

One Recovery – Two Regions

**A radio documentary exploring the urban-rural divide in Ireland.
Providing an insight into the lives of commuters.**

By
Josh Crosbie

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Faculty of Journalism & Media Communications
Griffith College Dublin

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I hereby certify that this material, which I now submit for assessment on the programme of study leading to the award of the MA in TV and Radio Journalism, is my own; based on my personal study and research and that I have acknowledged all material and sources used in its preparation. I also certify that I have not copied in part or whole or otherwise plagiarised the work of anyone else, including other students.

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Abstract

One Recovery - Two Regions is a twenty-minute radio documentary that gives the audience an insight into the daily obstacles that those who live in rural Ireland face due to an unbalanced recovery.

Documenting the stories from two commuters who work in different environments and locations but endure a similar routine. The audience is then brought on a journey to explore what initiatives are being done to minimise the urban-rural divide.

It examines what programmes are working in conjunction with those experiencing this lifestyle and the government. Amongst all, it reveals that there are ways to develop rural life to sustain an attractive region for future generations.

The research discovers that commuting has become a standard of acceptance, which has lasting knock-on effects to those commuting and the people around them. The experiences and knowledge shared throughout One Recovery – Two Regions gives a voice to those not often heard and can ignite a passion to change circumstances.

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Acknowledgments

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Chapter One – Introduction

In this chapter, I have outlined the reason for choosing this topic as an area of importance. I explain what type of medium has been used to document this research. Covering also who and why are contributing to the study.

I arrived back in Ireland in June 2017 after spending four years abroad, immediately I was struck by the thriving scene that welcomed me in Dublin. It was a different Ireland to the country I had left, tower cranes, new cars and a bustling social scene. All seemed to be recovered and growing until I left the capital. Unemployment rates are at their lowest since pre-recession and a housing crisis has led to property prices higher than Celtic Tiger peak. (Taylor, 2018)

The cities in Ireland, mainly Dublin are seeing the majority of this recovery, rural towns and villages have not experienced the return as great. Through this economic growth, the divide between social-classes is broadening further and poverty still remains throughout Ireland. As well as the gap between rich and poor there is also geographical marginalisation.

For those who live in rural Ireland and who have settled there during the previous ‘boom’ this is where they call home, however, many of them now do not live where their life is. People are faced with commuting to cities due to a lack of work in their area.

The story explored in *One Recovery – Two Regions* discovers the routines, lifestyles and hardships that those who commute from rural to urban Ireland encounter. Examining the journeys taken by Lucy O’ Driscoll who commutes from Kilkenny to Dublin and Phil Boyle who commutes from Kerry to Cork. Both living in rural areas that have not felt the effects of the recovery. I find out how they manage with a life of commuting and how it affects their personal lives.

To find out what initiatives are being taken to narrow the gap between rural and urban Ireland I also spoke to Louise Lennon from Irish Rural Link. Louise Lennon explains what work their organisation carries out to improve the standards for those living outside our cities and what steps she thinks need to happen to make sure that this recovery is seen nationally.

To bring a positive approach to the documentary Ed Harper a goat farmer who is blind living on Cape Clear island describes the project he worked on to enhance rural life. Being a part of the team who brought a community-based internet service to three islands off the West Cork Coast he has improved the connections between rural and urban living.

The reason I decided to do this form of research through a radio documentary is that with the medium of radio you can let the audience imagine themselves in the shoes of who is talking, this cannot be achieved through television to the same extent.

“The theoretical idea and hypothesis was that radio would stimulate the imagination more than television simply because, lacking the visual images of television, it leaves more to the imagination.” (Greenfield, Farrah, Beagles-Roos, 1986, p202)

Being able to let the listener connect with the piece was the main reason, however, I intend on pursuing a career as a radio journalist and this is the type of work that interested me the most. I feel it was a rewarding project to have developed that gave valuable lessons throughout.

Chapter two demonstrates some of the research that went into this topic, in this chapter you will find it is broken down into five sub-categories;

- (1) The Urban-Rural Divide, which is the fundamental basis of this topic.
- (2) The Economic Recovery, to confirm that the country is in recovery mode and to find out if this is a topic that is worthy of attention.
- (3) Commuting, this is the angle at which the documentary is focused.
- (4) Rural Development, to understand what work has/is being carried out in this region.
- (5) Previous Documentary Work, to get inspiration and to discover what approaches have been used.

In chapter three I have described the creating of the documentary. From the early pre-production stage right through to explaining the participation of each interviewee, detailing their individual reasons for involvement and how the interview proceeded. Describing what editorial decisions were made in the sculpting of the piece and detailing what ethical implications were avoided. Giving reasons for what music and sounds were added to create a soundscape to make the piece more engaging.

Chapter four discusses the project from proposal date to completion and what changed during the course of the work. Analysing what concerns I had on the finished piece and what I would have preferred to have done differently. I describe what I have learned from this and what the contributors have suggested for a better-balanced recovery.

Throughout this work, I will describe in detail the research that has been studied to gain an understanding of the topic before the production of the documentary. I will explain the process of accessing people to participate in the piece and how I gathered information from them. I will then describe how I filtered the information down to a twenty minute radio friendly audio piece.

Chapter Two - Evidence of Research

Throughout this chapter some of the research undertaken to produce One Recovery - Two Regions are listed. Gaining an understanding of the very core principles that ignited the thought of this topic. Statistics, state reports, academic readings, articles, radio and television documentaries are all areas that need to be examined when researching this study. “Research is a never-ending process.” (Wimmer, Dominick, 2000)

Covering as many different areas of research is vital before finalising on the chosen topic to ensure that there is such a topic of concern. Not all areas of research need to have previous work carried out, however, when producing a radio documentary I need to examine that there is an audience for a certain discussion and I can find this out by seeing work has already being undertaken in the area.

With Ireland experiencing recessions and recoveries in the past, it is needed to understand how rural Ireland has been effected before this latest recovery. With some of the much-needed infrastructure in rural Ireland being built in the ‘boom’ of the early 2000’s, it has taken the employment in construction away from these areas. It is needed to discover, in previous recessions was rural Ireland effected in the same way.

