

RAIDÍÓ TEILIFÍS ÉIREANN

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of RTÉ
held on Thursday, 27 October 2022 Hybrid at RTÉ and via Teams

Present: Moya Doherty (Chair)
Ian Kehoe
David Harvey
Jonathan Ruane
Connor Murphy
Deborah Kelleher
PJ Mathews
Anne O'Leary
Daire Hickey
Susan Ahern
Robert Shortt
Dee Forbes (Director General)

In Attendance: Paula Mullooly, Group Secretary
Richard Collins, Chief Financial
Mike Fives, Group Financial Controller
Rory Coveney, Director of Strategy
Grace Berkery, Strategic Planning Manger

1. **Minutes of Meeting of 22 September 2022**
The Minutes were approved subject to one minor amendment.
2. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
None.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
None.
4. **DG Report**

Content and Performance

In relation to content and performance the DG noted that news is holding its position at the moment. There is a new show – Monday night live in place of Claire Byrne. The Autumn schedule has good entertainment. Women's soccer has performed very well and the Ireland match had the biggest audience ever for a women's soccer match. RTÉ will be showing the women's world cup in Australia. The Player is showing growth yoy both in relation to streams and time spent. Sport exclusives and Hell Week did really well on the Player. The DG also updated the Board in relation to the GAA rights which have been renewed for 5 years.

In the Marketplace Meta is reporting its first ever decline in revenue. It

appears everyone is having a difficult time. Q4 was weaker than people would have liked. Next year's market is uncertain. Almost 40% of revenue is planned in the UK and there is a lot of work going on to figure out the impact of that. Netflix and Disney are joining BARB in the UK which would suggest they are gearing up for ads.

The DG updated the Board on the internship programme and its success and the hope to continue with it next year. She noted that hiring is continuing to be a challenge.

The DG noted the €15 million granted in the budget which RTÉ is extremely grateful for but it does not solve the problem. She noted that the Budget adopted a lot of the recommendations of the FOMC report. The follow up of that report is the group which is looking at the LF. It was due to report in November but it looks like that will happen next year.

5. Committees

Audit and Risk

AOL updated the Board on the recent Audit and Risk Committee meeting. She noted that as Richard Collins was presenting on Finance later she would not update on this but noted that the Committee had gone through the Budget in detail. She noted that PF had updated on Internal Audit and the Committee had approved his appointment as the internal audit Key Function Holder for the RTÉ Superannuation Scheme, subject to approval of the Pensions Authority and the drafting of a conflict of interest written protocol. The appointment should be on a temporary basis for one year in order to determine the scope and time commitment involved. The Committee had also agreed the scope of review of the ERP project and noted that PF will present on the matter at the January or February meeting. PM updated the Committee on legal matters. Caoimhe Stafford, who is new DPO, brought the Committee through the 2022/2023 Project Plan and the Very High Priority Projects.

Digital Committee

JR updated the Board on the recent Digital Committee meeting. The Committee met with Aoife Byrne who took the Committee through the Player strategy in considerable detail. JR outlined the challenges facing the Player and the approach of the team to those challenges. The Committee also looked at DAI and the testing that has taken place to date. He noted that there has to be realism about how dynamic ads can be and that DAI is as much about UX. JR noted that the Committee will be continuing to explore these and other areas.

6. Strategy (Rory Coveney and Grace Berkery)

RC and GB updated the Board on the Strategy Plan. RC noted that there is a lot in the plan and the central tenet is that RTÉ should be at the heart of Irish life. GB stated that the Plan is a draft and while it is not fully costed it is aligned with the Budget.

The Board discussed how the strategy would be implemented, the outcomes and the proposed time lines. PJM welcomed the Plan noting that it is a bold move and involves a paradigm shift. It was agreed that Board members would revert to PJM with any comments on the Strategy Plan.

7. Finance (Richard Collins, Mike Fives, Dee Forbes)

September 2022 Management Accounts

RC brought the Board through the September accounts.

RC noted that the draft budget is not yet finalised.

The Chair noted the public sector pay increases that had been agreed. IK stated his concerns about cost creepage after Covid and managing PROCs.

The Board also discussed workplace reform. RS noted that workplace reforms are being implemented throughout the organisation.

RC noted that the budget for 2024 will be difficult also. The DG noted that there would be a better view of the 2024 Budget at the December meeting.

Other Finance Matters

Covid Business Interruption Insurance Claim

RC noted that RTÉ has a policy and have negotiated a settlement.

Pay Update

The DG updated the Board on the pay discussions.

8. Any Other Business

Universal Deal

The Board was asked to approve a deal with NBC Universal which fell outside the financial authority limits. The Group Secretary referred the Board to the paper on the deal and asked the Board to approve.

Proposed: Robert Shortt

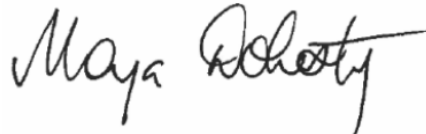
Seconded: Anne O'Leary

Retirements

The Chair then paid tribute to Deborah Kelleher as this was her last Board meeting thanking her for her service and very valuable contribution to the Board. These sentiments were echoed by individual Board members.

Ian Kehoe and the DG then paid tribute to the Chair on her last meeting thanking her for her unwavering support and her devoted service to RTÉ.

There being no other business the board concluded.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maya Kehoe', written in a cursive style.

Signed: _____
Chair

Next Meeting: 14 December 2022 at 10am