects for 2022. Though this information is not up to date, the ministry still scored points for publishing this information.

Out of the 34 public authorities, only the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour scored full points for Public Participation. The other public authorities that scored points for this category were:

2. Ministry of Buddhasasana
3. Ministry of Fisheries
4. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

-
- 5. Ministry of Industries
 - 6. Ministry of Transport and Highways
 - 7. Ministry of Investment Promotion
 - 8. Office of the Prime Minister
 - 9. Ministry of Technology
 - 10. Ministry of Public Administration

For the Ministry of Health to score full points, they had a separate web page titled ‘policies for opinion’.³¹ The documents on this website were up to date. Most of the documents were also published in all three languages. Although the Ministry of Labour did not have a page specifically named ‘policies for public opinion’, it had up-to-date information about public meetings and dates to take public comments on certain policies. As an example, this included taking public comments on certain labour law amendments. With Sri Lanka’s long-standing practice of limited public consultation in law and policy-making processes, this represents an improvement as there is increased transparency and public accountability.³²

7.3. CONTENT DISCLOSURE TRENDS: BOTTOM-RANKING PUBLIC AUTHORITY WEBSITES

The 3 public authorities that scored the lowest for content disclosure were the Ministry of Public Security (17%), the Ministry of Investment Promotion (14%), and the Ministry of Trade (8%).

Exhibit 70 below provides the individual category scores for each of the public authorities ranking in the bottom ten, with the public authority with the lowest content disclosure score ranking the highest in this list.³³

Exhibit 70: Content Disclosure of the Bottom-Ranking Public Authorities

| Rank | Name of the Public Authority | Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division) #10 | Office of the President #9 | Ministry of Education #9 | Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs #9 | Ministry of Irrigation #8 | Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division) #8 | Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division) #7 | Ministry of Technology #6 | Ministry of Buddhasasana #5 | Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division) #4 | Ministry of Public Security #3 | Ministry of Investment Promotion #2 | Ministry of Trade #1 |
|--|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Institutional Information (out of 6) | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Organisational Information (out of 10) | 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes (out of 14) | 8 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Public Services (out of 8) | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Public Policy Legislation and Regulation (out of 12) | 1 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Public Participation (out of 3) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Public Procurement and Subsidies (out of 7) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Budgets, Expenditure and Finances (out of 6) | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |

| Rank | Name of the Public Authority | Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division) #10 | Office of the President #9 | Ministry of Education #9 | Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs #9 | Ministry of Irrigation #8 | Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division) #8 | Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division) #7 | Ministry of Technology #6 | Ministry of Buddhasasana #5 | Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division) #4 | Ministry of Public Security #3 | Ministry of Investment Promotion #2 | Ministry of Trade #1 |
|--|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information (out of 15) | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Prior Disclosures of Information (out of 4) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act (out of 19) | 0 | N/A | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Score | 26 | 18 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 15 | 8 | |
| Max Score | 104 | 77 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 | 104 |
| Percentage Score | 25 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 14 | 8 | |

Comparing 2022 and 2024, the following public authorities are still ranked in the bottom 10:

1. Office of the President
2. Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs
3. Ministry of Technology
4. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division)
5. Ministry of Public Security
6. Ministry of Trade

The Ministry of Buddhasasana and the Office of the President have consistently ranked among the 10 lowest-performing public authorities since 2017. For instance, the Ministry of Buddhasasana scored 17% in 2017 and 19% in 2022. In the 2024 assessment, it once again scored 19%, indicating no progress compared to the previous assessments.

In 2017, 2022 and 2024, the Office of the President scored 0 points for the following categories:

1. Public Services
2. Public Procurement and Subsidies
3. Prior Disclosures of Information

Likewise, the Ministry of Buddhasasana scored 0 points for the categories below in all three assessments.

1. Public Procurement and Subsidies
2. Prior Disclosures of Information

Exhibit 71: Lowest Scoring Category for Both Bottom Ranking and Top Ranking Public Authorities

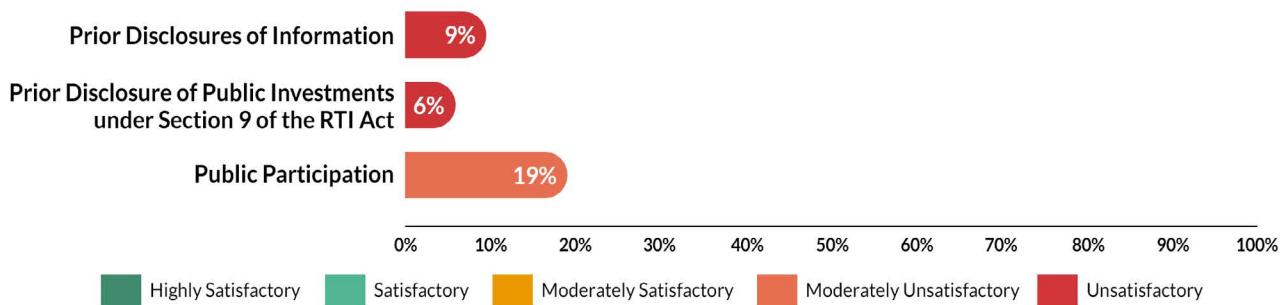


Exhibit 71 reveals that the following three categories are the lowest-scoring categories for both the 10 bottom-ranking authorities as well as for the 10 top-ranking authorities:

1. Prior Disclosures of Information,
2. Prior Disclosure of Public Investments under Section 9 of the RTI Act, and
3. Public Participation

The bottom-ranking public authorities also scored very poorly for proactive disclosure of information categories pertaining to public engagement with ministerial functions, i.e. *Public Services* and *Public Participation*, and *Prior Disclosures of Information*. All public authorities ranking in the bottom 10 did not disclose any information under Prior Disclosures of Information. Apart from the Ministry of Buddhasasana, the Ministry of Technology, and the Ministry of Investment Promotion, none of the other public authorities scored points in the public participation category.

For Public Services, only the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division), the Ministry of Technology, the Ministry of Buddhasasana and the Ministry of Public Security scored at least 1 point. The Ministry of Education had a page called 'Nena piyasa/නෙන පියස' ('knowledge hub') which had information about seminars, past papers, and model papers. Furthermore, it provided information for principals and teachers as well.

It is interesting to note that out of all the bottom-ranked Ministries, only the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs has received a score of 3 for *Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act*.

7.4. CONTENT DISCLOSURE AND USABILITY TRENDS: LOCATION OF INFORMATION

To provide a fair assessment of public authorities' content disclosure, information that could not be located on the primary websites of public authorities but could be located on other government websites was assessed.³⁴ There were three government websites used in this regard: (i) the Department of Government Printing, (ii) the Ministry of Finance, and (iii) the Department of Project Management and Monitoring.

