

Reference ID: PAC27

PAC Letter Ref: n/a

Query: The status of the Willis Tower Watson Review in relation to remuneration, particularly of the Raidió na Gaeltachta presenters and what commitments RTÉ can make in terms of future funding into high-quality Irish-language programming

Response:

The reward phase of the role and grade review is being undertaken by WTW. The design of the reward phase is due to be completed by end December 2023. The implementation will commence thereafter and will include all employee roles including those based in RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta.

Please see attached document on Irish language programming plans 2023-2025.

RTÉ Plean Ghaeilge 2023-2025 – Increasing Irish Language Hours on RTÉ’s Television Services

This is RTÉ’s second three-year plan focused on increasing Irish Language content across our linear television services.

Background

In May 2018 An Coimisinéir Teanga launched a statutory investigation into RTÉ's Irish language provision and the Commissioner issued its formal report to RTÉ in December 2018. In April 2019, the findings of An Coimisinéir Teanga were published in its Annual Report 2018. The report found RTÉ to be in breach of its obligations under the provision of a ‘comprehensive’ range of Irish language programming on its linear television channels and the provision to provide an Irish Language Current Affairs programme.

RTÉ submitted its first three-year plan *RTÉ’s Plean Ghaeilge 2020–2022*, which was approved by an Coimisinéir Teanga. In this plan, RTÉ committed to a significant increase in the number of Irish Language hours broadcast annually and have exceeded our targets in each year to date. In 2020 we committed to broadcasting, 530 hours and delivered over 700 hours of content. In 2021 we committed to 540 hours and delivered over 900 hours of content. In 2022, we are on target to exceed our commitment. The plan focused on increasing content across our linear schedules and the broadcast of Seacht Lá to serve our current affairs provision. While the Coimisinéir Teanga found RTÉ had made great improvements in our content output, key to this next three-year plan is RTÉ producing our own current affairs programme, which will be broadcasting in autumn 2023.

RTÉ Plean Ghaeilge 2020 - 2022

Year	2017	2020	2021	2022
Projected total	123	533	570	600
Delivered total	123	760	900	840*

*Figure received on 27th September 2022, ahead of new scheduling system launch.

Over three years we have increased our Irish Language output substantially and comprehensively by over 700%.

RTÉ Plean Ghaeilge 2023 -2025 builds on the foundations delivered by the previous plan and sets out significant increases to our commitment to Irish Language content hours over the next three years, across our linear television channel. It also specifically addresses RTÉ’s commitment to Irish Language current affairs, under section 114 3(b) of the Broadcasting Act 2009:

(b) provide programmes of news and current affairs in the Irish and English languages, including programmes that provide coverage of proceedings in the Houses of the Oireachtas and the European Parliament

RTE's brand new current affairs series, *FÓRAM* will begin in autumn 2023 on RTÉ One television. This weekly studio programme will see journalists and commentators discussing the stories making the headlines, covering a wide range of topics, from politics to the economy and from sport to culture. All aspects of Irish life will be under the spotlight and interrogated each week. The series will follow the Dáil term.

An overview of RTÉ's wider Irish language activities

While the purpose of this document is to outline RTÉ commitments for our linear television output in Irish Language content, it is important to highlight the additional ways RTÉ supports the Irish Language. RTÉ is firmly committed to supporting the Irish language and delivering on its public service obligations.

- RTÉ has grown and developed a national Irish Language radio station, RTÉ RnaG, which celebrated 50 years on air in 2022. In addition, investment has been made in podcasts of all programmes to ensure the global audience has content readily available as Gaeilge.
- RTÉ provides a comprehensive multiplatform Nuacht service to RTÉ and to TG4.
- Both of these essential services provide employment for 113 people in Gaeltacht areas.
- RTÉ provide 365 hours of Irish language multi genre content to TG4 each year under our Protocol agreement.
- RTÉ and TG4 work on many strategic partnerships together for the benefit of the Irish Language.
- RTÉ works with other key stakeholders also, on Language campaigns, our most recent partnership with Foras na Gaeilge, *Creidim Ionat*, has been hugely successful.
- We continue to grow and expand our digital content on rte.ie/gaeilge and on the RTÉ Player.
- RTÉ supports many Irish Language festivals annually, including, Seachtain na Gaeilge and An tOireachtas.

