

Standing Committee – Report 2003

**APPENDIX E**

**CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD**

**REPORT 2003**

The Annual Report of this Board incorporates reports from its three main committees, the Broadcasting Committee, Internet Committee and Literature Committee.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Rt Rev AET Harper (Chairman)

Rev M Graham	Dr K Milne
Rev Canon RD Harman	Mr HT Morrison
Ven RG Hoey	Mr DC Reardon
Very Rev MGStA Jackson	Dr R Refaüssé
Ven GCS Linney	Dr AE St Leger
Rev Dr AW McCormack	Director of Communications ( <i>ex officio</i> )

*In attendance:* Media Officer

The Central Communications Board is appointed by the Standing Committee and its main objectives are to:

- Initiate policy in relation to the communications strategy of the Church of Ireland;
- Co-ordinate the work of the sub-committees;
- Report annually to the Standing Committee.

The Board intends to revisit its remit and its relationship with the role of Director of Communications.

**RESTRUCTURING AND DEVELOPING COMMUNICATIONS**

In September 2002, the role of Press Officer was restructured and the Rev Brian Parker was appointed as Media Officer. The role of Media Officer was redefined with greater emphasis on liaison with diocesan communications structures and the *Church of Ireland Gazette*. The overall brief is to develop the all Ireland profile of Church of Ireland news gathering and dissemination.

In December 2002 the Board was sad to say goodbye to its chairman of five years, the Most Rev Richard Clarke, Bishop of Meath and Kildare. Bishop Clarke had been responsible for overseeing the restructuring of the CCB, the appointment of a Director of Communications and the review of the role of Media Officer. In the same month, the Board welcomed the House of Bishops' new appointment to the Board, the Right Rev Alan Harper, Bishop of Connor, who was elected as the new Chairman.

## **COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH PROJECTS**

The communications team gave support to a number of projects which came to fruition this year. The Joint Covenant of the Methodist Church and Church of Ireland was signed in September 2002 at Chrome Hill, Lisburn on the site where John Wesley intertwined two beech trees in a gesture symbolising the unity between the two Churches. Copies of the text of the Covenant, designed in Church House, Dublin to be suitable for public display, have been sent to all clergy of both churches with a letter of encouragement from the two Church leaders and suggestions for ways of celebrating the Covenant. This historic event received broad coverage in the media.

A fresh initiative this year was the development of a website to support the Commission on Ministry. This was launched in the lead-up to the Summit on Ministry and was subsequently used to carry information facilitating debate on the subject of developing diverse patterns of ministry within the Church of Ireland.

The Scoping Study commissioned by the Sectarianism Education Project was reproduced in Church House, Dublin and production support will be made available for resource materials that will be used in the second half of 2003 in connection with the process of reflection upon the implications of the Scoping Study.

The large print version of the *Church Hymnal* was received in March 2003 and was distributed to parishes with the assistance of Diocesan Secretaries. This initiative was part of the Church of Ireland's response to the needs of worshippers who suffer from visual impairment. Some 5,500 books were made available at minimal cost in order to support the principle of providing a large print edition in every parish. A Braille version of the *Church Hymnal*, which was produced with the invaluable assistance of the Braille Unit at Maghaberry Prison, has now been circulated to 22 parishioners within the Church.

The review of Equality and Disability Rights legislation in both jurisdictions has resulted in the production of policy advice from the Internet Committee about making websites accessible. This will be considered by the CCB and circulated throughout the Church of Ireland. A further document offering guidelines on the production of printed material in an accessible way is already available on the website and has been circulated to parishes.

## **ENHANCING LINKS BETWEEN THE CHURCH'S CENTRAL AND LOCAL STRUCTURES**

In 2001/2002 the principle of the regular dissemination of information about work in progress from Standing Committee and the Representative Church Body was established. In 2002, this was extended with the creation of a Committee News section on the Church of Ireland website. Committees are invited to place brief, regular updates on work in progress on this site. This resource is available to diocesan magazine editors, the *Church of Ireland Gazette* and the press and general public to enable those with an interest to keep abreast of work being undertaken by committees and boards in the course of the year.