Urban-Rural

(Commins and Hannan, 1992) explore the modernisation of agriculture employment and industrial development in Ireland from 1960 to 1980. In a time when Ireland was going through a transition, in the sense that the farmer was also employed in a second role. In this reading, it gives a clear distinction that the small-holder in rural Ireland was going to have to look at other ventures for income. This indicates that rural Ireland is in a struggling position over four decades ago. This research gives a great understanding of the subject as a whole, a positive sign that there is extensive content on such an issue. It is clear that rural Ireland over a period of time has consistently lacked the employment and services that urban areas thrived upon in times of economic growth. These findings also make it clear when recessions occurred urban areas likewise did not suffer as bad.

(O'Sullivan, 2017) in a Trinity College publication discusses several areas where the divide can be seen. In sections such as electrification investment pointing out the 17-year differences between the last electrified village in Co. Mayo compared to North Dublin. O' Sullivan also points out the closure of post offices as a factor to the divide.

“There are currently 1,100 post offices around Ireland so this would mean that 400 offices are under threat of closure.” (Kelly, 2017)

With the view that government expenditure to rural Ireland is seen as a nuisance as there are not enough people living there is another angle taken in the piece. “The unequal distribution of resources and opportunities, national and local state interferences and capital disinvestment are all responsible for the divide in Ireland.” (O'Sullivan, 2017)

With the government publishing their Ireland 2040 plan on the 16th of February 2018 it is needed to examine what plans are in the framework to tackle the urban-rural divide. Chapter four titled ‘Planning for diverse rural places’ acknowledges and highlights the current situation villages and towns across the country are experiencing.

The government state that ‘National Policy Objective 15’ is to - “Target the reversal of rural decline in the core of small towns and villages through sustainable targeted measures that address vacancy and deliver sustainable reuse and regeneration outcomes.”(Gov. Project Ireland 2040, 2018, p66)

In a section on ‘Planning and investment to support job creation,’ the document focuses on small and medium enterprises being an area that needs to be supported. “They will increasingly have the capacity to accommodate employment focused on ICT based industries, multi/media and creative sectors in areas such as agri-tech, tourism, transport and in particular, an added value bio-economy and circular economy.” (Gov. Project Ireland 2040, 2018, p69)

Louise Lennon from Irish Rural Link also explained in the making of One Recovery-Two Regions that small and medium enterprises are a vital part of rural life. “We are looking at enhancing micro-entrepreneurs” (Lennon, 2018)

This research gave me an insight into the divide that is presently occurring and also the long history of geographical standards of living in Ireland. It gave assurance that there is an audience for this topic.

Recovery

After gaining an understanding of the modern history of the urban-rural divide, the recovery we are presently experiencing must now be examined. A substantial body of work that is linked to the chosen topic is a study by (Kilgarriff, O' Donoghue and Ryan, 2017) 'The Local Impact of the Economic Recovery'. The academic readings in this report are particularly of interest for the documentary, they are especially focusing on the same issue.

The majority of the content in this piece is done in a quantitative form of research. With 17 informative figures illustrating the different distribution of the recovery to different areas of Ireland. Four tables give an in-depth analysis of where we are left after the crisis. Readings such as this, are needed in all areas of research. It is vital to consume accurate information for what you are then putting forward to the speakers and audience.

This study was useful for pre-interviews. Giving up-to-date information on what stage of the recovery we are presently at. This advised what way to structure the questions for the speakers.

In academic readings such as the latter national statistical agencies are a must for accurate research. The Central Statistics Office covers a range of high-quality statistics on the topic of the documentary. Previous to undertaking further work on the chosen field of study national quantitative research is needed to gain knowledge of the area.

Sourcing information through the Central Statistics Office gives an up-to-date understanding of the situation on this economic recovery.

There are a range of figures; such as the Gini coefficient, for income inequality nationwide. A show table for the output, input and income in agriculture. An interactive table for indices of production in all building and construction, which confirms an element of the documentary. (CSO, 2018)

At the time of writing the latest unemployment rates that can be obtained from the CSO are June 2018 with an unemployment rate of 5.1% compared with 15% in January 2012, this gives a definite answer that the country is in a recovery mode. (CSO, 2018)

The CSO also details the speed in which this recovery is pacing, as the output in total building and construction increased by 18.3% in 2016 when compared with 2015, which ponders the question of, is this another bubble? (CSO, 2017)

The agency also provides a table analysing the average weekly household expenditure on items included in the commodity group. This was presented in a location format, which gave clear indications of different spending for both urban and rural. With urban areas being the higher range of spending.

Commuting

In August 2017 when the 2016 census was published it detailed that “there were 1,875,773 people commuting to work in April 2016, an increase of 10.7% on 2011.” (Census, 2017)

This increase shows the sign of recovery. Due to the housing problem, the cost of living, the commuters’ line of work and the lack of work outside of the major cities, being some of the reasons, the commute is the chosen option.

It does not give this information on a geographical term, however, this is a sign that this research and documentary will be of interest to a large audience.

An article was written by (Carswell, 2017) titled ‘The lives of Irish commuters’ it is a quite similar to the approach that will be taken. In this article, the writer describes the experiences of 16 commuters, some as a group others by themselves. There are personal stories from those commuting by train, by car and by plane, with such a range of commuters it makes for an interesting read.

The difference with doing a radio documentary is that having such a high number of voices would not work as it would confuse the listener unless doing a range of quick vox-pops to break up the main speakers. To separate from each commuter the writer of the article has given facts and statistics in between. This would not work coming from the narrator in a documentary as it would be too much content from the narrator it could sound like a news piece. The article only focused on the commuter itself whereas in One Recovery- Two Regions we hear from other perspectives.

This information provided a great understanding of the scope of the issue as a national interest.

Previous Documentary Work

The exact same type of work being carried out has not been found, however, there has been quite similar work being produced. This gives confidence that there is an audience of such research being undertaken.

In relation to radio documentaries about the same topic, there seems to be none defined to the intended topic. There are different angles such as (*The Toastie Train*, 2010) by Ronan Kelly. In this thirty two minute piece the producer joins three commuters from Limerick to Dublin on their morning train to work. Hearing the environment of their journey is a must when discussing such a topic, this is why I have joined Phil Boyle on a section of his commute. I particularly liked the train signal sounds being used throughout the piece it really brought the documentary alive and let the listener imagine they were sitting on the train.

Another radio documentary that gave some inspiration to my thought process was (*Is this the end of the story*, 2009) by Brenda Tobin. This documentary examines the demise of the rural Irish pub and the effect this has on rural communities. This is one element that is a factor of the urban-rural divide with the declining of certain aspects of rural life, this helped gain a deeper understanding of the situation and gave suggestions for structure and tone.