All of these commitments along with the marked increase in linear hours will ensure that the Irish Language is front and centre across all RTÉ platforms.

RTÉ is committed to providing a comprehensive range of Irish Language programming on RTÉ Television. RTÉ will broadcast programmes in Irish and programmes that are bilingual. While RTÉ's bilingual content is not included in the overall hours outlined below, Bilingualism continues to be one of the keyways to normalise the language. RTÉ plans to target inhouse and commissioned content in primetime slots to introduce more Irish in the content. RTE has seen very successful examples of this over the last three years with *First Dates*, *Fleadh Ceoil*, *The Late Late Toy Show* and *Nationwide* all managing to successfully include the language very naturally in their broadcasts. RTÉ will endeavour to work with teams internally and with teams in the independent production sector to expand the range of programming doing this over the next three years.

Across radio and television our continuity announcers will adapt a bilingual approach when introducing programmes at key primetime junctures in pre and post watershed. RTÉ is confident that the additional programming suggested for Television and the increase in our bilingual offering as well as all our other commitments to the language will greatly increase the visibility of Irish in our schedules and services over the next three years.

By year three of this new linear television plan RTÉ will see an increase of over 1,100 hours of Irish Language content broadcast from the figures outlined in 2017. In 2023 RTÉ commits to broadcasting a minimum of 890 hours of content, an increase of over 700 hours from the 2017 figures. In 2024 RTÉ commits to broadcasting a minimum of 1000 hours an increase of over 800 hours and in the final year, 2025 RTÉ commits to broadcasting over 1,200 hours an increase of over 1,000 hours.

Year	2023	2024	2025	Total
Projected minimum total	890	1060	1270	3220

The following is a genre breakdown of programming for each channel over the next three years. Genre numbers may vary from year to year depending on commissions.

Irish language hours on RTÉ television services, 2023

RTÉ commits to broadcasting a minimum of **890** hours of Irish Language content across our four linear television channels during 2023. This represents an increase of nearly 400 hours from the beginning of our first plan in January 2020. These hours are comprised of all genres and feature a mix of in-house and commissioned originals and acquired programmes from TG4.

Irish Language Hours 2023					
GENRES	RTÉ ONE	RTÉ 2	RTÉ Jr	RTÉ NEWS	TOTAL
DRAMA	41				41
YOUNG PEOPLE		80	365		445
SPORT				21	21
FACTUAL CLÁRACHA GAEILGE	13				
ACQUISITION/IPU FACTUAL	24	20			57
NEWS / CURRENT AFFAIRS	49			237	286
ADDITIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS	20			20	40
TOTAL	147	100	365	278	890

- RTÉ one will broadcast over **147** hours of acquired drama, various in-house and commissioned factual and *Nuacht* daily. RTÉ Cláracha Gaeilge will continue to operate as a fulltime unit. RTÉ ONE will have a new weekly current affairs series.
- RTÉ2 will broadcast **100** hours of content, which include various children's series. It also includes acquired programmes as part of our partnership initiative 'RTÉ/TG4 Ar scáth a chéile', where RTÉ broadcast acquired content, which was originally commissioned and broadcast on TG4. This content will also feature on the RTÉ Player.

- RTÉJr will have a dedicated hour of Irish Language programming daily, made up of live action and animation, some home produced, and some acquired content, delivering 365 hours to the schedule. RTÉ will increase its investment in multidub animation and will produce three series per annum each year, beginning in 2023.
- RTÉ commits to broadcasting over **250** hours of News and Current Affairs content in 2023. This will be made up of daily *bulletins from*, Nuacht RTÉ le TG4, Nuacht TG4 and Current Affairs series, *Seacht Lá*. The commentary ‘as Gaeilge’ will also be available as a standalone channel on the RTÉ Player. The service is also available on RTÉ 2, by choosing ‘Irish’ as language choice under audio.
- RTÉ will continue to invest in Irish Language programming through the Independent Production Unit, and in partnership with the Irish Language broadcasting fund and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland’s Sound and Vision fund. RTÉ currently has 24 hours of production scheduled for 2023 and we are continually working with independent productions for future rounds.

Irish language hours on RTÉ television services, 2024

RTÉ commits to broadcasting a minimum of **1,000** hours of Irish Language content across our four linear television channels during 2024. These hours are comprised of all genres and feature a mix of in-house and commissioned originals and acquired programmes from TG4.

