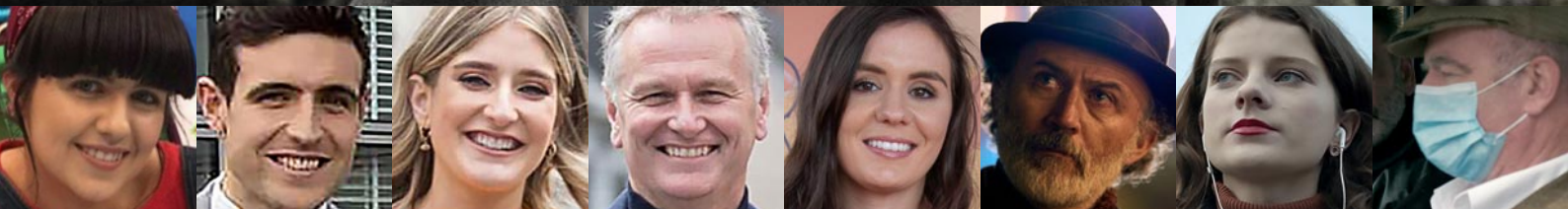
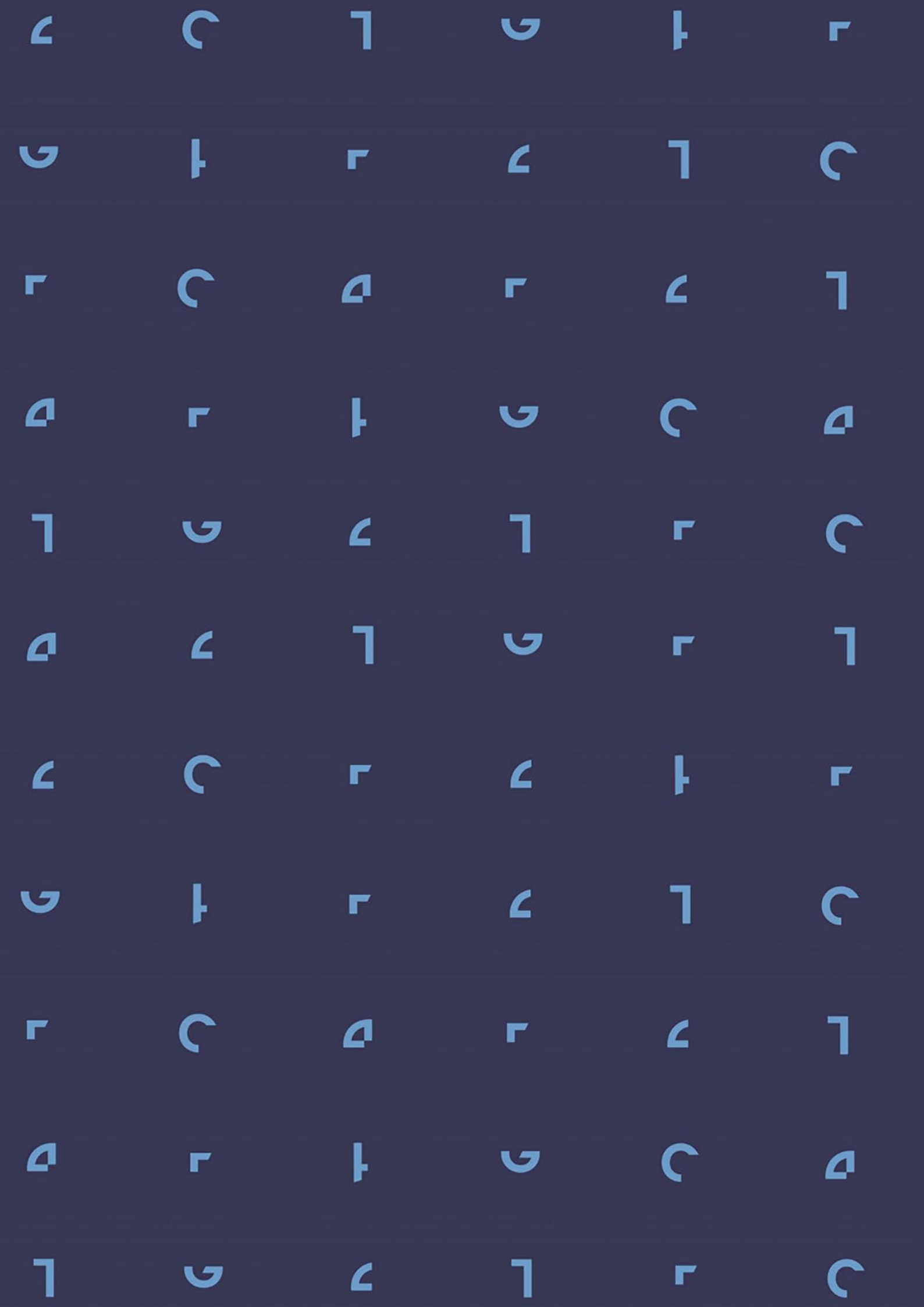




**TG 4**

**Annual Report 2020**





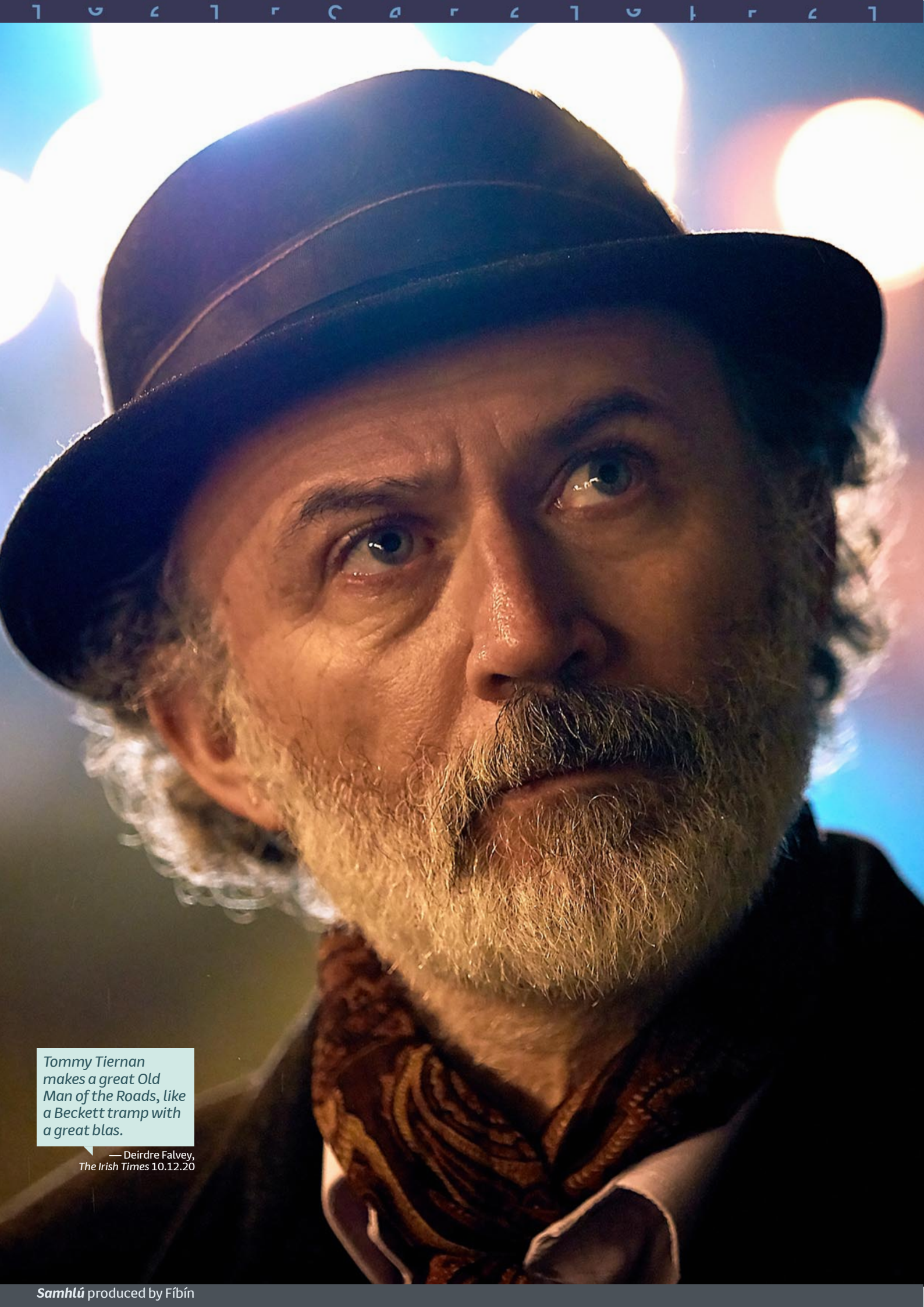




## TG4 Annual Report 2020

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Tommy Tiernan  
makes a great Old  
Man of the Roads, like  
a Beckett tramp with  
a great blas.

—Deirdre Falvey,  
*The Irish Times* 10.12.20



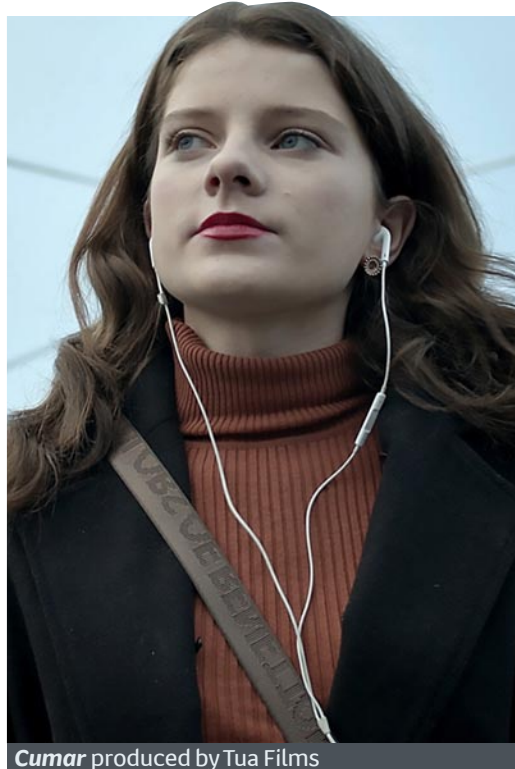
# Mission, Vision and Core Values

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 on-the-job behaviours.



Cumar produced by Tua Films

*TG4 as we all know is a brilliant local resource, but maybe you have not seen the quality content they have in their website for free.*

— Ben O’Gorman,  
Mayo Advertiser  
24/4/20



Darren Ó Dubhgháin and Donncha Ó Murchú, *An Aimsir Láithreach*



With the honourable exception of TG4, the previous attitude of national broadcasters to the club game had generally been somewhat lax.

