





Media Commission recommendation that the EU Copyright Directive is assessed by the Dept of Enterprise, Trade, Employment within 12 months of transposition to establish how the legislation is working in practice and the actual and forecast economic benefits flowing to Irish publishers from negotiated agreements. The Directive was transposed in November 2021 but due to the delay in publication of the Future of Media Commission report, this timeline for a review is delayed.

### *Defamation*

A key challenge to the availability of funds for investment in future business models lies with our current defamation laws. Criticised by both the European Court of Human Rights and the European Commission's Rule of Law Report, our defamation laws need urgent reform.

The high level of awards – far in excess of other jurisdictions - and related legal costs are having a profound impact on the financial viability of many local and national newspapers. Costs for defamation claims run to millions annually, 60% of which goes on legal costs.

We welcome the long-delayed publication of the report of the Review of the 2009 Defamation Act and we cannot overstate the urgency of implementation of more fair and balanced defamation legislation.

### **Conclusion**

The challenges impeding ongoing publisher investment in future business models can effectively be addressed through policy and legislative change, which, in turn, will help quality journalism thrive in the digital age.

My publisher colleagues and I are happy to answer any specific questions now about our future business models.

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