Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill
Explanatory Note - Establishment of Media Commission

In order to implement the measures required under the revised AVMSD and the online safety proposals new regulatory arrangements are required. The Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) and its Statutory Committees will be dissolved and replaced by a multi-person Media Commission.

The new Commission will be headed by an executive chairperson who will have overall responsibility for the management of the organisation. In addition to the executive chairperson, a number of Commissioners will be appointed. One of the appointees to the Commission will serve as the Online Safety Commissioner.

It is desirable to have a structure in place that incorporates maximum flexibility to take account of the increasing pace of change in the regulatory landscape going forward and one in which decisions can be made in a timely and effective manner.

The staff currently working in the BAI will transfer to the new Commission. The new Commission will assume BAI’s current functions.

The Commission will be assigned a range of functions including:

- To promote and protect the interests of the public in relation to online, audio-visual and audio content;

- To prepare and make codes and rules to be observed by entities operating designated online services, audiovisual media services and sound media services and to take enforcement action where breaches are identified.

- To prepare and submit proposals to the Minister for a scheme or schemes for the granting of funds to support the production of audio-visual content and sound broadcasting content;

- To engage in public awareness campaigns and educational initiatives in relation to online safety and media literacy;

- To impose a levy on regulated media services and designated online services in order to ensure it is sufficiently resourced to properly execute its statutory functions.