There is a TV documentary series by the BBC (*The Commute*, 2015) which examines a wide range of commuters from the North of Ireland. However, it is not specifically focusing on the reasons for the commuter travelling due to work. It is a broad look into all types of commuters such as the elderly and school children. One of the most unique aspects of radio is that it leaves a sense of imagination for the listener. In the radio documentary, one of the 1.8 million people who commute to work in the census figures might be able to imagine themselves in the position of the speaker.

When researching styles and approaches that have been taken for documentaries there are many creative and unorthodox techniques that I have found interesting and useful. (Richman, 2010) describes the use of “Audio Diaries” a form of recording that his production company ‘Radio Diaries’ used in 1999. “We give tape recorders to people and work with them to document their own lives.” This is a style that would suit the topic of *One Recovery - Two Regions*. Richman explains that “The diarists typically record for a year” (Richman, 2010, p129). To get a full understanding of their lives and to document sounds, conversations and personal thoughts a lengthy time-frame would be required.

When researching the different styles and approaches to documentary making an area that needs to be fully understood is the role of the narrator. This is an important factor that can enhance or decrease the quality of the work. (Crissell, 2003) in *More Than a Music Box: Radio Cultures and Communities in a Multi-Media World* discusses the trust element that the narrator builds with the audience.

This very much so comes down to the target audience of the piece the narrator needs to imagine themselves as the audience in relation to wording, interviewing and personal input. Crissell says “We as listeners, are comfortably about accepting the validity of any general truths being claimed. The presenter has helped us to bridge the gap between the ‘primary’ and ‘secondary’ aspects of the programme.” (Crissell, 2003, p172)

(Harrington, 1999) in *Writing Effective Narration* gives ten key points to consider when scripting narration: Plan Ahead, Listen, Tailor the Script, Timing is Everything, Pace Yourself, Silence is Golden, Format It, Coach your Talent, Don't write in Stone, Let it Go.

The details given for each point is very useful and is not time sensitive they are essential guidelines to give a basis to the structure. The two points I believe that Harrington makes that are of most importance are ‘Listen’ and ‘Let it Go’, for the listening instructing he details the following.

“Read your script aloud. How does it sound? Is it conversational? Any tongue twisters? If you’re struggling to get through it, then replace the troubled spots.” Harrington also has a view that I have seen in many of the writings in this research “Narration is often one of those situations where less is more.” (Harrington, 1999)

This is a vital part to remember when scripting the narration, the aim and goal of the documentary is to hear the story of those involved with the piece, find out the answers and give them who are not often heard a voice. By overwriting the narration this can ruin a good story and this is where the point of ‘Let it Go’ comes in as well as Harrington details how “If you don’t let yourself stop writing, you will never be able to complete the project.” This is a reminder that re-writing can sometimes lead to a poorer quality narration, if something is re-done numerous times apart from a better standard this can also result in a non-natural hard toned reading that is not pleasant to the ears. (Harrington, 1999)

Rural Development

After gaining an academic and a practical understanding of the research that has been completed on the urban-rural divide, the recovery, commuters and previous work, it is important to understand the work being carried out for rural development.

In researching some of the work by the Department of Rural and Community Development the government body published their first progress report in August 2017. Which detailed a range of areas that are in accordance with the documentary topic such as the ‘Competitive Regional Enterprise Development Fund. The fund of up to €60m up 2020 which aims to accelerate economic recovery in every part of the country’.

With information on a range of rural interests such as new infrastructure and investments, the department also focused on new routes in development by the rural transport programme. ‘A total of 12 scheduled and demand-responsive transport services in Meath, Fingal, Sligo, Leitrim, Tipperary, Kerry, Waterford and Wexford.’ (Department of Rural and Community Development, 2017)

Writings in their report helped to be informed before choosing who to contact for interviewing and preparations for questions.

Apart from government bodies involved with the area, it is important to gain an understanding of all organisations working coinciding with those in rural Ireland and the government. Irish Rural Link formed in 1991 are a national network that represent rural communities. “We work with groups that provide services to prevent social exclusion.”(Lennon, 2018)

Gaining an understanding of their work throughout Ireland and finding out from them what obstacles they face gave a deeper insight into the current situation.

Chapter Three – Constructing/Designing the Documentary

My initial plan was to examine the social and class divides that we are witnessing through this recovery. That house prices have gone extortionate, that people are indulging in luxuries now as much as they were pre-recession to then contradict with that there are record-figures of people who are homeless and poverty is a serious issue. (Gleeson, 2018)

After giving this thought I realised that this was too much of a mainstream angle and that the audience is consuming this information consistently. Then I focused on the approach of the urban-rural divide and wanted to discover how much of a divide there was and if this recovery was being spread out evenly across the country. To hear from rural politicians, economists, property developers and commuters. When presenting my proposal to Dr Robbie Smyth and Dr Maurice Coakley I was advised that I needed to narrow the angle down further. Being from rural Ireland and having worked in the construction industry I knew of many people who faced commutes for construction work from rural Ireland. This was an element to my broader proposal now I was going to define it to the commuters, I wanted to have their stories told.

I needed to give their experience a platform but also needed to have a different style of commuter, a view from someone dealing with the issue and I wanted to bring a positive angle to the piece so it would not be all gloomy with no outcome. Within a restricted twenty minute time-frame I felt this was a challenge to hear a variety of opinions, however, the diversity was needed.

When deciding on who was going to be in the piece I found it quite challenging because I was not researching a topic that has organisations, unions, clubs or any sort of group. Commuters are daily workers that have this ordeal that they live with. I also needed commuters who were travelling due to lack of work in rural Ireland. Most public-service jobs could not be included as these jobs are generally in cities or they are there out of choice. So I was limited to my access, this is where other roles such as Ed Harper and Louise Lennon helped.

Another factor that I found was a struggle was that a majority of the construction workers that I know who commute would not feel comfortable being recorded, again this is just a part of their life they are not working in PR or a communications role with a company.

I needed to hear from the people on the ground experiencing this lifestyle they were the priority of the topic. Through previous work colleagues and exhausting avenues through peers, I secured two commuters who fitted the criteria. I needed a male and female for gender balance who were commuting to two different cities to give as much coverage of the issue as possible.

One approach that I knew was vital from the start was that I had to be on a commute and preferably in a van leaving at an early hour, to give the listener a real sense of the environment that people are living. This was done with Phil Boyle leaving Kenmare, Co. Kerry for Cork. I gained information from doing this and it also gave the piece more atmosphere to the situation. This recording as well as the rest of the interviews were recorded using a Zoom H4.