### **COPYRIGHT**

In accordance with Church of Ireland policy a booklet entitled *A Guide to Selection Conferences* was published in 2002 under the copyright of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland.

### **THE CCB AND ITS SUB-COMMITTEES - FORWARD PLANNING 2003**

The CCB and its sub-committees began a review of their objectives in January 2003. From this process a number of projects emerged.

### **MEDIA TRAINING**

In response to the work of the Internet Committee in facilitating the development of diocesan and parish websites throughout the Church of Ireland, the magazine competition has been extended to include a website competition. A central feature of this will be a detailed analysis of all entries. This will be done by the adjudicators and feedback will be provided. Advice and training may also be offered to participants. Prizes of book tokens were generously sponsored again by the Diocesan Board of Education of Down and Connor and Dromore.

A training day was held for Diocesan Communications Officers in the course of the year. This focused on developing co-ordinated media responses on issues that extend beyond diocesan boundaries. Further training is planned.

In addition to the training days with DCOs, two training days were arranged for newly appointed bishops focusing on working with the media and developing strategic communications plans. A further training session was conducted with newly appointed clergy (stipendiary and auxiliary) in Connor diocese. A training workshop was also organised for magazine editors.

### **POSITION STATEMENTS**

A key concern of the CCB is to make position (or issue) statements accessible both to members of the Church of Ireland and to external audiences. The Church in Society Committee has a particular role to play in handling such matters. Statements have been released on behalf of the European Affairs Panel, the Social Justice and Theological (Republic of Ireland) Panel and the Political and Legislative Panel (NI).

A full archive of press releases is maintained on the website, which also makes available all statements released through the Press Office by archbishops, bishops and senior clergy.

The Press Office maintains a file with these statements available. They can be emailed or faxed to the press or to individuals requiring them for research. All material is updated as new material is issued.

The position statements are being posted on the website.

## **PRESS OFFICE**

The Church of Ireland story continues to attract much media interest at both national and local level. In association with diocesan communications officers the press office maintains press relations and operates a press enquiry service, handles interview facilities and press release distribution as well as press briefings and conferences. In line with communications policy development the press office also contributes to the sourcing of specialist spokespersons and the delivery of media awareness workshops and media training exercises.

The General Synod is an important focus of media interest. In 2002 at the Stillorgan Park Hotel, Dublin the event proved to be an excellent platform for presenting the Church of Ireland/Methodist Covenant, not least in terms of photo opportunities around the presentation of symbolic saplings. Synod also provided the opportunity to brief journalists and offer interviews on Synod agenda items. The Church of Ireland website again proved to be a valuable resource in disseminating information to various outlets.

Similarly diocesan synods attracted extensive local media coverage with presidential addresses making the news. In addition bishops and diocesan events helped to focus on particular issues such as the dangers of alcohol abuse, third world debt, duty as citizens, inter-church relations and paramilitary violence.

The retirement of Archbishop Walton Empey was recorded in national print and broadcast media with warm tributes given prominent coverage. The election and enthronement of his successor, the Most Rev John Neill, was a major media event with heavy demands for press interviews.

The consecrations of the new bishops - Derry and Raphoe; Cashel and Ossory - were widely covered in local media. Other notable events included the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, the signing of books of remembrance following the Soham murders and the marking of the First Anniversary of the September 11 attack.

Topical issues required church leaders at both national, diocesan and parish level to respond to media requests for comment and interviews. The topics ranged from concerns over Iraq to an appeal to baby Carrie's mother. The press office is grateful to clergy and lay people who often at very short notice engage with the media in a positive and effective way.

The development of regular, proactive press presentations of church decisions and views is ongoing not least with press releases issued on Standing Committee business. Some examples of this kind of proactive press work include statements on the Nice Agreement, support for the Shot at Dawn Campaign, warnings on serious threats to rural life, the Northern Ireland peace process and concerns over possible war in Iraq.

The press office magazine and website annual competition is attracting an increasing number of entries and is working to help editors develop communications within the parish.

