

# RAIDIÓ TEILIFÍS ÉIREANN

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of RTÉ  
held on Wednesday, 2 February 2023 Hybrid at RTÉ and via Teams

Present: Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chair)  
Ian Kehoe  
Daire Hickey  
David Harvey  
Robert Shortt  
Jonathan Ruane  
Susan Ahern  
Aideen Howard  
Connor Murphy  
PJ Mathews  
Dee Forbes (Director General)

Apologies: Anne O'Leary

In Attendance: Paula Mullooly, Group Secretary  
Richard Collins, Chief Financial Officer  
Rory Coveney, Director of Strategy  
Adrian Lynch, Head of Audiences, Channels & Marketing  
Paul Loughrey, Head of Audience & Insight  
Nessa Carter, Audience Research Officer

1. **Minutes of Meeting of 14 December 2022**  
The Minutes were approved.

2. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**  
None.

3. **Declarations of Interest**  
None.

4. **DG Report**

## Marketplace

The DG updated the Board on the marketplace noting that advertising is down both in Ireland and in the UK and the market is behind expectations and will have to be monitored carefully.

## Content

The DG noted that in total last year RTÉ was down half a share point but it was still ahead of pre Covid years. The top programmes were sports and the LLTS and the drive to live is sport. Streams were up 18% and time spent was up 34%. DWTS is doing very well. Upfront with Katie Hannon is off to a good start and there is room to build. Smother is about to start and Kin will start in March. The DG pointed out that a new radio studio is being worked out and built for audio and video. The DG also noted that the 25 year anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement is in April and there will be programming around that.

## Corporate Affairs

The FOMC implementation plan has been published by the Department. The BAI will be dissolved by the end of February and CnM established. There will be a lot of work in the months ahead. The LF technical group is due to report by the end of March.

PJM noted that the FOMC implementation plan is the blueprint for broadcasting for the next 10 years. The DG noted that there are a lot of positives in the plan and a lot of interdependencies. The funding piece will also need to be resolved.

## 5. Finance (Richard Collins)

### 2022 Estimated outturn

RC updated the Board on the outturn for 2022. JR asked about the approval of the pay deal and the DG confirmed that a majority had approved.

### January 2023 Estimated outturn

DH requested that the graph being presented should have an additional line for other income and should also show percentage distribution. The Board discussed commercial income.

### Other Finance matters

RC also updated the Board with the ERP implementation plan.

## 6. RTÉ Superannuation Scheme

RC updated the Board on the RTÉSA.

### Appointment of Trustees and Chair

The Board discussed the terms of trustees and the remuneration of trustees. RC set out the succession planning for the Trustees and the importance of a roadmap going forward. It was agreed that there would be a further discussion on the Scheme at the next meeting.

It is proposed that the RTÉ Board approve the following Trustee appointments:

### RTÉ Superannuation Scheme

- The extension of Conor Hayes' term as Trustee of until 31st December 2024 and also to approve the extension of Conor Hayes' role as Chairman until 31st December 2024.
- The extension of Richard Collins' term as Trustee until 31st March 2026.
- The appointment of Jim Foley as Trustee for three year term until 31st January 2026.

### RTÉ Defined Contribution Pension Scheme

- The extension of Greg O'Sullivan's term as Trustee until 31st January 2026.
- RTÉ "50/50" Risk-Sharing Pension Scheme.
- The extension of Greg O'Sullivan's term as Trustee until 31st January 2026.

Proposed: Susan Ahern  
Seconded: Siún Ni Raghallaigh

## 7. Toy Show – The Musical (Rory Coveney and Richard Collins)

Rory Coveney updated the Board on Toy Show The Musical.

## 8. Audience and Insights (Adrian Lynch, Paul Loughrey and Nessa Carter)

PL presented to the Board and noted the role of audience insights is to develop techniques to understand viewers and audiences. RTÉ needs to understand Any Time, Anywhere, Any Device. Linear TV is still very high and RTÉ News drives a large amount of views. BARB in the UK and TAM in Ireland measures views. It is important to build new ways of understanding audiences. Audio is changing and it is important to apply learnings from Video. NC noted that the

team is engaged in data analytics and data visualisation. The visualisations tell the story better. PL noted that the North Star is the time spent each week. He noted the need for new skillsets and new ways of working.

