



**RTÉ**

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Independent Productions Annual Report 2023





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# INTRODUCTION

2023 saw RTÉ, in partnership with the Irish independent production sector, deliver a broad range of unique content to serve a wide range of audiences, from impactful documentaries to national cultural events, climate programming and series reflecting real Irish lives. With prime-time programming as gaeilge, brand-new Irish entertainment shows and the largest selection of Irish drama and sport, RTÉ also delivered a broad slate of content for Ireland's younger citizens.

In line with trends over the past four years, Drama hours produced with RTÉ support continued to increase during 2023. Working with Irish partners including Screen Ireland, and international partners, RTÉ continued to bring Irish stories to home screens and showcase Irish talent internationally.

RTÉ Independent Radio Productions continued to cultivate and invest in radio programming in the areas of arts and culture, comedy and entertainment, with programmes to suit a broad range of interests.

During the year RTÉ engaged Deloitte to perform a review on the application of specified commissioning procedures to television and radio programme submissions in 2023. Deloitte was satisfied that, for the sample of items tested, documentary evidence maintained by RTÉ reflected compliance with the relevant commissioning procedures.

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 2023.

The statutory amount RTÉ was required to spend in 2023 was €44.5m (2022: €41.0m). In 2023 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. Total expenditure for the year was €46.3m, which was €1.8m above our statutory requirement.

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



**RTÉ continued to build on our track record of delivering impactful Irish documentaries and incredible Irish stories throughout 2023, and steadily increased drama output in line with trends over the past four years. Working with Irish partners including Screen Ireland, and international partners, RTÉ continued to bring Irish stories to home screens and showcase Irish talent internationally.**

Climate took centre stage with insightful new programmes including *Ireland 2050: Tomorrow Tonight*. This ambitious special imagined how the news might be in the year 2050. The six-part series *Heated* took a factual look at the implications of climate change for individuals, families, communities and industry in Ireland, and in *A Climate of Change*, Philip Boucher-Hayes journeyed to examine the effect of climate change across continents and assess the implications it will have in Ireland.

RTÉ continued to invest in programming and events that celebrate and share our unique culture and rich artistic heritage. To mark the end of the decade of centenaries, RTÉ commissioned *Ireland 100: An Old Song Re-Sung*, a special live concert in association with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, featuring some of Ireland's best-known musicians, performers and writers.

Homegrown entertainment and comedy brought us together for shared moments and 2023 served up plenty of uniquely Irish fare to watch live and on demand. *Ireland's Fittest Family* gained two new recruits, with Sonia O'Sullivan joining our coaches and Laura Fox as our host. In the brand-new *Love in the Country*, Anna Geary was on hand to help Irish farmers find the love of their life, and *First Dates Ireland* returned to warm our hearts and serve a slice of modern Irish life in a restaurant full of new hopefuls.

RTÉ brought audiences into the hearts and lives of Irish people and Irish communities, documenting real-life experiences from inspirational transformations to quests for love, homes and the perfect smile. Real-life experiences were documented in programming including *Fools for Love*, where journalist Aoife Grace Moore investigated the dark side of dating apps. *Sun, Sea, and Scalpels* followed some of the thousands of Irish people opting to travel abroad for cosmetic surgery, and in *Keith's Teeth: A Dental Odyssey*, Keith Duffy examined the nation's changing relationship with our smiles.

## **RTÉ One**

RTÉ One remains by far the most popular channel in Ireland, with a national consolidated peak-time share of 23.8% (RTÉ One +1: 1.4%), much larger than that of any other channel available in the country. It is the channel of record for news and current affairs, but it is also where the country comes together to enjoy live entertainment, drama and comedy.



First Dates Ireland

**RTÉ One remains by far the most popular channel in Ireland, with a national consolidated peak-time share of 23.8%.**



Fools for Love



## Drama

In 2023, RTÉ presented a hugely increased number of drama hours. A mix of independently commissioned productions and co-productions meant that the Irish audience was treated to 10 different drama series across the calendar year.

Co-productions included the third and final series of ***Smother*** (Treasure Entertainment), thriller ***Clean Sweep*** (ShinAwiL) and kidnap drama ***The Gone*** (Keeper Pictures and Kingfisher Films). We also had the darkly comic ***Obituary*** (Tua Films) coming from the west of Ireland and the very funny ***The Dry*** (Element Pictures) in conjunction with ITVX. From the team behind ***Smother***, drama in 2024 will kick off with ***Blackshore*** (Treasure Entertainment), a kidnap drama that engulfs a small town, exposing long-buried secrets and lies. Starring Lisa Dwan, ***Blackshore*** was produced by Rob Walpole and Rebecca O’Flanagan from Treasure Entertainment, directed by Daithí Keane and created by Kate O’Riordan.

Commissioned drama series through the independent production unit included Series 2 of the hugely popular ***Kin*** (Bron Releasing UK), which aired in 2023, as well as ***Hidden Assets*** Series 2 (Saffron Moon).

Producer David McLoughlin has overseen two series of ***Kin***, starring Aidan Gillen, Charlie Cox, Maria Doyle Kennedy, Sam Keeley and Claire Dunne. The second series continued to tell the story of the Kinsella crime family’s struggle to curb their infighting as they climb to the top of the illegal drugs trade in Ireland.

## The Irish audience was treated to 10 different drama series across the calendar year.



Hidden Assets



Hidden Assets



Kin



**Hidden Assets**, starring Nora Jane Noone, Simone Kirby and Cathy Belton, follows the investigations of Ireland's CAB Garda Unit, as they attempt to seize the ill-gotten gains of Irish criminals. Shot on location in Ireland and Belgium, **Hidden Assets** is produced by Siobhan Bourke and Kathryn Lennon from Saffron Moon, with investment partners from Acorn, Screen Ireland, Screen Flanders, Streamz and Mediafonds in Belgium and Facet 4 in Canada, with DCD Rights as the international distribution partner. Series 2 was written by Peter McKenna, Sinéad Collopy, Susan Connolly, Mary Fox and Marty Thornton, with Thaddeus O'Sullivan once again as lead director. Mary Fox and Marty Thornton came through RTÉ's **Storyland** in 2017 and have become established writers in the industry.

The continuing popularity of **Hidden Assets** means that Series 3 is already in the scripting phase, with production planned to commence in 2024.

Also coming in 2024, **The Boy That Never Was** (Subotica) is a heartbreaking story of grief, loss and hope as a young Irish couple lose their child while abroad. Based on the Karen Perry novel of the same name, this series will get people talking due to the many moral questions invoked by the subject matter and the thrilling way the story unfolds. Produced by Tristan Orpen-Lynch and Aoife O'Sullivan for Subotica, the four-part series stars Colin Morgan, Toni O'Rourke, Kerr Logan and Simon Callow. **The Boy That Never Was** is written by Jo Spain and directed by Hannah Quinn.

**Series 3 of Hidden Assets is already in the scripting phase, with production planned to commence in 2024.**



Boy Who Never Was



Hidden Assets

## Entertainment, Comedy and Music

On RTÉ One, 2023 saw the return of two hugely popular shows, *Ireland's Fittest Family* (Animo TV Productions) and *Dancing with the Stars* (ShinAwiL). In January the nation slipped its dancing shoes on for the sixth series of the hugely successful entertainment juggernaut, as large numbers tuned in to dance away the winter blues. Jennifer Zamparelli was joined by new co-presenter Doireann Gairrhy, who proved to be an instant hit with viewers and spearheaded a drive to bring more new faces to RTÉ viewers. Judges Lorraine Barry, Arthur Gourounlian and of course Brian Redmond put a cast including Dr Marie Cassidy, Stephanie Roche and Panti Bliss through their paces, before Carl Mullan waltzed away with the glitterball trophy.



Dancing with the Stars

**2023 saw the return of two hugely popular shows, *Ireland's Fittest Family* and *Dancing with the Stars*.**



Dancing with the Stars



Later in the year, *Ireland's Fittest Family* returned to screen and brought two big surprises with it. A new host arrived in Laura Fox, another new face for RTÉ One who was immediately welcomed by viewers, as viewing figures continued to go from strength to strength. The series featured a brilliant range of exciting events, inspirational families from across the country, and our committed coaches who support and encourage our competitors. Not least of these was the addition of Sonia O'Sullivan, who came aboard to cover Anna Geary's maternity leave. Ever the ardent competitor, Sonia brought with her every bit of her instinct to win. Proving that original Irish content is world-beating, the tenth series of the format, which RTÉ first supported in 2014, brought audiences together, with all the signs indicating that this homegrown entertainment format has become a firm family favourite.



[Ireland's Fittest Family](#)

Building on this model, 2023 also saw the continuation of a new development drive across the wider independent production sector to secure a new generation of original Irish content to sit alongside existing formats. Extensive work across several months led to new commissions and pilots. One of the first to emerge debuted in Christmas 2022 as Adare Productions delivered a new entertainment show that united our broadcast platforms, bringing the stars of the RTÉ 2FM breakfast show to screen. *The Full Irish Hidden Camera Show*, hosted by Doireann Garrihy, Donncha O'Callaghan and Carl Mullan, was a brand-new 30-minute programme combining elements of comedy and traditional prank shows to produce something altogether new and contemporary.



[The Full Irish Hidden Camera Show](#)

**2023 also saw the continuation of a new development drive across the wider independent production sector to secure a new generation of original Irish content to sit alongside existing formats.**



The show was well received by audiences and a full nine-part series has been commissioned. Production is complete and the series will air in Spring 2024.

A desire to return to quiz shows saw an original Irish-produced format arrive on air. ***Ireland's Smartest*** (Green Inc), presented by Claire Byrne, is a series to seek out the sharpest minds in Ireland, inviting them to go head-to-head in a cerebral quiz for the title of '***Ireland's Smartest***'.

The award-winning ***The Tommy Tiernan Show*** (Power Pictures) returned to screens, once again proving that its succinct and simple format is deceptively brilliant as audiences continued to view in significant numbers across all platforms.

Comedy on RTÉ One saw Oliver Callan's satirical review of the year in ***Callan Kicks the Year 2023*** (Wonky Chair Media). Oliver brought us his most popular characters from the worlds of politics, entertainment and public life.

## Cláracha Gaeilge

In 2023, RTÉ's Cláracha Gaeilge in-house programming unit was complemented by an ambitious slate of new series commissioned with support from Coimisiún na Meán (CnaM) Sound & Vision Fund and the Irish Language Broadcasting Fund (ILBF) and produced by independent production companies all over the Island of Ireland.

Big Mountain Productions produced three series for RTÉ Cláracha Gaeilge in 2023. In ***Réaltaí na Gaeltachta*** (Big Mountain Productions), a group of famous faces took up the challenge of learning or re-learning the Irish language.



Ireland's Smartest



The Tommy Tiernan Show



Réaltaí na Gaeltachta

Against the backdrop of beautiful Donegal, sports broadcaster Des Cahill, writer Amanda Bruncker, comedian Fred Cooke, TikTok superstar Lauren Whelan and GAA star Oisín Mullin took up residence with the Mná Tí of Coláiste Bhríde, Rann na Feirste, for a week of living and learning – all as gaeilge.

A third series of the highly popular **Peataí** (Big Mountain Productions) returned in the autumn. In it, vet Ellen Hegarty, groomer Paul Ó Gallachóir and animal behaviourist Paula Doohan welcomed Gaelgeoirí and their pets from the four provinces, to solve all their pet problems.

In another series, **Madraí** (Big Mountain Productions), some of our experts also tried to solve the problems of the country's most badly behaved lockdown dogs. The six-part series aired in spring 2023.

Strident Media produced three series for RTÉ Cláracha Gaeilge in 2023. In an ambitious new six-part farming series, **Saol na Feirme** (Strident Media), we delved into the lives of 11 very different Irish farming families across four seasons. Viewers got to know the men and women who are growing and producing the food we all eat, providing income and employment in our rural communities. The cameras captured stories in counties Antrim, Armagh, Donegal, Galway, Mayo, Meath, Waterford and Kerry.

In the second series of **Ar an Sliabh** (Strident Media) the production team filmed with families in three mountain regions of Ireland, the Glens of Antrim, Earagail in Donegal and Cnoc Bhréanainn in Kerry, to follow the realities of life in Ireland's most remote and mountainous areas.



Madraí



Saol na Feirme



Ar an Sliabh



The series captured a wide variety of stories, from a young family dealing with long-term illness to older families planning for a sustainable future for the next generation.

Housing continues to be an issue in Ireland and in ***Bog Amach*** (Strident Media), presenter Emer Mhic an Fhailí accompanied six couples and families to spectacular locations across the country as they searched for the perfect homes in which to make a new life. This six-part series aired in autumn 2023.

Below the Radar TV produced a four-part observational series following trainee emergency workers across Ireland through one calendar year of training. ***999 Faoi Oiliúint*** aired in late spring 2023 and featured the stories of cadets from Foyle Search and Rescue; Galway Fire Service; Mayo Mountain Rescue; Dublin Fire Service; National Ambulance Service Ireland; Lough Neagh Search and Rescue; and the Irish Coast Guard.

***Seisiún*** (Sugartown Films) is a four-part series presented by West Kerry musician Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh. This acclaimed series celebrated four iconic family-run live music venues by showcasing the bands, musicians and singers who have proud associations with them. The Saw Doctors, Mick Flannery, Stockton's Wing, Lisa Canny and The 4 of Us were among the acts who represented the rich musical heritage of Campbell's Tavern in Galway, The Cobblestone in Dublin, Connolly's of Leap in West Cork and McGrory's in Culdaff, Co. Donegal.