The **Department of Government Printing** contains 'Acts' and 'Bills', which were used to score ministries for the category of Legislation. The laws that each ministry is tasked with implementing were ascertained by Extraordinary Gazette, No. 2281/41 issued on May 27, 2022, and Extraordinary Gazette No. 2289/43 dated July 22, 2022.³⁵ The Gazettes list out the duties and functions of each ministry and the laws and ordinances to be implemented by each ministry.

The Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division) only had 5 out of the 14 Acts that the ministry is tasked with publishing on its website. However, the Department of Government Printing had 8 of the 14 Acts and Ordinances listed in the Gazette. The Ministry scored 3 points accordingly for disclosure of more than 50% of Legislation, although all 8 Acts were not available on the ministry's website. However, the ministry did score points for ease of access as some of the 14 Acts were listed on the website.

In the event a public authority had not listed any of the Legislation on their primary website, and the monitoring team had to refer to the Department of Government Printing, the public authority would score 0 points for ease of access in this category, as the information was solely accessed from the website of the Department of Government Printing. A particular challenge that was observed in 2022 and also in 2024 is that the Acts are not available ministry-wise on the website of the Department of Government Printing and must be searched for individually.

The website of the **Department of Project Management and Monitoring** (DPMM) publishes a report of projects that were implemented through the budget each year.³⁶ The report includes financial information relevant to projects implemented through ministries (e.g. allocated budgets and utilised funds). Financial information relating to Project Costs was also available in the above report. Although these reports were generally not published on the websites of public authorities, scores were awarded for the information that was found on the DPMM website. However, points for ease of access were not awarded, given that this information was only available on an entirely separate government website.

The website of the **Ministry of Finance** published the Budget Estimates for 2024.³⁷ The report includes a breakdown of estimated expenditures for 2024 and 2023 by ministry, along with expenditures for 2023. The Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) had a separate webpage called RTI Centre. On this webpage, the ministry has linked the Budget Estimate report for 2024. Therefore, the ministry not only scored points for disclosure of information, but it also scored for ease of access. However, most of the public authorities

did not have budget-related information on their primary website. Hence, those public authorities were assessed through the Budget Estimate 2024 report. It is also important to note that during the time of monitoring, the Ministry of Finance did not have the Sinhala and Tamil versions of the budget published on the website. Therefore, the monitoring team was not able to score the public authorities for language.

Public authorities were also awarded points if their websites provided a link that redirected the user to another website that disclosed relevant information. For example, the Ministry of Health provided links that redirect the user to the websites of their projects. Some of these projects include the 'Primary Health Systems Strengthening Project (PSSP) GOSL-WB'. This page contains all the information pertaining to this project.

8. Findings on Government Openness Based on Content Disclosure and Usability

In the 2022 assessment, Verité Research produced a formula for assessing government openness in Sri Lanka by utilising the scores obtained in the proactive disclosure assessment. Open government data is a movement that has recently accelerated across the world. Open government data initiatives encourage the proactive disclosure of data held by the government in a format that is both open and reusable.³⁸ Open government initiatives that prioritise access to information can foster public trust and improve citizen satisfaction.³⁹ Improving the government openness score in Sri Lanka, too, can impact levels of trust in the government by driving government accountability.⁴⁰

The data reveals that government openness has been at a standstill since 2022 at 33%. Government openness is calculated by looking at the total content disclosure score (across all categories and all public authorities) and the total usability score. The government openness score represents a weighted combination of the content disclosure rating (75%) and the usability rating (25%).

Calculation method:

$$\text{(Total Content Score + Total Usability Score) / (Max Content Score + Max Usability Score)} \times 100$$

Exhibit 72 below presents the government openness scores from 2017, 2022 and 2024.

Exhibit 72: Government Openness

| Year | Content Percent | Usability Percent | Openness Score |
|------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 2017 | 22 | 33 | 25 |
| 2022 | 32 | 37 | 33 |
| 2024 | 33 | 33 | 33 |

Most of the public authorities fell into the ‘unsatisfactory’ band for disclosure of information required under Section 9 of the RTI Act, and this is a major reason for the low openness score. Furthermore, the poor disclosure of information in the Sinhala and Tamil languages is also a contributing factor to the low openness score. Therefore, the Sri Lankan government should prioritise improving both content disclosure as well as content usability across its ministries if it is to improve its openness to the public.

Since 2022, the Openness Score has remained unchanged. Thus, enhancing government openness remains a crucial strategy for building public confidence, especially in an unstable economic environment. Public perception and expectations significantly influence a nation's recovery process, and bridging the information gap between the government and its citizens could provide multiple benefits, including accelerating economic recovery.

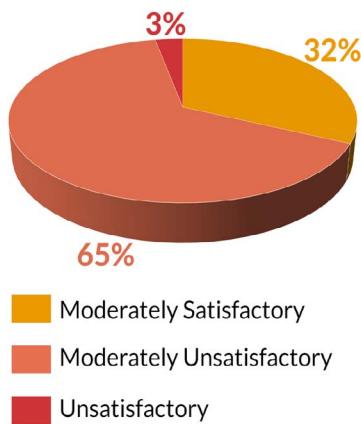
9. Conclusion

This is the third in a series of assessments examining the compliance of key public authorities with proactive disclosure requirements under the RTI Act. This assessment monitored 34 websites of cabinet ministries and the Offices of the President and the Prime Minister. The monitoring period for the assessment spanned from June 01, 2024, to July 01, 2024.

In terms of overall composite scores (weighted combination of content disclosure (75%) and usability (25%), the majority of the public authorities (68%) scored within the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band. Only 29% of the public authorities scored within the 'moderately satisfactory' band. **In comparison to 2017 and 2022, there has been an improvement in the overall composite scores of the public authorities monitored.**

9.1. CONTENT DISCLOSURE

Exhibit 73: Content Disclosure (2024)



The majority of the public authorities scored within the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band. On the other hand, the number of public authorities in the 'moderately satisfactory' band has increased since 2017. Comparing 2024 to 2017 and 2022, there is some improvement in content disclosure scores.

The 4 public authorities that scored the highest for content disclosure were the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Administration, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation. The 3 public authorities that scored the lowest for content disclosure were the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Investment Promotion and the Ministry of Trade.

