

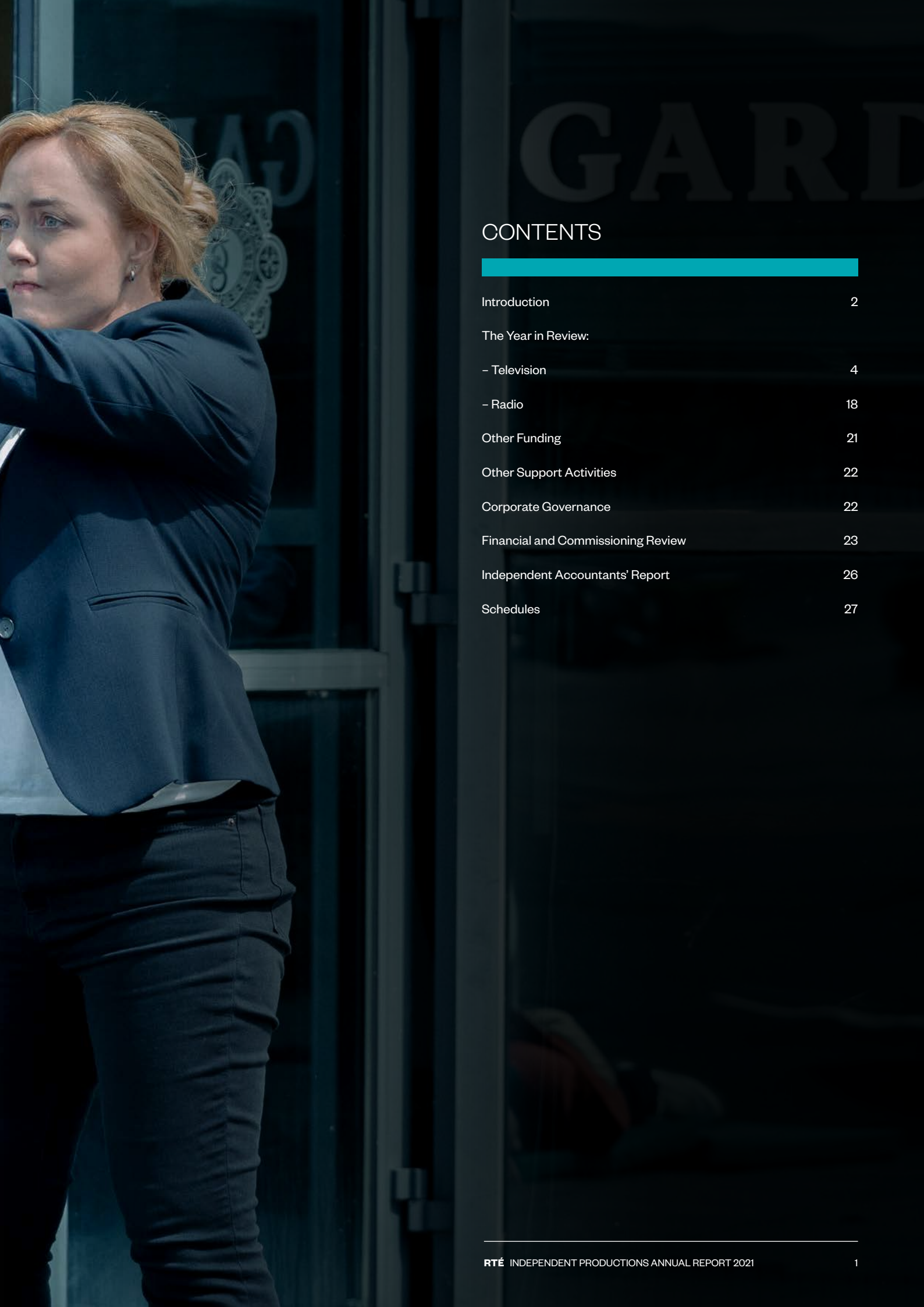


RTÉ

Independent Productions Annual Report 2021







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2021 was Ireland's second year of Covid, and a full year of pandemic restrictions of varying levels. Indeed, the year began under full Level 5 restrictions. Notwithstanding those challenges, the independent sector demonstrated huge flexibility, ingenuity and industry, which allowed the majority of productions commissioned to be produced across all programme genres. However, there were some casualties, most notably *Dancing with the Stars*, which was deemed far too risky from a public health and safety perspective. Thankfully, by year end a new series of this hugely popular format was commissioned to broadcast in 2022.

2021 was a year of sustained production and investment in the Irish independent audiovisual sector, which saw RTÉ not only achieving its annual statutory spend but also making up the shortfall in spend from 2020.

Drama Series, in particular, which employs larger crews than any other genre, rose to the challenge of filming under strict Covid protocols. Audiences responded really well, with excellent viewing figures for both *Kin* and *Hidden Assets*.

Entertainment programmes returned but had to contend with no live audiences. That being said, *The Tommy Tiernan Show* had its strongest season to date, and brand-new Irish format *Last Singer Standing* was launched to much praise. *Ireland's Fittest Family* took advantage of its outdoor setting and its family bubbles to be one of the safest and most successful family shows on our screens. *Ultimate Hell Week – The Professionals* had its strongest figures to date in its new peak-time slot on RTÉ One.

New documentaries filled the schedules with a rich variety across the whole year, from the blue-chip *The Burren: Heart of Stone* and *Jack B. Yeats: The Man Who Painted Ireland* to *Partition, 1921* and *The Killing of Father Niall Molloy*.



RTÉ2 saw the return of provincial rugby with live coverage of the URC, produced by Irish independent company IRIS. *Glow Up*, the worldwide makeup format, had its first series on the channel, presented by Maura Higgins. Screen Ireland and RTÉ joined forces to launch a new-look and higher budget *Storyland* strand and agreed to co-develop a range of dramas for RTÉ2, with the aim of engaging with new writers and producers.

Under the *Broadcasting Act 2009*, RTÉ has a statutory obligation to spend a predetermined minimum amount every year on independently produced television and radio programmes. This amount is lodged to a separate bank account, the Independent Programmes account. Part of RTÉ's obligation under the *Broadcasting Act* is to issue a report on that account. This report outlines how the funding in the account was used in 2021.

The statutory amount RTÉ was required to spend in 2021 was €39.8m (2020: €40.2m). In 2021 RTÉ paid into the Independent Programmes account the full amount in accordance with the *Broadcasting Act 2009*. Schedule 1 provides an explanation of this requirement. In addition to the spend requirement for 2021, the 2020 expenditure, as a direct result of public health advice and pandemic restrictions, was €3.7m below the statutory requirement and, as per the *Broadcasting Act 2009*, any monies not expended are to be spent within the following two years. RTÉ made up this amount in full during 2021.

In addition to expenditure through the Independent Programmes account, RTÉ incurred a further €1.1m on RTÉ-attributable overhead and additional programming, bringing the total expenditure on commissioning activities in 2021 to €44.7m. The production of commissioned television and radio programmes is financially and contractually managed through RTÉ's Content division.

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## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### TELEVISION



By commissioning big dramas, ground-breaking documentaries and entertainment shows that could be filmed during lockdown, RTÉ kept viewers engaged and entertained with a wide range of independently produced programmes across all genres, despite the continuing pandemic-related challenges. As reflected in the ratings, these shows proved very popular with our audiences.

#### RTÉ One

Crime dramas *Kin* and *Hidden Assets* were filmed during the heaviest of lockdowns; both delivered for RTÉ One and RTÉ Player in record numbers, and have already been sold to multiple territories. Filming commenced on *North Sea Connection*, a six-part thriller set on the west Galway coast.

In Entertainment, *Last Singer Standing* was a brand-new Irish-developed talent show for Saturday nights, while *Ireland's Fittest Family* went from strength to strength. The St Patrick's celebrations had to pivot to an online event once more, featuring some of Ireland's top musicians and artists.

Once again Factual Programming played a huge part on RTÉ One's schedules. There was tremendous variety in tone, from tributes like *Marian* to blue-chip series *The Burren – Heart of Stone*; *Partition*, *1921* and *Border Lives* presented respectively by Michael Portillo and Miriam O'Callaghan; and *The Killing of Father Niall Molloy*, and then lighter pieces such as *Ultimate Hell Week* – *The Professionals*, archive series *The Way We Were* and profiles on Daniel O'Donnell at 60, jockey Rachael Blackmore, and Jack B. Yeats, the man who painted Ireland.

New Irish language series featured strongly, including *Ar an Sliabh*, about people who live on mountains; *Mo Thréibh*, about Ireland's musical tribes; and *Iamróid Enda*, featuring our former Taoiseach's passion for trains.

RTÉ showed  
14 consecutive hours  
of high-rating drama  
on Sunday nights in  
the Autumn of 2021.



Kin



Hidden Assets



North Sea Connection

### Drama and Comedy

RTÉ showed 14 consecutive hours of high-rating drama on Sunday nights in the Autumn of 2021 with the shows *Kin* and *Hidden Assets*, as well as commencing production on *North Sea Connection*. All three shows are planned to be returnable.

Opening with a 47.1% audience share, and an average of 687k viewers, on 12 September 2021, *Kin*, an eight-part series about a family entrenched in the Dublin criminal underworld, continued to prove a rating success, achieving a 44.6% share for the series and 2.5 million streams on RTÉ Player in 2021. (Source: TAM Ireland/ Nielsen, Based on National, Individuals 4+, Consolidated viewing and AT Internet). Developed and produced by Bron Studios and Headline with Metropolitan Films, *Kin* details the life of the Kinsella crime family and their David-and-Goliath war against the rival international Cunningham cartel, with the Kinsellas having the unbreakable bonds of blood and family on their side: they are kin. Boasting a wealth of Irish and international talent, *Kin* was written by Peter McKenna (*Hidden Assets*, *Red Rock*, *The Musketeers*) and directed by Diarmuid Goggins (*Witness No. 3*, *Bulletproof*, *Red Rock*, *Silent Witness*) and Tessa Hoffe (*Crossfire*, *Zero Chill*, *Hollyoaks*). It assembled an all-star cast in Charlie Cox, Clare Dunne, Aidan Gillen, Emmett J. Scanlan, Maria Doyle Kennedy, Sam Keeley and Ciarán Hinds, and introduced new talent like Yasmin Seky and Cian Fitzsimons. The series was pre-sold to AMC+ in all its territories including North America, the UK and Australia, and to Viaplay for all the Scandinavian territories. It has also recently been sold to NPO, the Dutch public broadcaster.

*Hidden Assets* is a six-part international crime thriller shot on location in Limerick and Antwerp. It was produced by Siobhan Bourke, Katherine Lennon and James Mitchell (Saffron Moon) with investment partners from Screen Ireland, Screen Flanders, Streamz and Mediafonds in Belgium, Facet 4 in Canada and Acorn with DC as the international distribution partner. *Hidden Assets* cast brought together exemplary Irish talent in a complex psychological thriller written by Peter McKenna and Morna Regan. Angeline Ball, Simone Kirby, Peter Coonan, Aaron Monaghan and Cathy Belton, with Belgian actors Wouter Hendrickx and Gilles De Schryver and the international names of Charlie Carrick and Michael Ironside, starred in the series. *Hidden Assets* has already been sold to the BBC and to SBS, the Australian public broadcaster.

