



Coimisiún  
na Meán

## Guide to Submissions

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

# for a Sound Broadcasting Contract for the provision of a Broad-format Local Service for Counties Laois, Offaly, and Westmeath

Publication date: 11 June 2024

Deadline for response: 12 July 2024



## Introduction

- 1.1 The sound broadcasting contract for the provision of a broad-format local sound broadcasting service for the franchise area of Counties Laois, Offaly, and Westmeath (“the Contract”) currently held by Midlands Community Radio Services Limited and broadcasting as Midlands 103, is due to expire on 30 March 2025.
- 1.2 In accordance with Section 65(6) of the Broadcasting Act 2009 as amended (“the 2009 Act”), Coimisiún na Meán (“the Commission”) placed a notice in a national newspaper and on its website, on 21 March 2024 seeking expressions of interest for the Contract. By the closing date on 20 May 2024, the only expression of interest received was from the current holder of the Contract, Midlands Community Radio Services Limited.
- 1.3 The Commission assessed the expression of interest at its meeting on 6 June 2024. The Commission considered the respondent to be the incumbent and the submission to be made in good faith. In these circumstances, the Commission decided to invoke the fast-track procedure under Section 67(2) of the 2009 Act for the award of the Contract.
- 1.4 Accordingly, on the dates of 11, 12 and 14 June 2024, the Commission placed a public notice in a newspaper circulating in each of the counties in the franchise area<sup>1</sup> and on its website stating its intention to invoke the fast-track application process for the award of the Contract.
- 1.5 Potential respondents must make a submission by **12 noon on 12 July 2024**, stating that they wish to apply for the award of the Contract (“Statement of Intent”).
- 1.6 The Statement of Intent must be accompanied by a deposit of **€20,000**, which is refundable if an application is subsequently submitted to the Commission pursuant to an invitation to apply for the Contract issued under Section 65(8) of the 2009 Act.
- 1.7 The Statement of Intent must be submitted in the format specified in Section 2 of this document.
- 1.8 If the Commission receives a Statement of Intent and the required deposit, the Commission will proceed to invite applications for the award of the Contract. If an invitation to apply for the award of the contract is issued, the term of the Contract, if awarded, will be for a period of ten (10) years.
- 1.9 An indicative guide for the application for a broad-format local sound broadcasting contract under Section 65(8) of the 2009 Act is available on the Commission’s website or on request from [licensing@cnam.ie](mailto:licensing@cnam.ie)
- 1.10 Statements of Intent may be published on the Commission’s website once they have been considered, and the next stage in the process is determined by the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> Laois Nationalist on 11 June 2024; Westmeath Independent on 12 June 2024; and Offaly Independent on 14 June 2024.

## Procedures for Submitting a Statement of Intent

- 2.1 A statement of intent form is available to potential respondents from the Commission's website, [www.cnam.ie](http://www.cnam.ie) or on request from [licensing@cnam.ie](mailto:licensing@cnam.ie) or (01) 6441200. If you choose not to use the form please ensure that your submission adheres to the format outlined hereunder and that you provide all the information requested.

By submitting your Statement of Intent you are confirming the following to the Commission: -

- that you have read and understood the *Guide to Submissions: Statement of Intent for a Sound Broadcasting Contract for the provision of a Broad-Format Local Service for Counties Laois, Offaly, and Westmeath*.
- that a deposit of €20,000 has been paid into the Commission's bank account; and,
- that you consent to your Statement of Intent being made public.

- 2.2 The format for a Statement of Intent is as follows:

2.2.1 Respondent:

- (a) Please provide a general description of the person/entity making the statement.
- (b) Please provide your contact details: contact person's name, address, telephone, and email.

2.2.2 Details of the Sound Broadcasting Contract:

- (a) Please identify the relevant franchise area as **Counties Laois, Offaly, and Westmeath**.
- (b) Please identify the type of sound broadcasting service as a **broad-format local service**.

2.2.3 Details of Statement of Intent:

The text of the Statement of Intent is to be as follows: -

I, [insert name], on behalf of [insert name of party submitting a statement of intent], hereby confirm that [insert name of party submitting a statement of intent] intends to apply for the sound broadcasting contract for the provision of a broad-format local sound broadcasting service on the FM band for Counties Laois, Offaly, and Westmeath.

I also confirm that the deposit of €20,000 has been paid to the bank account of the Commission

2.2.3 You must **sign and date** the Statement of Intent.

- 2.3 The signed and dated Statement of Intent must be received by the Commission no later than **12 noon on 12 July 2024**, and can be submitted by e-mail to [licensing@cnam.ie](mailto:licensing@cnam.ie) or by post, or by hand delivery, to:

Oisín Kelly, Contract Awards,  
Coimisiún na Meán,  
1 Shelbourne Buildings,  
Shelbourne Road,  
Dublin 4, D04 NP20

2.4 Payment of the Cash Deposit:

2.4.1 Payment of the cash deposit of **€20,000** must be in the Commission's bank account by the closing date, **12 July 2024**.

2.4.2 The bank account details for the payment of the cash deposit are as follows:

Financial institution: Allied Irish Bank Branch address, 1 – 4 Baggot St Lower, Dublin 2  
Account name: Coimisiún na Meán  
IBAN: IE43AIBK93101268283086  
BIC Code: AIBKIE2D  
Sort Code: 93-10-12  
Account number: 68283086

2.4.3 Payment details must include information which identifies the respondent, such as the respondent's name. Accordingly, the respondent must ensure that their bank includes information to accompany the electronic transfer, which clearly identifies that the payment has been made on behalf of the respondent.

**Coimisiún na Meán,**

1 Shelbourne Buildings,

Shelbourne Road,

D04 NP20

[www.cnam.ie](http://www.cnam.ie) / [licensing@cnam.ie](mailto:licensing@cnam.ie)

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