



# TG 4 Annual Report 2021

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# Mission, Vision and Core Values

TG4's mission is to deliver entertaining and innovative media services that celebrate Irish language creativity and connect with audiences at home and worldwide. Through partnership with the Irish language audio-visual sector, we enable the creation of world-class content and support economic growth in Ireland.

TG4's vision is "to promote successfully Irish language and culture and ensure a central place for TG4 in Irish people's lives, both in Ireland and abroad".

TG4's vision and mission can be encapsulated in TG4's motto "súil eile", which recognises the need to stay mainstream with niche programming through the commissioning/acquisition and broadcasting of high quality programmes, capable of competing for, achieving and maintaining strong viewership levels.

TG4's values influence the way in which its strategy will be achieved, the style in which it operates and overall, reflect the principles which are the core characteristics of the organisation. It is expected that each TG4 employee will use these values as their guiding principles to direct their onthe-job behaviours



TG4 has succeeded in making the language accessible.

Irish Examiner, March 2021



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The annual awards, now in their twenty-fourth year, celebrate musicians who have advanced, strengthened and preserved traditional music in Ireland.

Journal of Music, 8/9/21

# TG4's Core Values

#### **Connection:**

- To provide a daily link for the Irish language to every household in the country.
- To put our audiences at the centre of everything we do.
- To offer an alternative viewpoint on national and international affairs.

#### Quality and Value-for-Money:

- To provide a high quality programme schedule.
- To operate a cost effective and efficient structure.

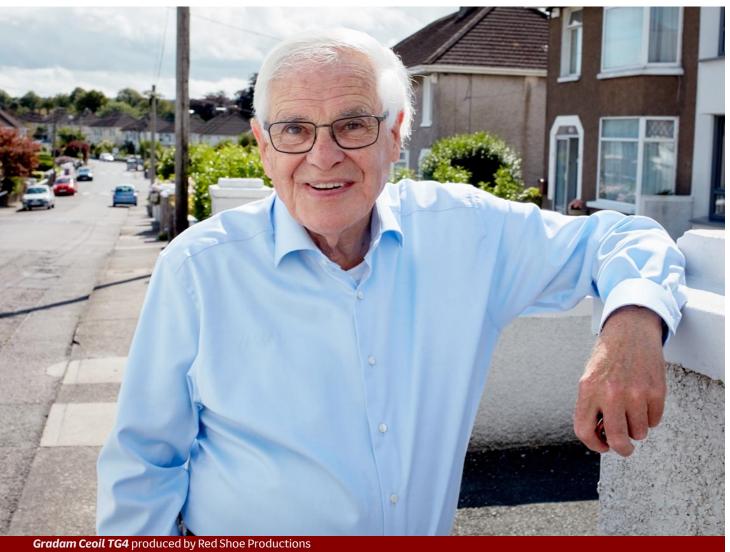
#### **Creativity:**

- To be creative in our output and everything we do.
- To continue to deliver innovative and unique programmes.

#### **Proactive:**

 To maintain the "can do" attitude cultivated and now established within our organisation and staff.





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# **TG4's Commitments for 2021**

#### TG4 has identified 12 priorities for 2021:

Linear Audiences:

Maintain our audience share and resonance with national linear audiences.

2 Digital Audiences: Deliver significant growth in TG4 digital viewing.

**3.** Invest more in creative, younger audience focused content and services, to grow TG4's reach with children and younger audiences.

# 4 Irish Language and Gaeltacht Communities:

Continue to strengthen TG4's ties with Gaeltacht and Irish speaking communities.

Frough more collaboration and more investment in content and talent, support jobs and growth in Ireland's regional creative economy.

# 6 Internationalisation of Independent AV Sector:

Continue to provide a platform for the internationalisation of the Irish independent audio-visual production sector.

7 Internationalisation of TG4's Creative Cultural Footprint:
Deepen TG4's global cultural and linguistic footprint.

# Safeguarding our Cultural and Linguistic Assets:

As a custodian of Irish language broadcasting legacy, TG4 will continue to build its Digital Archive.

**9** Findability and Prominence: Ensure TG4's content is discoverable through marketing, technology and prominence rules.

Sustainability:
Create a sustainable working
environment in TG4 and promote greener
production practices in partnership with
the independent sector.



**11** Funding & Scale
Achieve "first-class national funding scale" and deliver value-formoney from public funding.

12 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Promote diversity, equity and inclusion in TG4, both on and off-screen, in partnership with key stakeholders.

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# **Key Performance Highlights for 2021**

TG4, in order to carve out a niche, and to distinguish itself from the pre-existing public service broadcaster, had to be more than just the Irish language version of RTÉ. To achieve the distinction, TG4 created its unique identity in the eyes of viewers, through commissioning brilliant original documentaries.

The Irish Times, 7/9/21

2021 was an important year for TG4 as the channel celebrated 25 years of broadcasting on Halloween night. To mark the occasion, President Michael D. Higgins visited Ros na Rún Studios in An Spidéal with German President, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. TG4 also published a commemorative book, TG4@25 which highlighted some of TG4's programming over the 25 years through the eyes of the programme producers.

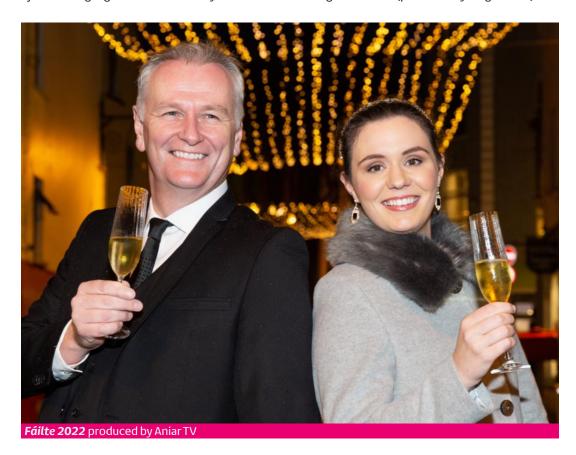
AnTaoiseach, Micheál Martin congratulated TG4 on its success over the previous twenty-five years saying: "For the last quarter of a century, TG4 has performed a vital role in Irish society, and has established itself as a distinctive and unique voice on Ireland's media landscape. Its success over the past 25 years is a tribute to the commitment and dedication of its staff, management and Board, who have had the vision and drive to create innovative programming for Irish-language speakers across the country."

In 2021, TG4 published its Post Covid Vision strategy to grow TG4's scale and reach and to better serve its audiences at home and abroad. The strategy is set to magnify the status of Irish language and culture and to strengthen the status of the language in Irish society. TG4 also

commissioned in depth research on the provision of news and current affairs in the Irish language and how the service could be enhanced to better serve audiences.

TG4's programming schedule had many highlights in 2021. Live Sports coverage continued to attract large audiences for TG4, with most viewed programmes this year including Rugbaí Beo (Leinster V Munster) and Ladies Football Finals (Dublin V Meath) on Peil na mBan Beo. Audiences tuned in large numbers for the special commemoration of President Michael D. Higgins' 80th birthday, Ómós Michael D @80. Hector met the new Irish on Hector – Éire Nua, Documentaries on Martin McGuinness, Peter O'Toole and Seán Ó Riada also featured prominently in the most viewed programmes on the channel. Female led documentaries Sile Seoige: Deireadh Tochta and PEIG were in the top five most watched programmes on the TG4 Player. TG4's social media 'Intern' engaged audiences, throughout 2021. Views of social media content increased by over 20m views to a total of 58 million video views for the year.

CINE4, the Irish language film scheme by TG4, Screen Ireland and the BAI, went from strength to strength. Foscadh (produced by Magamedia) was



Annual Report 2021



Sheridan, executive producer of Seán Ó Riada — Mo Sheanathair, may be assured that after a rollercoaster ride through reawakened family memories, a requisite amount of pain has gone into the making of the feature-length TG4 programme.'

Irish Examiner 23/12/21

the Irish entry for the 2021 Oscars list under the category of Best International Feature Film and Arracht (produced by Macalla) was acclaimed at festivals worldwide.

Other Irish language films released during the year included noir film, *Doineann* (produced by Doubleband Films) and the feature length documentary film, *The Queen v Patrick O'Donnell* (produced by Rosg); both of which were premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh.

Recognition for TG4 programming continued at

national and international festivals during the year, including nominations at the Celtic Media Festival, at the inaugural RTS Ireland awards and at the IFTAs. Samhlú (Fíbín) and Is Olc an Ghaoth (Lunar Pictures) were awarded Prix Circom European Regional Awards. The Radharc Award for 2021 was awarded to Tabú (produced by Midas) and a documentary about Tory Island, Treibh na nDéithe was awarded the Spirit of the Festival Award at the Celtic Media Festival 2021.

# Audiences in 2021

3.6m people or 81% of the population watched TG4 at some stage during 2021. The average viewing share was 1.89%, up from 1.83% in 2020, and there was an increase in primetime share from 1.92% in 2020 to 2.05% in 2021. This increase is the first time TG4 has had over 2% share in primetime since 2013, indicating the positive impact of TG4's additional investment in content and the range of quality programming being produced by Irish independent production companies.

TG4's cross-media reach with Irish language audiences was also strong. In 2020, TG4 reached 71% of Irish language audiences weekly, across all linear and digital platforms including TV, smart

devices, mobile, online etc. This increased to 71.5% in 2021.

TG4 went from strength to strength in terms of digital "personality" and audience in 2021. The cross-platform video views of TG4 content grew from 37.5m in 2020 to almost 62m in 2021. The number of minutes watched of TG4's content on digital platforms grew from 79m in 2020 to 93m in 2021. The total time on the Player grew by 33% in 2021 compared to 2020 and had over 3m views (live and VOD). Social media views also increased by 20m, with a total of 58m video views in 2021. Bloc, MOLSCÉAL and Spórt TG4 performed strongly with audiences in 2021 with increases in views and engagement across all.

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# Gaeltacht and Irish Speaking Communities

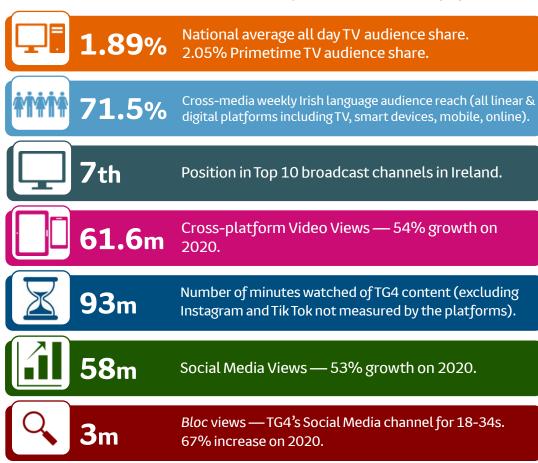
Cassidy's Laochra
Gael tops the TG4
Player charts for
2021. The former
Donegal skipper was
the first instalment
of the series last
January and gained
a huge viewership
both on television
the on the TG4
Player.

Donegal Live 28/1/2022

Fios Fise, the measurement viewing panel of 500 Irish speakers, which is independently conducted by NUIG, demonstrates the importance of TG4's News and Current Affairs output for Irish speaking audiences. In 2021 TG4 commissioned research conducted by National University of Ireland, Galway with advice from research agency, Red C to seek the views of Irish language speakers towards the provision of news and current affairs. The research findings showed a level of satisfaction with the current service but demonstrated that viewers want investment in online news provision, investigative journalism and more extensive news service that has a distinct editorial perspective and not a direct translation of English language news.



In 2021, TG4 broadcast distinctive series that reflect Gaeltacht and Irish language communities



Molscéal views — platform for Irish language community-

TG4 Foghlaim learning resource for primary and post-primary schools. Increase in page views in 2021.

based stories from Gaeltacht regions. 61% increase on 2020.

