

Reference ID: JOC21

JOC Letter Ref: JCM-1-1436 and JCM-1-1451

Query: Full detail of all projects (including, but not limited to, those in relation to productions, equipment, capital works, or personnel) that were cancelled over the period 2019-2023

Response:

Below is a list of cancelled projects in Operations, Technology and Property and Services:

Air Handling Unit Compliance	Operations	50,000	2022	Cancelled due to Covid protocols at the time. Contractors were not available and it would not have been possible to have the required number of people on site in confined areas. Work still outstanding and new project will be raised.
Floor Covering & Blinds	Property & Services	€50,000	2022	Project as originally scoped was cancelled. This was a general project to address floor coverings and blinds across the site. Given the state of three toilet blocks in TV Building made sense to redirect funds to the refurbishment of those, which included replacement of floors in those toilet blocks.
Protective Coatings External Building Fabric	Property & Services	€50,000	2022	Project as originally scoped was cancelled. This was a general project for interior painting and external painting. Funds redistributed to the refurbishment of three toilet blocks in the TV Building.
Music Returns	Technology	€50,000	2022	Once project was approved, the team identified an alternative strategy - and developed a SharePoint site to meet the needs.

Production:

During the period 2019 to 2023 no programming was cut for cost reasons. Editorial choices drive changes in the television, radio, and digital channels. The statutory amount RTÉ was required to spend in 2020 was €40.2m (2019: €39.9m). In 2020 RTÉ paid into the Independent Programmes account the full amount in accordance with the Broadcasting Act 2009.

However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the cancellation or postponement of many productions, RTÉ was not in a position to expend the full amount. While many productions were able to adapt their production methods, some types of programming were prevented by public health advice and pandemic restrictions. In 2020, total statutory expenditure was €36.5m, which was €3.7m below the statutory requirement.

As per the Broadcasting Act 2009, any monies not expended in 2020 will be spent within the following two years.

2021 was Ireland's second year of Covid, and a full year of pandemic restrictions of varying levels. Indeed, the year began under full Level 5 restrictions. 2021 was a year of sustained production and investment in the Irish independent audiovisual sector, which saw RTÉ not only achieving its annual statutory spend but also making up the shortfall in spend from 2020.

Please see attached detail.

Content changes 2019 - 2023

2019

2020

In house

Covid	Rose of Tralee - event was cancelled by the organisers, Kerry Rose Festival resulting in a loss of 6 hours programming over 2 nights.
Covid	Ask Me Anything - 3 episodes were recorded however due to the lockdown it wasn't possible to complete the series,
Covid	Keith Barry - was scheduled for 4 episodes Spring, no programmes were recorded
Covid	Up for the match - cancelled
Covid	Fair City had to suspend production during the initial stages of Covid.
Covid	Sport - curtailed
Covid	GAA season shortened
Covid	Champions league shortened
Covid	RDS dublin horse show cancelled
Covid	Euro 2020 and Olympics 2020 moved to 2021

Orchestras	RTENSO & RTECO concerts cancelled
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Commissions

Covid	Dancing with the Stars Loss of final episode. Series contracted for 12 episodes of 120mins. 11 episodes delivered in a shortened run.
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Acquired	Programmes not made or acquired.
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Radio	no contributors in studio no outside broadcasts
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2021

In house	Fair City - production limited to 3 episodes a week until august Rose of Tralee - event was cancelled by the organisers, Kerry Rose Festival resulting in a loss of 6 hours programming over 2 nights.
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Commissions

Covid	Dancing with the Stars not made
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Acquired	Programmes not made or acquired.
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Radio	limited contributors in studio
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2022

no programmes cancelled

2023

no programmes cancelled

Independent Productions

Year	Statutory Requirement	Actual Statutory Spend	Variance	TV Hours	Radio Hours	Total Hours
2019	39.9	40.1	0.2	475.0	199.0	674.0
2020	40.2	36.5	(3.7)	499.0	521.0	1,020.0
2021	39.8	43.6	3.8	537.0	389.0	926.0
2022	41.0	42.7	1.7	485.0	414.0	899.0

SCHEDULE 5: 2019 STATUTORY EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES BY PROGRAMME CATEGORY

TELEVISION	Programme Category Total Hours	B/F	New Contracts	C/f	Total Spend
Factual	202	4,410	19,755	(4,366)	19,799
Arts and Culture	8	244	485	(120)	609
Cláracha Gaeilge	91	30	3,259	(1,529)	1,760
Entertainment and Music	67	1,931	8,072	(2,675)	7,328
Drama and Comedy	27	520	3,237	(522)	3,235
Sport	5 -	14	436	(170)	252
Young People	76	670	3,625	(575)	3,720
Overall Totals	475	7,791	38,869	(9,957)	36,703
Awards – Schemes					74
Overheads and other costs (Schedule 7)					2,169
Direct Expenditure Incurred					38,946

SCHEDULE 5: 2020 STATUTORY EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES BY PROGRAMME CATEGORY

TELEVISION	Programme Category Total Hours	B/F	New Contracts	C/f	Total Spend
Factual	215	4,372	20,754	(6,682)	18,464
Arts and Culture	8	124	657	(439)	342
Cláracha Gaeilge	25	1,552	831	(439)	1,944
Entertainment and Music	29	2,305	2,995	(75)	5,225
Drama and Comedy	29 -	781	3,742	(1,125)	1,836
Sport	-	170	-	(55)	115
Young People	193	573	5,616	(1,144)	5,045
Overall Totals	499	8,315	34,595	(9,959)	32,971
Awards – Schemes					51
Overheads and other costs (Schedule 7)					2,203
Direct Expenditure Incurred					35,225

SCHEDULE 5: 2021 STATUTORY EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES BY PROGRAMME CATEGORY

TELEVISION	Programme Category Total Hours	B/F	New Contracts	C/f	Total Spend
Factual	186	6,240	19,338	(6,188)	19,390
Arts and Culture	12	461	812	(239)	1,034
Cláracha Gaeilge	89	441	2,595	(795)	2,241
Entertainment and Music	70 -	20	10,272	(2,896)	7,356
Drama and Comedy	33	1,206	4,414	(973)	4,647
Sport	67	71	1,829	(784)	1,116
Young People	81	1,146	4,088	(937)	4,297
Overall Totals	537	9,545	43,348	(12,812)	40,081
Awards – Schemes					51
Overheads and other costs (Schedule 7)					2,165
Direct Expenditure Incurred					42,297

SCHEDULE 5: 2022 STATUTORY EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES BY PROGRAMME CATEGORY

TELEVISION	Programme Category Total Hours	B/F	New Contracts	C/f	Total Spend
Factual	177	5,672	18,041	(5,651)	18,062
Arts and Culture	16	204	616	(197)	623
Cláracha Gaeilge	64	723	2,374	(892)	2,205
Entertainment and Music	83	3,598	11,503	(5,146)	9,955
Drama and Comedy	10	94	2,845	(450)	2,489
Sport	72	665	2,264	(965)	1,964
Young People	65	965	4,597	(1,854)	3,708
Overall Totals	485	11,921	42,240	(15,155)	39,006
Awards – Schemes					74
Overheads and other costs (Schedule 7)					2,260

