

Schedule of Records 3 – SI/54-AE/05 Volume 6 – Appointment of Advisors to Assist in Implementation Plan

FOI Request Reference: FOI/37/2006

Description of request: Is main liom iarratas a dhéanamh faoin Acht um Shaoiríil Faisnéise an t-eolas seo a leanas a fháil:
Aon chomhfhreagrás mionthairiscí chruinnithe nó cáipéisí eile a bhaineann leis an nearnshpleachas ó RTÉ atá mólta ó TG4 ó 1 Meitheamh 2005 do data.

I wish to apply under the Freedom of Information Act for the following information:
Any correspondence, minutes of meeting and any other documents relating to the independence from RTÉ recommended fro TG4 from 1st June to date.

Record No.	Brief Description & Date of Record	File Ref.	No. of Pages	Relevant facts	Findings/ conclusions (Public Interest Considerations, (If applicable))	Grant/refuse/ part-grant	Basis of Refusal: Section of Act	Record edited/Identify deletions
1.	Submission to Ciarán Ó hÓbáin and Eamon Molloy for Sheila Clifford. June 2005.DCMNR Regarding the invitations of Tenders for the establishment of TG4 as a separate statutory body, as provided for in the Broadcasting Act, 2001.	SI/54-AE/04 Vol. 6	2			Refuse	S 20 (1) S 27 (1) (c)	
2.	Copy of submission to Ciarán Ó hÓbáin and Eamon Molloy for Sheila Clifford 2 nd June 2005.DCMNR Regarding the invitations of Tenders for the establishment of TG4 as a separate statutory body, as provided for in the Broadcasting Act, 2001.	SI/54-AE/04 Vol. 6	2			Refuse	S 20 (1) S 27 (1) (c)	
3.	Minutes of meeting with Deloitte Touche and William Fry Solicitors on	SI/54-AE/04	1			Grant		

	he establishment of TG4 as a separate legal entity. 22 nd June 2005	Vol. 6						
4.	Draft press release on the appointment of advisors to assist in the Implementation Plan for the establishment of TG4 as an independent statutory body. June 2005	SI/54-AE/04 Vol. 6	1			Grant		
5.	Press release stating that advisors have been appointed to assist in the Implementation Plan for the establishment of TG4 as an independent statutory body. 30 th June 2005	SI/54-AE/04 Vol. 6	1			Grant		
6.	Letter of Acknowledgment to Diarmuid O'Connor DCMNR from Tom Quinn RTÉ. Re. Appointment of Deloitte Touche and William Fry Solicitors to assist in implementation of the establishment of TG4 as a separate statutory body. 4 th July 2005	SI/54-AE/04 Vol. 6	1			Grant		
7.	Letter Correspondence from Matheson Ormsby Prentice requesting a meeting with DCMNR regarding their Tender Proposal. 24 th August 2005	SI/54-AE/04 Vol. 6	1			Grant		

Establishment of TG4 as a separate legal entity.

Meeting with Deloitte Touche and William Fry Solicitors, 2.30pm on 22 June 2005 in Adelaide Road.

DCMNR - Ciarán Ó hÓbáin, Sheila Clifford, Diarmuid O'Connor

Deloitte Touche - Padraic Whelan, Michael Flynn, Karen Frawley
William Fry - Ken Casey

This meeting was to inform Deloitte Touche that they are the preferred tenderer and to confirm that they are in a position to commence this consultancy on announcement of their appointment. This Department will notify the relevant bodies of that appointment.

RTE/TG4 have prepared work on separation in the past. This Department will facilitate Deloitte, where possible, in accessing existing documentation. As assessment of that information will most like be completed before any face-to face meetings are completed. Contacts names were exchanged, TG4 Pol O'Gallchoir, RTE Adrian Moynes, Liam Lynch, KPMG tax advisor.

A meeting of the Project Management Group is to be organised shortly and Consultants will meet with the Group at a later stage.