**BROADCASTING COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERSHIP**

Dr K Milne (Chairman)

Ms R Buchanan  
Rt Rev WP Colton

Mr AD Fleck

Rev TW Gordon

Director of Communications (*ex officio*)

Dr V Jones

Rev Dr AW McCormack

Rev FJ McDowell

Rev Dr W Crawley (*consultant*)

Media Officer (*ex officio*)

The year has, as always, been a busy one in the life of the Broadcasting Committee and we have continued to meet regularly in both Dublin and Belfast in discharge of our obligations.

**UK COMMUNICATIONS LEGISLATION**

The course of the new legislation in the United Kingdom jurisdiction has been unusually retarded. There is every sign now however of the pace hotting up. Again, at the time of writing, the legislation is in Committee stage in Parliament and it is anticipated that it will make its way to the House of Lords for discussion in March 2003. The Broadcasting Committee has monitored the legislation at each stage of its long development and has contributed in the various consultative fora. The Committee hopes to be in a position to brief the Archbishop of Armagh before the House of Lords debates so that he may be better able to contribute in these debates if that proves possible for him. The Committee has also been seeking to lobby HM Government through its membership of CACLB- the UK local broadcasting think-tank.

**BBC (NI)**

The Broadcasting Committee has continued to be most impressed by the standard of religious programming on BBC (NI). *Sunday Sequence* is in our opinion one of the finest religious programmes on radio. We are also delighted to welcome to consultancy membership on the Committee the Rev Dr William Crawley, a Presbyterian minister who is the presenter of *Sunday Sequence*. The Committee had occasion to meet in the offices of BBC (NI) through the course of the year and we wish to record our thanks to both the Rev Dr Bert Tosh and Mr Martin O'Brien for the warmth of their welcome on this occasion and for the stimulating discussion. The Committee is well aware that the process of BBC Charter Review is beginning to dominate everyone's horizons and we hope to be in a position to make reasoned and responsible comments when this becomes necessary.

**UTV**

The Committee was received warmly in the offices of Ulster Television by Mr Alan Bremner, Controller of UTV. A number of issues relating to the new UK communications legislation were discussed. The Committee values such occasions of actual liaison with broadcasters.

### **ITC/OFCOM**

The Committee was received with similar graciousness at the offices of the Independent Television Commission (to be part of OFCOM in the new communications dispensation). Again issues relating to the proposed legislation were discussed.

### **PRIORITIES FUND BURSARY/ RTÉ RADIO DRAMA**

Some time ago (see General Synod Reports 2001, p178) the Committee approached three broadcasters – RTÉ, BBC (NI) and UTV – with the idea of establishing a bursary for a writer to produce a programme-ready script for subsequent broadcast. In the course of the past year the Committee has secured both the co-operation of RTÉ Radio and the financial backing of the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund and is pleased to report that the original idea is now progressing well. The Committee hopes to report further to the General Synod.

The Broadcasting Committee is grateful to the Church of Ireland Priorities Fund for making this project possible. It is hoped that a number of press launches will stimulate wider interest in the programme and it is planned to facilitate a public seminar in Trinity College in Dublin a few weeks after the broadcast to discuss some of the issues raised. The Committee also hopes that such a bursary might be awarded again at some time in the future and ideally such an award might involve partnership with a Northern Ireland broadcasting company.

### **INTER-FAITH CONFERENCE**

Considerable debate has been occurring in Ireland over the last year about the best use of ‘religious’ space in the public service broadcasting schedules. Discussion has tended to centre on the broadcasting of the Angelus bell, but in the opinion of the Committee there are much wider issues to be discussed. The Committee therefore hopes to organise, in conjunction with RTÉ in the first instance, an inter-faith conference to consider the fair and responsible placement of religious items in public broadcasting. Already an internal policy day has been held (November 2002) and it is hoped that the conference will be convened in the Autumn of 2003. The Committee is also working with ICCTRA to develop a consultation involving the Christian Churches alone in May 2003.

### **FORUM ON PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING**

The Committee was represented at this Forum, which met in Dublin in the early summer of 2002, and a copy of the report is appended.

