

Disclosure Log of completed Freedom of Information requests

RTÉ Freedom of Information – Q1 2021 (January – March)

FOI No.	Date FOI Received	Freedom Of Information Request	Requester	Decision
1.	04.01.2021	A copy of complaints made to RTÉ, through email, regarding the RTÉ Player, between the period of Jan 1 2020 and Dec 31 2020.	Journalist	Granted in part. Section 37(1).
2.	04.01.2021	The number of staff/PAYE workers at RTÉ earning salaries and remuneration: over €300,000 at year end last year ; between €250,000 to €300,000 at year end last; between €200,000 to €250,000 at year end in 2020; €150,000 to €200,000 at year end last; between €100,000 to €150,000 at year end in 2020; the numbers employed by RTÉ at the end of 2020 and the end of 2019; the numbers to take voluntary redundancy at RTÉ last year and the total amount paid out in redundancy. The top five redundancy payments received. The reasons behind the increase/decrease in numbers employed at RTÉ last year.	Journalist	Granted in part. Section 15(1)(a).
3.	04.01.2021	Number of complaints now received by RTÉ re Waterford Whispers news report broadcast in its New Year Eve's countdown programme; copies of complaints received by organisation regarding the broadcast; a random sample of 50 complaints received from members of the public; an example of the reply from RTÉ to those who did complain.	Journalist	Refused. Section 15(1)(a). Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
4.	04.01.2021	Top 10 most complained against broadcasts on RTÉ TV and Radio last year, show name & date of each broadcast; number of complaints received in each case. Sample of five complaints concerning top five most complained of shows on TV and radio & RTÉ replies in each case. Sample of five complaints concerning top five most complained of shows and RTÉ replies in each case. Total no. complaints concerning TV and radio content & RTÉ Player in 2020 and 2019.	Journalist.	Refused. Section 15(1)(a).

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5.	05.01.2021	The number of complaints which were received by RTÉ regarding the New Year's Eve sketch in which God was portrayed as a rapist.	Member of the public	Refused. Section 15(1)(a).
6.	05.01.2021	Editorial notes relating to decision to place a story written by 10 Irish Doctors/Scientists into the 'Brainstorm' website and not the main news bulletins on Radio and TV (in light of the Covid 19 crisis and the risks of increased severity of disease due to Vitamin D deficiency) – link provided.	Member of the public	Refused. Section 15(1)(a). Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
7.	05.01.2021	Details of the 4000 plus complaints which RTÉ received about a 'Waterford Whispers' sketch broadcast on New Year's Eve; samples of type of complaint received.	Journalist	Refused. Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
8.	05.01.2021	Any internal correspondence referring/relating to publication of broadcaster's top ten salaries for the time period 1 July 2020-5 Jan 2021; provide any reports referring to same.	Journalist	Granted in part. Sections 15(1)(d); 37(1).
9.	05.01.2021	'Waterford Whispers': copy of records (however created or stored including email, minute, memo) sufficient to show: (a) editorial policy applicable to relevant segment; and/or (b) all of RTÉ's consideration of whether to broadcast the relevant segment, and its decision to so; and/or (c) all of RTÉ's consideration of whether, following complaint, to keep the relevant segment available on RTÉ Player, and its decision to do so.	Journalist.	Granted in part. Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.

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10.	07.01.2021	Information regarding any declarations a member of staff may have made to the Divisional Head of the Sports Department in RTÉ in relation to the acceptance of gifts or monies received by virtue of public profile, as outlined in the RTÉ Code of Business Conduct (Section 2).	Member of the public.	Refused. Section 37(1).
11.	07.01.2021	All complaints received about the 'Waterford Whispers' segment of RTÉ's NYE countdown show on December 31 - including the God sketch - from Dec 31 to today's date; any communication - external or internal - about the segment from Dec 31 to today's date.	Journalist	Refused. Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
12.	08.01.2021	All documents including memos, reports, and correspondence between RTÉ and Galway 2020, or their representatives, (including between the DG of RTÉ and CEO of Galway 2020) pertaining to RTÉ's "partnership" with Galway 2020, June 1 2020 and January 1, 2021.	Journalist	Granted in part. Section 37(1).
13.	11.01.2021	A copy of questionnaire/survey instrument used as part of most recent Diversity and Inclusion survey of RTÉ staff referred to on p.12 of RTÉ's present 'Diversity and Inclusion Strategy'; the findings/results arising from most recent implementation of this staff survey.	Member of the public.	Granted in part. Section 37(1).
14.	11.01.2021	Minutes of the meeting(s) where RTÉ's Editorial Standards Board considered the sketch about God on RTÉ's New Year's Eve Countdown show; copy of the report(s) provided to members of the board concerning the sketch and the public reaction to it.	Journalist	Refused. Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.