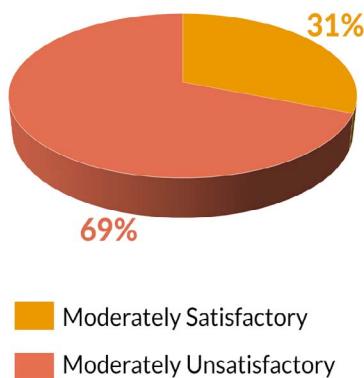
Content disclosure was analysed under three thematic areas: (i) public accountability, (ii) public accessibility, and (iii) disclosures pertaining to the right to information. With regard to public accountability, all of the public authorities were scored for *Budgets, Expenditure and Finances*, based on the 2024 budget information available on the website of the Ministry of Finance. 17% of the public authorities scored full points for the publication of tenders. Only 6% of public authorities scored full points for successful awards and publication of awards, indicating that while tender notices are published, the awards of tenders are not publicised. This remains at the same percentage as the 2022 assessment. Low content disclosure on procurement awards means that inconsistencies in awards cannot be challenged.⁴¹ Proactive disclosure of procurement awards is crucial to enable public scrutiny of the procurement process.⁴²

With regard to public accessibility, the Public Participation category was amongst the lowest-scoring categories across all the public authorities. Several public authorities also did not provide information under the Public Services category. Low content disclosure in this area may impede public participation in government decision-making.

On disclosures pertaining to the right to information, 4 public authorities did not publish contact Information of the Information Officer and/or the Designated Officer. While proactively disclosing information already supplied under RTI would make the exercise of the right to information more efficient, the majority of public authorities scored 0 for this subcategory. The majority of public authorities also performed poorly in disclosing information under *Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act*. Low content disclosure in this thematic area is indicative of poor implementation by public authorities of the RTI Act and its subsequent regulations.

9.2. USABILITY

Exhibit 74: Overall Usability (2024)



In 2024, the usability of information reduced compared to 2022, as 69% of the public authorities fall within the 'moderately unsatisfactory' band and 31% of the public authorities fall within the 'moderately satisfactory' band.

The highest aggregate score for language accessibility was in English, followed by Sinhala and Tamil. A tendency to de-prioritise Sinhala and Tamil language content was observed across several public authorities. In 2024, the Ministry of Wildlife and the Ministry of Public Administration disclosed content in all three languages equally to a certain extent.

9.3. LANGUAGE BIAS

The language bias scores indicate that the Ministry of Wildlife and the Ministry of Public Administration are the most language-friendly public authorities. They are the only 2 public authorities in the 'low bias' band for all three language bias analyses. The Ministry of Investment Promotion had 'high bias' against both the Sinhala and Tamil languages. The Ministry of Technology had 'high bias' against the Tamil language in comparison to both English and Sinhala, and is the least Tamil language-friendly public authority.

9.4. GOVERNMENT OPENNESS

Seven years since the RTI Act was fully operationalised in Sri Lanka, the government openness score remains unchanged from the 2022 assessment at 33%. The low government openness score demonstrates the need for the government to improve its overall content disclosure and usability ratings.

10. Annexures

ANNEX 1 - LIST OF MINISTRIES IN 2024 AND 2025

| No. | Name of the Ministry (2024) | No | Name of the Ministry (2025) |
|-----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries | 1 | Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation |
| 2 | Ministry of Buddhasasana | 2 | Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs |
| 3 | Ministry of Defence | 3 | Ministry of Defence |
| 4 | Ministry of Education | 4 | Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education |
| 5 | Ministry of Environment | 5 | Ministry of Environment |
| 6 | Ministry of Finance | 6 | Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development |
| 7 | Ministry of Fisheries | 7 | Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources |
| 8 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | 8 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism |
| 9 | Ministry of Health | 9 | Ministry of Health and Mass Media |
| 10 | Ministry of Industries | 10 | Ministry of Industry and Entrepreneurship Development |
| 11 | Ministry of Investment Promotion | | No ministry under this name |
| 12 | Ministry of Irrigation | | Merged with Agriculture |
| 13 | Ministry of Justice | 11 | Ministry of Justice and National Integration |
| 14 | Ministry of Labour | 12 | Ministry of Labour |
| 15 | Ministry of Mass Media | | Merged with Health |
| 16 | Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation | 13 | Ministry of Transport, Highways, Ports and Civil Aviation |
| 17 | Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division) | 14 | Ministry of Energy |
| 18 | Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) | | |

| No. | Name of the Ministry (2024) | No | Name of the Ministry (2025) |
|-----|--|----|---|
| 19 | Ministry of Public Administration | 15 | Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government |
| 20 | Ministry of Public Security | 16 | Ministry of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs |
| 21 | Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs | 17 | Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports |
| 22 | Ministry of Technology | 18 | Ministry of Science and Technology |
| 23 | Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division) | | Merged with Foreign Affairs |
| 24 | Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Lands Division) | | Merged with Agriculture |
| 25 | Ministry of Trade | 19 | Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development |
| 26 | Ministry of Transport and Highways | | Merged with Ports and Aviation |
| 27 | Ministry of Urban Development and Housing | 20 | Ministry of Urban Development, Construction and Housing |
| 28 | Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division) | | No ministry under this name |
| 29 | Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division) | | No ministry under this name |
| 30 | Ministry of Wildlife | | No ministry under this name |
| 31 | Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Social Empowerment Division) | 21 | Ministry of Women and Child Affairs |
| 32 | Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division) | | |
| | | 22 | Ministry of Digital Economy |
| | | 23 | Ministry of Plantation and Community Infrastructure |
| | | 24 | Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment |

ANNEX 2 – METHODOLOGY

Verité Research first developed the methodology in 2017 for this assessment, supported by the World Bank. The methodology evaluates and compares the proactive disclosure of information by various public authorities online, under the RTI Act. In 2017, the methodology was applied to 53 Cabinet Ministries, and the Office of the President and Prime Minister (55 public authorities in total). Since 2017, there have been changes to the cabinet ministries and their websites, which are the subjects of the monitoring process. The same methodology was adopted in 2022 in relation to the Cabinet ministries in existence at the time, and has been adopted in this assessment in relation to the 32 Cabinet Ministries⁴³ in existence as of May 2024, and the Offices of the President and Prime Minister. For the 2024 assessment, these 34 public authorities were closely monitored for a month from June 01, 2024, to July 01, 2024.