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2.37m

such as documentary *PEIG* fronted by Sinéad Ní Uallacháin who attempted to reimagine the muchmaligned Blasket Islander and restore her reputation as an entertainer, to *Seán Ó Riada* — *Mo Sheanathair* fronted by the granddaughter of Seán Ó Riada, Doireann Ní Ghlacáin who wanted to find out more about the iconic musician who passed away 50 years ago. A celebration of warrior, poet, holy man: one of Ireland and Scotland's most important saints Colmcille who was born 1500 years ago in *Colm Cille An Naomh Dána*. In *Finné* Liam Ó Maolaodha, Director of Oireachtas na Gaeilge spoke courageously about the abuse he suffered at the hands of his former teacher Domhnall Ó Lubhlaí.

Digital first brands *Molscéal* and *BLOC* performed exceptionally well over the year. *Molscéal*, the digital hub for community-based Gaeltacht stories continued to grow in popularity in 2021, and *BLOC*, series *Istigh liom Féin* which portrayed young men's mental health in an open and honest way was widely praised.

In a challenging year for events, TG4 showcased and highlighted the best of key Irish cultural festivals, including Fleadhfest, Oireachtas na Samhna 2021 and Gradam Ceoil. TG4 collaborated with Ealaín na Gaeltachta to celebrate Oíche Chultúir 2021 and with Creative Ireland to mark Cruinniú na nÓg 2021. TG4 partnered with RTÉ to bring Irish audiences over 150 hours of rugby action free-to-air in the new United Rugby Championship.

As schools remained closed in January 2021, Cúla4 ar Scoil returned to screen to provide a daily home school programme for Gaeltacht and Gaelscoil students. New series created for young audiences included, engineering series, Na hInnealtóirí, a nature series Timpeall Orainn presented by Póilín Nic Géidigh and Peadar Ó Goill, and An bhfuil a Fhios agat? exploring answers to common questions about the world around us. TG4 and independent producers Macalla partnered with



Paramount Animation and Nickelodeon Movies to produce the Irish language version of the Spongebob Squarepants movie, *Run Spongebob Run*, which was the first ever Irish language movie for children released on Netflix.

TG4 also partnered with National University of Ireland, Galway and COGG to run 'Iriseoirí an lae Amárach', a weeklong journalism workshop for transition year students affected by Covid-19 restrictions.

An IPSOS MRBI national survey of 1,000 adults demonstrates the importance of TG4 for Irish audiences, A significant majority, 91% of the public strongly agree/agree there is a clear need and role for TG4 in broadcasting in Ireland. 83% strongly agree/agree TG4 provides high quality content and services. 83% believe TG4 is the most positive measure to promote the Irish language and give it prominence. All three scores reflect increases on the 2020 survey. Pioneering research commissioned by TG4 and conducted by RED C Research & Marketing found that 44% of primary school teachers use TG4/Cúla4 in the classroom equivalent to 10,100 teachers, with an estimated audience of 244,000 students. In Gaeltacht schools and Gaelscoileanna, that figure is higher where 81% of teachers use TG4/Cúla4 in the classroom.



Viewers overcome with emotion watching Sile Seoige's documentary on miscarriages.

VIP Magazine 8/4/22

Broadcaster's personal experience of miscarriage inspired her new documentary.

Irish Examiner 7/4/22

IGA Annual Report 2021

# Investing in Industry Talent and Ireland's

Regional Creative Economy

TG4 is currently
Ireland's best
station due to their
eclectic mix of
documentaries,
music, Irish shows,
live sport, clever
commissions, and
astute acquisitions.

Paul Moore

Broadcaster, TG4 invests most of its spend on content and services from creative companies based in Ireland's regions. In 2021, TG4 spent €27.3m on creative services in the Republic of Ireland (ROI), of which €23.7m was spent with regional creative companies. Of the €27.3m spent on creative services, €21.9m was spent with independent production companies of which €20.2m was spent with regional independent production companies in the ROI. An additional €761k was spent with independent production companies in Northern Ireland (NI).

TG4 awarded thirteen new four-year programme output contracts worth €1.8m each to Irish language independent production companies. Through these contracts TG4 has supported jobs and growth in regional creative industries, helping to sustain and build Ireland's regional creative economy. It is estimated that in 2021, TG4's expenditures in Ireland made a contribution to national output of approximately €71m and supported approximately 901 full-time equivalent jobs (direct, indirect and induced). Of this, TG4's expenditures in the regions made a contribution to regional output of approximately €62m and supported 800 full-time equivalent jobs (direct, indirect and induced).

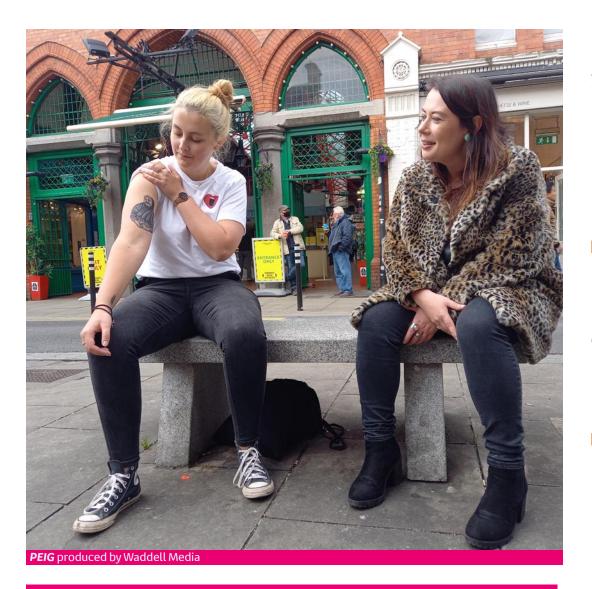
TG4 made significant investment in supporting the development of new industry talent in 2021. Eleven new trainees were placed on one-year placements with independent production companies, supported by TG4 and Údarás na Gaeltachta, with accredited training delivered by Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT). TG4 also delivered Glúin Nua, a scheme to support emerging Directors and Writers of Irish language projects and as part of this, commissioned five content projects for Bloc.

TG4 and Screen Producers Ireland agreed a Code of Fair-Trading Practice in 2021 between both parties. This is the first agreement of its kind between Screen Producers Ireland and TG4.



Adare Productions

TG4 supported Irish companies in international co-production for broadcast and distribution worldwide; these included *Báisteach*, a co-production with KCA (Korea), China LIC, BBC Alba, ILBF and Creative Wales; *Iontais na bhFarraigí Ceilteacha*; *Ceol Cheanada*, co-funded by TG4, the ILBF and Canadian Media Fund; *Clontarf Cowboy*; Paul Muldoon/*The Muldoon Picnic*, a TG4 and BBC co-production; *The Laughing Boy*, a co-production between TG4 and ERT Greece; *Glasoileán*, an Irish language version of the major '*Natura Europa*' series — a co-production between six European countries and PBS America; and, *Sruth* (Ceol TG4 and BBC Alba).



One of the documentary's real standout moments, though, comes when existing recordings of Peig's storytelling are played from reelto-reel tape, revealing a raspy, colourful voice that betrays a natural orator.

Mike McGrath Bryan The Irish Examiner

Peig was the Netflix of the time and people gathered around her from far and wide. She was a woman ... who loved to entertain and drew people to her.

Ronan McGreevy
The Irish Times 1/3/2021

# Safeguarding our Cultural and Linguistic Assets

TG4 appointed its first Archivist in 2021, to lead the development of valuable archive to ensure that TG4's content is findable and available to the public. The TG4 archive contains a valuable and varied repository of material. Through the development of the digital archive TG4's Irish Language Digital Archive will be one of the most extensive and significant bodies of Irish language audio-visual material in the world.

In 2021 TG4 completed the delivery of Digital Archive Project 3, with circa 300 hours of programmes to complete the full 1,435 hours of the project. The design of three microsites progressed during the year (*Peil na mBan*, *Ros na Rún* and *Comórtas Peile*) with a view to launch in 2022 on TG4's Archive.



TGI Annual Report 2021

# Prominence for Irish language Content

A lot of the change is down to media and the coverage they are giving. TG4 are brilliant. They give ladies' football a great platform.

ish Independent 15/6/2

TG4 continued to emphasise the importance of prominence of TG4's content, to ensure audiences can easily find and access Irish language content on whatever their platform of choice. TG4 engaged extensively with Government and industry stakeholders to ensure that public service media prominence would be legislated for, via the new Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill and to ensure there will be a role for the new Media Commission to regulate prominence. TG4 had ongoing discussions with OfCom, Digital UK and DCMS in order to progress TG4's prominence to its desired position of Freeview channel 8 in Northern Ireland.

A new TG4 Smart TV App was launched in February 2021 for Samsung, Sony and LG Smart TVs, as well as on OTT devices Apple TV (4th and 5th generation), Amazon Fire, Android TV and Google TV.

TG4 launched on Sky Q and Sky Go apps in June 2021 allowing Sky customers in Ireland to stream TG4 live through the Sky Go app and watch their TG4's catch-up content, on Sky Q.





Share of Public Funding on Irish Language Content.



€23.7m

Spend with creative companies in Ireland's regions. €27.3m spend with creative companies nationally.



Share of spend with the Independent Production Sector 95% which creates intellectual property.



Contribution to Regional Output. €62m €71m contribution nationally.



Regional Jobs Impact (FTEs). 901 national FTEs.

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# Value-for-Money, Sustainability and Efficiency

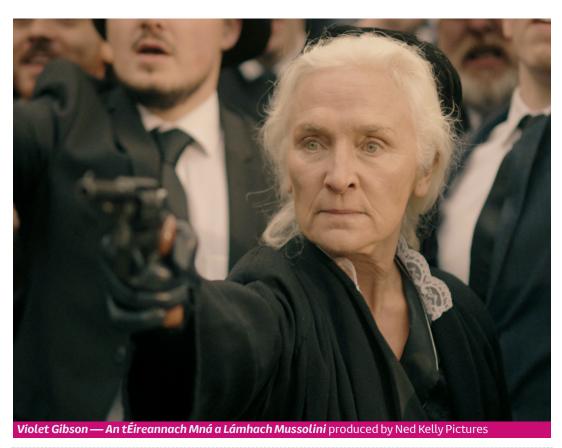
TG4 is committed to making the best use of public funding. Each year, we spend the highest possible amount on Irish language content and ensure that staff and overhead costs remain as low as possible.

In 2021, TG4 spent €32.7m on content (including production staff costs). This was 84% of TG4's net operating expenditure in 2021 and was a 7.2% increase on 2020.

Of this, TG4 spent €31.133m on Irish language

TG4's excellent documentary on the Irish woman who shot Mussolini airs this week.

Paul Moore Prish Mirror 15/9/21



2021 Current & Capital Funding: €38.733m (& €4.152m Net Commercial Income

Programme spend: €30.569m

Staff & Board Costs: €6.57m¹ Overheads: €2.42m²

Marketing, Research & Transmission Costs €3.45m

Spend with the Irish Independent Production Sector: €21.9m<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Including €2.163m production staff costs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Including €0.72m BAI fee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Excludung sports and music rights and spend outside ROI.

Kylemore Abbey is the spectacular setting for 'Ceiliúradh na mBan' celebrating Irish women.

We Are Irish 21/4/22



As part of TG4's commitment to sustainable production practices and to achieving the targets of the Climate Action Plan, all productions commissioned by TG4 will be required to use the Albert Carbon Calculator to monitor carbon footprint from January 2021.

Galway Advertiser

content. This represented 80% of TG4's public funding — meeting the target for 2021 and up 8.4% on 2020's spend.

TG4 continued to improve and develop to ensure operational efficiency and best practice. TG4 developed an actionplan for Diversity, Equality and Inclusion. Staff were coached regarding best practice in relation to Health, Mindfulness and wellness and TG4 initiated a Digital Transformation work plan.

As part of TG4's commitment to sustainable production practices and to achieving the targets of the Climate Action Plan, from January 2021, TG4 implemented the albert Carbon Calculator, and became the first Irish broadcaster to introduce this as a mandatory requirement.



Peter O'Toole **Réalta & Rógaire**, produced by Dearg Films

# The Board of Teilifís na Gaeilge and Other Information

The Board of Teilifís na Gaeilge was established in April 2007 under the provision of the Broadcasting Act, 2001. The board consists of a chair and 11 members, including the Director General in an ex-officio capacity and a staff representative. The appointments are made by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

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The Board met 7 times during the 12 months to the 31st December 2021.