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15.	13.01.2021	Total cost of RTÉ's New Year's Eve Countdown Show December 31st, 2020; a breakdown of those costs, including artists fees, presenters' fees/venue fees, travel costs, wardrobe, make up, accommodation.	Journalist.	Refused. Section 36(1)(b) and (c). Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
16.	15.01.2021	1. Records of all meetings relating to the decision of RTÉ to withhold broadcasting any information concerning greyhound racing events in the Republic of Ireland. 2. Copies of all memoranda/policy statements or directions given by the RTÉ authority and any subsidiary authority directing the sports department not to publish any information on greyhound racing or greyhound coursing in Ireland. 3. Minutes of any meetings relating to the issues referred to at 1 and 2 above held within RTÉ.	Business/Interest Group.	Refused. Section 15(1)(a). Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
17.	19.01.2021	Number of engineering staff in RTÉ who were paid or reimbursed either in part or full their annual membership fees for Engineers Ireland for 2018 and 2019. A list of all/any other professional subscriptions or membership fees (broken down by name of institution, and staff grade and number of each separately) either paid or reimbursed, party or fully, during 2018 and 2019.	Member of the public	Granted.
18.	19.01.2021	Parts 1 – 6 (1) No. of RTÉ TV/Radio appearances by a named individual over past 3 years; name show, time, date; references in news bulletins. (2) How much they were paid by RTÉ (incl expenses) as presenter of both series. (3) How much was paid (inc expenses), for appearances on RTÉ radio/TV. (4) What policy, if any, does RTÉ have re. conflicts of interest where a presenter of a current TV show is promoting a recently-published book. If there is no policy, how does RTÉ avoid a presenter profiting, at taxpayers'	Member of the public.	Refused. Section 15(1)(a). Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.

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		expense, from promotion of book on RTÉ media? (5) Number of mentions of books across RTÉ media since published 24/9/2020. (6) Over last 2 years how many times presenter met/communicated with named third party and RTÉ staff (work & social). (7) What policy does RTÉ have to ensure well-being of staff who are practising Catholics/practising members of COI (bearing in mind RTÉ's history of vicious anti-Catholic bigotry). (8) Does RTÉ maintain statistics of how many staff are practising Catholics/members of COI? If so, provide statistics. If not, why not?		
19.	22.01.2021	Name of the actor who played 'God' in the 'Waterford Whispers' sketch, which aired during the New Year's Eve Countdown show?	Journalist	Refused. Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
20.	22.01.2021	How many television and radio programmes did Brendan O'Connor present in 2017, 2018 and 2019? Can RTÉ provide me with a list of those shows?	Journalist.	Refused. Section 15(1)(a) and (d).
21.	27.01.2021	A gender breakdown of RTÉ staff pay in each of its published pay bands for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. We are asking that records be presented in the manner in which they were released to the Sunday Times in 2017 (for the year 2016).	Business / Interest group.	Granted in part. Section 15(1)(a).
22.	28.01.2021	'Waterford Whispers': God sketch: 1. How much did this cost to produce in total? 2. Breakdown of cost of production of sketch incl. but not limited to makeup artists, costumers, presenter, actors? 3. How much money was paid to named writers for Waterford Whispers. 4. Copy correspondence between RTÉ & 'Waterford Whispers'. 5. Copy memos incl emails/written communications between editor/s, Producer/s, Director/s, writers & editorial board.	Business/Interest group.	Refused. Section 36(1)(b) and (c). Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.