— Jack Anderson,  
Irish Examiner  
17/9/20

## TG4 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:

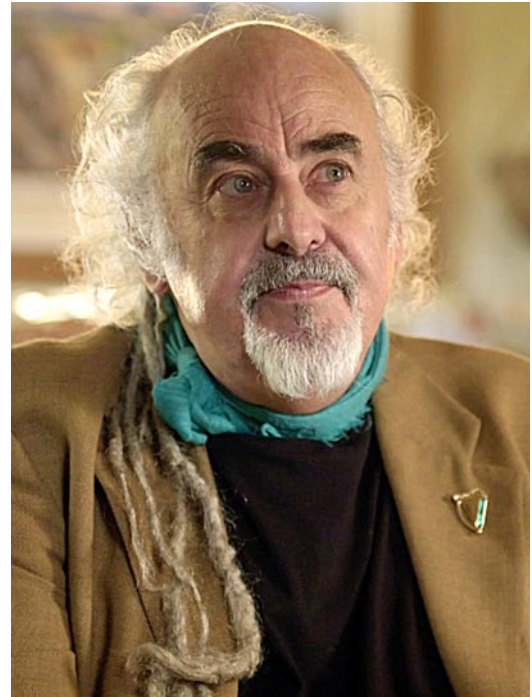
- To provide a high quality programme schedule.
- To operate a cost effective and efficient structure.

### 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.



'Sé Mo Laoch produced by Aniar

Thanks to a new four-part series on TG4, *An Bhoirinn*, about a year in the life of the Burren, I am doing what you might call a staycation.

— Declan Lynch,  
Sunday Independent  
17/5/20



*An Bhoirinn* produced by Phoenix Films

# TG4's Commitments for 2020

TG4 has identified 11 priorities for 2020:

<b>Priorities</b>	<b>Commitments</b>
<b>Linear Audiences</b>	1. Grow our audience share and resonance with national linear audiences.
<b>Digital Audiences</b>	2. Continue to grow TG4's digital reach and engagement.
<b>Young Audiences</b>	3. Bring the best, most innovative, entertaining and educational Irish language content to young audiences, growing reach and engagement.
<b>Irish Speaking Communities &amp; Gaeltacht</b>	4. Strengthen TG4's ties with Irish speaking communities, especially the Gaeltacht.
<b>Regional Creative Economy</b>	5. Support growth and jobs in regional creative industries, helping to sustain and build Ireland's regional creative economy
<b>Internationalisation of Independent AV Sector</b>	6. Continue to provide a platform for the external growth and internationalisation of the Irish independent audio-visual production sector.
<b>Internationalisation of Creative Cultural Footprint</b>	7. Deepen TG4's global cultural and linguistic footprint.
<b>Safeguarding our Cultural &amp; Linguistic Assets</b>	8. As a custodian of Irish language broadcasting legacy, TG4 will continue to build its Digital Archive.
<b>Findability</b>	9. Ensure TG4's content is discoverable through marketing, technology and prominence rules.
<b>Funding</b>	10. Secure an increase in core funding and deliver value-for-money from public funding.
<b>Diversity</b>	11. Continue to bring linguistic diversity into the mainstream and to be recognised for diversity both on and off-screen.



# Key Performance Highlights for 2020

There are some great programmes on TG4, it does give you a different point of view.

— Michael Harding,  
Irish Examiner  
28/9/20

2020 was a year like no other, with the coronavirus pandemic having a profound impact on our everyday lives. It was a year of adversity for businesses and the economy, as well as one of great sadness and hardship for many families and individuals.

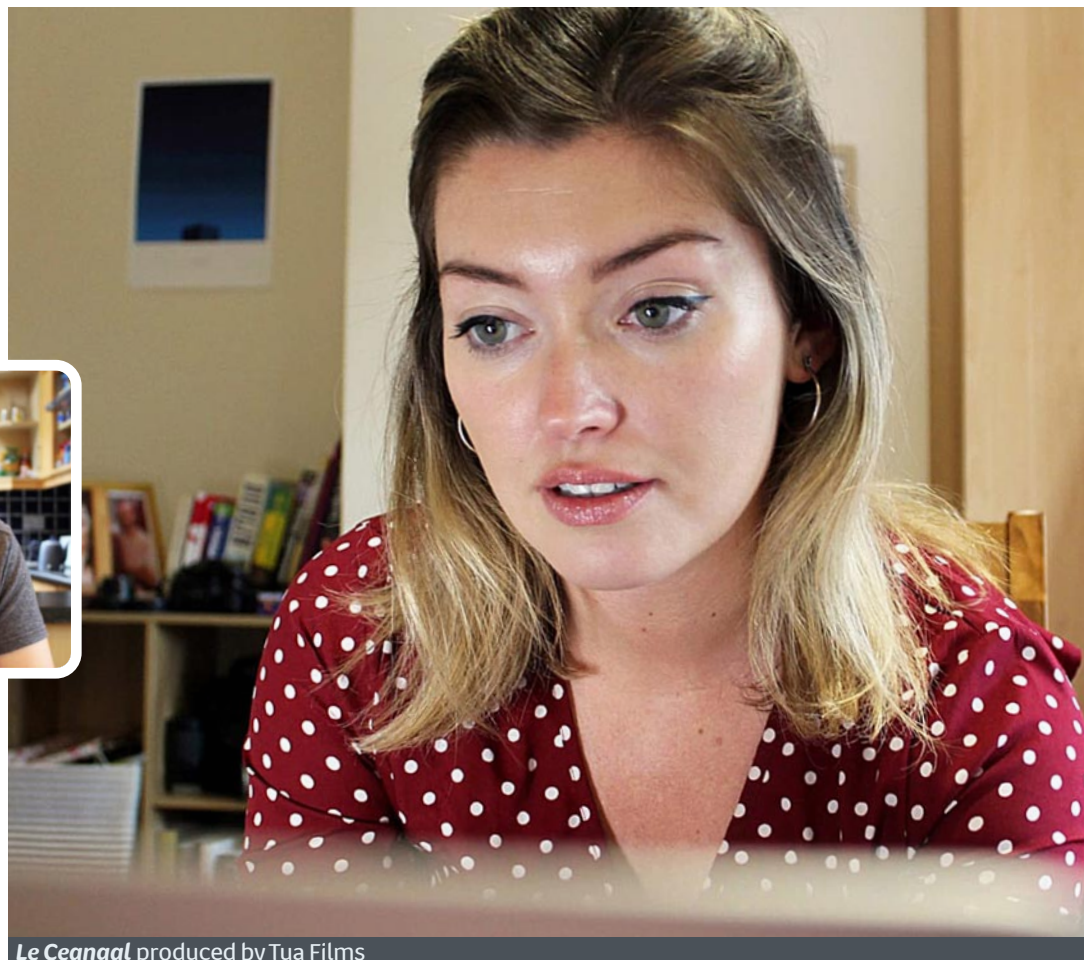
In the media sector, viewing of content and usage of Subscription Video-on-Demand (SVOD) services rose as people stayed at home, but this wasn't all positive for broadcasters and content providers. With an economic downturn triggered by the effects of the pandemic on businesses, trade and consumer spending, this has had a negative impact on advertiser confidence and investment. It may also impact subscription services in the longer-term as the impact of the pandemic on the economy takes hold in terms of jobs and personal finances.

Throughout the crisis, TG4 provided the latest news, information and entertainment for Irish audiences and responded quickly to "lockdown" with a new educational series for schools — *Cúla 4*

*ar Scoil* — a five day per week home school programme which was up and running quickly after lockdown began.

To ensure TG4 could continue to provide quality content to our audiences, we developed and implemented a Covid-19 strategy and measures to ensure the sustainability of the Irish independent producers with whom TG4 works. The success of TG4's service depends heavily on the sector's original and compelling programming and content. TG4's longer-term, five-year strategy seeks to increase investment in the sector, to strengthen and encourage the development and growth of companies who provide content to us. The growth of these companies is an important part of the overall eco-system of Ireland's audio-visual sector.

TG4's Covid-19 strategy focused on four pillars: (i) keeping people safe; (ii) maintaining a focus on the audience; (iii) limiting field / studio productions for TG4 during lockdowns and (iv) assisting production companies, as far as possible, to maintain continuity of employment in the sector. TG4's



*Le Ceangal* produced by Tua Films



Covid-19 strategy for the sector, and for our audiences, required additional investment in the programme schedule and in the independent production sector during the year.

Against the backdrop of this exceptionally challenging year, TG4 performed well against our target commitments which, it should be noted, were prepared prior to the onset of the global crisis.

At a time of increasing globalisation in the media market, extensive competition and changing audience behaviour, TG4 holds a unique place in the Irish media landscape. Market research<sup>1</sup> shows that 88% of the public agree there is a clear need and role for TG4 in the broadcasting market in Ireland. TG4 continues to provide a worldwide platform for Irish arts and culture and has built a reputation for outstanding live Irish music and cultural events. We also continue, through our investment in Irish independent production companies, to develop new creative talent in the sector as well as providing a significant engine for the growth of Irish creative companies in the regions.

While Covid-19 continues to impact TG4 (along with most other organisations around the country), there are also a number of longer-term challenges facing us which we addressed during 2020, and will continue to address in the years ahead. These include<sup>2</sup>:

**Funding Scale & Balance:**

Ireland’s public service media (PSM) funding suffers from a lack of sufficient scale. It ranks in the bottom third of all EBU markets, in terms of PSM funding as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In addition, there is a major imbalance in Ireland’s public service media funding. TG4’s current funding for example, was just 18.4% of RTÉ’s licence fee funding in 2019. TG4 believes that a diversity and plurality of voices, views and sources must be available in the Irish market for Ireland’s PSM ecosystem to work effectively. However, funding “balance of scale” and reforming the monolithic structure of the audio-visual ecosystem in Ireland, are necessary for true plurality and diversity of voices and sources (including regional and linguistic), to emerge. The biggest challenge facing TG4 in the coming years is to achieve ‘first-class national funding scale’ to allow the service to play a role of meaningful prominence in Ireland’s media ecosystem and create meaningful resonance in Irish society.

**Globalisation:**

The media landscape is highly dynamic. Digital technology, social media and connected devices have transformed consumption patterns to the extent that the lines between traditional broadcasters and global content intermediaries are



converging and audience behaviour is evolving. TG4 must have viable scale to maintain competitiveness with audiences, create impact with audiences and put content for under-35s centre-stage.

**Gaps in Irish Language Media Services:**

Irish language media and the Irish language creative arts have a very important role to play in promoting the self-identity and enrichment of the Irish language community and in supporting the intergenerational transmission of the Irish language. However, the gaps in audio-visual services for the Irish-speaking community are far greater than those for the English-speaking community, which is served by both public and commercial media. While TG4 spends the majority of its funding on Irish language content, the scale of funding to date, has been insufficient to address these gaps.

**Findability & Prominence:**

There are significant linguistic reasons which make findability and prominence absolutely vital for TG4’s content. Although a national language, Irish functions as a minority language. Its habitual-speaking community continually face the danger of language shift and diminution. Irish language media has very little market power and, unlike

*Watching Daniel, dressed in a nicely pressed shirt, new jeans and perfect Lego-combed hair, grinning from ear to ear while energetically doing Zumba badly, is good for the nation’s soul.*

— Patrick Freyne, *The Irish Times* 19.6.20

<sup>1</sup> Ipsos MRBI TG4 Ominipoll Research, October 2020 (1,000 adults aged 15+).  
<sup>2</sup> Refer to Annual Statement of Performance Commitments 2021 for further details.