Bog Amach



Seisiún

**Seisiún (Sugartown Films) is a four-part series presented by West Kerry musician Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh.**



**Viva Mary** (Rúnda Productions) was a highly acclaimed one-off documentary which told the story of 90-year-old Mary Lamb Waugh, daughter of renowned Irish artist Charles Lamb. This much-praised documentary was an uplifting and life-affirming portrait of a devoted grandmother, inspiring mother, caring friend and teacher, intrepid sailor and traveller, talented musician, proud emigrant and witty storyteller. Mary's zest for life captivated audiences and offered an eloquent portrait of the evolving role of women in Ireland.



Viva Mary

In 2023, Imagine Media produced **Ré Réabhlóide: CLG agus Cogadh na gCarad**, a one-off history documentary commissioned to mark the centenary of the Civil War in which GAA presenter and commentator Gráinne McElwain explored the critical role played by the GAA during and after the war, and how Gaelic games helped to heal some of the most bitter divisions by providing a neutral sporting space for erstwhile enemies on the playing fields of Ireland.



Ré Réabhlóide: CLG agus Cogadh na gCarad

RTÉ's Christmas schedule celebrated two titans of Irish music, Dolores Keane and the late, great Séamus Begley. **Dolores@70** (Big Mountain Productions), an hour-long docu-music special, recreated the magic of the music of Dolores and four generations of the Keane family at Carragh Cottage with special performances from Paul Brady, Tommy Sands, Mick Hanly and many more.



Dolores@70

In a moving tribute, the specially commissioned and much-praised documentary ***Séamus Begley: The Bold Kerryman*** (Aniar TV) captured the fun-loving exuberance that defined Séamus both on- and off-stage, painting a moving portrait of a unique musician who was just as at ease on his farm in West Kerry or fixing tractors for neighbours as he was playing for thousands on the great stages of the world.



Kayak Ó Thuaidh

Several RTÉ-supported Irish language series and single programmes went into production in 2023 and will broadcast on RTÉ One in 2024 and beyond. ***Kayak Ó Thuaidh*** (Macha Media) follows the exploits of two novice kayakers as they make the journey by sea along the beautiful north coast of Ireland from Tory to Rathlin Island. In ***The Irish for Sex*** (Animo TV Productions) we follow stand-up comedienne Bláthín de Búrca as she goes in search of new and old Irish language words to celebrate the female form. ***Pass It On*** (Mind the Gap Films) is a four-part bilingual series that will follow the fortunes of several young female soccer players during the Irish Women's National League over the 2023 season.



Irish for Sex

In addition to commissioning content for RTÉ, RTÉ Cláracha Gaeilge also commissioned content for TG4 as part of the content-provision agreement between the broadcasters. In 2023 IRIS Productions produced coverage of ***URC Live/Rugbaí Beo*** for broadcast on TG4.



Pass it On



## Factual

### Documentaries and Series

Output that mixed stalwart peak-time favourites with limited-run series and high-impact singles meant that RTÉ continued to be an important commissioner for high-end, prime-time factual programming in 2023.

January began with the welcome return of firm audience favourites ***Operation Transformation*** (Vision Independent Productions) and ***Room to Improve*** (Coco Content). These programmes have become part of the January reset buttons for our audience. Vision Independent Productions' commitment to the ***Operation Transformation*** brand has seen its popularity maintained through its continued development from a weight-loss series to an important health and wellbeing brand where contestants are supported throughout their transformational journey. Coco Content's ***Room to Improve*** went from strength to strength and proved more popular than ever in 2023, demonstrating the importance of established brands in a hugely competitive television landscape.

***Davy's Toughest Team*** (Animo TV Productions) also returned in early spring. The series saw Davy Fitzgerald tackle the mental health and addiction issues of a group of troubled young men at a crossroads in their lives. This, like the previous series, showed that when supported by a strong production team, TV interventions can have a very real impact on the lives of the cast. ***The Case I Can't Forget*** (Rare TV/Green Inc) further established this format as key to our ongoing engagement with the subject of crime.



Operation Transformation



Room to Improve



Davy's Toughest Team



The Case I Can't Forget



Three very different documentaries in spring completed the selection of programmes in early 2023 that gave very different perspectives on the real and diverse experiences of our audience. ***Am I Here?*** (Atom Films) took a frank and unflinching look at those living on Dublin's streets; ***Superagers*** (Ponder Media) gave us the lived experiences of inspirational individuals living their best lives into their 80s and 90s; while ***Brian and Arthur's Very Modern Family*** (Kite Entertainment) tackled the flaws in our surrogacy laws that impact on same-sex couples and children.



[Am I here?](#)

The anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement was marked by a landmark two-part documentary, ***The Agreement*** (Fine Point Films). Presented by Miriam O'Callaghan and featuring Bill Clinton, George Mitchell, Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, ***The Agreement*** recalled the intense negotiations leading to the historic signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.



[The Agreement](#)

Two ambitious Irish feature documentaries were stand-out contributions to the schedule in the summer. ***The Artist and the Wall of Death*** (John Kelleher Media) followed Scottish artist Stephen Skrynka and his obsession with rebuilding the Wall of Death featured in the 1986 film *Eat the Peach*. ***Million Dollar Pigeons*** (Venom Productions) follows a cast of characters including Dublin pigeon fancier John O'Brien as they compete in the world's most lucrative pigeon races. Both documentaries were co-produced by RTÉ and Screen Ireland with the support of Coimisiún na Meán and a number of international broadcasters, and are part of our ongoing support for the documentary production sector.



[The Artist and the Wall of Death](#)

In autumn Pounce Pictures brought us the return of ***Dr Cassidy's Casebook***. This was its second series with Dr Marie Cassidy, and in this one she looked at a subject that she was passionate about throughout her career as Ireland's State Pathologist: the frequently under-reported murders of women in Ireland. The series was followed by a number of strong single documentaries and two-parters that showcased a range of extraordinary true-life experiences. ***Keith's Teeth: A Dental Odyssey*** (Waka TV) looked at the history of and current trend for cosmetic dentistry; ***Fools for Love?*** (Zucca Films), fronted by Aoife Moore, looked at the dark side of internet dating and ***Sun, Sea and Scalpels*** (Alleycats TV) cast a non-judgemental eye on Irish people travelling abroad for plastic surgery. The autumn also saw the return of ***The Way We Were*** (Waka TV), the popular and brilliantly scripted archival series.

Three compelling documentaries airing in November and December completed the 2023 line-up. ***Patrick: A Young Traveller Lost*** (Alleycats TV), the story of 12-year-old Patrick McDonagh, shed light on the remarkably high rate of Traveller suicide in Ireland. ***Man Vs Ocean*** (Heavy Man Films) followed the amazing voyage of Damien Browne and Fergus Farrell on their attempt to break a transatlantic rowing record. Finally, ***Taking Back Control*** (Fine Point Films) gave a first-hand account from Nicola, a victim of coercive control at the hands of a serving member of An Garda Síochána. Finally, ***Framing Irish History – The Sean Sexton Collection*** from Poolbeg Productions brought the historical photographic collection of Sean Sexton to a wider audience over Christmas.



Dr Cassidy's Casebook



Patrick: A Young Traveller Lost

## Popular Factual and Factual Entertainment

**Best Place to Be** (Animo TV Productions) asks: is the grass greener on the other side? Baz Ashmawy travelled through Europe meeting Irish people who have chosen to live their life abroad and asked whether this new country was, for them, the best place to be.

New health show **My BodyFix** (Waddell Media) puts six patients centre stage, where they had the opportunity to see inside their own bodies using virtual reality imaging before agreeing to go under the knife.

In the six-part series **Marty's Big Picture Show** (Zucca Films), Marty Morrissey and historian Liz Gillis uncovered the work of six Irish photographers. They travelled the country delving into photographic archives and uncovering the stories behind the photos.



My BodyFix



Cheap Irish Homes



Marty's Big Picture Show



Maggie Molloy and Kieran McCarthy once again took viewers on a nationwide tour of the best bargain houses for sale in ***Cheap Irish Homes*** (Cameo Productions), while ***Cheap European Homes*** (Cameo Productions) did the same for homes on the continent.

***Home of the Year*** (ShinAwiL) judges Hugh, Amanda and Sara continue to give us a glimpse at some of Ireland's most beautiful homes. Judging is based on clever design, functionality and individuality but only one of the 21 homes on offer can be crowned Home of the Year.

In the fun travel series ***High Road Low Road*** (Green Inc), each episode sees two celebrities travel abroad, but one gets to travel luxury and the other pulls the short straw to travel budget. Who got the hostel while the other got 5-star?

***Super Garden*** (Vision Independent Productions) finds five enthusiastic amateur gardeners competing to design gardens on similar plots. Each one is judged on their design and planting, and one winner gets the coveted prize of their garden being recreated at Ireland's premier garden festival, Bloom.

***Richie Sadlier - Let's Talk About Sex*** (Tyrone Productions) was a groundbreaking documentary series that looked at the way sex education is being taught in Ireland. Through first-hand opinion from students, it challenged the curriculum and asked for a more inclusive, progressive approach to sex education.



Home of the Year



High Road Low Road



Super Garden



Richie Sadlier - Let's Talk About Sex

Brendan Courtney, in *Keys to My Life* (Waka TV), met with eight more celebrities to discover the places and homes that had influenced them and made them who they are now.

Also, coming in early 2024, and building on the success of 2022, *Zoo Live* (Moondance Productions) will be broadcast live over three nights from Dublin Zoo's African Savanna. *Zoo Live* brings viewers young and old into the fascinating and rarely seen world after hours in one of Ireland's best-loved institutions, with the animal care team – and a few celeb zookeepers for good measure!

A new consumer-based series, *The Complaints Bureau* (indiepics), sees Eoin McGee join forces with the complaints team, Conor Pope, Siobhán Maguire and Amy Molloy, to examine issues sent to them by consumers who have a problem they want resolved.

*Inside Penneys* (Motive Television) is where cameras go behind the scenes at one of the world's biggest fashion brands to see how a small Irish retailer has grown from modest beginnings to become a trendsetting, global retail superpower. Over six episodes, *Inside Penneys* featured a tapestry of stories from the shop floor to head office, and from buying and design through to the millions of customers who shop there.

*Manchán Magan's Europe by Train* (Tyrone Productions) – for 30-plus years Manchán Magan has been a travel writer, journeying around the world, experiencing a plethora of cultures and lifestyles.



Keys to My Life



Inside Penneys

**Coming in early 2024, and building on the success of 2022, *Zoo Live* (Moondance Productions) will be broadcast live over three nights from Dublin Zoo's African Savanna.**



Now he is acutely aware of the toll air travel takes on the environment and so has decided to try a different approach. In this series he is going across Europe by train, from Prague to Zagreb, Amsterdam to Budapest. He's going greener, making the journey as much a part of the adventure as the destination.

### Specialist Factual

In addition to long-running RTÉ One staples **Crimecall** (Rare TV/Green Inc) and **Ear to the Ground** (indiepics), the Specialist Factual slate was dominated in 2023 by history, natural history and science content.

**Ireland 100: An Old Song Re-Sung**, devised and produced by South Wind Blows, brought RTÉ's commemoration of the Decade of Centenaries programme to an end. Filmed in front of a public audience of 1,500 at the RDS in Dublin, this ambitious live show captured chapters from the story of Ireland in music, poetry, song and dance. An extended three-hour version of the show was showcased on RTÉ Player, and a special audio adaptation of the event was also broadcast on RTÉ Radio One.

The revolutionary years in Irish history were the subject of several other notable slate highlights. **The Silent Civil War** (Scratch Films) shared the epic, poignant and often challenging testimonies of family members of a number of those who were involved in the Civil War in Ireland between 1922 and 1923. The two-part documentary series also unearthed over 30 hours of previously unheard audio recordings of 32 prominent figures involved in those revolutionary years in Ireland.



Crimecall



Ireland 100: An Old Song Re-Sung



The Silent Civil War



Recorded by a young American researcher, Harlan J. Strauss, as part of his postgraduate work in 1972, the tapes feature original recordings of Frank Aiken, Dan Breen, Peadar O'Donnell, Máire Comerford, John A. Costello, Ernest Blythe and Seán Dowling, among many others. They had remained untouched for 50 years.

In one-off documentary films, ***Tony Connelly: A Hidden History*** (Strident Media) is an intimate first-person account by RTE's Europe Editor, Tony Connelly, that explores the life and career of one of his grandfathers, Michael Connelly, who served in both the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Royal Ulster Constabulary. In ***Taking Sides: Britain and The Civil War*** (Midas Productions), Michael Portillo returned in a documentary that used British state papers to shed fresh light on key events and personalities during the Civil War period in Ireland.

More recent Irish history was at the heart of Gerry Gregg's excellent film ***Face Down: The Disappearance of Thomas Niedermayer*** (Blueprint Pictures). Co-produced with Screen Ireland, ARTE and BBC Northern Ireland, it tells the shocking story of a German businessman kidnapped and murdered by the IRA and explains how the events cast a long shadow on the Niedermayer family.

The importance of concise record-keeping was the driver of an original formatted two-part series, ***The Records Show*** (Midas Productions). Presenter Katie Hannon explores the shelves of Ireland's National Archives, digging out previously undisturbed documents, before heading out across the country to follow the trail of the stories behind them.



[Tony Connelly: A Hidden History](#)



[Taking Sides: Britain and The Civil War](#)



[Face Down: The Disappearance of Thomas Niedermayer](#)

Claire Dix's fine one-off ***Deaf Not Dumb*** (Mind the Gap Films) charted some of the challenges faced by Ireland's deaf community since independence. As the title suggests, this documentary explores the challenges of deaf education in Ireland. It offers various stories of deaf children and their parents, such as an eight-year-old whose parents have fought for years to ensure he has the same access to education as others. The programme also examines how three deaf students who attended school in the 1950s were forced to learn to speak and lip read.



