



Independent Productions Annual Report 2015



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INTRODUCTION

RTÉ is Ireland's largest public-service media organisation. Its comprehensive range of programming on television and radio reflects the culture, lives and diversity of modern Ireland. That is why it is part of the fabric of the daily lives of the Irish public. In 2015, 92% of Irish people over 18¹ used an RTÉ service weekly, or more frequently.

Independent commissioning is integral to RTÉ's success. In 2015, we worked with over 100 independent production companies who delivered high-quality, distinctively Irish programming on television, radio or digital. That creativity helped set us apart from our competitors in an increasingly crowded media landscape.

Working with the independent sector supports employment and brings diversity to the station's schedules. We look forward to strengthening our partnership with the independent sector as we continue to serve our audience in 2016. Under the *Broadcasting Act 2009* (the Act), RTÉ has a statutory obligation to spend a predetermined minimum amount (the statutory amount) every year on independently produced television and radio programmes. This amount is lodged to a separate account known as the Independent Programmes Account which is required to be reported on under the Act. This report outlines RTÉ's management of this account.

The statutory amount RTÉ was required to spend in 2015 was €39.5m (2014: €39.4m). See Schedule 1 for further analysis and explanation. RTÉ's investment in commissioned programmes continues to exceed the required spend. Total expenditure in 2015 was €40.6m. Programme production is financially and contractually managed through the Television and Radio Independent Productions departments.

> ¹Source: Weekly + Reach of Any RTÉ Service in 2015, RTÉ Brand Tracker/Behaviour & Attitudes





THE YEAR IN REVIEW TELEVISION



In 2015, RTÉ investigated, challenged and entertained the nation with 1,478 hours of independently produced television programmes. We offered audiences of all ages Ireland's broadest range of home-produced public-service programming on RTÉ One HD, RTÉ One +1, RTÉ2 HD, RTÉ News Now and RTÉjr.

RTÉ is at the heart of the national conversation. In 2015, despite increased competition from home and abroad, RTÉ One and RTÉ2 delivered 15 of the top 20 most-popular programmes of the year. A new Irish television channel was launched and there were increased choices for audiences on a range of emerging platforms yet, time and again, whether in periods of crisis or celebration, audiences turned to RTÉ.

The expenditure committed to new commissioning in 2015 was \bigcirc 33.0m (excluding RTÉ attributable organisational overhead), in respect of a total of 406 hours of programming (see page 23 for further details).

RTÉ One, the most popular choice

RTÉ One was the most popular choice in Ireland for all audiences, with a channel share of 25%¹. The schedule offered a fresh slate of compelling drama, high quality documentary, comedy, arts, entertainment and music programming, in both languages, along with Ireland's leading news and current affairs service. Over 848 hours of independently produced programming across a range of genres contributed to the channel's success throughout the year.

¹ Source: All Individuals, Peak Share, 2015 RTÉ One (incl RTÉ One + 1), TAM Ireland Ltd/Nielsen TAM

Time and again, whether in periods of crisis or celebration, audiences turn to RTÉ.



Clean Break



Rebellion



The Voice of Ireland

Agenda-setting Drama

In January 2015, *Charlie*, the three-part series based on former Fianna Fáil leader Charlie Haughey, generated huge audience engagement. The series attracted an average consolidated audience of 783,000 and a 43.8% audience share. It delivered a strong impact and wide engagement among younger viewers, where it served as a trigger for broad discourse in media around politics and recent history.

Clean Break was broadcast in October 2015. The series brought theatre writer Billy Roche to a broad Irish audience with his own distinctive style of storytelling. The series afforded the opportunity to bring new casts to Irish screens and introduce award-winning Irish director Damien O'Donnell to television drama.

Rebellion went into production as a five-part serial drama with the brief to commemorate the Easter 1916 Rising by engaging broad audiences. Given the scale of the ambition for the project, co-production was necessary and, with backing from international distributors Zodiak Media, Sundance TV was brought in as a co-producer. Telling a story with fictional characters set during real events, *Rebellion* brought together the best of Irish talent both onscreen and off-screen.

In a break with the recent pattern of commissioned series, *Storyland* 2015 commissioned five individual twenty-minute dramas for online distribution via the RTÉ Player. Commissioning single dramas gave the writer, producer and director teams more scope for depth and dramatic intensity.

Following a period of review with the short-film schemes in the Galway Resource Centre and Film Base Galway, a new structure has been implemented for the selection of projects. Shortlisted writers are now being assigned a producer, giving great opportunity for development. Following this process, a director is then attached to bring their vision to a well-developed script. The ambition is to improve the quality of storytelling on film and attract new talent to television.

World-class Entertainment

In 2015, RTÉ maintained and consolidated its reputation as a major source of high quality entertainment programming, delivering compelling content to large and diverse audiences.

RTÉ is a major commissioner of prime-time entertainment programming from independent producers and works in partnership with the sector to originate and produce world-class content.

Returning prime-time formats proved very engaging with audiences of all ages and demographics. The fourth series of *The Voice of Ireland* saw new coaches Una Foden and Rachel Stevens join Bressie and Kian Egan in the spinning chairs, and with Kathryn Thomas and Eoghan McDermott once again at the helm of the show, it performed particularly strongly in its slot. A fifth series of the show was also commissioned in 2015 and went into production in the later part of the year. *Ireland's Fittest Family* returned in the autumn for its most popular outing to date. Series veterans Davy Fitzgerald and Jason Sherlock were joined by rugby star Alan Quinlan and Cork camogie legend Anna Geary.

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New series *Lords and Ladles* also had a very successful debut and attracted significant BAI funding thanks to a tasty mix of cooking, history and stunning locations.

Innovators

RTÉ provided an innovative range of one-off entertainment programmes, including: *Ireland and the Eurovision – The Good, The Bad and the Ugly*, in which the story of Ireland's 50 year involvement with the biggest song contest in the world was told.

2015 also saw RTÉ continue to develop its quiz programming, as a new quiz format, *Four Heads*, had a successful pilot transmission with Nicky Byrne as presenter.

RTÉ was once again the main focal point for all major national celebrations and St Patrick's Day 2015 featured extensive television coverage of the Dublin parade and St Patrick's Festival highlights.

And, as always, entertainment programming formed the backbone of RTÉ's Christmas schedule in 2015 and included: *Well Holy God – It's Glenroe*, a popular visit back to the much-loved world of Dinny, Miley and Biddy; and *Daniel O'Donnell & Friends*, where Daniel hosted a lively mix of music, dance and magic.

Holding up a Mirror to the Nation

RTÉ's lifestyle programming seeks to reflect issues relevant to a mainstream audience.

2015 started extremely well for the genre with *Operation Transformation*, a strong example of how public-service media can use several platforms to hold its audience despite competition from other channels. On Sunday nights, the Brennan brothers continued to charm and assist small hotel and guesthouse owners as *At Your Service* maintained its strong audience share.

Meanwhile, the eighth series of *Room to Improve* exceeded all expectations, delivering an average 37% of the available audience in its new 9.30 p.m. Sunday-night slot. Also playing in a post-watershed slot, and having great public value, *Higher Hopes* continued to follow the triumphs of The High Hopes Choir, charting their considerable progress in the year since the original series was broadcast. The series was a testament to television's continuing ability to really change lives. More post-watershed lifestyle series are now in the pipeline, with *Toughest Place to Be*, where people do their current jobs in developing countries, be it delivering post or collecting refuse, and *Dylan McGrath's Make*

or Break, both commissioned for delivery to post-watershed slots in 2016.

In the earlier 7 p.m. Thursday-evening slot, the ever popular *Getaways*, a co-production with BBC Northern Ireland, reconnected us with the sun in early January.

Robust Journalism

In spring 2015, *The Consumer Show* and *Home of the Year* continued to provide quality lifestyle programming. *The Consumer Show*, presented by Keelin Shanley with Ella McSweeney and Tadhg Enright, mixed campaigns with information and robust journalism, bringing RTÉ's lifestyle programming seeks to reflect issues relevant to a mainstream audience.



Well Holy God - It's Glenroe



Room to Improve

serious and frequently contentious issues to the attention of Irish viewers over ten weeks. In *Home of the Year*, viewers got a chance to see the creativity that lies behind the hall door of many Irish homes.

In autumn 2015, offerings included the second series of the very popular docu-soap *The Shelbourne*, alongside *A Week to My Wedding* and the new medical series *You Should Really See a Doctor.* The latter saw Dr Pixie McKenna and Dr Phil Kieran travel the length and breadth of the country to diagnose and treat patients. The doctors were housed in a purpose-built mobile clinic and, as well as identifying and treating ailments, they tackled the issue of cyberchondria, as patients increasingly self-diagnose from the Internet, with often alarming results.

First-class Storytellers

Great storytelling is at the heart of RTÉ One's factual programming. That means telling stories that have many layers beyond those evident at first glance and telling stories that explore issues beneath the surface of Irish life today. RTÉ One's documentaries take a significant and considered approach to state-of-the-nation issues and are delivered with the highest possible production values.

Highlights from 2015 include *The Recruits*, in which the Irish army gave exclusive permission to chronicle their work as they try to mould young men and women into soldiers, and *Hidden Impact* – *Concussion*, a revealing documentary that went in search of answers to awkward and unpopular questions about the game of rugby. *Collusion*, a landmark feature-length documentary, examined the extent of collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and security forces, which resulted in many murders throughout the Northern Ireland Troubles.