### **CACLB**

The Churches Advisory Council on Local Broadcasting has in the past year been undergoing a change – it is soon to become the Churches Media Council (CMC) and this alteration in nomenclature will reflect more appropriately in increasing remit of the body. Much of the past year has been spent trying to engage with the new UK communications legislation. Church of Ireland membership of this body is a responsible attempt to represent Church of Ireland interests at a high level in the UK jurisdiction.

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### TRAINING

The Committee continues to work through the Rev Tom Gordon to offer training to Church of Ireland personnel. The existing model of training is working well at the pre-ordination level in the case of clergy and at the special constituency level. The Committee hopes to be in a position to enhance training at the post-ordination level in the case of clergy and also to respond to the lay Church of Ireland constituency.

### 3-R

The Committee has continued its involvement with 3-R, a religious news syndication service based in Dublin.

### INTERNET COMMITTEE

#### MEMBERSHIP

Ven RG Hoey (Chairman)

Ms M Carter

Mr K Cinnamon

Rev M Graham (Internet Co-ordinator)

Mr M Larmour

Mr DC Reardon

Director of Communications (*ex officio*)

*In attendance:*

Media Officer

The Internet Committee works in three main areas:

- maintaining and developing the Church of Ireland websites;
- encouraging and developing the use of the Internet among Church members;
- supporting Internet users in the Church of Ireland.

#### CHURCH OF IRELAND WEBSITES

The Church of Ireland website (<http://ireland.anglican.org>) continues to attract thousands of visitors every week. The number of visitors (“sessions”) rose to an average of 8,600 per week in 2002 (2001=7,000), generating an average of 93,650 “hits” per week on the site.

Launched in 1997, the website is now the largest of any province in the Anglican Communion, and as well as containing a wealth of information on the Church of Ireland and other valuable resources, it also contains a complete searchable archive of all material released by the Church since that date. This invaluable and unique asset is publicly available on-line to researchers, church members and other interested parties.

However, the website is “showing its age” and a major survey is under way to try to identify ways in which the needs of those who visit and use the site can best be met.

The General Synod website (<http://synod.ireland.anglican.org>) this year again provided an opportunity for non-Synod members and visitors alike to follow the preparation for and work of the General Synod held in the Stillorgan Park Hotel in 2002. Over 29,600 visits

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were made to the website over the year, reflecting visitors' continuing interest in the work of the General Synod and the Church of Ireland even beyond the period of the Synod itself. Preparations are already under way for the website for General Synod 2003.

A further website "Church of Ireland Online" (<http://churchofireland.net>) was launched at the end of 2001. It is intended to provide information which it is hoped will be useful and informative to internet users in the Church of Ireland. It is also hoped that it may help answer some of the questions which arise from time to time from newcomers to the web as well as "old hands". Over 14,000 visits were made to this site in 2002.

The site contains a directory of clergy and parishes and contact email addresses for Church of Ireland members. This information is in a password-protected area to prevent its unauthorised disclosure and misuse. There is also a directory of links to Church of Ireland parish websites and other sites of general interest (this directory being publicly available). The directories (<http://churchofireland.net/directories>) are continually updated as changes which have been notified to the Directory Editor ([direditor@churchofireland.net](mailto:direditor@churchofireland.net)) occur.

Also available on this site is up-to-date information on virus threats which have the potential to damage users' computer systems, as well as tools for the removal of viruses and links to further information (<http://churchofireland.net/avlinks>).

#### **USE OF THE INTERNET BY CHURCH MEMBERS**

The Church of Ireland Internet Committee continues to offer Internet Services to all members who are already on-line, including official email addresses and web site hosting. This year the Church of Ireland servers hold 160 domains, ranging from dioceses and parishes to organisations such as the Mothers' Union (<http://mothersunion.ie>) and the Bishops' Appeal (<http://bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org>).

The Internet Committee continues to offer these services **free of charge** to qualifying organisations and would encourage all Church of Ireland organisations to use the "anglican.org" naming convention whenever possible. Those interested are asked to contact the Internet Co-ordinator ([webmaster@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:webmaster@ireland.anglican.org)) if they have any queries.

At the end of 2002, 115 parishes have web sites listed in the Church of Ireland Directory. Seven dioceses now have diocesan websites (Cashel and Ossory, Cork, Derry and Raphoe, Down and Dromore, Dublin and Glendalough, Meath and Kildare and Tuam).