Interviews

When deciding on interviewees for One Recovery- Two Regions from the early thought process a guaranteed voice that would need to be heard was that of a commuter. As the angle of the documentary is focused on those who travel from rural Ireland to the cities due to lack of work.

“Successful interviewing is based on preparedness - being ready for anything and everything to happen.” (Adams, Hicks, 2001, p17)

Phil Boyle - Male Commuter

I found that the most common form of commuter travelling from rural Ireland to a city due to lack of work in rural Ireland is an Irish male construction worker.

When deciding on who to interview for the voice of the male commuter I wanted to speak to someone who had seen the effects of the previous construction ‘boom’, had experienced the forefront of the recession and who is currently commuting. I contacted an old employer Phil Boyle who I did summer work for and explained what I was researching and what I would be looking for. Not being familiar with this kind of request, it was a surprise to him and I needed to slightly persuade him. Once aware of the circumstances and detail that I was searching for he was very welcoming and I decided that to get some participant observation research on a commute was vital.

I asked if I could come along for some of his morning commute to experience his daily routine and Phil Boyle was more than happy with this suggestion.

I met Phil Boyle at 5:30 am on the 20th June 2018 in Kenmare, Co. Kerry as he did his daily commute to Cork city. Getting first-hand knowledge of what the commute entails gave the documentary a lot more substance.

I decided not to have the full interview recorded in a van setting as the audio quality would not be strong enough for a full interview so I followed up with more questions the following evening in his home.

When listening back to the commute part of the interview I was glad that I did not do the full interview in the van. There are several sounds of a commercial vehicle including, rattling and creeks it sets the tone of the environment, however, it would not suit to be heard throughout.

Phil Boyle was able to explain to me the realities of commuting long distances daily “People are looking for trades-people to travel and they’re not there anymore, immigration has caused a lot of this too.” (Boyle, 2018).

He described the differences between this economic recovery and the previous growth pre-recession. Phil Boyle gave me his outlook on what needs to be done to decrease the numbers of those commuting and what steps should be taken to improve the situation.

I found this interview to be very rewarding as it gave me an insight into what it is like to have to commute. It also let me hear what someone working in the construction industry thinks of this recovery as this is a key area of work that is centred around economic sustainability.

“The growth in construction jobs over the last five years is a testament to the strong pipeline of work in Ireland over the next 15-20 years.” (Parlon, 2018)

Lucy O’Driscoll - Female Commuter

As the documentary’s main angle is those who commute due to lack of work in rural Ireland I felt having just one commuter would not be enough. I decided that to give a gender balance I needed a female commuter which I found quite hard to find. I had been given contacts for a teacher and a nurse who commute to a city for work, however, I felt this did not fit the criteria I was looking for as major hospitals and schools are predominantly in cities. These are careers that are not as much affected by the recovery only being centralised in our cities. Through extensive searching, I was able to find a female commuter who was obliging to talk through a previous work colleague.

Lucy O' Driscoll is a commuter who travels from Kilkenny to Dublin via train to a multinational technology company in the city centre. Her commute can take up to five hours per day, being a mother as well I feel this is a perspective that needs to be heard. It is also a situation which very much differs from the other commuter, Phil Boyle, different careers, locations and experiences, however, both are living a certain a type of lifestyle.

I met Lucy O' Driscoll at her home in Kilkenny on the 4th of July. Her preference as a location for the interview was in the kitchen as her child was in the sitting room. With there being glass furnishings making up the surroundings and kitchen utilities I was cautious that the sound quality might not be great so I asked if we could move into the sitting room. Her child left the sitting room and we began the interview. During the interview, there was noise from another room since I had already explained about background noise she understood that these sections would have to be repeated and we carried on.

I was very happy with this interview as it gave me a gender balance and Lucy O' Driscoll was very well spoken with clear answers which I found helped in the editing process.

Ed Harper - Rural Ireland Benefactor

I believe that I needed other voices throughout the piece to give it different opinions, outlooks and solutions. To bring a positive approach to the documentary I wanted to look at areas that have done something about the ever-lasting burden of division between urban and rural.

I began to research projects and initiatives that have been undertaken to enhance and develop rural Ireland. Community-based, not-for-profit organisations and co-operatives that have succeeded in progressing rural Ireland were my area of thought. Initially, I discovered the Cloughjordan Eco Village an eco-friendly village in Tipperary that has brought people from the cities to live in rural Ireland and has revitalised a part of the country that has been acknowledged around the world as an example that should be followed. (The Village, 2018)

Secondly through word of mouth, discussing my ideas amongst peers I heard about a community internet service that was undertaken on Cape Clear Island off the West Cork coast. After thorough researching online I still could not find anything relating to this information. I phoned the Cape Clear heritage centre and explained what I was enquiring about and I was given the name of the internet service provider that the centre used which was called DAWN.

Upon further researching, I still could not find any information on this organisation. I got in contact with the islands information centre and asked for contact details of someone involved with DAWN and I was given the number of Ed Harper.

Hearing Ed Harper's remarkable story over the phone and realising that the main topic of conversation when discussing the urban-rural divide is internet access I decided that the positive angle to the documentary would be got on Cape Clear instead of Tipperary.

Ed Harper originally from England moved to Cape Clear in 1969. Being blind from a young age country living suits him better, he says. He runs a goat farm producing products and supplying WWOOFing work to international tourists. Apart from his day job he is very passionate about the island's community and worked with neighbouring islands over the years with events. One of his milestone achievements that has benefitted life on the island was being one of the founders that brought a community internet service to the island. In 2002 Ed Harper and the development officer of Sherkin Island established Distributed Atlantic Wireless Network as a community-based internet service.

I got the ferry from Baltimore in West Cork to Cape Clear on the 4th of June. Never being on the island before I did not know my whereabouts, fortunately, a taxi on the island brought me to Ed Harpers' goat farm which had been pointed out to me while on the ferry. There were a couple of obstacles in the interview setting as Ed Harper has a guide dog so after a few minutes the dog was making sounds. I had to ask Ed Harper if we could stop the interview and politely asked would he mind if the dog went into another room. I knew this was difficult for him as they are obviously very close.

Further into the interview and a fridge nearby began making noise so I had to ask if I could turn off the fridge because if we moved there would be a different sound from the acoustics of the interview that was already recorded. He was very obliging to accommodate to all these changes and gave me my longest interview out of all the interviewees there were 46 minutes of recorded material. A great talker with some really interesting experiences there is a whole other story that can be done on his input to the island and his own personal journey.

