

28 May 2021

Sent by email to: pac@oireachtas.ie

Brian Stanley, TD
Chair of Public Accounts Committee
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Kildare St
Dublin 2
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Ref: S000372 PAC33

Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter of 17 May 2021. In response to the queries raised please see below the following information:

- 1. The number of the top earners deemed, in any of the strands of the Eversheds Sutherland report, to have attributes akin to employment or self-employment.**
The Eversheds Sutherland report determined that top talent are correctly engaged as self-employed contractors.
- 2. Whether RTÉ will need to make other payments to Revenue arising from the findings of the Eversheds Sutherland report.**
Revenue have issued an audit enquiry on the engagement of contractors by RTÉ and this process is underway. It is unknown at this point if Revenue will determine that a further payment will be required.
- 3. Whether a settlement was made with workers found by the Eversheds Sutherland report to have attributes akin to employees, including in relation to their ineligibility for social insurance benefits as a result of not paying PRSI at the correct rate for employees.**
No settlements have been made with individuals, as the review and audit process is still underway.

4. **A detailed note on the number of settlements made by RTÉ in cases taken against the organisation, and the number of cases that were settled for a sum greater than €20,000.**

As outlined in our previous correspondence, proceedings against RTÉ were issued in 11 non personal injury matters in 2019 and 2020. Two of those cases were settled, one was successfully defended by RTÉ and the remainder are ongoing. Four complaints received in the same period were settled prior to legal proceedings being issued. Please note that in respect of the six settlements referred to five exceeded €20,000.

5. **The excess amount on RTÉ's insurance policy for settling claims taken against the organisation.**

We regret that we cannot publicly disclose the reserve amount within our existing insurance policy contract. This information is confidential and the disclosure of this specific sum could impact on our ability to conclude settlements at an appropriate level and therefore disadvantage RTÉ in securing best outcome of public expenditure.

6. **In light of BBC's recent move to publish a register outlining the external events undertaken by its on-air staff in journalism and senior leaders (including whether the payment received in each case was under or over £5,000), to ask whether RTÉ has any plans to do the same of the matter.**

RTÉ guidelines state that all requests to participate in external activities must be submitted to the line manager, or, in the case of staff or contractors working within RTÉ News & Current Affairs, to their Managing Editor for approval. Managing Editors within the division meet to evaluate requests on a regular basis. In the interests of preserving confidentiality of contract, the fee for such engagements is not disclosed to us

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Vivienne Flood
Head of Public Affairs, RTÉ