Exhibit 75: List of 34 Public Authorities Monitored for this Assessment

| No. | Name of the Public Authority |
|-----|--|
| 1 | Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries |
| 2 | Ministry of Buddhasasana |
| 3 | Ministry of Defence |
| 4 | Ministry of Education |
| 5 | Ministry of Environment |
| 6 | Ministry of Finance |
| 7 | Ministry of Fisheries |
| 8 | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| 9 | Ministry of Health |
| 10 | Ministry of Industries |
| 11 | Ministry of Investment Promotion |
| 12 | Ministry of Irrigation |
| 13 | Ministry of Justice |
| 14 | Ministry of Labour |
| 15 | Ministry of Mass Media |
| 16 | Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation |
| 17 | Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division) |
| 18 | Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) |
| 19 | Ministry of Public Administration |
| 20 | Ministry of Public Security |
| 21 | Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs |
| 22 | Ministry of Technology |
| 23 | Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division) |
| 24 | Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Lands Division) |
| 25 | Ministry of Trade |
| 26 | Ministry of Transport and Highways |
| 27 | Ministry of Urban Development and Housing |
| 28 | Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division) |
| 29 | Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division) |
| 30 | Ministry of Wildlife |
| 31 | Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Social Empowerment Division) |
| 32 | Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division) |
| 33 | Office of the President |
| 34 | Office of the Prime Minister |

In this assessment, the research team monitored the websites of the public authorities themselves and websites of public authorities that manage combined portfolios and maintain separate websites for each division. For example, the Ministry of Tourism and Lands has two domains, which contain the information related to the Ministry of Tourism and a separate domain for the Ministry of Lands. The research team, therefore, separately analysed the websites of the ministries with combined portfolios, and in the assessment, they appear as 'Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Lands Division) and Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division).

Thus, 4 ministries have 2 websites, which were monitored separately. These public authorities are:

1. Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division)
2. Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division)
3. Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division)
4. Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Lands Division)
5. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division)
6. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division)
7. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Social Empowerment Division)
8. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division)

The following divisions were added to the assessment in 2024. The newly monitored divisions are:

1. Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division)
2. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division)
3. Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Lands Division)
4. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Social Empowerment Division)

The following divisions were monitored in 2022; hence, where applicable, comparisons are made between 2017, 2022 and 2024 for these divisions:

1. Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division)
2. Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division)
3. Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division)
4. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division)

The following ministries did not maintain 2 websites, though they have combined portfolios:

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries
2. Ministry of Transport and Highways
3. Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs

Verité Research sought to ensure that the assessment was location-neutral (i.e. ensuring that disclosure of information was scored regardless of the precise location of the disclosure) to the extent possible. Thus, it scored information relevant to a public authority that was in fact disclosed on common locations found on specific ministry websites (e.g. the Ministry of Finance website for budget information). Moreover, it considered official online information platforms, including the Department of Government Printing, the Department of Project Management and Monitoring and promise.lk (e-government procurement). Public

authorities were also awarded points for disclosure if they provided a link that redirected the user to another website that disclosed relevant information.

Limitations and Challenges

The scope of this research is restricted to proactive disclosure online, on the official websites of the selected public authorities. It does not assess the proactive disclosure of information by the public authorities using other means, such as information published at the physical premises of the public authorities, in newspapers, or on social media platforms.

The second limitation in the assessment is that it does not monitor the separate websites of departments, state ministries, or other bodies that fall under the purview of ministries, or bodies that fall under the Offices of the President and Prime Minister. The main reason for this limitation was the sheer volume of departments and agencies (approximately 400+ institutions) falling under the 34 public authorities considered.

The third limitation is that the report is limited to an assessment of Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act and Regulation 20 thereunder. Section 10 of the RTI Act is not monitored in this assessment. The 2024 assessment omitted Section 10 in the interest of enabling comparisons to be drawn between the 2017 and 2022 assessments. Similarly, Section 26 was not specifically monitored, as the required disclosures under Section 26 are also captured under Regulation 20.

In the 2022 assessment, certain challenges emerged that were not present during the 2017 monitoring. One key issue was the difficulty in directly comparing ministries from 2017 to 2022, as several ministries had acquired new institutions under their purview. This was less of a challenge for the 2024 assessment, as the only notable change in public authorities was the consolidation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries into a single entity. In 2022, agriculture and plantations were monitored separately based on the cabinet portfolio.

Another issue in 2022 was the absence of a website for the Ministry of Investment Promotion during the monitoring period from December 1 to December 31, 2023, which led Verité Research to rely on the website of the Board of Investment, the ministry's largest institution. This challenge was ameliorated, however, in 2024. The Ministry of Investment Promotion now has its own website, which was fully utilised in the 2024 monitoring process.

1. Monitoring of Content Disclosure and Usability

This report assessed all 34 public authorities against the following 11 categories (and 30 subcategories thereof), in two main sections:

- a. content disclosure – whether information has been proactively disclosed by public authorities (refer to section 2 of this annexure)
- b. the usability of the information that has been proactively disclosed (refer to section 3 of this annexure).

Based on the legal requirements contained in Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act and Regulation 20, the following 11 categories of information were used to assess the proactive disclosure of the 34 public authorities:

1. Institutional Information
2. Organisational Information
3. Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes
4. Public Services
5. Public Policy, Legislation and Regulation
6. Public Participation

7. Public Procurement and Subsidies
8. Budgets, Expenditure and Finances
9. Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information
10. Prior Disclosures of Information
11. Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of the RTI Act

Scoring

For each of the two sections above, the public authorities are then assigned a score, which is combined into an overall score.

Each category is a composite measure of subcategories that can be extracted, analysed, and compared independently.

The rating system based on the scores assigned is discussed below in section 2 of this annexure.

Each subcategory is afforded a weightage depending on the ‘type’ of information disclosed under that subcategory (see section 2.1 of this annexure). The 30 subcategories are.

Exhibit 76: Key for Subcategories Under Section 8, Section 9 and Regulation 20

| | |
|------------|---|
| 8RTI/20REG | These subcategories are required under Section 8 of the RTI Act. Some of these subcategories are also required under Regulation No. 20 published in terms of the RTI Act. |
| 9RTI | These subcategories are required under Section 9 of the RTI Act. |
| 20REG | These subcategories are required exclusively under Regulation No. 20. |

| Category/Subcategory | Disclosure is Required Under |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Institutional Information | |
| a. Mandate: mandate listed on the website (broad vision and b. mission statements are acceptable) | 8RTI/20REG |
| c. Functions and powers: functions and powers of public authority listed on the website. | 8RTI/20REG |
| 2. Organisational Information | |
| a. Organisational structure: organisation chart provided. | 20REG |
| b. Names and contact information of executive-grade public officials. | 20REG |
| c. Disaggregated payment information pertaining to remunerations, emoluments, and allowances of executive-grade public officials. | 20REG |
| 3. Operational Information and Decision-Making Processes | |
| a. Internal rules, regulations, and instructions: listed on the website. | 20REG |
| b. Strategic plan: listed on the website. | 20REG |
| c. Project and activity reports: reports on completed/ongoing projects listed on the website. | 20REG |
| d. Decision-making procedures: listed on the website. | 8RTI/20REG |

