Minutes of Meeting of the Authority of Broadcasting Authority of Ireland

Date 08/12/2016  Time: 12 noon  Venue: BAI Offices

Minutes

Attendance

Authority: Pauric Travers (Chairperson), Alan McDonnell, Seán Ó Mórdha, Rosemary Day (via conference call), Maeve McDonagh (via conference call)

Apologies: Denis Wolinski.

Executive: Michael O'Keeffe, Aoife Clabby (Secretary).

1. Broadcasting and Contractual Matters

Members Grace Smith and Séamus Martin declared an interest in this agenda item, by virtue of their membership of the Contract Awards Committee and, accordingly, did not attend the meeting.

a. Licensing – Ratification of Decisions of the Contract Awards Committee

The Authority considered the recommendations of the Contract Awards Committee in respect of the licensing processes for the following services:

- A Community of Interest Sound Broadcasting Service for the college radio service in Galway City;
- The Commercial, Quasi-National Speech/News Sound Broadcasting Service.

It was noted that the processes for the licensing of these services had been completed by the Committee, in fulfilment of the Authority’s Licensing Plans 2015 and 2016. In considering the recommendations, the Authority had regard to the evaluation report for each service.

In accordance with section 64 of the Broadcasting Act 2009, the Authority was satisfied to ratify the recommendation of the Contract Awards Committee and to award, in principle, a ten-year, community sound broadcasting contract for a college radio service in Galway City, to College Campus Radio Limited, trading as Flirt FM. The award, in principle, was subject to the successful conclusion of contract negotiations, including a requirement that the applicant satisfy a range of specified conditions.

In accordance with section 67(8)(c) of the Act, the Authority was satisfied to ratify the recommendation of the Contract Awards Committee and to award a further ten-year sound broadcasting term to the Incumbent, News 106 Limited, trading as Newstalk, for the provision of the quasi-national speech/news-driven sound broadcasting service.
b. Section 71 Content Provision Contract: eir TV Electronic Programme Guide

The Authority considered a recommendation received from the Contract Awards Committee that it enter into a five-year content provision contract with Eircom Limited, for the continued provision of an Electronic Programme Guide service on the eir TV Internet Protocol Television Network.

Further to the provisions of section 71(4) of the Broadcasting Act 2009, the Authority was satisfied to accept the recommendation of the Contract Awards Committee and to enter into a contract with Eircom Limited, as proposed.

Professor Pauric Travers,
Chairperson.
26th January 2017