Órla Ní Fhinneadh, *Cúla 4 ar Scoil*

Ireland's English language media, exerts very little influence on commercial content platforms. Unless Irish media is supported and given due prominence,

it will lose relevance, particularly for younger Irish audiences who are growing up in a global media environment. TG4 must continue to invest to attract and retain audiences and to maximise discovery and consumption of our content. From a policy perspective, the prominence of Ireland's PSM content must be safeguarded.

**Sustainability:**

As a publicly-funded organisation, we have an obligation to ensure TG4 is doing everything possible to reduce its environmental impact. We want to play our part in achieving the targets set by Ireland's Climate Action Plan.

These challenges will continue to frame TG4's priorities for the years ahead and 2020 saw us focus on these as well as respond to the national crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic.

TG4's documentary series *Finné* has been outstanding.

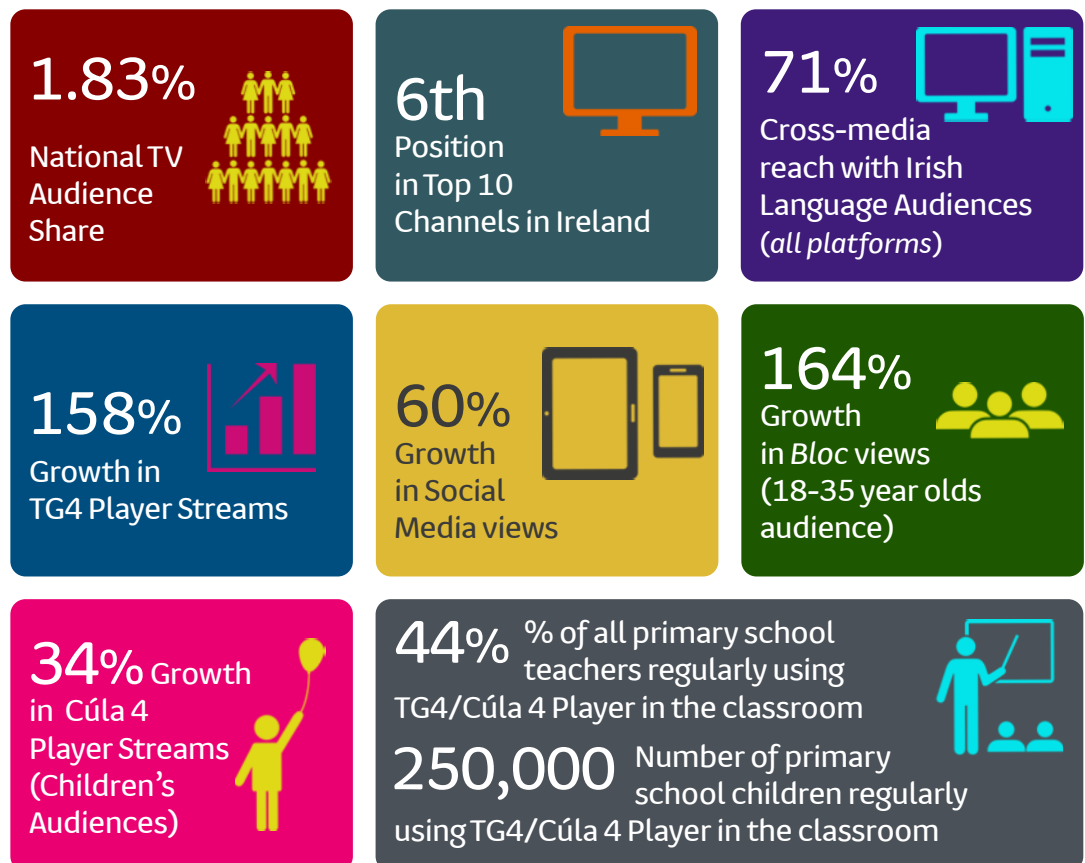
— Paul Moore, *Irish Mirror* 26/11/20

# Audiences

Over the past decade, the media landscape has changed beyond recognition. There has been very fast growth in the SVOD market and competition for audiences is intensifying as streaming services spend billions on new content to attract and retain audiences. Growth in SVOD services, in online, short-form and social media content have been

particularly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic throughout 2020 with, for example, Irish household subscriptions to Netflix more than doubling in one year alone. Households with Smart TVs are also on the rise and this has a significant impact on the audience for live television viewing.

In 2020, TG4 retained its position as the 6th







*Slí na mBeaglaioich* produced by Tyrone Productions

most watched television channel in Ireland. TG4 had moved up from 7th place in 2019 where it had ranked since 2014. 3.66m people or 83% of the population watched TG4 at some stage during 2020 and the average viewing share was 1.83%<sup>3</sup>. Of note, given the intense competition in the Irish media market, is that there was a 3% increase in TG4's primetime audience share to 1.92%. This share and channel position was a considerable achievement in 2020 given that a significant amount of TG4's output was severely disrupted by the pandemic in 2020 as productions were put on hold or delayed, and as many sporting and cultural events were cancelled. Live sporting and cultural events are events on which TG4 relies so heavily for major audiences. TG4's performance was down to the fast reaction of our creative and production staff and of the independent producers with whom we work, to develop new content to respond to the crisis.

In 2020, for the first time ever, TG4 developed a new measure for cross-platform Irish language audience reach by expanding the *Fios Físe*<sup>4</sup> Irish language audience measurement system. TG4's objective was to establish a baseline for TG4's cross-platform Irish language audience reach in

2020. In 2020, TG4 achieved an average weekly cross-platform reach of 71%. This was a very strong performance showing that TG4 reached 71% of Irish language audiences across all linear and digital platforms (TV, smart devices, mobile, online) weekly.

2020 was an unprecedented year, bringing about a major acceleration of non-linear digital media. TG4 was successful in meeting audience demand and strengthening TG4's "digital personality" both in Ireland and around the world. Video-on-demand streams increased by 158% on the TG4 Player in 2020 and streams of TG4 on the RTÉ Player increased by 38%. Cúla4 Player streams, indicating our children's audience levels, increased by 34% and TG4 social media views grew by 60% in 2020, with a total of 36m video views for the year.

TG4 commissioned a national survey of primary schools (English and Irish-speaking schools)<sup>5</sup> on the awareness and use of TG4 and Cúla4 Players content. An exceptionally high **44% of all primary school teachers use either Player in the classroom**. This means that approximately **17,000 teachers and 250,000 primary school children regularly use the TG4 or Cúla4 Player in the classroom**.<sup>6</sup>

*The father-and-son musical duo of son Breannán and Cormac Ó Beaglaioich get to travel up the west coast of Ireland – in their 40-year-old camper van, making friends along the way and having lots of craic with no need for social distancing.*

— Kevin Courtney,  
The Irish Times  
26/4/20

<sup>3</sup> Consolidated.

<sup>4</sup> Fios Físe audience measurement system measures reach with TG4's core Irish language audience (weekly and daily Irish language speakers).

<sup>5</sup> Red C TG4 National Schools Research (Q4, 2020)

<sup>6</sup> Based on 37,839 primary school teachers with an average of 15 students per teacher (Department of Education).

TG4 providing reasons to stay at home and thereby avoid the plague.

Hot Press  
12/12/20



*Dúiseacht* produced by Aniar

## Irish Speaking Communities & Gaeltacht

TG4's vision and 5-year strategy for 2018-2022 is underpinned by three pillars. One of the three, Cothrom na Féinne or Solidarity, relates to providing support and stability in areas of imbalance. For TG4

as an Irish language PSM, this includes "serving habitual Irish speaking audiences better, supporting the communities who speak Irish". Throughout 2020, TG4 delivered new content to connect with Gaeltacht and Irish language audiences. We commissioned Gaeltacht-based independent production companies to produce regular content for *Molscéal*, TG4's platform which provides a breadth of Irish language community-based stories from Gaeltacht regions. We engaged extensively on Irish language planning and development in 2020, including creating a new TV advertising campaign to highlight Irish Language Planning work along with developing a new Gaeltacht Strategy. In 2020, we also engaged extensively with organisations such as Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta, Roinn na Gaeltachta and an tOireachtas to produce programming content to support their events calendar which was curtailed due to Covid. We also continued to work closely with Udarás na Gaeltachta to support training & development in Gaeltacht based production companies. In 2020, TG4 commissioned an IPSOS MRBI national survey of 1,000 Irish adults to establish a baseline measure of public perception relating to TG4's role in promoting the Irish language and giving it prominence. This survey showed that **82% of respondents believe TG4 is the most positive measure to promote the Irish language and give it prominence.**



*Gaeltacht 2020* produced by Aniar



# Regional Creative Economy

As a broadcaster that believes in regional development, TG4 focuses on sourcing content and services from companies which operate through the Irish language, many of which are located in Gaeltacht and regional areas. In 2020, TG4 spent €25.8m on creative services in Ireland<sup>7</sup>, of which €21.3m was spent with regional creative companies. Of the €25.8m, €20.6m was spent with independent production companies of which €18.1m was spent with regional independent production companies. Through this, we have supported growth and jobs in regional creative industries, helping to sustain and build Ireland's regional creative economy. We estimate that in 2020, TG4's expenditures in Ireland made a contribution to national output of circa €67m and supported approximately 873 full-time equivalent jobs<sup>8</sup> (direct, indirect and induced). Of this, TG4's expenditures in the regions made a contribution to regional output of c. €61m and supported 792 full-

time equivalent jobs<sup>9</sup> (direct, indirect and induced).

TG4 continued to invest in production sector training and development in 2020 in conjunction with other industry stakeholders. These schemes are very important for developing the creative talent and skills of those in the sector. During the year, under the *Scéim Forbartha Oilíúna*, 10 people completed a one-year work placement with independent production sector companies and 11 companies have been selected to participate in year 2. TG4 also established *Glúin Nua (Céad Seans)*, a new scheme funded by TG4 in conjunction with the BAI, Irish language Broadcast Fund (ILBF) and Údarás na Gaeltachta to commission series of short-form content for 16-34 year old audiences. TG4 work placements were also delivered and TG4 supported training initiatives with the ILBF and BBC Northern Ireland to develop new Irish language writing talent and funded *Fís Summit* and *EAVÉ* to support sectoral development.

*TG4's joyous and surreal film celebrates the resilience of art in the age of Covid.*

— Deirdre Falvey, *The Irish Times* 10/12/20



*Is Olc an Ghaoth* produced by Lunar Pictures

<sup>7</sup>Excluding sports and music rights.

<sup>8</sup>Analysis of TG4's 2020 operating & capital spend & funding in Ireland. See Appendix 1.

<sup>9</sup>Excludes additional catalytic impacts (spill-overs) such as skills development, tourism etc.

