



Coimisiún
na Meán

Guide to Submissions: Statement of Intent for a Sound Broadcasting Contract for the provision of a Quasi-National Speech and News Service

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Deadline for response:
2 April 2026



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Introduction

- 1.1 The sound broadcasting contract for the provision of a quasi-national speech and news sound broadcasting service on the FM band (“the Contract”), currently held by Bauer Media Audio Ireland and broadcasting as *Newstalk*, is due to expire on 31 December 2026.
- 1.2 In accordance with Section 65(6) of the Broadcasting Act 2009 (“the 2009 Act”), Coimisiún na Meán (“the Commission”) placed a notice in a national newspaper¹ and on its website, on 10 December 2025, seeking expressions of interest for the Contract. By the closing date of 9 February 2026, the only expression of interest received was from the current holder of the sound broadcasting contract, Bauer Media Audio Ireland (“the incumbent”).
- 1.3 In circumstances where the only expression of interest received to the public notice was from the incumbent and the Commission was of the opinion that it was made in good faith, the Commission has proposed to invoke the fast-track procedure under Section 67(2) of the 2009 Act to award the Contract.
- 1.4 Accordingly, and pursuant to section 67(3) of the 2009 Act, on 5 March 2026, the Commission placed a public notice in a national newspaper² and on its website stating its intention to invoke the fast-track application process for the award of the Contract.
- 1.5 Potential respondents must make a submission by **12 noon on 2 April 2026**, stating that they wish to apply for the award of the Contract (“Statement of Intent”).
- 1.6 The Statement of Intent must be accompanied by a deposit of **€25,000**, which is refundable if an application is subsequently submitted to the Commission pursuant to an invitation to apply for the Contract issued under Section 65(8) of the 2009 Act.
- 1.7 The Statement of Intent must be submitted in the format specified in Section 2 of this document.
- 1.8 If the Commission receives a Statement of Intent and the required deposit, the Commission will proceed to invite applications for the award of the Contract. If an invitation to apply for the award of the contract is issued, the term of the Contract, if awarded, will be for a period of ten (10) years.
- 1.9 An indicative guide for the application for a sound broadcasting contract under Section 65(8) of the 2009 Act is available on the Commission’s website or on request from licensing@cnam.ie
- 1.10 Statements of Intent may be published on the Commission’s website once they have been considered and the Commission determines the next stage in the process.

¹ Published in the *Irish Independent* on 10 & 11 December 2025

² *The Irish Times*



Procedures for submitting a Statement of Intent

- 2.1 A Statement of Intent form is available to potential respondents from the Commission's website, www.cnam.ie or on request from licensing@cnam.ie or (01) 6441200. If you choose not to use the form, please ensure your submission adheres to the format outlined below and includes all the requested information.

By submitting your Statement of Intent, you are confirming the following to the Commission: -

- that you have read and understood the *Guide to Submissions: Statement of Intent for a Sound Broadcasting Contract for the provision of a Quasi-National Speech and News service*;
- that a deposit of €25,000 has been paid into the Commission's bank account; and,
- that you consent to your Statement of Intent being made public.

- 2.2. The format for a Statement of Intent is as follows:

2.2.1 Respondent:

- (a) Please provide a general description of the person/entity making the statement.
- (b) Please provide your contact details: contact person's name, address, telephone, and email.

2.2.2 Confirmation of the Contract to which the Statement of Intent relates:

- (a) Please identify the relevant franchise area as **Quasi-National**.
- (b) Please identify the type of sound broadcasting service as a **Speech and News service**.

2.2.3 Details of Statement of Intent:

The text of the Statement of Intent is to be as follows: -

I, [insert name], on behalf of [insert name of entity submitting a statement of intent], hereby confirm that [insert name of entity submitting a statement of intent] intends to apply for a sound broadcasting contract for the provision of a quasi-national speech and news sound broadcasting service on the FM band.

I also confirm that the deposit of €25,000 has been paid into the Commission's bank account.

2.2.3 You must **sign and date** the Statement of Intent.

- 2.3 The signed and dated Statement of Intent must be received by the Commission no later than **12 noon on 2 April 2026**, and can be submitted by e-mail to licensing@cnam.ie or by post, or by hand delivery, to:



Broadcast Licensing,
Coimisiún na Meán,
1 Shelbourne Buildings,
Shelbourne Road,
Dublin 4, D04 NP20

2.4 Payment of the Cash Deposit:

2.4.1 Payment of the cash deposit of **€25,000** must be in the Commission's bank account by the closing date, **2 April 2026**.

2.4.2 The bank account details for the payment of the cash deposit are as follows:

Financial institution: Allied Irish Bank, Branch address, 1 – 4 Baggot St Lower, Dublin 2
Account name: Coimisiún na Meán
IBAN: IE43AIBK93101268283086
BIC Code: AIBKIE2D
Sort Code: 93-10-12
Account number: 68283086

2.4.3 Payment details must include information which identifies the respondent, such as the respondent's name. Accordingly, the respondent must ensure that their bank provides information accompanying the electronic transfer that clearly identifies that the payment has been made on the respondent's behalf.