Shot against the backdrop of Connemara, *North Sea Connection* is a six-part series produced with Mopar Media and Tristan Orpen Lynch from Subotica, with investment from Mopar, Viaplay and A+E International. *North Sea Connection* centres around the Kenny family, who have fished the west coast of Ireland for generations. Ciara, the youngest, might very well be the last to do so. When her brother Aidan puts the family's lives in danger by secretly agreeing to facilitate a drug run at sea to pay off debts, it is Ciara who must appease the Nordic cartel and find a way for the Kennys to stay alive. It was written by Mark Greig (*The Window*, *Bulletproof*, *Ransom*), Francesca Harris (*Blue Lights*) and Conor Keane (*The Removal*) and directed by Paul Murphy (*Red Election*, *American Housewife*, *Trollied*) and Hannah Quinn (*Vikings: Valhalla*, *The Stranger*, *Blood*). It features Irish stars Sinéad Cusack, Kerr Logan, Lynn Rafferty, Lydia McGuinness and Stuart Graham as well as high-profile Swedish actors Alida Morberg and Claes Ljungmark. *North Sea Connection* is planned to broadcast on RTÉ in 2022.

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# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## TELEVISION

Comedy on RTÉ One saw *The Tommy Tiernan Show* (Power Pictures) return for its fifth series. It continued to attract large audiences with interviews that are always hilarious and often very moving. As ever, Tommy has no idea who his guests will be. Well-known faces and people with interesting life experiences are all subject to his unique interviewing style.

After the success of his Christmas special, RTÉ Comedy commissioned a six-part series from Oliver Callan and Wonky Chair Media. *Callan Kicks the Years* was a satirical exploration of significant moments and themes from Ireland's 100-year history. This was followed by a special one-hour satirical review of 2021, featuring contributions from Oliver's most popular characters from the worlds of politics, entertainment and public life.

### Entertainment and Music

Featuring new entertainment series, musical talent and the welcome return of some favourites, RTÉ continued to be a major commissioner of prime-time entertainment programming from independent producers, despite the ongoing restrictions.

2021 saw *Home Advantage* (Loosehorse), a newly commissioned family-focused entertainment quiz series presented by Jennifer Zamparelli, come to RTÉ One. This innovative Irish show made a virtue of Covid-related restrictions, with families competing from their own homes. *Last Singer Standing* (Shinawil) was a warmly received, newly developed eight-part game show format presented by Nicky Byrne. Contestants sang their hearts out to reach the final episode, and a chance to win the big money prize and become the last singer standing.

*A St Patrick's Festival Celebration* (Coco Content) was a special one-hour programme commissioned in lieu of our usual parade coverage. It captured the performance, pageantry and spectacle of the wider St Patrick's festival, featuring creative, visually stunning and original outdoor entertainment events from all over the country.

2021 also featured the return of the hugely popular *Ireland's Fittest Family* (Animo TV), reaching a large audience for the January run of the series on RTÉ One. A ninth series was produced in 2021, with all the signs indicating that this homegrown entertainment format has become a family favourite. The series featured many new and exciting events, inspirational families and our committed coaches, who support and encourage our brilliant competitors.

Christmas 2021 saw Adare Productions bring us a new entertainment show, *Big Night In*. Dermot Whelan and Doireann Garrihy presented a fresh hour of laugh-out-loud celebrity pranks, studio games and surprises for the audience.

*The Heart of Saturday Night* (South Wind Blows) saw presenters and artists Una Healy and Loah welcome viewers to six weeks of glorious evenings of music from Dublin's Mansion House, in the company of some of Ireland's finest performers. A further special edition appeared on New Year's Eve on RTÉ One. The show was warmly received by our audience. It was an opportunity for the best of Ireland's musical talent to showcase their creativity at a time when live music was curtailed.



The Tommy Tiernan Show

*Callan Kicks the Years* was a satirical exploration of significant moments and themes from Ireland's 100-year history.



Home Advantage



The Heart of Saturday Night



*Dancing with the Stars* (Shinawil), commissioned in 2021 and transmitting in 2022, sees the return of the very popular show for a fifth series. Hosted by Jennifer Zamparelli and Nicky Byrne, 12 celebrities partner with professional dancers as each week they take on a brand-new ballroom dance, hoping to claim the coveted glitter-ball trophy at the end of the series.

### Cláracha Gaeilge

In 2021, RTÉ continued to build its Irish-language television output with an impressive slate of new series commissioned from the independent sector.

*My Tribe: Mo Thréibh* (Series 2) from Mind the Gap Films was a four-part bilingual documentary series broadcast in March 2021, supported by RTÉ and the BAI. It told the definitive story of Ireland's musical tribes, taking viewers back to a time when music was life, clothing was precise and attitude was everything.

*Iarnród Enda* (Sonas Productions) saw former Taoiseach Enda Kenny going on a journey to discover the lost railway routes of Ireland while meeting local characters, historians and a few celebrities along the way. The six-part series was supported by the Irish Language Broadcast Fund (ILBF) and broadcast in April 2021.

*Ar an Sliabh* (Strident Media) was a co-production between RTÉ and BBC NI, supported by the ILBF. This six-part social-history documentary series, broadcast in autumn 2021 on RTÉ One, charted the lives of the people living on mountains in contemporary Ireland. Its aim was to give an insight into rural Irish life for viewers today and to preserve people's lives for future generations through the national archive.

*Peataí* (Big Mountain Productions) was a co-production between RTÉ and BBC NI, supported by the ILBF. Presenter Tessa Fleming was joined by vet Ellen Hegarty, groomer Paul Ó Gallachóir and animal behaviourist Paula Doohan at the Ark Farm in Newtownards, County Down, welcoming Gaelgeóirí from the four provinces to help solve their pets' grooming, behavioural and health issues. This six-part series broadcast in autumn 2021.

*Saol an Tréidlia* (Strident Media) was a popular four-part series broadcast in autumn 2021 that charted the lives, at home and at work, of three vets – Emma, Niamh and Liam – as they dealt with a range of unpredictable and emotional cases, taking challenging decisions that impacted animals and owners alike.

*Cad Faoi na Tuismitheoirí?* (Tyrone Productions) was a four-part lifestyle series that examined some of the most common issues and challenges that parents face on a daily basis. Evelyn O'Rourke and Ronan Mac Niallais met families and experts to discuss the biggest parenting issues families face. This series was broadcast in autumn 2021.

We also look forward to seeing other projects impacted by Covid move back into production during 2022. Production on *Réalta na Gaeltachta* (Big Mountain), a BAI-supported celebrity entertainment series based in the Donegal Gaeltacht, was postponed for safety reasons. *Banríon Síoghes* (Léirithe Rúnda), featuring Mary Waugh Lamb, who has dedicated her life to educating disabled children, also could not proceed as planned.



Dancing with the Stars



Iarnród Enda

In 2021, RTÉ continued to build its Irish-language television output with an impressive slate of new series commissioned from the independent sector.



Peataí

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## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### TELEVISION

A number of RTÉ-supported Irish language series and single programmes went into production during 2021 and will broadcast on RTÉ One in 2022. RTÉ is grateful for the support it has received for these projects from the BAI Sound and Vision Fund and Northern Ireland Screen's ILBF.

*Droichid na hÉireann* (New Departures Media) is a six-part BAI-supported series for RTÉ One that tells the story and history of Ireland's beloved bridges. Presented by actor Lochlann Ó Mearáin, the series explores the history, architecture, landscape and, above all, the people behind these bridges.

*Faoi Bhláth* (Abú Media) is a brand-new 13-part series that celebrates Ireland's biodiversity. Presenter Aedín Ní Thiarnaigh travels through the parks, lakes, bogs and mountains of Ireland to uncover our rich array of wildflowers and learn about the folklore associated with them and their uses in cookery, medicine and craft. It will be broadcast in February 2022 on RTÉ One.

*The Man with the Moving House* (Bang Bang Teoranta), a single documentary, is the David-and-Goliath story of one man's 14-year struggle with the planning authorities to be allowed to build a house on his own land. It is also the broader story of modern-day Ireland's culture, heritage and language and the impact of planning laws on rural Gaeltacht communities. It will be broadcast on RTÉ One during 2022.

*Bog Amach* (Strident Media) seeks to introduce Irish-speaking buyers to more than just a new home – a new life too. The series will focus mainly on working-age movers: individuals, couples and families who, like so many in post-pandemic Ireland, have decided to forsake the daily commute to work remotely from a rural area.

The global pandemic shone a light on the invaluable work carried out by our frontline medical and emergency workers. *999 Faoi Oiliúint* (Below the Radar), a new four-part series for RTÉ One, will follow a new bunch of recruits training to join the emergency services. This series will be broadcast on RTÉ One in 2022.

In May 2020, East Belfast GAA invited people from all backgrounds and abilities to join its new club. Over 2,000 people responded, and 400 players had signed up by the first training session. *Le Chéile* (Macha Media) is a two-part co-production with BBC NI funded by the ILBF that will follow the highs and lows of setting up a new GAA club in traditionally Unionist East Belfast.

In addition, RTÉ commissioned *Comhluadar Ceoil*, *Réalta agus Gaolta*, *Junior Eurovision*, *Go Gasta* and *TG4 Rugbaí Beo* (URC Championship series coverage) from the independent sector for TG4 broadcast.



*Droichid na hÉireann*



*Faoi Bhláth*

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The global pandemic shone a light on the invaluable work carried out by our frontline medical and emergency workers.



*My Tribe: Mo Threíbh*

## Factual

### Documentaries and Series

Despite the pandemic and the numerous disrupted and delayed productions, Documentaries & Series provided over 40 hours of new peak-time programmes to the RTÉ One schedule. The genre remained hugely popular with audiences and featured prominently in the Top 50 programmes for Irish audiences for the year.

There were slight variations in performance as the country moved in and out of Level 5 lockdowns, but numbers remained strong as Covid-weary viewers responded to the mix of stories curated to entertain, inform and distract them. Subjects ranged from a heart-warming tale of friendship and love to the grim but compelling *The Killing of Father Niall Molloy* (Carnegie Films) in September. Strong series bookended the year, with *Operation Transformation* (VIP) delivering motivation and guidance in January and February and *The Case I Can't Forget* (Rare TV/Green Inc) gripping viewers in November. Both series were in the Top 50 programmes watched last year.

Sunday evenings in January traditionally deliver big audiences, and January 2021 had an even bigger and very captive audience due to the lockdown. *The Way We Were* (Waka TV) combined archive with anecdotal accounts of the way we lived, worked and holidayed. At a time of huge global uncertainty, a chance to look back at what felt like simpler times worked well. On Mondays in January, our first two single documentaries, *Marian* (Drumlin Pictures), a tribute to journalist and broadcaster Marian Finucane, and *Let the Rest of the World Go By* (Angelo Films), a first-time commission from director Donal Moloney, a unique tale of love and friendship, struck a chord. Both documentaries combined great storytelling with high production values, celebrating not only the subjects involved but the deep legacy of love and grief.

In February, Animo TV Productions brought us *Davy's Toughest Team*. Although this was planned in early 2020 and derailed hugely by Covid, the final series, with locations changing from Mount Everest to Carrauntoohil, remained strong and authentic, shining a light on the problem of disaffected young men in contemporary Ireland. Later in spring, in *Dr Cassidy's Casebook* (Pounce Pictures), Marie Cassidy revisited some of the cases that resonated with her through her long career as Ireland's State Pathologist. At the other end of the emotional spectrum, *Holy F\*\*\** (Loosehorse) saw Ardal O'Hanlon, tongue firmly in cheek, celebrating our unique relationship with cursing.

