

# Submission from the Irish National Teachers' Organisation

## Consultation on the Closure of RTÉ Digital Radio Stations

Vere Foster House  
35 Parnell Square  
Dublin 1  
D01 ET35

Phone: 01 804 7700

Email: [info@into.ie](mailto:info@into.ie)

Web: [www.into.ie](http://www.into.ie)

General Secretary: John Boyle



# Submission from the Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) to the Consultation on the Closure of RTÉ Digital Radio Stations

14 January 2024

## *Introduction*

The Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to Coimisiún na Meán's consultation on the proposed closure of RTÉ digital radio stations. This submission specifically addresses the questions related to the use of RTÉjr audio content in a primary or special education setting.

## Questions

### **Question 1: Will the loss of a linear, fully continuously scheduled radio service of RTÉjr audio content adversely affect children in an education setting?**

To inform this response, the INTO consulted with members of our Education Committee. The majority of committee members were not aware of the RTÉjr radio service. Only one member reported sporadic use of the service, primarily in some middle classes (3rd and 4th classes), but noted that it was not utilised on a daily or weekly basis.

Additionally, a member of the committee with a significant social media following conducted a brief poll to assess awareness and usage of RTÉjr among educators. The poll received 1,233 responses and yielded the following results:

- 14% (171 votes): Have used RTÉjr.
- 24% (292 votes): Have heard of RTÉjr but never used it.
- 62% (770 votes): Have never heard of RTÉjr.

Based on this limited consultation, it does not appear that the RTÉjr radio service is widely used in education settings. We also note that the timeframe for this consultation limited our ability to conduct a more comprehensive review of the service's usage.



**Question 2: Will the need to pick each piece of content, individually and on demand, cause problems in an education setting?**

Given the low level of awareness and use of the RTÉjr radio service identified through our consultation, it is unclear whether the shift to an on-demand model would present significant issues for educators or students.

*Conclusion*

While the INTO recognises the importance of diverse and accessible media for children's education, our consultation suggests that the RTÉjr digital radio service is not currently a widely utilised resource in schools. The organisation encourages Coimisiún na Meán to ensure that any transition from linear radio services to on-demand content considers the potential needs of educators and children, as well as opportunities to raise awareness of educational resources.