



Coimisiún  
na Meán

# News Reporting Scheme: Guide for Applicants

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# 1. Introduction

Coimisiún na Meán (“An Coimisiún”), Ireland’s commission for regulating broadcasters, online media and supporting media development, is committed to ensuring a thriving, diverse media. It is responsible for operating various funding schemes including the News Reporting Scheme.

The News Reporting Scheme (“NRS”) is a journalism funding scheme which aims to support the media in performing its vital role in creating public interest journalism and in this case, reporting on news matters which, as the Future of Media Commission (FOMC) report recommended, “...are less reported, or at risk of under provision.”

It is designed to provide targeted financial support for media providers and practitioners of at-risk public interest journalism and to support and increase the availability of news reporting which is high-quality, accurate and a trusted source of new information for citizens.

This is the second iteration of the scheme, which is platform-neutral. It is content-focused and thematic, and will support **additional** news reporting content on a wide range of topics, on a nationwide basis.

The key objective of the NRS is to support and enhance the vital role of media service providers in reporting on news matters that are not substantially provided for at present, or are at risk of under-provision.

## 2. Broad Aims and Themes

The broad aims of the NRS are:

- **Safeguarding and enhancing public interest content reporting:** Offer the media sector the opportunity to enhance the quality and level of news reporting on matters which are not substantially covered at present and which will enhance citizens’ knowledge and understanding of local and national affairs;
- **Enhancing quality and representation:** Support quality independent news reporting that is accurate and fair, and is appropriately diverse, accessible, inclusive and representative of contemporary Ireland; encourage and support environmentally sustainable practices;
- **Safeguarding, enhancing and promoting media plurality:** Support and promote a diverse range of sources of content and voices to safeguard and enhance pluralism in the media environment, including in the Irish language;
- **Support & capacity building:** Offer support to the media sector in challenging times to ensure that it has the capacity to inform and educate audiences about news matters, particularly on issues which would not otherwise be reported;
- **Countering mis- and dis-information:** Support the provision of accurate and trusted sources of news in an era when mis- and dis-information is on the increase.

The News Reporting Scheme will support, but is not limited to, measures to assist media service providers undertake in-depth focus pieces or series on a broad range of news issues which are currently not covered in substantial detail. This includes the following:

- News matters which are substantially under-reported or are at risk of under-reporting on a national and regional basis.  
This could include reporting on matters such as impact of public policy; issues affecting rural communities; issues affecting Irish language communities; transport; content which raises public awareness and understanding of EU and global issues impacting Ireland; sustainability; migration; marginalised groups; social and cultural affairs issues with a news focus;
- Particular themes/issues which fall under this ambit;
- Projects to investigate/highlight news matters which are not reported on in the day-to-day operations of a news outlet;
- Content or projects which counter mis- and dis-information in the area of news reporting and/or counter news avoidance.
- Any of the above content in the Irish language.

Applicants will have to justify why their topic is under-reported or at risk of such.

Cross-platform content and collaborative projects with other media service providers are encouraged under the Scheme.

### 3. NRS Funding

This a scheme to support the creation of accessible high-quality public interest journalism **content**, thus improving Irish citizens' access to trusted quality information on news matters.

An Coimisiún will fund 95% of the costs of the successful projects submitted under this scheme.

An Coimisiún will allocate funding using a contestable funding rounds system. The number of funding rounds, their timing and the level of funding made available will be determined by An Coimisiún, subject to a number of factors, including availability of funding, the outcome of the 2027 Budget process and possible future iterations of the Scheme.



## 4. Procedures for Making an Application

### 4.1 Submitting an Application

All applications must be made via the online form at [cnam.submit.com](http://cnam.submit.com) by 17:00 on the closing date for the funding round, unless otherwise stated. Applications can only be submitted when a funding round is open. Each funding round will be open for a minimum of four weeks prior to the published closing date. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. An Coimisiún's decision in this regard will be final.

