

Reference ID: PAC28

Query: If RTÉ could send correspondence to NK asking him which invoices and presenters, he was referring to in the Grant Thornton report

Response: Letter attached.

24 August 2023

Mr Noel Kelly
NK Management
3A Granite Place
Ballsbridge
D04 KW14

By Email Only: noel@cmsmarketing.com

Re: Consultancy fees as referenced in Grant Thornton report/Oireachtas and PAC hearings.

Dear Mr Kelly

I refer to a statement made by the Cathaoirleach at the PAC hearings on July 13th last which suggested that when interviewed by Grant Thornton for the purposes of their report into payments made to Ryan Tubridy that you “*identified a substantial number of invoices on behalf of various other clients where the term “Consultancy Fees” is used particularly in the context of commercial dealings with non-broadcast parties*”. In response to this statement RTÉ’s DG stated that he was unclear whether you were referring to invoices to RTÉ or to other organisations in your evidence.

We have been asked by the Cathaoirleach of the PAC to clarify this with you and we would be grateful if you could confirm whether the term consultancy fees has been used in any invoices provided to RTÉ other than the two invoices identified at the centre of the Grant Thornton Report. For ease of reference, we attach an extract of the transcript of this exchange.

Yours sincerely

Sent by e-mail bears no signature

RTÉ Solicitors' Office
Montrose, Donnybrook, Dublin 4

Extract of PAC hearing, July 13th 2023

An Cathaoirleach: *We are given to believe that this was the only time. Noel Kelly, in fairness to him, came before us voluntarily. He co-operated with the Grant Thornton report. He said he advised Grant Thornton that he “identified a substantial number of invoices on behalf of various other clients where the term ‘Consultancy Fees’ is used particularly in the context of commercial dealings with non-broadcaster or third parties.”*

KB unclear about whether NK was referring to invoices to RTÉ or other organisations.

AL: *I think it was really clear from Mr. Kelly’s testimony, when I watched it, that he was fully convinced when he raised these two invoices for the UK company, from CMS, that they were for Renault.*

...

An Cathaoirleach: *...We would like clarification and to see receipts of what Mr. Kelly is referring to. If Mr. Kelly is looking in I suggest that it would be helpful **if correspondence could be sent to him by RTÉ** asking him which invoices and which presenters or talent he was referring to there because a substantial number are referred to in the Grant Thornton report. That would be helpful.*