Louise Lennon - Irish Rural Link Representative

Meeting Louise Lennon came about from wanting to have an interviewee from a rural development program. A rural politician was thought of but I did not think I would get the real picture and it could take some of the reality away from the piece. “ Just 21 per cent of the Irish public say they trust politicians, the lowest ranked of all professions measured in the 2017” (Loscher, 2017)

The audience might be immune to hearing politicians criticising other parties and not take it at the same level of credibility as from someone who is working on the ground with people living and working in rural Ireland.

I researched organisations that were a part of rural development programmes and the organisation I felt suited the piece the best was the Irish Rural Link. “Irish Rural Link (IRL), formed in 1991, is a national network of organisations and individuals campaigning for sustainable rural development in Ireland and Europe. IRL, a non-profit organisation now directly represents nearly 500 community groups with a combined membership of 25,000.” (Irish Rural Link, 2018)

Ringling their office in Westmeath the first person I spoke to was Louise Lennon who is the policy and communications officer for Irish Rural Link. After explaining the research I was undertaking and that I would appreciate hearing from someone in their organisation. I asked Louise Lennon herself as she was communications officer could she give me some of her time.

A reason I wanted to interview Louise is that I was already aware that both of the interviewees I had interviewed at this stage were both males, and also my narration will be a male voice so I vitally needed a female voice to give the piece some diversity. Louise Lennon was happy to be part of the documentary and we arranged a time. I went to their office on the 25th of June in Moate in Westmeath and Louise explained to me her organisation’s role and the work that they carry out.

It was interesting to hear the not-for-profit organisations’ joint plan with EU states, their aim and also to hear the personal story of Louise Lennon’s time spent as a commuter. Given this she was able to relate to the questions I was asking in both ways of giving it a development officer voice and also a commuter’s voice.

Editorial Decisions

Story-telling

After the raw material was collected from the four interviewees the sculpting of the story began to take shape. I was already aware of how I wanted to tell the story before any interviews were recorded. I needed to give the listener a sense that I was on a journey with a slight investigative approach to discover this lifestyle.

The best way to achieve this was through the narration and scripting which gels the piece together. The aim is to bring the audience on the same journey as I went on to find out experiences, progress, solutions and outlooks.

To understand the art of telling the story the importance of the narration must be researched. (Rosenthal, 2002) in *Writing, Directing, and Producing Documentary Films and Videos* describes his writing for radio as “I assume that I am writing for a good friend. I’m going to use straightforward and conversational language, rather than pompous or super intellectual phrases.” Personally, I believe this is vital to keeping the listeners’ attention, same as any radio production, apart from news, is that you want to be able to have the bond with the audience to captivate their engagement with the piece. This is when writing for radio and writing for print very much so differ.

“Writing for radio is different than writing for print. You’re writing for the ear, not the eye. Listeners have to get it the first time around- they can’t go back and hear it again.” (Gilson, 2015)

Time and consideration must be thoroughly put into every word that is scripted, every sound within the documentary must be worthy. “Scripting must be held to a minimum, within the requirements of the programme. The aim is to say what needs to be said cleanly, economically, and efficiently.” (Owen, Perkins, 2018)

(Rosenthal, 2002) also discusses that “In the 1940s and the 1950s, almost every documentary was accompanied by commentary.” and how in recent years, at the time of his writing, that some producers have become “absolutely opposed to the use of narration” (Rosenthal, 2002 p266)

He believes that this opposition to the use of narration comes from the belief that it is a fascist practice to give an authoritarian position to a documentary.

I agree with this to some extent, like everything there are boundaries and limits to the viewpoint of the narrator. Yes, documentaries are about creativity and uniqueness, where no rules are set, but the core principles to a documentary still exist, that do not involve giving a voice of God impression. “A radio documentary's main objective is to provide in-depth information regarding something or somebody to the listeners. A documentary is quite serious in nature.” (Neelamalar, M, 2018, p81)

Post-Production

When I came to the editing process I had already written down a rough guide of paper edits to give me an idea of what audio I was going to use where and what audio was worth keeping. Using the Audacity editing programme I decided to bring in clips of leading figures discussing the economic recovery such as Former American President, Barack Obama and Health Minister Simon Harris. I feel this informs the listeners what the topic is but more so I wanted to have a rising climax at the very beginning to set an image of positivity to then come to an abrupt stop.

A song ‘The boom is back’ references the economy returning and the use of a sound clip of an auctioneer also give the impression that this is going to be a piece promoting the advantages of the recovery.

I decided to give an introduction before any interviewee is heard to explain what is going to be discussed throughout the piece. I then gave a montage of the different speakers bringing some of their strongest audio to the start to hook the listener.

During each interview I had the speakers introduce themselves. I find this gives more credibility when they are speaking. When I explained who I was going to hear from I gave some detail of their position but let them introduce themselves.

As Phil Boyle’s interview was recorded in two separate locations I introduce him before joining him on his commute. I recorded the link to the van outside before I was meeting him to give a sense of the environment I was in, however, it was so silent that there are no distinct sounds that differentiate from most other links. I found that when editing the commute part that at different stages the van would be driving faster or in a stationary position that could be heard when editing. I was fortunate to have recorded wild-track in the van that I used to blend an edit cut so that the transition sounded smoother.

To get the four speakers involved within the twenty minutes and to keep the gender balance rotating throughout, Louise Lennon was the next speaker. I introduced this speaker as a slightly authoritative styled position, someone who is involved with an organisation. This speaker had also commuted in a previous job so I wanted to use that but for her opening piece I needed to establish what her position was and give a reason as to why she was a part of the documentary.

It was hard to decide when to bring in the final main speaker Ed Harper. His role in the documentary is to provide the solution and positive outlook, this is something I had previously imagined that would come in towards the end of the piece. When I began editing I realised that I could not just bring him in for a quick few minutes at the end. If the timeframe was longer than twenty minutes I could have included more on the commuters themselves but Ed Harper had to be introduced next. I recorded the link from Louise Lennon to Ed Harper while on the ferry out to Cape Clear Island. I found this challenging as there were many more people on-board the ferry which was slightly off-putting but I knew at the time that it was vital to get that atmosphere into the piece.

After each speaker having introduced themselves it was now time to arc the story again and to hook the audience. I went back to the main concern of commutes and focused on how impacting an issue they are. This lets each speaker come in again weaving through one another.