*Cocooned* (Venom Films), was a stunning celebration of our older citizens and the resilience with which they faced successive lockdowns during the first year of the pandemic. *The Irish Wedding*, from Atom Films, charted two years and 18 very different weddings.

Notable documentaries were *Barney Curley: The Man Who Beat the Bookies* from True Films and the three-part documentary series *The Case I Can't Forget*, from Rare TV and Green Inc, which built on the success of Series 1 with audience shares peaking at 44% for the retelling of the story of the murder of Rachel Callaly and the relationship built in the aftermath by the lead detective on the case, Pat Merry, and Rachel's mother, Rose. Tyrone Productions brought us *David Brophy's Frontline Choir*, which paid tribute to Ireland's healthcare workers and looked back on their lives and work at the frontline of the battle with Covid.



*The Killing of Father Niall Molloy*

At a time of huge global uncertainty, a chance to look back at what felt like simpler times worked well.



*Davy's Toughest Team*



*David Brophy's Frontline Choir*



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## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### TELEVISION

Finally, a number of documentaries contributed significantly to the Christmas schedule, lightening the end of a very tough year. These included *Rachael Blackmore: A Grand Year* (Fifty-Three Six Media), a timely celebration of one of Ireland's most successful jockeys and winner of the RTÉ Sportsperson of the Year and BBC World Sports Star of the Year; *The Toy Shop* (Atom Films); and *Daniel at 60* (Waddell Media), a very personal portrait of the artist as a middle-aged man.

#### Popular Factual and Factual Entertainment

2021 was a watershed year, with several new formats successfully developed and commissioned on both RTÉ One and RTÉ2.

On RTÉ One, a new format, *Shoulders of Giants*, profiled the lives of deceased entertainers as told by entertainers they inspired. The first episode featured Nathan Carter paying homage to Joe Dolan. The same production company, Waka TV, also produced another successful series of *Keys to My Life*.

*Designed for Life* (Indiepics) was a new lifestyle format fronted by interior designer Arlene McIntyre that highlighted Irish and international trends in design, while homegrown design featured in the second series of *The Big DIY Challenge* (VIP).

*Ultimate Hell Week – The Professionals* (JMACTWO Productions) moved to RTÉ One after two seasons of *Ultimate Hell Week* on RTÉ2, and was highly successful in attracting a younger audience to the main channel. *Ireland's Garden Heroes*, from Animo TV Productions, was a new format that showcased the best of Ireland's gardens with a diverse range of designs. Property continued to be popular, with both *Cheap Irish Homes* from Cameo Productions and *Home of the Year* from Shinawil rating highly; *Goodbye House*, from Stellify Media, aired its final series.

*No Place Like Home* from Frontier Films continued for a second series, as did *The Style Counsellors*, produced by Indiepics, who also produced *How to be Good with Money*, which continued for a fourth series.

The feature documentary *Tomorrow is Saturday* (GMARSHTV), featuring collage artist Sean Hillen, who discovers at age 55 that he has Asperger's syndrome, was nominated for an IFTA.

Development funding was also provided for a number of promising new formats in 2021.

#### Specialist Factual

The Specialist Factual slate was particularly mixed in 2021, combining aspects of science, natural history, music, modern history and business. The shadow of Covid-19 was a dominant theme across much of our output, but especially in *V Day* (Indiepics), which followed some of Ireland's most vulnerable citizens through the vaccination process. Covid was also the backdrop against which a second series of *Open for Business* (Coco Content) went to air: a six-part strand that looked at the economic impact of the pandemic in Ireland.



Rachael Blackmore: A Grand Year

2021 was a watershed year, with several new formats successfully developed and commissioned on both RTÉ One and RTÉ2.



Shoulders of Giants



Home Of The Year

Elsewhere, Katrina Costello's acclaimed natural history two-partner *The Burren: Heart of Stone* (Sea Fever Productions), which examined the history, geography and geology of one of Ireland's most iconic locations, was a real stand-out. Broadstone Films' one-off, *Sold: The Eircom Shares Saga*, traced the scarcely believable history of telecommunications in Ireland through the prism of the public flotation of Eircom.

The Partition of Ireland and the creation of Northern Ireland was dealt with by Michael Portillo and Miriam O'Callaghan respectively in two fine one-off films from Midas Productions, *Partition, 1921*, and Strike Films, *Border Lives*, which looked at another seminal event in the history of the revolutionary period on the island of Ireland.

Liz Bonnin and Professor Luke O'Neill were reunited to present a second series of *Future Island*, the stripped, three-part live science and technology series produced by Loosehorse that bedrocked RTÉ's contribution to Science Week 2021. David Burke's terrific feature documentary, *The Father of the Cyborgs* (DOT Television), about the work of an Irish neuroscientist, Dr Philip Kennedy – co-funded by RTÉ, Screen Ireland and Science Foundation Ireland – also enjoyed its small-screen debut during Science Week, when it played on RTÉ One.

Underpinning the entire slate were two long-running strands – *Crimecall* (Rare TV/Green Inc) and *Ear to the Ground* (Indiepics) – which enjoyed very strong runs in the post-watershed and pre-watershed schedules. The year ended with Dearn Films' excellent revisit to some of the country's best-known live music festivals in *How Ireland Rocked the 70s*.

### Religious Programmes

In 2021, Kairos Communications again delivered high-quality outside broadcast coverage of masses for Easter, the Feast of the Assumption and midnight mass on Christmas Eve, but delivery of several other independent productions was delayed by Covid. It is hoped that *Ireland's Dirty Laundry*, New Decade's two-part telling of the stories of Irish women enslaved in religious-run institutions, *A Ring and a Prayer*, a six-part series on inter-faith marriages from Esras Films, *Dazzled by Daylight*, a feature documentary from Lifeblood Films about the construction of Ireland's first Tibetan Buddhist temple, and *Tukdam: The Living Dead* from Wildfire Films, about Buddhist monks who delay physical decay by going into deep meditation at the point of death, will all now be delivered in 2022.

Meanwhile, in 2021, RTÉ won the USA's premier religious media award for the third successive year with Bo Media's *The Cork Nativity*, which put the Gospel Christmas story into the mouths of the people of Cork.

### Arts and Culture

The central vision for RTÉ Arts and Culture is to create content that involves and impacts on a large cross-section of Irish audiences. We aim to reflect and comment on life in Ireland through engaging stories with human interest at the heart. To this end, the projects listed below were commissioned from independent producers, with subject matter encompassing literature, theatre, music, dance, visual arts and community activities.

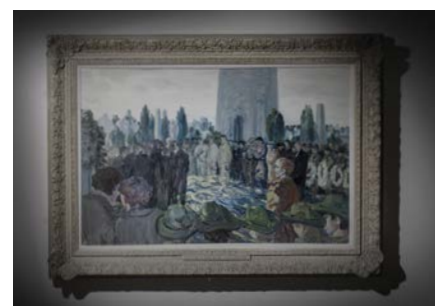


*The Burren: Heart of Stone*



*Future Island*

The central vision for RTÉ Arts and Culture is to create content that involves and impacts on a large cross-section of Irish audiences.



Jack B. Yeats: *The Man Who Painted Ireland*

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## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### TELEVISION

Presented by Oliver Callan, *An Post Irish Book of the Year 2021* (Bigger Stage) showcases the six Irish books shortlisted for the overall An Post Irish Book of the Year award, featuring interviews with the authors and culminating in the reveal of this year's winner.

On 2 February 1922, James Joyce's *Ulysses* was published by Sylvia Beach in a small bookshop in Paris. To mark its 100th anniversary, RTÉ and ARTE join forces on a major documentary. Based on fresh scholarship, *100 Years of Ulysses* (Create One) will chart the journey of the novel and its relevance to modern audiences.

In *Colm Tóibín, On Memory's Shore* (Below the Radar), the novelist's childhood in County Wexford as well as his contemporary writing life in Dublin is explored and celebrated. The landmark documentary, produced by Below the Radar TV for RTÉ One, meets Colm as he completes his latest novel.

Brian Friel is recognised as one of the finest playwrights of the 20th century. With interviews for the first time with his wife, Anne, and unique access to his private correspondence, *Brian Friel – Shy Man, Showman* (Walk On Air Films) seeks to capture the mix of place, people and events that shaped the man and his plays.

*Soundtrack to My Life* (Shinawil), presented by Niall Breslin, is a new music and chat show for Saturday nights on RTÉ One. Each episode will see an Irish artist collaborate with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra to create a playlist of songs that mean the most to them, and reveal the stories behind their choices.

*Songs of the Open Road* (Harvest Films), a documentary on the great Traveller singer Thomas McCarthy, is an ode to the art of singing and the enduring power of song. McCarthy is one of the most exciting and moving traditional singers of today, with a voice of great strength, character and beauty.

*Míchéal ó Suilleabháin: Between Worlds*, a feature-length documentary, will explore the life and worldwide legacy of the eponymous musician and composer.

*The Flourishing* (Tyrone Productions) will trace the journey of Irish traditional and folk music, featuring the work of Paul Brady, Mary Black, Finbar Furey, Paddy Glackin, Andy Irvine, Tríona Ní Dhomhnaill, Mary O'Hara, Mary Bergin and others as we discover how they re-energised the tradition.

*Steps of Freedom: The Story of Irish Dance* (Tyrone Productions) tells how Irish dance developed from the traditional dance of the Irish people to the global phenomenon it is today, with major shows reaching audiences of millions and dance schools in more than 60 countries teaching Irish dancing.

*Jack B. Yeats: The Man Who Painted Ireland* (Averner Films), a landmark film that falls on the 150th anniversary of Jack's birth, brings together contributors from Ireland's sphere of culture and academia.

*Camera, Tripod, Bicycle* (South Wind Blows) is the story of Lesley Crowe. Travelling by bicycle from his Santry home with his 8mm camera and tripod, he filmed Dublin through decades of great change from the 1950s to the 1970s.



Colm Tóibín

*Brian Friel – Shy Man, Showman* seeks to capture the mix of place, people and events that shaped the man and his plays.



Soundtrack to My Life



Steps of Freedom: The Story of Irish Dance



Dyehouse Films produced content for a *Nationwide* special featuring a range of arts groups and their projects for Culture Night 2021. These included the Ballymore Eustace Brass Band, the Catherine Young Dance Group in Kerry, a look at Traveller tinsmithing, the history of textile manufacturing in Mountmellick, County Laois, and a young dance troupe in Tullamore.

## Sport

Commissioned in 2019, *Horizon Tokyo* (Brick Films) followed nine of Ireland's Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls in their quest to make it to Tokyo 2020. Like other major events in 2020, the Summer Games were postponed until 2021. As the athletes' journey continued, so too did the task of capturing the experiences of those involved in chasing their dreams. Consisting of three one-hour programmes, the series was eventually broadcast in June 2021 across RTÉ One and RTÉ Player (including Player-only athlete profile shorts), and introduced the Irish audience to many athletes who went on to light up the summer.

In November 2021, three young Irishmen bravely shared their stories with the nation in a landmark documentary on eating disorders in men. Produced by Alleycats TV, *Unspoken* dispelled commonly held misconceptions and challenged stereotypes to provide a broader, deeper understanding of this most misunderstood condition.

To celebrate 50 years of the GAA All-Stars, Poolbeg Productions delved into the archives to deliver a historical look back at these prestigious awards. From inception through to the present day, *The All-Stars at 50* celebrated half a century of memories, action and controversies with some of the key players both on and off the field.

