



# An Coimisiún um Thodhchaí na Meán The Future of Media Commission

## Future of Media Commission Thursday, 29 Oct 2020 Minutes

### In attendance

#### Commission Members

- Professor Brian MacCraith (Chair)
- Ms. Sinéad Burke
- Professor Gillian Doyle
- Dr. Finola Doyle O'Neill
- Ms. Lynette Fay
- Ms. Siobhán Holliman
- Mr. Mark Little
- Mr. Stephen McNamara
- Ms. Nuala O'Connor
- Mr. Alan Rusbridger

#### Secretariat

- Andrew Munro, Secretary to the Future of Media Commission, Department of the Taoiseach
- Cathal O'Regan, Department of the Taoiseach
- Elizabeth Lyne, Department of the Taoiseach
- Patricia Murphy, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Triona Quill, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Mary Mooney, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media



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## 1 Introductions

The Chair opened proceedings by welcoming Members to the inaugural meeting and thanking them for agreeing to serve on the Commission.

Short video messages from the Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD, and Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht, Catherine Martin TD, were played. The messages outlined the importance of the Commission's work for democracy and society and thanked the members for agreeing to participate in the work of the Commission.

The Chair invited all meeting participants, including the Commission Members and the Secretariat, to briefly introduce themselves.

## 2 Operating Principles and Housekeeping

The Commission noted and agreed the following operating principles

- The Commission is - in terms of its approach to its work, its analysis, findings and conclusions - independent of Government.
- Members have been appointed to the Commission by the Government on the basis of personal expertise, not as representatives of any interest group or sector.
- The Commission will engage actively with the public and all relevant stakeholders to obtain their input into the questions under consideration by the Commission.
- The Commission aims to identify the optimal solutions to the challenges it has been asked to address.
- The Commission will aim to reach a consensus on its findings and recommendations
- To achieve both those preceding aims Commission members will speak frankly, respectfully, and openly, ensure that every member is heard, and explore all work with open minds.
- The Commission will treat its internal discussions and any draft findings and recommendations as confidential while the work of the Commission is ongoing.
- The minutes of Commission meetings will be published on the Commission's website.
- Media Queries: It is anticipated that the Commission will receive queries from the media. It is proposed that, in general, any queries received will be answered by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chair as appropriate. Where individual Commission members engage with the media, they are asked to respect the operating principles of the Commission.



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## **3 Discussion on Terms of Reference/Key Questions**

The Chair broadly outlined the Terms of Reference for the Commission's work, as agreed by Government. The Chair then invited discussion on the Terms of Reference and the key questions to be answered in fulfilling the Terms of Reference.

There followed a broad-ranging discussion regarding the key questions to be addressed by the Commission, the need to define key concepts and on information sources and data gaps, and the need for consultation and research.

The Chair asked the Secretariat to review, and amend as appropriate, the key questions to be addressed by the Commission in light of the discussion.

The Secretariat is also to prepare a discussion paper on some of the key definitions (e.g. "public", "Public service media" ...) and a paper on information sources, gaps and research and consultation needs around media consumption by the public.

## **4 Initial Discussion on Preliminary Draft Outline of Report Structure**

The Chair invited initial discussion on a preliminary draft outline structure of the Commission's report which would be developed as a guide for the Commission's work plan, and invited members to submit any suggestions they may have in writing.

## **5 Schedule for future meetings**

Members agreed to meet on a fortnightly basis for the period of the Commission's work.

## **6 Actions Arising**

- Secretariat to prepare a discussion paper on some of the key definitions.
- Secretariat to prepare a paper on information sources, gaps and research and consultation needs around media consumption by the public.
- Secretariat to circulate schedule of future meetings.