### 4.2 Registration

New applicants who wish to apply to the Scheme as an individual/sole trader, or on behalf of a company or a media service provider must register as an applicant on [cnam.submit.com](http://cnam.submit.com). If you are unsure how to submit an application, please contact An Coimisiún at [journalism@cnam.ie](mailto:journalism@cnam.ie) for information and assistance. An Coimisiún will also host information sessions and publish an FAQ for applicants.

### 4.3 Application Checklist

To make an application for funding, you must answer 'yes' to the following 12 questions:

1	I have read the News Reporting Scheme document and the NRS Guide for Applicants – Round 2.	Y/N
2	I have registered on the online platform as an applicant on <a href="http://cnam.submit.com">cnam.submit.com</a> .	Y/N
3	I will complete the online application form and will ensure that all third-party confirmations are included within the application. Any material considered confidential will be marked and the rationale for seeking confidentiality clearly set out.	Y/N
4	The proposed content will be additional and will aim to support and/or build capacity to cover news matters of public interest.	Y/N
5	I can supply appropriate information and data to demonstrate the necessary editorial expertise and strong track record of commitment to public interest news reporting, as well as editorial accountability/responsibility in the provision of such journalism.	Y/N
6	I will provide information to demonstrate why the topic is under-reported or at risk of such.	Y/N
7	I will provide appropriate information and data to demonstrate the audiences served, including the level of reach, in the provision of local public interest journalism in the relevant local authority area.	Y/N
8	All funded content will be made publicly available free of charge and not behind a paywall.	Y/N
9	All funded content will be shared and also submitted to the <a href="http://journalismschemes.cnam.ie">journalismschemes.cnam.ie</a> portal to facilitate the 7-day publication requirement.	Y/N
10	The applicant is a regulated entity, and the funded project will be subject to the relevant codes and standards of a recognised EU media regulator such as An Coimisiún or the Press Council.	Y/N
11	The applicant team has the capability and capacity to deliver the project as set out, including ability to handle the HR obligations such as payroll, holiday cover and sick leave; and appropriate management and duty of care capabilities.	Y/N
12	A proposed project has been identified.	Y/N

### 4.4 Accuracy of Information

All information submitted as part of an application for funding must be true and correct.

### 4.5 Closing Date

The application and relevant attachments must be submitted via [cnam.submit.com](http://cnam.submit.com) by 5pm, May 27th 2026.

## 4.6 Confidential Material

Information which an applicant considers to be confidential should be highlighted and marked as ‘**Confidential Material**’. An Coimisiún will ensure that such information is appropriately handled including on completion of the application process.

## 4.7 Freedom of Information

An Coimisiún undertakes to use its best endeavours to hold confidential any material provided to it which has been indicated to be provided in confidence or to be commercially sensitive or personal data, subject to An Coimisiún’s obligations under law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (“FOI Act”). Applicants and grantees are asked to consider if any of the information supplied to An Coimisiún in an application or during subsequent contracting should not be disclosed because of its sensitive content, to identify this content and to specify the reasons for its sensitivity. An Coimisiún will consult with applicants about confidential, personal or commercially sensitive information before making a decision on any request received under the FOI Act. Such information may be released in response to an FOI request if not deemed to be commercially sensitive.

## 4.8 Data Protection

To operate this funding round effectively, we will require information about the applicant and detailed information on the proposed content. This data and documentation will include personal information such as job titles, salaries and e-mail addresses.

An Coimisiún shall comply with its obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation Directive, the Data Protection Act 2018 and any other applicable data privacy laws and regulations when handling and processing any such personal information submitted to this funding initiative.

The information submitted in an application, including any personal information, will be used to process the application and to liaise with the applicant.

Any personal information submitted (excluding the Contractor’s contact details used for the purposes of the round) will only be retained in the event that the application is successful. Such information would be required for the funding contract and subsequent measuring of the performance of the grant and the associated outcomes. The information may also be used for the purpose of reviewing the scheme and by external researchers. In such instances all personal information would be anonymised.

An Coimisiún is obligated and committed to protecting all personal data submitted in response to a call for applications to this funding round. An Coimisiún has an appointed Data Protection Officer who is registered with the Data Protection Commission.

