

Reference ID: PAC04_OCT23

PAC Letter Ref: n/a email

Query: Confirmation as to whether there are two freelancers working on the Late Late Show corresponding with other people doing the same jobs, and if so, why;

Response:

RTÉ regularly works with a number of directors and other staff on a freelance basis alongside its highly experienced in-house teams, based on competing production schedules and other production demands.

Alan Byrne, who directed the Late Late Show last year, was assigned from the summer to direct Ireland 100: An Old Song Resung, a large-scale television and cross-media event that formally brought the State's Decade of Centenaries Programme to a close. This programme was broadcast across RTÉ One television, RTÉ Radio 1 and RTE Player on Monday 30th October. Alan has now finished his work on this event and has started work on Ireland's biggest tv event of the year, The Late Late Toy Show, which will air later this month. He will return to The Late Late Show as director from January.

Stephen Stewart, one of Ireland's foremost directors who has regularly worked with RTÉ, was hired to direct the Late Late Show from September to December.

Mindful of costs while also trying to deliver the best possible show to our audience, a celebrity booker was also engaged for a short period. Our aim is to widen our pool of guests over the season and deliver the best possible experience to the audience. This will be kept under review as the season progresses.