

**RTÉ Audience Council Meeting on 14 January 2026
at 3pm in Person & via Teams**

Council Attendance: Susan Ahern (Chair)
(In Person) Claire Millane
Roisin Pryce
Diarmaid Breathnach
Mark Quinn
Niamh Madden
Amber Rose Penders

Council Attendance: Tony Bond
(Teams) Amy Whelan
Ceithleann Ní Dhuibhir Ní Dhúlacháin
Mehrddad Lashgari

Apologies: Richard Lynch
Aoife Thomas
Dolapo Agunbiade

In Attendance: Barbara Clarke, Secretary RTÉ Audience Council
Úna Shinnors, Interim Project Manager
Brian Dowling & Alistair MacConnell -
Outgoing / Incoming Head of Broadcasting Compliance

1. Welcome

The Chair greeted the Audience Council and noted the apologies.

Member update: The Chair noted the resignation of Mahendra Varma. The Chair will write to Mahendra to thank him for his service and pass on the best wishes of the AC.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 17 November 2025

The Minute of 17 November 2025 was updated to include feedback received from Amy Whelan and was agreed.

3. Matters arising

Feedback received from Richard Lynch in relation sponsorship logos on pitches will be discussed under matters arising at next meeting.

4. Discussion on Project for Term 3 (Úna Shinnors)

Úna thanked the Council members for submitting their ideas for draft questions to put to a survey cohort and for indicating which audience cohort they have access to and intend to engage with. The Chair stated that the questions will also go to the focus group through RTÉ Audience Insights. Úna will work on simple questions and will circulate to the AC.

5. Feedback Matters from AC

Any feedback provided by the Council was notified to RTÉ.

6. Presentation: RTÉ's coverage of the Presidential Election

(Brian Dowling & Alistair McConnell)

Brian Dowling introduced Alastair MacConnell who will take over as Head of Compliance in the Spring.

Brian brought the AC through RTÉ's planned handling and the coverage resulting from the recent Presidential Election.

A Q&A followed.

The AC thanks Brian and Alistair for an insightful presentation and wished Brian well in his retirement.

7. AOB

There being no further business the meeting concluded.



Signed:

Chair