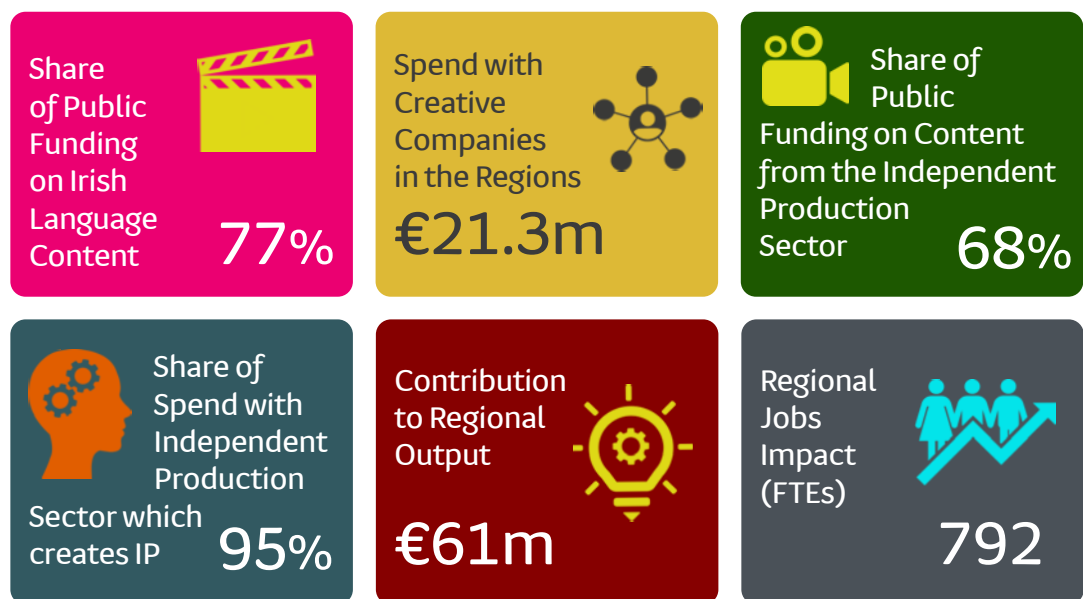
In stark contrast to other television channel's coverage of Brexit or Covid-19, TG4 has taken another approach for their social media presence: have the craic.

— The Journal  
26.12.20

# Internationalisation of the Independent AV Sector

TG4's aim is to support the internationalisation of the Irish independent production sector through investing in developing the scale and capabilities of the sector and through fostering co-productions and the expansion of Irish production companies into international markets. As a Publisher-Broadcaster, TG4 spends the majority of our annual content budget on original content which is commissioned from the

independent production sector in Ireland. We invest in original commissioned content with high production values with the potential to be sold into international markets. In 2020, we invested 68% of TG4's public funding in content from the sector with €25.26m spent with independent production companies<sup>10</sup>. 95% of this created intellectual property (IP) for the sector.



# Safeguarding our Cultural and Linguistic Assets

TG4 is safeguarding Ireland's broadcasting heritage and legacy by developing an Irish Language Digital Archive (in progress since the end of 2011). Digital archiving of the back video tape archive is being done on a phased basis through a series of standalone but integrated projects supported by funding from the BAI Archive Funding scheme. In 2020, TG4 preserved and indexed 1,143 hours of Irish language children's,

entertainment, drama and sports programmes (with a further, c.300 hours almost complete) and commenced a new project to add 652 hours to the News & Current Affairs Archive. When complete, 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.

<sup>10</sup>Including sports rights.



# Findability

TG4 continues to invest in platform development and data analytics to reach audiences and improve audience experience. Of absolutely critical importance are marketing, curation and PR to support discoverability of TG4's content and partnerships to maximise the opportunities from discovery and consumption of our content. From a policy perspective, there is also a requirement for PSM content

prominence to be safeguarded. In 2020, TG4 delivered a significant amount of work relating to the TG4 App and platform development. TG4 delivered a number of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) PEACH (personalisation) project targets for 2020, specifically, enhanced personalisation for audiences in addition to key data analytics targets.

*We really should cherish, protect and support @TG4TV at all costs. It provides some of the most wonderfully researched documentaries on Irish TV.*

— @niecyOkeeffe, 23/4/20

# Value-for-Money and Efficiency

2020 was an unprecedented year. For the first time ever, TG4's operational budget was exceeded by €1.9m due to Covid-19. This was partly caused by a reduction in commercial income due to the economic crisis, but was mainly due to additional expenditure incurred as a result of the pandemic. We were very grateful to receive a one-off supplementary amount in Q4 2020 to address the additional costs incurred during the year. With the support of this additional funding in what was an exceptionally challenging year, TG4 was able to meet operating budgets by year end.

TG4 is committed to making the best use of our public funding. Every year, we invest the highest possible share of our public current funding on Irish language content and we ensure that staff and overhead costs remain as low as possible. In 2020, 82%<sup>11</sup> of TG4's net operating expenditure was spent on content and 77% of TG4's public funding

was invested in Irish language content.

TG4's staff costs were delivered on budget in 2020. Staff & Board costs and overheads accounted for 20.8% of net operating expenditure. Excluding production staff costs, they only accounted for 15.5%. This is in line with international benchmarks.

For 2020, TG4 committed to campaigning to secure the additional core funding to deliver TG4's 2018-2022 strategy in addition to contributing to a new PSM Funding Framework to establish a more equitable funding ratio between TG4 and RTÉ as Ireland's public service broadcasters. During the year, TG4 engaged positively and robustly with the Department and for 2021, TG4 was exceptionally pleased to receive an additional €2.5m in current funding and an additional €1m in capital funding for the service. A cumulative strategy funding gap of €10m to date<sup>12</sup> remains. TG4 also engaged with the

Share of the Public who agree TG4 is the most positive measure to promote the Irish Language

82%



Safeguarding Cultural and Linguistics Assets — Hours been added to Digital Irish Language Archive



c.2,100



Share of the Public who agree TG4 represents Diversity and Alternative Viewpoints

95%

<sup>11</sup> Including production staff costs of €1,925,871.

<sup>12</sup> Excluding one-off €985k supplementary received in 2018 for Bliain na Gaeilge and €1.9m received in 2020.



*Cogadh ar Mhná* produced by Forefront

Future of Media Commission in relation to funding scale and balance in Ireland’s PSM. A submission was made to the Commission which highlighted funding challenges. TG4 continues to engage with key stakeholders on funding scale and balance in

2021 we will also develop a high-level post-Covid-19 strategy for TG4 in conjunction with the Board, which will set-out TG4’s funding objectives and investment proposals as part of our 2022 budget submission.

*On Sunday we had a reminder of the incredible work that TG4 do.*

— Irish Daily Star  
14/4/20



*Liam O'Flynn Píobaire* produced by DoubleBand 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.

The Board met 7 times during the 12 months to the 31st December 2020.

## Board Members and Director General at 31st December 2020



Siún Ní Raghallaigh  
(Chairman)



Alan Esslemont  
(Director General)



Des Geraghty



Mairéad Ní Cheoínín



Micheál Seoighe



Michelle  
Ní Chróinín



Diarmuid Ó Ruiséal  
(Ceased 02/03/2020)



Bríd Ní Fhachtna  
(Reappointed  
22/12/2020)



Frank Reidy  
(Reappointed  
22/12/2020)



Mairéad  
Ní Nuadháin



Siobhán Ní Ghadhra



Darach Ó Tuairisg



Seán Ó Domhnaill  
(Appointed  
19/05/2020)

### 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 2020, 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 2020.

### Brand Committee

Michelle Ní Chróinín (Chairman)  
Siobhán Ní Ghadhra

The Brand Committee met twice in the year to 31st December 2020.

### Digital Committee

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

The Digital Committee met once in the year to 31st December 2020.

### 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

# Chairman's Report

2020 was an unprecedented year. The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that Ireland's creative sectors have lost significant revenue. Production output has been severely interrupted as productions were put on hold or delayed. Production companies, staff, cultural and sporting events and venues across the entire of the creative sector are feeling its effects. This situation is reflected throughout Europe where it is estimated that the cultural and creative economy lost approximately 31% of its revenues in 2020 alone, with audio-visual production down by 22% since 2019<sup>13</sup>. Disruption of activities and a lack of certainty regarding a return to economic and health stability have all impacted the sector's income, cash flow and financial sustainability. As a Publisher-Broadcaster, TG4 relies on the Irish independent production sector's original content. To address Covid-19 restrictions and to help maintain the stability of employment in the sector, TG4 developed a Covid-19 'solidarity strategy' which required additional investment during 2020 and 2021. I am proud of the way TG4 worked with the independent production sector to respond so well to the crisis and to support this important sector on which we rely so heavily for its creativity and talent. Because of this partnership, TG4 was able to maintain full services in addition to providing new programmes and digital content for audiences. Throughout 2020, we delivered news and public information about the pandemic as well as providing comfort and entertainment to Irish people. It is clear that Irish audiences value this. National research carried out in late 2020<sup>14</sup> showed that 88% of the public strongly agree there is a clear need and role for TG4 in broadcasting in Ireland with 78% agreeing that TG4 provides high quality content and services.

Despite this solid performance, it is imperative that TG4 addresses the longer-term changes in the media market. These include the increased influence of global media and streaming services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and Disney Plus. The growth of these highly-funded services in Ireland means a growth of highly-resourced English-language content and they are putting Irish culture and stories and the Irish language at risk. These global companies have also made significant inroads into the European audio-visual sector, disrupting the competitive environment for public service and commercial broadcasters alike, and posing a real threat to the public service media ecosystem. Research shows that in 2019, the top-10 Internet & technology giants earned €960 billion — 26 times the funding of all 66 EBU PSMs<sup>15</sup>. Competition for audiences is intensifying as these companies spend billions on content to attract audiences. Covid-19 has also accelerated changes in audience behaviour with a move towards these streaming

companies in particular. For example, Irish household subscriptions to Netflix have more than doubled in Ireland in one year alone, at 31% and rising<sup>16</sup>, with 40% of Irish adults also claiming to have taken out at least one additional subscription to a subscription video-on-demand (SVOD) service since lockdown began<sup>17</sup>.

As the national Irish language public service media (PSM) organisation, TG4 believes that strengthening Irish public service media is critical to sustaining a strong Irish culture. PSM plays an essential role in society, representing a nation's cultures, promoting its languages and supporting its creative industries. The growth in global streaming and media means that Irish language media risks irrelevance if it is not funded properly in the coming years. TG4 must have viable funding scale to maintain competitiveness and relevance.

As we emerge from the immediate crisis, TG4 will play an important part in supporting the country's recovery by helping to rebuild the creative economy, particularly in Ireland's regions. Through our investment in Irish independent production companies, TG4 develops new creative talent in the sector as well as providing a significant platform for the growth of Irish creative companies. As a broadcaster that believes in regional development, TG4 focuses on sourcing content and services from companies which operate through the Irish language, many of which are located in Gaeltacht and regional areas. In 2020, TG4 spent €25.8m on creative services in Ireland<sup>18</sup>, of which €20.6m was spent with independent production companies. Through this, we have supported growth and jobs in regional creative industries, helping to sustain and build Ireland's regional creative economy. We estimate that in 2020, TG4's expenditures in Ireland made a contribution to national output of circa €67m and supported almost 900 full-time equivalent jobs<sup>19</sup> (direct, indirect and induced).