You can find out more on how An Coimisiún processes personal information at <https://www.cnam.ie/en> and An Coimisiún’s terms and conditions at <https://www.cnam.ie/en>.

## 4.9 Conflicts of Interest

An Coimisiún must comply with the Ethics in Public Office Act (1995) and the Standards in Public Office Act (2001). In this regard if, as an applicant, you become aware of circumstances which might give rise to a conflict of interest in the context of your application, you must promptly bring such circumstances to the attention of An Coimisiún.

## 4.10 State Aid Funding

Further to Commission Decision (EU) 2025/2630 on services of general economic interest (“SGEI decision”), full transparency is required of An Coimisiún in relation to all funding provided under this Scheme with publication of funding awards on the internet and inclusion in a report submitted to the European Commission

every two years which will be co-ordinated by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. An Coimisiún must also keep available, during the period of entrustment and for 10 years afterwards, for potential EU external audits to consider if *'all the information necessary to determine whether the compensation granted is compatible'* with the SGEI decision. Accordingly, An Coimisiún will ensure that all relevant records are retained for inspection for the aforementioned period.

#### 4.11 Children First Act

As a public body, An Coimisiún has obligations under the Children First Act (2015). Where an Coimisiún is funding a project or activity which involves children or vulnerable adults, both an Coimisiún and the grantee are obliged to comply with the provisions of the Act. If one or more of your proposed activities involve children or vulnerable adults, this should be indicated in the application form. Please note that as a condition of funding you will be asked to provide a copy of your Child Protection Policy/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and to provide assurances that your project is operating in compliance with the Children First Act. A National Guidance document in relation to Children First can be found [here](#).

## 5. Assessment Procedure

There are four stages in the assessment process and each stage involves the assessment of an application against predetermined criteria which are underpinned by the report of the Future of Media Commission, the Broadcasting Act 2009, as amended, and the objectives of An Coimisiún. The assessment and decision phases are:

- Qualification (Preliminary Assessment)
- Qualitative Assessment
- Strategic Assessment
- Commissioner Ratification

For the guidance of applicants, An Coimisiún sets out below how the procedures for each of the stages will be applied in assessing applications.

### 5.1 Preliminary Assessment

Applications must meet a number of minimum criteria to be considered for funding. Applicants to the scheme must be eligible to apply, and the application must be for projects of work relevant to the Scheme and the associated permitted costs.

In this context, the proposed content to be funded under the scheme must be **additional** news reporting for the media service provider.

Further guidance on these criteria is set out below and the Preliminary Assessment Scoring Matrix is set out at Appendix 1 for information and reference.

If any of these minimum criteria is not met, applications will be disqualified. An Coimisiún's decision in this regard will be final.



#### 5.1.1 Who can apply for funding?

- Established legal entities who can demonstrate editorial oversight and a track record in news coverage, and who are subject to the standards regime of a relevant EU regulator. Entities must be regulated at the time of applying.
- Freelance journalists who partner with established legal entities as set out above.

The journalist/s and media service provider/s and all other persons/organisations involved in the project shall endorse and adhere to the relevant standards or codes and complaints procedures to which they are subject.

#### 5.1.2 What can the scheme fund?

The NRS can fund up to 95% of all costs associated with the creation and publication of news articles or reports covering matters which are under-reported or at risk of such, based on the themes outlined in Section 2 above and in 5.1.3 below. This funding will assist media service providers undertake in-depth focus pieces or series on a broad range of issues.

The Scheme does not accept applications for news coverage/reportage that already exists, and/or is standard content.

In this context, funding can be sought for:

- journalism hours;
- editing/production costs;
- photography, with the proviso that the images, alongside the written content, are made available, free of charge and without restrictions to other parties wishing to re-use the relevant news report.

#### 5.1.3 What are the Scheme's themes and language requirements?

The theme is the provision of news content which is substantially under-reported or at risk of under-reporting, on a national and regional basis.