#### Board Members and Director General at 31st December 2021



Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chairman)



Alan Esslemont (Director General)



Des Geraghty



Mairéad Ní Cheóinín



Micheál Seoighe



Michelle Ní Chróiníi



Bríd Ní Fhachtna



Frank Reidy



Mairéad Ní Nuadháin



Darach Ó Tuairisg



Seán Ó Domhnaill

#### **Company Secretary and Registered Office**

Emer Ní Ghabhnáin TG4 Baile na hAbhann Co. na Gaillimhe

#### Secretary to the Board

Lís Ní Dhálaigh

#### **Sub-Committees of the Board**

There are four sub-committees of the Board as follows:

#### **Audit and Risk Committee**

Bríd Ní Fhachtna (Chairman) Frank Reidy Mairéad Ní Nuadháin

During the 12 months to 31st December 2021, the Audit and Risk Committee met on 4 occasions after which they reported to the Board. The Internal Audit function reports directly to the Audit Committee.

#### **Remuneration Committee**

Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chairman) Des Geraghty Micheál Seoighe

The Remuneration Committee met once in the year to 31st December 2021.

#### **Brand Committee**

Michelle Ní Chróinín (Chairman) Siobhán Ní Ghadhra

The Brand Committee met twice in the year to 31st December 2021.

#### **Digital Committee**

Mairéad Ní Cheóinín ( Chairman) Darach Ó Tuairisg Seán Ó Domhnaill

The Digital Committee met once in the year to 31st December 2021.

#### Auditor

Comptroller and Auditor General
Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General
3A Mayor Street
Spencer Dock,
Dublin 1

#### **Bankers**

AIB Lynch's Castle Shop Street Galway

TGM Annual Report 2021

# Chairman's Report

This is my last report as Cathaoirleach of the TG4 Board. It has an extra significance this year as I look back on all that has been achieved over the past decade.

Despite facing many challenges including a severe economic downturn and reductions in our funding and commercial income — a situation which has been reversed I am pleased to say, in the last three years — the dominant themes of the decade for TG4 have been global competition, digital transformation and growth.

The media landscape has changed fundamentally. Digital technology, social media and connected devices have transformed content consumption and the lines between traditional broadcasters and global content intermediaries have converged. Global technology, media and internet conglomerates such as Amazon, Google, Apple, Netflix, Disney and Sky have all made significant inroads into the European audio-visual sector, disrupting the competitive environment for public service and commercial broadcasters alike.

TG4 has also evolved. No longer simply a linear broadcaster, the service is now a media business, providing content, a Player service, social media channels, Apps and more, on broadcast and online platforms, engaging with audiences on whatever device they choose — television sets, smartphones, tablets, computers and more.

Along with all other public service media organsations, TG4 faces extraordinary competition for audiences as global media and technology giants spend billions on new content for their platforms and as content options expand to include subscription video services, digital and social content, and more.

Not surprisingly, the Covid-19 pandemic, which has dominated so much of our lives for almost two and a half years, has accelerated changes in audience behaviour and digital disruption. Migration to streaming and online

content services have been particularly affected. Irish household subscriptions to Netflix for example, while negligible less than a decade ago, more than doubled in the two years to 2021, to over 40%. Irish households with Smart TVs is now well over 60%, meaning online services can be accessed through our television sets — all of this has had a major impact on audiences for live television viewing.

Despite these many challenges, and the transformation of all areas of our operations, TG4 has continued to do what it does best: delight Irish and global audiences by showcasing original Irish entertainment and culture in a contemporary and unique way, through TG4's own Súil Eile lens; provision of distinctive Irish language, community, national and global news and current affairs; investment in Irish independent sector programming, acting as an engine of growth for Ireland's regional creative economy; helping to sustain Irish-speaking and Gaeltacht communities; and, ensuring Irish language public service content remains important in a modern Ireland

## TG4 is an Engine for Growth of Ireland's Regional Creative Economy

As a Publisher-Broadcaster, TG4 enables creation of world-class content and supports creative industries' growth in Ireland. We have provided a significant engine for growth and development of Ireland's regional Irish language audio-visual sector.

Prior to TG4's establishment almost 26 years ago, there was practically no independent production sector in the regions. TG4 was the first broadcaster to introduce the Publisher-Broadcaster model in Ireland and to commission significantly from independent production companies in regional areas.

Over the past decade alone, TG4 has spent



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approximately €250m on creative services in Ireland, particularly in regional areas. Of this, almost €230m was invested with the Irish independent production sector, the majority of it with regional production companies. Every year, we spend over 90% of our programme budget on independent production.

Approximately 500 fulltime equivalent jobs are directly sustained by TG4 in audio-visual production in Gaeltacht and regional areas. This generates important economic, social and cultural benefits for these communities.

#### Developing Industry Talent

TG4 is also an important investor in production sector training to develop creative talent and skills.

Between 2008 and 2013, TG4 ran, in conjunction with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) and Údarás na Gaeltachta, a number of short film development schemes (Síol, Údar, Scéal 1 and 2) but funding constraints meant we were unable to continue them for almost three years. In the latter part of the decade, we were able to reverse this. 2017 saw the launch of *Cine4* in collaboration with the BAI and Screen Ireland, to support development and production of Irish language feature films.

In 2018, we launched, in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta, a new Media Training Development Scheme to support production company skills development and work experience. As part of this, we funded a mentoring programme in 2021, to support Gaeltacht-based production companies to develop co-productions and grow their business in international markets. We have also established *Glúin Nua*, a scheme to support emerging Directors and Writers Irish language projects, along with *Scéim Forbartha Oiliúna* (which provides industry trainees with one-year placements with independent production companies). This scheme is supported by Údarás na Gaeltachta, with accredited training delivered by Galway Mayo Institute of Technology.

I am very proud of the work TG4 has done through these schemes. They have been vital for growing Irish language writing, directing and production talent and their value and impact have been acknowledged throughout the industry.

I am particularly proud of Cine4 — not only has it supported the production of high-quality Irish language drama, it has also brought high-quality, Irish language drama to cinemas and has enhanced the status of Irish language film. Two Irish language films were released to cinemas in 2019 and 2020 and into international festivals. Another three films were completed in 2021 and will be released to cinemas in 2022. All have received national and international critical acclaim. Arracht was chosen as Ireland's entry for the Oscars' Best International Feature Film category in 2021. An Cailín Ciúin won two major prizes at the 63rd Berlin International Film Festival, eight IFTAs and was awarded Best Irish Film by Dublin Film Critics Circle (DFCC) and received the Audience Award. Róise & Frank, was also awarded Best Ensemble award by the DFCC.

#### **Broadcast & Non-linear Audiences**

Over the past decade, how our audiences engage with TG4's services has also evolved.

In the early part of the past decade, TG4 transitioned to digital terrestrial television, established Player services and began to seriously invest in non-linear platforms, developing new Apps and online channels. In the latter half of the decade, we also extended into social media platforms with services such as *Bloc*, TG4's social media channel for 18-34 year olds and *Molscéal*, our platform for Irish language community-based stories from Gaeltacht regions. Over the decade, we have strengthened TG4's digital personality and audiences — cross-platform video views of TG4 content were 62m and social media views were 60m in 2021 alone.

Reflecting our broadcast and non-linear platform presence, in 2020, for the first time ever, TG4 developed a new measure for cross-platform Irish language audience reach. This measure shows that TG4's cross-media reach with Irish language audiences is strong. In 2021, we reached almost 72% of Irish language audiences weekly, across all linear and digital platforms including TV, smart devices, mobile and online etc.

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Our linear broadcast audience also remains strong. In 2021, more than 81% of the population watched TG4 at some stage during the year. We began the past decade in 8th place in the top 10 linear channels in Ireland and are now in 7th place in 2021.

Our transition to non-linear platforms has also allowed TG4 to invest in the development and provision of educational and "edutainment" content for children and young people.

Cúla4 is TG4's daily broadcast service for children. Responding to Covid-19, we launched a home school programme Cúla 4 ar Scoil (with subjects including Irish, Maths, History, Geography, the arts and science etc.). The series was broadcast throughout the two years of the pandemic and the content was also made available online and on the Cúla4 YouTube channel. Cúla4 has proven to be a valuable Irish language resource for primary schools with independent research showing that 44% of all primary school teachers, 80% of teachers in Irish-speaking primary schools and 250,000 primary school children throughout Ireland, regularly use the TG4 or Cúla4 Player in the classroom.

TG4 also has an online learning resource which supports primary and post-primary schools — *TG4 Foghlaim*. This includes audio-visual content for the Leaving Cert and Junior Cert curricula which is a great resource for students. The portal was developed in partnership with An Chomhairle Um Oideachais Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG).

#### **Financial Position**

Following a significant reduction in TG4's funding due to the economic recession, TG4 current funding remained unchanged for the first five years of my tenure as Cathaoirleach of the TG4 Board. Focusing on seeking additional funding to further strengthen and expand

TG4's services, was a strategic priority for our work as a Board.

This work was framed by the development of TG4's 2018-2022 strategy and by the development of a new Post-Covid Vision for the 2022-2025 timeframe. Their purpose was to enable TG4 to address the challenges facing Irish language media in the digital age and to create significant value for our audiences, society and the Irish economy.

In this regard, the Board was pleased that TG4 secured increases of €3.5m for 2021 and €4.2m for 2022. The 2022 amount is the largest increase in TG4's public funding in any year and we are truly grateful for these funding increases. We believe they reflect the Government's acknowledgement of the importance of Irish language public service media in our society. All of the additional funding is being invested in content, skills and creativity.

#### **Thanks**

It has been an honour for me to lead the TG4 Board over the past ten years. I would like to conclude my report with thanks.

First, I would like to thank Minister Catherine Martin TD, Secretary General Katherine Licken and her other officials in the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. We are deeply grateful for the support they have shown for Irish language public service media and for the funding increases, which we also believe reflects a confidence in TG4's strategy for audiences and regional production.

Secondly, I would like to thank all of the members of the Board for their dedication and commitment to TG4. Like myself, four members of the Board have also come to the end of their terms, and I would like to wish them well (Des Geraghty, Mairéad Ní Cheóinín, Micheál Seoighe and Michelle Ní Chróinín). I also wish the remaining Board members well as they steer TG4 forward into the future.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the many organisations with which TG4 works. These include the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, the Irish Language Broadcast Fund, Screen Ireland and RTÉ. I would especially like to thank the Irish independent production sector and our other creative partners.

Finally, I would like to thank the TG4 staff, all of whom have worked so hard during my time as Cathaoirleach of the TG4 Board. I would particularly like to thank Ard-Stiúrthóir Alan Esslemont for his visionary and dedicated leadership of TG4. I wish them all well as they chart the next decade of TG4 — and beyond!

Air hi Ro

Siún Ní Raghallaigh Cathaoirleach 11 April 2022

Annual Report 2021 **IG** 

# **Director General's Report**

I write this report at a time of geopolitical crisis as a result of the war in Ukraine, with concern and uncertainty facing us as both individuals and a nation. Coming so quickly after the Covid-19 pandemic, which deeply impacted communities and businesses, we continue to face challenges. Primary amongst these is of course the humanitarian impact but there are also real socioeconomic impacts such as rising energy costs, resource shortages and inflation which effects our spending power.

In addition, TG4, along with all Public Service Media organisations, is facing some significant challenges in our own sector. Global competition from major technology and media giants, technology disruption, discoverability and prominence are only some of these. For TG4, these challenges are magnified as an Irish language media organisation which operates in a global and predominantly English language media market.

That said, TG4 has proven to be very resilient and I am delighted to report that in 2021, the service performed strongly with audiences, and in terms of the quality of our programming and digital content. We continued to respond to Covid-19 challenges to programme provision: by delivering unique content to educate and entertain children and young people; with content which leveraged our digital archive; and with new, imaginative content formats to respond to work and travel restrictions. We also strengthened our partnership with the Irish independent production sector and continued to invest in Ireland's regional creative economy and in finding and growing industry talent.