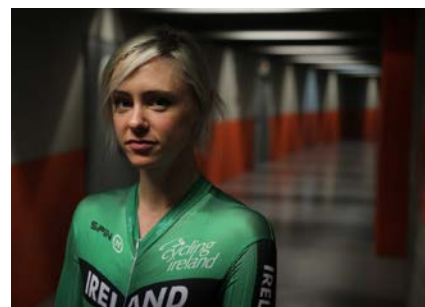
## RTÉ2

RTÉ2 grew its share year on year with major sports events – The Olympics, The Paralympics and the UEFA European Football Championship – taking place a year later than planned due to Covid. These took up huge parts of the schedule during the summer months. During the rest of the year a range of new series sprinkled the schedules, including comedy panel show *Clear History*, behind the scenes series *The Rotunda*, a longer version of *Home Rescue* and the first Irish series of *Glow Up*, presented by Maura Higgins, which not only performed well on RTÉ2 but also garnered huge audiences on the RTÉ Player.

*Other Voices* returned for its 19th series, shot in Dingle behind closed doors, and it was a similar story for the *RTÉ Choice Music Awards*, which came from an empty Windmill Lane Studios.

2022 will see the fruits of two major drama initiatives, a specific call-out for new drama for RTÉ2 and the revival of *Storyland*. In both cases Screen Ireland has partnered with RTÉ, which on this occasion will have higher budgets and a peak-time slot on the channel.

Young People's programmes featured heavily on the channel, with the much-loved *Home School Hub* returning to help parents and teachers with the primary school curriculum and a host of new animations launched. Animation, due to new technology, was far less affected by lockdown than live action, and production continued apace.

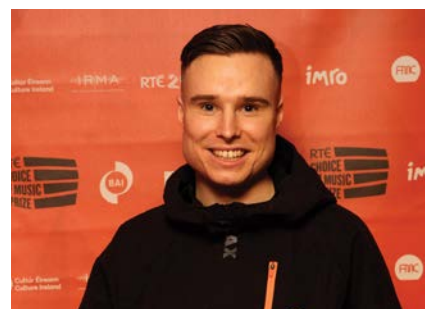


Horizon Tokyo

From inception through to the present day, *The All-Stars at 50* celebrated half a century of memories, action and controversies.



Home Rescue



RTÉ Choice Music Awards

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# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## TELEVISION

### Drama and Comedy

In cooperation with Screen Ireland, the RTÉ2 drama call-out was shortlisted to eight programmes. The three half-hour and five one-hour productions selected will now proceed into development. First-stage development is expected to be finished by May 2022, with the intention for continued development of selected programmes for eventual broadcast on RTÉ2.

After a hiatus due to the pandemic, 2021 saw *Storyland* return with more investment and a greater audience reach than ever before. This iteration will be broadcast on RTÉ2 as well as RTÉ Player. Screen Ireland has partnered with RTÉ to identify, develop and showcase new talent by producing innovative drama from a diverse range of voices. Focusing on finding and nurturing talent from the fields of writing, directing, acting and producing, this is a strong commitment to the development and sustainability of the Irish television industry.

In December 2021, we received the highest number of entries ever: 204. Following the assessment process, eight (25 minute) projects will be selected for development with three projects proceeding to production.

Comedy on RTÉ2 saw the launch of a new panel-based show. *Clear History*, presented by Kevin McGahern and Joanne McNally, was a formatted series produced by Kite Entertainment. New talent from social platforms joined more established commentators to decide which embarrassing moments from Ireland's past should be deleted.

While RTÉ continues to support and develop Irish comedy in both scripted and non-scripted content, 2021 saw the development of a number of new scripted comedy series, many in partnership with Screen Ireland. The development process will continue in 2022.

### Entertainment and Music

A very different *Other Voices* returned for its 19th series, on RTÉ2, filmed by South Wind Blows under restrictions and behind closed doors. St James' Church in Dingle still managed to host the best in Irish music. This 10-part series featured several of Ireland's top artists including Denise Chaila, Hozier and Damien Dempsey.

The RTÉ Choice Music Prize (Southpaw Pictures) returned to celebrate the nominees and announce the winners of Irish Album of the Year and Song of the Year. Due to restrictions, this normally live event was filmed from Dublin's Windmill Lane Studios. Adam Clayton announced the winner of the RTÉ Choice Music Prize Irish Album of the Year: Denise Chaila.

*Tradfest: The Dublin Castle Sessions* was a six-part, late-night live performance series for RTÉ2, hosted by Fiachna Ó Braonáin and produced by Born Optimistic

### Popular Factual and Factual Entertainment

On RTÉ2, the autumn saw the launch of an Irish version of the hit format *Glow Up*, presented by Maura Higgins, which profiled the talents of aspiring makeup artists nationwide. Produced by Indiepics, the series tapped into the growing popularity of online makeup transformations for a younger demographic.

Finding and nurturing talent from the fields of writing, directing, acting and producing, *Storyland* is a strong commitment to the development and sustainability of the Irish television industry.



Clear History



Other Voices



Glow Up

*Home Rescue*, from Coco Content, moved from RTÉ One to RTÉ2 as an hour-long series and proved a massive hit with the audience in this new format. The same company continued a successful run of *First Dates*. Dating in a different way featured in the third series of *Pulling With My Parents* from Alleycats TV.

In a new format, *Selling Ireland's Most Exclusive Homes* proved popular from Waddell Media, and the same company produced *Ireland's Rich List 2021*. *Anna Geary: Why Girls Quit Sport* was a BAI-supported series from Animo TV Productions, in which Anna Geary looked at the phenomenon of teenage girls quitting sport and how to keep them motivated. A new format from Straywave Media saw *The 2 Johnnies Take On* a range of activities such as TikTok, urban art and e-sports.

Also in 2021 *The Rotunda*, from Scratch Films, added heft to the post-watershed offering on RTÉ2.

### Sport

As the brand new United Rugby Championship (URC) is officially launched, RTÉ and TG4 announced that together they will deliver world class club rugby to Irish audience's free-to-air. Games involving Irish provinces will be live and free-to-air on Irish television.

Produced by IRIS and presented on RTÉ by Jacqui Hurley and Daire O'Brien, the live action will continue to the conclusion of the 2021/22 season, comprising 26 games for RTÉ featuring Irish provinces home and away games in the league.

TG4's *Rugbaí Beo* will continue to be the station's flagship rugby programme with IRIS providing live coverage of 17 matches from the provinces home fixtures.

### Younger Audiences

2021 was supposed to be the year when everything got back to 'normal' – whatever that is. However, as the year dawned, it soon became apparent that school closures were once again on the horizon. *Home School Hub* was back on the telly, bringing your favourite teachers and fun learning into your living rooms. Producers Macalla Teo, under very challenging circumstances, delivered another stellar series, creating continuity of learning and a resource that kids and parents could engage with as the pandemic raged on.

What is also apparent is the necessity to provide a truly cross-platform experience for all children and young people in Ireland accessing our services: to create and deliver the opportunity for our audience to interact with our content how, when and where they wanted to.

In collaboration with our EBU colleagues we participated in the *EBU Kids International Friendship #SayHi Campaign*, a Europe-wide anti-bullying initiative that saw huge engagement across social media and digital platforms.



First Dates



Anna Geary

RTÉ and TG4 announced that together they will deliver world class club rugby to Irish audience's free-to-air.



Home School Hub



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# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## TELEVISION

### RTÉ Kids

2021 saw a name change across a number of our services: our 7-12s content block is now called RTÉ Kids, and this will be rolled out across 2022.

2021 was a great year for content for this age group. The popular *My Story* documentary strand welcomed *Speed Stacking* to its collection of films. *Speed Stacking*, produced by Ronin Films, gets up close and personal with the fascinating sport of speed stacking. We catch up with Laura Beacom from Belfast as she attempts to recapture her world record.

*Ace My Space* was back with a second series, produced by Tailored Films and presented by Social Media stars and all-round daring duo Mary-Claire Fitzpatrick and Sean Treacy. Budget bedroom makeovers and gunge – what's not to love!

In September 2021, RTÉ Kids welcomed the intergalactic popstar Nova Jones and the crew of the *Jefferson* to our screens. This incredible series, created by Jam Media and co-produced with CBBC, wowed audiences right from the start, and we are expecting big things from Nova and the crew in 2022.

Right on time for Halloween 2021, seven spooky and specially commissioned animated films dropped onto our screens. *A Breath of Fresh Scare* comprised seven two-minute films created by seven wonderfully talented Irish animation companies: Elk Studios, Cardel Entertainment, Alt Animation, And Maps And Plans, Wiggleywoo, Giant Animation Studios and Daily Madness Productions. All films are available to view on RTÉ Player.

*Squad Goals*, created by Kite Entertainment and hosted by Anna Geary, was also back with 16 brand-new episodes of the brainiest, brawniest game show in town.

New to RTÉ Kids was the groundbreaking art/animation series *Will Slaney's Storytellers*, produced by Pioneertown Productions. Hosted by Irish comic book artist Will Slaney, this series teaches budding young artists how to wield a pencil to unleash their imagination, through a combination of drawing lessons and the animated tale of fearless young Viking mapmaker Freya.

Our favourite cute furry animal families were back watching nature documentaries on *Critters TV* from Turnip & Duck, a hilarious series full of fun and learning for all the family.

*Royals Next Door* also debuted on RTÉ Kids, produced by Irish studio Ink & Light, Finnish-Spanish studio Pikkukala and Belgium's Walking the Dog. In this comedy series for 7-12s we meet crown princess Stella and her family, who have to move from their castle into a regular suburb. Will they fit in? Are the royals just like everyone else?

In November 2021 a wonderful new series, *Bush Kids*, created and produced by GMARSH TV, launched across our channels. We follow four families into four challenging habitats as they learn to fend for themselves off grid. Mentored by bushcraft expert Tom Bán, they forage for their food and build their own shelter before night falls.



Ace My Space



Squad Goals



Will Slaney's Storytellers



Bush Kids

Christmas on RTÉ Kids was a real treat for everyone. We were delighted to once again partner with Junk Kouture to deliver the *Junk Kouture Grand Final*, a real celebration of creativity, sustainability and glamour!

The *Ace My Space* team at Tailored Films delivered two brilliant Christmas makeover episodes for two deserving community groups. First up they transformed the Reco in Ballymun into the ultimate Zen Den, followed by Lee Heights Youth Club in Wexford, which became the ultimate Hobby Hub.

On Christmas Eve we kept it country as we met the next generation of Nathan Carters and Cliona Hagans in a really special film, *A Kids' Country Christmas*, produced by Ronin Films. *Home School Hub: A Christmas Cracker* (Macalla Teo) was a wonderful way to finish the year as we started, bringing all the *Home School Hub* team back together in this festive season finale.

### RTÉjr

2021 on RTÉjr was a fantastic mix of live action and animation for our 0–6 audience. We had some returning favourites and also introduced some fresh new series for our youngest viewers.

The intrepid *Mya Go* from Piranha Bar was back with her can-do attitude in a brand-new series as Gaeilge and in English. *Bóin agus Beach/Ladybird and Bee* premiered on RTÉjr in March: no better way to usher in springtime than with the cutest two beasties you will ever meet!

Donncha O'Callaghan was back for Series 3 of *Donncha's Two Talented* (Adare Productions): a talent show with a difference, where kids put an adult through performance bootcamp and then it's up to them to nail the big performance/duet on the main stage!