In this context, funded content should deal with matters such as:

- Impact of public policy (locally or nationally); issues affecting rural communities; issues affecting Irish language communities; transport; content which raises public awareness and understanding of the impact on Ireland of EU and global issues; sustainability; migration; marginalised groups; social and cultural affairs issues with a news focus.
- Particular themes/issues which fall under this ambit;
- Projects to investigate/highlight news matters which are not reported on in the day-to-day operations of a news outlet;
- Content or projects which counter mis- and dis-information in the area of news reporting and/or counter news avoidance;
- Any of the above content in the Irish language.

Content can be published/broadcast in Irish or English. The language will be determined by the primary language of the publication/outlet/station.

An Coimisiún will ensure that content funded under this Scheme is available in both Irish and English. Irish language content will be made available, on request, by regulated entities.

#### 5.1.4 What are the requirements regarding publication?

An Coimisiún has an online portal to enable the funded content to be made freely available to media organisations and the public. The link to the article or report must be uploaded to the dedicated portal within seven days of publication/broadcast.

The journalism funded by the Scheme should be available to all (i.e., not held behind a paywall), and free to use (including free from the obligation to register for a free account).

At the application stage, An Coimisiún requires applicants to confirm their commitment to several conditions that are attached to any funding award:

- Publicly available: All funded content will be made publicly available free of charge, i.e. not behind a paywall, as soon as possible;
- Ethics and standards: All funded content will be produced to the highest editorial standards;
- Shared content: Agree to all funded content being uploaded to the dedicated portal within seven days of the publication/broadcast date;

An Coimisiún will issue instructions on how funded content should be tagged (including text, audio, audiovisual etc). Funded content must be rights-free.

**Credits:** Any funded content re-used should credit the source of such content, this should include the name of the reporter and the title of the Scheme, i.e., News Reporting Scheme. An Coimisiún will provide guidance to this effect.

**Complaints:** Members of the public must have a course of redress in terms of due process, and in this context, the media service provider must be subject to a relevant standards regime and provide a written commitment to the complaints process as set out by the relevant regulator.

**Corrections & Clarifications:** It is imperative that any corrections or clarifications relating to the journalism after it is delivered (article, report, audio, audiovisual etc.) are dealt with promptly and clearly. An Coimisiún must be notified as soon as practicable of any amendments to the journalism, or of a need for correction or clarification, and be provided with an amended copy of the journalism.

#### 5.1.5 Access

To facilitate the accessing of content by people who are blind or with visual impairments, or who are deaf or hard of hearing, funded digital content should be made available in a format that follows current industry best practice. Costs relating to all access services are deemed to be eligible costs and should be included in the application budget (see 5.1.8). Applications that include a plan for access services will be considered favourably.

#### 5.1.6 Transcripts

Any funded content created in audio or audiovisual formats must be sent via a link, if feasible, or accompanied by a transcript when being shared through the [journalismschemes.cnam.ie](http://journalismschemes.cnam.ie) portal. Costs for transcripts are an eligible cost within the application budget (see 6.1.8).

#### 5.1.7 What are eligible costs?

The only costs that can be funded under the Scheme are eligible costs. Eligible costs are the costs associated with the delivery of the news reporting content, including journalist hours, editing/production, administration and delivery of the content.

In addition to general employment costs including government levies, eligible costs may include editorial costs such as production of content; financial costs including the M45 grant claim report required for all public-sector grant monies; and access provisions (website access measures, transcripts of audio/ audiovisual content etc.).

Applicants must provide detailed budget notes relating to all costs in the budget submitted with their application. These budget notes will be taken into account during the qualitative assessment phase and the more detail that is provided, the more useful it will be to assessors.

Ineligible costs are costs related to the creation and delivery but not directly related to the creative process or delivery. Examples of ineligible costs include equipment purchase, depreciation, general website costs, training and capital costs.

## 5.2 Qualitative Assessment

If the applicant and application are deemed eligible following the Preliminary Assessment, the application qualifies for consideration for the award of funding. The next stage is the Qualitative Assessment, during which each application is assessed on its own merits against predetermined qualitative criteria, which are embedded in the objectives of the NRS. The applications are assessed by an independent panel of experts. The Qualitative Assessment Scoring Matrix is set out in Appendix 1 for information and reference.

