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ÚDARÁS
CRAOLACHÁIN
NA hÉIREANN

BROADCASTING
AUTHORITY
OF IRELAND



30th April, 2013

Niamh Maguire
Committee Secretariat
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Dear Niamh

I refer to your letter of 23rd April 2013 arising from the BAI's appearance before the Committee on Thursday 18th April last. As you are aware, the BAI undertook to supply the Committee with further information on a number of issues raised during the course of the Committee's examination.

The BAI responses are outlined hereunder as follows:

1. A breakdown of the 'Other Income' figure of €445,000 recorded under Point 3 'Other Income' on the BAI notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2011

Digital Content Contract Fees	22,528.92
Institutional Services Contract Fees	650.00
FAI Freedom of Information Income	135.00
Service Charges Rebate BAI Premises	6,331.65
Insurance Rebate BAI Premises	816.46
Property Rates Rebate BAI Premises	9,427.13
BAI Miscellaneous Income	8,201.76
Broadcasting Funding Scheme Overhead Contribution	396,705.75

2. Details of the lease arrangements for Marine House between July 2003 and May 2006

The Marine House property was unoccupied in the period 2003 to 2006. The BAI actively marketed the premises during that time period (via Lisney) but were unsuccessful in finding a tenant until mid to end 2005 when a prospective tenant was sourced. The negotiations on the lease took a number of months and the premises were sub-let to Brindley Advertising from May 2006.



3. A breakdown of the 'Debtors' figure of €676,000 which was recorded under Point 6 'Debtors' on the BAI notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2011

The Debtors figure is, as outlined below, primarily composed of levy debts owed by broadcasters to BAI (€655,282), in addition to rental income due (€20,576) and a small outstanding application fee (€42).

4. A breakdown of the list of broadcasting contractors considered to be levy debtors

The levy model is such that broadcasters pay differential amounts of levy dependent on their qualifying income in any year and the BAI's costs in that year. Smaller services such as the majority of community, institutional and temporary radio services pay a de minimis charge of €950. Invoicing of levy occurs quarterly with the last invoice of the year being issued on December 1st. Escalation procedures are in place to manage outstanding debts. Of the levy debtors amount of €655,280 as of December 31st, 2011, only €8,300 remains outstanding. The majority of this debt relates to temporary and institutional services, some of which are no longer broadcasting.

The broadcasters owing levy as of December 31st 2011 were:

Newstalk
Spin 1038
Today FM
Dublin's 98
Phantom FM
RedFM 104 106
iRadio North West
Galway Bay FM
Radio Nova
4FM
iRadio NEM
West Limerick 102
Earagail Arts Festival and Management Co. Ltd
Mater Hospital Radio
Claremorris Community Radio
Radio Pobal Inis Eoghain
Regional Hospital Radio



South West Donegal Community Radio
St. Ita's Hospital Radio
Community Radio youghal
Life FM
Cork Campus Radio
Dublin South FM
Liffey Sound FM
DIT
Rineanna Radio Limited
Shannon and District Community Radio Limited
The Digital Hub Agency
Trinity College Dublin
Dun Laoghaire College of Further Education
Ballyfremot College of Further Education
Carrick on Shannon Community School
Ingen Media Limited
Iona Ealiona Iorras Teoranta
Tallaght Communit Arts Centre
Raidio Ri Ra – Raidio X Teoranta

5. Support for women in media

The BAI undertook to provide information regarding its support of initiatives which promote women's participation in the media. The BAI has awarded a sponsorship grant of €5,000 to the Women On Air organisation to host a conference later this year on gender representation in news and current affairs broadcasting. The conference aims to raise awareness of the issues surrounding women's representation as well as to present research findings in this area and work with industry leaders to identify practical steps which might be taken in the future to address these issues.

The BAI has also contributed funding towards a study being carried out by the European Institute for Gender Equality. The research, which is being carried out at the request of the Irish Government as part of the Irish Presidency of the EU will focus on women in decision making in the media and the participation of women in programming. The BAI funding has enabled the inclusion of Irish radio in the research. It is believed the research will be particularly relevant to Ireland given the high levels of radio listenership and current affairs and news programming. The research will build on previous snapshot research carried out by the National Women's Council of Ireland and will be presented at the Women On Air conference in September of this year.



I hope the above is to your satisfaction. We will be happy to respond to any additional queries that the Committee may have if such is considered necessary.

Yours sincerely

Michael O'Keeffe

**Michael O'Keeffe,
Chief Executive**