

An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



Mr Sam Keenan  
Administrative Officer  
Committee Secretariat  
Committee Public Accounts  
PAC@oireachtas.ie

01 February 2024

Our Ref: CHG-MO-00092-2024

**RE: Progress on the Mazars RTÉ Examination**

Dear Sam,

I refer to your email of 16 January requesting an update on the progress of the Mazars examination into the barter account and any other off-balance sheet accounts held by RTÉ.

Mazars' examination is at an advanced stage. Mazars are now working on the completion of a single final report that will encompass both the original and the expanded terms of reference previously shared with the Committee in October 2023. Accordingly, this final report will incorporate what were previously referred to as Mazars 2 and Mazars 3.

As the Minister informed the Committee in October, Mazars' expanded terms of reference have been inserted to inform the deliberations of the Expert Advisory Committee on Governance and Culture. It is therefore intended to publish the final Mazars report alongside the Reviews of Governance and Culture and of Contractor Fees, HR and Other Matters in RTÉ which are being undertaken by the Expert Advisory Committees appointed by the Minister. The Minister understands that the work programmes of both Expert Advisory Committees provide for submission to the Minister at the end of February.

However, as with other reviews of this nature, the reports of both Expert Advisory Committees must adhere to the principle of natural justice and fair procedure. Accordingly, both reports must be reviewed by the Committee's external legal advisors and relevant extracts must be shared with relevant parties prior to their submission to the Minister. Given the inherent uncertainty involved with the process of legal review and engagement with relevant parties, while it is still hoped to achieve the end-February timeline it is not possible at this point to provide a guaranteed timeline for the submission of the reports to the Minister.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Francis', is written over a horizontal line.

Helen Francis  
Private Secretary