

**APPENDIX H**

**THE IRISH CHURCHES' COUNCIL FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO AFFAIRS**

**FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2003 TO 31 DECEMBER 2004**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Roman Catholic Church**

Fr Martin Clarke (Chairman) (resigned September 2004)

Rev Michael Melvin SVD (resigned September 2004)

Sr Marie Stuart (resigned September 2004)

Vacancy

Vacancy

Vacancy

**Church of Ireland**

Dr Valerie Jones (Honorary Secretary)

Ms Janet Maxwell

**Presbyterian Church in Ireland**

Rev Frank Sellar

**Methodist Church in Ireland**

Rev Graham Hamilton (vice-chairperson)

**The Religious Society of Friends/Irish Council of Churches**

Ms Margaret King

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Ms Kay Blennerhasset (appointed July 2002)

**PERSONALIA**

During the period of the report a number of changes occurred in membership. Early in 2004 Fr Martin Clarke intimated his intention to resign following his return to pastoral ministry. To mark our appreciation of all the work he did on behalf of ICCTRA a presentation was made to Fr Clarke at a luncheon in Church of Ireland House in December 2004. The other Roman Catholic representatives, Fr Mick Melvin and Sr Marie Stuart have also resigned as their term in office has expired. We thank them for their contribution to ICCTRA over the years. We will particularly miss Sr Marie's expertise in local broadcasting. We wish her well in her new area of pastoral ministry. We welcomed Mr Martin Long, spokesperson for the Irish Bishops' Conference, and Ms Brenda Drumm from the Catholic Communications' Office in their places and we look

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forward to the remainder of the Roman Catholic Church's places being filled before too long.

### **SEMINAR ON RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING**

As a follow-up to our very successful seminar on *Religious Broadcasting and the Future, What do the churches want? What does the public need* in April 2003 the facilitator, Mr David Meredith, drew up a very useful report charting new ways in which ICCTRA can pursue its objectives.

### **RELIGIOUS ADVERTISING ON RTE**

As the likelihood of changes in the law regarding religious advertising on RTE, increased ICCTRA invited Mr Alex White, a barrister who specialises in broadcasting law, to address one of our meetings on the issue. As the matter has gone to the European Court of Human Rights we were advised to await the outcome before pursuing the matter further. Meanwhile Mr White will monitor the situation for us.

### **RADHARC AWARD**

In April 2004 ICCTRA was represented at the presentation of the Radharc Awards. Founded to honour the memory of Fr Joe Dunn, co-founder of Radharc, this prestigious prize is awarded for the best television documentary programme addressing a national or international topic of social justice, morality or faith. The competition is organised under the aegis of ICCTRA. The awards were presented at a ceremony in the New Jury's Hotel attended by over a hundred members of the media.

### **RTE PERSONNEL**

In October 2004 we bade farewell to Mr Bob Collins as Director-General of RTE and welcomed Mr Cathal Goan in his place.

### **CHURCH OF IRELAND CONSULTATION**

ICCTRA was represented at the Church of Ireland Consultation on Diversity and Religion in Public Service Broadcasting held on 14 October 2004.

### **ON GOING WORK**

As there have been several changes in local radio stations ICCTRA decided in November 2004 to undertake a survey of religious broadcasting in the Republic and preliminary work on this project is underway. It was decided that the survey would look at the national/local commercial/independent radio stations and at a later stage the issue of religious programming in the public service broadcasting category might be examined. Plans have also been put in hand for a website for ICCTRA to be developed by Ms Brenda Drumm.

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**CACLB ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

As part of its policy to assist those in local broadcasting ICCTRA has subsidised a number of local broadcasters to attend the annual conference of the Churches Advisory Council for Local Broadcasting in Swanick. In June 2003 Mr Frank Flanagan from Wexford attended and his report received in September 2003 fully justified this policy. Ms Janet Maxwell, a member of ICCTRA and the Church of Ireland Director of Communications, was to have attended the 2004 Conference of the Churches' Media Council (the Advisory Council's new name) but due to pressure of work was unable to go.

February 2005