Previously to this halfway point, I had only used music when my links were about to come in, however, for this I let a track run on under a variety of voices expressing their opinions and thoughts.

With each speaker coming in twice, in order, I then came in again to shed light and acknowledge how seriously impacting the divide is and then gave way for the final arc of the piece. To find out what needs to be done to help solve this lifestyle.

After hearing the contributors outlook on what should be done to minimise the urban-rural divide, I felt this brought a conclusion and prospecting feel to the ending. I then came in to round-off the documentary by giving an opinion on what I have learned from speaking to the interviewees. I ended the piece with a pondering sense of positivity and doubt by linking into Taoiseach Leo Varadkar speaking on Project Ireland 2040, in particular investment to all areas of the country.

Ethical Implications

In One Recovery - Two Regions the listener mainly hears of personal journeys with opinion-based answers. Given this, there was not a wide range of ethical issues to rectify. With commuting being a part of people's daily routines it has become normality, so this removes a lot of sensitivity on the topic. There were times throughout the commuters interviews that they spoke of the impact it was having on their families, this was a time when I had to console with them and bring a chat-like tone to the interview to ease them into discussing it.

Another area that needed attention was when company names were mentioned. Phil Boyle discussed how certain branded shops on the outskirts of rural towns were destroying the towns themselves. This would have been a good piece of audio if the shop names were not mentioned.

Lucy O' Driscoll also spoke of certain companies which excelled on their flexibility of allowing people to work from home in comparison to other companies. This was a very good point and even though the presenter is not speaking the words I still did not want private company names included in the finished piece.

“Does not by way of statement, voice or appearance endorse by advertisement any commercial product or service save for the promotion of her/his own work or of the medium by which she/he is employed.” (NUJ, 2011)

Music and Sound

I decided to open with a song by Irish comedy duo 'The 2 Johnnies' - 'The Boom Is Back'. I was aware that this is a light-hearted animated sound but it says lyrics that exactly set the tone that I wanted to set. I experimented with some sound effects such as a car crashing and a disk skipping as I wanted this to come to an abrupt stop but I felt a quick fade out worked just as well.

The second piece of music I decided to use was an instrumental version of 'Fool's Garden' - 'Lemon Tree', the reason I choose this is that commuting is not an overly sad topic, there are knock-on effects that have implications but compared to some topics it is not a life or death situation. I needed a track that was mediocre in terms of energy and pace. It has a rotating feel to it which works well with the topic.

The next added audio that is heard is an announcement from Iarnród Éireann to give a sense of the environment that Lucy O' Driscoll is on at that moment and to break up her clip as it is 1 minute 40 seconds long.

The next piece of music is then brought in and likewise, to the previous track, I wanted something that was deep but not too sad. I used 'Anthony Hamilton and Elayna Boynton' - 'Freedom' which comes from the Django Unchained soundtrack. This carries into the next link well as it lifts the piece and also has some pace to it.

When on the ferry to meet Ed Harper I noted there was an announcement being played about his goat farm business to encourage passengers to look around. After the trip I asked the driver of the ferry could I record the announcement and he was obliging. I feel that surrounding sounds such as this and the train announcement really add to an audio piece.

The next track is the piece of music that plays the longest under a variety of short clips from a mixture of all the interviewees. I used an instrumental version of 'Moby' - 'Why does my heart feel so bad'. This has a sad tone to it but I feel it works with what is being discussed and is able to keep the piece moving without sounding too repetitive.

The final track I used was an instrumental by 'The Rolling Stones' - 'Angie'. Keeping with the mood of the other tracks I wanted something deep and not too energetic. It has a glimmer of hope to it too which I wanted to set at the end.

Chapter Four – Discussion

I submitted my dissertation proposal on the 7th of March outlining some of the research I had done on this topic and suggested how I would shape the documentary. The outcome was to discover the lives and routines of commuters from rural Ireland and to examine what work is being done to decrease this. I have stayed to this early design to an extent.

Having a meeting with my academic supervisor Conor Kostick on the 24th of April provided me with some very helpful advice going forward with areas of research that needed to be undertaken. Following this meeting, I focused more on the story-telling of documentaries and the different approaches that have been used, by listening to documentaries and reading books on narrative styles. I found this as being a very rewarding process as it gave me a bigger understanding of the creativity and limitations that can be applied to a documentary.

I then met my practical supervisor Francesca Lalor on the 17th of May to discuss my plans and progress. I explained to Francesca Lalor that my main concern was getting access to a range of commuters that fit the criteria who are willing to speak and that I was concise of having the same outcome of negativity from each speaker.

With suggestions and angles being discussed we came to a conclusion that bringing a positive view to the piece from someone who has tried to benefit rural Ireland would give the documentary a different perspective. This would also decrease the number of commuters that I would have to secure for the piece.

With research gone into different companies and having decided to go with Ed Harper for my solution position, I was pleased that I brought this angle to One Recovery – Two Regions. I find it brings a less negative tone to the piece and also provides the listener with some positivity that may be thought-provoking, showing that there are different options than sticking to normality's boundaries.

Contact was made with both supervisors via email and phone over the course of the work which I found helpful and constructive.

Looking back on the interviews there are a number of changes that I would have liked to do differently. An irritating factor was the interview recorded with Phil Boyle in the van, when beginning this interview I got straight into the questions before letting him introduce himself.

I was prepared to do a more formal interview with him out of the van in a preferred setting where I would have his introduction.

The problem arising out of this is that when the three other speakers enter the documentary they introduce themselves whereas I had to introduce Phil Boyle and it took the consistency away from the piece.

When linking to Louise Lennon I regret not recording arriving at her office and giving a sense of atmosphere by knocking on the door as this would have suited following on from my link of "Finding out what is being done". Even though Louise Lennon's position in the piece was to explain what work is being done to develop rural Ireland during the interview she mentioned that she used to commute for work so this was a bonus that I then followed up on.

On further consideration into the finished piece, I feel this position is of least importance to the story and in future work I would need to be certain of who is bringing the most connecting elements to the piece. As this is about the urban-rural divide forcing people to commute, I think there could have been time for another commuter instead of this viewpoint.

The most interesting and detailed interview was with Ed Harper I found this to be a highly enjoyable conversation, however, the interview was extensive for the time limit that I needed to secure. I was glad to get too much than too little although in the editing stage it was difficult to decide what audio was vital to remain. It was a good situation to be in to have a choice, however in a working environment I could not leave an interview trail off from the intended issue, this is an area of interviewing I am now aware of.