Other major documentaries in 2015 included *Ireland's Great Wealth Divide*, in which economist David McWilliams examined who actually made money in the recession; *Death of a Son – The Killing of Michael Dwyer*, which followed Caroline Dwyer on her search to find out why and how her son Michael was shot dead by secret police in Bolivia in 2009; and *Boston Nanny*, which told the story behind the case of Aisling Brady McCarthy, the County Cavan woman who was freed earlier in 2015 after spending over two years in prison accused of killing a one-year-old baby.

New Perspectives on 1916

A broad range of 1916-related documentaries was commissioned in 2014/2015, including *The Enemy Files*, in which Michael Portillo goes on a journey from Downing Street to the republican plot at Glasnevin cemetery. Along the way he briefs himself and the viewer about the events in Dublin from the accounts held in British archives – be they military dispatches, personal memoirs, intelligence reports or official correspondence. Joe Duffy uncovers the tragic stories of the 38 children killed during the Easter Rising in *Children of the Revolution*. Meanwhile, *Seven Women* reveals the incredible stories of seven women of 1916.

16 Letters was an innovative and ambitious digital humanities project, gathering correspondence from the year of the Rising from ordinary people, private collections and national archives. It provided new and often very personal perspectives on 1916. The



Ireland's Great Wealth Divide



Death Of A Son - The Killing of Michael Dwyer

Great storytelling is at the heart of RTÉ One's factual programming. That means telling stories that have many layers beyond those evident at first glance and telling stories that explore issues beneath the surface of Irish life today.

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project was supported by Trinity College Dublin, NUIM and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Arts, the Schedule's Lifeblood

Arts and culture form part of the lifeblood of RTÉ television schedules. In 2015, RTÉ delivered a range of new arts documentaries and series. *Designing Ireland*, a four-part RTÉ/BAI-funded landmark series, was commissioned to mark ID2015, the Year of Irish Design. Each week, architect Angela Brady OBE and design critic Dr Sandra O'Connell explored different aspects of the story of modern-day Irish design.

In *Brent Pope: Inside Out*, the rugby pundit championed outsider art, created by people with no formal training who feel compelled through circumstance to express themselves through the medium of art. A national callout on RTÉ Radio 1 in late 2014 led to hundreds of untrained artists from across Ireland sending work to be considered for inclusion in the biggest exhibition of Irish outsider art to date.

Paddy Moloney: Chieftain was the latest in a series of documentaries about leading figures in traditional Irish music, by award-winning director Liam McGrath. In a series of intimate interviews, specially recorded performances and previously unseen archive footage, Moloney reflected publically for the first time on his own personal journey, and the music, people and events that shaped it.

The documentary *Druid Shakespeare* was commissioned by RTÉ to mark the Druid Theatre Company's 40th anniversary in 2015. As part of the anniversary celebrations, Druid staged its most ambitious project yet: a six-hour epic performance of Shakespeare's lesser-known history plays. Award-winning director Maurice Sweeney followed the production from initial discussions to the triumphant première.

A Rich Inheritance was a touching arts documentary about a young woman who had been left a collection of paintings by her late father. He had spent his life trying to authenticate what he believed to be an invaluable collection of paintings by the Irish artist Roderic O'Conor, but died before he could prove it. Twenty years on, his daughter went in search of the truth.

As part of the 2016 commemorations, RTÉ has commissioned a series of arts documentaries celebrating the role the arts played in sparking the events of 1916 and the role that artists continue to play in today's society.

Written by Bob Geldof and historian and Yeats scholar Roy Foster, *Bob Geldof on W.B. Yeats*, is a landmark two-part documentary series which examines W.B. Yeats's life and work in the context of the cultural revolution that preceded 1916 and illustrates how his work remains as pertinent today as when it was first written.

Culture and Revolution illustrated how artists and writers played a pivotal role in shaping the events that led to 1916, and in *Christy Moore: Journey*, the singer looked back, in song and interview, at the events that shook, and often shaped, modern-day Ireland.



Designing Ireland



Brent Pope: Inside Out



Paddy Moloney: Chieftain

New Insights

RTÉ is committed to creating regional programming content from outside of Dublin or produced by independent producers based outside of Dublin.

Three new observational series were transmitted on RTÉ One in 2015. Cork-based Encore Productions produced *Gardaí Down Under* which profiled ex-members of An Garda Síochána starting new policing careers in Australia, providing a new insight into emigrants' lives. Although commissioned for the Irish domestic market, this series has achieved international sales in Australia. AV3 in Blarney made *Inside Shannon*, an observational series depicting life in Shannon international airport in the west of Ireland. The world of Irish country and western music and lifestyles was explored in a six-part co-production with the BBC, *Stetsons and Stilettos*, from AlleyCats Productions, based in Derry, and proved very popular with the audience.

Returning series *Ear to the Ground*, now in its 23rd year, featured stories from around rural Ireland, and *Crimecall* continued to perform well with Irish audiences.

A new series of *Dragons' Den*, looking for great business ideas from around the country, was commissioned for transmission in 2016.

In wildlife, a major new blue-chip series, *Deep Ocean*, was commissioned from Clare-based SeaFever Productions with the support of the BAI. This landmark series will give a new insight into life in the extreme depths of the Atlantic Ocean.

Another blue-chip BAI-supported series, *Irelands Wild Cities*, in production from Wicklow-based Crossing the Line Films, will examine urban wildlife in Cork, Galway, Belfast and Dublin for transmission in 2016.

GMTV, a production company based in Mayo, successfully produced another series of *Living the Wildlife*, presented by Colin Stafford Johnson.

New formats were developed with RTÉ Global through the Format Farm initiative. *Farmers in Charge* from WAKA Productions is an exciting new business format, where a farmer takes a no-nonsense agricultural approach in a make-or-break move to save an ailing business. This format is being distributed for the international market by the Endemol Shine Group.

Provoking, Questioning, Exploring - Science and Education

The year began with a provocative two-part series that looked at the impact on all aspects of Irish society of the ready availability of pornography. *We Need to Talk about Porn* was a strong publiceducation statement piece on a taboo subject.

Coming out of the Curve was an authored piece by Dónal Óg Cusack that took stock of gay rights. It was a timely and thoughtprovoking one-off that played ahead of the 2015 referendum on marriage equality and drew a strong audience share to RTÉ One.

Among the other highlights in 2015 were *Crumlin*, a four-part observational documentary series set in Ireland's largest paediatric



Gardaí Down Under



The Sound Barrier

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hospital that looked at how science and technology is driving advances in contemporary medicine. Two specialist documentaries looking at the experiences of Ireland's deaf and hard-of-hearing communities were also broadcast: *The Sound Barrier* and *These Walls Can Talk*. Both films played in the prime-time schedules on RTÉ One and *These Walls Can Talk* – featuring a cast of former pupils at St Joseph's School for Deaf Boys – also played in alternative ISL-form (International Sign Language) on RTÉ Player.

The Ploughing Live was a new three-part series that played live into the pre-watershed schedule on RTÉ One from the National Ploughing Championships and delivered strong audiences and good reviews. While elsewhere on RTÉ One, both *The Bee* and *Fab – The Night The Beatles Came to Dublin* were high-tempo, stylish and quick-turn-around docs that looked at school spelling champions and the impact of The Beatles' concerts in Ireland in 1963 respectively.

RTÉ and Science Foundation Ireland also launched an initiative to provide grant funding for the development of additional television programming related to science, technology, engineering and maths. The initiative will see Science Foundation Ireland provide €500,000 for the development of prime-time science programming on RTÉ One over a 12 month period.

Key among the 2016 programmes are two new documentaries that reflect further on the experiences of Ireland's deaf communities, a four-part observational series set and located in Trinity College, a four-part series fronted by Lord David Puttnam on digital literacy in Ireland and a documentary on the career of Fr Peter McVerry.

And the award goes to ...

Also in 2015, *Close to Evil* – broadcast on RTÉ One in September 2014 – achieved success at both the Celtic Media Festival and the 2015 IFTA Awards, where it won in the documentary categories. Gerry Gregg's film had its US premiere in November and played in Britain for the first time in February 2016.

Cláracha Gaeilge

On the 2015 Cláracha Gaeilge slate, *Oiche na Gaoithe Móire* was an ILBF/BAI-supported one-off documentary produced by Lagan Media that looked at the storm of 1839, one of the most vicious storms to ever hit Ireland.

Among the highlights of the Irish-language programming for 2016 is a four-part BAI-supported series, authored by *Irish Times* journalist Harry McGee, on the influence and impact of television on Irish politics, with the working title *Framing Democracy*.

Religion

Clean Slate TV made *Mary McAleese & the Man Who Saved Europe*, a passionate historical documentary in which the former President of Ireland-turned-canon-lawyer marked the 1,400th anniversary of the death of Ireland's archetypal missionary saint and scholar, St Columbanus. It charted the saint's life and legacy – for Ireland, Europe and for Christianity.