TG4 also invests in production sector training and development. In 2020, in conjunction with other industry stakeholders, we invested in a number of schemes which are very important for developing the creative talent and skills of those in the sector. During the year, under the Scéim Forbartha Oiliúna, 10 people completed a one-year work placement with independent production sector companies. TG4 also established Glúin Nua a new scheme funded by TG4 in conjunction with the BAI, Irish language Broadcast Fund and Údarás na Gaeltachta to commission series of short-form content for younger audiences. TG4 work placements and training initiatives with our partners help develop new Irish language talent throughout the sector.

TG4's aim is to support the internationalisation of the Irish independent production sector through investing in developing the scale and capabilities of the sector and

<sup>13</sup> Rebuilding Europe, January 2021 EV.

<sup>14</sup> IPSOS MRBI (1,000 Irish adults - aged 15+ years), October 2020

<sup>15</sup> Market Insights: Public Service Media's Competitive Environment (EBU February 2021).

<sup>16</sup> Nielsen Establishment Survey, 2019 (Jan-Jun) to 2020 (Jul-Dec). All TV Households in Ireland.

<sup>17</sup> TAM Ireland Tracker Survey with B&A (July 2020 results).

<sup>18</sup> Excluding sports and music rights.

<sup>19</sup> Based on analysis of TG4's 2020 operating & capital spend & funding in Ireland.





Rugbaí Beo produced by Iris

Women have featured strongly in the broadcaster's revamped coverage over the past two years. But this will be the first time in Irish broadcasting that a rugby game will be fully voiced and analysed by a female panel.

— Johnny Watterson,  
The Irish Times  
20.11.20

through fostering co-productions and the expansion of Irish production companies into international markets. Every year, TG4 invests in original commissioned content with high production values with the potential to be sold into international markets. In 2020, we invested 68% of TG4's public funding in content from the sector and we estimate that 95% of this created intellectual property for the sector.

Looking ahead, 2021 is an important milestone for TG4 as we celebrate our 25th year on air. The Board, management and staff of TG4, together with our partners, will continue to ensure that TG4 and the Irish language remain relevant and important. We are engaging with the Future of Media Commission on PSM funding and with other stakeholders including the BAI and the Department, to contribute to the development of a new PSM funding model to establish a more equitable funding balance in the sector. We are also working on a new post-Covid-19 strategy to ensure we achieve 'first-class national funding scale' and play a meaningful role in Ireland's media ecosystem and in Irish society.

**My Thanks**

I would like to thank our new 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 are exceptionally grateful for the funding increase TG4 received for 2021. It is the largest amount allocated to TG4 since 2008 and we believe this additional funding reflects the confidence the Government has in TG4, and in our strategy for

Ireland's regional independent production sector.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members. Their ongoing commitment to TG4 is invaluable and they all continue to guide TG4 as we chart the future for the organisation over the coming years. I would also like to thank the Board Sub-committees and Secretaries for the work they do.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend thanks to the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, the Irish Language Broadcast Fund, Screen Ireland and RTÉ for their support. I would especially like to thank the Irish independent production sector and our other creative partners. Without their fast reaction, TG4 would not have been able to develop new content and respond so well to the unprecedented crisis.

Finally, I would like to thank the TG4 team led by Ard-Stiúrthóir Alan Esslemont. Their dedication and hard work throughout what was an exceptionally difficult year, ensured that TG4 continued to bring the very best of Irish culture and creativity to audiences around the world.

**Siún Ní Raghallaigh**  
Cathaoirleach  
23 June 2021







# Director General's Report

For societies and economies around the world, 2020 was a year like no other. The coronavirus pandemic has had a impact on our everyday lives with great sadness and adversity impacting our communities and businesses across the country — and worldwide. 2020 was also a year of many humanitarian and public service achievements and while the pandemic continues to impact TG4, and all other organisations around the country, we are hopeful for better times to come.

## TG4 Response to the Crisis

Throughout the crisis, TG4 provided the latest news, information and entertainment for Irish audiences. As soon as the extent of the crisis became apparent, we put response plans in place to ensure TG4's services could continue for our audiences. As a Publisher-Broadcaster, TG4's success relies heavily on the Irish independent production sector's original programming and content. To address Covid-19 restrictions, the impact on production and on our schedule, and as far as possible, to maintain continuity of employment in the sector, TG4 developed a Covid-19 strategy for the sector. This required additional investment in the programme schedule and in the sector during the year.

## TG4 Audiences

In 2020, TG4 maintained its position as the 6th most watched television channel in Ireland. The channel had

moved up from 7th place in 2019 where it had ranked since 2014. 3.66m people or 83% of the population watched TG4 at some stage during 2020 and there was a 3% increase in our primetime audience share. This was a notable achievement given that a significant amount of TG4's output was severely disrupted by the pandemic as productions were put on hold or delayed, and as many sporting and cultural events were cancelled. Live sporting and cultural events are events on which TG4 relies so heavily for major audiences. TG4's performance was down to the fast reaction of our creative and production staff and of the independent producers with whom we work, to develop new content to respond to the crisis — and we are very grateful to them all.

For the first time, we developed a new metric to measure TG4's cross-platform reach with Irish language audiences. In 2020, TG4 achieved an average cross-platform reach of 71%. This was a strong performance showing that TG4 reached 71% of Irish language audiences across all linear and digital platforms (TV, smart devices, mobile, online) every week.

2020 witnessed a major acceleration of non-linear digital media. We strengthened TG4's "digital personality" in Ireland and around the world. Video-on-demand streams increased by 158% on the TG4 Player. Cúla4 Player streams of our children's service, increased by 34%. TG4 social media views grew by 60% in 2020, with a total of 36m video views for the year.

*A highly enjoyable 60 minutes Hector checking in with a selection of the plain folk of Ireland, to see how they're getting themselves through this ordeal.*

— Mary Hannigan,  
The Irish Times  
21.5.20



Vóta2020 with Eimear Ní Chonaola, Páidí Ó Lionáird and Siún Nic Gearailt

Television would be a much poorer place without TG4

— Pat Stacey,  
Herald  
12/11/20



*An Siopa Ealaíne* produced by Fíbín

#### TG4 in the Classroom

TG4 offers a range of entertaining educational content services for young children including Cúla4, a daily broadcast service for children, a Cúla4 Player, Apps and a Cúla4 YouTube channel. We responded quickly to lockdown with a new educational series for schools, Cúla 4 ar Scoil, a five day per week home-school programme which was up and running quickly after lockdown began in March 2020.

A key issue for us was to assess the use of TG4's content in primary schools and by primary school children and so for 2020, we sought to evaluate TG4's reach with this important audience segment. We invested significant time and effort in researching this during the year, including commissioning a national survey of all primary schools (English and Irish-speaking schools)<sup>20</sup> on the awareness and use of the TG4 and Cúla4 Players and content. The results were really positive with an exceptionally high 44% of all primary school teachers, 80% of teachers in Irish-speaking primary schools and 250,000 primary school children throughout Ireland, found to be regularly using the TG4 Player or Cúla4 Player in the classroom.

TG4 has also focused on provision of content for post-primary schools. Our portal, TG4 Foghlaim, is an invaluable learning resource which provides audio-visual content for the Leaving Cert and Junior Cert curricula. It has been developed in partnership with Comhairle Um Oideachais Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG). In

2020, we further developed the portal's content and created additional online lessons for second-level students during lockdown as well as commissioning new content for production in 2021.

#### Cine4 – high-quality Irish language drama

We continued with our investment in 2020 in Cine4, a four-year joint-funding initiative with the BAI and Fís Éireann / Screen Ireland, to support the development and production of feature films in the Irish language and to bring high-quality Irish-language drama to our screens. Reflecting this quality, Arracht was selected as Ireland's entry for the Oscars' Best International Feature Film category for the upcoming Academy Awards. Another production, Fanacht, will be released to cinemas / the market in 2021.

#### Findability & Prominence

Over the past decade, the media landscape has changed beyond recognition. There has been very fast growth in streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime and competition for audiences is intensifying as they spend billions on new content. Households with Smart TVs are also on the rise which has a significant impact on the audience for live television viewing. This makes it even more critical for TG4 to have viable scale to maintain competitiveness and create impact with audiences. We must also maximise relevance and discovery of TG4's content.

<sup>20</sup> Red C TG4 National Schools Research (Q4, 2020)



The prominence of Ireland’s public service media (PSM) must be safeguarded in policy and there are critical linguistic reasons why this is important. While Irish is a national language, it functions as a minority language. The habitual Irish-speaking community continually faces the danger of language shift and diminution. Irish language media has very little market power and, unlike Ireland’s English language media, exerts very little influence on commercial content platforms. Unless Irish media is supported and given due prominence, it will lose relevance, particularly for younger Irish audiences who are growing up in a global media environment.

In 2020, TG4 continued to invest in platform development and data analytics to reach audiences and improve audience experience, and in marketing and curation to support discoverability of TG4’s content. We also engaged extensively with the Department and other industry stakeholders on prominence submissions in response to the Online Safety and Media Regulation bill and the Future of Media Commission public consultations.

#### Independent Production Sector & Regional Creative Economy

As a broadcaster that believes in regional development, TG4 focuses on sourcing content and services from companies which operate through the Irish language, many of which are located in Gaeltacht and regional areas. In 2020, we spent €25.8m on creative services in Ireland of which €20.6m was spent with independent production companies<sup>21</sup>. Through this, we have supported growth and jobs in regional creative industries, helping to sustain and build Ireland’s regional creative economy. We



*Ros na Rún* produced by Léiriúcháin Ros na Rún

estimate that in 2020, TG4’s expenditures in Ireland made a contribution to national output of circa €67m and supported almost 880 full-time equivalent jobs (direct, indirect and induced) of which over 790 were in the regions.

TG4 also continued to invest in training schemes to develop the creative talent and skills of the independent production sector. These schemes were delivered in



*Arracht* produced by Macalla Teo.

<sup>21</sup>Excluding rights.

TG4 have been making at times stunning live traditional music programmes and documentaries.

— Robert McMillen,  
Irish News  
11/12/20

conjunction with the production sector and other stakeholders and included Scéim Forbartha Oilíúna (one-year work placements) and Glúin Nua (short-form content development for younger audiences).

### Supporting Irish Speaking Communities and the Gaeltacht

As the national Irish language broadcaster, TG4 promotes the self-identity and enrichment of Irish communities and plays a unique role in linguistic diversity and intergenerational Irish language transmission. Every year, we invest the highest possible share of our public current funding on Irish language content — in 2020, 77% of TG4's public funding was invested in Irish language content.

A central pillar of our strategy is to serve habitual Irish-speaking audiences better and support the communities who speak Irish. Throughout 2020, TG4 delivered new content to connect with Gaeltacht and Irish language audiences including regular content for Molscéal, TG4's platform which provides Irish language community-based stories from Gaeltacht regions. We also engaged extensively on Irish language planning, a Gaeltacht strategy and other initiatives with a wide range of Irish language and regional development organisations.

In 2020, we commissioned an IPSOS MRBI national survey of 1,000 Irish adults to establish a baseline measure of public perception relating to TG4's role in promoting the Irish language and giving it prominence. This survey showed that 82% of respondents believe TG4 is the most positive measure to promote the Irish language and give it prominence.