I was pleased with how my interview with Lucy O' Driscoll went, it was my final interview so I knew what answers I was looking for and how long of an answer I needed. If I was to do this interview again it would be nice to have joined Lucy O' Driscoll on the train during her commute.

The main concern that I have with the completed piece is that I did not tell enough of their stories. To introduce the context of each speaker to the listener and let their positions, experiences and thoughts be heard was very restrictive. If I had stayed with the one form of speaker I could have managed this, however, I wanted different voices in there to give a range of perspectives but within this time frame, it is hard to let any breathing area happen.

Conclusion

In the production of this documentary, I was able to discover the lifestyles of everyday people in Ireland who are faced with an exhaustive work-life balance due to an unequal economic recovery.

Not only hearing the details of their commutes I also discovered their outlook on the situation and how impacting this form of life is on them. “As far as I can see rural Ireland is completely forgotten about.” (Boyle, 2018)

I learned that those who do have to travel long distances have just accepted it has a normality and get on with life. In my research it tends to have been a demographic of people that were badly affected during the recession, given this, full-time work is a sense of security and if it means that commuting is involved then it is just a feature of their day.

The biggest issue that all interviewees proposed was the lack of services in rural Ireland. Even though they all come from different work backgrounds each speaker acknowledged that to sustain rural areas and bring growth nationally the infrastructure needs to be there to attract employment.

The biggest concern of services from my research was broadband, this is a key service to rural development. The National Broadband Plan which has been under negotiations since 2012 with plans to roll-out broadband services across the country has had three consortiums pull-out of the tendering process, with only one company left. (Kennedy, 2018) This has caused further uncertainty of when such services will be available to rural regions of the country. “This is a major setback for rural Ireland as high-speed broadband is a key element of infrastructure for any business.” (Kenny, 2018)

With broadband access being the most recognised factor dividing urban and rural Ireland it was a pleasure to bring Ed Harper to the production. Having a solution character in the piece was something that I think really gave it a breath of fresh air and hopefully gives the listeners a sense of encouragement to there being other options. “We need an improvement in the rural broadband system the government knows this, to an extent, it isn't prepared to work with community broadband systems that's what it should be promoting, if we can do it here it can be done in villages on the mainland.” (Harper, 2018)

Discovering the lives that those living in rural Ireland experience due to a limited amount of work, by examining what steps can be taken to enhance this lifestyle, gave a clear understanding of the reality of the situation.

As well as having the first-hand information from commuters I also wanted to explore what work was being done by those in an authoritative role. To give the most honest perspective on this a non-profit organisation suited the piece the most. Irish Rural Link is working daily with people who are experiencing the effects of a divide in this recovery and were able to inform me of the seriousness of it. “A lot of them are commuting because of the accommodation crisis, you have to look at if that’s what you want for Ireland.” (Lennon, 2018)

The governments’ Ireland 2040 plan gave an insight into their vision of what developments they plan on working on in the future. If they are committed and achieving in their plans then there is hope for a more balanced recovery.

The stories told throughout have given the everyday employee a voice that is not often heard. This lifestyle is just assumed to be standard and to be accepted. In *One Recovery - Two Regions* I believe I have shed some light on an aspect of rural life that has lasting effects on the country as a whole. If progress is being centralised to the same areas we will see declining inhabitants in areas that are left behind. Documenting a time of this moment taking place is essential to keeping a record of where we are failing, why and how we can improve.

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Appendices

Questions for Ed:

- What is life like on Cape Clear Island?
- What steps did you take to minimise the urban-rural divide?
- How vital was that for the area?
- Being visually impaired do you find it has made your life easier?
- Could you give me an example of how it has benefitted the island?
- What do you think needs to be done to narrow the gap?

Questions for Louise:

- Can you describe to me what changes you have seen in rural Ireland with this so-called recovery? If any?
- Along with the Rural Development Programme how are you working to narrow the gap between urban and rural?
- Is there any solution to the amount of commuting from villages and towns to the cities?
- Even in your own line of work how does commuting affect you?
- Working with members of rural communities how do you think these regular commutes impact on their lives?
- What steps need to be taken to ensure rural Ireland sees a benefit from the recovery and that the gap doesn't broaden?

Questions for Phil:

- How have you seen this so-called recovery affect rural Ireland compared to the previous boom?
- Do you know of many more in your shoes that face the same journeys due to lack of work in rural Ireland?
- What other options do you have then spending several hours in the van?
- Is it worth it? How does it affect yourself and your colleagues' personal lives outside of work?
- What do you think could be done to decrease the numbers of people commuting from rural Ireland to the cities for work?

Questions for Lucy:

- Could you please describe your commute?
- What other ways do you commute?
- Are there any other options?
- Do you feel like your work life structure has changed?
- How does it affect people's personal lives?
- Have you seen a recovery in your area?
- What do you think could be done to minimise the urban-rural divide?

Scripts

Ok Ok stop, yes unemployment is at a record ten year low and yes property prices and rents have gone through the roof. Dublin is one of the most expensive cities in the world but there you have it the island of Ireland is not just Dublin. This recovery that's been coined the term the Celtic Phoenix is only being seen in our cities and the urban rural divide is forcing people to either move to the cities and leave their homes behind or commute in their droves from the towns and villages to the bright lights of the city. I'm going to find out what that lifestyle is like and if there is anything we can do to fix it.

The traditional job structure only remains for very, very few there is a normality about sitting in traffic for hours and coming home when it's dark, to give us an idea of the journey that thousands endure firstly I spoke to a commuter who works for one of the many tech-giants that have landed in our capital.

So Lucy faces more than a two hour commute every morning using car, train and tram. To go further rural I went back to my hometown in South Kerry, and joined in on the commute with Phil Boyle a construction foreman who gave me one of my first summer jobs.

Now that is only the start of his day in around two hours' time he'll land to one of the sites, do a day's work and then face the road again and repeat and repeat.

Whether it's jumping on-board the commuter train to Dublin or trekking across the country by van if you live in rural Ireland your journey to work is part of your job.

Since so many are living this routine I'm thinking to myself surely someone, somewhere must be trying to reduce the numbers of people that have to leave rural Ireland so I went about finding out what is being done.

It's great to hear that there are organisations out there who are not just doing it for their own reputation that who genuinely care about the people of Ireland who are not seeing this so-called recovery.

Now from hearing of Lucy and Phil's ordeal every morning and evening and with Louise explaining the difficulties that can be faced in rural areas I need to find out what solutions there must be to help this, something can surely improve the situation.