#### **Post-Covid Vision**

One of the most important actions of 2021 was our development of a new Post-Covid Vision for the 2022-2025 timeframe. Its purpose is to enable TG4 to address the immediate challenges facing Irish language media in the digital age and to create significant societal and economic value. This vision reflects three strategic and creative priorities to:

- Properly serve and inspire, and increase our engagement with, younger audiences.
- Serve Irish language audiences and the Irish-speaking communities and Gaeltacht even better.
- Support regional creative companies to come through the Covid-19 crisis and play our part in the country's recovery.

These strategic priorities framed our performance in 2021 and our focus for the years ahead.

In the context of this new vision, I would like to acknowledge the increase of €3.5m allocated to TG4 for 2021 and the €4.2m funding increase (the largest increase in TG4's public funding in any year) allocated for 2022. We are exceptionally grateful for these funding increases. We believe they reflect the Government's recognition of the importance of Irish language and Public Service Media, and the essential role they play in society. All of the additional funding is being allocated to quality programming, to fostering new talent, to upskilling and to creativity. Our investments in 2021 (and continuing into 2022 and beyond) provide a foundation to deliver a fundamental aspect of our Post-Covid Vision which is to "ensure Irish language public service content remains important in a modern Ireland".



"I say it from my heart, after my ten years in Áras an Uachtaráin, and it isn't out of sentiment I say this – with over 100 languages spoken in homes in Ireland, I would deeply appeal to people to make one great effort for the Irish language," he said.

Eavan Murray, Irish Independent

IGA Annual Report 2021

Éire Nua series is a love letter to every person who has made a new home in Ireland and to every member of the communities that embraced them.

Irish Times 25/9/21



#### Investing in Ireland's Regional Creative Economy

As a Publisher-Broadcaster, TG4 relies heavily on the Irish independent production sector. Along with other creative industries, the sector was badly affected by the pandemic.

TG4's Covid-19 strategy for the sector, which we developed in 2020, continued throughout 2021, in response to further restrictions.

As a Publisher Broadcaster, TG4 believes in sourcing as much as possible of our content and services from creative companies based in Ireland's regions. Many of these operate through the Irish language and are located in Gaeltacht areas. In 2021, TG4 spent €27.3m on creative services in the Republic of Ireland (ROI)⁴, of which almost €22m was spent with independent production companies. Almost €800k was additionally spent with Irish language independent production companies in Northern Ireland.

In 2021, TG4 awarded thirteen new four-year programming output contracts to Irish language independent production companies. These delivered high quality content for key slots in TG4's schedule in 2021 (and for an additional three years), and included for the first time, an output deal to target the under-35 audience demographic.

Through this expenditure, TG4 has supported jobs and growth in regional creative industries, helping to sustain and build Ireland's regional creative economy.

#### Investing in Finding & Growing Industry Talent

TG4 continued to support the development of new industry talent in 2021. Under year two of the *Scéim Forbartha Oiliúna* scheme, trainees were given one-year placements with eleven independent production companies. The scheme is supported by TG4 and *Údarás na Gaeltachta*, with accredited training delivered by *Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT)*.

As part of the new Media Training Development Scheme in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta, we funded a mentoring programme in 2021, to support Gaeltacht-based production companies to develop coproductions and to grow their business in international markets. We also delivered Glúin Nua, a scheme to support emerging Directors and Writers Irish language projects. We are very grateful to all our partners who work with us on these valuable industry development schemes.

#### **Investing in Quality Programming**

In 2021, 80% of TG4's public funding was invested in Irish language content (with the remainder spent on transmission, marketing and staff etc.).

We continued to commission quality, original, Irish language programmes for the broadcast schedule as well as for our non-linear content platforms. Broadcast programmes of note in 2021 included TG4's celebration of the 80th birthday of President Michael D. Higgins,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Excluding sports and music rights.

which did very well with audiences, Síle Seoige: Deireadh Tochta, a powerful documentary which explored the topic of miscarriage and Laochra Gael's documentary about Donegal footballer Kevin Cassidy. We also produced the very successful Ceol ó Kylemore concert which was broadcast worldwide on Lá le Bríde 2021.

We also collaborated on large number of international co-productions including: Fleadhfest 2021; Báisteach, a co-production with KCA (Korea), China LIC, BBC Alba, ILBF and Creative Wales; Paul Muldoon / The Muldoon Picnic, a TG4 and BBC co-production; and, The Laughing Boy, a co-production with ERT Greece — among many others.

One of our co-production animations, *Sol*, a beautiful children's film about grief, has been nominated as a finalist at Prix Jeunesse International 2022.

#### Cine4 — Irish language Film

We continued to invest in Cine4, TG4's Irish language film scheme in conjunction with Screen Ireland and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland. We completed three Irish language films in 2021 which are scheduled to be released to cinemas in 2022.

In 2021, selection of Arracht as Ireland's entry for the Oscars' Best International Feature Film category, and its subsequent theatrical release, helped to support the prominence of Irish language film.



Tyrone Productions

Foscadh produced by Magamedia

One of the 2021 productions, An Cailín Ciúin, opened the Dublin International Film Festival in 2022 and won two major prizes at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Berlin International Film Festival as well as eight IFTAs. It was awarded Best Irish Film by Dublin Film Critics Circle (DFCC) and received the Audience Award. The film has received widespread acclaim from critics at home and abroad. Another 2021 production, *Róise* & *Frank*, was awarded Best Ensemble award by the DFCC.

I am immensely proud of all of the Irish language films, and their production companies, which have been delivered by the Cine4 scheme to date and which have been so successful in helping to create status for the Irish language.

#### **TG4 Audiences**

In 2021, more than 81% of the population watched TG4 at some stage during the year. Average national television audience share grew from 1.83% in 2020 to 1.9% in 2021. We also increased our primetime audience share to 2.05% in 2021. We are pleased with this achievement in such a competitive broadcast — it indicates the impact of our investment in content from Irish independent production companies. It is delivering even more, original and creative programmes that tell Irish and global stories through TG4's own *Súil Eile* lens.

TG4's cross-media reach with Irish language audiences was also strong. In 2021, we reached almost 72% of Irish language audiences weekly, across all linear and digital platforms including TV, smart devices, mobile, online etc.

We also went from strength to strength in terms of our digital audiences. Cross-platform video views of TG4 content grew 65% to 62m in 2021 (on top of the 63% growth in 2020). Time spent by audiences on TG4's Player grew 33% in 2021. Social media video views grew by 20m to almost 60m in 2021.

Dónall O Héalai shines in this ambiguous, compelling drama. Make way for the CINE4 juggernaut. Make way for Nuathonn Scannáin Ghaeilge.

Tara Brady

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The growth of TG4 and LGFA is from a match made in heaven.

— Mark Gallagher
Extra.ie 7/11/21



Bloc, TG4's social media channel for 18-34 year olds, performed strongly in 2021. Views increased by 67% to 3m with growth strongest on Instagram and TikTok which have a deep reach into younger audience demographics. Molscéal, TG4's platform which provides a breadth of Irish language community-based stories from Gaeltacht regions, also performed well, growing 31% to almost 2.4m views.

#### A Focus on Children's Audiences & Education

Over the past few years, we have been strengthening our focus on children's audiences, including providing fun, interactive educational content.

Cúla4 is TG4's daily broadcast service for children. In response to Covid-19, we launched a home school programme Cúla 4 ar Scoil. Subjects covered included Irish, Mathematics, History and Geography and also content with an emphasis on creativity, the arts, science, oral traditions, health and wellbeing. The series was produced with educational advice from the Department of Education and Mary Immaculate College in Limerick. In 2021, Cúla4 ar Scoil was broadcast between January and June, four days per week. The content was also made available online and on the Cúla4 YouTube channel. It performed very well with audiences. Cúla4 is a valuable Irish language resource for primary schools. Independent research shows that an exceptionally high 44% of all primary school teachers, 80% of teachers in Irishspeaking primary schools and 250,000 primary school children throughout Ireland, regularly use the TG4 or Cúla4 Player in the classroom.

TG4 intends to establish a dedicated Cúla4 children's channel to strengthen young people's engagement with the Irish language. This work is beginning in 2022 and TG4 appointed a new *Cúla4* Manager to lead and direct this work, and is appointing a new *Cúla4* presenter, who will act as a youth ambassador for TG4.

Our focus on Irish language educational resources is strengthened with *TG4 Foghlaim*, our online learning resource which supports primary and post-primary schools (including audio-visual content for the Leaving Cert and Junior Cert curricula). The portal was developed in partnership with An Chomhairle Um Oideachais Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG).

Our focus on Irish language resources is also supported by TG4's Irish language Digital Archive. We appointed the station's first Archivist to advance the use and benefits of the archive for audiences, and to find new ways to use it as a historical and creative resource.

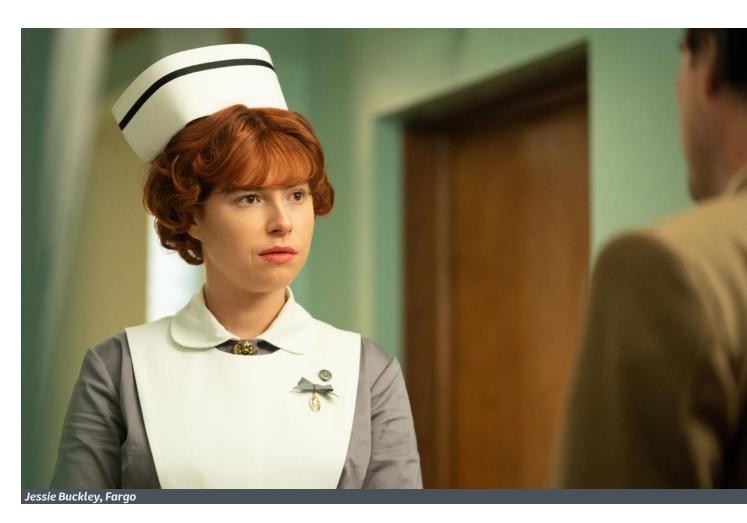
There are other educational initiatives which I would like to highlight for 2021. In conjunction with NUI Galway and Nuacht RTÉ, we ran a course in Irish language journalism for Transition Year Students. Over 400 pupils registered for Iriseoirí an Lae Amáraigh, a week-long programme on Irish language journalism which included sessions from NUIG lecturers and practicing journalists in television, radio and online.

#### **Thanks**

On behalf of TG4, I would like to say thank you to Minister Catherine Martin TD, along with Secretary General Katherine Licken and her other officials in the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. We greatly appreciate their support for Irish language Public Service Media and for the funding increases which have helped TG4 to lay the groundwork for delivering our vision and strategy.

I would like to sincerely thank the TG4 Board members and Cathaoirleach Siún Ní Raghallaigh for their exceptional commitment to TG4. In particular I would like to thank the outgoing members of the Board. Siún Ní Raghallaigh, our outgoing Cathaoirleach, has steered the Board through many challenging times since 2012 and is leaving TG4 in a strong position to face the future. We are hugely grateful for all she has done for the organisation. Another four members of the Board have also come to the end of their terms, namely Des Geraghty, Mairéad Ní Cheóinín, Micheál Seoighe and Michelle Ní Chróinín. We appreciate their dedication to TG4 and hard work on behalf of the service.





I would also like to thank other organisations with which TG4 works closely — the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, Screen Ireland, the Irish Language Broadcast Fund in Northern Ireland, Údarás na Gaeltachta, RTÉ and all our colleagues in the independent production sector. I am also deeply grateful to all the cultural and Irish language bodies and all the sporting organisations such as the LGFA and the GAA with whom we partner. We recognise the contribution they make to TG4's services. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the exceptional creative talents of the independent production sector. We look forward to working with all of these organisations again in 2022 and beyond.

