



An Bille Craolacháin (Seirbhís Uile-Éireann) (Leasú), 2025
Broadcasting (All Ireland Service) (Amendment) Bill 2025

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



**AN BILLE CRAOLACHÁIN (SEIRBHÍS UILE-ÉIREANN) (LEASÚ), 2025
BROADCASTING (ALL IRELAND SERVICE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025**

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ACT REFERRED TO

Broadcasting Act 2009 (No. 18)



**AN BILLE CRAOLACHÁIN (SEIRBHÍS UILE-ÉIREANN) (LEASÚ), 2025
BROADCASTING (ALL IRELAND SERVICE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025**

Bill

entitled

An Act to amend the Broadcasting Act 2009 to recognise the duty of national public service broadcasters and Coimisiún na Meán to proactively make efforts to ensure equal access to national public broadcasting services across the whole community of the island of Ireland. 5

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows:

Definition

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1. In this Act, “Principal Act” means the Broadcasting Act 2009.

Amendment of Principal Act

2. The Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following section after section 46M:

“Duty to the whole community of the island of Ireland

- 46MA.** (1) RTÉ and Teilifís na Gaeilge, whose national television broadcasting services shall be made available, in so far as it is reasonably practicable, to the whole community on the island of Ireland, in accordance with section 114(1)(a) and section 118(1)(a) respectively, shall pro-actively make every reasonable effort to end the practice of geo-blocking and exclusion of audiences in that part of the island not currently under the jurisdiction of the State from their services, including programming content, audience competitions and visual cartographic depictions of the island and its population. 15 20
- (2) In the interests of fulfilling their duty in line with subsection (1) as national broadcasters for the whole nation, RTÉ and Teilifís na Gaeilge shall pro-actively seek to resolve any competing claims to licencing rights across the island with the objective of ensuring equal access to programming content north and south across service providers, particularly where that content relates to their participation in events of importance to the nation, including in terms of news, current affairs, sport and culture, in line with the entitlement and birthright of every person born on the island of Ireland to be part of the Irish Nation under Article 2 of the Constitution. 25 30

- (3) Coimisiún na Meán shall, no later than six months after the enactment of this Act, prepare and publish a report setting out ways in which RTÉ and Teilifís na Gaeilge could be facilitated, assisted and required to make available these services in full to the whole community of the island of Ireland, including how they could work to achieve a resolution and cooperation across rights holders in the case of competing claims across jurisdictions, and toward removing any obstacle or barrier, such as the geographical restriction of their broadcasting rights to one part of the island or the use of geo-blocking to enforce such a restriction, to their equal availability across the whole island. 5 10
- (4) The Minister shall engage with the British government, and with international organisations responsible for the licencing of rights for international events, with a view to establishing an all Ireland market for television licencing rights, and to resolving any competing claims across jurisdictions, and shall lay a report outlining all such engagements made over the previous year on an annual basis starting from one year following the enactment of this Act. 15
- (5) The reports and engagement referred to in subsections (4) and (5) shall pay particular regard to the importance of supporting the fulfilment of commitments in the Good Friday Agreement relating to the widespread availability of services provided by Teilifís na Gaeilge and acknowledging the public service duty of RTÉ to the whole community of the island of Ireland. To better facilitate equal access to programming content by the whole community of the island of Ireland. 20 25
- (6) Coimisiún na Meán shall pay due regard to the need for equal and widespread availability of services across the whole of the island of Ireland when agreeing licences for television broadcasting services.”.

Short title, collective citation and commencement

3. (1) This Act may be cited as the Broadcasting (All Ireland Service) (Amendment) Act 2025. 30
- (2) The Broadcasting Act 2009 and this Act may be cited together as the Broadcasting Acts 2009 and 2025.
- (3) This Act shall come into operation immediately upon enactment.

An Bille Craolacháin (Seirbhís Uile-Éireann)
(Leasú), 2025

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do leasú an Achta Craolacháin, 2009 chun aitheantas a thabhairt don dualgas atá ar chraoltóirí seirbhíse poiblí náisiúnta agus ar Choimisiún na Meán iarrachtaí a dhéanamh go réamhghníomhach chun rochtain chomhionann ar sheirbhísí craolacháin phoiblí náisiúnta a chinntiú ar fud phobal uile oileán na hÉireann.

Na Teachtaí Aengus Ó Snodaigh agus Siobhán Ní
Bhroin a thug isteach,
24 Meitheamh, 2025

Broadcasting (All Ireland Service)
(Amendment) Bill 2025

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

An Act to amend the Broadcasting Act 2009 to recognise the duty of national public service broadcasters and Coimisiún na Meán to proactively make efforts to ensure equal access to national public broadcasting services across the whole community of the island of Ireland.

Introduced by Deputies Aengus Ó Snodaigh and
Joanna Byrne,
24th June, 2025

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