

**RTÉ Audience Council Meeting on 20 January 2025
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
Aoife Thomas
Amy Whelan
Mehrddad Lashgari
Dolapo Agunbiade

Apologies (AC): Ceithleann Ní Dhuibhir Ní Dhúlacháin
Mark Quinn

Invitees: Patricia Monaghan, Director of Audio

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. The Chair introduced Dolapo Agunbiade, newly appointed member of the Audience Council and individual introductions were made.

The Chair also confirmed that Mary Brophy had regretfully resigned from the Audience Council for personal reasons. A replacement member would notified in due course. The AC expressed its appreciation of Mary's participation and contributions during her time as a Member and wished her the best in the future.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 11 November 2024

The Minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Audience Council visit to RTÉ Labs

Feedback was given to the Audience Council by members of the Council who had visited the RTÉ Labs prior to the meeting. The visit was very enjoyable, informative and the attendees were very positive about the energy and freshness of the Lab's work. A Q&A session followed.

5. Areas of Interest

The Audience Council discussed areas of interest it wanted to develop further as part of its future presentation to the Board and ultimately for its Report the Minister.

6. Patricia Monahan, RTÉ Director of Audio

Patricia joined the meeting and outlined the scope of her Deptment’s work and the plans for the future of audio within RTÉ including podcasting. Patricia discussed the strategy for new talent in RTÉ.

For RTÉ Audio there are two main objectives over the course of the 5 year strategy:

- To make RTÉ’s existing content accessible to a wider audience and to develop new content that attracts new audiences.
- To develop a digital audio content portfolio that complements RTÉ’s linear offering and futureproofs RTÉs ability to inform, educate and entertain for generations to come.

A Q&A session followed.

7. Further Discussion on Areas of Interest

The Audience Council discussed potential topics for the 2025 meeting with the RTÉ Board and report to the Minister, focusing on audience engagement and new talent.

8. Next Steps

Rachel will provide the Audience Council with a survey on the key ideas discussed so further feedback and input can be provided by the Council before the next meeting.

9. Audience Council Feedback

Any feedback provided by the Council was notified to RTÉ.

10. AOB

None



Signed:

Chair