### TG4 Funding

2020 was an unprecedented year. For the first time ever, TG4's operational budget was exceeded by €1.9m due to Covid-19, partly caused by a reduction in commercial income due to the economic crisis, but mainly due to additional expenditure incurred as a result of the pandemic. We were very grateful to receive a one-off supplementary amount to address the additional costs incurred. With the support of this additional funding, TG4 was able to meet operating budgets by year end.

We also worked hard to secure additional funding to deliver our strategy. We were exceptionally pleased and grateful to receive an additional €2.5m in current and €1m in capital funding for 2021. This will make a significant difference to TG4's service delivery during the

year. We will invest all of this additional funding in creative services from companies throughout Ireland's regions, particularly independent production. Key initiatives in planning and delivery for 2021 include: at least a 20% increase in spend on creative services from companies in Ireland's regions and on original Irish language content from the independent production sector; a doubling of our investment in Irish language non-linear/digital content; significant development of our Cúla4 children's services and of content for younger audiences; as well as other supports for the Irish independent production sector.

While we are very thankful for this additional funding, a key issue for TG4 is however, the systemic long-term underfunding of Ireland's PSM and the lack of sufficient funding scale. 2020 research from the European Broadcasting Union (EBU)<sup>22</sup> shows that Ireland ranks in the bottom third of 49 EBU markets, in terms of PSM funding as a proportion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), indicating PSM underfunding relative to our economic growth. In 2019, Ireland's PSM funding was 0.11% of GDP compared to an EBU average of 0.16% and 0.28% in the UK and Germany. The EBU notes that Ireland's PSM funding as a proportion of GDP, declined from 0.14% to 0.11% in 2019, in just five years, commenting that this is "particularly worrying, namely where the trend in PSM funding appears totally disconnected from a country's economic growth"

There is also a major imbalance in Ireland's PSM funding. TG4's total funding was just 18.4% of RTE's licence fee funding in 2019. The imbalance between RTE's funding and that of TG4 as Ireland's Irish language PSM, and Screen Ireland and the BAI Sound & Vision fund as providers of contestable funding for PSM content, is also stark. In 2019, TG4, Sound & Vision and Screen Ireland received approximately €71m between the three organisations — only 36% of RTE's licence fee funding, and less than 21% of its total revenues, in the same year.

TG4 believes that a diversity and plurality of voices, views and sources must be available in the Irish market for Ireland's PSM ecosystem to work effectively. However, funding balance is necessary for true plurality and diversity of voices and sources (including regional and linguistic), to emerge.

TG4 is engaging with the Future of Media Commission on PSM funding and with other stakeholders including the BAI and the Department, to contribute to the development of a new PSM Funding Framework to establish a more equitable funding balance in the sector.

The biggest challenge facing TG4 in the coming years will be to achieve "first-class" national funding scale to allow the service to play a role of meaningful prominence in Ireland's media ecosystem and create meaningful resonance in Irish society. As the principal funder of the audio-visual sector in Ireland's regions outside of Dublin/Wicklow, a step change in TG4's scale would also mean a step change in the scale of the regional audio-visual sector.

### Thanks

On behalf of TG4, I would like to say thank you to many organisations and individuals.

During 2020, broadcasting was transferred from the



<sup>22</sup>Funding of Public Service Media 2020 (EBU December 2020).





Peil na mBan produced by Nemeton

TG4, never to be found wanting when it comes to their coverage of Gaelic games.

— Eoghan Cormican, Irish Examiner 29/3/20

Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment. We thank our new 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. The funding increase for 2021 represents the largest sum allocated to TG4 since 2008 and we are very grateful for this significant support. We believe this investment demonstrates the confidence the Government has in TG4, in our audience strategy and in our strategy for the audio-visual sector in Ireland's regions.

I would like to sincerely thank the TG4 Board members and Cathaoirleach Siún Ní Raghallaigh for their continued commitment to, and hard work on behalf of, TG4. The Board has engaged extensively with TG4 on its many strategy and funding plans and submissions during the year and we are deeply grateful for the guidance and support which the Board continues to provide.

We are also grateful to 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 acknowledge the contribution they make to TG4's services and in particular, the exceptional creative talent of the independent production sector. We look forward

to working with them all in 2021.

I would also like to thank my colleagues in TG4. Their hard work during what was a personally and professionally difficult year, has enabled us to continue to work effectively as a team, despite working remotely, and is a testament to their unstinting dedication to TG4.

2021 is an important landmark for TG4 as we celebrate our 25th year on air. While 25 years ago there was opposition across Irish society to the establishment of "Teilifís na Gaeilge", a quarter of a century has seen the emergence of TG4 as a genuine force for Irish language audio-visual innovation. The Board, management and staff of TG4, together with our partners, will continue in our efforts to reimagine the role of TG4 and status of the Irish language and the Gaeltacht in Irish society. We believe that media and the arts play a central role in this reimagined vision and we look forward to working collaboratively on its delivery, in the years ahead.

**Alan Esslemont**  
**Ard-Stiúrthóir TG4**  
 23 June 2021

# 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 19th April 2021.

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 2020.

## Board Structure

The Board consists of a Chairperson, CEO (in an ex-officio capacity) and 10 ordinary members, all of whom are appointed by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The members of the Board were appointed for a period of five years and meet on a regular basis.

Board Member	Role	Appointment Date
Alan Esslemont (An tArd-Stiúrthóir)	CEO	14/10/2016
Siún Ní Raghallaigh	Chairman	Reappointed 17/04/17
Des Geraghty	Ordinary Member	Reappointed 17/04/17
Mairéad Ní Cheoinín	Ordinary Member	Reappointed 17/04/17
Micheál Seoighe	Ordinary Member	Reappointed 17/04/17
Michelle Ní Chróinín	Ordinary Member	Reappointed 17/04/17
Diarmuid Ó Ruiséal	Ordinary Member	Ceased 2/03/2020
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	19/05/2020

The Board commenced a Board Effectiveness and Evaluation Review in December 2019 which was completed in June, 2020. The 2020 review will be completed in July 2021.



### Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance at the Board and Committee meetings 2020 is set out below including the fees and expenses received by each member

	Board	Audit & Risk Committee	Remuneration Committee	Brand Committee	Digital Committee	Fees 2020	Expenses 2020
<b>Number of Meetings</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		
Alan Esslemont	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Siún Ní Raghallaigh (Chairman)	7	-	1	-	-	21,766	-
Des Geraghty	7	-	1	-	-	12,697	172
Mairéad Ní Cheoínín	7	-	-	-	1	12,697	445
Micheál Seoighe	7	-	1	-	-	12,697	353
Michelle Ní Chróinín	6	-	-	2	-	-	539
Diarmuid Ó Ruiséal (Ceased 2/3/2020)	1	-	-	-	-	3,053	336
Bríd Ní Fhachtna (Reappointed 22/12/2020)	4	4	-	-	-	8,335	-
Frank Reidy (Reappointed 22/12/2020)	6	4	-	-	-	9,838	213
Mairéad Ní Nuadháin	7	4	-	-	-	12,697	176
Siobhán Ní Ghadhra	6	-	-	2	-	12,697	349
Darach Ó Tuairisg	6	-	-	-	1	12,697	156
Seán Ó Domhnaill (Appointed 19/5/2020)	5	-	-	-	1	8,238	-
Sundry Expenses						-	5,556
Lís Ní Dhálaigh (Secretary to the Board)							
						<b>127,412</b>	<b>8,295</b>

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

As at 31 December 2020, the Board had 6 female (55%) and 5 male (45%) 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 on page 24 details the appointment period for current members:

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 2020.

**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 2020.

**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 2020.

**4. Digital Committee:** comprises three Board members. The members of this committee are: Mairéad Ní Cheoínín (Chairperson), Darach Ó Tuairisg and Seán Ó Domhnaill. There was 1 meeting of the Digital Committee in 2020.

#### Key Personnel Changes

There was one change to the members of the Board during 2020. In March 2020, Diarmuid Ó Ruiséal completed his five year term. In May, Sean Ó Domhnaill was appointed in his place. Also, Bríd Ní Fhachtna and Frank Reidy were reappointed to the Board in December 2020. There were no other changes to senior management in 2020.

### 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.

	2020 €	2019 €
Legal advice	1,335	9,697
Financial/actuarial advice	7,165	23,015
Marketing	119,819	118,847
Human Resources/Pension	17,861	26,245
Business improvement	41,412	44,236
Other	81,080	12,363
<b>Total consultancy costs</b>	<b>268,672</b>	<b>234,403</b>
Consultancy costs capitalised	-	-
Consultancy costs charged to the Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	268,672	234,403
<b>Total</b>	<b>268,672</b>	<b>234,403</b>

#### Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	2020 €	2019 €
Domestic		
Board	8,295	14,866
Employees	40,611	86,784
International		
Board	-	2,485
Employees	16,459	107,160
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,365</b>	<b>211,295</b>

#### Hospitality Expenditure

The Income and Expenditure Account includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	2020 €	2019 €
Staff hospitality	43,050	48,882
Client hospitality	-	7,122
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,050</b>	<b>56,004</b>

#### 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 Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and will be disclosed in the Chairman’s Report to the Minister.



Siún Ní Raghallaigh  
Cathaoirleach  
23 June 2021



# Finance Review 2020

## Income and Expenditure Reviews

This report reviews TG4's income and expenditure performance in 2020 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 2020 to that of 2019 under the following 4 headings:

1. Income
2. Operating Expenditure
3. Cost Control & Efficiency in 2020
4. Irish Language Content Expenditure 2020

### 1. Income

As can be seen from **Table 1** below, total income (exchequer current funding and commercial revenue) in 2020 was €40.36m (2019: €38.56m). Compared to the previous year TG4's total income increased by 4.6%. Exchequer current funding was €34.23m (2019: €34.23m) of this and represented 84.8% (2019: 88.8%) of TG4's total income with the commercial income share representing 10.5% in 2020 at €4.23m (2019: €4.32m). There was an additional supplementary grant in 2020 for specific Covid-19 related costs of €1.9m and this represented 4.7% of total income.

Commercial income decreased by 2.17%. This is a very solid performance in a very challenging year in advertising and the television advertising market in Ireland.

Table 1: Income TG4 2020

Description	2020		2019	
	€'000	%	€'000	%
Grant-in-aid	34,233	84.8%	34,233	88.8%
Supplementary Funding for specific Covid-19 related costs	1,900	4.7%	—	—
Commercial (advertising and sponsorship)	2,888	7.2%	2,893	7.5%
Other commercial	1,342	3.3%	1,431	3.7%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>40,363</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>38,557</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 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 €39.96m in 2020, a 5.15% increase on the €38.0m spent in 2019. See **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Operating Expenditure TG4 2020 Vs 2019

Description	€'000		% Change 2020 & 2019
	2020	2019	
Cost of Sales	1,002	1,073	-6.6%
Staff Costs	5,784	5,445	6.2%
Programme Expenditure	27,262	25,705	6.1%
Other Expenditure (Overheads, Transmission and Marketing costs included)	5,914	5,780	2.3%
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>39,962</b>	<b>38,003</b>	<b>5.15%</b>

### 3. Cost Control and Efficiency

TG4 continued to operate efficiently, cost effectively and prudently in 2020. 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 2020

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. As shown in **Table 3** below, the actual spend was 78% of Exchequer funding. Transmission, broadcast and promotion of schedule and general overheads accounted for the remaining 22% of Exchequer funding in 2020.

