

## RAIDIÓ TEILIFÍS ÉIREANN

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of RTÉ  
held on Thursday, 7 July 2022 via Zoom

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

**In Attendance:** Paula Mullooly, Group Secretary  
Richard Collins, Chief Financial Officer  
Mike Fives, Group Financial Controller  
Rory Coveney, Director, Strategy  
Adrian Lynch, Director of Audiences, Channels & Marketing  
Ken Nugent, Sales Manager, Digital  
Kevin Massey, Product Development Manager

**1. Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting of 26 May 2022 are to be reviewed and edited and recirculated in advance of the next meeting.

**2. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

None.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**4. DG's Report**

The DG noted that Covid numbers increased yet again and people getting for second and third time. The business is managing its way through it but it shows the volatility of situation. RTÉ will need to reassess Autumn in the context of living with Covid and do risk assessments to try to prevent major outbreaks.

The marketplace is feeling the pinch from both the war and ongoing impact of Covid. There is a lot of volatility and a potential recession looming.

Content is doing incredible work. RTÉ Player is growing and time spent is growing. The Reuters Digital News Report shows that RTÉ news online is the most popular website in the country followed by the Journal and the Independent. Irish media relatively well trusted by international standards.

While trust has fallen generally RTÉ remained the most trusted source of news. The DG indicated that she would circulate the Reuters report to Board members

## **5. Public Affairs and Strategy** *(Rory Coveney joined the meeting)*

In relation to the FOMC the DG noted that it is likely to go to cabinet next week. She pointed out that media reports suggest that there will be no reform of the Licence Fee collection system which is not ideal. The Board expressed their disappointment on the approach of the Government to date in relation to the LF. The Chair noted that the Board should set up a sub-group to consider the response to FOMC and that Daire Hickey and IK should take the lead on this.

RC updated the Board on the Strategy process and indicated that he would need to liaise with the Board or subset of the Board. The Chair stated that during Phase 1 PJM and DK could liaise over the Summer. The Board is setting up a Digital sub-committee and the Chair of that could then input into strategy in relation to digital and innovation. RC noted that the publication of the FOMC report will have a bearing on strategy and there may be a need to recalibrate

The DG noted the departure of the Director of News and that recruitment consultants had been briefed in relation to filling the role.  
*(Rory Coveney left the meeting)*

## **6. Committees**

### Audit & Risk

AOL noted the financial update given to the Committee and that Richard Collins would present that to the Board. The Committee approved Treasury Policy Review which will be brought to the Board. The Committee was also updated on the RTÉSA and the fact that a 2% pension increase has been approved by DPER, backdated to January 2021 which has no cost impact for RTÉ. DPER have rejected a request that the scheme cover its own costs. Eimear Cusack updated the Committee on the Scope process. The Committee discussed the provisions made and how those provisions were calculated. PM updated the Committee on legal matters. PF updated the Committee on Internal Audit and technical updates. Rory Coveney and Aisling O'Reilly updated the Committee on the Risk Quarterly Summary. Media Regulation and Adequacy of Public Funding remains the top risk, as does People/Skills and Commercial Revenue. AOL noted that in her view cyber risk is currently a significant risk for all organisations and should be ranked as the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> risk. RC noted that the cyber risk plan is coming to the next Audit and Risk meeting and there will be a discussion as to where it should sit.

### Audience Council

PJM updated the Board on the Audience Council. He noted the report to Board and the excellent job done by the Council in their presentation on climate change and that the Council is awaiting feedback from RTÉ on presentation. He acknowledged the heavy work done by Rachel Lysaght and noted that he would now be stepping down as Chair of the Council. The Chair noted that SA will be taking over as Chair of the Audience Council and asked if any members of the Board had feedback on the AC presentation that they forward it on.

### Programme Committee

DK updated the Board on the Programme Committee. She referred to a presentation from ZZ and stated that it was great to see the progress and the metrics he has put in place. She noted the number of projects in place and stated that she is positive about the direction travel. She noted that ZZ has a broad brief and also that RTÉ has a good story to tell in this space and maybe it should tell it better.

The Chair noted that a new Digital sub-committee will be established with JR as Chair and CM and RS as members. She asked IK to pull together a terms of reference with JR for the Committee.

## 7. **Finance** (*Richard Collins & Mike Fives joined the meeting*)

### Treasury Policy Review

Due to be reviewed and presented for approval by the Board every 2 years – brought it forward because of UB's departure from the market which means a reduction in the number of counterparties. The question is whether to stick with three or bring in another counterparty. RTÉ has taken advice and the recommendation is to stick with three counterparties – all A rated. The Audit and Risk Committee agreed to recommend to the Board the changes in the Treasury Policy.

The Board resolved to approve the changes to the Treasury Policy as outlined in the paper to the Board.

**Proposed:** Anne O'Leary

**Seconded:** Susan Ahern

RC also provided an update on the RTESA Pension Scheme to the Board.

The Board discussed the delays in hiring and the current commercial market. JR stated that it would be useful to get a balance sheet update which would give an insight as to cash flows.

*(Richard Collins & Mike Fives left the meeting)*

**8. Digital Projects Roadmap**

*(DG, Adrian Lynch, Kevin Massey and Ken Nugent joined the meeting)*


KM brought the Board through DAI development to date. JR congratulated KM noting the limited resources RTÉ has in this area and asked about the improvement for the viewer. KM outlined the improvements in live viewing. AL outlined the supporting team. KN noted that brand safety is really important to RTÉ's clients and it is a key differentiator for RTÉ.

*(DG, Adrian Lynch, Kevin Massey and Ken Nugent left the meeting)*

**9. Any Other Business**

Presentation by Orla de Brí on Marian Finucane.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Next Meeting: **22 September 2022 at 10am**