

12 July 2016

Seán O'Callaghan
Senior Executive Officer
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Halla an Chontae
Corcaigh

Ref: Motion of Cork County Council re *Atlantic* documentary

Dear Mr O'Callaghan,

I wish to acknowledge on behalf of the Director-General your letter of 28.06.16.

The editorial independence of the broadcaster is mandated by section 87(d) of the Broadcasting Act 2009, which states:

87.—Subject to the requirements of this Act every member of the board of a corporation shall perform his or her functions in such a manner as to—
(d) safeguard the independence of the corporation, as regards, the conception, content and production of programmes, the editing and presentation of news and current affairs programmes and the definition of programme schedules from State, political and commercial influences.

The independence of the broadcaster is further supported by section 42(3)(f) of the Act:

42.— (3) In preparing or revising a broadcasting code, the Authority shall have regard to each of the following matters—
(f) the desirability of maintaining the independence of editorial control over programme content.

While the response of RTÉ must respect the legislative provisions above, it is possible to inform you that RTÉ Television's Acquisition Department has been in discussion with the producer of *Atlantic* for some time and prior to the completion of the documentary, and has recently concluded a contract for broadcast.

Yours sincerely,



RTÉ **DAVID MCKENNA**
Head of Broadcast Compliance
Ceannasaí Comhlíonadh Craolta