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FOI No.	Date FOI Received	Freedom Of Information Request	Requester	Decision
23.	29.01.2021	Digital advertising income for the year 2019; Digital sponsorship income for the year 2019.	Business/Interest group	Granted.
24.	02.02.2021	How many RTÉ staff or contractors were disciplined in, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and provide a breakdown of the offences they were disciplined for and if anybody was dismissed?	Journalist	Refused. Section 15(1)(a).
25.	02.02.2021	1 Sept 2020-1 Feb 2021: 1 All substantive correspondence (emails, briefing papers, etc) exchanged between RTÉ managers (above equivalent civil service grade of APO) and Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media re: (a) planned cost-savings, redundancies & restructuring at RTÉ, (b) restructuring of the TV licence fee (c) collection of licence fee and (d) the operation of the Future of Media Commission; 2 All substantive correspondence exchanged between the Executive Board of RTÉ regarding (a) planned cost-savings, redundancies and restructuring at RTÉ, (b) restructuring of TV licence fee (c) collection of the licence fee and (d) the operation to the Future of Media Commission. 3 Minutes of any meetings of RTÉ Executive Board, RTÉ Board and Audience Council.	Journalist.	Granted in part.
26.	02.02.2021	All internal records about breach of Covid-19 guidelines on 12.11.2020. This includes all emails circulated to employees who breached Covid guidelines and any emails from employees who breached restrictions to management.	Member of the public.	Refused. Section 32(1)(a).

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FOI No.	Date FOI Received	Freedom Of Information Request	Requester	Decision
27.	03.02.2021	A log of any and all communications between representatives of RTÉ's 'The Late Late Show' and any/all representatives of Pfizer pharmaceutical company, or any/all designated representatives of Pfizer including PR/comms companies operating on their behalf ** dating between 01/09/2020 and 29/11/2020. **Request is not for the content of communications but for a log of any communications that took place.	Journalist.	Refused. Section 15(1)(a).
28.	04.02.2021	In 2020-2021 relevant documents where RTÉ receives all funding from is fully disclosed: includes: 1) Who /which organisations gave funding. 2) Who/which organisations donated. 3) Who/which organisations gave financial assistance.	Member of the public.	Refused. Section 15(1)(a).
29.	05.02.2021	Details of all properties rented or leased by RTÉ in Dublin since January 2015, up to and including the present day, including rental or leasing arrangements currently in effect; the annual rental or leasing costs of all such premises, individually itemised, and the purposes for which RTÉ is currently utilising those premises.	Member of the public.	Granted in part. Section 36(1)(b) and (c).
30.	05.02.2021	The re-release of FOI request FOI 2020-149.	Journalist	Granted in part. Section 37(1).
31.	08.02.2021	A copy of Indecon report: an 'Analysis to Inform Potential National Media Creative Content Fund'.	Journalist.	Refused. Section 15(1)(f).

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32.	12.02.2021	1. What is the cost of a text message to 51551 at RTÉ; 2. How many texts were received 2015- 2020 and how much revenue this generated for RTÉ; 3. How many texts received a reply, were read out "on air"; 4. What is the breakdown of revenue via a 51551 text message; 5. Where did the revenue for 51551 text messages go to, allocated to, in RTÉ's budget?	Member of the public	Refused. Sections: 15(1)(a); 36(1)(a), (b), (c).
33.	18.02.2021	A list / schedule of records that exist in the RTÉ Archives database.regarding a family member of the requestor.	Member of the public.	Handled outside of Freedom of Information Act.
34.	24.02.2021	Copy of 'Analysis to Inform Potential National Media Creative Content Fund' report, completed by Indecon on behalf of RTÉ, TG4 and others.	Journalist.	Refused. Sections 15(1)(f).
35.	24.02.2021	Any correspondence or details of any contact made by members of the public following the release of the most recent report on the earnings of the ten highest paid contractors/staff.	Journalist.	Refused. Section 37(1).
36.	25.02.2021	Data for a) Eurovision Song Contest Grand Final & Semi Final viewing figures from 2000-2020 (inc); b) whether or not Ireland had a participant in the Grand Final & Semi Final 2000-2020 (inc).	Member of the public.	Granted.

