

From: [REDACTED]
To: info@futureofmediacommission.ie
Subject: Submission to Future of Media Commission
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Submission to the Future of Media Commission

8th January 2021

From Aontú Dublin,

Media – main means of mass communication, in this case TV, Radio, Print, New Media (internet based)

Firstly it should be stated that **RTE** is no longer fit for purpose, it's stated mission to “be outward looking, creative, respectful, sustainable and accountable, collaborative and transparent” has been long ignored & replaced with a biased behemoth that is a waste to taxpayers money.

We strongly feel that it should be de-funded and the TV licence fee scrapped.

Instead a **Media Commission** should offer a grant system to any Irish media to produce culturally significant documentaries.

This should include much grant aid to TG4 to continue to produce quality programming in the Irish language and should similarly offer grant aid to other independent stations who want to also produce quality programming in Irish, similarly promotion of Irish music & music in the Irish language should be supported.

Besides this, all media should be independent of State funding & allowed to compete fairly.

Advertising: the Media Commission should oversee all advertising, in particular to make sure adverts are fair, honest & aired at appropriate times and have powers to remove adverts and fine as appropriate.

All media need to be overseen by this Commission to be certain that advertising can not influence news pieces in any way.

Large Media Groups: At the moment large media groups have unfair & unreasonable influence on news production & reach. Our media is seen by most as biased & often self-interested & this needs to be addressed.

The situation where one group (e.g. Communicorp) controls so much of our national and local airwaves, should not be allowed to continue as it allows undue influence over programming and news reporting.

Transparency in ownership of medium to large media should be enshrined in law & no single group should be able to have ownership over more than 20% of the national or local airwaves (by listenership and excluding the national broadcaster if they continue to exist).

Politics & media: at the moment there is no real oversight of political influence in media (& vice versa) & this needs to be urgently changed and policed. The state should have **no role** in deciding what news is fit for consumption.

All registered political parties need to see that they get fair & reasonable time on air & column inches in national & local media (based on their votes in recent elections) and this also needs to be policed by the new Media Commission.

Social Media monopolies need to be legislated to stop their control over what people hear & see.

The new Media Commission: Firstly this needs to be totally independent, with all members drawn from outside of media groups.

For preference, all or most members drawn by lottery from a list of all interested candidates would be best, with 1 and 2 year seats. It should be governed by strict rules to remain fair & impartial in all areas.

Signed for Aontú Dublin

Conrad Donlon



Contact us by phone or email for clarification on any issues.