[Deaf Not Dumb](#)

Three years in the making, ***Ireland's Wild Islands*** (Crossing the Line Films) is a spectacular three-part series featuring the wildlife wonders of Ireland's Atlantic islands. This blue-chip series is presented by Eoin Warner, who travels by sailboat down the Irish coast as he explores the wildlife inhabiting the islands. The series travels the Irish coast, from northernmost Inishtrahull, where huge basking sharks breach, to the monastery walls of Skellig Michael, where storm petrels roost after making a flight from Antarctica.



[Ireland's Wild Islands](#)

***North Atlantic*** (Sea Fever Productions) from Irish underwater cameraman Ken O'Sullivan features iconic creatures and marine life of the North Atlantic from Ireland's shores and reveals never-before-seen behaviours and challenges of some of our greatest wild animals. Inspired by the spirit of adventure of early explorers such as St Brendan the Navigator, Ken journeys out into the open North Atlantic in search of the great sea monsters described in their early texts.



[North Atlantic](#)

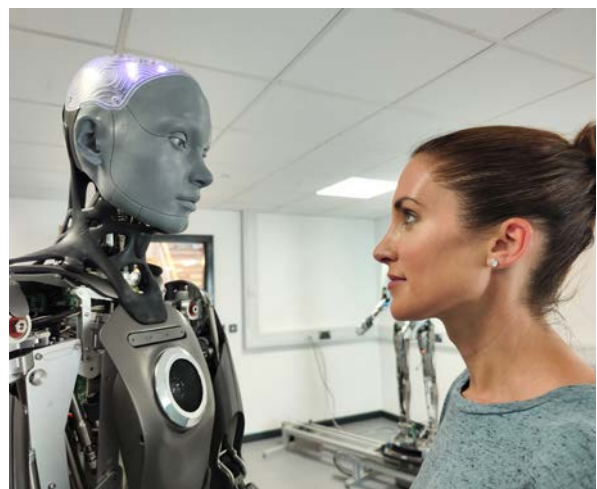
Two highly respected Irish sports figures, Liam Brady and Kevin Moran, were the subjects of acclaimed profiles, ***Liam Brady: The Irishman Abroad*** (Brick Films) and ***Kevin Moran: Codebreaker*** (Des Cahill and Associates) respectively, which both played on RTÉ One to strong audiences and excellent notices.

Forward-thinking and future-living were common themes at the core of the science slate, including ***Hospital Live*** (indiepics), presented again by Anna Daly and Philip Boucher-Hayes, a mix of high-end medical science and personal health stories of triumph and resilience in the face of extreme challenge. It also shines a spotlight on the work of the health service right at the coalface. At the core of the science slate were ***Ireland 2050: Tomorrow Tonight*** (Loosehorse), a docu-drama set 27 years in the future, which guided viewers through the breaking news moments on a seismic night as climate change pushes the planet to a moment of crisis; and ***Heated*** (indiepics), which brought inspirational stories of ordinary people making significant differences in their communities and looked at the implications for the lives of Irish people – telling stories of hope, inspiration and practical endeavours as we push to cut emissions. Also included was the prescient one-off ***Game Changer: AI & You*** (Animo TV Productions), a documentary featuring journalist Anne-Marie Tomchak, who takes a look at how this technology is transforming human experience and how we need to adapt to cope with AI's increasing power and influence on our lives.



Hospital Live

**Forward-thinking and future-living were common themes at the core of the science slate, including Hospital Live (indiepics).**



Game Changer: AI & You



Global affairs and the Irish experience abroad were twin themes to *Faraway Fields* (Whitethorn Productions), in which an Irish farmer, a forester and a fisherman experience life in some of the most challenging conditions on earth, as they find out if they have what it takes to live off the land and sea in a developing country. Can they cope with the gruelling day-to-day reality of subsistence living and the struggle for survival, and what might they learn?

Gary Lennon's intimate portrait of the Cushendall-raised, Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Cathal McNaughton, *I Dream in Photos* (Gambit Pictures), is a feature-length documentary that explores the life and work of someone who quit 'the best job in the world' at the peak of his career, aged just 40. Through this narrative film we learn of his courageous work in the field in some of the world's most harrowing trouble spots.

**Global affairs and the Irish experience abroad were twin themes to *Faraway Fields* (Whitethorn Productions), in which an Irish farmer, a forester and a fisherman experience life in some of the most challenging conditions on earth.**



Faraway Fields

## Religious Programmes

In 2023, commissioned content continued to add significant variety and quality to RTÉ's religious output, helping to place religion, in a variety of guises and formats, at the heart of mainstream schedules and of the national conversation.

***The Secret Peacemaker*** (New Decade TV) was an ambitious drama-documentary that marked the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement on Easter Sunday 2023, with a definitive portrait of Fr Alec Reid, the Redemptorist priest who devised a pathway out of violence for the IRA and facilitated the Hume-Adams dialogue that led ultimately to peace. The film, which was co-funded by the CnaM Sound & Vision Fund, Section 481 and Northern Ireland Screen as well as RTÉ, was also acquired and aired by BBC Northern Ireland and was well reviewed on both sides of the border.

***In the Name of the Son*** (Bang Bang Teo) was a portrait, co-funded by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and private donors, of Mags Riordan, a Kerry woman who, having lost three children in separate tragic circumstances, founded a clinic in Malawi in memory of her son, Billy, who drowned there. Her efforts have brought life-changing or life-saving medical care to thousands of people. The film was well reviewed and subsequent private screenings in the USA led to significant donations to her charity. It will also be given a special screening at the UN in the summer of 2024, jointly sponsored by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Malawi.



*The Secret Peacemaker*



*In the Name of the Son*

**In 2023, commissioned content continued to add significant variety and quality to RTÉ's religious output.**



In September, TV chef, Donal Skehan revealed a different side to his on-screen personality when he immersed himself in the food cultures of minority faith communities, in ***Donal's Feasts, Fasts & Festivals*** (Appetite Media). With majority funding from the CnaM Sound & Vision Fund, the two-part series was praised for making diversity entertainingly accessible, without patronising either its subjects or its audiences.

***A Ring and A Prayer*** (Esras Films) was another new format, also supported by the CnaM Sound & Vision Fund. Airing during pre-watershed peak time, it performed above slot average and generated significant coverage and social media chatter with its exploration of weddings and marriages between couples from different faiths or cultural backgrounds.

***The Last Priests in Ireland and The Last Nuns in Ireland*** (Scratch Films) were two individual but related films, majority funded by the CnaM Sound & Vision Fund and presented by Ardal O'Hanlon and Dearbhail McDonald respectively, which examined the causes and consequences of the current drought in religious vocations in Ireland, while also considering how Irish culture came to be so dominated by Catholic priests and nuns. The two films were stripped across successive nights on RTÉ One at peak time, generating significant interest not only in Irish media but in the UK. Both performed significantly above slot average and were consistently well reviewed, with critics and members of the public noting how fair, balanced and insightful they both were.



[A Ring and a Prayer](#)



[The Last Priests in Ireland and The Last Nuns in Ireland](#)



***Tukdam: The Point of Death*** (Wildfire Films) was a multi-partnered international co-production to which RTÉ contributed a modest fee, while helping to secure other third-party funding. An exploration of the Tibetan Buddhist phenomenon of Tukdam, whereby some advanced meditation practitioners can apparently put their bodies into suspended animation at the point of death, thereby postponing physical decay in bodies that show no vital signs, the documentary showed how the interface between science and faith is sometimes blurred.

Most RTÉ Christian worship is produced in-house, in RTÉ's studios in Donnybrook, but four times a year, on St Patrick's Day, at Easter and on Christmas Day, certain Masses and Services are produced on location by Kairos Communications, following a successful tender. The Christmas Day Service from Ballivor, Co. Meath in 2023 was shared via the European Broadcasting Union with six other European broadcasters, adding significantly to viewers and generating enthusiastic feedback.

The contract to produce the short films that accompany ***The Angelus*** chimes on RTÉ One each night at 6pm was renewed in 2023, with a new group of nightly films starting to air in March. These were produced by Kairos Communications. The films, shot in various locations around Ireland, aspire to offer viewers 'a non-verbal minute, conducive to prayer or reflection by people of all faiths and none'.

**The contract to produce the short films that accompany *The Angelus* chimes on RTÉ One each night at 6pm was renewed in 2023, with a new group of nightly films starting to air in March.**



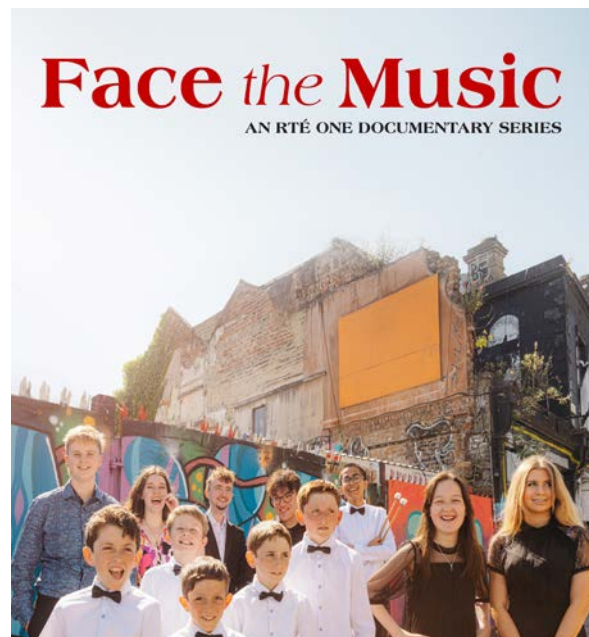
**Tukdam: The Point of Death**

## Arts and Culture

**Face the Music** (Animo TV Productions) was a three-part observational documentary series featuring the Royal Irish Academy of Music during a pivotal year in its 175-year history. Cameras follow students and teachers throughout a year filled with fierce competition, immense pressure, world-class performances and the unveiling of a brand-new building.

**Page Turners** (Vision Independent Productions) was a four-part docu-series that dipped into multiple book clubs across the country, providing a vox pop of the thoughts and feelings of people in contemporary Ireland. Featuring eight book clubs from across the country, the series includes a cast drawn from diverse backgrounds who will chat literally and literarily. Featured topics will range from romance to politics, sci-fi to adventure, self-help to what's going on with our communities, families and friends. These meetings are unique, offering an outlet for discussion about life's pleasures and demands as experienced by the members of these clubs.

The subject of **Lady Gregory: Ireland's First Social Influencer** (Kite Entertainment) was Lady Augusta Gregory, a figure whose influence on Irish theatre, writing and the arts in general looms large but, as is frequently the case, has all too often been overshadowed by others, including many of those she herself championed.



Face the Music



Page Turners



Lady Gregory: Ireland's First Social Influencer

This two-part documentary sets out to explore the life of this remarkable and complicated woman, as British actress (and national treasure) Miriam Margolyes joins forces with Irish writer and activist Senator Lynn Ruane for a road trip around the fascinating world of Lady Gregory, a journey that takes them from London to Tallaght and from Gort out to Inis Oírr.

***Untameable*** (Averner Films), written by Colm Tóibín and narrated by Oscar-nominated Ciarán Hinds, is an emotive and cinematic documentary that spectacularly reopens Seamus Heaney's bog poems in tandem with exploring the dilemmas in Ireland's contested boglands, amid the climate crisis. With Heaney's poems powerfully brought to life by actor Michelle Fairley, the story sought to cast new light on our relationship with nature, with captivating testimony from midland locals and distinguished contributors including eminent Irish historian Roy Foster, renowned Dutch philosopher Matthijs Schouten and award-winning photographer Tina Claffey.

***Sebastian Barry: Family Stories*** (Icebox Films) profiles the multi-award-winning writer, taking us on a journey that begins with his own history: the familial entanglements and the historical griefs of the past and the creative and hope-filled energies that family can release. Over the past 40 years, Sebastian Barry has created an impressive body of work and carved out a distinctive place in contemporary Irish culture. His plays and novels have delved into the dark crevices of family life, Irish history and that troubled space where they overlap. He has done this with an authorial voice that is like no other.



Untameable



Sebastian Barry: Family Stories

**Over the past 40 years, Sebastian Barry has created an impressive body of work and carved out a distinctive place in contemporary Irish culture.**



This film looks at the shaping influences on his life and work, including his actress mother, his architect/poet father and his wife and children. As a counterpoint, the film reflects on the development of his writing career from first-time playwright to becoming the Laureate for Irish Fiction.

***Imogen from the Heart*** (Curious Dog Films) tells of how, in 1949, an idealistic and talented 22-year-old German girl with an enormous curiosity for the world arrived in Dún Laoghaire from Berlin. She had moved from one highly artistic family with Jewish roots, surviving the Third Reich, to another bohemian milieu: that of her new Irish husband, Ian Stuart, a sculptor and grandson of Maud Gonne. Now, at the age of 96, 74 years after her arrival, Imogen is regarded as one of Ireland's most pre-eminent and prolific sculptors. Through her prolific artistic output, the film explores how this child of Jewish/Lutheran parents came to take a central role in the spiritual heart of her adopted country. Uniquely, Imogen's grandson, filmmaker Emile Dinneen, has been filming her for 13 years, working to craft an intimate and insightful portrait of an extraordinary woman. Using a treasure trove of remarkable archive and extensive historical material, this intimate documentary tells the vivid story of a life lived through some of the most tumultuous events of our recent history.