| Category/Subcategory | Disclosure is Required Under |
|---|------------------------------|
| 4. Public Services | |
| a. Description of services offered to the public: services are listed. | 8RTI/20REG |
| b. Accessing public services: information on how to access a particular service is published. | 8RTI/20REG |
| 5. Public Policy, Legislation and Regulation | |
| a. Circulars and regulations: circulars and regulations that have been issued since 1 January 2016 are listed on the website. | 20REG |
| b. Legislation: listed on the website. | 20REG |
| c. Policy memoranda and draft legislation: listed on the website. | 20REG |
| 6. Public Participation | |
| a. Details regarding public meetings and consultations: dates and information from past meetings and consultations; information on forthcoming public meetings listed on website. | 20REG |
| 7. Public Procurement and Subsidies | |
| a. Publication of tenders: listed on website. | 20REG |
| b. Successful awards and publication of awards: listed on website. | 20REG |
| 8. Budgets, Expenditure and Finances | |
| a. Projected budget for 2024. | 8RTI/20REG |
| b. Disbursements in 2023 | 8RTI/20REG |
| 9. Categorisation of, and Systems for Accessing Information | |
| a. Information index: an index of publications and databases held or produced by the public authority is published on the website. | 20REG |
| b. RTI requesting procedures: instructions on how to make RTI requests to the public authority are listed on the website. | 20REG |
| c. Information Officer's and Designated Officer's contact information. | 8RTI/20REG |
| d. Fee schedule: charges for filing RTI requests are published on the website. | 8RTI/20REG |
| e. Minister's report as per Section 8 of the RTI Act: published on website. | 8RTI/20REG |
| 10. Prior Disclosures of Information | |
| a. Publication of information supplied under RTI: the website has made provision to publish information supplied under RTI. | 20REG |
| 11. Prior Disclosures of Public Investments Under Section 9 of RTI Act (for projects above USD 100,000 (foreign funded) or LKR 500,000 (locally funded)) | |
| a. Notification of project commencement: project justification published on the website. | 9RTI |
| b. Pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of projects: published on the website. | 9RTI |
| c. Terms and conditions of investment (including expected costs, benefits, and rate of return): published on website. | 9RTI |

| Category/Subcategory | Disclosure is Required Under |
|---|------------------------------|
| d. Detailed project costs (including disaggregated budgets): published on website. | 9RTI |
| e. Monitoring and evaluation reports: published on the website in accordance with requirements under Section 9. | 9RTI |

2. Content Disclosure Rating

Public authorities were ranked according to their scores across the 30 subcategories. The assessment was language-neutral, as content availability was assessed regardless of the language in which the information was disclosed.

2.1. Subcategory Scoring

Each of the 30 subcategories was assigned under one of the following 'types' of information and assigned a score (see Exhibit 78 for a presentation of the scoring system in tabular form).

Exhibit 77: Type of Information

| | Definition | Subcategory | Maximum Score | Scoring |
|--------|--|---|----------------------|--|
| Type 1 | Up-to-dateness is required, but completeness is irrelevant i.e. the information required relates to a single up-to-date document | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandate 2. Organisational structure 3. Strategic plan 4. Fee schedule | 2 | The rating of these subcategories aims to incentivise public authorities to demonstrate that information is up-to-date. If 'information is published, dated or unknown whether current', the public authority will score 1 point. If 'up-to-date information is published', the public authority will score 2 points. |
| Type 2 | Where up-to-dateness is irrelevant but completeness is required | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Details regarding public meetings and consultations 2. Successful awards and publication of awards 3. Information index 4. Notification of project commencement | 3 | The rating of these subcategories aims to incentivise public authorities to demonstrate that the information disclosed is complete. Public authorities will score 1 point under these subcategories if 'information is published – but there are no details on whether information is complete', and 2 points if 'information is published – but incomplete'. The extra point is awarded on the basis that the public authority discloses an index of information or other equivalent information that establishes the extent of information held by the public authority. Such disclosure would enable an assessment of completeness. On this basis, public authorities will score 3 points if 'complete information is published'. |

| | Definition | Subcategory | Maximum Score | Scoring |
|--------|--|--|----------------------|--|
| Type 3 | Where both up-to-dateness and completeness are relevant, | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Functions and powers 2. Names and contact information of executive-grade public officials 3. Disaggregated payment information pertaining to remunerations, emoluments, and allowances of executive-grade public officials 4. Internal rules, regulations and instructions 5. Project and activity reports 6. Decision-making procedures 7. Description of services offered to the public 8. Accessing public services 9. Circulars and regulations 10. Policy memoranda and draft legislation 11. Publication of tenders 12. Disbursements 13. RTI requesting procedures 14. Minister's report as per Section 8 of the RTI Act 15. Publication of information supplied under RTI 16. Pre-feasibility and feasibility studies of projects 17. Terms and conditions of investment 18. Detailed project costs 19. Monitoring and evaluation reports | 4 | <p>The aim of these ratings is to incentivise public authorities to demonstrate that the information disclosed is both up-to-date and complete. If information is published – but there is no information on whether it is up-to-date or complete', the public authority will score 1 point. For example, the public authority proactively disclose information, but the information is not date-stamped, or the information is outdated. If 'information is published up-to-date but unknown whether complete', the public authority will score 2 points. In such cases, the public authority scores an extra point for demonstrating that the information is up-to-date. For example, the authority could date-stamp a document that it proactively discloses. If 'information is published up-to-date but incomplete', the public authority will score 3 points. In such cases, the public authority will score an additional point for disclosing an index of information or other equivalent information that establishes the extent of information held within the public authority and enables an assessment of completeness. If 'up-to-date and complete information is published', the public authority will score 4 points. For example, if information has been disclosed under each section of the index provided, the public authority will score 4 points.</p> |

| | Definition | Subcategory | Maximum Score | Scoring |
|---|-------------------|--|--|---|
| Type 4 Requires a specific scoring method due to their unique nature and content | | Projected Budget for 2024 | 2 | Public authorities will score 1 point if 'information is published – but not disaggregated', and 2 points if 'disaggregated information is published'. This rating scheme aims to incentivise the disaggregation of information. |
| | | Information Officer's and Designated Officer's Contact Information | 2 | Public authorities will score 1 point if 'the Information Officer's or Designated Officer's Contact Information' is published, and 2 points if both 'the Information Officer's and Designated Officer's Contact Information' is published. This rating scheme aims to incentivise proactive disclosure of contact details of both the Information Officer and Designated Officer of the public authority. |
| | | Legislation | 4 points depending on the percentage of relevant legislation (that the public authority is tasked with implementing) published | less than 25% - 1 point, more than 25% - 2 points, more than 50% - 3 points, and 100% - 4 points) |

Exhibit 78 below illustrates the scale used in scoring each subcategory according to the type of information the subcategory correlates to.

