

Reference ID: PAC02_OCT23

PAC Letter Ref: n/a email

Query: That RTÉ write to all employees of RTÉ asking them about gifts from 2017;

Response:

RTÉ is currently in the process of setting up a gift register. RTÉ has already circulated outline proposals to the RTÉ TUG and the RTE MA on establishing a Register of Gifts. Final proposals on a Register of Interests and a Register of External Activities will go to the RTÉ ILT this month and once approved, RTÉ will engage with the Compliance Unit of the Data Protection Commission to obtain their views on the data protection implications before they are commenced. The same will apply to a Register of Gifts. This will deal with all gifts going forward.

RTÉ does not believe that can carry out the request to write to all employees asking them about gifts from 2017. Firstly, it would not be possible to compel a reply to such correspondence. Secondly, there would be very little confidence in the accuracy and substantiveness of the aggregate answer provided owing to the difficulty in implementation, the inability to compel replies, the fact of staff turnover/churn in the intervening period, the natural frailty of human memory and the lack of a centralised database against which the replies could be cross-referred.