

RTÉ Audience Council

Meeting – 20 May 2024

Council Attendance

(In Person)

Susan Ahern (Chair)
Amber Rose Penders
Ceithleann Ní Dhuibhir Ní Dhúlacháin
Diarmuid Breathnach
Richard Lynch
Tony Bond
Claire Mullane
Mark Quinn
Amy Whelan
Mehrddad Lashgari
Aoife Thomas
Niamh Madden

(via TEAMS):

Mehandra Varma

Apologies:

Mary Brophy

In Attendance:

Barbara Clarke, Secretary RTÉ Audience Council
Rachel Lysaght, Project Manager for the Audience Council

Invitees:

Sean Mac Gilla Phadraig, Channel Editor
Niamh Ni Churnain, Grúpcheannasai Gaeilge / Group Head of Irish Language

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the Audience Council to the meeting and thanked them for the work they had undertaken in their Groups since the April meeting.

2. Minutes of 8 April 2024 Meeting

Approved. Version also approved for publication.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Presentation – Programme Content / Commissioning

(Sean Mac Gilla Phadraig & Niamh Ní Churnain)

Seán and Niamh gave a very informative presentation on audience viewing habits, programme commissioning with particular focus on the process of commissioning from the Independent Sector and commissioning of Irish language programmes. They outlined the processes around scheduling and coverage of stories from rural Ireland.

They informed the Council of the steps RTÉ is undertaking to ensure more diversity of presenters on TV and radio, to reflect the greater diversity of Irish society. The RTÉ Intern programme was discussed as were plans for Mandatory Sign-in currently in development.

5. Audience Council Presentation to Board (Trial)

Rachel Lysaght gave an update on the work done since the last meeting in the Group preparations for the presentation to the Board.

Trial presentations:

Group 1 - Trust building with the News and Current Affairs – presented by Richard Lynch.

Group 2 - Trustworthiness across the RTÉ brand – presented by Aoife Thomas.

7. Presentation Review

The presentations were reviewed and both Groups received feedback from Audience Council members. It was agreed that the two presentations would be presented as part of one overall presentation with the respective individual presenters. In addition, the presentation would conclude with the recommendations to the RTÉ Board from the Audience Council.

8. Next Steps

Presentation to be finalised by 7 June. Presentation to the Board on 17 June 2024.

The Audience Council asked that a presentation regarding Mandatory Sign-in be provided to it.

9. Audience Council Feedback Section

Standing section for the Council Members to provide direct feedback to RTÉ.

Audience Council Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None (TBC)

10. AOB

The Chair noted that two matters from prior meetings (i) update on artificial intelligence and (ii) the recruitment of a new member of the Council were in train and an update would be provided at the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting concluded.



Signed:

Chair