Table 3: Irish Language Content Expenditure

Description	2020		2019	
	€'000	%	€'000	%
Current Exchequer funding and additional supplementary funding (funds received in 2020)*	37,133	100%	34,233	100%
Irish language programmes purchased**:				
Commissioned	22,890	62%	21,063	62%
Acquired/dubbed/subtitled	3,919	11%	3,290	10%
Production staff costs (including salaries)	1,926	5%	1,952	6%
<b>Total Irish Language Content Production Costs</b>	<b>28,735</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>26,305</b>	<b>78%</b>

\* This includes €1m of capital funding used for programming

\*\* This is the actual expenditure incurred in 2020





## Financial Statements

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# Financial Statements

## Statement of Board Members' Responsibilities

For the year ended 31st December 2020

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 its 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.

On behalf of the Board of Teilifís na Gaeilge::



Siún Ní Raghallaigh  
Cathaoirleach  
23 June 2021



# Financial Statements

## Statement on Internal Control

### Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of TG4 I 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 2020 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 2020.

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 developed rapidly in 2020, with a significant number of infections. Measures taken by the government to contain the virus did affect activity in TG4. Programmes in production were paused and live sport was stopped. Supplementary funding was received from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to meet the specific COVID 19 related costs. The board have taken the appropriate steps to safeguard TG4 to ensure the station continues in operation 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 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 2020 on the 14th December 2020.

**Internal Control Issues**

During 2020, expenditure of €362k was incurred for goods and services, where procedures employed did not comply with procurement guidelines. 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 will be paid over three years. This decision was discussed and approved at senior management and board level.



Siún Ní Raghallaigh  
Cathaoirleach

23 June 2021



# Financial Statements

## Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General

For the year ended 31st December 2020



## Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste An tArd-Reachtair 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 2020 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, dlíteanais agus staid airgeadais Theilifís na Gaeilge amhail an 31 Nollaig 2020 agus ar a hioncam agus ar a caiteachas don bhliain 2020 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 hIniúcháireacht arna fhógairt ag an Eagraíocht Idirnáisiúnta d'Ard-Institiúidí Iniúcháireachta. 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 eiteiciúla eile comhlíonta agam de réir *Chód Eitice na hEagraíochta Idirnáisiúnta d'Ard-Institiúidí Iniúcháireachta*.

Measaim go bhfuil an fhianaise iniúcháireachta 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, 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 dtuairiscim trí eisceacht.

##### *Soláthar neamhchomhlíontach*

Nochtann an ráiteas ar rialú inmheánach gur chuir Teilifís na Gaeilge, i 2020, seirbhísí ar conradh le luach de €911,000 thar trí bliana go 2022 nuair nár chomhlíon na nósanna imeachta a chloídh leo na treoirínte soláthair.

Seamus Mac Cárthaigh  
Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste

29 Meitheamh 2021

# Financial Statements

## Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General For the year ended 31st December 2020

For the year ended 31st December 2020 (continued)

### Aguisín don tuarascáil

#### Freagrachtaí chomhaltaí an Bhoird

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

- na ráitis airgeadais 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 chalaos nó earráid.

#### Freagrachtaí an Ard-Reachtair 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 dhearbhu réasúnach cibé an bhfuil na ráitis airgeadais tríd is tríd saor ó aon mhíráiteas ábhartha mar thoradh ar chalaos nó earráid. Is ionann dearbhu réasúnach agus leibhéal ard dearbhaithe ach ní hionann é is barántas go dtiocfaid i gcónaí, le linn iniúchadh a dtugtar faoi de réir na gCairdeán Idirnáisiúnta maidir le hIniúchóireacht, ar mhíráitis ábhartha nuair is ann dóibh. D'fhéadfadh míráitis eascairt ó chalaos 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 gCairdeán 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 chalaos 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 chalaos a bhrath níos airde ná ó earráid mar go bhféadfadh 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 comh 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 chaitheadh amhras suntasach ar chumas Theilifís na Gaeilge leanúint mar ghnóthas leantach. Má shocraím go bhfuil mhíchinniteacht 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-áirítear 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.

#### 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 dearbhu ar aon bhealach ina leith.

Maidir le m'iniúchadh ar na ráitis airgeadais, éilítear orm faoi na Cairdeán 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 tuairiscí ina leith sin.

#### Tuairisc ar nithe eile

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

Lorgaim 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.

Tuairiscím freisin 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.

# Financial Statements

		Teilifís na Gaeilge	
		Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves for the year ended 31 December 2020	
	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
<b>Sales</b>			
Commercial income	3	4,230	4,324
Cost of sales	3	(1,002)	(1,073)
<b>Net Sales</b>		3,228	3,251
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Staff costs	4	5,784	5,445
Board members' fees and expenses	5	135	159
Programme expenditure	6	27,070	25,705
Transmission costs		1,433	1,486
Marketing and research	7	2,045	1,846
Overheads	8	2,436	2,448
Depreciation	9	2,602	2,378
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		41,505	39,467
<b>Net operating expenditure for the year</b>		(38,277)	(36,216)
Surplus/(deficit) on disposal of fixed assets		0	0
		(38,277)	(36,216)
State funding	13	38,291	36,205
<b>Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation</b>		14	(11)
Taxation	14	(14)	(2)
<b>Retained surplus/(deficit) for the financial year</b>		0	(13)

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:



Siún Ní Raghallaigh  
Cathaoirleach



Alan Esslemont  
Ard-Stiúrthóir

23 June 2021



# Financial Statements

Teilifís na Gaeilge					
Statement of Financial Position as at					
31 December 2020					
	Notes	€'000	2020 €'000	€'000	2019 €'000
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	9		6,479		6,959
Intangible fixed assets	11		1,606		1,970
			8,085		8,929
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Receivables	15	2,176		2,514	
Cash at bank and in hand	16	691		310	
Programme prepayments	17	5,210		3,385	
			8,077	6,209	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>					
Payables	18	(3,358)		(3,288)	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>					
			4,719		2,921
<b>Net Assets</b>					
			12,804		11,850
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>					
Capital grants	10		6,390		6,896
Deferred current grants	12		6,815		5,355
Revenue reserves	19		(401)		(401)
			12,804		11,850

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

On behalf of the Board of Teilifís na Gaeilge:



**Siún Ní Raghallaigh**  
Cathaoirleach



**Alan Esslemont**  
Ard-Stiúrthóir

23 June 2021

# Financial Statements

Teilifís na Gaeilge			
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended			
31 December 2020			
	Notes	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation		14	(11)
Depreciation		2,602	2,378
Amortisation of programme costs		24,513	23,343
Amortisation of capital grants		(3,506)	(2,309)
Amortisation of grants allocated to programme costs		(24,513)	(23,343)
(Increase)/decrease in receivables		338	526
(Increase)/decrease in programme prepayments		(1,825)	(520)
Increase/(decrease) in payables		66	(275)
Taxation paid		(10)	(2)
Interest received		–	–
<b>Cash from operations</b>		<b>(2,321)</b>	<b>(213)</b>
Interest paid		–	–
<b>Net cash generated from activities</b>		<b>(2,321)</b>	<b>(213)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchases of tangible fixed assets	9	(2,122)	(2,016)
Purchase of commissioned and acquired programmes	11	(24,150)	(23,399)
Surplus/(deficit) on disposal of tangible fixed assets		(0)	(0)
State capital grants	13	3,000	2,000
Grants received and allocated to programme assets		25,974	23,919
<b>Net cash flow from investing activities</b>		<b>2,702</b>	<b>504</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>291</b>

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

On behalf of the Board of Teilifís na Gaeilge:



**Siún Ní Raghallaigh**  
Cathaoirleach



**Alan Esslemont**  
Ard-Stiúrthóir

23 June 2021

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## Notes

### 1. 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 2020 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 Expenditure 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 Expenditure 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 Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves Account as incurred.

#### 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 to the Financial Statements

Notes											
g)	<p><b>Tangible fixed assets</b></p> <p>Tangible fixed assets are shown at cost less accumulated depreciation and any provision for impairment.</p> <p>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;</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Land and Buildings</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equipment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fixtures and Fittings</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mobile Devices</td> <td style="text-align: right;">33</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>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%.</p>		%	Land and Buildings	2.5	Equipment	20	Fixtures and Fittings	10	Mobile Devices	33
	%										
Land and Buildings	2.5										
Equipment	20										
Fixtures and Fittings	10										
Mobile Devices	33										
h)	<p><b>Financial assets — investment in Multiplex Broadcasting Services Northern Ireland Limited</b></p> <p>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.</p>										
i)	<p><b>Taxation</b></p> <p>Corporation tax payable is provided on taxable surplus at current rates.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Deferred tax is not discounted.</p>										
j)	<p><b>Foreign currency</b></p> <p>Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Euro at the exchange rates ruling at the day of the transactions.</p> <p>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 Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves Account for the year.</p>										
k)	<p><b>Retirement Benefit</b></p> <p>Teilifís na Gaeilge operates a defined contribution scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company.</p> <p>Annual contributions to the scheme are charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure in the year to which they relate.</p>										

# Notes to the Financial Statements

## 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.
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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 Teilifís 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 to the Financial Statements

Notes		2020 €'000	2019 €'000
<b>3. Net Sales</b>			
	<b>Commercial Income</b>		
	Airtime and sponsorship sales	2,888	2,893
	Facilities charge-out	591	586
	Sundry income	751	845
		4,230	4,324
	<b>Cost of Sales</b>		
	Commission on advertising and sponsorship sales	821	782
	Direct costs	181	291
		1,002	1,073
	Net sales	3,228	3,251
<b>4. Staff Costs</b>			
	The average number of employees employed by Teilifís na Gaeilge during the year was 92 (2019: 92). Employee costs during the year comprised:		
	Wages and salaries	5,422	5,018
	Social welfare costs	610	570
	Retirement benefit costs	578	532
	Travel and subsistence	57	194
	Training	75	81
	Other staff costs	58	62
		6,800	6,457
	Staff costs capitalised	(936)	(852)
	Staff costs allocated to archive project	(80)	(160)
	Total Staff Costs	5,784	5,445
	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.		
	<b>Emoluments of Director General — Alan Esslemont</b>		
	Basic salary	140	140
	Employer's Retirement benefit contributions	21	21
		161	161
	The Director General is a member of Teilifís na Gaeilge's defined contribution scheme and Teilifís na Gaeilge contributes an amount equal to 15.29% of the Director General's salary to that scheme on his behalf.		



