

RTE

PUBLIC SERVICE STATEMENT
2010



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Broadcasting Act 2009

The Broadcasting Act 2009 (the Act) introduced three new reporting requirements on RTÉ, they are as follows:

Public Service Statement 2010

RTÉ, following a public consultation, shall prepare, not later than 12 months after the passing of the Act and every 5 years thereafter, or as required by the Minister (of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources), a public service statement setting out the principles to be observed and activities to be undertaken by RTÉ in order to fulfil its public service objects.

The RTÉ Public Service Statement was submitted to the Minister on 12 July 2010.

Statement of Strategy 2010-2014

Not later than 6 months after the passing of the Act and every 5 years thereafter, RTÉ shall prepare and present to the Minister a statement of strategy. The statement of strategy shall set out the strategy of the RTÉ Board for achieving its objects under the Act during the period to which the statement relates, having regard to resources available to RTÉ.

The RTÉ Statement of Strategy 2010-2014 was submitted to the Minister on 12 January 2010.

Annual Statement of Performance Commitments

RTÉ shall, by 31 January in each year, prepare an annual statement of performance commitments, in accordance with (a) its objects, (b) the *Statement of Strategy*, (c) the *Public Service Statement* and including the activities to which the corporation intends to commit in that financial year and associated performance indicators.

RTÉ will report each year in its Annual Report on the fulfilment or otherwise of the commitments made in its *Annual Statement of Performance Commitments*.

The first RTÉ *Annual Statement of Performance Commitments 2010* was submitted to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) on the 3 February 2010.

Introduction

RTÉ is a not-for-profit media organisation which exists to serve the Irish people. The Broadcasting Act 2009 requires that RTÉ entertain, inform and educate and have the character of a public service. RTÉ's broadcasting services must be offered free-to-air to the whole community and to Irish communities abroad, in so far as is reasonably practical.

RTÉ sees its mandate as the provision of national media services essential to the democratic public interest. These services must ensure the circulation, in English and Irish, of information on national, regional and international matters. They provide a space where public conversation, debate, performance and entertainment can be sustained. RTÉ ensures through prudent management of a publicly-owned resource that the daily life and pursuits, cultural interests and creativity of Irish adults and children are reflected, interpreted and celebrated.

RTÉ's Public Service Statement (the Statement) sets out the principles to be observed and activities to be undertaken by RTÉ in fulfilling its public service objects. The *Statement* has been informed by a public consultation and will be reviewed every five years, or as required by the Minister.

RTÉ Services

The Broadcasting Act 2009 sets out the objects of RTÉ. In fulfilment of its objects, RTÉ currently provides the following services:

Television

RTÉ broadcasts two free-to-air television channels, RTÉ One and RTÉ Two which together broadcast a comprehensive range of home produced and acquired programming across a wide range of genres, catering to mass and niche audiences. RTÉ also provides programming for children and young people. RTÉ operates a teletext service, RTÉ Aertel and provides one hour of Irish language programming per day to TG4.

Radio

RTÉ broadcasts four FM radio stations; RTÉ Radio 1, RTÉ 2fm, RTÉ lyric fm and RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta which together cater for a broad range of interests in the areas of news, current affairs and sport, entertainment, music and arts. RTÉ also operates seven digital radio services on Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) which span speech, children's radio, dance, alternative, pop and ambient music. All RTÉ Radio services are accessible online to a global audience and RTÉ Radio 1 is available on Long Wave in Britain and parts of Western Europe.

News and Current Affairs

RTÉ News and Current Affairs provides comprehensive, independent and impartial news and current affairs programming on television, on radio and online.

Online Services and Publishing

RTÉ maintains a website, RTÉ.ie; an online TV catch-up service, the RTÉ player and a 24-hour online news service, RTÉ News Now. A wide variety of RTÉ programming is available to viewers and listeners outside Ireland through the RTÉ player (International) and the RTÉ website. RTÉ also publishes the RTÉ Guide, an entertainment and broadcast listings magazine.

Performing Groups

RTÉ supports five performing groups: two orchestras, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra; two choirs, the RTÉ Philharmonic Choir and RTÉ Cór na nÓg; and a string quartet, the RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet. The RTÉ Performing Groups deliver a wide range of quality performances and participate in a range of complementary community and educational activities. In addition to this, RTÉ Performing Groups commission and première new works by emerging as well as more established composers.