In ***An Post Irish Book of the Year*** (BiggerStage), Oliver Callan explores the six books shortlisted for 'An Post Irish Book of the Year 2023'. Taking a closer look at this year's finalists, Oliver meets the authors and teases out some of the human stories and the people behind six very different books.



[Imogen from the Heart](#)



[An Post Irish Book of the Year](#)

While each book is already an award winner in its own category, the show inevitably culminates in the reveal of the overall winner of this prestigious prize.

**Book Club** (Vision Independent Productions) was a returning series (formerly Page Turners) that dipped into multiple book clubs across the country to sample some of the thoughts and feelings of people in contemporary Ireland today. While discussing a range of books from literary classics to the latest page-turners, the series portrays a real-world passion in a highly entertaining way that is intended to introduce a wider TV audience to the wonderful world of reading and books. Each title offers a prompt to a broader discussion, reflecting the book club members' interests, passions and concerns.

**Listen to the Land Speak** (Crossing the Line Films) comprises two dreamlike films that saw Manchán Magan – one of our most acclaimed writers on landscape and language – bring viewers on a journey around Ireland like no other, revealing the profound knowledge and wisdom contained in our landscape and the myths and legends that have shaped our identity and sensibilities. Manchán was on a mission to show us the unseen magic that surrounds us and, with him as our guide, we explore the vast wealth of lore, history, culture and insights that the landscape holds.

**Songlines** (Harvest Films) was a new documentary that built upon an earlier film, *Songs of the Open Road*, by following the great Traveller singer, storyteller and song collector Thomas McCarthy on his journey throughout Ireland, as he met fellow singers and storytellers – men and women



Songlines

**Songlines was a new documentary that built upon an earlier film, Songs of the Open Road, by following the great Traveller singer, storyteller and song collector Thomas McCarthy on his journey throughout Ireland.**

of all ages who, while carrying a great tradition, are rarely seen or heard outside the Travelling community. This documentary captured the voices of these extraordinary Traveller singers and storytellers, whose songlines can be traced back hundreds of years. Given that the mainly oral culture whereby these songs are handed down through the generations is already fading, it is more important than ever to preserve this heritage.

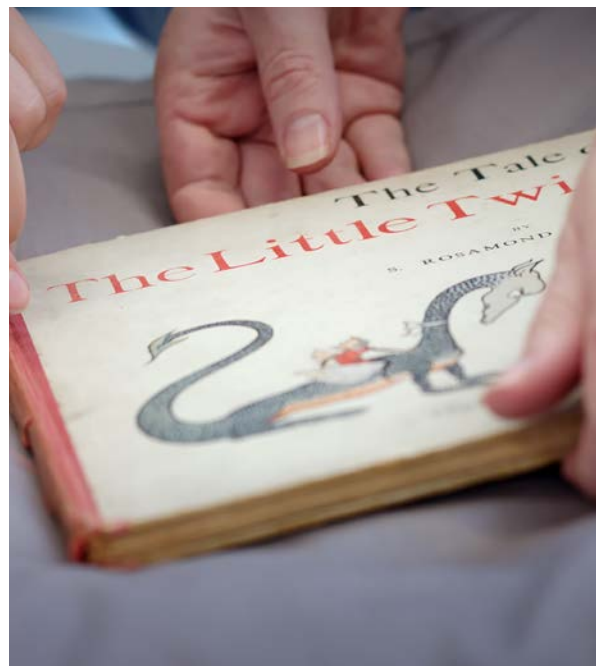
### ***Ireland's Hidden Treasures***

(Bo Media) spotlit the cultural, creative and challenging work undertaken behind the scenes in Irish museums, as we met the custodians of our national treasures. Supported by insightful contributors and narrative, it investigated the secrets, stories and people who devote their craft and professional lives to preserving iconic and priceless artefacts behind closed doors.

***David Puttnam – Ireland and Me*** (Icebox Films) focused on David Puttnam as he navigated his ninth decade in his home in Skibbereen, reflecting on his past as a British Oscar-winning film maker, embracing his present as a new Irish citizen and examining the threads that connect the two. While observing David as he reflects on his movie career, his work as a political activist and passionate environmentalist, his intimate relationships and new Irish identity, the film offers an intimate portrait of a man at a significant time in his life – coming to terms with his mortality, adjusting to his new identity, reflecting on his past and refusing to retire.



[Ireland's Hidden Treasures](#)



[Ireland's Hidden Treasures](#)



## **RTÉ2**

Original Irish drama returned to RTÉ2 in 2023 with the much-praised **Storyland** initiative, alongside a range of new entertainment and comedy commissions. 2023 was an exceptional year for kids' content on RTÉ2 and across all of our services.

## **Drama**

Original Irish drama was back on RTÉ2 in 2023 with a brand-new series of **Storyland**, featuring three unique, original and exciting single dramas. In collaboration with Screen Ireland, RTÉ's **Storyland** commissions new scripts and brings them to your television screens, specifically to pave the way for tomorrow's writers, directors and producers. Mary Fox and Marty Thornton, currently writing episodes of **Hidden Assets**, wrote a **Storyland** drama for RTÉ in 2017. Such diverse and authentic voices as these demonstrate the craft and originality that will sustain Ireland's rapidly growing television drama sector.

**Wrapped** (Pipedream Productions) was a story about female friendship and betrayal, written by Tracy Martin, directed by Mia Mullarkey and produced by Claire McCabe. **The Cousin** (MDV), was a thought-provoking, soulful story of a young man trying to escape a life of crime through art, written and directed by Stevie Russell and produced by Mike Donnelly. Written and directed by Nell Hensey and produced by Claire Mooney, **Falling for the Life of Alex Whelan** (Pure Divilment Pictures) was a beautiful, romantic tale of a woman who meets the man of her dreams and then loses him abruptly, having to imagine what might have been.



Wrapped



The Cousin

**Original Irish drama returned to RTÉ2 in 2023 with the much-praised Storyland initiative, alongside a range of new entertainment and comedy commissions.**

## Entertainment, Comedy and Music

On RTÉ2 the drive to develop new content led to *The 2 Johnnies Late Night Lock In* (Green Inc), which arrived on screen with a bang. The show brought significant numbers of young viewers to the channel and helped to further cement the boys as key comic voices. The comedy and entertainment series fronted by Johnny Smacks and Johnny B was an adrenaline-fuelled six-part series with some well-known pals for shenanigans. The show shone a light on all things Irish – bringing viewers on a celebration of the great characters, humour, music, fun and silliness to be found in pubs throughout the country.

RTÉ2 also enjoyed considerable success with *Love in the Country* (Kite Entertainment), a dating format that captured some of the challenges of dating in rural Ireland and saw Anna Geary gracefully help singletons find love. The series followed six individuals from Westmeath, Roscommon, West Cork, Wexford, Carlow and Mayo who felt that living and working in the country makes it tough to find love, never mind settle down with someone.

*Other Voices* (South Wind Blows) returned for its 21st series on RTÉ2, filmed in St James's Church in Dingle. It brought audiences the best in Irish music across a six-part series that featured Paolo Nutini, Loyle Carner, Inhaler, The Big Moon, Just Mustard, SOAK, and Biig Piig. The *RTÉ Choice Music Prize* (Southpaw Pictures) returned to celebrate the nominees and announce the winners of Irish Album of the Year (CMAT - If My Wife New I'd Be Dead) and Song of the Year (Moncrieff - Warm).



[The 2 Johnnies Late Night Lock In](#)



[Love in the Country](#)



[Other Voices](#)

## Popular Factual and Factual Entertainment

Mateo and the staff celebrated their first *First Dates Ireland* (Coco Content) wedding and continued to find love for singletons, who arrived at the First Dates restaurant in the hope of meeting their dream partner. *Home Rescue* (Coco Content) helped transform the lives of six deserving families, with Dee Coleman joining Peter Finn and new declutter expert Aidan Gately to tackle six homes in need of a declutter and redesign.

*Selling Ireland's Dream Homes* (Waddell Media) gave viewers a peek inside some of the country's most quirky, unusual and pricey properties. This season houses included The Lake House in Co. Sligo, former home of Westlife's Mark Feehily, Benmore House in Enniskillen, which C.S. Lewis visited a number of times as it was his grandfather's house, and the lighthouse on Clare Island.

## Sport

Rugby coverage continued with *URC Live* bringing coverage from the United Rugby Championship on RTÉ. Produced by IRIS Productions and presented on RTÉ by Clare McNamara and Daire O'Brien, the live action continued to the conclusion of the 2022/23 season in June 2023. In October, the show returned for the 2023/24 season with a continued commitment to keep the games involving Irish provinces, home and away, available free to air. Following a successful development pitch in early 2022, *Path to Paris* (Brick Films) remained in production in 2023 to deliver three documentaries on Ireland's Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls. This series, as well as Player exclusive content, will be broadcast in advance of the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



First Dates Ireland



Home Rescue



URC Live



## Younger Audiences

RTÉ Young People's aim in 2023 was to empower children and young audiences by amplifying their voices and experiences through engaging, fun, and educational cross-platform content. 2023 was an exceptional year for kids' content across all of our services. RTÉ Player continued to establish itself firmly as one of the go-to on-demand kids' destinations for top-class Irish content, alongside two curated YouTube channels (RTÉjr – YouTube and RTÉ Kids – YouTube). And more award-winning RTÉjr podcasts became available on the RTÉ Radio Player, and on the RTÉ Kids and RTÉ Learn websites.

## RTÉ Kids

In 2023 the space princess **Nova Jones** (Jam Media) was back by popular demand, wowing alien audiences and the kids back at home with her space-tacular outfits and incredible tunes. The incredibly talented Marvel artist Will Sliney was also back with a second series of **Will Sliney's Storytellers** (Pioneertown), encouraging kids everywhere to pick up a pencil and get drawing.

**JourneyCam International** (Dyehouse Films), the supersized version of the original JourneyCam, took us on a globetrotting journey across the world from Poland to Pakistan, India to Cuba in which we were invited into the extended families of our journeycamers – a really special series.

Another highlight of 2023 was **Space Camp Challenge** (Mind the Gap Films), co-funded by Science Foundation Ireland. This series followed Irish transition students on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to train in NASA space camp in the US.

**RTÉ Young People's aim in 2023 was to empower children and young audiences by amplifying their voices and experiences through engaging, fun, and educational cross-platform content.**



Nova Jones



Space Camp Challenge

Towards the end of the year the hilarious **Storybud** (Kite Entertainment) crashed back onto our screen with 10 new stories, five for Halloween and five giving the **Storybud** treatment to famous celebrities. We welcomed back Jason Byrne, Deirdre O’Kane and Tara Lynne O’Neill, and for the first time Panti and Dustin the Turkey sat in the big yellow chair!!

We were also delighted to continue to support creativity by our teen audience with the return of **Junk Kouture Dublin City Final 2023**, back in the 3Arena, with 5000 screaming fans and presented by Seán Treacy, Órla Morris Toolen and Mary-Claire Fitzpatrick; **Ireland’s Young Filmmaker of the Year 2023** (Fresh Films), was also an incredible event that served to highlight and celebrate next-generation creativity.

## **RTÉjr**

We were bursting at the seams with incredible animation for our younger audiences in 2023. First up there was **Flix** (Pictor). Originally created by writer and illustrator Tomi Ungerer, Flix, the only dog in cat town, barrelled onto our screens this year with his hilarious adventures. **Sullivan Sails** (Distillery Films) and his friend Benji invited us to join them on dream-like adventures with lots of incredible animals from around the world and **Silly Sundays** (Cartoon Saloon), a brand-new series, arrived full of giggles, colour and so much joy.

We were introduced to **Funny Little Monsters** (Mutiny Group), co-created by father and daughter duo Paul and Penny Lynch, Penny being the youngest TV executive in Ireland at 10 years of age.



Flix



Sullivan Sails



Funny Little Monsters

And then to wrap everything up for 2023, audiences saw the return of RTÉjr favourites *Fia's Fairies* (Little Moon Animation) and *Bóin agus Beach* (Paper Owl), and the rap-tastic creatures from *Urban Tails* (Pink Kong Studios) were back with foot-tapping earworms to delight us all over again.

There were also loads of live-action titles for our youngest viewers to enjoy. We met Simon and the gang for loads of singing adventures in the lighthouse in our brand-new series *Simon Says* (Fíbin Media), singing their way through the day and making sure everyone has a great time along the way! Body Brothers Series 3 (stop.watch television) this time was finding out all about inventions, from toilet time to how you make plastic from vegetables and lots more.

The ever-popular *Tír na nÓg* (Macalla) was also back for a second series. Síofra, Oisín and friends take us on another magical journey through the hidden garden gateway to Tír na nÓg as they learn about nature and the world around them through games, challenges and songs. Tír na nÓg really is the most wonderful place to go on an adventure.

And, speaking of adventures, in 2023 Ella Blaze and Lucy returned with even more spectacular episodes of *The Imagination Machine* (Firebrand Productions), relentlessly pursued by Doctor Dotty and Mr Fluffy Pants, who, try as they may, never seem to get their paws on The Imagination Machine magic book! Could learning ever be more fun?



*Bóin agus Beach*



*Silly Sundays*



*Imagination Machine*



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# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

## RADIO



**All RTÉ radio stations continued to perform strongly in 2023, offering a wide range of content to all audiences in both English and Irish. Alongside RTÉ's in-house programming, the radio independent sector produced an extensive variety of high-quality factual and arts documentaries and series, entertainment, comedy and young people's programmes, all of which showcased the quality of RTÉ's audio output in 2023.**

### **RTÉ Radio 1**

RTÉ Radio 1 had a strong year in 2023, with existing commissioned radio series as well as the development of exciting new programming for the schedule.

