

RAIDIÓ TEILIFÍS ÉIREANN

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of RTÉ
held on Friday 7 April 2023 via Zoom at Ilam

Present: Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chair)
Daire Hickey
PJ Mathews
Aideen Howard
Robert Shortt
Anne O'Leary
Jonathan Ruane
Connor Murphy
Susan Ahern
David Harvey (joined late)
Ian Kehoe

In Attendance: Paula Mullooly, Group Secretary

The Board discussed the nomination of a candidate as DG. It was agreed that the meeting would be adjourned until the following week.



Signed: _____
Chair

RAIDIÓ TEILIFÍS ÉIREANN

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of RTÉ
held on Wednesday 12 April 2023 via Zoom at 9am

Present: Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chair)
Ian Kehoe
Daire Hickey
PJ Mathews
Aideen Howard
David Harvey
Robert Shortt
Anne O'Leary
Connor Murphy
Susan Ahern
Dee Forbes

Apologies: Jonathan Ruane

In Attendance: Paula Mullooly, Group Secretary
[REDACTED], Arthur Cox Solicitors

The Chair noted that she had requested this meeting following a media leak from the Board following the meeting on 7 April. She noted that while material had been leaked the newspaper reports also contained inaccurate detail which purported to come from the meeting.

The Chair gave her views as to what had taken place and how seriously she viewed the matter. She stated that she had asked [REDACTED] of Arthur Cox to attend the meeting and to bring the Board through their obligations and duties as Board Members under the Broadcasting Act, the Code of Governance for State Bodies and the Code of Conduction for Board members.

[REDACTED] joined the meeting and presented to the Board on the duties and obligations as Board members. ([REDACTED] left the meeting)

The Chair stated that she would like each member of the Board to give their view as to what had taken place and each member did so. Following the discussion, the Chair asked that all members of the Board re-sign their Commitment to the Code of Conduct.

The Board then unanimously resolved to unequivocally condemn the unethical leaking of information from a confidential board meeting to the media and the provision of inaccurate information about that meeting to the media.



Signed: _____
Chair

RAIDIÓ TEILIFÍS ÉIREANN

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of RTÉ
held on Friday 14 April 2023 via Zoom at 9am

Present: Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chair)
Daire Hickey
PJ Mathews
Aideen Howard
Robert Shortt
Anne O'Leary
Jonathan Ruane
Connor Murphy
Susan Ahern
David Harvey (joined late)
Ian Kehoe

In Attendance: Paula Mullooly, Group Secretary

1. Nomination from DG Selection Committee

The Board discussed the nomination of a candidate as DG.

It was agreed that the matter would be dealt with by way of written resolution.



Signed: _____
Chair

RAIDIÓ TEILIFÍS ÉIREANN

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of RTÉ
held on Thursday 27 April 2023 Hybrid at 10am, RTÉ and via Teams

Present:

In Person Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chair)
 Aideen Howard
 Robert Shortt
 Ian Kehoe
 Daire Hickey
 PJ Matthews
 Dee Forbes
 David Harvey
 Susan Ahern
 Dee Forbes (Director General)

Teams: Anne O'Leary

Apologies: Connor Murphy
 Jonathan Ruane

In Attendance: Paula Mullooly, Group Secretary
 Kevin Bakhurst, Incoming Director General
 Geraldine O'Leary, Group Head of Commercial
 Richard Collins, Chief Financial Officer

Kevin Bakhurst

The Chair introduced KB to the Board and welcomed him in person for an introductory meeting. KB spoke to the Board and stated he is looking forward to starting in due course. KB left the meeting.

Introductory Matters

The Chair noted the sad passing of Seán Ó Tuairisg noted that he was one of the first and central journalists in RNaG. The Boards passed on condolences to his family.

The Chair noted the importance on confidentiality at Board meetings and asked the Board members to recognise that.

1. **Minutes of Meeting of 23 March, 7, 12 & 14 April 2023**
 The Minutes were approved.
2. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
 None.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
 None.

4. DG Report

Content and Performance

The DG noted that it has been a very busy time. She noted that less people are coming to television but Player is growing yoy. Streams are growing, as is time spent. The Dry had a big engagement with public, Tommy Tiernan and Room to Improve have a lot of streams. New quiz with CB has started. Kin is performing well on linear and building on player. In relation to the Biden trip there were 1.6m viewers on News over the period. Digital streaming of the visit was big also and the website showed an increase in online traffic for visit. Mísneach and Biden had 4m views on Tik Tok. The clip of Biden arriving in Ballina had 4.6m views on Twitter. There was also an increase in Instagram engagement. As RTÉ was the host broadcaster the footage was broadcast around the world. The DG stated that she would like to convey her thanks to those across the organisation who were involved and showcased Ireland so well across the period. The DG highlighted some big landmark documentaries – Ireland’s Wild Islands, and The Silent Civil War.

Market Performance

The DG noted that commercial performance is volatile. Things are very uncertain in UK and there is a lot of concern and uncertainty in market.