These Walls Can Talk



The Ploughing Live



Fab - The Night The Beatles Came to Dublin

The programme was the result of a unique commissioning collaboration between the Irish Language Department of BBC Northern Ireland, NI Screen's Irish Language Broadcast Fund, the BAI and RTÉ Religious Programmes. Other religious highlights included mass for St Patrick's Day from the shadow of Croagh Patrick in Co. Mayo and Christmas masses from a Redemptorist monastery in Dundalk. In a slight variation on their usual commissioned coverage of minority faith festivals, Kairos delivered a series of four short, weekly *Ramadan Diaries* in 2015, reflecting the experience of four different Muslim families during the holy month.

Finally, after a competitive process, Kairos retained the commission to deliver eight films – 'conducive to prayer or reflection for people of all faiths and none' – for RTÉ's nightly *Angelus* slot. These included two seasonal versions for the Christmas season.

Award winner

In 2015, Underground Films *One Million Dubliners*, which first aired in 2014, won an IFTA for editing. It was also nominated for the Prix Italia and won the UK's leading religious broadcasting prize, the Sandford St Martin Award. *A Parting Gift*, Loosehorse's two-part documentary about Trinity College Dublin's body-donation programme, which also first aired in 2014, was nominated for the Prix Europa and an IFTA.

Future projects for 2016/2017 include: *Knock* (Underground Films), which follows the efforts of a charismatic priest to reinvigorate the national shrine and basilica at the site of a supposed Marian apparition by attracting American pilgrims alongside Ireland's own; *The Brotherhood* (Tyrone Productions), in which Gay Byrne tells the story of the Christian Brothers.

This sporting life

All-Ireland Day brought RTÉ One audiences behind the scenes at Croke Park on one of the biggest days in Ireland's sporting calendar. Loosehorse Productions brilliantly captured the energy and emotion of All-Ireland Football Final day by exploring and telling the stories of those at the heart of the action.

New Faces, New Formats

In 2015, the comedy, talent development and music department generated a range of innovative new programmes on RTÉ One. These included programmes that brought exciting new faces to the channel and found new roles for existing talent, such as Tommy Tiernan, Mario Rosenstock, Nathan Carter, Mike Murphy and Jacqui Hurley. Comedy and satire were brought right into the mainstream with a new series of Irish Pictorial Weekly and the move of The Mario Rosenstock Show to RTÉ One in its new format. Alongside this, Tommy Tiernan's improvised chat show, The Tommy Tiernan Show, brought a new twist to the format, and The Nathan Carter Show entertained large audiences with the singer's infectious brand of Country. RTÉ sports presenter Jacqui Hurley fronted The Sports Quiz of the Year, alongside sports stars Ruby Walsh and Shane Byrne. And Mike Murphy had a welcome return to our screens, fronting the archive-based quiz series Play It by Year. Yvonne Tiernan's female-skewing chat show, The Couch, was commissioned, and the Fleadh Cheoil returned to our screens.

All-Ireland Day brought RTÉ One audiences behind the scenes at Croke Park on one of the biggest days in Ireland's sporting calendar.



All-Ireland Day



Irish Pictorial Weekly



Play It by Year

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RTÉ2

RTÉ2 is the only channel dedicated to making programmes for younger viewers in Ireland. Since a brand refresh in September 2014, it has emerged as a stronger and more targeted channel, delivering public-service content that generates greater talking points among younger viewers and those who 'think young'.

September 2014 saw the creation of a refocused and more targeted RTÉ2 brand and throughout 2015 the channel has emerged stronger, more potent and more impactful, with greater talking points and a strengthened public service message.

In 2015 RTÉ2 became the number two choice for audiences (after RTÉ One) in its target demographic of 15–34-year-olds, with a share of 8.7%, overtaking competitors. Throughout the year RTÉ2 continued to build a schedule for younger viewers and those who think young and put contemporary Irish voices, stories, talent and identity at the very heart of its public service offering.

The channel has refreshed its schedule to reflect the new RTÉ2 brand, with breakout hits like *The Notorious* and *Meet the McDonaghs* generating large audiences and resonating particularly strongly with younger demographics.

Supporting and championing new Irish talent, music, comedy, writers, creativity, formats and content is a key public service role of the channel and RTÉ2 continues to reach out to younger audiences via social media and digital initiatives.

Unearthing New Talent

Supporting and developing new and emerging Irish comedy continues to be one of RTÉ2's defining traits and 2015 saw the channel unearth new comic gems such as *Bridget & Earnon*, which has been commissioned for a six-part series for 2016.

RTÉ2 also carried a range of youthful comedy programmes, definitively targeted at the 15–34 age group. Returning programmes included the Swinford-based scripted comedy *The Hardy Bucks Ride Again*, hidden camera show *The Fear*, end-of-year satirical review *The Year That's in It* and *The Best of the Mario Rosenstock Show*. New faces were also to the fore with the new Cork-based sketch show *Sketch*! and *Hey Ho Let's Go* airing. The last programme broadcast in 2015 was one of the most innovative and exciting: *The Rubberbandits Guide to 1916*, which combined the Rubberbandits' sideways take on life with many moments of genuine insight and education on the foundation of the State. RTÉ2 also aired some of the material emerging from the new digital comedy initiative *Comedy Bites*, which gave audiences a chance to sample new breakthrough comedy voices via the RTÉ Player. In addition, sports and comedy combined for the acclaimed series *Après Match of the Day*.

While RTÉ2 in-house production was responsible for the five-hour broadcast from Ireland's largest music and arts festival, Electric Picnic, other programmes devoted to supporting and nurturing new and emerging Irish music talent include Ireland's most credible music series, *Other Voices*, with its special on Wicklow's Hozier proving particularly popular, and RTÉ2 also broadcast the *Meteor Choice Music Prize*, which celebrates the best of new Irish music.



The Notorious

Supporting and developing new and emerging Irish comedy continues to be one of RTÉ2's defining traits



The Hardy Bucks Ride Again



The Rubberbandits Guide to 1916

Talent development is a key tenet of RTÉ2's strategy and as part of this remit new one-off documentaries and series from Vogue Williams, Kevin McGahern, Angela Scanlon and Eoin Murphy were broadcast in 2015 – with a number already recommissioned to full or second series.

Entertainment Highlights

In 2015, a range of highly popular entertainment series and documentaries were very well received by audiences. A second series of *Meet the McDonaghs* provided with an entertaining but insightful look at contemporary Irish Traveller culture through the lives of the McDonagh family.

Second Captains continued to engage us with its smart and savvy take on the world of sport. *Tested on Humans* did just what it says, conducting social experiments on human beings in a two-part series which combined science and entertainment.

Factual entertainment documentaries of note included *PJ Gallagher's Stage Fright*, which discussed the challenge of being a stand-up comedian who suffers from stage fright, and *Operation Transportation*, which documented comedian Fred Cooke's attempt to learn how to drive. Festive highlights included *The Al Porter Show*, in which one of Ireland's most popular young comedians took over the Olympia Theatre and hosted his own variety show, plus a festive review of the year, *Panti Does 2015*, with one of the personalities of the year.

Making an Impact

A number of strong public-service lifestyle series struck a chord with the public in 2015. *Norah Casey's Traveller Business School* highlighted the issue of underachieving women in the Traveller community. The series gave a group of Traveller women the skills and opportunities to work as entrepreneurs.

Another BAI-funded series, *Nurses*, again focused on a mainly female cast. This eight-part observational series looked at the lives and work of two groups of student nurses in Cork and Waterford as they embarked on their final year of training and their first year of work in a hospital. *Exiles*, meanwhile, followed another group of twentysomethings as they pursued a variety of ambitions in Vancouver, Canada, while Maia Dunphy explored life for the Irish in London and life as an expectant mother in her *Truth About* series.

Like Norah's Traveller Academy, Bressie's Ironmind showed just how impactful public service programming on RTÉ2 can be. The issue of mental health awareness is very close to Bressie's heart. An ex-Leinster rugby player and triathlete, he has always used exercise to help control his own depression. In this series, he took on four people with diagnosed mental health issues and helped them to tackle these issues by training for an ironman competition. The series had a significant impact, not only in demonstrating the benefits of exercise for mental health but also in highlighting these issues in a frank and very open way. Depression is not traditionally televisual and finding a place for it on RTÉ2 was challenging and hugely rewarding.

The ever-popular *Don't Tell the Bride* format continued in 2015, while new formats piloted included *Money Can Buy You Love* and *Then Comes Marriage*. While a pilot from 2014, *The Unemployables*, went to full series in 2015.



PJ Gallagher's Stage Fright



The Al Porter Show

Depression is not traditionally televisual and finding a place for it on RTÉ2 was challenging and hugely rewarding

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Lifestyle series in production for 2016 include *First Dates Ireland* and the BAI-funded *Pixie's Sex Clinic*, hosted by popular TV doctor Pixie McKenna.

Supersized Reality

In 2015, RTÉ2's *Reality Bites* documentary was 'supersized' to become a very potent and highly acclaimed factual series. It told compelling stories of contemporary Ireland that were especially relevant to a younger audience. A total of 21 *Reality Bites* documentaries were broadcast during 2015, four of which were produced in-house and the remainder commissioned through the genres of regional, entertainment, comedy, lifestyle, religion and sport.

Reality Bites highlights included *Born Addicted* and *Ireland's Sulky Racers* from Midas Productions; *Kevin McGahern's Fast & Furious* from Areaman; *Pitbull* and *The Fighting Irish* from Motive Television; and *Party Pills* by Cork-based M3 TV Productions.

