

APPENDIX K

THE IRISH CHURCHES' COUNCIL FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO AFFAIRS

FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2001 TO 31 DECEMBER 2001

MEMBERSHIP

Roman Catholic Church

Fr Martin Clarke (Chairman)
Rev Michael Melvin SVD
Sr Marie Stuart
Fr Tom Hayes
Ronan Mullen (resigned September 2001)
Vacancy

Church of Ireland

Dr Valerie Jones (Honorary Secretary)
Ms Janet Maxwell (appointed November 2001)

Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Vacancy

Methodist Church in Ireland

Rev Dr John Parkin

The Religious Society of Friends/Irish Council of Churches

Ms Margaret M King

Secretary/Treasurer

Ms Mary Linton

PERSONALIA

During the period of the report a number of changes occurred in membership. We welcomed Janet Maxwell as the second Church of Ireland representative in November. She replaced Dean Maurice Carey who resigned in 2000. Following Maurice's untimely death in April 2001 the Council was amongst the many organisations which paid tribute to his contribution to their work. A further change was the departure of Ronan Mullen who resigned from the Council in September 2001. We thank him for his valuable contribution and wish him well in his new post at Blanchardstown Institute of Technology.

BROADCASTING ACT 2001

This new legislation was enacted in 2001. A delegation from ICCTRA had appeared before the *Joint Oireachtas Committee on Heritage and the Irish Language* in February 2000 regarding the Broadcasting Bill 2001. ICCTRA was concerned that, in the context of defining public service broadcasting, religious broadcasting should be protected and explicitly mentioned in the new legislation. As a result of this appearance before the Oireachtas Committee and on foot of submissions to the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, ICCTRA was pleased to note the following provision in Section 28 (2) of the Broadcasting Act 2001:

*"The Authority shall ensure that the programme schedules of the broadcasting service ... provide a comprehensive range of programmes ...that reflect the cultural diversity of the whole island of Ireland and include, both on television and radio ...programmes that provide coverage of sporting, **religious** and cultural activities".*

RADHARC AWARD

The Radharc Award was initiated in 2001 to honour the memory of the late Fr. Joe Dunn, co-founder of Radharc, "for a television documentary programme of outstanding quality which addresses a national or international topic of social justice, morality or faith". At the invitation of the Radharc Trust, it was agreed that this prestigious competition should be organised under the aegis of ICCTRA. The Radharc Award was launched by broadcaster John Bowman at the Irish Film Centre in October 2001, and 47 entries were received. The award will be presented to the winning entry by President Mary McAleese at a function in Dublin in January 2002.

RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMES ON RTE

ICCTRA has been dismayed to learn that cut backs at RTE will result in fewer Church Services from outside Dublin being broadcast. We will continue to monitor the situation and to make representations where necessary.

CHURCH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR LOCAL BROADCASTING (CACLB)

ICCTRA assisted with the costs of two people engaged in local radio attending the Churches' Broadcasting Conference at Swanick in June 2001. Frank Flanagan of Christian Media Trust South East and the Rev George Knowd of Tipperary FM enjoyed the experience of meeting so many people engaged in religious broadcasting on local radio stations throughout the British Isles.

LOCAL RADIO

ICCTRA continues to monitor developments in local radio. During the year SOLAS AM was granted a licence by the IRTC. EWTN Radio and website now have satellite access for radio/tv.