Solid regulars included *The Business* (Old Yard Productions) presented by Richard Curran, taking a weekly look at the world of work, business, personal finance and the lives of entrepreneurs both at home and abroad.

The ever-popular *Callan's Kicks* (Catchy Title) continued to provide our listeners with some welcome comic relief around the world of politics, current affairs, entertainment and sport.

*Witness, with Siobhán Garrigan* (Alan Meaney) was a new religious strand, and a very interesting addition to the independent production slate in 2023.

Meanwhile, the summer Saturday schedule on RTÉ Radio 1 included an exceptional series of **Second Captains Saturday** (Second Captains), with programmes that proved to be among our most popular online post-broadcast content in 2023.

Sunday evenings continued to showcase independent programming, from history and music to fitness and wellbeing. **The History Show** (Pegasus Media and Consulting), with Myles Dungan, wrapped up the Decade of Centenaries. Anna Geary made a welcome return with **Supercharged** (OJO Productions) featuring personal stories of health and wellbeing to advice and analysis covering a wide range of topics, and Philip King took us into the night with great music on the much-loved **South Wind Blows** (South Wind Blows).

Partnerships with Coimisúin na Meán offered several new interesting and creative series such as **Mise Sessions** (Ray Cuddihy), showcasing and platforming some of our most successful Irish musicians. A second series of the critically acclaimed **Keywords** (New Normal Culture) featured new Irish writing, and there was more from Manchán Magan's **The Almanac of Ireland** (Red Hare Media), one of the most popular podcasts on the RTÉ platform and beyond.

The addition of a Christmas round for independently produced programmes was very successful for RTÉ Radio 1 and provided a wider range of programming beyond already established strands, engaging with new production companies on a range of one-off programmes.

**RTÉ Radio 1 had a strong year in 2023, with existing commissioned radio series as well as the development of exciting new programming for the schedule.**



Supercharged



Mise Sessions

Some highlights from the schedule were *A Word in Your Year* (Pegasus Media and Consulting) with host Dermot Whelan, *The Irish Heart of Manchester* (Audio Always) and *Nollaig na hÉireann* (Mike Glennon).

## **RTÉ 2FM**

### **Digital Radio**

Starting in Donegal and finishing in Cork, the new RTÉ 2XM series *Dreamland* (Seán Ó Cuireáin) explored the diverse and vibrant contemporary music and landscape on Ireland's western edge. Producer Seán Ó Cuireáin set out in the summer of 2023 to document this community, their connection to the landscape and how it affects their work – a kind of musical psycho-geographic road trip.

Also on RTÉ 2XM, *Sessions from Oblivion* (Central Entertainment Bureau) was a 10-part series that featured performances from some of the best upcoming acts in the country with tips and tricks from the veterans. This popular online music show showcased the cream of Ireland's musical crop, in performance and conversation with presenter Andrew Bass.

*Digital Terrain* (Brian Mc Namara) was a 10-part radio documentary that focused on contemporary electronic musicians on the island of Ireland. Broadcast on RTÉ Pulse, the series featured Daranijoh Sanni, Edy Fung, Dan Callanan, Vicky Langan, Adam Ryan, Jane Deasy, Max Crowley and Natalia Beylis.



Irish Heart of Manchester

**Starting in Donegal and finishing in Cork, the new RTÉ 2XM series *Dreamland* (Seán Ó Cuireáin) explored the diverse and vibrant contemporary music and landscape on Ireland's western edge.**



Sessions from Oblivion



## **RTÉ lyric fm**

During 2023 RTÉ lyric fm brought over 70 hours of newly created content from independent producers to air across a range of key daytime programmes and more specialist evening programming on the station.

**Culture File** (Soundsdoable) brought RTÉ lyric fm listeners daily arts and culture reports, offering a unique and accessible take on music, media, technology, craft, art, comedy, food and design, and featured makers and creators from around Ireland and abroad. Broadcast on **Lorcan Murray's Classic Drive**, it gives voice to new cultural commentators. In the related monthly **Culture File Debate** series, a panel of guests from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines reflect on some of the major issues for the arts and creative communities both within Ireland and abroad. Highlights of this series in 2023 included a panel discussion following a unique performance at the Louth Contemporary Music Society's weekend festival of Terry Riley's seminal work 'In C', reinterpreted by key players from the world of Irish traditional music as 'In C Trad', and also a live event at the Dublin Book Festival with a panel focusing discussion on the word 'Wild' in nature writing. **Culture File's** daily and weekly reports have an extensive online presence through podcasts, SoundCloud and Twitter.

**During 2023 RTÉ lyric fm brought over 70 hours of newly created content from independent producers to air across a range of key daytime programmes.**



Culture File

In September, on *Niall Carroll's Classical Daytime*, a 10-part short series *Remembering Seamus Heaney* (Rockfinch) allowed listeners the chance to reflect on the enormous contribution of one of the titans of Irish culture. In addition to Heaney's own words, he was remembered by people from all walks of life, including fellow poet Michael Longley, artist Colin Davidson, hurler Diarmuid Lyng and writers and campaigners Orla Tinsley and Razan Ibraheem.

During 2023 the Lyric Feature broadcast 40 hours of programming, 13 of which were new commissions from nine independent production companies. Two common themes to many of the productions were the concern among artists and creatives for ecology and our environment, and the emergence of new cultural identities that reflect the multicultural nature of 21st-century Ireland.

**During 2023 the Lyric Feature broadcast 40 hours of programming, 13 of which were new commissions from nine independent production companies.**



Remembering Seamus Heaney



Niall Carroll

Creativity, diversity and inclusion in these programmes celebrated Irish culture both new and old, from the traditional storytelling of Micil Ned Quinn in ***The Bard of Armagh*** (Raw Nerve Productions) to the poetic voices of Dagogo Hart, Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan, Susana Sav, Polina Cosgrave and other members of ‘new Irish’ communities in ***The Salt of Something New*** (Rockfinch).

As well as drawing attention to artists and their works, many of the features were themselves artist-led, which in turn created virtuous circles of creativity, ensuring that much of the spend on these programmes went to the creative sector – to artists, composers, actors, writers and producers. In ***A Portrait of an Artist as a Radio Documentary*** (Daragh Dukes), composer Daragh Dukes took listeners through multiple locations and perspectives with his bespoke composed soundtrack, creating a novel, informative, heartfelt and entertaining portrait of James Hanley, one of Ireland’s most in-demand portrait painters.

***Feather and Flock*** (Anja Murray) was a newly commissioned six-part series on Ireland’s native birds combining artists and ecology. Each 45-minute episode shared stories about a selected native bird, weaving together history, folklore, science, ecology, music and song, creating a unique, musically rich portrait. The series is co-presented by ecologist Anja Murray and folk musician Brían Mac Gloinn, who has also written new songs and a sumptuous soundtrack for the programmes. The series builds on their previous work *Root and Branch* in developing an alternative broadcast strand for issues such as climate change and the biodiversity crisis that is outside the regular churn of news and current affairs.



The Bard of Armagh



The Salt of Something New

**As well as drawing attention to artists and their works, many of the features were themselves artist-led, which in turn created virtuous circles of creativity.**



Continuing the theme of art and the environment, the two-part series ***We Only Want the Earth*** (Contemporary Music Centre) was a novel series that features Ireland's composers of both classical and electronic music and interrogates their engagement with arguably the most pressing issue of our age, the climate crisis. The programmes were a document of current practice but also a call to arms for the creative sector. The series also provided much-needed opportunities for a new generation of artists to showcase their work and platform their ideas.

RTÉ lyric fm's 2023 commissioning also saw the continuation of a strong commitment to programme-making, highlighting stories of those who have been unfairly overlooked. ***The Diary of Winifred Letts*** (Rockfinch) tells the story of the second woman, after Lady Gregory, to have her work performed at the Abbey Theatre, while ***Building a Ballet*** (Joanna Marsden) tells the story of the attempts to build a National Ballet of Ireland by Patricia Ryan, Nadine Legat and a group of remarkable and unconventional Irish women in the middle of the last century.

On the Lyric Feature, RTÉ lyric fm also commissioned a second three-part series of ***A Poet's Place*** (Rockfinch), in which three Irish poets explore their relationship with a place in Ireland that is both a physical location to which they have a particular attachment and a place that inspires their poetry. Jane Clarke follows the route of the Annamoe River in the Glenmalure Valley in County Wicklow; Louis de Paor returns to his childhood home in Cork; Annemarie Ní Churreáin explores the past and present, light and shade of her native Donegal.



**We Only Want Earth**



**A Poet's Place**

## **RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta**

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta increased its output from the independent sector in 2023 and this created opportunities to work with new independent partners and develop a wider range of programming from various genres. The station broadcast content from eight different companies/producers, and continued to produce existing commissioned radio series and develop new programming.

Traditional music is in the DNA of RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta. The third series of ***Cuan an Cheoil*** (Stiúideo Cuan) featured many musicians in an intimate studio setting with Liam Ó Maonlaí, and the first series of ***Beo ón gCuan*** (Stiúideo Cuan) featured bands in a live studio/concert setting with an audience. These gigs were recorded in Stiúideo Cuan in An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe; the productions were supported by Coimisiún na Meán's Sound & Vision Scheme and were also streamed online.

Storytelling is hugely important in any type of programming and in 2023 RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta broadcast a range of programming where storytelling was central. ***In Ómós Áite*** (Emma Ní Chearúil), Dr Ailbhe Ní Ghearrbhuigh travelled around the country to meet writers and poets to discuss the importance of place in their work and visit those places. Dónall Ó Maolfabhail examined how the Irish state achieved its unique standing on the world stage over the course of the 100 years since its establishment in 1922 in the series ***Stát Úr Nua*** (Scun Scan Productions).

**RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta increased its output from the independent sector in 2023 and this created opportunities to work with new independent partners and develop a wider range of programming from various genres.**



Beo ón gCuan



In Ómós Áite

**Scéalta** (Macalla) is a magical series of newly written Irish-language stories for younger listeners from some of Ireland's finest writers and performers. This series was also broadcast on RTÉjr and is available online as a podcast. **Carthanacht Chlíodhna** (Cillian O Donnachadha) was an eight-part comedy drama series set in a charity shop in a small rural town, where the shop manager, Clíodhna, is hell-bent of winning the All-Ireland Charity Shop Championship. All these productions were supported by the Coimisiún na Meán Sound & Vision Scheme.

For the first time ever, RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta worked in partnership with The Irish Language Broadcast Fund from Northern Ireland Screen. Two series were commissioned from that fund and co-commissioned with BBC Gaeilge. This is a great example of how broadcasters and funding agencies can work together and help to create opportunities for independent producers and for the broadcasters themselves. **Scribhneoirí an tSléibhe le Conor Torbóid** (Corcra Media) explores intergenerational trauma in post-conflict society through the experiences and creative writings of those involved in **Scribhneoirí an tSléibhe** around Northern Ireland. We learnt a lot about Belfast from **Ocht gCeathrú**, (Clean Slate Television), when Aodhán Ó Baoill and Niamh Ní Dhubhgáin travelled to the various quarters of Belfast City and spoke to those who live and work there.

**For the first time ever, RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta worked in partnership with The Irish Language Broadcast Fund from Northern Ireland Screen.**



Scribhneoirí an tSléibhe



Ocht gCeathrú



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# OTHER FUNDING

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## The Coimisiún na Meán Sound & Vision Scheme continued to be a key partner in RTÉ’s visual and audio commissioning output in 2023.

Thirty television productions, which have been or will be broadcast on RTÉ, were commissioned with Coimisiún na Meán Sound & Vision support. These are: *An Ghig Mhór, Book Club Series 2, Climate of Change – Ireland’s Future Climate, Coastal Atlas of Ireland, David Puttman – Ireland and Me, Dizzy Deliveries Series 2, Dolores@70, Doodle Girl, Finding Rory, Framing Irish History – The Sean Sexton Collection, Hey Fuzzy Yellow, Holt, Ireland 2050: Tomorrow Tonight, Justice for the Magdalenes, Listen to the Land Speak, Louise Lives Large, Manchán Magan’s Europe by Train, Minding Me, My Name is Jhon, Na Féilte Tine, Songs of Ireland, Stories from Backwoods, The End of the World with Beanz, The Last Priests and The Last Nuns in Ireland, The Unreal, Tír na nÓg Series 2, Until the Last Bird Sings, What’s Next?, Where the Wild Geese Go, Why We Love Dolphins.*

In addition to the radio programmes commissioned directly by RTÉ, 29 productions delivering approximately 150 hours of programming with Coimisiún na Meán Sound & Vision Radio funding were secured by independent producers for broadcast on RTÉ Radio in 2023 and 2024. Programmes included: *A Poet’s Place Series 2, Ag Léamh faoin mBinse Scoile, Beo ón gCuan, Building a Ballet, Cuan an Cheoil Sraith 3, Digital Terrain, Dreamland, Fanning’s Fabbest 50s, Feather and Flock, Flashback, For the Record, Its Only Rock ‘n’ Roll, But Sure Look... , Keywords Series 2,*

*Last One On the Train, Mise Sessions, Music Since the 60s with Dave Fanning, Nero’s Class Series 2, Ómós Áite, Portrait of an Artist as a Radio Documentary, Remembering Seamus Heaney, Say a Song, Sessions from Oblivion, Siad Féin, The Adventures of a Young Pirate Queen: The Stone of Fal, The Diary of Winifred Letts, The Ghost Limb, The Science of Sense Goes Exploring Our Environment, We Only Want the Earth.*

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 2023 included *Hospital Live Series 2* (indiepics) and *Game Changer: AI & You* (Animo TV Productions). Both productions were broadcast during prime-time slots on RTÉ One.