Irish Language Hours 2024					
GENRES	RTÉ ONE	RTÉ 2	RTÉ JR	RTÉ NEWS	TOTAL
DRAMA	41				41
YOUNG PEOPLE		100	547		647
SPORT				21	21
FACTUAL CLÁRACHA GAEILGE	13				
ACQUISITION/IPU - FACTUAL		20			33
NEWS / CURRENT AFFAIRS	49			237	286
ADDITIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS	20			20	40
TOTAL	123	120	547	278	1068

- RTÉ one will broadcast over **123** hours of acquired drama, various in-house and commissioned factual and Nuacht daily. RTÉ Cláracha Gaeilge will continue to operate as a fulltime unit. RTÉ ONE will have a new weekly current affairs series. These hours currently don't include content RTÉ will commission through BAI and ILBF funding rounds.
- RTÉ2 will broadcast **120** hours of content, which include various children's series. It also includes acquired programmes as part of our partnership initiative 'RTÉ/TG4 Ar scáth a chéile', where RTÉ broadcast acquired content, which was originally commissioned and broadcast on TG4. This content will also feature on the RTÉ Player.

- RTÉJr will have a dedicated hour and a half of Irish Language programming daily, made up of live action and animation, some home produced, and some acquired content, delivering **547** hours to the schedule. RTÉ will increase its investment in multidub animation and will produce three series per annum each year, beginning in 2023.
- RTÉ commits to broadcasting over **250** hours of News and Current Affairs content in 2024. This will be made up of daily bulletins from, Nuacht RTÉ le TG4, Nuacht TG4 and Current Affairs series, *Seacht Lá*, as well as RTÉ's new Current Affairs series. The commentary 'as Gaeilge' will also be available as a standalone channel on the RTÉ Player. The service is also available on RTÉ 2, by choosing 'Irish' as language choice under audio.
- RTÉ will continue to invest in Irish Language programming through the Independent Production Unit, and in partnership with the Irish Language broadcasting fund and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland's Sound and Vision fund.

Irish language hours on RTÉ television services, 2025

RTÉ commits to broadcasting a minimum of **1,200** hours of Irish Language content across our four linear television channels during 2025. These hours are comprised of all genres and feature a mix of in-house and commissioned originals and acquired programmes from TG4.

Irish Language Hours 2025					
GENRES	RTÉ ONE	RTÉ 2	RTÉ JR	RTÉ NEWS	TOTAL
DRAMA	41				41
YOUNG PEOPLE		120	730		850
SPORT				21	21
FACTUAL CLÁRACHA GAEILGE	13				
ACQUISITION/IPU - FACTUAL		20			33
NEWS / CURRENT AFFAIRS	49			237	286
ADDITIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS	20			20	40
TOTAL	123	140	730	278	1271

- RTÉ one will broadcast over **123** hours of acquired drama, various in-house and commissioned factual and Nuacht daily. RTÉ Cláracha Gaeilge will continue to operate as a fulltime unit. RTÉ One will have a new weekly current affairs series. These hours currently don't include content RTÉ will commission through BAI and ILBF funds.
- RTÉ2 will broadcast **140** hours of content, which include various childrens series. It also includes acquired programmes as part of our partnership initiative 'RTÉ/TG4 Ar scáth a chéile', where RTÉ broadcast acquired content, which was originally commissioned and broadcast on TG4. This content will also feature on the RTÉ Player.

- RTÉJr will have a dedicated hour and a half of Irish Language programming daily, made up of live action and animation, some home produced and some acquired content, delivering **730** hours to the schedule. RTÉ will increase its investment in multidub animation and will produce three series per annum each year, beginning in 2023.
- RTÉ commits to broadcasting over **250** hours of News and Current Affairs content in 2025. This will be made up of daily bulletins from, Nuacht RTÉ le TG4, Nuacht TG4 and Current Affairs series, *Seacht Lá*, as well as RTÉ's new Current Affairs series. The commentary 'as Gaeilge' will also be available as a standalone channel on the RTÉ Player. The service is also available on RTÉ 2, by choosing 'Irish' as language choice under audio.
- RTÉ will continue to invest in Irish Language programming through the Independent Production Unit, and in partnership with the Irish Language broadcasting fund and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland's Sound and Vision fund.