I would also like to thank my colleagues in TG4. In 2021, they continued to work effectively as a team in the challenging circumstances we all faced and I am grateful to each of them. Finally, I would like to conclude my acknowledgements by thanking TG4's audiences. Independent research shows that 91% of the public strongly agree/agree there is a clear need and role for TG4 in broadcasting in Ireland. We appreciate all our audiences for continuing to engage with our services.

#### The Year Ahead

TG4 has vision and ambition. Transforming our scale and services as the media market evolves is fundamental for us to deepen our engagement with audiences, to build connection with young people who are growing up in a global media world, and support the revival and preservation of the Irish language. We will continue to seek additional funding to further strengthen and expand our services. We particularly want to make significant investment in content and services for children's audiences and for audiences in the 15-34 demographic, to ensure a deep reach into, and relevance with, these audiences, as they will determine the future of Irish as a community language.

There's a beautiful symmetry in the fact that TG4, a channel many thought would never succeed when it was launched as Teilifís na Gaeilge in 1996 is showing Fargo, a series many, including me, believed was destined to fail.

— Pat Stacey

Alan Esslemont Ard-Stiúrthóir TG4 11 April 2022

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# Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

#### **Governance**

The Board of TG4 was established under the Broadcasting Act 2001. The functions of the Board are set out in section 87 of the Broadcasting Act 2009. The Board is accountable to the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of TG4 are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the senior management team. The CEO and the senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board, and must ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The CEO acts as a direct liaison between the Board and management of TG4.

#### **Board Responsibilities**

The work and responsibilities of the Board are set out in Board terms of reference which also contain the matters specifically reserved for Board decision. Standing items considered by the Board include:

- declaration of interests,
- reports from committees,
- financial reports/management accounts,
- performance reports, and
- reserved matters.

Section 109 of the Broadcasting Act 2009 requires the Board of TG4 to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media with consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these financial statements, the Board of TG4 is required to:

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently,

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation, and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with section 109 of the Broadcasting Act 2009. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the TG4's website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of TG4 by reference to the annual plan and budget was carried out on 11 April 2022.

The Board is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board considers that the financial statements of TG4 give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of TG4 at 31 December 2021.

#### **Board Structure**

The Board consists of a Chairperson and 10 ordinary members who are appointed by Government, and the CEO in an ex-officio capacity. The members of the Board are appointed for a period up to five years and some members have been appointed for shorter periods (such as re-appointments), and meet on a regular basis.

As at 31 December 2021, the Board had 6 female (50%) and 6 male (50%) members, with no positions vacant. The Board therefore meets the Government target of a minimum of 40% of each gender in the Membership of State Boards.

The table below details the appointment period for current members:

Board Member	Role	Appointment Date
Alan Esslemont (Director General)	CEO	14/10/2016
Siún Ní Raghallaigh	Chairman	Reappointed 17/04/2017
Des Geraghty	Ordinary Member	Reappointed 17/04/2017
Mairéad Ní Cheóinín	Ordinary Member	Reappointed 17/04/2017
Micheál Seoighe	Ordinary Member	Reappointed 17/04/2017
Michelle Ní Chróinín	Ordinary Member	Reappointed 17/04/2017
Bríd Ní Fhachtna	Ordinary Member	Reappointed 22/12/2020
Frank Reidy	Ordinary Member	Reappointed 22/12/2020
Mairéad Ní Nuadháin	Ordinary Member	21/11/2017
Siobhán Ní Ghadhra	Ordinary Member	21/11/2017
Darach Ó Tuairisg	Ordinary Member	21/11/2017
Seán Ó Domhnaill	Ordinary Member	08/05/2022

The Board commenced a Board Effectiveness and Evaluation Review in December, 2020 which was completed in August 2021. A review for 2021 was completed in April 2022.

Annual Report 2021 TGIA

#### Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance at the Board and Committee meetings 2021 is set out below including the fees and expenses received by each member

	Board	Audit & Risk Committee	Remuneration Committee	Brand Committee	Digital Committee	Fees 2021	Expenses 2021
Number of Meetings	7	4	1	2	1		
Alan Esslemont	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chairman)	7	-	1	-	-	21,683	-
Des Geraghty	7	-	1	-	-	12,648	-
Mairéad Ní Cheóinín	7	-	-	-	1	12,648	235
Micheál Seoighe	7	-	1	-	-	12,648	-
Michelle Ní Chróinín	6	-	-	2	-	-	-
Bríd Ní Fhachtna	7	4	-	-	-	12,648	-
Frank Reidy	7	4	-	-	-	12,648	-
Mairéad Ní Nuadháin	7	4	-	-	-	12,648	-
Siobhán Ní Ghadhra	7	-	-	2	-	12,648	-
Darach Ó Tuairisg	7	-	-	-	1	12,648	-
Seán Ó Domhnaill	7	-	-	-	1	12,648	-
Sundry expenses						-	6,633
Lís Ní Dhálaigh (Secretary to the Board)							
					1	35,515	6,868

There was one board member, Michelle Ní Chróinín, who did not receive a Board fee under One Person One Salary (OPOS) principle.

The Board has established four committees, as follows:

1. Audit and Risk Committee: comprises three Board members. The role of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARC reports to the Board after each meeting, and formally in writing annually.

The members of the Audit and Risk Committee are: Bríd Ní Fhachtna (Chairperson), Frank Reidy and Mairéad Ní Nuadháin. There were 4 meetings of the ARC in 2021.

- **2. Remuneration Committee:** comprises three Board members. The members of this committee are: Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chairperson), Des Geraghty and Micheál Seoighe. There was 1 meeting of the Remuneration committee in 2021.
- **3. Brand Committee:** comprises two Board members. The members of this committee are: Michelle Ní Chróinín (Chairperson) and Siobhán Ní Ghadhra. There were 2 meetings of the Brand Committee in 2021.
- **4. Digital Committee:** comprises three Board members. The members of this committee are: Mairéad Ní Cheóinín (Chairperson), Darach Ó Tuairisg and Seán Ó Domhnaill. There was 1 meeting of the Digital Committee in 2021.

#### **Key Personnel Changes**

There was no change to the members of the Board during 2021. There were no other changes to senior management in 2021.

# Disclosures Required by Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

The Board is responsible for ensuring that TG4 has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code"), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code:

#### **Consultancy Costs**

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

	2021 €	2020 €
Legal advice	4,078	1,335
Financial advice	14,910	7,165
Marketing	137,602	119,819
Human Resources/Pension	18,885	17,861
Business improvement	40,053	41,412
Other	35,781	81,080
Total consultancy costs	251,309	268,672
Consultancy costs capitalised Consultancy costs charged to the Income and Expenditure	-	-
and Retained Revenue Reserves	251,309	268,672
Total	251,309	268,672

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#### Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	2021 €	2020 €
Domestic:		
Board	6,868	8,295
Employees	29,327	40,611
International:		
Board	-	-
Employees	14,000	16,459
Total	50,195	65,365

#### **Hospitality Expenditure**

The Income and Expenditure Account includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	2021 €	2020 €
Staff hospitality Client hospitality	47,383 -	43,050 -
Total	47,383	43,050

#### **Statement of Compliance**

TG4 has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016, with the following exceptions:

TG4 does not disclose details of employee short-term benefits over €60,000 in bands of €10,000 in the annual report as required by the Code due to the commercial sensitivity of this information. This departure from the Code has been agreed with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and will be disclosed in the Chairman's Report to the Minister.

Soid N; Thachthe

Bríd Ní Fhachtna Cathaoirleach Gníomhach

> Bord TG4 1 June 2022

## **Finance Review 2021**

#### **Income and Expenditure Reviews**

This report reviews TG4's income and expenditure performance in 2021 in terms of the key sources and use of income, the channel's principal cost drivers and its overall focus on efficiency and value-for-money. The review also compares TG4's performance in 2021 to that of 2020 under the following 4 headings:

- 1. Income
- 2. Operating Expenditure
- 3. Cost Control and Efficiency in 2021
- 4. Irish Language Content Expenditure 2021

#### 1. Income

As can be seen from **Table 1** below, total income (exchequer current funding and commercial revenue) in 2021 was €42.04m (2020: €40.36m). Compared to the previous year TG4's total income increased by 4.1%. Exchequer current funding (including €100k NDNA grant) was €36.83m (2020: €36.13m including an additional supplementary grant of €1.9m for Covid-19 related costs) of this and represented 87.6% (2020: 89.5%) of TG4's total income with the commercial income share representing 12.4% in 2021 at €5.2m (2020: €4.23m).

Commercial income increased by 23%. This is a very solid performance in a very competitive advertising and television advertising market in Ireland.

Table 1: Income TG4 2021					
Description	2021 €'000 %		202 €'000	0 %	
Grant-in-aid	36,733	87.4%	34,233	84.8%	
NDNA funding	100	0.2%	-	-	
Supplementary Funding for specific Covid-19 related costs	_	_	1,900	4.7%	
Commercial (advertising and sponsorship)	3,385	8.1%	2,888	7.2%	
Other commercial	1,818	4.3%	1,342	3.3%	
Total income	42,036	100%	40,363	100%	

#### 2. Operating Expenditure

In terms of annual operating expenditure, TG4 placed a continued emphasis on an operating model, which works as efficiently as possible and on cost management to ensure value-for-money across all activities. Total operating expenditure was €41.13m in 2021, a 3.41% increase on the €39.77m spent in 2020. See **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Operating Expenditure TG4 2021 Vs 2020					
Description	€'000 2021 2020		% Change 2021 Vs 2020		
Cost of Sales	1,137	1,002	13.5%		
Staff Costs	6,365	5,784	10.0%		
Programme Expenditure	27,879	27,070	3.0%		
Other Expenditure (Overheads, Transmission and Marketing costs included)	5,746	5,914	-2.8%		
Total Operating Expenditure	41,127	39,770	3.41%		

#### 3. Cost Control and Efficiency

TG4 continued to operate efficiently, cost effectively and prudently in 2021. Savings were achieved across a wide range of cost centres and internal resources were further utilised to provide content at more cost effective rates.

#### 4. Irish Language Content Expenditure 2021

As reflected in its commitments for the year, TG4 committed to spend at least 70% of its Exchequer current funding on the production of Irish language content, with an aim of spending 80%. As shown in Table 3 below, the actual spend was 80% of Exchequer funding. Transmission, broadcast and promotion of schedule and general overheads accounted for the remaining 20% of Exchequer funding in 2021.

Table 3: Irish Language Content Expenditure				
	2021		2020	
Description	€'000	%	€'000	%
Current Exchequer funding and additional supplementary funding (funds received in 2021)*	38,733	100%	37,133	100%
Irish language programmes purchased**:				
Commissioned	25,354	65%	22,890	62%
Acquired/dubbed/subtitled	3,616	9%	3,919	11%
Production staff costs (including salaries)	2,163	6%	1,926	5%
Total Irish Language Content Production Costs	31,133	80%	28,735	78%

<sup>\*</sup> this includes €2m (€1m in 2020) of capital funding used for programming

<sup>\*\*</sup> This is the actual expenditure incurred in 2021



Tolu Makay, **Ómós Michael D @ 80** produced by Aniar TV

Photograph: Donal Glackin

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#### **Statement of Board Members' Responsibilities**

For the year ended 31st December 2021

The Board is required by the Broadcasting Act, 2009 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Teilifís na Gaeilge and of it's income and expenditure for that year.

In preparing those statements, the Board is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Disclose and explain any material departures from applicable accounting standards and,
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Teilifís na Gaeilge will continue in existence.

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of Teilifís na Gaeilge and to

enable the Board to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Act and with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in Ireland.

The Board is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Teilifís na Gaeilge and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and the detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Board's books of account are held in Teilifís na Gaeilge offices in Baile na hAbhann, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Find N; Thachthe

On behalf of the Board of Teilifís na Gaeilge:

Bríd Ní Fhachtna Cathaoirleach Gníomhach Bord TG4

1 June 2022

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#### **Statement on Internal Control**

#### Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of TG41 acknowledge the Board's responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

#### Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has been in place in TG4 for the year ended 31 December 2021 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

#### Capacity to Handle Risk

TG4 has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprising three Board members, with financial and audit expertise, one of whom is the Chair. The ARC met four times in 2021.

