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131 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THIRD TV ROUND OF SOUND & VISION SCHEME

The Broadcasting Commission of Ireland has today (Wednesday 17th January) announced the receipt of a total of 131 applications for television funding in the third round of Sound & Vision, the Broadcasting Funding Scheme. The closing date for receipt of applications for the television round was Friday 12th of January last. The Scheme offers grants for new programmes on themes of Irish culture, heritage and experience and is funded by 5% of the television licence fee.

The total requested for funding in this third round was €47.8m out of a total project value of €97.3m. This represents a significant increase on both the money requested and total value of the projects overall. The majority of applications were received with the support of public service broadcasters (77), with commercial and community television sectors supporting 33 and 21 applications respectively.

With regard to genre, documentary again accounted for just over 50% of applications received, with drama/feature, entertainment and factual programming also featuring prominently. Applications were also received for children's programming, animation and adult literacy.

Commenting on the number of applications received Michael O'Keeffe, Chief Executive of the BCI said, "It is evident from both the increase in the level of applications received and in the level of funding requested that the Sound & Vision scheme is having a significant impact in the television industry as a valued source of funding for programmes dealing with Irish culture, heritage and experience. As was mentioned at our national conference late last year, the increase in applications will undoubtedly result in greater competition for funding. A significant body of work now awaits the various assessment panels".

A total of 13 assessment panels have now been established involving subject experts in the relevant areas and BCI staff. The assessment panels' task will be to compile a package of recommendations for submission and approval by the Board of the BCI. It is hoped that the assessment and decision-making process will be completed by mid March.

A table providing a breakdown of the applications received by language and genre accompanies this press release.

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Sound & Vision applications overview	
Total no. of applications received	131
English language programmes	76
Irish language programmes	32
Bi-lingual programmes	23
Programme genres	
Adult Literacy:	1
Animation:	3
Children:	4
Drama / Feature:	15
Documentary:	76
Entertainment:	11
Factual:	10
Other:	11
Broadcaster	
TG4	40
RTÉ	34
Setanta Sports	16
DCTV	13
TV3	13
P5TV	8
Channel 6	3
BBC1 NI	3
Channel 4 / More 4	1
Broadcaster	
Public Service	77
Commercial	33
Community	21

Total requested: €47,806,821
Total value of projects: €97,266,349