The first Church of Ireland Website Competition, which was held in 2002, attracted a diverse set of entries from every corner of Ireland. Entries were divided into two main categories, Diocesan and Parish. One additional entry was received from the *Church of Ireland Gazette* and this was evaluated separately.

The winner of the Diocesan competition was the website for the United Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough, designed by web editor, Stuart Kinsella with content by Dr Valerie Jones, Diocesan Communications Officer. The website for the diocese of Down and Dromore was Highly Commended.



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The Parish competition was won by Carnalea Parish, from the diocese of Down and Dromore, edited by the Rev Michael Parker. The judges unanimously felt that Carnalea Parish website managed to express a sense of spirituality that would stimulate reflection on the part of visitors, with a wealth of information about the parish based on a well constructed design.

The judges also gave Highly Commended awards to the following parish websites:

- St Clement's, Belfast (content)
- Dalkey, Dublin (content)
- Holy Trinity, Killiney (content, design and outreach)
- Leixlip and Lucan (outreach)
- St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen (stimulates reflection)

A further parish received a Commended award:

- Kilglass, Killala

Work continues on the important area of accessibility of websites and it is hoped that a guide for website managers can be produced in the near future.

### **SUPPORTING INTERNET USERS IN THE CHURCH OF IRELAND**

The Internet Co-ordinator continues to provide ongoing telephone and site support for Internet users throughout the Church of Ireland. If people are newly on-line, are considering a website or would simply like to talk with someone about the internet they are invited to contact the Internet Co-ordinator, the Rev Michael Graham, at [webmaster@ireland.anglican.org](mailto:webmaster@ireland.anglican.org) or telephone +353 (0)41 9839458.

### **LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Rt Rev MHG Mayes (Chairman)

Rt Rev MGStA Jackson  
Rev Canon MC Kennedy  
Rev Canon JW McKegney  
Dr K Milne  
Rev SA Pragnell

Dr R Refaussé (Honorary Secretary)  
Rev B Treacy OP  
Ms C West  
Very Rev SR White  
Director of Communications (*ex officio*)

The Committee met on four occasions.

At the request of the Central Communications Board the Committee undertook a review of its role. It concluded that its principal functions were as follows:

- to identify gaps in the provision of published material;
- to generate new ideas in publishing;

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- to review material which is offered for publication;
- to operate as a publisher in the sense of commissioning publications from other agencies;
- to make recommendations for support from the General Synod Royalties Fund.

Progress was made on a review of Church of Ireland publishing. Information has been gathered on Church of Ireland related publishing since 1980, including material published directly by central church bodies, diocesan publishing and Church of Ireland funded publishing. It is intended to analyse this information to determine the various categories of published materials, the costs of such activity, and the extent to which it effectively supports the Church's mission and ministry. A draft publishing policy will be developed and circulated for debate with the objective of encouraging prospective authors to address topics for which no published material is available.

Consideration is being given to the production of guidelines for producing print material which will be circulated to the dioceses.

Grants from the General Synod Royalties Fund were recommended for the following projects:

- Central Director of Ordinands – a booklet on ordination;
- Church of Ireland Historical Society – R Gillespie & WG Neely (eds) *The laity and the Church of Ireland, 1000-2000* (Dublin, 2002);
- Dr B Boydell – a forthcoming history of the music of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin;
- Liturgical Advisory Committee – funding for the central liturgical officer to promote the forthcoming Book of Common Prayer;
- APCK – reprinting of leaflets on aspects of the Church of Ireland.

The Committee continued to monitor commercial religious publication which related to the Church of Ireland.

**Appendix**

**FORUM ON PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING CONCLUSIONS**

**Conclusions from the Report of the Forum of Broadcasting to the Minister for  
Communications Marine and Natural Resources Dermot Ahern TD**

**August 2002**

**CONCLUSIONS**

On the evidence presented, it is the view of the Forum that (subject to some regulatory changes) the existing broad framework for broadcasting in Ireland provides a satisfactory basis for future development. There are considerable uncertainties ahead as advances in technology open the way to the age of digital television and to increased competition from outside the State.

