

**From:** Mark Cantwell <mark@itison.net>  
**Subject:** Re: FAIL FAIL FAIL Fianna  
**Date:** 23 November 2010 20:47:19 GMT  
**To:** Complaints <complaints@rte.ie>



Thank you for the response... (albeit a prepared statement)

| which continued for just three minutes after we finished coverage on TV

correction... from my calculations it ran for a further 4 minutes and 50 seconds (if you want to average it.. call it 5 minutes)  
to put that technically for you, as you no doubt are accustomed to, that is: 4' 50"

| before we returned briefly to studio for analysis and then went to the extended *Nine O'Clock News*

you returned to studio for 3' 25" then took an ad break of 5' 06" (rte promo: rte player, rte promo: the model scouts, esb networks, jervis shopping centre, discover northern ireland, bmw, jones oil, ferrero rocher, rte promo: late late toy show, rte promo : mid week movie, license to wed)  
that was eight and a half minutes of failure in my opinion.  
what was the point of having an analysis before the press conference was over?  
even so, you still had time to finish the live broadcast, take an ad break (minus some of the rte promos) and go to the Nine O' Clock News.  
i acknowledge and commend the subsequent analysis given on the cited programmes..

| RTÉ One, being a mixed channel and not a specialist News channel, has to serve audience needs other than News. That said, on a night of intense national drama, it was imperative that the *Nine O'Clock* news went to air on time for the huge audience

does the audience 'need' those 5 minutes of ads "*on a night of intense national drama*"  
my concern / question is this..... why not complete the live coverage of the press conference (for the benefit of those who don't have the choice of switching to internet and / or BBC & sky news)  
and go straight to the Nine O' Clock news for analysis?

| The News Special attracted an average audience of 364,000 compared to 35,000 for Sky News' coverage of the same event.

i was watching BBC... what was their average audience?

| There has been a suggestion that we in some way censored Vincent Browne's questioning of the Taoiseach for reasons of commercial rivalry with TV3

i don't see it that way... to me it was silencing dissent, either by intent or incompetence on RTÉ's behalf.

| RTÉ News is satisfied that it covered Sunday's events fully and appropriately.

I'm not satisfied and I'm sure a large chunk of your 364,000 average (i would guess it was a lot more than that though... RTÉ website.. public spaces, larger numbers in front of one tv set etc...) were not satisfied either.

that make a potential 364,000 disappointed licence fee payers

moreover, I am not satisfied with this response / statement... it reminds me of the type of non-reponse we are so used to our politicians spouting.

where is the archived press conference online? i don't see it on RTÉ Player or on the RTÉ News section of the website... not much updates on your Youtube channel either.  
(just as well I have a copy.....)

i wonder what a 24 hour RTÉ news channel would be like?

Regards,

Mark

On 23 Nov 2010, at 15:41, Complaints wrote:

Dear Mr. Cantwell,

RTÉ ran comprehensive coverage of the events surrounding the Cabinet meeting of Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November. The in-depth interview with the Minister for Finance on *This Week* on RTÉ Radio 1, providing confirmation that Ireland would be seeking a financial rescue package, set the afternoon news agenda. Detailed analysis of the story was provided on the *Six One News* which had an average audience of 636,000 and there was live coverage on RTÉ One of the Government press conference between 8.30 and 9.00pm. At 9.00pm we switched to an extended edition of the *Nine O'Clock News* and at 10.30pm there was an extended edition of *The Week in Politics*. Our online news service on [rte.ie](http://rte.ie) ran the full Government press conference which continued for just three minutes after we finished coverage on TV.

There has been a suggestion that we in some way censored Vincent Browne's questioning of the Taoiseach for reasons of commercial rivalry with TV3. This is far from being the case. Our news special ran for half an hour and contained a number of questions from various journalists including our own, some international broadcasters and from TV3 both Ursula Halligan and Vincent Browne whose first four questions were broadcast before we returned briefly to studio for analysis and then went to the extended *Nine O'Clock News*. The News Special attracted an average audience of 364,000 compared to 35,000 for Sky News' coverage of the same event.

RTÉ One, being a mixed channel and not a specialist News channel, has to serve audience needs other than News. That said, on a night of intense national drama, it was imperative that the *Nine O'Clock* news went to air on time for the huge audience (average 769,000) who switched to us to find out the latest developments. To mark the seriousness of the day's events, *The Week in Politics* was brought forward to 10.30 pm, broadcast live and extended, and received an average audience figure of 359,000.

RTÉ News is satisfied that it covered Sunday's events fully and appropriately.

Kind Regards,

RTÉ Information Team

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**From:** Mark Cantwell [<mailto:mark@itison.net>]

**Sent:** Sun 21/11/2010 21:17

**To:** Complaints

**Subject:** FAIL FAIL FAIL Fianna

thanks for that RTE ... well at least this time your failures as a public service broadcaster haven't went unnoticed.. i've been observing for years how you don't inform the people on issues that effect us...

you're bound to have a record number of complaints now...

will you report that?

Mark

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Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo faoi rún agus d'fhéadfadh sé a bheith faoi phribhléid dhlíthiúil. Is ar an seolaí amháin atá sé dírithe. Níl cead ag aon duine eile rochtain a fháil ar an ríomhphost seo. Mura tú an faighteoir beartaithe, tá cosc ar aon nochtadh, cóipéail, dáileadh, nó aon ghníomh a dhéanamh nó a fhágáil ar lár i dtaca leis an ríomhphost agus d'fhéadfadh sin a bheith mídhleathach. Tabhair ar aird le do thoil, d'fhéadfadh ríomhphost chuig, ó agus laistigh de RTÉ a bheith faoi réir an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise 1997, agus d'fhéadfadh go ndéanfaí é a nochtadh.

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