



ALF | An Lucht Féachana | Audience Listeners Foundation

Dear Chair and Committee Members

I fear that your role will not produce the required reform in Broadcasting required. I fear that a conclusion has already been set for your work. I believe that you will only recommend the following:-

1. Set up a new charge to fund public service broadcasting
2. Retain the sound and vision fund, but also provide it to on demand services
3. Create a new fund separate to that of the Sound and Vision fund, administered by the BAI, to provide funding to independent TV, Radio, print and online media for news content.

However, if RTÉ cannot be reformed, and broadcast in general, then the Audience will not see any change to the content that they currently receive.

I do not think that the commission will consider children's content, drama, comedy, film or many other forms of cultural content that broadcasters provide on a daily basis.

If your conclusion is to only to provide a "clear pathway to reform the TV Licence system" so that RTÉ may "return to a stable financial position" and fulfill their "public service remit", while "sustaining much of what they do today"¹ then I call on you to ask the Government to reform the method of collection before the end of the month. To drag the licence fee payer and the audience through a nine month wait on a predetermined decision is wasteful.

On the other hand, if actual reform can be delivered with the input of the audience I wait patiently for the Commission's report and the subsequent reforms being made without hesitation by the government of the day.

However, and with the greatest of respect, the Commission has already failed the audience. The quick announcement of public participation during the biggest pandemic that the world has ever seen, but also during the Christmas period when most people will have families and other important thoughts on their mind.

I note that while there is a wide diversity of experts on the commission, it has no member of the audience.

Content Matters. Audiences Matter.

Kind Regards,

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An Lucht Feachana | Audience Listeners Foundation | ALF*

¹ Quotes taken from a memo sent to RTÉ Staff by Director General Dee Forbes.

https://www.superannrte.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7526:dee-forbes-rte-director-general-updated&catid=31&Itemid=104