The Forum believes that there is a clear necessity for public service broadcasting that fosters, expresses and reflects the varied, complementary and sometimes conflicting values of the community. Furthermore, it is the opinion of the Forum that the existence of a designated public service broadcaster is the best guarantee of public service broadcasting in Ireland now and for the foreseeable future. This broadcaster must have a strong commitment to Irish culture and language.

Equally, there is a vital role for commercial and community broadcasters in Ireland to provide audiences with a genuine choice of programming and alternative coverage of news and current affairs. Commercial and community broadcasters have introduced an element of competition which has had a positive impact on the quality of public service broadcasting. Local radio (perhaps because of the greater flexibility of the medium) in particular has defined new audiences and broadened the choice available to the public.

RTÉ occupies a special position as the public service broadcaster and this position should be strengthened in the light of the changed contemporary broadcasting environment. While there is a clear need for greater efficiencies within the organisation, it is also noted that RTÉ has not been well served by deficiencies in the collection of licence fees and by the fact that cost increases have well outstripped licence fee adjustments in recent years. Funding should be sufficient to allow RTÉ to fulfil its obligations and to plan for the future on a realistic level. Increased public funding for RTÉ should be conditional on its fulfilment of its public service obligations and on its efficient operation as monitored under the Charter.

On the basis of its assessment of the evidence, the Forum makes the following recommendations.

**The role of public service broadcasting**

1. The role of RTÉ as the designated public service broadcaster should be reaffirmed. RTÉ should continue, for the present, to operate its existing range of television and radio channels in order to fulfil its role as described under Section 28 of the Broadcasting Act, 2001.
2. RTÉ should remain in public ownership, but this should not preclude alliances with external organisations for specific purposes.
3. RTÉ's performance of its public service broadcasting remit should be measured against a more detailed statement of public service broadcasting commitments accompanied by a significantly improved system of public accountability (discussed in more detail below).
4. All proposals by RTÉ for significant future development, whether or not in alliance with external organisations, should require prior approval of a business plan by the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources

**The impact of digital television**

5. As a matter of urgency, the issue of digital terrestrial television should be revisited in an attempt to provide a countrywide system as part of the national infrastructure.
6. The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources should keep under review the impact of digital television on the role of RTÉ.

**The role of commercial broadcasting services**

7. The New Adventures in Broadcasting scheme run by the BCI for the development of public service programming should be maintained, and expanded as resources permit.

**The regulation of broadcasters**

8. The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources should establish, within three years, a new single regulator for broadcasting in Ireland to be called the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI). It would be established, under legislation, to assume the existing functions of the BCI and the regulatory functions of the RTÉ Authority.
9. The status of the RTÉ Authority should be redefined so that it becomes a Board of Directors.
10. There will continue to be a need for an autonomous Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

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11. The Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation (ODTR) should continue to regulate distribution platforms. There should, however, be formal liaison between the ODTR and the BAI.

**A Charter for RTÉ**

12. The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources should agree with RTÉ a Charter for the exercise of its public service remit, and rolling business planning for the delivery of agreed objectives. The Charter should be reviewed periodically.
13. The Charter should include clear statements of purpose and criteria under which RTÉ's performance can be monitored by the BAI. The criteria should relate to content, impartiality and the application of public sector funding.
14. Each RTÉ channel should be subject to at least the same level of content regulation as applies to the commercial sector.
15. Pending the establishment of the BAI, the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources should arrange for transparent and independent monitoring of the Charter.
16. RTÉ should operate in accordance with an agreed Code of Fair Trading Practice.
17. RTÉ should publish transparent accounts for each service and, specifically, for its use of public funding.

**Regulation of commercial broadcasters**

18. The BAI should have regard to the need to stimulate meaningful competition in the commercial sector and to ensure broadcasters are geared to the needs of the communities which they serve.
19. The operation of the policy on the ownership and control of commercial broadcasters should be reviewed after three years to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

**Regulation of trans-national broadcasters**

20. The Government should pursue the revision of the *Television Without Frontiers* Directive to bring it into line with today's conditions.