Transmission

RTÉNL provides a national analogue transmission network for RTÉ Radio and Television, as well as other national and local broadcasters and hosts equipment for telecommunications and other service providers. RTÉNL is currently building a national Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) transmission infrastructure in preparation for the introduction of the new DTT service and has a trial DAB transmission infrastructure in place.

Libraries and Archive

RTÉ maintains and preserves the largest archive of Irish audio-visual material in the world. This comprehensive archive comprises not only radio and television programmes, but also still images, production files, scripts, music scores and manuscripts. In fulfilment of the requirements of the Act, RTÉ has submitted a scheme to the Minister which will facilitate access to this archive.

Future RTÉ Services

During the lifetime of this Statement, RTÉ will make best use of current and emerging technologies to ensure that our audiences can access and enjoy RTÉ content, such as news and current affairs or children's programming, whenever, however and wherever they wish.

Guiding Principles

RTÉ will be guided by the following principles:

- RTÉ will remain independent of any vested interest
- RTÉ will provide for and be responsive to the interests, needs and concerns of the whole community on the island of Ireland
- RTÉ will aim to set and maintain the highest standards of programme and service quality
- RTÉ will uphold the democratic values enshrined in the Constitution and serve the public interest
- RTÉ will reflect and nurture traditional and contemporary Irish cultural expression and seek to inform a greater understanding of the wider world
- RTÉ will be accountable for all that it broadcasts, publishes and performs and will ensure value for money.

Activities

Every day and across all its services, RTÉ will continue to follow these principles by:

Remaining independent...

- Providing high quality national and international news services that are accurate, impartial and objective
- Ensuring the integrity of its services and that editorial decision-making is not subject to undue influence from any commercial, political, religious, social or cultural interest.

Catering for the whole community...

- Providing a wide range of programming and services that entertain, inform and educate
- Creating shared experiences through its services that help bind the community together and foster a greater sense of citizenship and national identity
- Providing programming and services for majority and minority interests, being inclusive and reflecting the diversity that exists in modern Ireland
- Providing programming and services for and about children and young people living in Ireland
- Ensuring people with disabilities can access a range of RTÉ programmes and services.

Providing a high quality service...

- Maintaining a rigorous editorial process across all RTÉ services
- Encouraging innovation, experimentation and originality in programming
- Working with the Irish independent production sector and attracting and developing the most talented people to create content for Irish audiences
- Ensuring that licence fee payers can enjoy RTÉ content using the highest quality and most proven audio, video and on-demand technologies.

Serving the public interest...

- Providing comprehensive coverage and analysis of Irish and international politics and public affairs including coverage of local and national elections, European elections and elections in other countries
- Creating opportunity for fair debate and discussion on the issues of the day across RTÉ services
- Encouraging and enabling audience contributions to RTÉ programmes
- Undertaking investigative reporting into matters of public interest
- Respecting the right to privacy of the individual and ensuring no unreasonable encroachment upon that privacy
- Respecting human dignity and upholding rightful freedom of expression.

Promoting cultural expression...

- Providing services in both Irish and English
- Ensuring RTÉ's programme schedule and services have a distinctive Irish voice and perspective
- Providing space in RTÉ schedules for Irish and international cultural expression and by creating and commissioning new work
- Providing programming of all kinds on global themes and increasing awareness of the cultures, values and traditions of Europe and the wider world
- Maintaining a comprehensive, relevant and accessible archive of audio, video and printed materials
- Ensuring that RTÉ's Performing Groups remain at the heart of musical life in Ireland.

Being accountable...

- Publishing at the beginning of each year a detailed statement of performance commitments and reporting on these commitments in the RTÉ Annual Report and to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI)
- Optimising appropriate commercial revenues in the licence fee payers' interests
- Managing its finances prudently and maintaining best practices in relation to governance and reporting systems
- Maintaining an information and complaints service, publishing *Programme Standards & Guidelines* and establishing an Audience Council and a right of reply (in line with the BAI right of reply scheme).

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www.rte.ie