Dole Life, a three-part series depicting the realities of life on the dole for young people in Ireland today, was broadcast on RTÉ2 in 2015, while the highly acclaimed feature documentary *The Queen of Ireland* was co-funded by RTÉ2, receiving a cinema release in 2015 and due for RTÉ2 broadcast in 2016.

Looking Ahead

Six of the critically acclaimed and challenging *Reality Bites* documentaries transmitted on RTÉ2 in 2015 were regional productions.

New *Reality Bites* commissions for 2016 include a range of documentaries that will examine the themes of identity and racism in Ireland today: *I Am Traveller* from Frontline Films, presented by actor and Traveller John Connors; *I Am Immigrant* from Motive Television; and *I Am Irish* from Midas Productions. *Carrick-on-Stag* will look at Ireland's unofficial stag-party HQ, Carrick-on-Shannon.

A new 10 part RTÉ2 science-based panel series, *Eureka! The Big Bang Query*, hosted by Neil Delamere, was commissioned from Mind the Gap Films with the support of the BAI and Science Foundation Ireland and will transmit in 2016.

New crime commissions for RTÉ2 in 2016 include *The Guards*, a two-part observational series following the work of gardaí on the beat from Zucca Films; and *Young, Dumb and Dangerous*, a three-part series on youth crime from Stirling Productions, and *I Married My Son's Killer* from Waddell Productions, both Belfast-based producers.

Top Performer

RTÉ religious programmes' first independent commission for RTÉ2 aired in 2015 with a two-part series from Emmy-winning presenter Baz Ashmawy's company, Brown Bread Films, exploring the Islamic faith into which he was born but has not practised since early childhood. *Baz: The Lost Muslim* began as a personal journey but had to adapt to terrorist incidents in Tunisia, Sinai, Beirut and Paris, with Baz determined to separate real Islam from the violent caricature presented by both Islamists and Islamophobes.



Meet the McDonaghs



Panti Does 2015



Baz: The Lost Muslim





John Joe

Olympic silver-medallist John Joe Nevin turned professional in 2014, and RTÉ2 audiences got to experience first-hand the highs and lows It was one of RTÉ2's best performing factual series of the year, not only in terms of live viewing, where it performed well above slot average, but in its wider impact on the RTÉ Player, on social media and in the press.

Sporting Moments

In 2015, *Après Match of the Day* took RTÉ Sport on a new adventure with a mix of nostalgia, sport and comedy. Reliving the glory days through the unique perspective of *Après Match* humour, this sixpart sport comedy series produced by Ely Productions took us back through time to some of the most iconic moments in Irish and international soccer history.

The weekly GAA show *Thank GAA It's Friday* returned in 2015. Produced by Loosehorse Productions, for thirteen weeks throughout the summer it delivered an entertaining mix of features, interviews, topical agendas, nostalgia and analysis. The show is a two-season commission so we can look forward to another series in 2016.

Toughest Trade, produced by Motive Television, will be a new addition to RTÉ2's GAA-based programming. Two professional athletes will enter the world of amateur hurling and football, while two of Ireland's top players will experience life as a professional athlete. The sporting and life challenge will unfold over two programmes on RTÉ2 in March 2016.

With planning and qualification now very much on the minds of many of our athletes, RTÉ Sport is looking forward to bringing *Road to Rio* to RTÉ2 in 2016. Strike Films, who produced *London Calling* four years ago, have been following some of Ireland's elite athletes over the past two years as they seek to make the cut for Team Ireland in 2016. The six episodes will be broadcast in the summer of 2016.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW TELEVISION

Olympic silver-medallist John Joe Nevin turned professional in 2014, and RTÉ2 audiences got to experience first-hand the highs and lows of his evolution from amateur to professional in March 2015, beautifully and intimately captured by director Kim Bartley, in the documentary *John Joe*.

TRTÉ

RTÉ's young people's programming explores and reflects the lives of young people in Ireland. It is the principal provider of original Irish content to this important audience on RTÉ2 (TRTÉ is aimed at 7 to 15-year-olds and the early evening *Two Tube* is for 12 to 18-yearolds).

New formats for the TRTÉ audience this year included *Insiders*, a science entertainment series investigating the science behind exciting events for children; *Around the Block*, a two-part documentary offering a glimpse into how life and circumstances have changed for the teens who featured in the original award-winning documentary series *On the Block*; and the quiz series *I've Got Your Back*, which saw young contestants put their families under pressure to answer questions for prizes.

The independent sector also provided a range of shorts for *Swipe TV* including talent trawl *The Real Deal*, continuing drama series *Spooky Stakeout* and the animated science comedy series *Brainfreeze*.



lavananimal

RTÉ's young people's programming explores and reflects the lives of young people in Ireland





Wild Things



Our Seaside

RTÉjr is RTÉ's dedicated commercial-free channel for children under seven which marks its third year on air in April 2016.



Puffin Rock

2015 also saw a second series of *Music Inc.*, a reality challenge series which saw teens compete in tour management tasks behind the scenes in the music business, and the Christmas entertainment series *Una's Dream Ticket*, which saw Una Foden of The Saturdays make dreams come true for children all over Ireland. Animation for TRTÉ included a third series of the animated drama *Roy* and *Brainfreeze*.

Commemorative 1916 programmes commissioned from the independent sector for children and young people include: *Rewind to Rise*, a factual entertainment programme which plunges six children into 1916 conditions with a range of challenges; and *Proclamation Day*, a user-generated documentary which captures young people's personal response to Proclamation Day in March 2016 through their video and audio contributions.

RTÉjr

RTÉjr is RTÉ's dedicated commercial-free channel for children under seven which marks its third year on air in April 2016. It is a multi-genre channel offering a broad mix of original and acquired programming.

Programming on RTÉjr from the independent sector included *Shutterbugs*, which gives children an opportunity to photograph wildlife in its own habitat. Using extraordinary wildlife archive, *Wild Things* provides a unique series of wildlife documentary shorts specifically for the preschool audience.

RTÉjr will show a range of new observational documentaries for very young children during 2016. *Our Seaside* explores coastal life through the eyes of a young family living by the sea and *The Adventures of Junior Bear* follows the experiences of a playgroup's teddy bear taken on adventures by a different child from the group in every episode. *Circus World* explores life on the road for three young children and their family from Circus Gerbola and *Out and About* features the young Doyle family in County Mayo as they take day-trips in their local area. *Wildwoods* is a new live-action comedy puppet series filmed in Irish woodlands.

Animating Children's Lives

In animation, *Puffin Rock* follows the adventures of puffling Oona, her little brother Baba and their family and friends on a gorgeous and wild Irish island; *Nelly & Nora* features the all-weather adventures of two young sisters holidaying in a camping park beside the seaside; *Inis Spraoi* is full of adventure for the children who take the daily boat trip to a playschool on a magical island; *The Day Henry Met* explores the world and everything in it through the curiosity and encounters of young Henry; *Wildernuts* explores the natural environment in a new season of twenty episodes and *Havananimal* sees Igloo Films animate six funny songs about animals written by Shay Healy in a delightful series of short films. Other series commissioned to air in 2016 and 2017 include *Kiva Can Dol*, an exciting new preschool series with invention and innovation at its core, and *Pablo* gets underway with a series whose central character is a little boy who is on the autism spectrum. THE YEAR IN REVIEW



In 2015, Independent Radio Productions (IRP) commissioned 191 hours of programming. RTÉ lyric fm commissioned 26 hours and RTÉ Radio 1 commissioned 165 hours.

Nurturing Creativity

There have been major changes to the Independent Radio Productions department in RTÉ Radio. Ann-Marie Power, Radio 1 Music and Entertainment Editor, was appointed Editor of Independent Commissions. Suzanne Young was appointed IRP administrator. In its latest commissioning round in November 2015, IRP decided to move away from defining specific programme genres. This shift in focus was designed to generate original and fresh ideas from the independent sector and to create new formats for radio programmes. RTÉ was very encouraged by the response to the November commissioning round. There were 7 commissioning briefs for RTÉ Radio 1 and, in total, 89 submissions were received. These submissions represented not only radio production companies and individuals, but also TV production and multi-media companies. This is in line with RTÉ IRP's aim to continue developing and expanding the sector. RTÉ hopes the ideas chosen will lead to high-quality, entertaining, smart shows that will resonate with audiences.



Callan's Kicks

RTÉ Radio 1 is seeking weekend peak-time programmes involving entertaining and lively content and thoughtful, intelligent conversation with recognisable talent attached to the pitches.



Breakfast Repblic

RTÉ Radio 1

RTÉ Radio 1 recommissioned successful programmes such *The Business, Religious Services, Callan's Kicks* and *The Book Show,* which are all strong contributions to the Radio 1 schedule. *The Poetry Programme,* which was commissioned in 2014, was also broadcast in 2015. *The Media Show* began broadcasting in February 2015 and ran for 13 episodes in total.

Within the commissioning round, RTÉ Radio 1 is seeking weekend peak-time programmes involving entertaining and lively content and thoughtful, intelligent conversation with recognisable talent attached to the pitches. These commissions are focused on attracting a large audience to complement our current weekend schedule.

RTÉ Radio 1 is also looking to commission mid-week late-evening chat shows and various special programmes for events throughout 2016. A small portion of IRP funds has been marked for development of radio broadcasts for pilot. This round saw a call out for three comedy pilot ideas for RTÉ Radio 1 and received a very good response from the independent sector and the comedy community in Ireland.

