



ÚDARÁS  
CRAOLACHÁIN  
NA hÉIREANN

BROADCASTING  
AUTHORITY  
OF IRELAND

2-5 Plás Warrington,  
Baile Átha Cliath 2, Éire  
2-5 Warrington Place,  
Dublin 2, Ireland

T: + 353 (0)1 644 1200  
F: + 353 (0)1 644 1299  
E: info@bai.ie  
W: www.bai.ie

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

Mr Denis Naughten, TD  
Minister for Communications,  
Climate Action and Environment  
29-31, Adelaide Road  
Dublin 2

**Re: BAI Report and Recommendations on the outcomes of the Five-Year Review of Public Funding, Section 124 (11), Broadcasting Act 2009**

Dear Minister,

In accordance with the provisions of Section 124 of the Broadcasting Act 2009, the BAI has been engaged in undertaking a Five-Year Review of Public Funding in respect of RTÉ and TG4.

The Authority has recently concluded its deliberations in this regard and I now enclose the BAI's Report and Recommendations on Public Funding, arising out of the review process, in accordance with Section 124 (12) of the statute. The Authority's Report and Recommendations were informed by its regulatory work over the past five years and by a review, conducted for the BAI on its behalf, by Communications Chambers, Consultants, in accordance with Section 124 (11) of the statute. A copy of the review report is contained in Appendix 1 to the BAI Report and Recommendations.

The **key findings and recommendations** arising are as follows:

- The period covered by the BAI's first Five-year Report and Recommendations on Public Funding had seen a recently-formed regulatory environment taking shape; whereas this Review takes place in a mature regulatory landscape.
- Public service broadcasting and public service broadcasters now face a very different set of critical and urgent challenges. A lack of sufficient funding is compounded by the fragmentation of audiences, the growth of digital and non-linear services and the proliferation of international VOD and SVOD players.



- It is clear from the BAI's Report and Recommendations, and the Communications Chambers' Review, that the current funding situation is not sustainable.
- The BAI recommends, at a minimum, that RTÉ should receive an increase in its annual public funding of **€30m**, with immediate effect, on the basis that the broadcaster meets certain conditions which are strategic in nature and have audiences at the core of their consideration. The BAI recommends an increase of **€6m per annum** in public funding for TG4, over and above TG4's 2017 public funding provision. This increase should have full effect from 2018 and onwards over the period of TG4's strategy.
- The BAI Report highlights the very difficult situation faced by the broadcasters and urges the Government to take urgent, decisive and substantive action.

In light of the extent and range of the challenges facing RTÉ and TG4, and the significance of the Report's findings, I respectfully seek your agreement and the agreement of your Government colleagues to a substantive and timely set of decisions and actions arising from the Authority's recommendations.

On behalf of the Authority, I invite you to attend the BAI's offices for a presentation on the Report's findings, to facilitate further discussion and clarification on the Authority's proposals. It is the BAI's intention to publish a short summary of the recommendations following the presentation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pauric Travers'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Pauric Travers**  
**Chairperson**

**Encl. (1)**