Depending on the type of subcategory as defined above, public authorities received ratings for each subcategory based on the scale: (a) unsatisfactory, (b) moderately unsatisfactory, (c) moderately satisfactory, (d) satisfactory, or (e) highly satisfactory.

Exhibit 78: Subcategory Scoring

| Type | Rating | | | | |
|------|--|--|---|---|---|
| | Unsatisfactory | Moderately Unsatisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory | Satisfactory | Highly Satisfactory |
| 1 | No information (0 points) | N/A | N/A | Information published - dated or unknown whether current (1 point) | Up-to-date information published (2 points) |
| 2 | No information (0 points) | N/A | Information published but no details on whether complete (1 point) | Information published - but incomplete (2 points) | Complete information published (3 points) |
| 3 | No information (0 points) | Information published - but no information on whether up-to-date or complete (1 point) | Information published - up-to-date but unknown whether complete (2 points) | Information published - up-to-date but incomplete (3 points) | Up-to-date and complete information published (4 points) |
| 4 | No information on Projected Budget for 2023 (0 points) | N/A | N/A | Information published -but not disaggregated (1 point) | Disaggregated information published (2 points) |
| | No contact information of Information Officer or Designated Officer (0 points) | N/A | N/A | Information Officer's or Designated Officer's contact information published (1 point) | Both Information Officer's and Designated Officer's contact information published (2 points) |
| | No information on Legislation that the public authority is tasked with implementing (0 points) | <25% of legislation that the public authority is tasked with implementing is published (1 point) | >25% of legislation that the public authority is tasked with implementing is published (2 points) | >50% of legislation that the public authority is tasked with implementing is published (3 points) | 100% of legislation that the public authority is tasked with implementing is published (4 points) |

2.2. Overall Content Disclosure Rating

The content disclosure rating of a public authority is the percentage score applicable to all relevant subcategories. These ratings enable an overall cross-comparison of public authorities in terms of select category ratings and subcategory ratings. For instance, it is possible to rank public authorities in terms of proactive disclosure in the Public Procurement and Subsidies category. The maximum total points that a cabinet ministry can receive as per the rating methodology is 104 points. However, disclosure requirements

that are exclusively stipulated under Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act (i.e. requirements not stipulated under Regulation No. 20) do not apply to the Offices of the President and Prime Minister because these requirements only apply to ‘ministries’. As such, the maximum total points that the Offices of the President and the Prime Minister can receive is 77 points. The overall content disclosure rating for each public authority was calculated as a percentage of the total possible points across all applicable subcategories.

Overall content disclosure ratings and category ratings were based on the following scale:



3. Usability Rating

Usability was scored across all the subcategories in the rating system. A usability assessment is conducted because while it is important that public authorities proactively disclose information, disclosure alone is not sufficient. Three important aspects of usability were considered:

1. **Language accessibility** - It is important that information is published in a language that people can understand. In terms of Sri Lanka’s Official Language Policy, the information should be published in Sinhala and Tamil, which are identified as the ‘official languages’⁴⁴ and ‘national languages’ of the country.⁴⁵ The information should also be published in English, which is identified as the ‘link language’.⁴⁶ Further, Section 8 of the RTI Act mandates that reports be provided in all languages.
2. **Ease of access** - People should also be able to easily access this information on the website. The information should be published in an organised manner so that information can be easily retrieved from a public authority’s website.
3. **Format** - The information must also be in a suitable format so that it can easily be used. Information should not be published in the form of scans or locked PDFs that cannot be used.

3.1. Language Accessibility

Public authorities’ language accessibility was evaluated on whether information disclosed under each subcategory was disclosed in English, Sinhala, and Tamil. A public authority could receive 1 point for information disclosure in each language. The maximum total points a public authority can receive for information disclosure in each language across 30 subcategories is 30 points.

The total points for English, Sinhala, and Tamil information disclosures were aggregated across the 30 information subcategories for each public authority. The maximum total points for language accessibility in all three languages and across 30 subcategories is 90 points. This total was then used to calculate an overall language accessibility score by taking the total points as a percentage of the maximum possible points for each public authority. For example, if the Ministry of Labour scored 18 out of 30 for English, 14 out of 30 for Sinhala, and 12 out of 30 for Tamil, its overall language accessibility score would be 49% ($44/90*100$).

3.2. Ease of Access

To assess ease of access, a 'click rate' was used (i.e. the total number of clicks required to access information on a website). Ease of access was monitored in all three languages; however, the score for usability only considers the English score.⁴⁷ Each subcategory was monitored for ease of access according to the following scale:

- 1 to 2 clicks – 2 points – Satisfactory
- 3 to 5 clicks – 1 point – Moderately Unsatisfactory
- Over 6 clicks – 0 points – Unsatisfactory

Therefore, according to the scoring scale, the maximum total points a subcategory could receive in relation to ease of access is 2 points. The maximum total points for ease of access across the 30 subcategories is 60 points. The individual subcategory points were tallied and given as a percentage of the total possible points for all applicable subcategories for each public authority. For example, if the Ministry of Labour scored 30 points out of 60 for ease of access, it would receive an ease of access score of 50%.

3.3. Format

The format of information that is proactively disclosed was monitored in all three languages; however, the score for format only considers the English score.⁴⁸ The format in which information is disclosed in each subcategory was scored according to the following scale:

- Extraction-friendly (i.e. information can be easily reused and shared, e.g. MS Word files, MS Excel files, PDF files that do not 'jumble' the content when copy pasted): 2 points – Satisfactory
- Low re-usability (i.e. cannot be easily copied and pasted, non-reusable datasets and documents): 1 point – Moderately Unsatisfactory
- Not reusable (i.e. images, scans, screenshots, or locked PDF): 0 points – Unsatisfactory.

The maximum points a subcategory could receive for format is 2 points. The maximum total points for format across 30 subcategories is 60 points. The individual subcategory points were tallied and given as a percentage score of the total possible points for all applicable subcategories for each public authority. For example, if the Ministry of Labour scored 11 points out of 60 for format, it would receive a format percentage score of 18%.

In order to calculate the **overall usability score**, the aggregate of the points for language accessibility, ease of access and format was used. Using the example given above, the overall usability percentage score of the Ministry of Labour would be 37% ($77/210*100$).