In September 2021 we met Alva and her family for the first time in *Alva's World*, produced by Kavaleer: a really important, funny and engaging animated series that explores how to stay safe and have fun online.

*Let's Find Out* (Stopwatch Television) was back on our screens with a brand-new series and a brand-new presenter (Amy Hassett) for Science Week in November 2021. Zoom and Mark also returned, answering the trickiest of science questions and wowing us with amazing experiments!

To wrap up the year on RTÉjr, with a big bow on top, we had *Adam Saves Christmas* from Kavaleer: a heart-warming tale in which Adam, Speedy, Bubby and Zuzu need to figure out what's happening with the Northern Lights or Santa won't be able to deliver his presents to all the children across the world!



Junk Kouture



A Kids' Country Christmas



Adam Saves Christmas



RTÉ Radio maintained its strong performance as the Covid crisis continued through 2021. Information-based programming kept listeners up to date with the latest developments, while a wide range of arts and cultural features engaged listeners and supported artists during a challenging time for everyone in Ireland.

The independent radio sector produced a wide range of high-quality series and one-offs, which really contributed to the range and depth of RTÉ Radio's output. There has been a particular focus on arts, music and cultural programmes across all the stations, from *An Cúinne Dána* and *Cuan an Cheoil* on Raidió na Gaeltachta to *South Wind Blows* and *The Poetry Programme* on RTÉ Radio One, *Legacies* and *The Breakdown* on 2FM and *Culture File* on lyric fm. *The Business* on Saturday morning on Radio One

has gone from strength to strength and features in the top 20 programmes in the JNLRs (Joint National Listenership Research). *Callan's Kicks* continued to be the stand-out satirical series in Ireland.

RTÉ also supported a wide range of radio projects for the BAI Sound & Vision scheme in 2021; several were awarded significant awards and will go on air in 2022.





Callan's Kicks



Second Captains

*The Breakdown*, a two-part series produced by Mediatone, charts the journey through 30 years of Irish electronic music, featuring producers who reveal the stories behind their biggest tracks.



How The World Begins Again

### RTÉ Radio 1

RTÉ Radio 1 commissioned seven independent companies to provide existing strands while also developing new programming throughout 2021. *The Business* continues to entertain and inform the audiences in a peak-time Saturday morning slot, while *Callan's Kicks* continued the satire and entertainment in a year when it was much needed.

In *The Poetry Programme* Olivia O'Leary and Rick O'Shea guided us through the world of poetry and books during a period that saw a large increase in poetry book sales. History is at the forefront of our minds while we are in the midst of centenary commemorations, and Myles Dungan and Pegasus Media have been reflecting this and other interesting stories throughout their programming on Sunday evenings in *The History Show*.

The summer Saturday schedule on RTÉ Radio 1 included *Second Captains*, which specialises in interviews with an innovative and inventive format. At Christmas, OJO Productions created a great new quiz format in *Do You Remember... 2021*.

RTÉ Radio 1 Extra commissioned two very interesting series – *Encounters* and *The Horror Writer* – in 2021.

2022 got off to a great start with a new series, *Supercharged with Anna Geary*, which has really engaged a younger audience on Sunday evenings, discussing subjects around health and wellbeing. Two new additions to the schedule for later in the year are *My Passion, My Power* and *Moving Pictures*. We also look forward to a return of *The Almanac of Ireland* with Manchán Magan, produced by Red Hare Media.

### RTÉ 2fm

Following the success of *The Music Biz*, which won the IMRO Radio Award for music documentary series in 2020, 2fm commissioned two new series in 2021. *Legacies* is a four-part series featuring the artists, music and movements that kick-started modern music in Ireland. Produced by Kate Brennan Harding, it explores the genres of indie music, dance and hip-hop as well as the Irish music festival.

*The Breakdown*, a two-part series produced by Mediatone, charts the journey through 30 years of Irish electronic music, featuring producers who reveal the stories behind their biggest tracks.

### RTÉ lyric fm

In 2021 RTÉ lyric fm commissioned nine productions from seven independent companies. Each adds colour and provides talking points for our audience as it increases listener engagement with the music we play and our broad cultural landscape.

These commissions include *Culture File* (Soundsdoable), RTÉ lyric fm's daily arts and culture report, offering a unique and accessible take on music, media, technology, craft, art, play, comedy, food and design, and featuring makers and creators from around Ireland and abroad. This feature broadcasts within Lorcan Murray's *Classic Drive*, RTÉ lyric fm's most listened-to programme. The *Culture File Debates* series, with its panel of guests, reflected on some of the major issues for the arts and creativity in this most challenging of years. The daily and weekly reports have an extensive online presence through podcasts, SoundCloud and Twitter.

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## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### RADIO

In autumn 2021 the series *How the World Begins Again* (Elizabeth Hilliard/Athena Media) was broadcast in eight parts during the intervals of our *Friday Concert* strand. The series celebrated women composers through their own music and their own words, and brought voices and issues to air that have not always enjoyed the prominence that they deserve.

A number of one-off and short series commissions for programmes in *The Lyric Feature* strand are co-funded with the BAI's Sound and Vision broadcasting scheme. These explore aspects of our culture in diverse ways. Examples include Anja Murray and Brian Mac Gloinn's *Root and Branch*, which looks at the place of our native trees in our music and literature, and Regan Hutchins' *The Museum of Song* on the use of music as medicine in a healthcare setting in West Cork.

*The Universal Mass* (J.J. O'Shea) is a music broadcast commission that involves artists from diverse backgrounds (Emma Langford, the African Gospel Choir, the Dexi Ministries Choir and the Monks of Mount Melleray) playing the same piece – a newly composed sung mass – according to their own musical styles.

#### RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta

*An Cúinne Dána*, RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta's arts and culture programme recommissioned in 2021, was an important platform for the Irish language arts and literary scene. Tristan Rosenstock, an accomplished musician and broadcaster who presents and produces the programme, brought artists and other guests on air to promote and inform the public about online events.

*Cuireadh chun Ceoil* is a traditional music series produced and presented by Peadar Ó Riada in Cúil Aodha, in the County Cork Gaeltacht. RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta is synonymous with traditional music, and this series is a pure example of how that music community is brought together, at home or abroad. The series has made a significant contribution to the identity of the station and has allowed RTÉ to strengthen Irish language independent radio production outside of the main urban centres.

*Cuan an Cheoil* was commissioned in 2021 and was broadcast in early 2022. In this series, recorded in Stiúideo Cuan in An Spidéal in Conamara, you can hear some of the country's most talented musicians interviewed by Liam Ó Maonlaí, and joining him for a few tunes. It provided an important platform for musicians who were not able to perform at concerts. This project was also funded by the BAI Sound and Vision Scheme.

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*How the World Begins Again* celebrated women composers through their own music and their own words, and brought voices and issues to air that have not always enjoyed the prominence that they deserve.



The Universal Mass



Cuan an Cheoil

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## OTHER FUNDING

The BAI Sound & Vision Scheme continued to be a key partner in RTÉ Television and Radio's commissioning output in 2021.

Twenty television productions totalling 45.5 hours of programming, have been or will be broadcast on RTÉ, were commissioned with BAI Sound & Vision support. These are: *A Note for Nature*, *A Ring and A Prayer*, *Cheer*, *Dizzy Deliverables*, *Droichid na hÉireann*, *Faoi Bláth*, *Fia's Fairies*, *Flix*, *Foster and Allen: Lost in Music*, *Hardest Harvest Series 2*, *Kiva can Do Series 3*, *Limbo*, *Shackleton's Cabin*, *Song's of the Open Road*, *The Man with the Moving House*, *The Million Dollar Pigeon Race*, *The Wee Littles*, *Treaty 21*, *Vincent Hanley: Sex, Lies and Videotapes* and *Zoo Live*.

In addition to the radio programmes commissioned by RTÉ, 45 hours of programming with BAI Sound & Vision funding across seventeen radio productions were commissioned through Independent Producers for broadcast on RTÉ Radio in 2021 and 2022. Programmes included; *Adventures of a Young Pirate*, *An Audible Life*, *Blort's Travels*, *Cuan an Ceoil*, *My Passion My Power*, *Root and Branch*, *Shackleton: Enduring the Most*, *Signs of Life*, *Someone Like Me*, *Supercharged with Anna Geary*, *The Curlew in Song*, *Story and Sound*, *The Golden Museum*, *The Horror Writer*, *The Museum of Song*, *The Neighbourhood* and *The Universal Mass*.

RTÉ again worked closely with Science Foundation Ireland to commission programmes that engage new and wider audiences through real stories that are underpinned by science, engineering and technology. The projects supported in 2021 included *Future Island* (Loosehorse), *Hollow Cities* (Red Pepper) and *Menopause* (Kite Entertainment). All productions were broadcast, or will be broadcast, during prime-time slots on RTÉ One.

Several drama, animation, scripted comedy and factual commissions benefited from funding from Section 481 and Screen Ireland. In 2021 RTÉ also entered into co-productions with BBC NI, ILBF, ARTE and a number of other funders. An analysis of funding from other sources can be found on p.24.

The BAI Sound & Vision Scheme continued to be a key partner in RTÉ Television and Radio's commissioning output in 2021.



Treaty Live



## OTHER SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

In 2021 RTÉ continued to offer practical support to the development of the independent production sector through its involvement in development schemes, by providing speakers for industry seminars and for film and television production training colleges, by participating in international co-production conferences, by providing support for producers seeking co-production partners and through meeting with and giving guidance to emerging companies.

Screen Producers Ireland, the representative body for independent producers in Ireland, is partly funded by a levy from its members on production budgets in respect of programmes commissioned by RTÉ. The levy is therefore a direct charge against the Independent Programmes account.

Animation Ireland is the trade association representing the interest of most animation studios in Ireland. RTÉ provides an annual contribution to Animation Ireland as part of its commitment to the development of the sector.

[Let's Find Out](#)

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

RTÉ has complied with the 2016 *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies* together with the corporate governance and other obligations imposed by the *Broadcasting Act 2009*, the *Ethics in Public Office Act 1995*, the *Standards in Public Office Act 2001* and the *Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act 2018*.

RTÉ is committed to ensuring that the commissioning of independently produced programmes for public broadcast is performed in a transparent manner. RTÉ adheres to formal and clear procedures, which are available to independent producers on the RTÉ website, for the sourcing and commissioning, including re-commissioning, of independently produced television and radio programmes.

During the year RTÉ engaged Deloitte to perform specified procedures on the application of specified commissioning procedures to television and radio programme submissions in 2021. Deloitte performed its procedures and was satisfied that, for the sample of items tested, documentary evidence maintained by RTÉ reflected compliance with the relevant commissioning procedures.



## FINANCIAL AND COMMISSIONING REVIEW

### Summary of Expenditure 2021

RTÉ's 2021 statutory obligation for expenditure on independent commissions under the Broadcasting Act 2009 was €39.8m, in respect of both television and radio. The total actual expenditure incurred, including RTÉ attributable overhead, on television and radio commissioning activities during 2021 was €44.7m.

