

14 July 2023

Brian Stanley, T.D.
Committee of Public Accounts
Leinster House
Dublin 2

Dear Deputy Stanley

Before the Dáil goes into summer recess, I wanted to get in touch to wish you and your Committee members, every good wish for the summer.

As I said yesterday the issues surrounding the contractual arrangements for Mr Tubridy, the public misstatements of his remuneration; and other subsequent discoveries, have created one of the most shameful and damaging episodes in the organisation's history.

It remains a source of frustration to us all that there are gaps in evidence and missing personal testimonies, that could irrefutably evidence all aspects of the chain of events, what informed or influenced those events, and why this occurred.

I have heard your views as to the way that information has been supplied on an incremental and short notice basis, and this has frustrated your efforts to identify relevant governance, accountability or financial integrity gaps. Despite this, it has been heartening to me, and to our staff and partners, that so many members have articulated such strong appreciation for the importance of public service broadcasting.

Whilst I would say that colleagues here have worked tirelessly since this crisis emerged, to surface all of the relevant documentation and information sought, I can certainly understand your perspective.

Before the Dáil sits again in September, we will work to create a comprehensive timeline, with as much detail as we have available, and share as much of the relevant supporting evidence as possible. I have instructed that all divisions are to give the fullest co-operation possible with the various investigations and reviews. Following the Committee session yesterday morning, I have also commissioned an external review of RTÉ's voluntary exit schemes (2017, 2021). Details of the review will feed into the Government's Review of Contractor Fees, Human Resources (HR) and other matters. We will also review any other action items arising from recent sessions and address the queries arising as soon as possible.

We fully recognise that we must work intensively to restore trust with our audience, our staff and the members of the Oireachtas.

We appreciate that there will be further engagements with the Committee on this, and on the broader range of issues facing public service media, but until then I hope that you enjoy your break.

Kind regards



Kevin Bakhurst
Director-General, RTÉ