We will assess how the application will, in the outcomes it proposes, enhance plurality of sources and content for audiences, including the level of reach; the quality of the application, including demonstration of editorial expertise and codes; track record in providing quality news reporting; the partnerships proposed, including how it will support maximising the potential audience reach and the achievability of what is proposed; demonstration of value for money; and how well the applicant has demonstrated that they will adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards in journalism and employment practices.

There are 3 mandatory criteria. An applicant must achieve a score of 50% or more in each mandatory criterion to qualify for further assessment for the award of funding. The mandatory assessment criteria are:

- Public Interest Journalism Value, Additionality & Quality of the Application (including rationale for why the topic is under-reported or at risk of such
- Feasibility, Resources & Case Made for Funding
- Ethics and Standards

## 5.3 Strategic Assessment

In instances where there are more qualifying applications than funds available, An Coimisiún will have a further assessment phase. This will focus on the quality of individual applications and the overall package of funding awards that best fulfils the aims of the Scheme collectively. A final package of recommendations is then submitted to the Commissioners for consideration and ratification. The Strategic Assessment Scoring Matrix is set out in Appendix 1. The assessment criteria for this phase are:

- Diversity of sources (plurality) and content
- Creativity of the proposal and cross-platform applications, if relevant
- Level of collaboration and content-sharing with other media service providers and associated audience reach
- Recommendations from the qualitative assessment panels
- Environmental sustainability
- Irish language

## 5.4 Commissioner Ratification

The final stage involves the Commissioners' consideration of the package of recommendations emerging from the previous assessment phases. Following ratification, each applicant is notified by e-mail of the funding decision pertaining to their application.

## 5.5 The Decision-making Process

The following procedures will be followed by An Coimisiún in determining the suitability of an applicant for the award of funding:

6.5.1 A preliminary assessment will be made of each application to ensure that it meets the qualifying criteria of the scheme, including applicant eligibility, and that all the information and documentation required has been submitted. Any applicant who does not meet all the listed criteria will be disqualified and will be excluded from the application process (see Appendix 1).

6.5.2 An Coimisiún staff will check for any potential conflicts of interest with assessors prior to distributing any applications to the next stage of assessment. The eligible applications will then be arranged in groups and assigned to a Qualitative Assessment Panel.

The Panel will be made up of An Coimisiún staff and external assessors, and in the formation of each panel, An Coimisiún will take into account the appropriate skills and experience required to assess the projects. Each external panel member assesses each application independently.

A meeting is then convened to discuss each application, where the panel will agree on a score for each application and a list of funding recommendations. On completion of all panel assessment meetings, including signoff on the assessment meeting documentation and recommendations from the panel, the complete list of funding recommendations is compiled. Funding is awarded to the strongest application, as agreed by each panel.

The total funding awards will then be considered. If the recommended amount of funding exceeds that available, a strategic assessment phase will be required.

6.5.3 A Strategic Assessment Panel will be established comprising senior members of An Coimisiún management and staff members involved in running the Scheme. This forum will consider collectively the Qualitative Assessment scores, the panel recommendations and the strategic criteria. An Coimisiún is obligated to aim for a balance of content outcomes that facilitates the best mix of sources of high-quality journalism based on the applications received for the funding round.

The applications which best fulfil the objectives of the funding round and scheme, and accordingly achieve the highest scores, will be awarded funding.

6.5.4 The Commissioners then make the decisions on the applications, considering the recommendations emerging from the previous assessment phases. The Commissioners' decisions are final.

## 5.6 Funding Decisions

Successful applications

Where An Coimisiún has approved an application for funding, the following steps apply:

- A Coimisiún will inform the applicant of the decision, setting out any condition(s) attached to the funding offer.
- An Coimisiún will make public a list of the funding offers ratified by the Commissioners.
- The successful applicant must confirm acceptance of the offer of funding and any condition(s) stipulated by An Coimisiún.
- A successful applicant is required to enter into a contractual agreement with An Coimisiún, on terms to be specified by An Coimisiún. Such terms include the provision of contract deliverables by the successful applicant, and a schedule relating to the drawdown of funds by an applicant. Funds are administered by An Coimisiún in accordance with the terms of the contractual agreement.