Expenditure Incurred	2021 TV €'000	2021 Radio €'000	2021 Total €'000	2020 Total €'000
Statutory Expenditure (Sch. 5)	42,297	1,304	43,601	36,466
Additional Expenditure (Sch. 6)	(27)	–	(27)	327
<b>Direct Expenditure on Commissioned Programmes</b>	<b>42,270</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>43,574</b>	36,793
RTÉ Attributable Overhead	1,095	20	1,115	971
<b>Expenditure Incurred on Commissioning Activities</b>	<b>43,365</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>44,689</b>	37,764

The statutory expenditure incurred on independent productions through the Independent Programmes account in 2021 in respect of commissioned programmes was €42.3m for television and €1.3m for radio, a total of €43.6m (2020: €36.5m), and includes administration costs. This is in excess of the combined 2021 statutory amount of €39.8m and the €3.7m monies not expended in 2020, totalling €43.5m, excluding RTÉ attributable overhead.

A total of 926 hours (389 radio, 537 television) was commissioned with the Independent Productions statutory expenditure in 2021, across a broad range of categories; these are detailed in Schedule 3.

An analysis of expenditure incurred in 2021 by programme category is detailed in Schedule 5.

### Commissioning and Overhead Spend 2021

An analysis of independent television and radio productions expenditure incurred by RTÉ in 2021 is contained in the table below. Further detail by genre is contained in Schedules 5 and 6.

Expenditure Incurred	2021 TV €'000	2021 Radio €'000	2021 Total €'000	2020 Total €'000
2020 Commissions Brought Forward	9,939	466	<b>10,405</b>	10,144
Change in Spend on 2020 Commissions <sup>1</sup>	(461)	(40)	<b>(501)</b>	(1,691)
<b>2020 Commissions Brought Forward as Restated</b>	<b>9,478</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>9,904</b>	8,453
<b>New Commissions during 2021 (see below)</b>	<b>43,414</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>44,697</b>	36,446
Less Commissions for Delivery in 2022	(12,838)	(462)	<b>(13,300)</b>	(10,405)
Administration Costs (Schedule 7)	3,260	77	3,337	3,219
Awards/Schemes	51	–	<b>51</b>	51
<b>Expenditure Incurred on Commissioning Activities</b>	<b>43,365</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>44,689</b>	37,764

<sup>1</sup> 2020 commissioned spend brought forward has been updated for cost variances and re-timing of programme commitments that occurred during 2021.

## FINANCIAL AND COMMISSIONING REVIEW

New commissions during 2021 of €44.7m (see table above) can be analysed as follows:

New Commissions	Statutory Spend €'000	%	Non-statutory Spend €'000	%	Total Spend €'000	%
Television Commissions <sup>1,2</sup>	40,792	91%	66	100%	40,858	91%
Television Development <sup>1</sup>	411	1%	–	0%	411	1%
Television Completion <sup>1,2</sup>	2,145	5%	–	0%	2,145	5%
<b>Television</b>	<b>43,348</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43,414</b>	<b>97%</b>
<b>Radio</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>RTÉ Total</b>	<b>44,631</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>44,697</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Schedule 1 for definition of commissions, development and completion funding.

<sup>2</sup> Includes RTÉ funding in respect of the BAI Sound & Vision Scheme.

Television commissions with a value of €25.7m, representing 59% of the value of new 2021 television commissions, were awarded to 10 independent production companies, and a further sum of €9.0m or 21% was awarded to a further 10 independent production companies.

### Commissioning Activities 2021

Geographical origin of proposals for commissions received in 2021 is detailed below:

Location	No. of Companies		No. of Proposals Received		No. of Commissions Awarded		No. of Hours Commissioned	
	TV	Radio	TV	Radio	TV	Radio	TV	Radio
Dublin	161	53	653	102	88	21	303	191
Rest of Republic of Ireland	92	26	224	42	32	12	204	198
Northern Ireland	22	2	80	2	15	–	27	–
Great Britain	14	1	19	3	2	–	3	–
Others	4	–	5	–	–	–	–	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>389</b>

### Other Sources of Funding to the Sector

In addition to the €43.4m committed by RTÉ to new television commissions in 2021, producers of RTÉ commissioned programmes attracted funding from other sources. The total value of this additional funding on 2021 contracts was €17.5m, analysed as follows:

Sources of Funding	Drama and Animation €'000	Other Genres €'000	Total Third-Party Funding €'000
BAI Funding	1,450	2,923	4,373
Co-funding	6,415	3,416	9,831
Section 481	2,102	1,190	3,292
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,967</b>	<b>7,529</b>	<b>17,496</b>

Thus, the total value of RTÉ independent television programming activities in 2021, inclusive of all third-party funding, was €60.9m. In the case of programmes categorised as drama or animation, or part-funded by the BAI Sound & Vision Scheme, the amounts for other sources of funding above include projects where RTÉ provided completion funding only.



## FINANCIAL AND COMMISSIONING REVIEW

### Administration Costs

A full analysis of administration costs is detailed in Schedule 7. In 2021, direct administration costs incurred by RTÉ Independent Productions amounted to €2.2m, which represents 5% of the total Independent Productions direct expenditure incurred on commissioned programmes in 2021.

RTÉ Independent Productions relies on a range of RTÉ services including, for example, office space and related utilities, information technology and systems, consumables, technical services and human resources. An appropriate full-cost absorption/usage allocation basis is used to reflect a fair and reasonable cost of these interdivisional services consumed by RTÉ Independent Productions amounting to €1.1m for 2021 (2020: €1.0m).

### International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

RTÉ's 2021 Annual Report and Group Financial Statements (RTÉ Annual Report) have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and their interpretations approved by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) as adopted by the European Union.

Under IFRS, RTÉ records the cost of transmitted commissioned programmes rather than the expenditure incurred on commissioning activities. The RTÉ Annual Report records the level of programme inventories held, that is programmes made and for which costs have been incurred during the period but which have not been transmitted at the period end.

As required under the *Broadcasting Act 2009*, the Independent Productions Annual Report details RTÉ's activities with regard to commissioning of independent television and sound programmes during the year and the operation by RTÉ of the Independent Programmes bank account. It is not deemed appropriate to adopt IFRS for the purposes of the Independent Productions Annual Report. A reconciliation of the expenditure incurred on commissioning activities, detailed in this report, with programme costs, as reported in the 2021 RTÉ Annual Report, is set out below.

2021 Reconciliation	TV €'000	Radio €'000	Total €'000
<b>Independent Productions Annual Report:</b>			
Expenditure incurred on Commissioning Activities <sup>1</sup>	43,365	1,324	44,689
Add: Opening Stock of Programmes	16,230	–	16,230
Less: Closing Stock of Programmes	(17,386)	–	(17,386)
<b>Total Cost of Transmitted Programmes</b>	<b>42,209</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>43,533</b>
<b>RTÉ Annual Report:</b>			
Cost of Transmitted Programmes			
Commissioned Programmes Costs <sup>2</sup>	42,209	1,324	43,533
<b>Total Cost of Transmitted Programmes</b>	<b>42,209</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>43,533</b>

<sup>1</sup> See Table on p. 23.

<sup>2</sup> 2021 RTÉ Annual Report and Group Financial Statements, Note 2(d).

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# INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

## **Independent Accountants' Agreed upon Procedures Report to the RTÉ Board in Respect of the RTÉ Independent Productions Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021**

We have performed the procedures agreed with you and enumerated below with respect to the RTÉ Independent Productions Annual Report ('the Annual Report') and Schedules ('the Schedules') for the year ended 31 December 2021. Our engagement was undertaken in accordance with the International Standard on Related Services (ISRS 4400) applicable to agreed upon procedures engagements. The procedures were performed solely to assist you in evaluating your compliance with your statutory obligations with regard to Independent Productions Reporting Requirements.

These procedures have been undertaken based upon financial information provided by the management of RTÉ and are the responsibility of the RTÉ Board. The procedures which we have undertaken and our findings are as set out below:

### **Procedures**

1. We have checked that the information included in Schedule 2 'Operation of the Independent Programmes Bank Account for the year ended 31 December 2021' has been correctly extracted from the detailed general ledger transactions of the Independent Programmes bank account for the year ended 31 December 2021.
2. We have checked that the information included in Schedules 5, 6 and 7 has been correctly extracted from the underlying records and detailed analysis prepared for the purposes of the preparation of the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021.
3. We have checked the mathematical accuracy of the Schedules.

### **Findings**

We have performed the procedures set out in 1–3 above and noted no exceptions arising from our work.

Because the above procedures do not constitute either an audit or a review made in accordance with International Standards on Auditing or International Standards on Review Engagements, we do not express any assurance on the RTÉ Independent Productions Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Our report is solely for the purposes set out in the first paragraph of this report and for your information and is not to be used for any other purpose. This report relates only to the items specified above and does not extend to any financial statements of RTÉ taken as a whole.



Richard Howard

*For and on behalf of Deloitte Ireland LLP*

*Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm*

*Deloitte & Touche House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2*

*31 March 2022*

# SCHEDULE 1: RTÉ'S STATUTORY OBLIGATION WITH REGARD TO INDEPENDENT PRODUCTIONS

## 1. Expenditure Requirement

Under Section 116, subsection (2) of the Broadcasting Act 2009, RTÉ has a statutory obligation to spend a predetermined minimum amount (the statutory amount) each year on independently produced television and radio programmes and to lodge this money to a separate account known as the Independent Programmes account (the account).

Statutory Expenditure	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Total Statutory Expenditure	39,778	40,185

The statutory amount for 2009 was €40m, and for subsequent years the amount varied in line with the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) measured from August 2008 to August immediately preceding the financial year concerned. Since CPI measured from August 2008 to August 2020 was -0.6%, the statutory amount for 2021 was adjusted accordingly. Under Section 116, the minimum percentage to be spent on sound broadcasting in 2021 is 3% (€1.193m).

## 2. Reporting Requirement

As required under Section 116, subsection (9) of the *Broadcasting Act 2009*, RTÉ shall not later than three months after the end of each financial year make a report to the minister of:

- its activities during that financial year as respects commissioning the making of independent television or sound broadcasting programmes
- the name or corporate identity of persons commissioned to make independent television or sound broadcasting programmes
- the operation by it of the account during that financial year (details of the operation of the account for 2021 are set out in Schedule 2) and
- any other matters as the minister may direct regarding the above.

## 3. Definition of Commissions, Development and Completion Funding

The sum identified as expended on 'Commissions' is defined pursuant to the requirement as per Section 116, subsection (11) of the *Broadcasting Act 2009*, that in order for a programme to be regarded as having been commissioned, RTÉ must incur 'a legal obligation to pay at least 25% of the cost' of making a television programme in advance of work on the making of the programme commencing.

The sums identified as expended on 'Development' and 'Completion' are defined as per Section 116, subsections (2)(a)(ii) and (2)(a)(iii), namely respectively 'procuring the formulation by persons of proposals' for independent television or radio programmes for commission by RTÉ and 'assisting the completion of independent television or sound broadcasting programmes the making of which has not been commissioned by RTÉ'.