The timeframe for this project will be clarified after initial discussions but end of September 2005 is most likely. Letters of appointment will be signed. Department will assist in overcoming any obstacles encountered that consultants bring to its attention.

Draft Press Release on the appointment of Advisors to assist in the reparation of an Implementation Plan for the establishment of TG4 as a separate statutory body.

The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey, T.D., today announced the appointment of Deloitte, with William Fry Solicitors, to assist his Department in the preparation of an Implementation Plan for the establishment of TG4 as a separate statutory body.

TG4 is primarily an Irish language television station, based in Baile na hAbhann, Co. Galway. It first broadcast on 31 October, 1996, and operates as part of the RTÉ family of services.

The Government in its Programme for Government is committed to supporting the development of Irish language broadcasting, and to the establishment of TG4 as a separate statutory body, as provided for in the Broadcasting Act, 2001.

The Minister stated: "The Government agreed that I would indicate my intention to appoint a date towards the end of 2005 or early 2006 as the establishment date for TG4. To that end, I am pleased to announce the appointment of advisors who will assist in the preparation of an implementation plan for the smooth separation of TG4 from RTÉ.

On a recent visit to TG4, I saw at first hand the organisation at work. Less than nine years into its existence, TG4 is widely acknowledged as a success. It has won prestigious prizes and awards at national and international level. It has created audience awareness and loyalty through the development of a strong and attractive Irish language programme schedule combined with strategically placed compatible programming."

The preparation of the plan will start immediately and will be presented to government in the autumn.

Advisors Appointed To Assist In The Preparation Of An Implementation Plan For The Establishment Of TG4 As An Independent Statutory Body

Dublin 30th June 2005

The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey T.D., today announced the appointment of Deloitte and Touche along with William Fry Solicitors, to assist his Department in the preparation of an Implementation Plan for the establishment of TG4 as an independent statutory body.

TG4 is primarily an Irish language television station, based in Baile na hAbhann, Co. Galway. It first broadcast on 31 October, 1996 and operates as part of the RTÉ family of services.

"The Government is committed to supporting the development of Irish language broadcasting and to the establishment of TG4 as a separate statutory body, as outlined in the Programme for Government and as provided for in the Broadcasting Act, 2001. To that end, I am pleased to announce the appointment of advisors who will assist in the preparation of an implementation plan for the smooth separation of TG4 from RTÉ," said Minister Dempsey.

"On a recent visit to TG4, I saw at first hand the organisation at work. Less than nine years into its existence, TG4 is widely acknowledged as a success. It has won prestigious prizes and awards at national and international level. It has created audience awareness and loyalty through the development of a strong and attractive Irish language programme schedule combined with strategically placed compatible programming," he added.

Preparation of the plan will start immediately and will be presented to Government in the autumn.

Ends

For further media information, please contact:

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from RTÉ Group Secretary

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Teileafón 01 208 2371
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Dublin 4, Ireland
Telephone 01 208 2371
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4th July 2005

Mr Diarmuid O'Connor
Higher Executive Officer
Broadcasting Policy Division
Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources
29-31 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Dear Diarmuid

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 30th June 2005 advising RTÉ of the appointment of Deloitte and Touche and William Fry Solicitors to assist in the preparation of an Implementation Plan for the establishment of TG4 as an independent statutory body.

Yours sincerely

Tom Quinn

Diarmuid O'Connor
Higher Executive Officer
Broadcasting Policy Division
Department of Communications Marine & Natural Resources
Dublin 2

Our Ref
MOC/VBY

Your Ref

24 August 2005

Dear Mr. O'Connor

I refer to your letter of 30 June 2005 concerning our tender regarding the preparation plan for the establishment of TG4 as an independent statutory body.

Bearing in mind the time and effort that we put into the tender it would be helpful if we could have a few minutes of your time to discuss the areas where we fell short in our tender.

In this respect, I would be grateful if we could have a brief meeting sometime in the next few weeks.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely


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