

**Reference ID:** PAC14

**PAC Letter Reference:** S1399 PAC33

**Query:** A list of charities that RTÉ has engaged with

**Response:**

RTÉ has a charity and community policy which is reflective of its ambition to act with integrity and responsibility to the public – a copy of this policy is attached.

In terms of the thousands of hours of broadcasting on radio, television and online, where relevant or appropriate, viewers or listeners can be directed to make a donation if pertinent to the discussion or topic in question e.g. *Liveline*, *Ray D'Arcy Show*. There is no central register of all of this activity, so for the purposes of this query, we have focussed on the most large-scale fundraising appeals.

During Covid times in particular, RTÉ offered fundraising support to a range of charitable causes at a time of critical need. The *Late Late Show* in particular raised essential funds for a diverse range of causes, but on each occasion audiences were directed to donate directly to the specific charity in question, all of whom were registered charities with a strong track record of service and reputational standing. With the exception of a very small number of donations received by post (which were redirected to the specific charities), all telephone and online donations were made directly to the charity, and were not received into an RTÉ account. A list of the broad range of charities and causes that were featured on the programme during those two years is listed below:

Pieta €2 million  
St Vincent de Paul €1.2 million  
ISPCC €450k  
Laura Lynn €300k  
Hope Foundation €100k  
ALONE €150k  
Capuchin Day Centre €1million  
Barretstown €30k  
Barnardos €250k  
St Francis Hospice €174k  
Focus Ireland €250  
Billy Holland €750k  
Irish Guide Dogs €60k  
RNLI €30k  
Cystic Fibrosis /Julian Benson €500k  
Toy Show Appeal €6.62 million  
SIMON €1.5million  
Heroes Aid €130k  
Paralympics Ireland €55k  
Epilepsy Ireland €17k  
CRY €155k  
Irish Cancer Society €3.5million  
Plus another €154,000 for St Francis Hospice  
**Total raised - €19.2m**

**In addition to these appeals on the Late Late Show, as part of its overall Covid response, RTÉ also broadcast RTE Does Comic Relief. With match funding provided by government, the event raised €5.8m. Funds raised were distributed as grants to organisations working with vulnerable groups. More details of the grant outcomes are available here: [RTÉ Does Comic Relief Grantees Announced | The Community Foundation](#)**

### **RTÉ Toy Show Appeal**

Given that your original queries related to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, which is RTÉ's flagship fundraising mechanic, perhaps it would be most helpful to focus on that project. In terms of the specific queries you raise in relation to that project, please find information below which I hope you find of assurance.

The governance structure of the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, is that exists as Donor Advised Fund, with registered charity, Community Foundation Ireland. (Charities Regulator Number: 20044886). The €17.5m donated by the public to date, during the broadcasts, to the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has been received directly by the Community Foundation Ireland. (A very small amount of cheques and cash can be sent to RTÉ offices in error – these are forwarded to the Community Foundation Ireland to process and lodge. For ticket purchases for the Toy Show Musical, patrons were offered an opportunity to donate to the Appeal, **this raised €3633 which has been** invoiced and processed.

There is a Steering Group within RTÉ that manages the RTÉ Toy Show Appeal, but decisions relating to the assessment of the grants and the distribution of the funds, are managed on RTÉ's behalf by registered charity Community Foundation Ireland (Charities Regulator Number: 20044886), who not only use their own in-house grant making expert team, they also ensure that the grant process is overseen by an independent expert review panel.

The donation destination (Community Foundation Ireland) is shown on both the Revolut app, and the website (which is taken down after the Appeal donation period has ended and restored at the time of the programme each year). Recognising the importance of transparency as to the recipient of the donation, this information is available to read on the donation interface for both options. The counsel of the Charities Regulator was sought to ensure that this presentation aligned with best practice standards.

The RTÉ Toy Show Appeal has provided 359 grants to charities who work to help children since its inception in 2020. This has enabled both community level, and larger charities, support a project in every county in Ireland. It is estimated that these funds have helped over 1.1 million children and family members.

In terms of how the proceeds of the Appeal are to be used, at the time of its initiation, Community Foundation Ireland helped RTÉ to identify the categories of support, based on an analysis of the sector, and the emerging needs of children in Ireland at this time. In taking this evidence-based approach, it was agreed that the proceeds of the fund would be used to help:

**Address Essential Needs** – this strand is intended to help ensure more children are safe, warm, fed and properly supported in addressing educational needs. Focussed on practical support, the aim is to improve the living conditions, the life experiences and outcomes for children at risk of some form of deprivation, and increasing educational access for vulnerable children.

**Support Health and Wellbeing** – to improve the quality of life for children and young people dealing with a disability or serious health condition, and to help children who are experiencing mental health challenges.

**Promote play and creativity** – creativity and play are essential to supporting children’s development of cognitive and social skills. This strand of funding aims to enhance personal and emotional development, resilience and wellness for disadvantaged children through creative programmes which help personal development and enhance inclusion.

Since 2021, all grants are assessed on an open application process. The grant application period is promoted to the sector via Community Foundation Ireland (who have a network database of over 5,000 organisations), and publicly via the RTÉ social media channels. Community Foundation Ireland also provide a webinar briefing and information session for both rounds to ensure that all potential applicants are proceeding on the most informed and equipped basis possible. Thereafter the grant applications are assessed and scored against a transparent set of criteria, by Community Foundation Ireland’s expert grant assessment team. Following this assessment, there is a further review of the shortlisted grant applications by an Expert Review panel which this year comprised of Tanya Ward (Children’s Rights Alliance), Fergal Landy (Family Resource Centre National Forum) and Owen Keenan (Children’s expert and previous chair of the Advisory Council on Children and Young People).

# RTÉ Community and Charity Engagement Policy

Core to RTÉ's vision is to 'enrich Irish life'. RTÉ's community and charity engagement activities are among the many ways in which we fulfil this aspiration, contributing to the ways in which the organisation seeks to positively impact on cultural life in Ireland.

As a recipient of public funding, RTÉ is mindful of its role in supporting other public bodies in the delivery of their responsibilities. RTÉ also recognises the contribution it can make in empowering voluntary and charity activity.

Within the spirit of developing community and charity partnerships and engagements in line with RTÉ strategy and our public service remit, RTÉ has set in place the following principles:

## **Public Service Remit, Transparency and Reputation**

- In selecting charity partnerships or beneficiaries, the remit of RTÉ as a public service media organisation will remain at the forefront of all considerations. Recognising RTÉ's responsibilities regarding trust, independence and impartiality, due diligence will be applied to ensure that the choice of project or beneficiary does not run the risk of reputational damage.
- RTÉ at a corporate level, or through the activities of our staff acting in an RTÉ capacity, will act in partnership with a range of reputable, registered charities for the purpose of raising funds, elevating awareness of matters of public importance.
- Involvement or partnership with any charity or cause will not compromise RTÉ's editorial independence regarding coverage or investigation of same.
- RTÉ, through all of its corporate social responsibility activities, will aim to positively impact society.
- In all but exceptional circumstances, the beneficiary should be a registered charity of good reputation.
- RTÉ will act with complete transparency as regards proceeds of monies raised and all related financial transactions.

## **Open Access and Nationwide Reach**

Given that RTÉ has responsibilities to serve all audiences, interests and communities, where possible, selected charities should be able to demonstrate a national remit. RTÉ will engage with our employees to leverage skills for maximum benefit where appropriate.