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## SCHEDULE 2: OPERATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PROGRAMMES BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2021

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	€'000
Opening balance as per RTÉ at 1 January 2021	5,170
<b>Lodgements</b>	
Receipts from RTÉ, including bank interest received	39,778
<b>Less Payments</b>	
Payments	(43,310)
<b>Closing balance as per RTÉ at 31 December 2021</b>	<b>1,638</b>

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## SCHEDULE 3: 2021 STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES / HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

Category	Production Company	Programme Title	Total Hours
Factual	Coco Content	First Dates Series 7	14.0
	Rare TV / Green Inc	Crimecall Series 18	10.0
	Indiepics	Ear to the Ground Series 29	8.0
	Indiepics	Glow Up	8.0
	Vision Independent Productions	Operation Transformation Series 15	8.0
	Alleycats TV	Pulling with My Parents Series 3	6.0
	Coco Content	Home Rescue 2021	6.0
	Waka TV	The Way We Were Series 2	5.0
	Animo TV Productions	Davy's Toughest Team Series 2	4.0
	Indiepics	How to Be Good with Money Series 4	4.0
	Kite Entertainment	Big Life Fix Series 2	4.0
	Moondance Productions	The Zoo 2021	4.0
	Shinawil	Home of the Year Series 8	4.0
	Straywave Media	The 2 Johnnies Take On	4.0
	Animo TV Productions	Ireland's Garden Heroes	3.0
	Coco Content	Open for Business Series 2	3.0
	Esras Films	A Ring and A Prayer <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	3.0
	Indiepics	Beyond the Bullets: Real Life in the Civil War	3.0
	Indiepics	Designed for Life	3.0
	Indiepics	The Style Counsellors Series 3	3.0
	JMACTWO Productions	DIY SOS Series 2	3.0
	Loosehorse	Future Island Series 2	3.0
	Moondance Productions	Zoo Live <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	3.0
	Rare TV / Green Inc	The Case I Can't Forget Series 2	3.0
	Tyrone Productions	David Brophy's Frontline Choir	3.0
	Tyrone Productions	Irish Civil War	3.0
	Vision Independent Productions	Super Garden Series 13	3.0
	Vision Independent Productions	The Big DIY Challenge Series 2	3.0
	Waddell Media	Selling Ireland's Most Exclusive Homes	3.0
	Waka TV	Shoulders of Giants	3.0
	Whitethorn Productions	Hardest Harvest Series 2 <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	3.0
	Kairos	Easter Masses	2.5
	Midas Productions	Brainstorm	2.5
	Coco Content	Dermot Bannon's Super Small Spaces	2.0
	Dearg Films	Foster and Allen: Lost in Music <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	2.0
	Fine Point	Nama	2.0
	Frontier Films	No Place Like Home Series 2	2.0
	Tyrone Productions	Dr Eva's Great Escape Series 2	2.0
	Wildfire Film and Television	Limbo <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	1.5
	Loosehorse	Treaty Live <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	1.5
	Marmalade Films	Cheer <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	1.5
	True Nevison	The Missing Children <sup>(Compl)</sup>	1.5
	Venom Productions	Million Dollar Pigeon Race <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	1.5
	Alleycats TV	Treasure, Nazis & Spies	1.0
	Bang Bang Teo	In the Name of the Son	1.0
	Blueprint Pictures	The Killing of Thomas Niedermayer	1.0
	Coco Content	Room to Improve Christmas Special 2022	1.0
	Dearg Films	How Ireland Rocked the 70s	1.0
	Atom Films	The Irish Wedding	1.0

## SCHEDULE 3: 2021 STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES / HOURS

### COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

CONTINUED

Category	Production Company	Programme Title	Total Hours
<b>Factual</b>	Fifty-Three Six Media	Rachael Blackmore: A Grand Year	1.0
	Indiepics	V Day	1.0
	John Kelleher Media	Charlie Bird	1.0
	Kairos Communications	Feast of the Assumption	1.0
	Kairos Communications	Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve	1.0
	Kite Entertainment	Menopause	1.0
	Midas Productions	Partition, 1921	1.0
	Mind the Gap Films	Vincent Hanley: Sex, Lies and Videotapes <sup>1(Compl)</sup>	1.0
	Moondance Productions	Shackleton's Cabin <sup>1(Compl)</sup>	1.0
	Red Pepper	Hollow Cities	1.0
	Reflektor Media	Capitol Man – Donie O'Sullivan	1.0
	Scratch Films	Growing Up in Direct Provision	1.0
	Scratch Films	Keelin Shanley	1.0
	Strike Films	Border Lives	1.0
	True Films	Barney Curley: The Man Who Beat the Bookies	1.0
	Waddell Media	Daniel at 60	1.0
	WonderPics	Widows of the Revolution	1.0
	Various development contracts with 3Rock Productions, Adare Productions, Alleycats TV, Animo TV Productions, Brick Films, Coco Content, Crossing the Line Productions, Curious Dog Films, Drumlin Pictures, Encore Media, Fourth Wall Film & TV, GMARSHTV, Indiepics, JMACTWO Productions, Kite Entertainment, Little Wing Films, Pheonix, Scratch Films and Venom Productions		
			<b>185.5</b>
<b>Arts and Culture</b>	Tyrone Productions	Steps of Freedom: The Story of Irish Dance <sup>(Compl)</sup>	2.0
	Averner Films	Jack B. Yeats: The Man Who Painted Ireland	1.0
	Bigger Stage	An Post Irish Book of the Year 2021	1.0
	Create One	100 Years of Ulysses	1.0
	Crossing the Line Productions	A Note for Nature <sup>1</sup>	1.0
	Harvest Films	Songs of the Open Road <sup>1</sup>	1.0
	Red Shoe Productions	Micheál Ó Súilleabháin: Between Worlds	1.0
	South Wind Blows	Camera, Tripod, Bicycle	1.0
	Tyrone Productions	The Flourishing <sup>(Compl)</sup>	1.0
	Walk On Air Films	Brian Friel – Shy Man, Showman	1.0
	Dyehouse Films	Culture Night Inserts	0.5
	Development contract with Poolbeg Productions		
			<b>11.5</b>



# SCHEDULE 3: 2021 STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES / HOURS

## COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

CONTINUED

Category	Production Company	Programme Title	Total Hours
<b>Cláracha Gaeilge</b>	IRIS Productions	URC Rugbaí Beo	42.5
	Abu Media	Go Gasta Series 3	10.0
	Adare Productions	Realta agus Gaolta Series 5	10.0
	Abu Media	Faoi Bhláth <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	6.5
	Big Mountain Productions	Peataí Series 2 <sup>(Compl)</sup>	3.0
	New Departures Media	Droichid na hÉireann <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	3.0
	Strident Media	Ar an Sliabh <sup>(Compl)</sup>	3.0
	Strident Media	Bog Amach <sup>(Compl)</sup>	3.0
	Below the Radar	999 Faoi Oiliúint <sup>(Compl)</sup>	2.0
	Strident Media	Saol an Tréidlia	2.0
	Tyrone Productions	Cad Faoi na Tuismitheoirí?	2.0
	Bang Bang Teo	The Man with the Moving House <sup>1 (Compl)</sup>	1.0
	Macha Media	Le Chéile <sup>(Compl)</sup>	1.0
			<b>89.0</b>
<b>Entertainment and Music</b>	Shinawil	Dancing with the Stars Series 5	24.0
	Animo TV Productions	Ireland's Fittest Family Series 9	11.0
	Loosehorse	Home Advantage	8.0
	Shinawil	Last Singer Standing	8.0
	South Wind Blows	Other Voices Series 20 <sup>(Compl)</sup>	6.0
	South Wind Blows	The Heart of Saturday Night	6.0
	Born Optimistic	Tradfest: The Dublin Castle Sessions <sup>(Compl)</sup>	3.0
	Adare Productions	Big Night In	1.0
	Coco Content	A St Patrick's Festival Celebration	1.0
	South Wind Blows	The Heart of Saturday Night Christmas Special	1.0
	Southpaw Productions	RTÉ Choice Music Prize 2021	1.0
			<b>70.0</b>
<b>Drama and Comedy</b>	Power Pictures	The Tommy Tiernan Show Series 6	13.0
	Power Pictures	The Tommy Tiernan Show Series 5 (Extension)	6.0
	Saffron Moon	Hidden Assets <sup>1</sup>	6.0
	Kite Entertainment	Clear History Series 2	4.0
	Wonky Chair Media	Callan Kicks the Year	4.0
	Various development contracts with 925 Productions, Bear Print Media, Blue Ink Films, Bron Studios, Danu Matrix Media, Deadpan Pictures, Fantastic Films, Kite Entertainment, Liberty Video, O'Sullivan Productions, Peer Pressure, PGM TV, Reflektor Media, Samson Films, Shinawil, Tailored Films, Treasure Entertainment, Tri Moon Films and Wonky Chair Media		
			<b>33.0</b>

# SCHEDULE 3: 2021 STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES / HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

CONTINUED

Category	Production Company	Programme Title	Total Hours	
Sport	IRIS Productions	URC Live	65.0	
	Alleycats TV	Unspoken	1.0	
	Poolbeg Productions	The All-Stars at 50	1.0	
			67.0	
Young People	Macalla Teo	RTÉ's Home School Hub 2021	30.0	
	Cartoon Saloon	Silly Sundays <sup>1</sup> (Compl)	9.0	
	Pioneertown Productions	Will Sliney's Storytellers	6.0	
	Dyehouse Films	This is Art Club	4.0	
	GMARSHTV	Bush Kids	4.0	
	Macalla Teo	Home School Hub Links	4.0	
	Magpie 6 Media	The Wee Littles <sup>1</sup> (Compl)	4.0	
	Macalla Teo	Dizzy Deliverables <sup>1</sup> (Compl)	3.3	
	Macalla Teo	Bright Sparks Series 4	3.0	
	Little Moon Animation	Fia's Fairies <sup>1</sup> (Compl)	2.5	
	Pictor	Flix <sup>1</sup> (Compl)	2.3	
	Kavaleer Productions	Kiva Can Do Series 3 <sup>1</sup> (Compl)	2.0	
	Firebrand Productions	The Imagination Machine	1.5	
	Kite Entertainment	Story Buds	1.5	
	Junk Kouture	Junk Kouture Grand Final 2021	1.0	
	Macalla Teo	Home School Hub: A Christmas Cracker	1.0	
	Tailored Films	Ace My Space – Christmas Special	1.0	
	Ronin Films	A Kids' Country Christmas	0.5	
	Ronin Films	Speed Stacking	0.3	
	Kavaleer Productions	Adam Saves Christmas	0.2	
	JAM Media	EBU Says Hi – Anti-Bullying Campaign – Nova Jones Music Video	0.1	
		Halloween Shorts		0.2
		Alt Animation	I Wanna Be a Werewolf	
		And Maps And Plans	Empty Little People	
		Cardel Entertainment	Dagdas Harp	
		Daily Madness Productions	The Ghost Dog	
		Elk Studios	Clíodhna Queen of Banshees	
		Giant Animation Studios	Samhain	
		Wigglywoo	Nana's Terrifying Zoom Call	
	Various development contracts with Igloo Animations, Tailored Films, Turnip & Duck and Whakala			
			81.4	
TOTAL 2021 STATUTORY TELEVISION HOURS COMMISSIONED			537	

<sup>1</sup> Commissions which were part-funded by the BAI Sound and Vision Scheme.  
(Compl) Denotes Completion Contracts.

