

**RTÉ Audience Council Meeting on 14 April 2025
at 3pm via Teams**

Audience Council: Susan Ahern (Chair)
Diarmaid Breathnach
Claire Millane
Tony Bond
Mahendra Varma
Niamh Madden
Amy Whelan
Mehrdad Lashgari
Amber Rose Penders
Aoife Thomas
Richard Lynch
Dolapo Agunbiade
Roisín Pryce
Ceithleann Ní Dhuibhir Ní Dhúlacháin

Apologies (AC): Mark Quinn
Barbara Clarke, Secretary RTÉ Audience Council

In Attendance: Rachel Lysaght, Project Manager for the Audience Council
Steve Carson RTÉ Director of Video

1. Welcome

The Chair greeted the Audience Council and noted the apologies.

Expressed thanks to Cian Mac Gearailt, Legal Researcher RTÉ Solicitors' Office, for assisting with the meeting set up.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 3 March 2025

The Minutes were approved.

It was agreed that the Minutes of the March, April and May 2025 Audience Council would not be published on the website until after the meeting of the Council with the RTÉ Board, to ensure that the Board were the first to see the Council's work.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

A question in relation to sports coverage of a major event was raised and it was agreed that the information would be sought from RTÉ Executive.

4. Presentation

Steve Carson RTÉ Director of Video attended the meeting and presented to the Council on the work he is doing across the full scope of video content and what future plans are.

A Question and Answer session followed.

5. Reports from Subgroups

The Chair thanked the Council for the work they have done since the last meeting.

Since the March meeting the five subgroups had undertaken their research to assess how well their chosen flagship programmes on RTÉ reflect diversity and culture in Ireland.

Each group presented their findings (via a selected presenter) on the selected flagship programmes they had selected. The findings were recorded based upon a unified set of criteria which were applied by all Subgroups:

1. Radio / Podcast
2. Cultural Importance / Public Service Broadcasting
3. Current Affairs / News
4. Documentary
5. Drama

6. Next Steps

By 30 May each Sub-group will centrally provide a one page summary of their discussions and decide on the speaker for their topic.

By 9 May RL will circulate materials to Amy Whelan who will centralise the overall powerpoint presentation.

Volunteer sought to give the introduction and overview of the presentation (background of importance and why selected and approach) and conclusion.

At the next meeting on 19 May 2025 the subgroups will give feedback on the results of the questionnaire and review the draft presentation together.

9 June is the Board Meeting at which the Audience Council will present their views.

7. Feedback Matters

Irish Language sub-group update

Diarmaid gave an update on the ongoing work of the Irish Language subgroup.

Any feedback provided by the Council was notified to RTÉ.

8. AOB

There was a short discussion on the Audience Council's Report to the Minister, which is due for submission by the end of June 2025.



Signed:

Chair