TG4 has also established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC.

The ARC has developed a risk management policy which sets out its risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within TG4's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

#### **Risk and Control Framework**

TG4 has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing TG4 and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the ARC on an annual basis. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff. I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability,
- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management,
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems,
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets

#### **Ongoing Monitoring and Review**

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Board, where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.
- reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/forecasts.

#### **Procurement**

I confirm that TG4 has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines. Matters arising regarding controls over procurement are highlighted under internal control issues below.

#### Covid-19

The COVID-19 outbreak which initially developed in 2020, continued to affect TG4 in 2021, with a significant number of infections. Measures taken by the government to contain the virus continued to affect activity in TG4. Programmes in production were paused and some live sports were cancelled. The board have taken the appropriate steps to safeguard TG4 to ensure the station continues to operate in the best and safest way possible.

#### **Review of Effectiveness**

I confirm that TG4 has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. TG4's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees their work, and the senior

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 $management\ within\ TG4\ responsible\ for\ the\ development\ and\ maintenance\ of\ the\ internal\ financial\ control\ framework.$ 

I confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2021 on the 13th December 2021.

#### **Internal Control Issues**

In December 2021, TG4 concluded an agreement in relation to alternative programming with a service provider in exchange for content commissioned in 2020 that is no longer possible to produce. As part of the agreement TG4 received an archive of programme material valued at €118,000, a social media channel valued at €10,000 and branding material valued at €10,000. TG4 carried out a detailed cost benefit analysis and taking into consideration all potential associated costs and risks of litigation, decided that it was not appropriate for a public body to pursue the outstanding balance of €27,000.

As noted in 2020, in 2019, TG4 had budgeted and planned for a software upgrade. However, in 2020, it became evident that the original planned upgrade of the critical system was no longer possible and due to the

timeframe, COVID-19 restrictions, costs and risk to broadcast involved, a supplier was chosen who was considered best placed, with relevant experience gained from prior involvement with TG4, to provide the required goods and services to TG4. The overall contract value is €911k and is to be paid over three years commencing in 2020. This decision was discussed and approved at senior management and board level in 2020 as procedures employed did not comply with procurement guidelines. During 2021, expenditure of €510k was incurred in relation to this contract.

Fid Ni Thachtu

Bríd Ní Fhachtna Cathaoirleach Gníomhach Bord TG4 1 June 2022

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#### Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General

For the year ended 31st December 2021



# Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste An tArd-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste

#### Tuarascáil le cur faoi bhráid Thithe an Oireachtais

#### Teilifís na Gaeilge

#### Tuairim ar na ráitis airgeadais

Rinne mé iniúchadh ar ráitis airgeadais Theilifís na Gaeilge don bhliain dar chríoch an 31 Nollaig 2021 mar a éilítear faoi fhorálacha alt 109 den Acht Craolacháin 2009. Tá na ráitis airgeadais comhdhéanta de

- ráiteas maidir le hioncam agus caiteachas agus cúlchistí ioncaim coinnithe
- ráiteas maidir leis an staid airgeadais
- · ráiteas maidir le sreabhadh airgid agus
- na nótaí gaolmhara lena n-áirítear achoimre ar bheartais shuntasacha chuntasaíochta.

Is é mo thuairim go dtugann na ráitis airgeadais léargas fíor agus cothrom ar shócmhainní, dliteanais agus staid airgeadais Theilifís na Gaeilge amhail an 31 Nollaig 2021 agus ar a hioncam agus ar a caiteachas don bhliain 2021 de réir Chaighdeán Tuairiscithe Airgeadais (CTA) 102 — An Caighdeán Tuairiscithe Airgeadais atá infheidhme sa Ríocht Aontaithe agus i bPoblacht na hÉireann.

#### An bonn atá leis an tuairim

Rinne mé iniúchadh ar na ráitis airgeadais de réir na gCaighdeán Idirnáisiúnta maidir le hIniúchóireacht arna fhógairt ag an Eagraíocht Idirnaisiúnta d'Ard-Institiúidí Iniúchóireachta. Déantar cur síos san aguisín atá leis an tuarascáil seo ar na freagrachtaí atá orm de réir na gcaighdeán sin. Táim neamhspleách ar Theilifís na Gaeilge agus tá mo fhreagrachtaí eiticiúla eile comhlíonta agam de réir *Chód Eitice na hEagraíochta Idirnáisiúnta d'Ard-Institiúidí Iniúchóireachta*.

Measaim go bhfuil an fhianaise iniúchóireachta atá aimsithe agam leordhóthanach agus ábhartha chun bonn a chur faoi mo thuairim.

#### Tuairisc ar fhaisnéis seachas na ráitis airgeadais, agus ar nithe eile

Tá faisnéis ar leith eile curtha i láthair ag Teilifís na Gaeilge in éineacht leis na ráitis airgeadais. Tá an fhaisnéis sin comhdhéanta den tuarascáil bhliantúil, san aireamh an ráiteas faoi chúrsaí rialachais agus tuarascáil chomhaltaí an Bhoird, agus an ráiteas um rialú inmheánach. Tá cur síos san aguisín atá leis an tuarascáil seo ar na freagrachtaí atá orm tuairisciú i leith faisnéis den chineál sin agus ar ábhair ar leith eile lena dtuairiscím trí eisceacht.

Níl aon ní le tuairisciú agam i leith sin.

Seams Moc Car though

Seamus Mac Cárthaigh Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste

9 Meitheamh 2022

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#### Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General

For the year ended 31st December 2021 (continued)

#### Aguisín don tuarascáil

#### Freagrachtaí chomhaltaí an Bhoird

Mar atá leagtar amach sa ráiteas faoi chursaí rialachas agus tuarascáil comhaltaí an Bhoird na freagrachtaí atá ar chomhaltaí an Bhoird. Tá an Bord freagrach as

- na ráitis airgeadais bhliantúil a ullmhú ar an mbealach a fhorordaítear faoi alt 109 den Acht Craolacháin 2009
- a chinntiú go dtugann na ráitis léargas fíor agus cothrom de réir CTA 102
- rialtacht na n-idirbheart a chinntiú
- a mheas cibé an bhfuil úsáid as an mbonn cuntasaíochta gnóthas leantach oiriúnach, agus
- rialú inmheánach a chinneann siad atá riachtanach d'fhonn ráitis airgeadais a ullmhú atá saor ó mhíráiteas ábhartha, cibé mar thoradh ar chalaois nó earráid.

#### Freagrachtaí an Ard-Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste

Éilítear orm faoi alt 109 den Acht Craolacháin 2009 ráitis airgeadais Theilifís na Gaeilge a iniúchadh agus tuairisc a thabhairt orthu chuig Tithe an Oireachtais.

An cuspóir atá agam le linn an iniúchta ná teacht ar dhearbhú réasúnach cibé an bhfuil na ráitis airgeadais tríd is tríd saor ó aon mhíráiteas ábhartha mar thoradh ar chalaois nó earráid. Is ionann dearbhú réasúnach agus leibhéal ard dearbhaithe ach ní hionann é is barántas go dtiocfar i gcónaí, le linn iniúchadh a dtugtar faoi de réir na gCaighdeán Idirnáisiúnta maidir le hIniúchóireacht, ar mhíráitis ábhartha nuair is ann dóibh. D'fhéadfadh míráitis eascairt ó chalaois nó ó earráid agus meastar iad a bheith ábhartha má tá ionchas réasúnach ann go n-imreoidh siad, astu féin nó le chéile, tionchar ar chinntí eacnamaíochta úsáideoirí a dhéantar bunaithe ar na ráitis airgeadais seo.

Mar chuid d'iniúchadh a sheoltar de réir na gCaighdeán Idirnáisiúnta maidir le hIniúchadh, cleachtaim breithiúnas gairmiúil agus sceipteachas gairmiúil i gcaitheamh an iniúchta. Is mé á dhéanamh sin.

- aithním na rioscaí atá ann i leith míráiteas ábhartha sna ráitis airgeadais cibé mar thoradh ar chalaois nó earráid agus déanaim measúnú orthu; leagaim amach nósanna imeachta iniúchta mar fhreagra ar na rioscaí sin agus cuirim i bhfeidhm iad; agus tagaim ar fhianaise iniúchta atá leordhóthanach agus iomchuí chun bonn a chur faoi mo thuairim. Tá an riosca a bhaineann le gan míráiteas ábhartha ó chalaois a bhrath níos airde ná ó earráid mar go bhfeadfadh claonpháirteachas, brionnú, easnaimh d'aon turas, mífhaisnéis nó sárú ar rialú inmheánach a bheith i gceist le calaois.
- Faighim tuiscint ar rialú inmheánach atá ábhartha don iniúchadh d'fhonn nósanna imeachta iniúchta a leagan amach atá ábhartha sna cúinsí atá i gceist, ach ní chun críocha tuairim a thabhairt ar éifeachtacht na rialuithe inmheánacha.
- Déanaim measúnú ar ábharthacht na mbeartas cuntasaíochta agus a réasúnach is atá meastacháin chuntasaíochta agus nochtuithe bainteacha.

- Socraím chomh oiriúnach is atá sé úsáid a bhaint as an mbonn cuntasaíochta gnóthas leantach agus, bunaithe ar an bhfianaise iniúchóireachta a dtagaim air, cibé an bhfuil neamhchinnteacht ábhartha ann maidir le himeachtaí nó coinníollacha a chaithfeadh amhras suntasach ar chumas Theilifís na Gaeilge leanúint mar ghnóthas leantach. Má shocraím go bhfuil mhíchinnteacht ábhartha ann, éilítear orm aird a tharraingt i mo thuarascáil ar na nochtuithe bainteacha sna ráitis airgeadais nó, má tá nochtuithe den chineál sin neamhleordhóthanach, mo thuairim a leasú. Tá mo chonclúidí bunaithe ar an bhfianaise iniúchóireachta a dtángthas uirthi go dtí dáta mo thuarascála. D'fhéadfadh imeachtaí amach anseo stop a chur ar Theilifís na Gaeilge leanúint mar ghnóthas leantach.
- Déanaim measúnú ar an gcur i láthair, struchtúr agus ábhar na ráiteas airgeadais tríd is tríd lena n-áiritear na nochtuithe agus cibé an léiríonn na ráitis airgeadais na hidirbhearta agus na himeachtaí bunúsacha ar bhealach a thugann léiriú cóir.

Chomh maith le nithe eile, cuirim scóip agus am an iniúchta in iúl dóibhsean atá freagrach as rialachas chomh maith le torthaí suntasacha iniúchta lena n-áirítear aon easnaimh mhóra sa chóras rialaithe inmheánaigh a aithním le linn m'iniúchta.

Tuairiscím trí eisceacht, más é mo thuairim,

- nach bhfaighim an fhaisnéis agus na mínithe go léir a theastaigh uaim chun m'iniúchadh a dhéanamh, nó
- cibé an raibh na taifid chuntasaíochta leordhóthanach chun iniúchadh ceart a dhéanamh ar na ráitis airgeadais nó
- mura bhfuil na ráitis airgeadais ag teacht leis na taifid chuntasaíochta.

#### Faisnéis eile seachas na ráitis airgeadais

Ní chuimsíonn mo thuairim ar na ráitis airgeadais an fhaisnéis eile a cuireadh i láthair in éineacht leis na ráitis sin agus ní thugaim aon dearbhú ar aon bhealach ina leith.

Maidir le m'iniúchadh ar na ráitis airgeadais, éilítear orm faoi na Caighdeán Idirnáisiúnta maidir le hIniúchadh an t-eolas eile a chuirtear i láthair a léamh agus lena linn sin a bhreithniú cibé an bhfuil an fhaisnéis eile ag teacht go hábhartha leis na ráitis airgeadais nó le heolas a fuarthas le linn an iniúchta nó más léir go bhfuil míráiteas ábhartha i gceist. Má shocraím, bunaithe ar an obair atá déanta agam, go bhfuil míráiteas ábhartha i gceist sa bhfaisnéis eile seo, éilítear orm tuairisciú ina leith sin.