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37.	26.02.2021	Records relating to the contractual agreement between RTÉ 'Brainstorm' and its 6 university partners (NUIG, DCU, TU Dublin, Maynooth University, UCC and University of Limerick) that detail the funding terms between RTÉ and said institutions.	Member of the public.	Refused. Section: 15(1)(d). Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
38.	09.03.2021	Information re Party Political broadcasts in 2019 (European/Local Election time: 24 March-24 May 2019): names of parties who had "paid for" content aired (Political Party broadcasts or other paid for content TV & radio); dates (& times if possible) of when each specific content was aired broken down on a party basis; cost invoiced to each party or amount each political party spent with RTÉ; details of any other political advertising content (not paid for) aired across RTÉ (party, when, etc).	Business / Interest Group.	Refused. Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
39.	09.03.2021	Records re RTÉ's decision of 2 March to cease transmission of radio services on the digital Audio Broadcast (DAB) network on 31 March. Should include: est. savings in 2021 & 2022 by closure of DAB network while maintaining digital radio services on other platforms; the cost in 2021 of extensive public information media campaign to highlight closure of the DAB network etc; any plans for disposal of RTÉ's DAB equipment; estimated sale price for such equipment; a copy of the minutes of any RTÉ Board meeting(s) where the closure of RTÉ's DAB radio network was discussed and a copy of any communication conveying the closure decision to the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and/or the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communication.	Member of the public	Granted in part. Sections: 15(1)(a); 31(1)(a); 36(1)(b) and (c)..

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40.	09.03.2021	How much RTÉ paid to air the CBS Presents 'Oprah with Meghan and Harry'. The details of the length and terms of usage within the broadcaster RTÉ and Player.	Journalist.	Refused. Section 36(1)(b) and (c). Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
41.	09.03.2021	Records relating to purchase of the interview by Oprah Winfrey with Prince Harry and Meghan Markle from CBS; include price paid to screen it, internal correspondence relating to the purchase, correspondence with CBS or agents acting on their behalf etc; advertising income; audience viewing figures, demographics & associated data.	Journalist.	Granted in part. Sections: 36(1)(a),(b) and (c).
42.	10.03.2021	Breakdown of the salaries paid to all RTÉ managers in the past 12 months; include total annual salary and role held.	Journalist.	Refused. Sections:15(1)(a); 37(1).
43.	10.03.2021	Request for copy of RTÉ programme.	Member of the public.	Refused. Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
44.	12.03.2021	A copy of your social media policy; documents/information pertaining to disciplinary proceedings against employees for breaching rules on social networking sites; a log of all data breaches committed in 2020	Member of the public.	Granted in part. Section 15(1)(a).
45.	12.03.2021	All/any instructions issued formally or informally to RTÉ news reporters/other staff who may report or comment on US election, regarding the manner of reporting on the election; especially if there were specific instructions regarding reporting on election fraud allegations.	Member of the public.	Refused. Section 15(1)(a).

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46.	16.03.2021	Any records which discuss a named presenter's departure from RTÉ.	Journalist	Refused. Sections 37(1).
47.	16.03.2021	Copy of RTÉ programme.	Member of the public.	Refused. Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
48.	25.03.2021	Copies of correspondence received from/sent to Department of Health & as Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (1 March 2020- 17 March 2021) which relate to the tone & content of our coverage of the Covid pandemic.	Member of the public.	Refused. Section 15(1)(a).
49.	19.03.2021	Information or relevant information or correspondence held by RTÉ about the requestor.	Member of the public.	Refused Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.
50.	23.03.2021	Does RTÉ/any of its subsidiaries employ/provide contracts to persons with following titles or skills: Hairdressing /Barber /Makeup /Beautician; 2. How many of the above skilled persons if any do you employ or have contracts of services with? 3. Are these persons (if any) directly employed by RTE or any of its subsidiaries or provide contracts for services? 4. Have RTÉ/subsidiaries used services of any persons with any of above skills during the following periods 15 March–29 June 2020, 15 Oct-4 Dec 2020, 24 Dec 2020 to date.	Member of the public.	Granted.

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51.	26.03.2021	Electronic/digital copies of all correspondence between RTÉ mgt. & staff discussing concerns/ difficulties due to Covid over Eurovision 2021 hosted in Rotterdam. This includes letters, emails, minutes of meetings/any notes taken, telephone, text, Whatsapp, other unwritten communications, all relevant logs (May 2020 to date).	Journalist.	Refused. SI 115 of 2000.
52.	30.03.2021	Records of contact between RTÉ and Harpo Productions surrounding the commissioning and broadcast of the interview between Prince Harry, Meghan Markle and Oprah Winfrey, as well as the contract of procurement for the broadcast.	Journalist.	Refused. Section 36(1)(b) and (c). Statutory Instrument SI 115 of 2000.