I have heard about a project that was done on Cape Clear Island a few years ago that sounds just like what I'm looking for. So here I am on the ferry heading eight miles off the West Cork coast. The sun is shining down and the water is crashing off the side. Whether it's commuting by boat to get necessities on the mainland or if your job leaves you sitting in traffic for hours each day, we have to try narrow the urban rural divide. I'm going to meet a goat farmer who's blind that said enough was enough and did something about it.

What an interesting venture to be part of and such a proud project to have started. Its steps like Ed's community internet service that can bring change to areas that are declining. Now I know what their commute involves but how big of a divide are we dealing with here and how does it affect people's lives?

One thing for sure is this recovery is not being spread out evenly and with this comes knock-on effects for families, communities, towns and villages. With one recovery but two regions those living a life not where they live know first-hand what's needed to make all of Ireland grow.

Coming from the country but living in the city I can see for myself that's there are vast differences in our speed of recovery. But hearing from Lucy, Phil, Louise and Ed on their lifestyles, commitments and resolving.

I have discovered that commuting has become accepted as normality, but change is possible.

For the workers who love where they're from but travel by planes, trains and automobiles to stay there. Ireland's recovery has led to a crash in work-life balance.

The crucial service I've found on this journey that is needed to sustain rural Ireland is broadband. The electrification of today, is what can attract employment nationally.

The roll-out for a national broadband plan has been hit by setbacks again and again, which damages the faith seeing the country flourish.

Small communities planting the seeds are our best chance at success, or we can wait in hope that everyone is committed?

The radio documentary can be broken down into the following sections:

Segment	Speaker/s	Content
Audio Clips	Barack Obama, Simon Harris, Wilsons Auctioneer	Setting the scene of Ireland's recovery
Narration	Josh Crosbie	Introducing the piece, topic of concern and what is going to be explored
Interview	Lucy O' Driscoll, Phil Boyle, Louise Lennon and Ed Harper	Montage of some of the speaker's strongest audio
Narration	Josh Crosbie	Acknowledging their points and linking to Lucy O' Driscoll
Interview	Lucy O' Driscoll	Describing her commute
Narration	Josh Crosbie	Linking from Lucy O' Driscoll to Phil Boyle/Setting atmosphere by recording section of link on location
Interview	Phil Boyle	Describing his commute during his commute and what the construction industry faces
Narration	Josh Crosbie	Linking from Phil Boyle to Louise Lennon
Interview	Louise Lennon	Detailing the work her organisation do to benefit rural Ireland
Narration	Josh Crosbie	Linking from Louise Lennon to Ed Harper/Setting atmosphere by recording section of link on location
Interview	Ed Harper	Describing the project of bringing a community-based internet service to Cape Clear Island
Narration	Josh Crosbie	Linking from Ed Harper to a montage of all speakers

Interview	Lucy O' Driscoll, Phil Boyle, Louise Lennon and Ed Harper	Montage giving their opinions on how this topic impacts their own lives and others
Narration	Josh Crosbie	Linking from impacting montage to outlook montage
Interview	Lucy O' Driscoll, Phil Boyle, Louise Lennon and Ed Harper	Montage sharing their thoughts on what should be done to minimise the urban-rural divide
Narration	Josh Crosbie	Concluding what has been discovered throughout the piece/Giving an opinion on what is to come
Audio Clip	Leo Varadkar	Detailing what the future plans are for Ireland

Copyright Declaration:

Presenter	Title	Copyright
Barack Obama	Obama, Kenny confident in Irish recovery	Published by: AFP News Agency 20/03/2012 Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Exnb2W1JCdI
Simon Harris	Irish Minister of State touts Ireland's economic recovery, taxation, regulation and Vision 2020.	Published by: WRINtv 28/02/2016 Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUXJ7ERSgvE&t=86s
Wilsons Auctioneer	Wilsons Auctions Off Site Auction Specialists Across Ireland, the UK and Europe	Published by: Wilsons Auctions, Dublin Commercial Department 24/06/2011 Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=362VaGwLNxo&t=82s
The 2 Johnnies	The Boom is Back	Published by: The 2 Johnnies 08/11/2017 Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y8vZWjMeqk
Fool's Garden	Lemon Tree [Key -1] (Karaoke Version)	Published by: Iulian Munteanu 21/01/2016 Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifO2lxLbejM
Irish Rail	Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail Onboard	Published by: European Rail 03/03/2016 Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSyQzitFgFM

	Mark 4 Carriage LED Display and Audio Announcement	
Anthony Hamilton	Freedom (Django Soundtrack) KARAOKE!	Published by: Nanana Nana 19/05/2013 Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8I9eBM_tfOM
Cape Clear Ferries	Announcement on- board/detailing Ed Harper's farm	Personally recorded on the 04/06/2018 On Baltimore to Cape Clear ferry
Moby	Why does my heart feel so bad - instrumental	Published by: Gustavo Vieira 29/01/2012
The Rolling Stones	Angie – Instrumental	Published by: Katherine León 28/03/2009 Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXLpOJTOVpA
Leo Varadkar	€4 billion Project Ireland 2040 Funds Launched	Published by: MerrionStreetNews 30/05/2018 Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnGm68_5p0g

NUJ Code of Conduct

A journalist:

1. At all times upholds and defends the principle of media freedom, the right of freedom of expression and the right of the public to be informed.
2. Strives to ensure that information disseminated is honestly conveyed, accurate and fair.
3. Does her/his utmost to correct harmful inaccuracies.
4. Differentiates between fact and opinion.
5. Obtains material by honest, straightforward and open means, with the exception of investigations that are both overwhelmingly in the public interest and which involve evidence that cannot be obtained by straightforward means.
6. Does nothing to intrude into anybody's private life, grief or distress unless justified by overriding consideration of the public interest.
7. Protects the identity of sources who supply information in confidence and material gathered in the course of her/his work.
8. Resists threats or any other inducements to influence, distort or suppress information and takes no unfair personal advantage of information gained in the course of her/his duties before the information is public knowledge.
9. Produces no material likely to lead to hatred or discrimination on the grounds of a person's age, gender, race, colour, creed, legal status, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation.
10. Does not by way of statement, voice or appearance endorse by advertisement any commercial product or service save for the promotion of her/his own work or of the medium by which she/he is employed.
11. A journalist shall normally seek the consent of an appropriate adult when interviewing or photographing a child for a story about her/his welfare.
12. Avoids plagiarism