Public Affairs – the DG noted that LW was closed and decommissioned. In relation to the technical group on the LF it is understood that the report has been completed and has to go to Government. The Interim Funding request will go to the Department in next few weeks.

People

The DG pointed out that the Intern programme which has just commenced had 796 applications for 10 places. The aim is to seek out individuals with an interest in media and not focus on education. Really good example of bringing new energy and thinking into the organisation.

The Chair noted that the Biden coverage was incredible and offered congratulations to RTÉ and Scratch and Crossing the Lines on the documentaries.

5. Commercial Update (Geraldine O’Leary)

GOL updated the Board on Q1 and Q2 noting that the market is very volatile and very unpredictable and [REDACTED]. For the clients their ambition is to grow share and new customers which means spending money differently. [REDACTED].

The Chair noted the technological limitations and asked how to proceed. GOL noted that we do have some information and we are actively looking at what can be done in 2023 in building [REDACTED].

AOL asked about the projections/forecast. GOL noted the unpredictability and uncertainty in the market but RTÉ is being innovative and actively looking at marketplace. GOL stated that they are talking to clients all the time

– [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

The Board also discussed the Commercial Review.

6. Finance (Richard Collins)

RC noted that the first quarter is favourable as against budget in the amount of €1.1m. There was a commercial income shortfall with energy and procs savings. RC went through the impacts on commercial income, energy savings and procs savings in detail. RC noted that the outlook for April is that there will be a commercial income shortfall and LF will be down but there will be savings on procs and energy. RC noted that the costs of the Biden visit have yet to come through. There was a €17m outflow from cash which is significant but not unexpected.

David Harvey noted that the advertising market is in terminal decline and the focus needs to be on the costs which are too high.

The Chair noted that any upcoming spending has to go through a rigorous test and there has to be a priority list of spend on technology looking at return on investment. The Chair noted that this would be coming to the next ARC and Board meeting and there would have to be solutions but there could be no spending.

The Board was asked to approve the supplemental AIB Bank mandate which lists the names and addresses of Board members.

Proposed: David Harvey
Seconded: Robert Shortt

7. RTÉSA

RC updated the Board on the RTÉSA noting that a response is still awaiting from the Department in relation to the application for a pension increase. It was noted that the Retired Members Group have been invited to address the next meeting of the RTÉSA.

RC updated the Board in relation to the potential for settlement in relation to the RTÉSA and advices received. RC also updated the Board on the de-risking process and the benefits of de-risking. It would be hoped that these steps would better insure increases for the Pensioners going forward.

Chair of the RTÉSA

RC requested that, pending recruitment of a Chair of the RTÉSA the appointment of Paula Mullooly be extended to 31 December 2023. The Chair asked about the recruitment process and identifying the required skillset for the new Chair. RC noted that work is being done in relation to this.

RC noted that there are upcoming elections for the Trustees of the RTÉSA. It was proposed that the Board approve the extension of the term of Paula Mullooly as Trustee of the RTÉSA to 31 December 2023 to allow for the recruitment and appointment of a new Chair.

Proposed: Susan Ahern
Seconded: David Harvey

RC updated the Committee on the implementation and transition of the finance system to the new ERP system.

8. Committees

Audit and Risk (Anne O'Leary)

AOL noted in relation to the annual accounts the auditors had sought clarity in relation to a matter. The ARC in accordance with best practice had appointed Grant Thornton to carry out a fact finding review and report back to the Committee. Once this has happened the Committee will consider the next steps.

AOL noted the presentation by IA into ERP and recorded that there were issues around the selection of the vendor, their ability to deliver and a skills gap. The ARC had asked that the learnings from the project be discussed at the Executive Board.

AOL noted that RC had given the financial update.

In relation to Legal PM had given an update and the ARC also had a risk presentation which looked at the key risks and refreshed risks. AOL noted that business continuity and cyber security had been detailed and she was very happy with the update.

Programme (Aideen Howard)

AH reported on the meeting of 17 April in relation to the audio strategy with AL, DH and NW. Phase One of this project is ongoing. Phase two will deliver new content and structures. AH noted that it was a very lively and ambitious presentation. The focus for the next few months is on new content and the Doc at One team is to shift to podcasts. The audio apps consolidated framework will allow it to be built on. The focus is on resources and capacity. The presenters and the Committee agreed that podcasts should be given the same urgency and resources as linear broadcasts. The challenge is in building capacity and tone of voice. AH noted that it was a really strong discussion and

the Committee will be getting a further update later on in process.

Audience Council (Susan Ahern)

SA noted that the AC had met the previous day in relation to the Red C survey which is to interrogate the viewing habits of 18-24 year olds and the outcomes are really interesting. Focus of that cohort. SA noted that the AC will be presenting their work to the Board after the next Board meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Commitments

AH referred to the briefing document and proposed approach which is part of the process agreed with BAI and set out over lifetime of strategy. GB and RC want input into overview and target measures. AH noted that it will be discussed at the May meeting but wanted to actively solicit input as to whether we should review target metrics or wait to change with new strategy.

There being no further business the meeting ended.



Signed: _____
Chair

Next Meeting: 25 May 2023