RTÉ 2fm

RTÉ 2fm's commissioning brief focused on inserts into its new daytime schedule. Its early morning show, *Breakfast Republic* will have an insert based on a celebrity *Where Are They Now?* theme. Tracy Clifford's afternoon music show will feature a music insert called *Pump up the Slump*, a 20 minute music mix up of today's best new and classic music by a music producer/DJ.

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta

RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta is commissioning inserts to broadcast between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. every day, complementing the existing schedule. Topics include *Sceálta na nDaoine* (people's stories, the ordinary tasks and undertakings that are tackled every day by the population). The second insert is *Oideachas* (education, the issues faced by children, teenagers and mature students across the education system).

A programme will also be commissioned about Éire 1916/2016 (Ireland 1916/2016). The basis of the programme will be a competition, where secondary schools will submit an idea for a programme to demonstrate the theme of the 1916 Rebellion. A radio producer will be assigned to consult with the schools and assist with the programme making, thus enabling students to learn about producing content for radio.

RTÉ lyric fm

RTÉ lyric fm will broadcast cultural inserts for two of their programmes. The first insert is the successful *Culture File*, which broadcasts daily during lyric fm's *Classic Drive* and is a strong feature in the current schedule. *Culture File* reflects national and international arts and cultural activity in a textured, produced fashion. The second is *Sounds in Union*, which will air during *The Friday Concert*, a 12 part series that brings listeners on a journey through the many parts that make up the sound of an orchestra.

OTHER FUNDING

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The BAI Sound & Vision Scheme continued to be a key partner in RTÉ Television's commissioning output in 2015. Fourteen programmes were commissioned in 2015 with BAI support which have or will be broadcast on RTÉ and include: *Rebellion, Building Ireland Series 2, 16 Letters, Trinity, Framing Democracy, Eureka! The Big Bang Query, John Connors Traveller History, Deep Ocean, Knock, Digital Citizen, Pixie's Sex Clinic, Havananimal, Kiva Can Do* and *Wildwoods*. In addition to the programmes commissioned by RTÉ fifty-eight hours of programming with BAI Sound & Vision III radio funding were secured by independent producers for broadcast on RTÉ Radio in 2015. Programmes included: From Tipperary to *Salonika: Ireland and the Music of the Great War, Freeborn Man, Beatha agus Sláinte, Ireland's Wild People, Bright Sparks, Seasons of the Forest and Fins, Scales* and *Fishy Tales*.

Several drama, animation and scripted comedy commissions benefitted from Section 481 funding, and the Irish Film Board (IFB) also provided funding towards a number of animation programmes. In 2015 RTÉ also entered into a number of co-productions with BBC NI and BBC. A full analysis of funding from other sources can be found on page 24. RTÉ has complied with the revised *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies* published by the government on 15 June 2009, together with the corporate governance and other obligations imposed by the *Broadcasting Act 2009*, the *Ethics in Public Office Act 1995* and the *Standards in Public Office Act 2001*.

RTÉ is committed to ensuring that the commissioning of independently produced programmes for public broadcast is performed in a transparent manner. RTÉ adheres to formal and clear procedures, which are available to independent producers on the RTÉ website, for the sourcing and commissioning, including re-commissioning, of independently produced television and radio programmes. During the year RTÉ engaged KPMG to perform specified procedures over the application of specified commissioning procedures to television and radio programme submissions in 2015. KPMG performed their procedures and were satisfied that, for the sample of items tested, documentary evidence maintained by RTÉ reflected compliance with the relevant commissioning procedures.



1. 2015 - Summary of Expenditure

RTÉ's 2015 statutory obligation for expenditure on independent commissions under the *Broadcasting Act 2009* was €39.5m, in respect of both television and radio. The actual expenditure incurred on television and radio commissioning activities during 2015 was €40.6m. Expenditure for 2015 remains higher than the statutory requirement i.e. 3% in excess of the statutory amount for 2015.

	2015	2015	2015	2014
	т	Radio	Total	Total
Expenditure Incurred	€000's	€000's	€000's	€000's
Statutory Expenditure (Sch. 5)	38,212	1,371	39,583	39,839
Additional Expenditure (Sch. 6)	362	-	362	283
Direct Expenditure on Commissioned Programmes	38,574	1,371	39,945	40,122
RTÉ Attributable Overhead	694	2	696	741
Expenditure Incurred on Commissioning Activities	39,268	1,373	40,641	40,863

The amount incurred on independent productions through the Independent Programmes Account in 2015 in respect of commissioned programmes was &38.2m for Television and &1.4m for Radio, a total of &39.6m and includes administration costs, net of interest income. This is in excess of the statutory amount of &39.5m. A further amount of &0.4m was incurred by RTÉ on television programmes which was in addition to the expenditure recorded on the statutory Independent Programmes Account and resulted in a total spend of &39.9m being incurred by RTÉ Television and Radio on commissioned programmes during 2015 (2014: &40.1m) excluding RTÉ attributable overhead.

RTÉ Independent Productions relies on a range of RTÉ services including for example: office space and related utilities, information technology and systems, consumables, technical services and human resources. The RTÉ organisational overhead attributable to commissioning activities for television and radio amounted to 0.7m for 2015 (2014: 0.7m).

A total of 595 hours (191 radio, 404 television) was commissioned with the Independent Productions statutory expenditure in 2015, across a broad range of categories, and these are detailed in Schedule 3. A further two hours of television programming was commissioned as part of the non-statutory independent production expenditure in 2015, as detailed in Schedule 4.

An analysis of expenditure incurred in 2015 by programme category is detailed in Schedule 5 for statutory expenditure and in Schedule 6 for non-statutory expenditure.

2. 2015 Commissioning and Overhead Spend

An analysis of independent television and radio productions expenditure incurred by RTÉ in 2015 is contained in the table below. Further detail by genre is contained in Schedules 5 and 6.

	2015 TV	2015 Radio	2015 Total	2014 Total
Expenditure Incurred	€000's	€000's	€000's	€000's
2014 Commissions Brought Forward	8,657	438	9,095	7,962
Change in Spend on 2014 Commissions (Note 1)	372	-	372	(190)
2014 Commissions Brought Forward as Restated	9,029	438	9,467	7,772
New Commissions during 2015 (see ii below)	32,998	890	33,888	39,491
Less Commissions for Delivery in 2016	(5,428)	-	(5,428)	(9,095)
Administration Costs (Schedule 7)	2,367	45	2,412	2,429
Awards/Schemes	302	-	302	266
Expenditure Incurred on Commissioning Activities	39,268	1,373	40,641	40,863

Note 1: 2014 commissioned spend brought forward has been updated for cost variances and retiming of programme commitments which occurred during 2015.

(ii) New commissions during 2015 of €33.9m (see table above) can be analysed as follows:

	Statutory		lon-statutory		Total	
New Commissions	Spend €000's	%	Spend €000's	%	Spend €000's	%
Television Commissions ¹²	30,525	91%	184	97%	30,709	91%
Television Development ¹	1,248	4%	5	3%	1,253	4%
Television Completion ¹²	1,036	3%	-	0%	1,036	3%
Television	32,809	98%	189	100%	32,998	98 %
Radio	890	2%	-	-	890	2 %
RTÉ Total	33,699	100%	189	100%	33,888	100%

¹See Schedule 1 for definition of Commissions, Development and Completion Funding

² Includes RTÉ funding in respect of the BAI Sound & Vision Scheme

(iii) Television commissions with a value of \notin 17.0m, representing 52% of the value of new 2015 television commissions, were awarded to six independent production companies, and a further sum of \notin 5.0m or 15% was awarded to a further six independent production companies.

3. 2015 Commissioning Activities

Apart from the rolling commissioning round in television whereby commissioning proposals can be submitted by independent producers throughout the year, separate tenders were conducted for individual programme strands as follows;

- Sunday night entertainment
- Sports Quiz of the Year
- First Dates Ireland

In 2015 Independent Radio Productions re-commissioned various productions across a range of programme genre, including factual, religion, regional, entertainment and arts. There was one commissioning round held by Radio in November 2015 with decisions expected in early 2016.

Proposals for commissions received in 2015 are detailed below:

Location		No. of Companies	Νο	o. of Proposals Received	No. of	Commissions Awarded	c	No. of Hours commissioned
	тv	Radio	тv	Radio	тv	Radio	тv	Radio
Dublin	145	42	922	84	96	10	264	151
Rest of Ireland	92	18	304	38	24	1	100	40
Northern Ireland	26	2	103	5	12	-	27	-
Great Britain	18	1	45	1	4	-	15	-
Others	12	-	28	-	0	-	-	-
Total	293	63	1402	128	136	11	406	191

4. Other Sources of Funding to the Sector

In addition to the \bigcirc 33.9m committed by RTÉ to new commissions in 2015, producers of RTÉ commissioned programmes attracted funding from other sources. The total value of this additional funding on 2015 contracts was \bigcirc 10.9m, analysed as follows:

Sources of Funding	Drama & Animation €000's	Other Genres €000's	Total Third Party Funding €000's
Co-funding	2,109	2,034	4,143
Section 481	2,098	1,621	3,719
BAI Funding	915	2,075	2,990
Total	5,122	5,730	10,852

Thus, the total value of RTÉ independent television programming activities in 2015, inclusive of all third party funding, was €44.8m. The amounts for other sources of funding above do not include projects where RTÉ provided development/completion funding only, except in programmes categorised as drama, animation or part-funded by the BAI Sound & Vision Scheme.