RTÉ continued to grow and strengthen our support of both television and radio production in the Irish Language through the Irish Language Broadcasting Fund (ILBF). The programmes contracted in 2023 with support from the ILBF include *999 faoi Oiliúint* (Below the Radar), *Ar an Sliabh* (Strident Media), *Bog Amach* (Strident Media), *Gaeil thar Lear* (Dearcán Media), *Kayak Ó Thuaidh* (Macha Media), *Madraí* (Big Mountain Productions), *Peataí* (Big Mountain Productions),

**Saol na Feirme** (Strident Media), **Ré Réabhlóide: CLG agus Cogadh na gCarad** (Imagine Media), **Réiteoir** (Macha Media), **Scéalta na Lochanna** (Strident Media). 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 2023 RTÉ also entered into co-productions with BBC NI, ARTE and a number of other funders. An analysis of funding from other sources can be found on p. 56.



Dizzy Deliveries



Tír na nÓg

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## OTHER SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

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In 2023 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 interests 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.

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## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

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RTÉ is required to comply 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 a review on the application of specified commissioning procedures to television and radio programme submissions in 2023. Deloitte performed these 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 2023

RTÉ's 2023 statutory obligation for expenditure on independent commissions under the Broadcasting Act 2009 was €44.5m, in respect of both television and radio. The total actual expenditure incurred, including RTÉ attributable overhead, on television and radio commissioning activities during 2023 was €46.3m.

|   | <b>2023<br/>TV<br/>€'000</b> | <b>2023<br/>Radio<br/>€'000</b> | <b>2023<br/>Total<br/>€'000</b> | <b>2022<br/>Total<br/>€'000</b> |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Expenditure Incurred  |                              |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Statutory Expenditure (Sch. 5)                              | 43,505                       | 1,516                           | 45,021                          | 42,738                          |
| Additional Expenditure (Sch. 6)                             | (71)                         | –                               | (71)                            | 26                              |
| <b>Direct Expenditure on<br/>Commissioned Programmes</b>    | <b>43,434</b>                | <b>1,516</b>                    | <b>44,950</b>                   | 42,764                          |
| RTÉ Attributable Overhead                                   | 1,376                        | 26                              | 1,402                           | 792                             |
| <b>Expenditure Incurred on<br/>Commissioning Activities</b> | <b>44,810</b>                | <b>1,542</b>                    | <b>46,352</b>                   | 43,556                          |

The statutory expenditure incurred on independent productions through the Independent Programmes account in 2023 in respect of commissioned programmes was €43.5m for television and €1.5m for radio, a total of €45.0m, and includes administration costs. This is in excess of the statutory amount of €44.5m.

A total of 934 hours (440 radio, 494 television) was commissioned with the Independent Productions statutory expenditure in 2023, across a broad range of categories; these are detailed in Schedule 3.

An analysis of expenditure incurred in 2023 by programme category is detailed in Schedule 5.

## Commissioning and Overhead Spend 2023

An analysis of independent television and radio productions expenditure incurred by RTÉ in 2023 is contained in the table below. Further detail by genre is contained in Schedules 5 and 6.

|   | 2023<br>TV<br>€'000 | 2023<br>Radio<br>€'000 | 2023<br>Total<br>€'000 | 2022<br>Total<br>€'000 |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Expenditure Incurred                                    |                     |                        |                        |                        |
| 2022 Commissions Brought Forward                        | 15,155              | 406                    | 15,561                 | 13,300                 |
| Change in Spend on 2022 Commissions <sup>1</sup>        | (803)               | (8)                    | (811)                  | (958)                  |
| <b>2022 Commissions Brought Forward as Restated</b>     | <b>14,352</b>       | <b>398</b>             | <b>14,750</b>          | 12,342                 |
| <b>New Commissions during 2023 (see below)</b>          | <b>40,984</b>       | <b>1,500</b>           | <b>42,484</b>          | 43,589                 |
| Less Commissions for Delivery in 2024                   | (14,366)            | (442)                  | (14,808)               | (15,561)               |
| Administration Costs (Schedule 7)                       | 3,766               | 86                     | 3,852                  | 3,112                  |
| Awards/Schemes  | 74                  | -                      | 74                     | 74                     |
| <b>Expenditure Incurred on Commissioning Activities</b> | <b>44,810</b>       | <b>1,542</b>           | <b>46,352</b>          | 43,556                 |

New commissions during 2023 of €42.5m (see table above) can be analysed as follows:

|                                       | Statutory<br>Spend<br>€'000 | %           | Non-statutory<br>Spend<br>€'000 | %           | Total<br>Spend<br>€'000 | %           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| New Commissions                       |                             |             |                                 |             |                         |             |
| Television Commissions <sup>2,3</sup> | 36,789                      | 87%         | 390                             | 100%        | 37,179                  | 87%         |
| Television Development <sup>2</sup>   | 395                         | 1%          | -                               | 0%          | 395                     | 1%          |
| Television Completion <sup>2,3</sup>  | 3,410                       | 8%          | -                               | 0%          | 3,410                   | 8%          |
| <b>Television</b>                     | <b>40,594</b>               | <b>96%</b>  | <b>390</b>                      | <b>0%</b>   | <b>40,984</b>           | <b>96%</b>  |
| <b>Radio</b>                          | <b>1,500</b>                | <b>4%</b>   | <b>-</b>                        | <b>0%</b>   | <b>1,500</b>            | <b>4%</b>   |
| <b>RTÉ Total</b>                      | <b>42,094</b>               | <b>100%</b> | <b>390</b>                      | <b>100%</b> | <b>42,484</b>           | <b>100%</b> |

**1** 2022 commissioned spend brought forward has been updated for cost variances and re-timing of programme commitments which occurred during 2023.

**2** See Schedule 1 for definition of commissions, development and completion funding.

**3** Includes RTÉ funding in respect of the CnaM Sound & Vision Scheme.

Television commissions with a value of €25.7m, representing 63% of the value of new 2023 television commissions, were awarded to 10 independent production companies, and a further sum of €8.6m or 21% was awarded to a further 10 independent production companies.

## Commissioning Activities 2023

The geographical origin of proposals for commissions received in 2023 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                      | 111              | 29        | 311                       | 47        | 66                         | 30        | 223                       | 187        |
| Rest of Republic of Ireland | 70               | 15        | 148                       | 23        | 37                         | 14        | 216                       | 246        |
| Northern Ireland            | 21               | 1         | 65                        | 11        | 18                         | 3         | 50                        | 6          |
| Great Britain               | 12               | 1         | 21                        | 2         | 1                          | 1         | 6                         | 1          |
| Others                      | 1                | -         | 6                         | -         | -                          | -         | -                         | -          |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>215</b>       | <b>46</b> | <b>551</b>                | <b>83</b> | <b>122</b>                 | <b>48</b> | <b>495</b>                | <b>440</b> |

## Other Sources of Funding to the Sector

In addition to the €41.0m committed by RTÉ to new television commissions in 2023, producers of RTÉ commissioned programmes attracted funding from other sources. The total value of this additional funding on 2023 contracts was €33.6m, analysed as follows:

| Sources of Funding  | Drama and Animation<br>€'000 | Other Genres<br>€'000 | Total Third-Party Funding<br>€'000 |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| CnaM Sound & Vision | 1,585                        | 5,926                 | 7,511                              |
| Co-funding          | 16,868                       | 3,378                 | 20,246                             |
| Section 481         | 4,682                        | 1,146                 | 5,828                              |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>23,135</b>                | <b>10,450</b>         | <b>33,585</b>                      |

Thus, the total value of RTÉ independent television programming activities in 2023, inclusive of all third-party funding, was €74.6m. In the case of programmes categorised as drama or animation, or part-funded by the CnaM Sound & Vision Scheme, the amounts for other sources of funding above include projects where RTÉ provided development/completion funding only.



## Administration Costs

A full analysis of administration costs is detailed in Schedule 7. In 2023, direct administration costs incurred by RTÉ Independent Productions amounted to €2.5m, which represents 5% of the total Independent Productions direct expenditure incurred on commissioned programmes in 2023.

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 €1.4m for 2023 (2022: €0.8m).

## International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

RTÉ's 2023 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 2023 RTÉ Annual Report, is set out below.

| <u>2023 Reconciliation</u>                                    | <b>TV</b><br><b>€'000</b> | <b>Radio</b><br><b>€'000</b> | <b>Total</b><br><b>€'000</b> |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Independent Productions Annual Report:</b>                 |                           |                              |                              |
| Expenditure Incurred on Commissioning Activities <sup>4</sup> | 44,810                    | 1,542                        | 46,352                       |
| Add: Opening Stock of Programmes                              | 16,262                    | –                            | 16,262                       |
| Less: Closing Stock of Programmes                             | (17,153)                  | –                            | (17,153)                     |
| <b>Total Cost of Transmitted Programmes</b>                   | <b>43,919</b>             | <b>1,542</b>                 | <b>45,461</b>                |
| <b>RTÉ Annual Report:</b>                                     |                           |                              |                              |
| Cost of Transmitted Programmes                                |                           |                              |                              |
| Commissioned Programmes Costs <sup>5</sup>                    | 43,919                    | 1,542                        | 45,461                       |
| <b>Total Cost of Transmitted Programmes</b>                   | <b>43,919</b>             | <b>1,542</b>                 | <b>45,461</b>                |

**4** See table on p. 54.

**5** 2023 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 2023**

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 2023. Our engagement was undertaken in accordance with the International Standard on Related Services (ISRS 4400 Revised) 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 2023' has been correctly extracted from the detailed general ledger transactions of the Independent Programmes bank account for the year ended 31 December 2023.
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 2023.
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 2023.

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 May 2024

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# 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       | 2023<br>€'000 | 2022<br>€'000 |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Total Statutory Expenditure | 44,477        | 40,962        |

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 2022 was +11.2%, the statutory amount for 2023 was adjusted accordingly. Under Section 116, the minimum percentage to be spent on sound broadcasting in 2023 is 3% (€1.334m).

## 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 2023 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 IN-DEPENDENT PROGRAMMES BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

|   | <b>€'000</b> |
|---|--------------|
| Opening balance as per RTÉ at 1 January 2023          | -            |
| <b>Lodgements</b>                                     |              |
| Receipts from RTÉ, including bank interest received   | 44,477       |
| <b>Less Payments</b>                                  |              |
| Payments  | (43,727)     |
| <b>Closing balance as per RTÉ at 31 December 2023</b> | <b>750</b>   |

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# SCHEDULE 3: 2023 STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES / HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

| Category       | Production Company             | Programme Title  | Total Hours |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------|
| <b>Factual</b> | Coco Content                   | First Dates Ireland Series 9                                     | 14.0        |
|                | Rare TV / Green Inc            | Crimecall Series 20 2023/2024                                    | 10.0        |
|                | indiepics                      | Ear to the Ground Series 31                                      | 8.0         |
|                | Vision Independent Productions | Operation Transformation Series 17                               | 8.0         |
|                | Animo TV Productions           | Great House Revival Series 5                                     | 6.0         |
|                | Cameo Productions Limited      | Cheap European Homes Series 2                                    | 6.0         |
|                | Coco Content                   | Home Rescue Series 7   | 6.0         |
|                | Cameo Productions Limited      | Cheap Irish Homes Series 4                                       | 4.0         |
|                | indiepics                      | The Complaints Bureau  | 4.0         |
|                | Kairos Communications          | Masses 2023  | 4.0         |
|                | Kairos Communications          | Masses 2024  | 4.0         |
|                | ShinAwil                       | Home of the Year Series 10                                       | 4.0         |
|                | Tyrone Productions             | Manchán Magan's Europe By Train <sup>6 (Comp)</sup>              | 4.0         |
|                | Waddell Media                  | At Your Service Series 13  | 4.0         |
|                | Waddell Media                  | Selling Ireland's Dream Homes Series 3                           | 4.0         |
|                | Waka TV                        | Keys to My Life Series 4   | 4.0         |
|                | Waka TV                        | Raised by the Village Series 2                                   | 4.0         |
|                | Animo TV Productions           | Best Place to Be   | 3.0         |
|                | Earth Horizon Productions      | Climate of Change – Ireland's Future Climate <sup>6 (Comp)</sup> | 3.0         |
|                | Green Inc Film and Television  | High Road Low Road Series 3                                      | 3.0         |
|                | indiepics                      | Heated   | 3.0         |
|                | indiepics                      | Hospital Live Series 2   | 3.0         |
|                | Moondance Productions          | Coastal Atlas of Ireland <sup>6 (Comp)</sup>                     | 3.0         |
|                | Motive Television              | Inside Penneys   | 3.0         |
|                | Pounce Pictures                | Dr Cassidy's Casebook Series 3                                   | 3.0         |
|                | Vision Independent Productions | Super Garden Series 15   | 3.0         |
|                | Waddell Media                  | My BodyFix   | 3.0         |

| Category | Production Company             | Programme Title   | Total Hours |
|----------|--------------------------------|---|-------------|
|          | Waka TV                        | The Way We Were Series 3  | 3.0         |
|          | Alleycats TV                   | Sun, Sea and Scalpels   | 2.0         |
|          | Coco Content                   | Dermot Bannon's Super Small Spaces 2                                      | 2.0         |
|          | Scratch Films                  | The Last Priests and The Last Nuns in Ireland <sup>6</sup><br>(Compl)     | 2.0         |
|          | Appetite Media                 | Donal's Soul Food Shorts  | 1.5         |
|          | Little Wing Films              | Housewife of the Year <sup>(Compl)</sup>                                  | 1.5         |
|          | Loosehorse                     | Ireland 2050: Tomorrow Tonight <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>                       | 1.5         |
|          | Tyrone Productions             | The Cable That Changed the World <sup>(Compl)</sup>                       | 1.5         |
|          | Underground Films              | Justice for the Magdalenes <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>                           | 1.5         |
|          | Alleycats TV                   | Patrick: A Young Traveller Lost   | 1.0         |
|          | Animo TV Productions           | Game Changer: AI & You  | 1.0         |
|          | Atom Films                     | Jackie and Nicole   | 1.0         |
|          | Dearg Films                    | Finding Rory <sup>6(Compl)</sup>  | 1.0         |
|          | Fine Point Films               | Taking Back Control   | 1.0         |
|          | Heavy Man Films                | Man Vs Ocean  | 1.0         |
|          | Midas Productions              | Life in a Million Adverts   | 1.0         |
|          | NPE Media                      | Andrew Trimble: For Ulster and Ireland                                    | 1.0         |
|          | Poolbeg Productions            | Framing Irish History – The Sean Sexton<br>Collection <sup>6(Compl)</sup> | 1.0         |
|          | Sea Fever Productions          | Why We Love Dolphins <sup>6(Compl)</sup>                                  | 1.0         |
|          | Subotica                       | My Name is Jhon <sup>6(Compl)</sup>                                       | 1.0         |
|          | True Films                     | The Road Down Under   | 1.0         |
|          | True Films                     | Until the Last Bird Sings <sup>6(Compl)</sup>                             | 1.0         |
|          | Tyrone Productions             | PJ Gallagher: Changing My Mind  | 1.0         |
|          | Waka TV                        | Keith's Teeth: A Dental Odyssey   | 1.0         |
|          | Vision Independent Productions | Bloom 2023  | 0.5         |