#### Tuairisc ar nithe eile

Tugadh faoin iniúchadh de réir breithnithe speisialta a bhaineann le comhlachtaí Stáit i ndáil lena mbainistiú agus a bhfeidhmiú. Tuairiscím má fhaighim go bhfuil nithe ábhartha eile ann a bhaineann leis an tslí a ndearnadh gnó poiblí.

Lorgaím fianaise faoi rialtacht na n-idirbheart airgeadais le linn an iniúchta. Tuairiscím má thug m'iniúchadh aird ar aon chás ábhartha nár feidhmíodh suimeanna airgid chun na gcríoch a bhí beartaithe, nó sa chás nach mbíonn na hidirbhearta ag cloí leis na húdaráis a dhéanann rialú orthu.

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## **Financial Statements**

Teilifís na Gaeilge Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves for the year ended 31 December 2021					
	Nata	2021 €'000	2020 €'000		
Sales	Notes	€ 000	€ 000		
Commercial income	3	5,203	4,230		
Cost of sales	3	(1,137)	(1,002)		
Net Sales		4,066	3,228		
Expenditure	4	C 2CF	F 70.4		
Staff costs Board members' fees and expenses	4 5	6,365 142	5,784 135		
Programme expenditure	6	27,879	27,070		
Transmission costs	Ū	1,422	1,433		
Marketing and research	7	2,031	2,045		
Overheads	8	2,293	2,436		
Depreciation	9	2,325	2,602		
Total Expenditure		42,457	41,505		
		·	ŕ		
Net operating expenditure for the year		(38,391)	(38,277)		
Surplus/(deficit) on disposal of fixed assets		0	0		
		(38,391)	(38,277)		
State funding	13	38,389	38,291		
, ,					
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation		(2)	14		
Taxation	14	(17)	(14)		
Retained surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		(19)	0		

### The notes 1 - 30 form an integral part of the financial statements.

There were no gains or losses in the year other than as reported in the I&E.

On behalf of the Board of Teilifís na Gaeilge:

**Bríd Ní Fhachtna** Cathaoirleach Gníomhach **Alan Esslemont** Ard-Stiúrthóir

1 June 2022

## **Financial Statements**

Teilifís na Gaeilge <b>Statement of Financial Position as at</b> <b>31 December 2021</b>					
Fixed Assets	Notes	€'000	2021 €'000	€'000	2020 €'000
Tangible fixed assets	9		6,227		6,479
Intangible fixed assets	11		1,562		1,606
			7,789		8,085
Current Assets					
Receivables	15	2,199		2,176	
Cash at bank and in hand	16	1,154		691	
Programme prepayments	17	8,009		5,210	
		11,362		8,077	
Current Liabilities					
Payables	18	(3,881)		(3,358)	
Net Current Assets			7,481		4,719
Net Assets			15,270		12,804
Capital and Reserves					
Capital grants	10		6,120		6,390
Deferred current grants	12		9,570		6,815
Revenue reserves	19		(420)		(401)
			15,270		12,804

The notes 1 - 30 form an integral part of the financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of Teilifís na Gaeilge:

Bríd Ní Haehtre
Bríd Ní Fhachtna
Cathaoirleach Gníomhach

**Alan Esslemont** Ard-Stiúrthóir

1 June 2022

## Financia Fixed Assets Tangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets

**Current Assets** 

Receivables Cash at bank and in hand Programme prepayments

Surplus/(deficit) on ord Depreciation Amortisation of progran Amortisation of capital { Amortisation of grants a (Increase)/decrease in r (Increase)/decrease in p Increase/(decrease) in p Taxation paid

**Net Current Assets** 2,921

**Current Liabilities** 

**Net Assets** 11,850

**Payables** 

Interest received Cash from operations Interest paid

**Capital and Reserves** 

Capital grants 6,896 Deferred current grants 5,355 Revenue reserves

Net cash generated fro

Cash flows from invest Purchases of tangible fix Purchase of commission Surplus/(deficit) on disp State capital grants Grants received and allo Net cash flow from inve

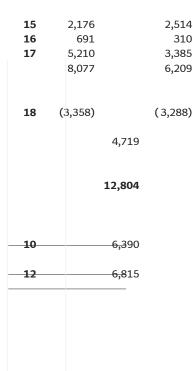
Net increase/(decrease

The notes 1 - 30 form a

On behalf of the Board of

Cathaoirleach Gníomhach

a. Eddly



2,514

3,385

6,209

310

Bríd Ní Fhachtna

and Ni Shaehthe

TG4 Annual Report 2021

### Notes

#### ... ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

### a) Establishment of Teilifís na Gaeilge

Teilifís na Gaeilge is the Irish language broadcaster established under Statute and continues in being under the Broadcasting Act 2009.

#### b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of Teilifís na Gaeilge for the year ended 31 December 2021 have been prepared in accordance with the FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland

## c) Basis of preparation and significant accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The financial statements are prepared in euro, rounded to the nearest thousand (€000), which is the functional currency of Teilifís na Gaeilge.

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the Statement of Financial Position date and the amounts reported for revenue and expenses during the year.

However, the nature of estimation means that the actual outcomes could differ from these estimates.

### d) Income recognition

Commercial income:

Commercial income represents revenue from airtime sales, sponsorship and ancillary activities. Sales, which are shown net of VAT, are recognised in the Statement of Income and Expediture and Retained Revenue Reserves when the service is provided.

Sales arising from barter transactions arise when airtime services are exchanged for dissimilar services and the transaction is deemed to have commercial substance. Such transactions are measured at the fair value of the services received, adjusted by any amounts of cash and cash equivalents transferred.

Commission in relation to these sales is charged to the Statement of Income and Expediture and Retained Revenue Reserves Account as incurred.

### e) Expenditure

Expenditure comprises operational and capital expenditure.

Net operating expenditure comprises programming and administration expenditure, net of commercial revenue.

Programme expenditure is charged to the Statement of Income and Expediture and Retained Revenue Reserves Account in line with Note 1(L).

### f) State grants

Net operating expenditure of Teilifís na Gaeilge is funded by way of a grant received from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, as well as grants received from time to time for specific projects from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland under their Sound and Vision Programme.

Grants are recognised under the accruals method. The portion of the grant that is related to Intangible Fixed Assets — Capitalised Programme Costs and Prepaid Programme Costs — are deferred and are recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves as the costs are amortised.

Capital expenditure is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, by way of capital grants, as well as grants received from time to time for specific projects from the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland under their Sound and Vision Programme. These grants are amortised on the same basis as the related assets are depreciated.

### Notes

### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are shown at cost less accumulated depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, except land, at rates calculated to write off the original cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a straight line basis over its expected useful life as follows;

Software development costs including wages, software costs on major systems for content distribution, portals, phone apps etc. are capitalised and depreciated in line with the related equipment cost from the date of implementation or over the expected useful life of the costs capitalised. These rates vary between 33% and 100%.

Land and Buildings Equipment 20 10 Fixtures and Fittings Mobile Devices

Financial assets — investment in Multiplex Broadcasting Services Northern Ireland Limited Teilifís na Gaeilge accounts for its investment in Multiplex Broadcasting Services Northern Ireland Limited at cost (see note 24). Fixed Assets includes an amount of €1 in respect of its investment in the ordinary shares of that company. The company was established as a not for profit organisation with costs being funded by RTE and the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport. As a result, Teilifís na Gaeilge financial statements do not reflect any revenues, costs or commitments in respect of the joint venture.

#### **Taxation**

Corporation tax payable is provided on taxable surplus at current rates.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the Statement of Financial Position date where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the Statement of Financial Position date.

Timing differences are temporary differences between surplus as computed for tax purposes and surplus as stated in the financial statements which arise because certain items of income and expenditure in the financial statements are dealt with in different years for tax purposes.

Deferred tax is measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the years in which the timing differences are expected to reverse based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the Statement of Financial Position date.

Deferred tax is not discounted.

### **Foreign currency**

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Euro at the exchange rates ruling at the day of the transactions.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Euro at the exchange rate ruling at the Statement of Financial Position date and resulting gains or losses are included in the Statement of Income and Expediture and Retained Revenue Reserves Account for the year.

### **Retirement Benefit**

Teilifís na Gaeilge operates a defined contribution scheme for it's employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company.

Annual contributions to the scheme are charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure in the year to which they relate.

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### Notes

#### l)

### **Intangible Fixed Assets**

Commissioned Programme costs and Acquired Programme costs are capitalised as Intangible fixed assets in the financial statements. Commissioned Programmes are programmes commissioned by Teilifís na Gaeilge from independent producers and are based on the full contract price.

The cost of the Commissioned programme is amortised based on the expected audience repeat viewership of each transmission as follows:

High Value Commissioned programmes: 70% in year of first transmission

20% in year following first transmission 10% in 2nd year following first transmission

Other Commissioned programmes & live sports: 100% in year the rights or sporting events are first

broadcast.

Acquired programmes are programmes purchased by Teilifís na Gaeilge from third party studios and broadcasters. These are charged to the Income and Expenditure statement based on the expected audience repeat viewership of each transmission as follows::

Acquired programmes: 90% in year of first transmission

10% in year following first transmission

Commissioned & Acquired programmes are only capitalised once the programme is available for screening.

### m) Programme Prepayments

Any Commissioned and Acquired programme amounts paid in advance of the programme being available for screening are recognised as a prepayment.

n) Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Impairment of Tangible Fixed Assets: Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purpose of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

**Depreciation and Residual Values:** Management have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes, and in particular, the useful economic lives and residual values of fixtures and fittings, and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

**Foreign Currency Exposure:** Teilifís na Gaeilge enters into contractual arrangements for payments to suppliers in currencies other than the euro. Teilifís na Gaeilge generally accounts for these transactions at currency rates applicable at the payment date. Forward contracts are entered into to hedge against currency fluctuations. Reasons for entering into such contracts are based on best estimates of future exchange rates and professional advice sought.

**Intangible Fixed Assets:** As set out in policy L Teilifis na Gaeilge, in amortising programme costs, makes estimates of the expected audience repeat viewership. Such estimates are based on management best estimates.

### 2. Principal Activity

Teilifís na Gaeilge's principal activity is the operation of the Irish language television channel TG4.

Notes						
3.	Net Sales	2021	2020			
	Commercial Income	€'000	€'000			
	Airtime and sponsorship sales	3,385	2,888			
	Facilities charge-out	442	591			
	Sundry income	1,376	751			
		5,203	4,230			
	Cost of Sales					
	Commission on advertising and sponsorship sales	907	821			
	Direct costs	230	181			
		1,137	1,002			
	Net sales	4,066	3,228			
4.	Staff costs Staff costs					
	The average number of employees employed by Teilifís na Gaeilge during	2021	2020			
	the year was 96 (2020: 92). Employee costs during the year comprised:	€'000	€,000			
	Wages and salaries	5,769	5,422			
	Social welfare costs	663	610			
	Retirement benefit costs	636	578			
	Travel and subsistence	43	57			
	Training Other staff costs	141 64	75 58			
	other stajj costs	7,316	6,800			
		7,510	0,000			
	Staff costs capitalised	(897)	(936)			
	Staff costs allocated to archive project	(54)	(80)			
	Total Staff Costs	6,365	5,784			
	Circular 13/2014 issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform requires disclosure of the number of employees whose total employee benefits (excluding employer Retirement benefit costs) for the reporting period fell within each band of €10,000, from €60,000 upwards and an overall figure for total employer Retirement benefit contributions. In recognition of data protection implications or other risks, taking cognisance of the fact that Teilifís na Gaeilge operates in a highly competitive commercial environment, and with the consent of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media the disclosure of salary bands shall be made in the Chairperson's annual statement to the Minister.					
	Emoluments of Director General — Alan Esslemont	2021	2020			
	Desire selem	<b>€'000</b> 140	€'000			
	Basic salary Employer's Retirement benefit contributions		140			
	Employer 5 keurement benefit contributions	161	21			
			161			
	The Director General is a member of Teilifís na Gaeilge's defined contribution sch Gaeilge contributes an amount equal to 15.29% of the Director General's salary behalf.					