# SCHEDULE 3: 2021 STATUTORY RADIO PROGRAMMES / HOURS

## COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

CONTINUED

Category	Production Company	Programme Title	Total Hours
<b>Factual</b>	Old Yard Productions	The Business 2021/2022	45.0
	Pegasus Media and Consulting	The History Show 2021	20.0
	Second Captains	Second Captains	8.0
	OJO Productions	Supercharged with Anna Geary <sup>1</sup>	6.0
	OJO Productions	The Book Show 2021	4.0
	Aoife Kavanagh	My Passion My Power <sup>1</sup>	3.0
	IWR Media	Signs of Life <sup>1</sup>	3.0
	Old Yard Productions	The Business 2020/2021 (Extension)	3.0
	OJO Productions	Do You Remember ... 2021	1.0
			<b>93.0</b>
<b>Arts and Culture</b>	Soundsdoable	Culture File 2022	56.0
	South Wind Blows	South Wind Blows 2021/2022	52.0
	Anja Murray	Root and Branch <sup>1</sup>	3.0
	Rockfinch	The Poetry Programme 2021	3.0
	Elizabeth Hilliard	How the World Begins Again	2.5
	Cathal Funge	Swaddling Songs at Fifty <sup>1</sup>	1.0
	Eoin Brady	Shackleton: Enduring the Most <sup>1</sup>	1.0
	John O'Shea	The Golden Museum <sup>1</sup>	1.0
	Leonard Antonelli	The Curlew in Song, Story and Sound <sup>1</sup>	1.0
	Regan Hutchins	The Museum of Song <sup>1</sup>	1.0
	John O'Shea	The Universal Mass <sup>1</sup>	0.5
			<b>122.0</b>
<b>Cláracha Gaeilge</b>	Iontaoibheas Fódhla	Cuireadh Chun Ceoil 2022	104.0
	Tristan Rosenstock	An Céinne Dána 2022	26.5
	Stiúideo Cuan	Cuan an Cheoil <sup>1</sup>	15.0
			<b>145.5</b>
<b>Entertainment and Music</b>	Kate Brennan Harding	Legacies	4.0
	Mediatone	The Breakdown	2.0
	Tinpot Productions	DeConstructed	0.8
			<b>6.8</b>
<b>Drama and Comedy</b>	Catchy Title	Callan's Kicks	12.0
	MacLoud Music	The Horror Writer <sup>1</sup>	1.0
	Zoe Comyns	An Audible Life <sup>1</sup>	1.0
			<b>14.0</b>
<b>Young People</b>	Kate Brennan Harding	Someone Like Me <sup>1</sup>	2.5
	Patrick Groenland	Blort's Travels <sup>1</sup>	2.0
	Roundstone Media	Adventures of a Young Pirate Queen <sup>1</sup>	1.0
	Philip Davison	The Neighbourhood <sup>1</sup>	2.3
			<b>7.8</b>
<b>TOTAL 2021 STATUTORY RADIO HOURS COMMISSIONED</b>			<b>389</b>



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## SCHEDULE 4: 2021 NON-STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES / HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

Category	Production Company	Programme Title	Total Hours
<b>TOTAL 2021 NON-STATUTORY TELEVISION HOURS COMMISSIONED</b>			<b>0</b>

Note: There were no new non-statutory television hours commissioned during 2021.

## SCHEDULE 5: 2021 STATUTORY EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES BY PROGRAMME CATEGORY

### TELEVISION

Programme Category	Total Hours	2020 Commissions Carried Forward €'000	2021 New Commissions €'000	2021 Commissions Carried Forward €'000	2021 Total Cost €'000
Factual	185.5	6,240	19,338	(6,188)	19,390
Arts and Culture	11.5	461	812	(239)	1,034
Cláracha Gaeilge	89.0	441	2,595	(795)	2,241
Entertainment and Music	70.0	(20)	10,272	(2,896)	7,356
Drama and Comedy	33.0	1,206	4,414	(973)	4,647
Sport	67.0	71	1,829	(784)	1,116
Young People	81.4	1,146	4,088	(937)	4,297
<b>Overall Totals:</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>9,545</b>	<b>43,348</b>	<b>(12,812)</b>	<b>40,081</b>
Awards – Schemes					<b>51</b>
Overheads and other costs (Schedule 7)					<b>2,165</b>
<b>Direct Expenditure Incurred</b>					<b>42,297</b>

### RADIO

Programme Category	Total Hours	2020 Commissions Carried Forward €'000	2021 New Commissions €'000	2021 Commissions Carried Forward €'000	2021 Total Cost €'000
Factual	93.0	110	550	(162)	498
Arts and Culture	122.0	185	235	(138)	282
Cláracha Gaeilge	145.5	120	147	(124)	143
Entertainment and Music	6.8	11	71	(36)	46
Drama and Comedy	14.0	–	268	–	268
Sport	0.0	–	–	–	–
Young People	7.8	–	12	(2)	10
<b>Overall Totals:</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>1,247</b>
Overheads and other costs (Schedule 7)					<b>57</b>
<b>Direct Expenditure Incurred</b>					<b>1,304</b>

### DIRECT EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES

<b>TELEVISION &amp; RADIO</b>	<b>43,601</b>
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Note 1: Costs are inclusive of non-recoverable VAT (NRV)

Note 2: 2020 Commissions have been restated for cost variances and the re-timing of programme commitments

Note 3: Figures in table do not include RTÉ attributable overhead

## SCHEDULE 6: 2021 NON-STATUTORY EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES BY PROGRAMME CATEGORY

### TELEVISION

Programme Category	Total Hours	2020 Commissions Carried Forward €'000	2021 New Commissions €'000	2021 Commissions Carried Forward €'000	2021 Total Cost €'000
Factual	–	25	66	(26)	65
Drama and Comedy	–	(92)	–	–	(92)
<b>Overall Totals:</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(67)</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>(26)</b>	<b>(27)</b>
Awards – Schemes					–
<b>Direct Expenditure Incurred</b>					<b>(27)</b>

Note 1: Costs are inclusive of non-recoverable VAT (NRV)

Note 2: 2020 Commissions have been restated for cost variances and the re-timing of programme commitments

Note 3: Figures in table do not include RTÉ attributable overhead

Note 4: Non-statutory expenditure includes online costs for statutory commissions that are not allowable to be charged to the Statutory Account under the *Broadcasting Act 2009*



## SCHEDULE 7: 2021 ADMINISTRATION COSTS AND ATTRIBUTABLE ORGANISATIONAL OVERHEAD

Expenditure Description	Television €'000	Radio €'000	Total €'000
Payroll Costs	1,771	51	1,822
Festivals / Industry Contributions	257	–	257
Set Storage	114	–	114
Advertising and Consultancy Costs	12	6	18
Office and Miscellaneous	11	–	11
<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>2,222</b>
Attributable Organisational Overhead	1,095	20	1,115
<b>Overall Total:</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>3,337</b>

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## SCHEDULE 8: 2021 AWARDS

	Production Company	Programme Title
	<b>(a) Frameworks 26</b>	
1	BL Creative	Regular Rabbit
2	Bogboy Productions	Red Rabbit
3	Jam Media	Worry World
4	Radii	Bog Cake
5	Studio Meala	Hermit

## SCHEDULE 9: 2021 TOP 50 PROGRAMMES

Rank	Programme Title	Channel	Transmission Date
1	Late Late Toy Show, The	RTÉ One	26-11-2021
2	Saturday Game Live – Live Play – All Ireland Football Final: Tyrone v Mayo	RTÉ2	11-09-2021
3	UEFA Euro 2020 – Live Play – Final: Italy v England	RTÉ2	11-07-2021
4	UEFA Euro 2020 – Live Play – Semi-Final: England v Denmark	RTÉ2	07-07-2021
5	Oprah With Meghan And Harry	RTÉ2	08-03-2021
6	6 Nations Live: Ireland v France	Virgin Media One	14-02-2021
7	RTE News: Six One	RTÉ One	05-01-2021
8	6 Nations Live: Ireland v England	Virgin Media One	20-03-2021
9	Sunday GAA Live – Live Play – All-Ireland Hurling Final: Limerick v Cork	RTÉ2	22-08-2021
10	Saturday Game Live – Live Play – Football Semi Final: Dublin v Mayo	RTÉ2	14-08-2021
11	6 Nations Live: Wales v Ireland	Virgin Media One	07-02-2021
12	Autumn Nations Series – Live Play: Ireland v New Zealand	RTÉ2	13-11-2021
13	Late Late Show, The	RTÉ One	08-01-2021
14	RTE News: Nine O'Clock	RTÉ One	07-01-2021
<b>15</b>	<b>Kin</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>12-09-2021</b>
16	European Qualifiers World Cup 2022 – Live Play: Rep of Ireland v Portugal	RTÉ2	11-11-2021
17	Reeling In the Years – 2010	RTÉ One	11-04-2021
18	6 Nations Live: Scotland v Ireland	Virgin Media One	14-03-2021
<b>19</b>	<b>Ireland's Fittest Family</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>21-02-2021</b>
20	Late Late Show St Patrick's Night Special, The	RTÉ One	17-03-2021
21	Mrs Brown's Boys Live	RTÉ One	29-10-2021
22	UEFA Euro 2020 – Live Play – Semi Final: Italy v Spain	RTÉ2	06-07-2021
23	New Year's Eve Countdown Show	RTÉ One	31-12-2021
24	UEFA Euro 2020 – Live Play – Group D: England v Scotland	RTÉ2	18-06-2021
<b>25</b>	<b>Tommy Tiernan Show, The</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>03-04-2021</b>
26	6 Nations Live: Italy v Ireland	Virgin Media One	27-02-2021
27	European Qualifiers World Cup 2022 – Live Play: Portugal v Ireland	RTÉ2	01-09-2021
<b>28</b>	<b>Case I Can't Forget, The</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>29-11-2021</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Hidden Assets</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>07-11-2021</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Let the Rest of the World Go By</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>11-01-2021</b>
31	RTE Investigates: Stuck in the Rough	RTÉ One	18-01-2021
32	I'm A Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!	Virgin Media One	21-11-2021
33	European Qualifiers World Cup 2022 – Live Play: Luxembourg v Ireland	RTÉ2	14-11-2021
<b>34</b>	<b>Operation Transformation</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>13-01-2021</b>
35	European Qualifiers World Cup 2022 – Live Play: Serbia v Ireland	RTÉ2	24-03-2021
<b>36</b>	<b>Dr Cassidy's Casebook</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>17-05-2021</b>
37	Sunday GAA Live – Live Play – Hurling Semi Final: Cork v Kilkenny	RTÉ2	08-08-2021
38	Smother	RTÉ One	07-03-2021
<b>39</b>	<b>My Bungalow Bliss</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>01-12-2021</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>Home of the Year</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>23-02-2021</b>
41	UEFA Euro 2020 – Live Play: France v Switzerland	RTÉ2	28-06-2021
42	Prime Time	RTÉ One	07-01-2021
43	UEFA Euro 2020 – Live Play: Belgium v Portugal	RTÉ2	27-06-2021
44	UEFA Euro 2020 – Live Play – Group F: France v Germany	RTÉ2	15-06-2021
45	Saturday Game Live – Live Play – Hurling Semi Final: Limerick v Waterford	RTÉ2	07-08-2021
46	Quiz	RTÉ One	24-01-2021
47	UEFA Euro 2020 – Live Play – Quarter-Final: Belgium v Italy	RTÉ2	02-07-2021
<b>48</b>	<b>Marian</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>04-01-2021</b>
49	Man Comes Around: Johnny Cash in Ireland, The	RTÉ One	01-01-2021
<b>50</b>	<b>Way We Were, The</b>	<b>RTÉ One</b>	<b>10-01-2021</b>

Independently produced programmes commissioned by RTÉ are highlighted in bold above.

Source: TAM Ireland Ltd/Nielsen TAM.

Top Programmes based on Individuals 4+, All Subscribing Channels, Averaging Option: Any Day, Any Time, Best Episode, Minimum Duration 10 Minutes, Consolidated data, 1 Jan 2021–31 Dec 2021. Please note: This list uses best episode of a series.











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