FINANCIAL AND COMMISSIONING REVIEW

5. Administration Costs

A full analysis of administration costs is detailed in Schedule 7. In 2015 direct administration costs incurred by RTÉ Independent Productions amounted to €1.7m which represents 4% of the total Independent Productions direct expenditure incurred on commissioned programmes in 2015.

RTÉ Independent Productions relies on a range of RTÉ services including, for example, office space and related utilities, information technology and systems, consumables, technical services and human resources. An appropriate full-cost absorption/usage allocation basis is used to reflect a fair and reasonable cost of these interdivisional services consumed by RTÉ Independent Productions amounting to ± 0.7 m for 2015 (2014: ± 0.7 m).

6. IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards)

RTÉ's 2015 Annual Report and Group Financial Statements (RTÉ Annual Report), with 2014 comparatives, have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and their interpretations approved by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) as adopted by the European Union.

Under IFRS, RTÉ records the cost of transmitted commissioned programmes rather than the expenditure incurred on commissioning activities. RTÉ's Annual Report records the level of programme inventories held, that is programmes made and for which costs have been incurred during the period but which have not been transmitted at the period end.

As required under the *Broadcasting Act 2009*, the Independent Productions Annual Report covers RTÉ's activities with regards to commissioning of independent television and sound programmes during the year and the operation by RTÉ of the Independent Programmes bank account, it is not deemed appropriate to adopt IFRS for the purposes of the Independent Productions Annual Report. A reconciliation of the expenditure incurred on commissioning activities in this report, with programme costs as reported in the 2015 RTÉ Annual Report and Group Financial Statements, is set out below.

2015 Reconciliation	TV €000's	Radio €000's	Total €000's
Independent Productions Annual Report:			
Expenditure incurred on Commissioning Activities ¹	39,268	1,373	40,641
Add: Opening Stock of Programmes	16,803	-	16,803
Less: Closing Stock of Programmes	(17,116)	-	(17,116)
Add: Interest Receivable ²	-	-	-
Less: Financial Provision ³	(254)	-	(254)
Total Cost of Transmitted Programmes	38,701	1,373	40,074
RTÉ Annual Report:			
Cost of Transmitted Programmes			
Commissioned Programmes Costs ²	38,701	1,373	40,074
Total Cost of Transmitted Programmes	38,701	1,373	40,074

¹See Table on p. 23

²2015 RTÉ Annual Report and Group Financial Statements, Note 2(d) ³Release of non-statutory financial provision relating to prior years

7. Other Support Activities

- In 2015, RTÉ continued to offer support to the development of the sector by way of its involvement in the development schemes detailed above, by providing speakers for industry seminars and for film and television production training colleges, by participating in international co-production conferences, by providing support for producers seeking co-production partners and through meeting with and giving guidance to emerging new companies.
- Screen Producers Ireland, the representative body for independent producers in Ireland, is partly funded by a levy on production budgets in respect of programmes commissioned by RTÉ from its members. The levy is therefore a direct charge against the Independent Programmes Account.

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Independent Accountants' Agreed upon Procedures Report to the RTÉ Board in Respect of the RTÉ Independent Productions Annual Report for the Year-Ended 31 December 2015

We have performed the procedures agreed with you and enumerated below with respect to the RTÉ Independent Productions Annual Report ('the Annual Report') and Schedules ('the Schedules') for the year ended 31 December 2015. Our engagement was undertaken in accordance with the International Standard on Related Services (ISRS 4400) applicable to agreed upon procedures engagements. The procedures were performed solely to assist you in evaluating your compliance with your statutory obligations with regard to Independent Productions Reporting Requirements.

These procedures have been undertaken based upon financial information provided by the management of RTÉ and is the responsibility of the RTÉ Board. The procedures which we have undertaken and our findings are as set out below:

Procedures

- 1. We have checked that the information included in Schedule 2 'Operation of the Independent Programmes Bank Account for the year ended 31 December 2015' has been correctly extracted from the detailed general ledger transactions of the Independent Programmes Bank Account for the year ended 31 December 2015.
- 2. We have checked that the information included in Schedules 5, 6 and 7 has been correctly extracted from the underlying records and detailed analysis prepared for the purposes of the preparation of the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2015.
- 3. We have checked the mathematical accuracy of the Schedules.

Findings

We have performed the procedures set out in 1-3 above and noted no exceptions arising from our work.

Because the above procedures do not constitute either an audit or a review made in accordance with International Standards on Auditing or International Standards on Review Engagements, we do not express any assurance on the RTÉ Independent Productions Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Our report is solely for the purposes set out in the first paragraph of this report and for your information and is not to be used for any other purpose. This report relates only to the items specified above and does not extend to any financial statements of RTÉ taken as a whole.

1/MG

KPMG Chartered Accountants 1 Stokes Place St Stephens Green Dublin, Ireland

30th March 2016

SCHEDULE 1: RTÉ'S STATUTORY OBLIGATION WITH REGARD TO INDEPENDENT PRODUCTIONS

1. Expenditure Requirement

Under Section 116, subsection (2) of the Broadcasting Act 2009 ('the Act'), RTÉ has a statutory obligation to spend a predetermined minimum amount (the statutory amount) each year on independently produced television and radio programmes and to lodge this money to a separate account known as the Independent Programmes Account (the account).

2	015	2014
Statutory Expenditure coo	0's	€000's
Total Statutory Expenditure 2015 39,5	19	39,371

The statutory amount for 2009 was €40m, and for subsequent years the amount varies in line with the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) measured from August 2008 to August immediately preceding the financial year concerned. Since CPI measured from August 2008 to August 2008 to August 2015 was reduced accordingly. Under Section 116, the minimum percentage to be spent on sound broadcasting in 2015 is 3% (€1.186m).

2. Reporting Requirement

As required under Section 116, subsection (9) of the Broadcasting Act 2009, RTÉ shall not later than three months after the end of each financial year make a report to the minister of:

- its activities during that financial year as respects commissioning the making of independent television or sound broadcasting programmes
- the name or corporate identity of persons commissioned to make independent television or sound broadcasting programmes
- the operation by it of the account during that financial year (details of the operation of the Independent Programmes Account for 2015 are set out in Schedule 2) and
- any other matters as the minister may direct regarding the above

3. Definition of Commissions, Development & Completion Funding

The sum identified as expended on 'Commissions' is defined pursuant to the requirement as per Section 116, subsection (11) of the Broadcasting Act 2009, that in order for a programme to be regarded as having been commissioned, RTÉ must incur 'a legal obligation to pay at least 25% of the cost' of making a television programme in advance of work on the making of the programme commencing.

The sums identified as expended on 'Development' and 'Completion' are defined as per Section 116, subsections (2)(a)(ii) and (2)(a)(iii), namely respectively 'procuring the formulation by persons of proposals' for independent television or radio programmes for commission by RTÉ and 'assisting the completion of independent television or sound broadcasting programmes the making of which has not been commissioned by RTÉ'.

SCHEDULE 2: OPERATION OF THE INDEPENDENT TELEVISION PROGRAMMES BANK ACCOUNT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS TO 31ST DECEMBER 2015

	€000s
Opening Balance as per RTÉ at 1st January 2015	3,575
Lodgements	
Receipts from RTÉ, including Bank Interest received	39,586
Less Payments	
Payments	(35,548)
Closing Balance as per RTÉ at 31st December 2015	7,613
Add:	
Cheques written in 2015 not presented	
for payment as at 31st December 2015	126
Closing Balance per Bank Statement as at 31st December 2015	7,739

Note 1 Actual bank charges totalled €780 for the year.

SCHEDULE 3: 2015 STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES/HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

Category

Produ

Factual Lifestyle & F	Formats
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Compan	ıy	
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Coco Television	Room to Improve Series 9 & 10	13.0
Vision Independent Productions	Operation Transformation Series 9	8.5
Coco Television	Don't Tell the Bride Series 6	8.0
Coco Television	First Dates Ireland	6.0
Screentime Shinawil	Home of the Year Series 2	4.0
Waddell Media	At Your Service Series 8	4.0
Inproduction Ltd	Kitchen Hero, Donal's Irish Feast (Compl)	3.5
Inproduction Ltd	Donal Skehan Cook, Eat, Burn (Compl)	3.0
Animo Television	Wasters	3.0
Coco Television	Pixie's Sex Clinic ¹	3.0
Independent Pictures	A Week To My Wedding	3.0
Independent Pictures	You Should Really See A Doctor	3.0
Ronin Films	Pet Island Series 2	3.0
Screentime Shinawil	What Are You Eating	3.0
Vision Independent Productions	Supergarden Series 7	3.0
Waddell Media	The Shelbourne Series 2	3.0
Playmaker Media	Bressie's Ironmind	2.0
Wollyback Productions	Maia Dunphy's The Truth About	2.0
Animo Television	Re-Connected	1.0
Coco Television	Dylan McGrath Make or Break	1.0
Motive Television	Toughest Place To Be	1.0
Tyrone Productions	Higher Hopes	1.0
Waddell Media	At Your Service To The Rescue	1.0
Waka Productions	Camden Chaos	1.0
Waka Productions	The Verminators	1.0
Zig Zag Productions	Money Can Buy You Love	1.0
Vision Independent Productions	Bloom Live	0.5
Waddell Media	The Shelbourne at Christmas	0.5