**Dual funding mechanism**

21. The dual funding mechanism should be maintained as the only practical approach towards funding public service broadcasting in Ireland.

**Licence fee system**

22. The television licence fee system should continue as the basis for public funding of RTÉ.
23. The introduction of a higher level of licence fee for commercial premises should be considered in terms of cost-effectiveness and feasibility.
24. For the time being, the contract for the collection of the licence fee should remain with An Post. The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, in consultation with An Post and RTÉ, should set targets for the number of licence fees collected, introduce a scheme of incentives and penalties for An Post relating to the rate of collection, and adjust the regulations governing the licence fee to enhance the collection rate.

**Level of public funding for RTÉ**

25. The licence fee should be reviewed with the objective of establishing a base on which RTÉ can move forward to meet its public service broadcasting remit. The Government should ensure through a series of adjustments over defined periods that the value of the new licence fee will not be eroded.
26. In making recommendations to the Government in relation to the licence fee, the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources should have regard to the level of public funding required for RTÉ to fulfil its public service broadcasting obligations as well as to the maintenance of a balance between RTÉ's revenues from commercial and public sources.
27. Adjustments to the licence fee should be dependent on RTÉ's performance in meeting the requirements set out under the Charter.

**Broadcasting and the independent audio-visual sector**

28. RTÉ and other broadcasters should institute multi-annual arrangements in relation to the outsourcing of production.
29. In the interests of transparency, the Independent Production Unit within RTÉ should publish, with due regard for commercial sensitivity, detailed information in relation to programme commissions. In addition, the responsibility for commissioning programmes from the independent production sector should be held by a broadly based group within RTÉ.
30. The BAI should ensure that, in the future, the commissioning of programming from the independent production sector is an effective precondition for the granting or renewal of broadcasting contracts.

**Community broadcasting**

31. The promotion of community broadcasting should be a stated policy objective of both the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources and, pending the establishment of the BAI, the BCI.

**Broadcasting and the Irish language**

32. The level of additional public funding required for the establishment of TG4 as a separate statutory entity should be clearly identified prior to its establishment.
33. The fulfilment by RTÉ of its obligations to Irish language broadcasting should be a key element of the Charter. This could include, for instance, more programmes of a bilingual character.
34. Programmes aimed at learners of Irish, both adults and children, should be available at a variety of levels either on RTÉ 1 or TG4.
35. The BAI should continue the work of the BCI in exploring new ways of enhancing and incentivising Irish language broadcasting in the commercial sector.

**Broadcasting and culture**

36. RTÉ's responsibility to commission, and cultivate audiences for, works of art should remain an element of programming policy and be integrated in RTÉ's forthcoming Charter.

**Educational and children's programming**

37. The production of increased amounts of original educational and children's programming should be encouraged of all broadcasters.
38. The Government should move to promote, at a European level, clear and enforceable policies in relation to advertising on children's television.

**RTÉ's performing groups**

39. The cultural value of the RTÉ performing groups should be a stated element of RTÉ's Charter.
40. In light of the cultural significance of RTÉ's performing groups, the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism should be consulted on their future resourcing and deployment.

**Audio-visual archives**

41. Broadcasters should be obliged to maintain archives in an appropriate manner. A representative group should be established to advise the Minister for

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Communications, Marine and Natural Resources on the development of a national policy on audio-visual archives.

### **Developments in broadcasting**

42. As a means of informing public policy formulation, the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources should commission appropriate studies and reports, including comparative studies and analysis.
43. In view of the central role of broadcasting in Irish life, it is important that the Oireachtas, through the Committee system in particular, should debate developments in broadcasting on an ongoing basis.
44. The Government should keep under review the working of the 2000 Transparency Directive of the EU Commission on state aid to public service broadcasters and related developments in European case law.

