

Mission: Building Stronger and Safer Communities

Online Safety

Online Safety	
HOF	Triona Quill
Commitment	<p>We will enact the Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill and establish an Online Safety Commissioner. The Online Safety Commissioner will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Require online platforms to set out the steps they will take to keep their users safe online and to build safety into the design of their platforms. ● Ensure new Online Safety Codes can combat cyber bullying material and material promoting eating disorders, self-harm and suicide. ● Provide a mechanism for further categories of harmful content to be added following consultation with the Oireachtas. ● Require that services operate effective complaints procedures. ● Ensure that advertising, sponsorship and product placement are not harmful and that they uphold minimum standards. ● Require platforms to have take down measures which are timely and effective. ● Promote positive digital citizenship among children and young people, in conjunction with Webwise and other educational partners, schools, as well as the Ombudsman for Children. ● Develop a research programme led by internationally recognised experts to review the existing and developing literature in relation to (a) the consequences, benefits and potential harms to society and children specifically of digital activity and (b) the concept of duty of care and the public interest in the design of online platforms.
Response	<p>1. These commitments are provided for in the Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill, the General Scheme of which was approved by Government in January</p>

	<p>2020 and sent to the AGO/OPC for drafting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Government also approved sending the General Scheme to the Oireachtas for pre-legislative scrutiny which is subject to the establishment of the relevant Oireachtas Committee. 3. Additional draft Heads of Bill to deal with the funding of the new regulator and the regulation of Audiovisual Services have been prepared and will be brought to Government for approval and addition to the General Scheme at an early date. 4. The Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill will also transpose the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive, for which the transposition deadline is September 2020. However, the European Commission has not yet issued promised Guidelines in respect of the Directive and the transposition date may be delayed. 5. The OSMR Bill is detailed and complex and will take some time to be fully drafted by the OPC.
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Online Safety	
HOF	Triona Quill
Commitment	The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) will be replaced with a new Media and Online Safety Commission when the legislation is enacted.
Response	This is provided for in the Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill

Online Safety	
HOF	Bill Morrissey
Commitment	We will support digital literacy schemes across the country and will continue to support the Digital Skills for Citizens Scheme
Response	1. We will complete a review of the Digital Skills for Citizens Programme, within the context of the

	<p>development of the National Digital Strategy. The review is focused on how the Programme might achieve more impactful outcomes and ensure a more co-ordinated Government approach to the issue of digital inclusion.</p> <p>2. In that context, consideration will need to be given as to whether the objectives of the programme are best served by responsibility for it remaining within this Department, or whether it should transfer to either the Department of Education and Skills (life long learning aspect) or the Department of Rural and Community Development (community and voluntary aspect).</p>
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Audio Visual / TV

Arts and Culture	
HOF	Triona Quill
Commitment	<p>Film/TV /Audio-visual/Digital/Media Production</p> <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement the Audio-visual Action Plan. ● Continue funding for Screen Ireland. ● Work with the relevant government departments to ensure the full implementation of the Audio-visual Media Services Directive (AVMSD).
Response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is leading on the implementation of the Audiovisual Action Plan and has responsibility for the funding of Screen Ireland. 2. DCCAE is leading on the transposition of the AVMSD through the Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill. DCCAE is represented on the Steering Group for the Audiovisual Action Plan and briefs other Government Departments on the AVMSD transposition through this forum. 3. The PfG does not specify a date for the full implementation of the AVMSD. The transposition deadline is September 2020. However, the European Commission has not yet brought forward promised Guidelines and the transposition may be delayed. The Government approved the General Scheme of the OSMR Bill in January 2020 and it was sent to the AGO/OPC for drafting. The Government also approved sending the Bill for pre-legislative scrutiny, which has not yet happened pending the establishment of Oireachtas Committees.

Media

Media	
HOF	Triona Quill
Commitment	Bring together all policy functions relating to broadcast media, print media and online media into a single media division within a Government Department.
Response	This is a matter for Government.

Media	
HOF	Triona Quill
Commitment	Expand the remit of the Public Service Broadcasting Commission to become a Future of Media Commission and to consider the future of print, broadcast and online media in a platform agnostic fashion. It will report within 9 months on the necessary measures that need to be taken to ensure there is a vibrant, independent public service media for the next generation. The current funding model for public service broadcasting is inefficient and the Commission will publish recommendations.
Response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Government decided in December 2019 that a Commission on the Future of Irish Public Service Broadcasting would be established by the Department of the Taoiseach. 2. Professor Brian MacCraith was appointed as chair of the Commission in January 2020 but no other members of the Commission have been appointed. 3. The PFG commits to a wider remit for the Commission and to a reporting deadline of 9 months. The role of the Department of the Taoiseach in the process will need clarification. Membership will need to be settled and the Commission will need to start its work as a matter of urgency.

Media

HOF	Triona Quill
Commitment	Enact the Broadcasting Bill by the end of the year to ensure that we can support our local community radio stations and independent national, regional and local broadcasters in the important work that they do.
Response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was envisaged that the Broadcasting Bill would enable the collection of the TV licence fee to be out to public tender. This is likely to be put on hold given the remit of the Future of Media Commission to examine the funding model for public service broadcasting. 2. In addition, the Broadcasting Bill provides for exemptions and changes to the Broadcasting levy that funds the BAI. The BAI is to be dissolved and its functions included in the remit of the Online Safety and Media Commission, the legislation for which is currently being drafted. It would therefore make sense to roll any required provisions from the Broadcasting Bill into the Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill. 3. It should also be noted that the BAI has waived the Broadcasting levy for the independent radio sector for Q1 and Q2 2020.

Media	
HOF	Triona Quill
Commitment	Recognise the important role of Irish public service broadcasting in Irish life and the ongoing restructuring efforts at RTÉ in the context of a changing media environment
Response	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NewEra is preparing a report for the Minister on the current financial situation in RTE and current restructuring efforts which it is intended to bring to Government in the coming weeks. 2. The Future of Media Commission will make recommendations in respect of the future of Irish public service broadcasting and is due to report in 9 months,

	<p>making recommendations on RTÉ's role, financing and structure within this framework.</p> <p>3. As regards financing specifically, the current TOR of the Commission provides inter alia that it will bring forward recommendations on how public service broadcasting:</p> <p>“can be funded in a way that is sustainable, gives security of funding, ensures independent editorial oversight and delivers value for money to the public;</p>
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Media	
HOF	Triona Quill
Commitment	Support Irish language broadcasting across TG4, Raidió na Gaeltachta and other platforms.
Response	<p>1. TG4 are fully exchequer funded since 2019 having previously received some licence fee funding and are insulated from changing licence fee receipts. Funding of €37.233m including €3m capital is being provided in 2020 to enable them to fulfil their role in promoting Irish language and culture.</p> <p>2. RTÉ funding supports Raidió na Gaeltachta and both broadcasters support the implementation of the Government's Strategy on the Irish Language.</p>