The overall usability rating is based on a scale similar to the overall content disclosure rating. The scale is based on a percentage of the total applicable points the public authority could score in each usability indicator.

- 0%-10%: Unsatisfactory
- 11%-40%: Moderately Unsatisfactory
- 41%-60%: Moderately Satisfactory
- 61%-80%: Satisfactory
- 81%-100%: Highly Satisfactory

4. Overall Score

A public authority's content disclosure rating is weighted at 75%, while a public authority's usability rating is weighted at 25%. These two ratings were combined to arrive at an overall composite score.

Each public authority was given an overall rating based on the overall composite score received:

- 0%-10%: Unsatisfactory
- 11%-40%: Moderately Unsatisfactory
- 41%-60%: Moderately Satisfactory
- 61%-80%: Satisfactory
- 81%-100%: Highly Satisfactory

5. Government Openness

After completing scoring for 2022, Verité Research also produced a formula for assessing government openness in Sri Lanka, utilising the scores obtained in the proactive disclosure assessment. Government openness is calculated by looking at the total content disclosure rating (across all categories and all public authorities) and the total usability rating. The government openness score represents a weighted combination of the content disclosure rating (75%) and the usability rating (25%).

Government openness is calculated,

$$\text{(Total Content Score + Total Usability Score)} / (\text{Max Content Score + Max Usability Score}) \times 100$$

ANNEX 3 – LEGAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE

| Source | Legal Provision |
|--|--|
| Constitution | The Constitution does not contain any provisions relating to the proactive disclosure of information. |
| | <p>Section 08:</p> <p>Section 8 places an obligation on every Minister to ensure biannual publication of reports that enable citizens to exercise their right to access information. These reports are to be published before June 30 and December 31 each year. They must include details about the structure, functions, procedures, and budgets of the Ministry and its affiliated public authorities. Information on decision-making norms, rules, and public access facilities must also be included. The reports must be published in the official languages and be made available in electronic form.</p> |
| | <p>Section 09:</p> <p>Section 9 mandates that Ministers disclose comprehensive information about large-scale projects prior to their commencement. Specifically, for projects valued at over USD 100,000 (foreign-funded) or LKR 500,000 (locally-funded), relevant details must be made available to the general public and those affected, at least three months in advance. In cases of urgency, disclosure should occur at least one week before initiation, along with justifications for the urgency.</p> |
| Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016 | <p>Section 10:</p> <p>Under Section 10, every public authority is required to submit an annual report to the Right to Information Commission by December 31 of the following year. This report must include statistics on the number of information requests received, granted, or rejected; reasons for refusals; fees collected; and the number of appeals and Commission interventions. Authorities must also report on internal record-keeping practices and provide suggestions for improving information transparency. Furthermore, these reports must be made publicly accessible through the authority's office and official website, reinforcing the RTI Act's goal of institutional transparency and accountability.</p> |
| | <p>Section 26:</p> <p>Under Section 26, every public authority is required to display in a conspicuous place within their official premises or on their website, the contact details of the RTI Commission and its members, the contact details of the Information Officer and Designated Officer, and the fees to be charged to obtain any information.</p> |

| Source | Legal Provision |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Extraordinary Gazette, No. 2004/66 | <p>Regulation 20:</p> <p>All public authorities should disseminate routinely, at a minimum, the following key information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institutional information (e.g. internal regulations, powers, and functions) 2. Organisational information (e.g. organisational structure, the names and contact information of executive-grade public officials and their remunerations) 3. Operational information (e.g. strategy and plans, policies, activities, procedures, reports) 5. Decisions and acts (e.g. decisions and formal acts and documents used as a basis for formulating them) 6. Public services information (e.g. description of services offered to the public) 7. Budgetary information (e.g. projected budget, actual income, and expenditure) 8. Open meetings information (e.g. information on meetings, and information regarding how to attend meetings open to the public) 10. Decision-making and public participation (e.g. information on decision-making procedures, and mechanisms for public participation in decision-making) 12. Information on subsidies (e.g. information on the beneficiaries of subsidies) 13. Public procurement information (e.g. information on the public procurement process, criteria, and outcomes of decision-making on tender applications) 15. Lists, registers, and databases (e.g. registers and databases held by the public authority, and information about whether these registers and databases are available online) 16. Information about information held (i.e. an index or register of documents/information held by the public authority) 17. Information on publications (i.e. information on publications used, including a fee schedule for purchase) 18. Information about the right to information (e.g. information on how to request information and contact information of the respective information officer) 19. Disclosed information (i.e. information which has been disclosed pursuant to a request, and which is likely to be of interest to others). <p>Regulation 3:</p> <p>Regulation 3 requires the public authority to display publicly in its office the notice provided in Regulation 3 in the Sinhala and Tamil languages. The notice sets out the contact details of the Information Officer and the Designated Officer. It also sets out the process for making an RTI request as stipulated in the RTI Act, including the timelines and processes that must be followed.</p> |

| Source | Legal Provision |
|--|--|
| Guidelines issued by the Right to Information Commission in terms of Section 8(1) of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016 | <p>The Guidelines for Section 8 require ministries to disclose information on organisational structure (organograph) of the Ministry and the Public Authorities (as defined under the Act), which falls under the purview of the Ministry, key management persons, their principal functions, activities, duties and powers, including the reporting and supervision lines. The objective is to inform citizens of the respective powers, duties and functions of the relevant officials and the internal supervisory and reporting lines. These disclosures give the public access to information such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name and Functional Designation of Executive Officers 2. Official Contact Details 3. Duties, Activities and Functions 4. Powers and Decision-Making Procedures |
| Guidelines issued by the Right to Information Commission in terms of Section 9(1)(b) of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016 | <p>The Guidelines issued by the RTI Commission in terms of Section 9 of the RTI Act require the proactive disclosure of information relating to all capital expenditure or all procurement activities approved by Procurement Committees, excluding recurrent expenditure. Ministries are required to disclose information in digital electronic format on the Ministry website in Sinhala and Tamil, and if feasible in English; and in the case of proposed projects that are to be implemented at specific locations, billboards must be erected at the project sites at places visible to the public, or through Grama Seva Niladharis, Divisional Secretariats and local authorities. Ministries are required to disclose:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Details of the Proposed Project 2. Rationale of the Project [If a Management for Development Results (MfDR) framework has been developed for the project, disclose the same] 3. Project Budget and Financial Information 4. Necessary Clearances 5. Supplier/Vendor/ Contractor Information |