Programme Title

Various development contracts with Animo Television, Blind Alley Productions, Coco Television, Independent Pictures, Ronin Films and Vision Indedpendent Productions

¹ Commissions which were part funded by the BAI Sound and Vision Scheme (Compl) Denotes Completion Contracts

Documentaries & Arts

Bang Bang Teo	Christy Moore: Journey	2.0
Two Dee TV	Bob Geldof on W.B. Yeats	2.0
Blinder Films	The Queen of Ireland (Compl)	1.5
Independent Pictures	16 Letters (Compl) ¹	1.5
Dearg Films	A Rich Inheritance	1.0
Scratch Films	Paddy Moloney: Chieftain	1.0
Irish Book Awards	Bord Gais Energy Book Awards 2015 (Compl)	1.0
Wildfire Films	Druid Shakespeare	1.0
Animo Television	Ireland's Great Wealth Divide	1.0
Below The Radar	Boston Nanny	1.0
Create One	The Long Shot (Compl)	1.0
Motive Television	Bypassed	1.0
Pheonix Films	Death of a Son - The Killing of Michael Dwyer	1.0
Tile Films	Seven Women	1.0
Wildfire Films	Hidden Impact - Concussion	1.0

Various development contracts with ANB Productions, Animo Television, Atlantic Film Alliance, Erika Starling Productions, Fever Kid Films, Frontline Films, Fubar Films, Loosehorse, Soho Moon Pictures and Wildfire Films

¹ Commissions which were part funded by the BAI Sound and Vision Scheme (Compl) Denotes Completion Contracts

18.0

Total Hours

87.0

SCHEDULE 3: 2015 STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES /HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED CONTINUED

Production Company

Category

Regional, Education, Religion & Other Factual

n,			
actual	Kairos Communications	Masses / Services 2015	12.0
	Kairos Communications	Masses / Services 2016	12.0
	Coco Television	CrimeCall Series 12	10.0
	Screentime Shinawil	Dragons' Den Series 7	8.0
	Liverpool Street Productions	Rachel's Coastal Cooking	6.5
	Mind the Gap Films	Eureka! The Big Bang Query (Compl) ¹	5.0
	Moondance Productions	The Zoo	4.0
	Esras Films	Building Ireland Series 2 (Compl) ¹	3.0
	Loosehorse	Trinity (Compl) ¹	3.0
	Scratch Films	John Connors Traveller History (Compl) ¹	3.0
	AlleyCats Films	Stetsons & Stilettos	3.0
	Encore Productions	Families Down Under	3.0
	Gmarsh TV	Living the Wildlife Series 8	3.0
	Stirling Film & Television	Young Dumb & Dangerous	3.0
	Sherwin Media Group	Tracks and Trails Series 6	2.5
	KMF Productions	What in the World Series 9	2.0
	Loosehorse	Framing Democracy ¹	2.0
	Wildfire Films	Digital Citizen (Compl) ¹	2.0
	Midas Productions	Generation What	2.0
	Seafever Productions	Deep Ocean (Compl) ¹	2.0
	Brown Bread Films	Baz: The Lost Muslim	2.0
	Vision Independent Productions	The Ploughing Live	1.5
	Underground Films	Knock (Compl) ¹	1.5
	Dot Television	Crash and Burn (Compl)	1.0
	Mind the Gap Films	The Bee	1.0
	Mind the Gap Films	Fab – The Night the Beatles Came to Dublin	1.0
	Midas Productions	Reality Bites: Born Addicted	1.0
	AlleyCats Films	Project Children (Compl)	1.0
	Frontline Films	I Am Traveller	1.0
	Greenlight Pictures	Reality Bites: Seconds to Live	1.0
	Motive Television	Reality Bites: Carrick-On-Stag	1.0
	Motive Television	l Am Immigrant	1.0
	M3TV Productions	Reality Bites: Party Pills	1.0
	Midas Productions	Reality Bites: Irelands Sulky Racers	1.0
	Midas Productions	l Am Irish	1.0
	Motive Television	Reality Bites: Pitbull	1.0
	Ronin Films	Murder Down Under	1.0
	Waddell Media	l Married My Son's Killer	1.0
	Waka Productions	Farmers in Charge	1.0
	Tyrone Productions	The Brotherhood	1.0
	Kairos Communications	The Angelus	0.3

Programme Title

Various development contracts with Frontline Films, M3 TV Productions, Praxis Pictures, Thats A Wrap TV, Waka Productions, Motive Television and New Decade Films

113.3

Total Hours

¹ Commissions which were part funded by the BAI Sound and Vision Scheme **(Compl)** Denotes Completion Contracts

SCHEDULE 3: 2015 STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES /HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED CONTINUED

Category	Production Company	Programme Title	Total Hours
Drama, Sport & Young F	Peoples Abu Media	Bog Stop	33.0
	Kavaleer Productions	Kiva Can Do! (Compl) ¹	8.3
	Loosehorse	Thank GAA Its Friday Series 2	7.5
	Sixteen South	Wildwoods (Compl) ¹	5.5
	Artists Studio/Endemol	The Fall Series 3 (Compl)	5.0
	Zodiak Media Ireland	Rebellion ¹	5.0
	Adare Productions	I've Got Your Back	5.0
	Ely Productions	Après Match of the Day	3.5
	Motive Television	Toughest Trade	2.0
	Fubar Films	Circus World	1.3
	Loosehorse	All Ireland Day	1.0
	Tailored Films	The Spooky Stakeout Series 2	0.8
	Big Mountain Productions	Proclamation Day	0.5
	Crossing the Line Productions	Wild Things Series 2	0.5
	Macalla Teo	Rewind the Rise	0.5
	Grant Creative/Paperdreams	The Overcoat (Compl)	0.5
	Igloo Films	Havananimal (Compl) ¹	0.3
	Various development contracts with	Blinder Films, Element Pictures, 152 Productions	,

Saffron Pictures and Zodiak Media Ireland

¹ Commissions which were part funded by the BAI Sound and Vision Scheme **(Compl)** Denotes Completion Contracts

Entertainment, Comedy & Music

Screentime Shinawil	The Voice of Ireland Series 5	28.5
Tyrone Productions	Bunscoil Beó	12.0
South Wind Blows	Other Voices Series 14	8.0
Animo Television	Irelands Fittest Family Series 3	7.0
Caboom/Blue Elf Productions	The Mario Rosenstock Show	6.0
Adare Productions	Play It By Year	4.0
Blueprint Pictures	Angela Scanlon Close Encounters	3.9
Hardy Films	Hardy Bucks Ride Again	3.0
Pure Class Productions	Bridget & Eamon	3.0
Screentime Shinawil	Meet the McDonaghs Series 2	3.0
Forefront	Fleadh Cheoil 2015	3.0
Waka Productions	Vogue's Wildgirls	2.0
Screentime Shinawil	Tested on Humans	2.0
Areaman Productions	Reality Bites: Kevin McGahern's Fast and Furious	1.0
Happy Endings Productions	The Rubberbandits Guide to 1916	1.0
Motive Television	Reality Bites: The Fighting Irish	1.0
Loosehorse	Sports Quiz of the Year	1.0
Midas Productions	Vogue Does Straight A's	1.0
Nomos Production	Donal Does YouTube	1.0
Power Pictures	The Tommy Tiernan Show	1.0
Screentime Shinawil	Celebrity Bites	1.0
Waka Productions	Vogue's Wildgirls 2	1.0
Big Mountain Productions	Daniel O'Donnell & Friends	1.0
Coco Television	Panti Does 2015	1.0
Kite Entertainment	The Al Porter Show	1.0
Long Grass Productions	Operation Transportation	1.0
Waka Productions	Four Heads	1.0
Wildfire Films	Well Holy God - Its Glenroe	1.0
Southpaw Productions	Meteor Choice Music Prize	1.0

80.2

SCHEDULE 3: 2015 STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES /HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED CONTINUED

Category	Production Company	Programme Title	Total Hours
Entertainment, Comedy			
& Music (Continued)	Tyrone Productions	The Nathan Carter Show	1.0
	Blinder Films	Irish Pictorial Weekly 1916 Rising Special	0.8
	Ely Productions	Après Match Election Special	0.8
	The Couch Productions	The Couch	0.8
	CCCahoots Productions	Sketch!	0.5
	Waka Productions	The Year Thats In It	0.5
	Various development contracts w	ith Blinder Films, Deadpan Pictures, Failsafe Films,	
	Parallel Productions, Rotator, Wild	Rover Productions, Wonkychair Media, Straywave	
	Productions and Strike Films.		
			105.8
			404

¹ Commissions which were part funded by the BAI Sound and Vision Scheme **(Compl)** Denotes Completion Contracts

SCHEDULE 3: 2015 STATUTORY RADIO PROGRAMMES/HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

Category	Production Company	Programme Title	Total Hours
Arts, Regional, Education, Religion,			
Entertainment & Other Factual	Old Yard Productions	The Business	44.0
	Kairos Communications	Masses and Services	39.8
	Zoe Comyns	The Book on One	35.3
	Soundsdoable	Culture File	26.0
	Rockfinch	Poetry Prog	12.5
	Catchy Title	Callan's Kicks	12.5
	Zoe Comyns	The Book Show	10.0
	Colette Kinsella	Life Matters	5.4
	Old Yard Productions	The Media Show	5.4
			191

SCHEDULE 4: 2015 NON-STATUTORY TELEVISION PROGRAMMES/HOURS COMMISSIONED, COMPLETED AND DEVELOPED

Category	Production Company	Programme Title	Total Hours
Factual, Entertainment & Lifestyle	Coco Television	St Patrick's Day Coverage	2.0
			2

Note:

The above commissioned programme is classified as a non-statutory commission on the basis that it is a hybrid commission. Hybrid commissions are where RTÉ provides facilities at cost in addition to the commissioned contract.