Notes								
5.	Board Costs	2021	2020					
	Board members fees (Note 22)	<b>€'000</b> 135	<b>€'000</b> 127					
	Travel and subsistence and other exp	enses		7	8			
		142	135					
	Board members are reimbursed for t	ravel and subsisten	ice costs.					
	Board members are reimbursed for travel and subsistence costs.  The tax payable by Teilifís na Gaeilge in relation to such expenses amounted to €0 in 2021 (2020: €566).							
6.	Programme Expenditure	2021 €'000	2020 €'000					
	Commissioned programmes expense	ed and amortised ir	n the period	22,540	21,302			
	Acquired programmes expensed and	l amortised in the p	eriod	2,865	3,212			
	Dubbing and other costs			2,474	2,556			
				27,879	27,070			
7.	Marketing and Research			2021	2020			
· ·	Marketing and Research			€,000	€,000			
	Advertising and marketing			1,814	1,801			
	Audience measurement and research	า		216	247			
	Audience Council expenses			1	(3)			
				2,031	2,045			
8.	Overheads			2021	2020			
				€,000	€,000			
	Prefixes and equipment expenses			806	867			
	Professional and financial expenses Industry levies paid			369 721	419 637			
	General and office expenses			397	513			
				2,293	2,436			
9.	Tangible Fixed Assets	Land and Buildings	Equipment and Mobile Devices	Fixtures and Fittings	Total			
	Cost	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000			
	At 1 January 2021	8,582	8,722	589	17,893			
	Additions	10	2,061	2	2,073			
	Disposals At 31 December 2021	8, <b>592</b>	(1,092) <b>9,691</b>	5 <b>91</b>	(1,092) <b>18,874</b>			
		0,032	3,031	331	10,074			
	Accumulated Depreciation At 1 January 2021	4,215	7,000	199	11,414			
	Charge for the year	36	2,325					
	Disposals	0	(1,092)					
	At 31 December 2021	4,431	(1,092) <b>7,981</b>	235	12,647			
	Net Book Value							
	At 31 December 2021	4,161	1,710	356	6,227			
	At 31 December 2020	4,367	1,722	390	6,479			

Notes				
10.	Capital Grants		2021	2020
			€,000	€'000
	Capital grants — received and receivable		21 000	20,000
	Opening balance Grants received during the year (Note 13)	31,999 4,000	28,999 3,000	
	Closing balance	35,999	31,999	
	Amortisation	20,000	02,000	
	Opening balance	25,609	22,103	
	Amortised during the year		4,270	3,506
	Closing balance		29,879	25,609
	Net book value — capital grants		6,120	6,390
	Capital grants represent state funding received in relation	to capital	-,	-,
	expenditure incurred by Teilifís na Gaeilge. Capital grants a			
	on the same basis as the related assets are depreciated.			
11.	the office of a con-	0		7.1.1
11.	Intangible Fixed Assets	Commissioned Programmes	Acquired Programmes	Total
	Cost	€'000	€'000	€,000
	At 1 January 2021	100,816	13,818	114,634
	Additions Disposals	22,505 (17,684)	2,857 (2,078)	25,362 (19,762)
	At 31 December 2021	105,637	14,597	120,234
	Accumulated Amortisation	200,007	2 1,007	
	At 1 January 2021	99,432	13,596	113,028
	Amortised in the year	22,541	2,865	25,406
	Disposals	(17,684)	(2,078)	(19,762)
	At 31 December 2021	104,289	14,383	118,672
	Net Book Value At 31 December 2021	1 240	214	1 560
	At 31 December 2020	1,348 1,384	214 222	1,562 1,606
	ACCEPTAGE DEL	2,001		
12.	Deferred Current Grants		2021	2020
	Cuanta defermed at 1 January		€'000	€,000
	Grants deferred at 1 January Current grants — received in the year (Note 13)		6,815 36,874	5,355 36,245
	Grants utilised in the year		(34,119)	(34,785)
	Grants deferred at 31 December		9,570	6,815
	•			· ·
13.	State Funding			
	Grants received from the Department of Tourism, Culture,			resent state
	funding received in relation to current expenditure incurre	d by Teilifis na Gaei	lge.	
	State funding credited to the Statement of Income and Ex	penditure and		
	Retained Revenue Reserves Account in the year		2021 €'000	2020 €'000
	Grant utilised in the year (Note 12)		34,119	34,785
	Capital grant amortised (Note 12)		4,270	3,506
			38,389	38,291
			<u> </u>	
	The total allocation for 2021 was €40.874m comprising of:		2021	2020
	Create received for aureant are and it was from DTC 10011		€'000	€'000
	Grants received for current expenditure from DTCAGSM (Vote 33 — Subhead B5)		36,733	36,133
	Grants received for current expenditure from BAI Archive p	project	141	112
	Grants applied for capital purposes from DTCAGSM	1,1		
	(Vote 33 — Subhead B5)		4,000	3,000
	Total received		40,874	39,245

Notes			
14.	Tax on Surplus on Ordinary Activities	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
(a)	Analysis of tax charge in year		
	Corporation tax charge for year	12	10
	Corporation tax charge for prior year Refund of Corporation tax charge in prior years	5	4
	nogana oj eorporation alikenako in prior yearo	17	14
(b)	Factors affecting the tax charge for the year  The effective rate of tax for the year is higher than the standard corporation tax in Ireland of 12.5%. The differences are explained below:		
	,	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
	Surplus/(Deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation	(2)	14
	Surplus/(Deficit) on ordinary activities multiplied by the standard rate	(2)	
	of corporation tax in Ireland of 12.5% (2020: 12.5%).	-	2
	Effects of:		
	Income taxable at a higher rate of taxation	16	8
	Excess of capital grants amortised and capital allowances over depreciation Allocation of current year losses	(4)	_
	Thiocasion of currency currenc	12	10
4.0			
15.	Receivables	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
	Receivables	1,604	1,016
	VAT repayable Corporation tax receivable	23	308
	Prepayments and accrued income	568	- 852
		2,199	2,176
	All balances are deemed recoverable within one year.		
16.	Cash at Bank and in Hand	2021 €'000	€'000
	Bank	1,154	691
	to be desirable to the control of th	1,154	691
	Included in the bank account is €850,000 held in trust from Fís Éireann and €280,000 held in trust from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, in relation to the "Samhlú na nÓg 2022" scheme.		
17.	Programme Prepayments	2021	2020
	Commissioned Programmes	<b>€'000</b> 7,634	<b>€'000</b> 4,719
	Acquired Programmes	375	491
		8,009	5,210
18.	Payables — falling due within 1 year	2021	2020
	Trade payables	<b>€'000</b> 1,155	<b>€'000</b> 737
	Accruals and deferred income	2,726	2,618
	Corporation tax payable	2 001	3 250
		3,881	3,358
19.	Reserves	Revenue Reserve	Total
		Reserve €'000	Total €'000
	Balance at 1 January 2021	(401)	(401)
	Surplus/deficit for the year Closing balance as at 31 December 2021	(19) (420)	(401)
	Crossing paratice as at 51 perceitibet 5051	(420)	(401)

Notes						
20.	Analysis of Changes in Net Funds		Opening Balance		Cash Flows	Closing Balance
			€'000		€,000	€,000
	Cash at bank and in hand		_		_	-
	Short term deposits	_	691		463	1,154
			691		463	1,154
21.	Retirement benefit	<b>.</b>				
	Telifís na Gaeilge operated a defined contribution scheme The scheme is funded and the assets are held separately			Capile	**	
	The scheme is junioed and the assets are netd separately	10111 111036	oj reitijis na	Gaeng	3 <b>c.</b>	
					2021	2020
				4	€,000	€,000
	The following Retirement benefit costs were incurred in t	he year:			C2C	F70
	Defined contribution scheme				636 636	578 578
22.	Board Members Fees and their Expenses				000	370
	The Directors and Secretary who served during the					
	year are as stated below:				Fees	Fees
	Director/Secretary		Appointme		2021	2020
	Alex Feeless art (Diseates Consul)	During Yea	ar (if applica	able)	€,000	€,000
	Alan Esslemont (Director General) Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chairperson)				21.6	21.7
	Des Geraghty				12.6	
	Mairéad Ní Cheóinín				12.6	
	Micheál Seoighe				12.6	12.6
	Michelle Ní Chróinín				_	_
	Diarmuid Ó Ruiséal (Cessation Date 02/03/2020)				_	3.0
	Bríd Ní Fhachtna				12.6	
	Frank Reidy				12.6	
	Mairéad Ní Nuadháin				12.6	
	Siobhán Ní Ghadhra Darach Ó Tuairisg				12.6 12.6	
	Séan Ó Domhnaill				12.6	
	Lís Ní Dhálaigh (Board Secretary)					_
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,				135.0	126.6
				:		
	Board members' expenses in 2021 were €6,868 (2020: €					€183
	(2020: €1,899), subsistence €52 (2020: €1,175) and other	er expense:	s (including s	secret	arial,	
	entertainment and training) €6,633 (2020: €5,221).					
	The Board adopted procedures in accordance with the rec					
	in relation to the disclosure of interests by Board membe to in the year.	rs and thes	e procedure:	s nave	veen ad	пегеа
	to in the year.					
23.	Premises					
	Teilifís na Gaeilge operates from premises located in Baile	e na hAbhai	nn, Co na Gai	illimhe	e. Teilifís	na Gaeilge
	owns the freehold to the premises.					
24	Financial Assets					
24.	Multiplex Broadcasting Services Northern Ireland Limited	d (MBSN) w	as establish	ed as a	not for r	orofit ioint
	venture company by Teilifís na Gaeilge and RTE in Octobe					
	the transmission of free to air digital television services in					
	Teilifís na Gaeilge. The company's share capital comprises					
	one owned by Teilifís na Gaeilge. MBSN concluded an agre Culture, Media and Sport which provided for transmission					
	(two thirds) and the UK Department of Culture, Media an					
	incorporation expenses and on-going administration cos					
	the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport.					

Notes 25.	Programme/Rights Purchase Commitments				
23.	Teilifís na Gaeilge has programme/rights commitments as follows:	2021 €'000	2020 €'000		
	Contracted for but not provided for at the year end	47,419	26,072		
26.	Commitments Teilifís na Gaeilge has capital commitments as follows; Contracted for but not provided for at the year end	<b>2021 €'000</b>	2020 €'000		
27.	RTÉ Transactions Teilifís na Gaeilge received 340 hours of Irish language programming free of char ended 31 December 2021, out of their statutory obligation of 365 hours. There is hours still outstanding since 2020. All attempts will be made to have the deficit f	also a shortf	fall of 11.5		
28.	Foreign Currency Exposure  Foreign currency exposures arise primarily from payments for acquired program hedges its foreign currency exposures by entering into US Dollar forward contract appropriate. The total value of such contracts in 2021 was €0 (2020: €0). There we outstanding at the year end (2020: €0).	ts when it de	ems it		
29.	Board Members — Disclosure of Transactions In the normal course of business, Teilifís na Gaeilge entered into contractual arra undertakings in which Board Members of Teilifís na Gaeilge are employed or other teilifís na Gaeilge adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines in the 2016.	erwise intere	sted.		
	Teilifís na Gaeilge adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines in the 2016 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies in relation to the disclousres of interests by Board members and Teilifís na Gaeilge adhered to these procedures during the year				
	Contracts to the value of €4,773,396 which is to be split between 2021 and 2022, were approved in 2021 in respect of undertakings with which members of Teilifís na Gaeilge were associated or in which they had a direct or indirect interest which they disclosed at meetings. Included were undertakings in which board members of Teilifís na Gaeilge were employed or to which they were providing a service. The Board members and Teilifís na Gaeilge complied with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform guidelines covering situations of personal interest. In cases of potential confict of interest, Board Members did not receive board documentation on the proposed transactions nor did those members participate in or attend any board discussions relating to the matter.				
30.	Approval of the Financial Statements  The Board of Directors' approved the financial statements on the 1 June 2022.				