# Notes to the Financial Statements

Notes		2020 €'000	2019 €'000		
<b>5. Board Costs</b>					
	Board members fees (Note 22)	127	136		
	Travel and subsistence and other expenses	8	23		
		<b>135</b>	<b>159</b>		
	Board members are reimbursed for travel and subsistence costs. The tax payable by Teilifís na Gaeilge in relation to such expenses amounted to €566 (2019: €2,095).				
<b>6. Programme Expenditure</b>		<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>		
	Commissioned programmes expensed and amortised in the period	21,302	20,650		
	Acquired programmes expensed and amortised in the period	3,212	2,693		
	Dubbing and other costs	2,556	2,362		
		<b>27,070</b>	<b>25,705</b>		
<b>7. Marketing and Research</b>		<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>		
	Advertising and marketing	1,801	1,657		
	Audience measurement and research	247	188		
	Audience Council expenses	(3)	1		
		<b>2,045</b>	<b>1,846</b>		
<b>8. Overheads</b>		<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>		
	Premises and equipment expenses	867	743		
	Professional and financial expenses	419	428		
	Industry levies paid	637	650		
	General and office expenses	513	627		
		<b>2,436</b>	<b>2,448</b>		
<b>9. Tangible Fixed Assets</b>					
		<b>Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Equipment and Mobile Devices</b>	<b>Fixtures and Fittings</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
	At 1 January 2020	8,576	9,883	594	19,053
	Additions	6	2,094	22	2,122
	Disposals	0	(3,255)	(27)	(3,282)
	<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>8,582</b>	<b>8,722</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>17,893</b>
	<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>				
	At 1 January 2020	4,000	7,909	185	12,094
	Charge for the year	215	2,346	41	2,602
	Disposals	0	(3,255)	(27)	(3,282)
	<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>4,215</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>11,414</b>
	<b>Net Book Value</b>				
	<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>4,367</b>	<b>1,722</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>6,479</b>
	<b>At 31 December 2019</b>	<b>4,576</b>	<b>1,974</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>6,959</b>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

Notes		2020 €'000	2019 €'000	
10.	<b>Capital Grants</b>			
	<b>Capital grants - received and receivable</b>			
	Opening balance	28,999	26,999	
	Grants received during the year (Note 13)	3,000	2,000	
	Closing balance	31,999	28,999	
	<b>Amortisation</b>			
	Opening balance	22,103	19,794	
	Amortised during the year	3,506	2,309	
	Closing balance	25,609	22,103	
	<b>Net book value — capital grants</b>	<b>6,390</b>	<b>6,896</b>	
	Capital grants represent state funding received in relation to capital expenditure incurred by Teilifís na Gaeilge. Capital grants are amortised on the same basis as the related assets are depreciated.			
11.	<b>Intangible Fixed Assets</b>			
		<b>Commissioned Programmes</b>	<b>Acquired Programmes</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
	At 1 January 2020	84,532	10,638	95,170
	Additions	20,970	3,180	24,150
	Disposals	(4,686)	0	(4,686)
	<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>100,816</b>	<b>13,818</b>	<b>114,634</b>
	<b>Accumulated Amortisation</b>			
	At 1 January 2020	82,816	10,384	93,200
	Amortised in the year	21,302	3,212	24,514
	Disposals	(4,686)	0	(4,686)
	<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>99,432</b>	<b>13,596</b>	<b>113,028</b>
	<b>Net Book Value</b>			
	<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>1,606</b>
	<b>At 31 December 2019</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>1,970</b>
12.	<b>Deferred Current Grants</b>			
		<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>	
	<b>Grants deferred at 1 January</b>	5,355	4,779	
	Current grants — received in the year (Note 13)	36,245	34,472	
	Grants utilised in the year	(34,785)	(33,896)	
	<b>Grants deferred at 31 December</b>	<b>6,815</b>	<b>5,355</b>	
13.	<b>State Funding</b>			
	Grants received from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media represent state funding received in relation to current expenditure incurred by Teilifís na Gaeilge.			
	<b>State funding credited to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves Account in the year</b>			
		<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>	
	Grant utilised in the year (Note 12)	34,785	33,896	
	Capital grant amortised (Note 10)	3,506	2,309	
		38,291	36,205	
	The total allocation for 2020 was €39.245m comprising of:			
		<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>	
	Grants received for current expenditure from DTCAGSM (Vote 29 - Subhead B5)	36,133	34,233	
	Grants received for current expenditure from BAI Archive project	112	239	
	Grants applied for capital purposes from DTCAGSM (Vote 29 - Subhead B5)	3,000	2,000	
	Total received	39,245	36,472	

# Notes to the Financial Statements

Notes		2020 €'000	2019 €'000
<b>14.</b>	<b>Tax on Surplus on Ordinary Activities</b>		
(a)	<i>Analysis of tax charge in year</i>		
	Corporation tax charge for year	10	–
	Corporation tax charge for prior year	4	2
	Refund of Corporation tax charge in prior years	–	–
		<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>
(b)	<i>Factors affecting the tax charge for the year</i>		
	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:		
		<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>
	Surplus/(Deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation	14	(11)
	Surplus/(Deficit) on ordinary activities multiplied by the standard rate of corporation tax in Ireland of 12.5% (2019: 12.5%).	2	–
	<i>Effects of:</i>		
	Income taxable at a higher rate of taxation	8	8
	Excess of capital grants amortised and capital allowances over depreciation	–	–
	Allocation of current year losses	–	(8)
		<u>10</u>	<u>–</u>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Receivables</b>	<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>
	Receivables	1,016	1,406
	VAT repayable	308	653
	Corporation tax receivable	–	2
	Prepayments and accrued income	852	453
		<u>2,176</u>	<u>2,514</u>
	All balances are deemed recoverable within one year.		
<b>16.</b>	<b>Cash at Bank and in Hand</b>	<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>
	Cash in hand	0	4
	Bank	691	306
		<u>691</u>	<u>310</u>
	Included in the bank account is €650,000 held in trust from Fís Éireann. These funds are to be used for a specified project		
<b>17.</b>	<b>Programme Prepayments</b>	<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>
	Commissioned Programmes	4,719	2,798
	Acquired Programmes	491	587
		<u>5,210</u>	<u>3,385</u>
	TG4 are currently discussing alternative programming with a service provider in exchange for content commissioned in 2020 that is no longer possible to produce. As these programmes have not yet been transmitted, the costs to date have been included under programme prepayments in line with TG4 policy.		
<b>18.</b>	<b>Payables — falling due within 1 year</b>	<b>2020 €'000</b>	<b>2019 €'000</b>
	Trade payables	737	1,047
	Accruals and deferred income	2,618	2,241
	Corporation tax payable	3	–
		<u>3,358</u>	<u>3,288</u>
<b>19.</b>	<b>Reserves</b>	<b>Revenue Reserve €'000</b>	<b>Total €'000</b>
	Balance at 1 January 2020	(401)	(388)
	Surplus/deficit for the year	0	(13)
	Closing balance as at 31 December 2020	<u>(401)</u>	<u>(401)</u>



# Notes to the Financial Statements

Notes		Opening Balance €'000	Cash Flows €'000	Closing Balance €'000
20.	<b>Analysis of Changes in Net Funds</b>			
	Cash at bank and in hand	4	(4)	0
	Short term deposits	306	385	691
		310	381	691
21.	<b>Retirement benefit</b>			
	Teilifís na Gaeilge operated a defined contribution scheme for its employees. The scheme is funded and the assets are held separately from those of Teilifís na Gaeilge.			
			2020 €'000	2019 €'000
	The following Retirement benefit costs were incurred in the year:			
	Defined contribution scheme		578	532
			578	532
22.	<b>Board Members Fees and their Expenses</b>			
	The Directors and Secretary who served during the year are as stated below:			
	<b>Director/Secretary</b>	<b>Date of Appointment During Year (if applicable)</b>	<b>Fees 2020 €'000</b>	<b>Fees 2019 €'000</b>
	Alan Esslemont (Director General)		–	–
	Síún Ní Raghallaigh (Chairperson)		21.7	21.7
	Des Geraghty		12.6	12.6
	Mairéad Ní Cheóinín		12.6	12.6
	Micheál Seoighe		12.6	12.6
	Michelle Ní Chróinín		–	–
	Diarmuid Ó Ruiséal (Cessation Date 02/03/2020)		3.0	12.6
	Brid Ní Fhachtna (Reappointed 22/12/2020)		8.3	12.6
	Frank Reidy (Reappointed 22/12/2020)		9.8	12.6
	Mairéad Ní Nuadháin		12.6	12.6
	Siobhán Ní Ghadhra		12.6	12.6
	Darach Ó Tuairisg		12.6	12.6
	Séan Ó Domhnaill	19/05/2020	8.2	–
	Lís Ní Dhálaigh (Board Secretary)		–	–
			126.6	135.1
	Board members' expenses in 2020 were €8,295 (2019: €23,499), of which: travel accounted for €1,899 (2019: €12,281), subsistence €1,175 (2019: €5,070) and other expenses (including secretarial, entertainment and training) €5,221 (2019: €6,148).			
	The Board adopted procedures in accordance with the requirements of the Broadcasting Act 2009 in relation to the disclosure of interests by Board members and these procedures have been adhered to in the year.			
23.	<b>Premises</b>			
	Teilifís na Gaeilge operates from premises located in Baile na hAbhann, Co na Gaillimhe. Teilifís na Gaeilge owns the freehold to the premises and also rents offices in Dublin under licence for a term of three years commencing on the 24th November 2013 at an annual rental charge of €23.5k. An extension to the licence of the Dublin office is not yet finalised but TG4 continue to pay annual rent of €23,500 under the same lease terms.			

# Notes to the Financial Statements

Notes  
24.

## Financial Assets

Multiplex Broadcasting Services Northern Ireland Limited (MBSN) was established as a not for profit joint venture company by Teilifís na Gaeilge and RTE in October 2012. The joint venture was set up to facilitate the transmission of free to air digital television services in Northern Ireland in relation to RTE1, RTE2 and Teilifís na Gaeilge. The company's share capital comprises three ordinary shares, two owned by RTE and one owned by Teilifís na Gaeilge. MBSN concluded an agreement with RTE and the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport which provided for transmission costs incurred by MBSN to be funded by RTE (two thirds) and the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport (one third). Other costs such as pre incorporation expenses and on-going administration costs are funded in the same proportion by RTE and the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport.

## 25. Programme/Rights Purchase Commitments

Teilifís na Gaeilge has programme/rights commitments as follows:

Contracted for but not provided for at the year end

2020 €'000	2019 €'000
26,072	33,106

## 26. Commitments

Teilifís na Gaeilge has capital commitments as follows;

Contracted for but not provided for at the year end

2020 €'000	2019 €'000
820	80

## 27. RTÉ Transactions

Teilifís na Gaeilge received 341 hours of Irish language programming free of charge from RTÉ in the year ended 31 December 2020 out of their statutory obligation of 365 hours. 12.5 hours extra were also received.

## 28. Foreign Currency Exposure

Foreign currency exposures arise primarily from payments for acquired programmes. Teilifís na Gaeilge hedges its foreign currency exposures by entering into US Dollar forward contracts when it deems it appropriate. The total value of such contracts in 2020 was €0 (2019: €0). There were no contracts outstanding at the year end (2019: €0).

## 29. Board Members — Disclosure of Transactions

In the normal course of business, Teilifís na Gaeilge entered into contractual arrangements with undertakings in which Board Members of Teilifís na Gaeilge are employed or otherwise interested.

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 disclosures of interests by Board members and Teilifís na Gaeilge adhered to these procedures during the year

Contracts to the value of €5,152,563 which is to be split between 2020 and 2021, were approved in 2020 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 conflict 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 23 June 2021