Various development contracts with 3Rock Productions, Alleycats TV, Audioclub, ie, Below the Radar, Bo Media, Curious Dog Films, Dearg Films, Dot Television, GMARSH TV, Green Inc Film and Television, indiepics, Kite Entertainment, Moondance Productions, Odd Boy Media, Ponder Media, PushPull Media, Rare TV, Scratch Films, Vision Independent Productions and Waka TV

**160.0**



| Category                               | Production Company  | Programme Title                                     | Total Hours |
|--|---|---|-------------|
| <b>Arts and Culture</b>                | Vision Independent Productions  | Book Club Series 2 <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>             | 3.0         |
|  | Crossing the Line Productions   | Listen to the Land Speak <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>       | 2.0         |
|  | BiggerStage   | An Post Irish Book of the Year 2023                 | 1.0         |
|  | Curious Dog Films   | Imogen from the Heart                               | 1.0         |
|  | Harvest Films   | Songlines   | 1.0         |
|  | Icebox Films  | David Puttman – Ireland and Me <sup>6 (Compl)</sup> | 1.0         |
|  |   |   | <b>9.0</b>  |
| <b>Cláracha Gaeilge</b>                | IRIS Productions  | TG4 – Rugbaí Beo 2023/2024                          | 52.5        |
|  | ROSG  | Na Féilte Tíne <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>                 | 4.0         |
|  | Cian McCarthy Productions   | An Ghig Mhór <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>                   | 3.0         |
|  | Strident Media  | Ar An Sliabh Series 2 <sup>(Compl)</sup>            | 3.0         |
|  | Strident Media  | Bog Amach Series 2 <sup>(Compl)</sup>               | 3.0         |
|  | Strident Media  | Scéalta na Lochanna <sup>(Compl)</sup>              | 3.0         |
|  | Big Mountain Productions  | Peataí Series 3 <sup>(Compl)</sup>                  | 2.0         |
|  | Macha Media   | Kayak Ó Thuaidh <sup>(Compl)</sup>                  | 2.0         |
|  | Red Shoe Productions  | Meitheal na Mara                                    | 2.0         |
|  | Dearcán Media   | Gaeil thar Lear <sup>(Compl)</sup>                  | 1.5         |
|  | Aniar TV  | Séamus Begley: The Bold Kerryman                    | 1.0         |
|  | Animo TV Productions  | The Irish for Sex <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>              | 1.0         |
|  | Big Mountain Productions  | Dolores@70 <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>                     | 1.0         |
|  | Macha Media   | Réiteoir <sup>(Compl)</sup>                         | 1.0         |
|  | Various development contracts with Buckshee Films, Pounce Pictures and Strident Media |   |             |
|  |   |   | <b>80.0</b> |
| <b>Entertainment, Comedy and Music</b> | ShinAwiL  | Dancing with the Stars Series 7                     | 22.0        |
|  | Power Pictures  | The Tommy Tiernan Show Series 8                     | 16.0        |
|  | Animo TV Productions  | Ireland's Fittest Family Series 11                  | 9.0         |
|  | Green Inc Film and Television   | The 2 Johnnies Late Night Lock In                   | 7.0         |
|  | South Wind Blows  | Other Voices Series 22                              | 6.0         |
|  | Green Inc Film and Television   | Ireland's Smartest                                  | 5.0         |
|  | Adare Productions   | The Full Irish Hidden Camera Show                   | 4.5         |
|  | Dearg Films   | Pat Shortt's Songs of Ireland <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>  | 4.0         |

| Category            | Production Company  | Programme Title                                      | Total Hours |
|---------------------|---|--|-------------|
|                     | Kite Entertainment/Frontline Films  | The End of the World with Beanz <sup>6 (Compl)</sup> | 3.0         |
|                     | Red Shoe Productions  | Fleadh Cheoil 2023                                   | 3.0         |
|                     | Coco Content  | St Patrick's Festival Parade 2023                    | 1.5         |
|                     | Coco Content  | IFTA Awards 2023                                     | 1.0         |
|                     | Southpaw Pictures   | RTÉ Choice Music Prize 2023                          | 1.0         |
|                     | Wonky Chair Media   | Callan Kicks the Year 2023                           | 1.0         |
|                     | Various development contracts with Reflektor Media, Treasure Entertainment and Vico Films                                 |  |             |
|                     |   |  | <b>84.0</b> |
| <b>Drama</b>        | Saffron Moon  | Hidden Assets Series 2                               | 6.0         |
|                     | Subotica  | The Boy That Never Was                               | 4.0         |
|                     | MDV   | The Cousin   | 0.5         |
|                     | Pipedream Pictures  | Wrapped  | 0.5         |
|                     | Pure Divilment Pictures   | Falling for the life of Alex Whelan                  | 0.5         |
|                     | Various development contracts with Avalon Television, Keeper Films, Saffron Moon, Samson Films and Treasure Entertainment |  |             |
|                     |   |  | <b>11.5</b> |
| <b>Sport</b>        | IRIS Productions  | URC Live 2023/2024                                   | 72.5        |
|                     | Brick Films   | Path to Paris  | 3.0         |
|                     |   |  | <b>75.5</b> |
| <b>Young People</b> | Treehouse Republic  | Hey Fuzzy Yellow <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>                | 11.0        |
|                     | Avalon Films  | Sir Mouse Series 2 <sup>(Compl)</sup>                | 5.5         |
|                     | Igloo Animations  | Holt <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>                            | 5.5         |
|                     | Macalla   | Tír na nÓg Series 2 <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>             | 5.3         |
|                     | stop.watch television   | Let's Find Out – ECO, Series 3                       | 5.0         |
|                     | GMARSH TV   | Bush Kids Series 3                                   | 4.3         |
|                     | Dyehouse Films  | This is Art Club! Series 3                           | 4.0         |
|                     | Tailored Films  | Louise Lives Large <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>              | 4.0         |
|                     | Studio Meala  | Doodle Girl <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>                     | 3.5         |
|                     | Macalla   | Dizzy Deliveries Series 2 <sup>6</sup>               | 3.3         |
|                     | HopSkip Studios   | What's Next? <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>                    | 3.0         |

| Category  | Production Company   | Programme Title                              | Total Hours  |
|---|--|--|--------------|
|   | Ink and Light  | Stories from Backwoods <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>  | 3.0          |
|   | Macalla  | Keep It Up Series 2                          | 3.0          |
|   | Daily Madness  | Goat Girl <sup>(Compl)</sup>                 | 2.8          |
|   | EZ Films   | Where the Wild Geese Go <sup>6 (Compl)</sup> | 2.8          |
|   | Dyehouse Films   | The Unreal <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>              | 2.0          |
|   | GMARSH TV  | Minding Me <sup>6 (Compl)</sup>              | 2.0          |
|   | Fresh Films  | Ireland's Young Film Maker of the Year 2023  | 1.0          |
|   | Junk Kouture Production  | Junk Kouture Dublin City Final 2023          | 1.0          |
|   | Kite Entertainment   | Storybud Series 3                            | 1.0          |
|   | Mutiny Group   | Funny Little Monsters                        | 0.3          |
|   | stop.watch television  | A Bedouin Dream                              | 0.3          |
|   | Animation Shorts   |  | 0.2          |
|   | Adventurverse Studios  | The Mighty Oak                               |              |
|   | Cardel Entertainment   | Drawn Together                               |              |
|   | Distillery Films   | Envelope                                     |              |
|   | Jam Media  | Dembaya                                      |              |
|   | Pink Kong Studios  | Homebird                                     |              |
|   | Studio Meala   | Saving Chops                                 |              |
|   | Various development contracts with GMARSH TV, Kite Entertainment, Sow You Entertainment, Taunt |  |              |
|   |  |  | <b>73.8</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL 2023 STATUTORY TELEVISION HOURS COMMISSIONED</b> |  |  | <b>493.8</b> |

**6** Commissions which were part-funded by the CnaM Sound & Vision Scheme.  
**(Compl)** Denotes Completion Contracts.



# SCHEDULE 3: 2023 STATUTORY RADIO PROGRAMMES / HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

| Category                | Production Company                     | Programme Title   | Total Hours  |
|-------------------------|--|---|--------------|
| <b>Factual</b>          | Old Yard Productions                   | The Business 2023/2024                                      | 45.0         |
|                         | Pegasus Media and Consulting           | The History Show 2023                                       | 20.0         |
|                         | Pegasus Media and Consulting           | The History Show 2024                                       | 20.0         |
|                         | OJO Productions                        | Supercharged Series 4                                       | 12.0         |
|                         | Alan Meaney                            | Witness, with Siobhán Garrigan                              | 11.0         |
|                         | Second Captains                        | Second Captains Saturday                                    | 9.0          |
|                         | Scun Scan Productions                  | The Ghost Limb <sup>7</sup>                                 | 4.0          |
|                         | Susan Dennehy                          | Last One on the Train <sup>7</sup>                          | 3.0          |
|                         | Audio Always                           | The Irish Heart of Manchester                               | 1.0          |
|                         | Mike Glennon                           | Nollaig na hÉireann   | 1.0          |
|                         | OJO Productions                        | Do You Remember 2023  | 1.0          |
|                         | OJO Productions                        | Jukebox to TikTok   | 1.0          |
|                         | OJO Productions                        | May Your Heart Be Light                                     | 1.0          |
|                         | Pegasus Media and Consulting           | A Word in Your Year   | 1.0          |
|                         |  |   | <b>130.0</b> |
| <b>Arts and Culture</b> | South Wind Blows                       | South Wind Blows 2023/2024                                  | 52.0         |
|                         | Anja Murray                            | Feather & Flock <sup>7</sup>                                | 4.5          |
|                         | New Normal Culture                     | Keywords Series 2 <sup>7</sup>                              | 4.0          |
|                         | Doireann Ní Ghlaicáin                  | Say a Song <sup>7</sup>                                     | 3.0          |
|                         | Rockfinch                              | A Poet's Place Series 2 <sup>7</sup>                        | 3.0          |
|                         | Contemporary Music Centre              | We Only Want the Earth <sup>7</sup>                         | 2.0          |
|                         | Daragh Dukes                           | A Portrait of an Artist as a Radio Documentary <sup>7</sup> | 1.0          |
|                         | Joanna Marsden                         | Building A Ballet <sup>7</sup>                              | 1.0          |
|                         | Rockfinch                              | Remembering Seamus Heaney <sup>7</sup>                      | 1.0          |
|                         | Rockfinch                              | The Diary of Winifred Letts <sup>7</sup>                    | 1.0          |
|                         | Clockwork Marketing and Communications | Stanza  | 0.5          |
|                         | OJO Productions                        | Poetry, People  | 0.5          |
|                         |  |   | <b>73.5</b>  |

| Category   | Production Company           | Programme Title   | Total Hours  |
|--|------------------------------|---|--------------|
| <b>Cláracha Gaeilge</b>                              | Iontaoibheas Fódhla          | Cuireadh Chun Cheoil 2024   | 102.0        |
|  | Stiúideo Cuan                | Beo ón gCuan <sup>7</sup>   | 15.0         |
|  | Stiúideo Cuan                | Cuan an Cheoil Sraith 3 <sup>7</sup>                                  | 15.0         |
|  | Emma Ní Chearúil             | Ómós Áite <sup>7</sup>  | 10.0         |
|  | Clean Slate Television       | Ocht gCeathrú   | 3.0          |
|  | Corcra Media                 | Scribhneoirí an tSléibhe le Conor Torbóid                             | 2.0          |
|  | Róisín Adams                 | Ag Léamh faoin mBinse Scoile <sup>7</sup>                             | 1.5          |
|  | Macha Media                  | Faoi na Fóide   | 1.0          |
|  |                              |   | <b>149.5</b> |
| <b>Entertainment, Comedy and Music</b>               | Catchy Title                 | Callan's Kicks  | 12.0         |
|  | Seán Ó Cuireáin              | Dreamland <sup>7</sup>  | 12.0         |
|  | Bebbak                       | Music Since the 60s with Dave Fanning <sup>7</sup>                    | 10.0         |
|  | Pat O'Mahony                 | For the Record Series 2 <sup>7</sup>                                  | 10.0         |
|  | Eric Moore                   | Its Only Rock 'n' Roll, But Sure Look... <sup>7</sup>                 | 8.0          |
|  | Ray Cuddihy                  | Mise Sessions <sup>7</sup>  | 8.0          |
|  | Bebbak                       | Fanning's Fabbest 50s <sup>7</sup>                                    | 7.0          |
|  | Brian Mc Namara              | Digital Terrain <sup>7</sup>  | 5.0          |
|  | Central Entertainment Bureau | Sessions from Oblivion Series 2 <sup>7</sup>                          | 5.0          |
|  | Cian Sullivan                | Flashback <sup>7</sup>  | 1.5          |
|  |                              |   | <b>78.5</b>  |
| <b>Young People</b>                                  | Bobby Aherne                 | Nero's Class Series 2 <sup>7</sup>                                    | 2.5          |
|  | Meangadh Fíbin               | Siad Féin <sup>7</sup>  | 2.0          |
|  | Roundstone Media             | The Adventures of a Young Pirate Queen: The Stone of Fal <sup>7</sup> | 2.0          |
|  | Curious Broadcast            | The Science of Sense Goes Exploring Our Environment <sup>7</sup>      | 1.5          |
|  |                              |   | <b>8.0</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL 2023 STATUTORY RADIO HOURS COMMISSIONED</b> |                              |   | <b>439.5</b> |

<sup>7</sup> Commissions which were part-funded by the CnaM Sound & Vision Scheme.

