



## **Freedom of Information Acts and RTÉ for the year 2008**

### **Summary**

**The number of FOI requests RTÉ received in 2008 was 77, this was more than double the number of requests received in 2007. The number of requests remains well below the amount RTÉ received before mandatory handling fees were introduced in 2004. It was noticeable that in 2008 most requests came from journalists and that the public's use of FOI to access information about RTÉ remains very low**

### **Freedom of Information requests to RTÉ\***

<b>2000</b>	<b>140 requests</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>145 requests</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>147 requests</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>125 requests</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>41 requests</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>47 requests</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>36 requests</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>36 requests</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>77 requests</b>

**\* Invalid requests excluded**

**(There were 7 invalid requests in 2008, all due to non-payment of fees)**

## **Freedom of Information Applicants**

<b>Journalists</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Public</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Staff</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Business</b>	<b>5</b>

## **RTÉ Responses to FOI Requests**

58.5% of people who requested records held by RTÉ received all or part of the records requested. (Invalid requests are not included in these figures.) This is a reduction on the percentage of requests granted in full or in part in previous years. This is primarily due to people requesting records which are related to programme-making. The Statutory Instrument that brought RTÉ under FOI in 2000 excluded records relating to programme-making from FOI access. 13 requests were refused because the records requested related to programme-making functions of RTÉ. The other main reason for refusing requests was that the records requested contained commercially sensitive information, there were 12 of these in 2008.

	<b>2008</b>
<b>Granted in full</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Part-granted</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Refused</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Handled outside of FOI or withdrawn</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total*</b>	<b>77</b>

(\* Invalid requests not included)

## **Internal review**

An applicant whose request is either refused or only granted in part is entitled to seek an internal review of the original decision. The designated Internal Reviewer for RTÉ in 2008 was Tom Quinn, RTÉ Group Secretary. There is a mandatory handling fee of €75 for internal reviews when the records requested are non-personal. There were 7 requests for internal review in 2008. Adrian Moynes is replacing Tom Quinn as the Internal Reviewer in 2009.

## **Information Commission review**

RTÉ has been subject to very few reviews by the Information Commission in recent years. In 2008 there was a lengthy review of a request for records relating to RTÉ pensions from the RTÉ Pensioners' Association. The request had been made in 2007. That review remained uncompleted at the end of 2008.