## 9. Committees

### Audit and Risk (Ian Kehoe)

IK noted that RC had updated on the Finance elements. He noted that the Committee had received a briefing from Peadar Faherty on Internal Audit and his management of the progress on implementation of IA reports and he is happy with the progress. PF also updated on ESG and Sustainability requirements coming down the track. The Committee also received legal and data protection updates.

### Programme (PJ Mathews)

PJM noted that the recent meeting was focused on the Archive and met with Bríd Dooley. He noted that pre the land sale there was a risk of physical degeneration of the Archive. More people want to use the archive and it is a significant cultural asset. The Committee wanted to explore access and he noted that there is a new platform – One Media Share. PJM noted that there is a revenue stream from licensing and access to broadcasters and there is more demand than can be met but this will improve for digitisation. PJM pointed out that there is a real challenge around public access. A lot of academics want access and hopefully digitisation will help here. He also noted that the archive has a huge potential in engaging audiences in a digital age and there is the potential to reimagine the approach for the digital age. AH noted that she is delighted to join the Programme Committee and noted her experience is in Culture, the Arts and children.

### Digital (Jonathan Ruane)

JR updated the Board on the discussions at the Digital Committee in relation to MSI. The Board discussed the issues surrounding this. The DG noted that personalisation is a feature in the FOMC report and that the team would take away the points raised and come back to both the Committee and the Board.

### Audience Council (Susan Ahern)

SA noted that there had been two meetings of the Audience Council. Bernard Cohen and Adrian Lynch gave them an update which was very enlightening and PL talked to them about audience insights. They have landed on a topic for their next project which is looking at RTE and future proofing RTÉ in relation to the 18-21 age group. The Council will work with audience insights and focus groups. They will do a report which they will present to the Board in May and it will be provided to the Minister in June. Then a new Council will have to be recruited.

## 10. Appointments

### DTT

It is proposed that SNR be appointed to the Board of DTT

**Proposed:** Robert Shortt  
**Seconded:** David Harvey

### Fair Trading

It is proposed that David Harvey be appointed Chair of the Fair Trading Committee

**Proposed:** Susan Ahern  
**Seconded:** Connor Murphy

### Programme Committee

It is proposed that Aileen Howard be appointed Chair of the Programme Committee.

**Proposed:** Susan Ahern  
**Seconded:** Connor Murphy

### Digital Committee

It is proposed that Daire Hickey be appointed a member of the Digital Committee

**Proposed:** Susan Ahern  
**Seconded:** Connor Murphy

### New Committees:

#### DG Selection

It is proposed that the Terms of Reference be approved and that Anne O'Leary and Jonathan Ruane be appointed to the Committee and that Siún Ní Raghallaigh be appointed Chair of the Committee.

**Proposed:** Robert Shortt  
**Seconded:** David Harvey

#### Strategy

It is proposed that the Terms of Reference be approved and that Ian Kehoe and Siún Ní Raghallaigh be appointed to the Committee and that PJ Mathews be appointed Chair of the Committee.

**Proposed:** Robert Shortt  
**Seconded:** David Harvey

## 11. RTÉ Sealing Resolution

As Deborah Kelleher's term on the Board ended on 6 November 2022, the Board resolved as follows:

That the official seal of Raidió Teilifís Éireann shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chair or PJ Mathews or Ian Kehoe, and by the signature of Ms. Dee Forbes, Director-General or Ms. Paula Mullooly, RTÉ Group Secretary.

The previous Resolution on this matter in the Minutes of the Board meeting of 16 July 2020 are thereby superseded.

Proposed: Susan Ahern  
Seconded: Connor Murphy

## 12. Any Other Business

The Board then held a meeting in the absence of the Executive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. J. Mathews", written over a horizontal line.

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

Next Meeting: 23 March 2023