ANNEX 4 – PUBLIC AUTHORITIES MONITORED IN 2017, 2022, AND 2024 (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

| Public Authorities Monitored in 2017 | Public Authorities Monitored in 2022 | Public Authorities Monitored in 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Agriculture | Ministry of Agriculture | Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries |
| Ministry of Buddhasasana | Ministry of Buddhasasana | Ministry of Buddhasasana |
| Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply | Ministry of Defence | Ministry of Defence |
| Ministry of Defence | Ministry of Education | Ministry of Education |
| Ministry of Development Assignments | Ministry of Environment | Ministry of Environment |
| Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade | Ministry of Finance | Ministry of Finance |
| Ministry of Disaster Management | Ministry of Fisheries | Ministry of Fisheries |
| Ministry of Education | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| Ministry of Finance | Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine | Ministry of Health |
| Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development | Ministry of Industries | Ministry of Industries |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Ministry of Investment Promotion | Ministry of Investment Promotion |
| Ministry of Foreign Employment | Ministry of Irrigation | Ministry of Irrigation |
| Ministry of Health | Ministry of Justice | Ministry of Justice |
| Ministry of Higher Education | Ministry of Labour and Foreign Employment | Ministry of Labour |
| Ministry of Highways | Ministry of Mass Media | Ministry of Mass Media |
| Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development | Ministry of Plantation Industries | Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation |
| Ministry of Home Affairs | Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation | Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division) |
| Ministry of Housing and Construction | Ministry of Power | Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) |
| Ministry of Industry and Commerce | Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government | Ministry of Public Administration |
| Ministry of Internal Affairs, Wayamba Development and Cultural Affairs | Ministry of Public Security | Ministry of Public Security |
| Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources Management | Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs | Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs |
| Ministry of Justice | Ministry of Technology | Ministry of Technology |

| Public Authorities Monitored in 2017 | Public Authorities Monitored in 2022 | Public Authorities Monitored in 2024 |
|--|---|--|
| Ministry of Labour, Trade Union Relations and Sabaragamuwa Development | Ministry of Tourism and Lands | Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Lands Division) |
| Ministry of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms | Ministry of Trade | Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division) |
| Ministry of Law and Order, and Southern Development | Ministry of Transport and Highways | Ministry of Trade |
| Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment | Ministry of Urban Development and Housing | Ministry of Transport and Highways |
| Ministry of Mass Media | Ministry of Water Supply | Ministry of Urban Development and Housing |
| Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development | Ministry of Wildlife | Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division) |
| Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages | Ministry of Women and Child Affairs | Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division) |
| Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation | Office of the President | Ministry of Wildlife |
| Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs | Office of the Prime Minister | Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Social Empowerment Division) |
| Ministry of Petroleum Resources Development | | Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division) |
| Ministry of Plantation Industries | | Office of the President |
| Ministry of Ports and Shipping | | Office of the Prime Minister |
| Ministry of Postal Services | | |
| Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy | | |
| Ministry of Primary Industries | | |
| Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs | | |
| Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government | | |
| Ministry of Public Administration | | |
| Ministry of Public Enterprise Development | | |
| Ministry of Regional Development | | |
| Ministry of Rural Economy | | |
| Ministry of Science, Technology and Research | | |

| Public Authorities Monitored in 2017 | Public Authorities Monitored in 2022 | Public Authorities Monitored in 2024 |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training | | |
| Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage | | |
| Ministry of Special Assignments | | |
| Ministry of Sports | | |
| Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife | | |
| Ministry of Telecommunication and Digital Infrastructure | | |
| Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Religious Affairs | | |
| Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation | | |
| Ministry of Women and Child Affairs | | |
| Office of the President | | |
| Office of the Prime Minister | | |

ANNEX 5 - SECTION 8 AND 9 COMPARED WITH REGULATION 20 (2017, 2022, AND 2024)

| | 2017 | | 2022 | | 2024 | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| | Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act | Regulation 20 | Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act | Regulation 20 | Sections 8 and 9 of the RTI Act | Regulation 20 |
| Satisfactory | - | - | 4% | - | - | 3% |
| Moderately Satisfactory | 15% | 6% | 31% | 32% | 44% | 38% |
| Moderately Unsatisfactory | 85% | 76% | 65% | 68% | 56% | 47% |
| Unsatisfactory | - | 18% | - | - | - | 3% |

ANNEX 6: LANGUAGE PERCENTAGE SCORE

| Name of the Public Authority | English Percentage | Sinhala Percentage | Tamil Percentage |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Ministry of Agriculture and Plantation Industries | 50 | 37 | 23 |
| Ministry of Buddhasasana | 37 | 30 | 7 |
| Ministry of Defence | 47 | 40 | 20 |
| Ministry of Education | 37 | 13 | 3 |
| Ministry of Environment | 60 | 37 | 23 |
| Ministry of Finance | 50 | 17 | 7 |

| Name of the Public Authority | English Percentage | Sinhala Percentage | Tamil Percentage |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Ministry of Fisheries | 77 | 53 | 53 |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs | 57 | 17 | 17 |
| Ministry of Health | 63 | 27 | 17 |
| Ministry of Industries | 57 | 43 | 33 |
| Ministry of Investment Promotion | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| Ministry of Irrigation | 30 | 13 | 7 |
| Ministry of Justice | 40 | 37 | 20 |
| Ministry of Labour | 60 | 47 | 40 |
| Ministry of Mass Media | 50 | 27 | 7 |
| Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation | 57 | 37 | 23 |
| Ministry of Power and Energy (Energy Division) | 37 | 17 | 17 |
| Ministry of Power and Energy (Power Division) | 53 | 33 | 30 |
| Ministry of Public Administration | 57 | 43 | 43 |
| Ministry of Public Security | 33 | 13 | 10 |
| Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs | 37 | 27 | 23 |
| Ministry of Technology | 37 | 3 | 0 |
| Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Lands Division) | 40 | 33 | 23 |
| Ministry of Tourism and Lands (Tourism Division) | 37 | 23 | 23 |
| Ministry of Trade | 13 | 3 | 3 |
| Ministry of Transport and Highways | 47 | 43 | 20 |
| Ministry of Urban Development and Housing | 53 | 20 | 10 |
| Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Estate Infrastructure Division) | 27 | 3 | 3 |
| Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure (Water Supply Division) | 37 | 13 | 13 |
| Ministry of Wildlife | 47 | 40 | 40 |
| Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Social Empowerment Division) | 33 | 27 | 23 |
| Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (Women and Child Affairs Division) | 57 | 30 | 30 |
| Office of the President | 30 | 22 | 17 |
| Office of the Prime Minister | 70 | 48 | 43 |

Endnotes

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- 15 28 Cabinet Ministries with 4 Divisional Websites
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