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# SCHEDULE 4: 2023 NON-STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES / HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

| <b>Category</b>   | <b>Production Company</b> | <b>Programme Title</b>           | <b>Total Hours</b> |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Factual</b>  | South Wind Blows          | Ireland 100: An Old Song Re-Sung | 1.5                |
| <b>TOTAL 2023 NON-STATUTORY TELEVISION HOURS COMMISSIONED</b> |                           |                                  | <b>1.5</b>         |



# SCHEDULE 5: 2023 STATUTORY EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES BY PROGRAMME CATEGORY

## TELEVISION

| Programme Category                     | 2023 Total Hours | 2022 Commissions Carried Forward €'000 | 2023 New Commissions €'000 | 2023 Commissions Carried Forward €'000 | 2023 Total Cost €'000 |
|--|------------------|--|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Factual                                | 160.0            | 5,751                                  | 15,637                     | (4,939)                                | 16,449                |
| Arts and Culture                       | 9.0              | 197                                    | 486                        | (127)                                  | 556                   |
| Cláracha Gaeilge                       | 80.0             | 738                                    | 2,657                      | (1,271)                                | 2,124                 |
| Entertainment, Comedy and Music        | 84.0             | 5,098                                  | 12,419                     | (4,693)                                | 12,824                |
| Drama                                  | 11.5             | 355                                    | 3,491                      | (560)                                  | 3,286                 |
| Sport                                  | 75.5             | 812                                    | 2,153                      | (1,323)                                | 1,642                 |
| Young People                           | 73.8             | 1,862                                  | 3,751                      | (1,453)                                | 4,160                 |
| <b>Overall Totals:</b>                 | <b>493.8</b>     | <b>14,813</b>                          | <b>40,594</b>              | <b>(14,366)</b>                        | <b>41,041</b>         |
| Awards – Schemes                       |                  |  |                            |  | <b>74</b>             |
| Overheads and other costs (Schedule 7) |                  |  |                            |  | <b>2,390</b>          |
| <b>Direct Expenditure Incurred</b>     |                  |  |                            |  | <b>43,505</b>         |

## RADIO

| Programme Category                 | 2023<br>Total<br>Hours | 2022<br>Commissions<br>Carried Forward<br>€'000 | 2023<br>New<br>Commissions<br>€'000 | 2023<br>Commissions<br>Carried Forward<br>€'000 | 2023<br>Total<br>Cost<br>€'000 |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Factual                            | 130.0                  | 171   | 874                                 | (349)   | 696                            |
| Arts and Culture                   | 73.5                   | 153   | 112                                 | (47)  | 218                            |
| Cláracha Gaeilge                   | 149.5                  | 65  | 142                                 | (30)  | 177                            |
| Entertainment,<br>Comedy and Music | 78.5                   | 4   | 352                                 | (16)  | 340                            |
| Drama                              | -                      | -   | -                                   | -   | -                              |
| Sport                              | -                      | -   | -                                   | -   | -                              |
| Young People                       | 8.0                    | 5   | 20                                  | -   | 25                             |
| <b>Overall Totals:</b>             | <b>439.5</b>           | <b>398</b>                                      | <b>1,500</b>                        | <b>(442)</b>                                    | <b>1,456</b>                   |

Overheads and other costs (Schedule 7) **60**

**Direct Expenditure Incurred** **1,516**

### DIRECT EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES

**TELEVISION & RADIO** **45,021**

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

Note 2: Commissions carried forward 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: 2023 NON-STATUTORY EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES BY PROGRAMME CATEGORY

## TELEVISION

| Programme Category                 | 2023 Total Hours | 2022 Commissions Carried Forward €'000 | 2023 New Commissions €'000 | 2023 Commissions Carried Forward €'000 | 2023 Total Cost €'000 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--|----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Factual                            | 1.5              | (461)                                  | 390                        | -                                      | (71)                  |
| <b>Overall Totals:</b>             | <b>1.5</b>       | <b>(461)</b>                           | <b>390</b>                 | <b>-</b>                               | <b>(71)</b>           |
| Awards – Schemes                   |                  |  |                            |  | -                     |
| <b>Direct Expenditure Incurred</b> |                  |  |                            |  | <b>(71)</b>           |

Note 1: Non-statutory expenditure includes costs for commissions that are not allowable to be charged to the Statutory Account under the Broadcasting Act 2009

Note 2: Costs are inclusive of non-recoverable VAT (NRV)

Note 3: Commissions carried forward have been restated for cost variances and the re-timing of programme commitments

Note 4: Figures in table do not include RTÉ attributable overhead



# SCHEDULE 7: 2023 ADMINISTRATION COSTS AND ATTRIBUTABLE ORGANISATIONAL OVERHEAD

| Expenditure Description                     | Television<br>€'000 | Radio<br>€'000 | Total<br>€'000 |
|---|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Payroll Costs                               | 1,917               | 53             | 1,970          |
| Festivals / Industry Contributions          | 256                 | -              | 256            |
| Set Storage                                 | 191                 | -              | 191            |
| Audit Costs                                 | 11                  | 6              | 17             |
| Office and Miscellaneous                    | 15                  | 1              | 16             |
| <b>Sub-total:</b>                           | <b>2,390</b>        | <b>60</b>      | <b>2,450</b>   |
| <b>Attributable Organisational Overhead</b> | <b>1,376</b>        | <b>26</b>      | <b>1,402</b>   |
| <b>Overall Total:</b>                       | <b>3,766</b>        | <b>86</b>      | <b>3,852</b>   |

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# SCHEDULE 8: 2023 AWARDS

|  | <b>Production Company</b> | <b>Programme Title</b> |
|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>(a) Frameworks 27</b>                 |                           |                        |
| 1  | And Maps and Plans        | Tadhana                |
| 2  | Cardel Entertainment      | Re-Rooted              |
| 3  | Fiction Picture Company   | Mero                   |
| 4  | Venom Films               | Retirement Plan        |
| <b>(b) Galway Film Centre Short Film</b> |                           |                        |
| 1  | Western Front Studios     | Remote Strutting       |

# SCHEDULE 9: 2023 TOP 50 PROGRAMMES

| Rank      | Programme Title  | Channel          | Transmission Date |
|-----------|--|------------------|-------------------|
| 1         | The Late Late Toy Show   | RTÉ One          | 24-11-2023        |
| 2         | Rugby World Cup Live: Quarter Final – Ireland v New Zealand            | Virgin Media One | 14-10-2023        |
| 3         | Rugby World Cup 2023 Live: South Africa v Ireland                      | RTÉ2             | 23-09-2023        |
| 4         | Rugby World Cup Live: Ireland v Scotland                               | Virgin Media One | 07-10-2023        |
| 5         | 6 Nations Live: Ireland v England                                      | Virgin Media One | 18-03-2023        |
| 6         | The Sunday Game Live – All-Ireland Football Final – Dublin v Kerry     | RTÉ2             | 30-07-2023        |
| 7         | Rugby World Cup 2023 Live: Ireland v Tonga                             | RTÉ2             | 16-09-2023        |
| 8         | The Sunday Game Live – All-Ireland Hurling Final – Kilkenny v Limerick | RTÉ2             | 23-07-2023        |
| 9         | The Late Late Show   | RTÉ One          | 15-09-2023        |
| 10        | Guinness Six Nations Live: Scotland v Ireland                          | RTÉ2             | 12-03-2023        |
| 11        | RTÉ News: Nine O’Clock   | RTÉ One          | 23-11-2023        |
| 12        | Rugby World Cup Live: Semi Final – England v South Africa              | Virgin Media One | 21-10-2023        |
| 13        | Guinness Six Nations Live: Ireland v France                            | RTÉ2             | 11-02-2023        |
| 14        | Rugby World Cup 2023 Live: Final - New Zealand v South Africa          | RTÉ2             | 28-10-2023        |
| 15        | Rugby World Cup 2023 Live: Quarter Final – France v South Africa       | RTÉ2             | 15-10-2023        |
| 16        | Guinness Six Nations Live: Italy v Ireland                             | RTÉ2             | 25-02-2023        |
| <b>17</b> | <b>Kin</b>   | <b>RTÉ One</b>   | <b>07-05-2023</b> |
| 18        | RTÉ News: Six One  | RTÉ One          | 24-11-2023        |
| 19        | UEFA European Qualifiers Live: Republic of Ireland v France            | RTÉ2             | 27-03-2023        |
| <b>20</b> | <b>Room To Improve</b>   | <b>RTÉ One</b>   | <b>15-01-2023</b> |
| 21        | NYE Countdown Concert  | RTÉ One          | 31-12-2023        |
| 22        | Rugby World Cup 2023 Live: France v New Zealand                        | RTÉ2             | 08-09-2023        |
| 23        | Rugby World Cup Live: Ireland v Romania                                | Virgin Media One | 09-09-2023        |
| 24        | The Sunday Game Live – Football Quarter Final – Dublin v Mayo          | RTÉ2             | 02-07-2023        |
| 25        | FIFA Women’s World Cup Live: Canada v Republic of Ireland              | RTÉ2             | 26-07-2023        |

|           |  |                  |                   |
|-----------|--|------------------|-------------------|
| 26        | Rugby World Cup 2023 Live: Semi Final – Argentina v New Zealand  | RTÉ2             | 20-10-2023        |
| 27        | The Late Late New Year's Eve Show                                | RTÉ One          | 31-12-2023        |
| 28        | The Saturday Game Live – Football Semi Final – Dublin v Monaghan | RTÉ2             | 15-07-2023        |
| 29        | Prime Time   | RTÉ One          | 23-11-2023        |
| 30        | Mrs Brown's Boys: Mammy's Mare                                   | RTÉ One          | 25-12-2023        |
| 31        | FIFA Women's World Cup Live: Australia v Republic of Ireland     | RTÉ2             | 20-07-2023        |
| <b>32</b> | <b>Dancing with the Stars</b>                                    | <b>RTÉ One</b>   | <b>08-01-2023</b> |
| 33        | The Sunday Game Live – Football Semi Final – Kerry v Derry       | RTÉ2             | 16-07-2023        |
| 34        | I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! 2023                      | Virgin Media One | 10-12-2023        |
| 35        | Mrs Brown's Boys: New Year, New Mammy                            | RTÉ One          | 31-12-2023        |
| 36        | The Sunday Game Live – Hurling Semi Final – Kilkenny v Clare     | RTÉ2             | 09-07-2023        |
| 37        | The Rose of Tralee International Festival 2023                   | RTÉ One          | 22-08-2023        |
| 38        | Summer Nations Series Live: Ireland v England                    | RTÉ2             | 19-08-2023        |
| 39        | Champions League Live: Final – Manchester City v Inter Milan     | RTÉ2             | 10-06-2023        |
| 40        | The Sunday Game Live – Munster Hurling Final – Clare v Limerick  | RTÉ2             | 11-06-2023        |
| 41        | UEFA European Qualifiers Live: Republic of Ireland v Netherlands | RTÉ2             | 10-09-2023        |
| <b>42</b> | <b>Ireland's Fittest Family</b>                                  | <b>RTÉ One</b>   | <b>12-11-2023</b> |
| 43        | The Saturday Game Live – Hurling Semi Final – Limerick v Galway  | RTÉ2             | 08-07-2023        |
| 44        | 6 Nations Live: Wales v Ireland                                  | Virgin Media One | 04-02-2023        |
| 45        | UEFA European Qualifiers Live: France v Republic of Ireland      | RTÉ2             | 07-09-2023        |
| <b>46</b> | <b>The Tommy Tiernan Show</b>                                    | <b>RTÉ One</b>   | <b>14-01-2023</b> |
| 47        | The Sunday Game Live – Galway v Kilkenny                         | RTÉ2             | 11-06-2023        |
| 48        | UEFA European Qualifiers Live: Greece v Republic of Ireland      | RTÉ2             | 16-06-2023        |
| 49        | Fair City  | RTÉ One          | 15-01-2023        |
| 50        | Rugby World Cup Live: Wales v Australia                          | Virgin Media One | 24-09-2023        |

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 2023–31 Dec 2023. Please note: This list uses best episode of a series.



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