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16 November 2024

To: Mr. Kevin Bakhurst, Director General, RTÉ

General Election 2024 needs a dedicated debate on the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency

Dear Mr. Bakhurst -

We write urgently, as academics and citizens, desperately concerned about the rapidly unfolding Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. As the [29th international Conference of the Parties under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) opened in Baku, Azerbaijan, we published an [open letter](#) (attached) calling urgently on all Irish political leaders to centre and prioritize the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency in the current election campaign – including by participating in a TV/livestream leaders' debate dedicated solely to this topic. We also launched a public petition advocating for this debate (addressed to both yourself and Mr. Tony Hanway, CEO, Virgin Media Ireland) at:

<https://ge2024.postcarbonireland.org/>

As of today, the petition has attracted 864 signatures from ordinary citizens – we attach a copy of the full signatory list. We have also already received explicit confirmation from the following parties of their support for, and willingness to participate in, such a debate:

- Fianna Fáil
- Labour
- Green Party
- People before Profit – Solidarity

You will see from the text of the petition that we suggest that the debate should be driven by an audience selected explicitly to effectively represent younger people and future generations who are entirely reliant on the decisions being made now.

We write now to ask you to state explicitly whether you are willing to support this call.

We look forward to the earliest possible response.

Le gach dea-ghuí -

Prof. Barry McMullin
Dublin City University (emeritus)

Prof. Hannah E. Daly
University College Cork

Prof. John Sweeney
Maynooth University (emeritus)

Ass. Prof. Clare Kelly
Trinity College Dublin