#### Unsuccessful applications

Where an application for funding is unsuccessful, applicants are notified individually and provided with feedback on the merits/quality of their application in the assessment process. Applicants will only be notified of the outcome of their application following the completion of the assessment and ratification process. The notification of the funding decision to the applicant will indicate at what stage the application was rejected:

- If the application is rejected during the Preliminary Assessment, the notification will indicate 'Unsuccessful - Preliminary'.
- If an application is rejected during the Qualitative Assessment, the notification will indicate it as 'Unsuccessful – Qualitative'.
- If an application is rejected during the Strategic Assessment, the notification status will indicate it as 'Unsuccessful – Strategic'.

## 5.7 Contracting

When contracting with An Coimisiún, a successful applicant will be required to provide certain deliverables to An Coimisiún. For information, below is a **non-exhaustive** list of what would be required at contracting. Note that these documents do not have to be in place when making an application, they are included here for guidance only.

- Budget
- Finance Plan
- Journalism and Grant Details
- No Set Off Letter from the relevant bank
- Tax Clearance Information
- Latest signed accounts
- Proof of adequate insurance

#### Reporting

The grantee must report on the expenditure of the grant to confirm that it has been used for the purpose as outlined in the application for funding and as approved by An Coimisiún on the award of funding. Project outcome reports will be required. An Coimisiún will provide outcome report guidelines.

In this regard, all grantees must submit a final report within two months of the completion date of the project and grant agreement. All reports should contain information on how the money has been spent and the outcomes achieved. This should include evidence of reach across platforms, including readership, listenership, viewership and online interaction, any feedback including social media and copies and/or extracts of any particular articles or reports you want to highlight. The Final Project Report form will be available via [cnam.submit.com](http://cnam.submit.com).

#### Audit

All grantees must retain documentary evidence of expenditure incurred against the grant for audit purposes for a period of six (6) years following receipt of the grant. An Coimisiún will conduct random audits as provided for in An Coimisiún's funding contract. All funding contracts and associated deliverables and financials are also open to EU audits.

#### Duplication of Funding

If successful you will be asked to certify that the costs of the activities proposed are not being met from any other source.

### **5.8 Disclaimer**

The information supplied in this document is not an exhaustive account of the statutory requirements and legal obligations on applicants for funding under the Scheme. It should not be regarded as a complete or authoritative statement of law.

Persons to whom the present document is made available must make their own independent assessment after taking their own professional advice and making such further investigations, as they deem necessary on all relevant matters. An Coimisiún makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, with respect to the information contained in the present document or with respect to any oral or written information made or to be made available to any potential applicant or its professional advisers. Any liability in this regard is expressly disclaimed.

## Appendix 1 – Assessment Scoring Matrices

### Preliminary Assessment Scoring Matrix

Criteria	Yes/ No
<b>Eligibility:</b> <i>Is the applicant eligible to apply for funding under the News Reporting Scheme and does the application comply with the fundamental requirements of the scheme? This has regard to whether:</i> the status of the applicant complies with the requirements of the scheme; the applicant is an entity that is subject to a relevant standards/codes regime or a freelance journalist that has partnered with such an entity.	
<b>Enhancement of public knowledge through provision of additional news reporting:</b> <i>Has the applicant provided confirmation that the proposed project is directly related to this theme and aims to fulfil this public interest objective?</i>	
<b>Is the application complete?</b> <i>Has the applicant complied with all the application guidelines and submitted all the relevant documentation?</i>	

***If any of these minimum criteria are not met, applications will not be considered further. An Coimisiún will provide the applicant with detailed feedback on any issues identified.***