### **Appendix**

#### **List of Organisations and Persons who made submissions to the Forum**

Ardtarmon House  
Bowden, Mr Chris, Manager, Television Research, AC Nielsen  
Breathnach, Mr Diarmuid  
Brennan, Mr Edward, School of Media, Dublin Institute of Technology  
Broadcasting Commission of Ireland  
Bushe, Dr Con  
Byrne, Mr Charles, Chairman, Royal Television Society  
Callanan, Mr Ronan  
Carberry, Mr Enda, Midwest Radio/North West Radio  
Cardy, Mr Stephen, Irish Christian Broadcasters  
Casey, Mr Leo, AV Edge Communications  
Chorus Communication Ltd  
Church of Ireland Broadcasting Committee  
Clancy, D  
CMN, Dublin City Community Media Forum and Dublin Community TV Channel  
Collins, Mr Dan  
Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge  
Conradh Na Gaeilge  
Contemporary Music Centre  
Corcoran, Mr Farrell, School of Communications, DCU  
Costello, GERALYN  
Creely, Ms Marion  
Daly, Mr Jerome  
Deering, Mr Mark, Sky Ireland  
Dublin Television & Multi-Media Ltd  
Dun Laoghaire Institute / School of Art Design & Media  
Elliot, Dr Ian, Irish Science Centres Awareness Network



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Family and Media Association  
Farrell, Mr Michael, Radiomation Ltd, Roscommon  
Fennell, Mr Cillian  
FilmMakers Ireland  
Foras Na Gaeilge  
Forum for Music in Ireland  
Gallagher, Mr Shane  
Galvin, F  
Graham, Mr Ian  
Havelin, Mr David  
Healy, Mr David, Audio-visual Federation, IBEC  
Higgins, Mr Michael D. T.D.  
Hill, Mr Dick  
Holmes, Mr John S  
Hughes, Mr Michael  
Hummingbird Productions  
Independent Broadcasters of Ireland  
Institute of Advertising Practitioners in Ireland/Association of Advertisers in Ireland  
Institute of Technology, Tralee  
Irish Churches' Council for Television & Radio Affairs  
Irish Film Board  
Irish Hard of Hearing Association  
Irish Traditional Music Archive  
Its TV Limited  
Kelly, Mr T  
Kennedy, Mr Peter  
Kenny, Dr Colum  
Kenny, Mr Shane, Managing Editor, RTÉ OnBusiness  
Lacey, Councillor D, Dublin Corporation  
Leahy, Ms Ann, Age and Opportunity  
Mr Cormac Leonard, Irish Deaf Society  
Mac Coille, Mr Cathal  
Mac Donncha, Mr Pádraic, Comharchumann Ráth Cáim  
Mac Murchú, Irial, Nemeton Teo  
Mahon, M  
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MacBride, Mr Gerry, Lon Dub Teo  
McCabe, Mr Dermot  
McKimm, Mr Peter  
Minogue, Ms Kate  
Mulqueen, Mr Mark, Film Institute of Ireland  
Murphy, Mr Patrick J, Chairman Arts Council  
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National Union of Journalists  
National University of Ireland, Maynooth  
Ni Mhíocháin, Ms Máire/ Mr Alan Esslemont  
NTL

Standing Committee – Report 2003

O Coileáin, Mr Tadhg, Léirithe Lúnasa Teo  
O' Connor, Mr Ulick  
O'Driscoll, Mr Donal  
O' Farrelly, Mr Christopher  
O'Gadhra, Mr Nollaig  
O' Kane, Mr Enda, Irish Overseas Broadcasting  
O Muiré, Orán  
O'Murachú, Mr Seán, NMD Productions  
O'Neill, Dr. Brian, School of Media, DIT  
O'Reilly, Dr. Barney, Kerry Education Service, Co. Kerry VEC  
O'Sullivan, Mr Sean Francis Patrick  
Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation  
Office of Tobacco Control  
Parlaimint na mBan  
Patten, Mr John, Medialink (on behalf of Channel 4)  
Pine, Mr Richard  
Quinn, Mr Bob  
Radio Kerry  
Richardson, Ms. Anne Marie  
RTÉ  
RTÉ Managers Association  
RTÉ Trade Union Group  
RTÉ TV Producer/Director Group  
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Ryan, Mr Eoin  
Scottish Radio Holdings  
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Smeaton, Prof Alan, Centre for Digital Video Processing, DCU  
Swift, Mr John, SIPTU NSO  
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Williams, Mr John, Producer, RTÉ