

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

Audience Council: Susan Ahern (Chair)
Diarmaid Breathnach
Claire Millane
Tony Bond
Mahendra Varma
Niamh Madden
Amy Whelan
Mehrdad Lashgari
Dolapo Agunbiade
Mark Quinn
Roisin Pryce

Apologies (AC): Ceithleann Ní Dhuibhir Ní Dhúlacháin
Amber Rose Penders
Aoife Thomas
Richard Lynch

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

1. Welcome

The Chair greeted the Audience Council and noted the apologies. The Chair welcomed Roisin Pryce, newly appointed member of the Audience Council. Roisin introduced herself to the Council and gave insight into her interests.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 20 January 2025

The Minutes were approved with some amendments.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Areas of Interest

The Chair thanked the Council for the work they have done since the last meeting with regard to further analysis of areas of interest for the work and for completing a poll provided by Rachel.

Rachel recapped on the result of the poll. The Council voted to conduct a review of existing popular or flagship programmes selected by the Council.

The Council will analyse whether the programmes reflect diverse voices in terms of accents, ages, and backgrounds. The group will also break down the task by reviewing specific shows, gathering impressions on representation from members, and making recommendations based on collective observations.

Further details were discussed and AC members were allocated to the following subgroups:

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

The Council divided into 5 breakout rooms to discuss the subgroups and which programmes they would like to focus their research on. Further discussion followed and programme selections were made and means of working decided.

5. Next Steps

Rachel will provide a questionnaire which will allow for streamlined responses across all genres. The Council will view the selected programmes relevant to their subgroup and complete the questionnaire by Friday 4 April 2025.

At the next meeting on 14 April 2025 the subgroups will give feedback on the results of the questionnaire.

4. Feedback Matters

Irish Language sub-group update

Diarmaid gave an update on the ongoing work of the Irish Language sub-group.

CnaM consultation on closure of RTÉ Digital Radio Stations

The Council agreed on the response to be provided to Coimisiún na Meán regarding its Consultation on the Closure of RTÉ Digital Radio Stations.

5. AOB

There was a short discussion on the RTÉ Action Plan.



Signed:

Chair