## Qualitative Assessment Scoring Matrix

Criteria	Available Score
<p><b>Public Interest Journalism value, Additionality &amp; Quality of the Application:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>To what extent does the proposal demonstrate that it will further the creation of additional public interest journalism for citizens?</i></li> <li>• <i>To what extent does the proposal demonstrate that it will further the creation of content in line with the proposed subject matter (themes) of the scheme?</i></li> <li>• <i>To what extent does the applicant demonstrate the degree to which this public interest journalism is currently under-reported or at risk of under-reporting, and therefore under threat?</i></li> <li>• <i>To what extent does the proposal provide clarity and evidence of intended audiences and accessibility of the content?</i></li> <li>• <i>Is there sufficient detail/information provided in the application (i.e. is it a good quality application)?</i></li> </ul>	50
<p><b>Feasibility, Resources &amp; Case made for funding (i.e. deliverability of the project):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Does the proposal's budget represent value for money and is the amount requested realistic? (Does the budget explain why particular cost lines are necessary and justified in the context of the proposed project?)</i></li> <li>• <i>Is the project itself feasible and the proposal realistic? Can the applicant deliver on it, given the resources and approach outlined? Has the proposal clearly outlined the detail of the volume of the project? (Is it investigative, long-form and on what platforms and in what formats will it be published/broadcast? Number of articles/broadcasts?)</i></li> <li>• <i>To what extent does the proposal demonstrate the ability to support the funded project in an editorial capacity (experience, duty of care)?</i></li> <li>• <i>To what extent does the proposal demonstrate the ability to support the funded project in a business capacity (financial, legal, HR, compliance, corporate policies and safeguards)?</i></li> <li>• <i>Has the applicant proposed any formal or informal partnerships with relevant third parties? If yes, what level of enhancement does it bring to the proposal?</i></li> </ul>	40
<p><b>Ethics and Standards:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Has the applicant adequately demonstrated a track record of providing public interest journalism?</i></li> <li>• <i>Is there an experienced editorial team to oversee the quality of the funded content, and have they included supporting details of applicant and key personnel, such as CVs?</i></li> <li>• <i>Have they included a clear editorial policy that demonstrates their capacity and requisite skills to ensure quality of the funded content, adherence to relevant codes and standards and a detailed redress / complaints process?</i></li> </ul>	10

**An Applicant must score a minimum of 50% under each criterion to qualify for consideration of award of funding.**

## Strategic Assessment Scoring Matrix

Criteria	Available Score
<p><b>Diversity of sources &amp; content:</b>  <i>To what level does the applicant demonstrate diversity in the proposal, both in approach and implementation, and the access services that will be provided for any funded audio or audiovisual content?</i></p> <p><i>To what extent does the proposal demonstrate or promote an innovative or creative approach to the themes?</i></p> <p><i>To ensure a diverse range of public interest news journalism is created and published for citizens throughout the country, a balance of the award of funds across areas (local, regional or national), sources and audiences needs to be achieved.</i></p>	30
<p><b>Diversity and new opportunities:</b>  <i>To what extent does the applicant demonstrate additionality in terms of diversity and new or enhanced opportunities for staff/journalists and output?</i></p>	20
<p><b>Collaboration &amp; content-sharing (including across platforms):</b>  <i>Has the applicant proposed any partnerships?</i>  <i>How does the partnership strengthen the application in terms of the aims and objectives of the scheme, including the extent and diversity of audience reach?</i></p>	20
<p><b>Environmental Sustainability:</b>  <i>Has the applicant provided details of an approach to environmentally sustainable content creation and any initiatives that help lessen the impact of the applicant's activities on the environment?</i></p>	10
<p><b>Irish Language:</b>  <i>An Coimisiún must ensure that a minimum of 25% of the funding is made available for Irish language public interest journalism (PIJ). The applicant must clearly demonstrate that the content created in the Irish language will meet the needs of audiences, including Irish language speakers, and that any identified or proposed journalist/s will have the minimum level of competence at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference and at level C1 in Planning Areas Language, in the Gaeltacht Service Towns and Irish Networks. Regard will also be given to how the proposal will benefit the Irish speaking community.</i></p>	10
<p><b>Qualitative Assessment Score:</b> <i>Score awarded by the Qualitative Assessment Panel.</i></p>	10