

**RTÉ Audience Council Meeting on 11 November 2024
at 3pm in Person in RTÉ & via Teams**

- Audience Council: Susan Ahern (Chair)
Amber Rose Penders
Diarmaid Breathnach
Richard Lynch
Claire Millane
Tony Bond
Mahendra Varma
Niamh Madden
Mark Quinn
Aoife Thomas
Amy Whelan
- Apologies (AC): Mehrdad Lashgari
Mary Brophy
Ceithleann Ní Dhuibhir Ní Dhúlacháin
- Invitees: Zbyszek Zalinski, RTÉ Head of Diversity & Inclusion
Brian Dowling, RTÉ Head of Broadcast Compliance
- In Attendance: Barbara Clarke, Secretary RTÉ Audience Council
Rachel Lysaght, Project Manager for the Audience Council

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the Audience Council and noted the apologies.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 24 September 2024

The Minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Zbyszek Zalinski, RTÉ Head of Diversity & Inclusion

Zbyszek joined the meeting and gave a detailed account of his D&I work, RTÉ's Diversity & Inclusion Charter together with actions undertaken by RTÉ in the past 2 years and plans for the future.

A Q&A session followed.

5. Areas of Interest

Rachel Lysaght outlined the areas of interest that Audience Council members had submitted to her.

In advance of the meeting arising from the discussion at the meeting of 11 November 2024, an ideas sharing discussion followed with particular emphasis on futureproofing mechanisms that might be employed by RTÉ to build and safeguard audiences.

6. Next Steps

It was decided that the Council should explore their areas of interest further over the coming weeks and submit their views to Rachel.

It was agreed that Patricia Monahan, Director of Audio should present to the Council at the next meeting. Some Audience Council members have expressed an interest in visiting RTÉ Lab, this will be arranged for the next meeting.

7. Audience Council Feedback

Any feedback provided by the Council was notified to RTÉ.

8. AOB

- (a) Brian Dowling, Head of Compliance, joined the meeting to give a brief insight into RTE's planned coverage of the upcoming General Election across television, radio and online which will be comprehensive, reflecting a diverse range of views and opinions.
- (b) The Chair updated the Council with regard to recruitment of a new Audience Council member and any future vacancies that may arise during the Council's term.
- (c) The Secretary informed the Council that they are invited to attend a broadcast of the Late Late Show, tickets to be arranged.



Signed:

Chair