SCHEDULE 5: 2015 STATUTORY EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES BY PROGRAMME CATEGORY

TELEVISION

Programme Category	Total Hours	2014 Commissions Carried Forward	2015 New Commissions	2015 Commissions Carried Forward	2015 Total Cost
		€000's	€000's	€000's	€000's
		(Note 2)			(Note 1)
Factual					
Lifestyle & Formats	87.0	1,988	7,377	(1,444)	7,921
Documentaries & Arts	18.0	1,103	1,673	-	2,776
Regional, Education, Religion & Other Factual	113.3	942	6,583	(1,508)	6,017
Drama, Sport & Young Peoples	80.2	813	7,145	(903)	7,055
Entertainment, Comedy & Music	105.8	4,168	10,031	(1,546)	12,653
Overall Totals:	404	9,014	32,809	(5,401)	36,422
Awards / Schemes					117
Overheads and other costs (Schedule 7)					1,673
Direct Expenditure Incurred					38,212

Note 3: Excludes RTÉ attributable overhead

RADIO					
Programme Category	Total Hours	2014 Commissions Carried Forward	2015 New Commissions	2015 Commissions Carried Forward	2015 Total Cost
		€000's	€000's	€000's	€000's
					(Note 1)
Arts, Regional, Education, Religion,					
Entertainmnet & Other Factual	190.9	438	890	-	1,328
Overall Totals:	191	438	890	-	1,328
Overheads and other costs (Schedule 7)					43
Direct Expenditure Incurred					1,371
DIRECT EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON					
COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES					
TELEVISION & RADIO					39,583

Note 1: Total cost is inclusive of Non Recoverable VAT (NRV) Note 2: Excludes RTÉ attributable overhead

SCHEDULE 6: 2015 NON-STATUTORY EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON COMMISSIONED PROGRAMMES BY PROGRAMME CATEGORY

TELEVISION

Programme Category	Total Hours	2014 Commissions Carried Forward C000's (Note 2)	2015 New Commissions €000's	2015 Commissions Carried Forward €000's	2015 Total Cost €000's (Note 1)
Factual, Entertainment & Lifestyle	2.0	15	189	(27)	177
Overall Totals:	2	15	189	(27)	177
Awards / Schemes					185
Direct Expenditure Incurred					362

Note 1: Total cost is inclusive of Non Recoverable VAT (NRV)

Note 2: 2014 Commissions have been restated for cost variances and the retiming of programme commitments

Note 3: Excludes RTÉ attributable overhead

Note 4: Non-statutory expenditure includes online costs for statutory commissions which are not allowable to be

charged to the Statutory Account under the $\mathit{Broadcasting}\,\mathit{Act}\,2009$

SCHEDULE 7: 2015 ADMINISTRATION COSTS AND ATTRIBUTABLE ORGANISATIONAL OVERHEAD

Expenditure Description	Television €000's	Radio €000's	Total €000's
Payroll Costs	1,225	34	1,259
Festivals/Industry Contributions	279	-	279
Set Storage	72	-	72
Travel and Subsistence	36	-	36
Computer & Phone Costs	9	2	11
Advertising and Consultancy Costs	17	6	23
Office and Miscellaneous Expenses (Note 1)	34	1	35
Bank Charges	1	-	1
Sub-Total:	1,673	43	1,716
Attributable Organisational Overhead	694	2	696
Overall Total:	2,367	45	2,412

Note 1: Office and Miscellaneous expenses include costs in respect of printing, stationery, couriers etc.

SCHEDULE 8: 2015 AWARDS

	Production Company	Programme Title
	(a) Frameworks	
1	And Maps And Plans	An Island
2	Paper Panther Productions	Bird and Whale
3	Caboom	Second to None

(b) Galway Film Centre Short Film Zanzibar Films

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The Boring Diary of Frances Noone

SCHEDULE 9: 2015 TOP 50 PROGRAMMES

Rank	Programme Title	Channel	Transmission Date
1	The Late Late Toy Show	RTÉ One	27-11-2015
2	Rugby World Cup Live: France v Ireland	TV3	11-10-2015
3	Rugby World Cup Live: Ireland v Argentina	TV3	18-10-2015
4	Rugby World Cup Live: Ireland v Italy	TV3	04-10-2015
5	Sunday Game Live - Dublin v Kerry: All Ireland Football Final	RTÉ2	20-09-2015
6	Charlie	RTÉ One	04-01-2015
7	Euro 2016 Qualifier: Ireland v Bosnia	RTÉ2	16-11-2015
8	Euro 2016 Qualifier: Poland v Ireland	RTÉ2	11-10-2015
9	Mrs Brown's Boys: Mammy's Widow's Memories	RTÉ One	31-12-2015
10	Rugby World Cup Live: Ireland v Romania	TV3	27-09-2015
11	RBS 6 Nations: Ireland vs England	RTÉ2	01-03-2015
12	Mrs Brown's Boys: Mammy's Christmas Punch	RTÉ One	24-12-2015
13	Sunday Game Live - Kilkenny v Galway: All Ireland Hurling Final	RTÉ2	06-09-2015
14	RTE News: Nine O'Clock	RTÉ One	18-01-2015
15	The Late Late Show (Country Music Special)	RTÉ One	23-10-2015
16	RBS 6 Nations: Scotland vs Ireland	RTÉ2	21-03-2015
17	RBS 6 Nations: Ireland vs France	RTÉ2	14-02-2015
18	Rugby World Cup Live: England v Australia	TV3	03-10-2015
19	The Voice Of Ireland	RTÉ One	22-02-2015
20	Saturday Game Live - Dublin vs Mayo Football Semi Final	RTÉ2	30-08-2015
21	Saturday Game Live - Dublin vs Mayo Football Semi Final Replay	RTÉ2	05-09-2015
22	Euro 2016 Qualifier: Bosnia v Ireland	RTÉ2	13-11-2015
23	Euro 2016 Qualifier: Ireland v Germany	RTÉ2	08-10-2015
24	RBS 6 Nations: France v England	RTÉ2	21-03-2015
25	Room To Improve	RTÉ One	08-02-2015
26	The Rose Of Tralee International Festival 2015	RTÉ One	18-08-2015
27	Mrs Brown's Boys D'Movie	RTÉ One	25-12-2015
28	RTE News: Six One	RTÉ One	30-12-2015
29	RTE Investigates (County Council Corruption)	RTÉ One	07-12-2015
30	Fair City	RTÉ One	18-01-2015
31	Rugby World Cup Live: Scotland v Australia	TV3	18-10-2015
32	Coronation Street	UTV Ireland	26-01-2015
33	Rugby World Cup Live: Ireland v Canada	TV3	19-09-2015
34	Rugby World Cup Live: New Zealand v France	TV3	17-10-2015
35	Sunday Game Live - Kerry v Tyrone: All Ireland Football Semi-Final	RTÉ2	23-08-2015
36	RBS 6 Nations: Wales v Ireland	RTÉ2	14-03-2015
37	At Your Service	RTÉ One	22-02-2015
38	Prime Time - A Stolen Life	RTÉ One	29-03-2015
39	Euro 2016 Qualifier: Ireland v Poland	RTÉ2	29-03-2015
40	EastEnders	RTÉ One	19-02-2015
41	Rugby World Cup Live Final: Australia v New Zealand	TV3	31-10-2015
42	Sunday Game Live - Hurling Qrtr Finals: Waterford v Dublin & Galway v Cork	RTÉ2	26-07-2015
43	The Nathan Carter Show	RTÉ One	30-12-2015
44	Ireland's Fittest Family	RTÉ One	13-12-2015
45	Rugby World Cup Live: England v Wales	TV3	26-09-2015
46	Well Holy God It's Glenroe	RTÉ One	27-12-2015
47	The Saturday Night Show	RTÉ One	10-01-2015
48	Operation Transformation	RTÉ One	21-01-2015
49	Rugby World Cup Live: Argentina v Australia	TV3	25-10-2015
50	Sunday Game Live - Tipperary v Galway: All Ireland Hurling Semi-Final	RTÉ2	16-08-2015

Source: TAM Ireland Ltd/Nielsen TAM.

Ranking is based on best episode of shows/series of 15+ minutes duration broadcast between 1

January 2015 and 31 December 2015, on any television channel, available in Ireland at any time. All figures are Consolidated National Individuals 4+. The Consolidated audience is the sum of the live viewing plus viewing recorded and played back within 7 days.



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