

NUJ

DUBLIN

FREELANCE

Freelance Forum Spring 2020

Photographers/Writers/PR

Supported by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland



Venue: Buswells Hotel

Date: Monday 23 March 2020

Cost: €10 (tax-deductible) to NUJ members, non-members €20.

Spaces are limited so book early

Book online now at <http://dublinfreelance.org/freelance-forum-spring-2020/>

Enquiries Gerard Cunningham dublinfreelancenuj@gmail.com 086-6073060

Or send your registration fee to: Helen Taylor, NUJ, Second Floor, Spencer House, Spencer Row, off Talbot Street, Dublin 1. Mark envelope Freelance Forum.

All sessions open to writers, photographers, PR practitioners

NOTE: All speakers appear in a personal capacity.

Registration: 9.30AM- 10.00AM

Opening Address: 10.00AM – 10.30AM

Politics and Journalism

Mairead McGuinness, MEP, First Vice-President of the European Parliament

Session 1: 10.30AM – 11.30AM

Security threats to journalists

Speakers: **Rory Byrne**, Founder, Security First
Philip O'Connor, Freelance Journalist
Niamh Kirk, media analyst and researcher

Chair: **Berni Dwan**, Freelance Journalist

The session will cover recent trends in digital and physical threats facing freelance journalists and media organisations, and how to report on extremist groups without promoting their viewpoints. It will examine how the widespread use of surveillance technologies against journalists is making their job harder. We will also look at best practices and resources that journalists can use to help protect themselves and their sources.

Security Audits will also be offered throughout the day.

Session 2: 11.30AM – 1.00PM

Commissioning Editors: What they want in a pitch

Speakers: **Emmet Ryan**, Editor, Connected Magazine, Business Post
Brian Carey, Business Editor, Sunday Times

Chair: **Kieran Fagan**, Freelance Journalist

Lunch 1.00PM – 2.00PM

Lunch is available in Buswells hotel, the National Library and Cafe La Cocotte in the Alliance Francaise also in Kildare Street, among other venues in the vicinity.

Session 3: 2.00PM – 3.15PM

Moving Into Radio

Speaker: **Mary Carroll**, Senior Producer, the Last Word
Sarah Binchy, Producer, RTÉ

Chair: **Pat O'Mahony**, Freelance Journalist

Opportunities in production and research shifts, and how to build a profile as a regular radio contributor.

Session 4: 3.15PM – 4.30PM

Tax Training Session

Speakers: **Celine Quinn**, chartered tax adviser

Chair: **Barry McCall**, Freelance Journalist

Part 1: compliance. The mechanics of tax returns, preliminary tax, key dates, the Revenue Online Service (ROS) etc.
Part 2: what expenses are deductible, potential grey areas etc, other allowances and how to claim them.

We understand that as working journalists everyone may not be able to attend all sessions.

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Mairead McGuinness has served as the First Vice-President of the European Parliament since 2017. She has been a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) from Ireland for the Midlands–North-West constituency since July 2004. She is a member of Fine Gael, part of the European People's Party, and a former journalist.

Rory Byrne is the founder of Security First, an organisation that specialises in helping journalists and activists manage their digital and physical security. His work has ranged from dealing with nation state attacks on media organisations to responding to the kidnap of freelance journalists in the field.

Philip O'Connor is an Irish multimedia journalist living in Stockholm and working internationally. He estimates that around 40 percent of his work is now in video and TV sphere, and he will explain how to put a price on everything from a mobile phone clip to an edited package.

Niamh Kirk is a postdoctoral media, sociology and politics researcher in UCD's School of Information and Communication Studies and a media analyst the Institute for Future Journalism and Media in DCU. She has a PhD with a thesis focused on transnational journalism. She worked as a staff journalist in local news and continues to work as a freelance journalist focusing on using data to look into digital media.

Emmet Ryan is Connected editor, beer columnist, and general miracle maker at the Sunday Business Post

Brian Carey is the Business editor of The Sunday Times Ireland, and is a previous business and sports editor of The Sunday Tribune and deputy news editor at The Sunday Business Post. He is a six time winner of the business commentator of the year award at the UCD Smurfit School Business Journalism Awards and twice National media Award winner in the Business category. He co wrote The FitzPatrick Tapes with Tom Lyons, and a former freelance journalist.

Kieran Fagan is a freelance journalist and media consultant. Previously he worked for the *Irish Times*, *Irish Independent* and *Sunday Tribune*, and for Carr Communications. He is currently treasurer of Dublin Freelance branch of the National Union of Journalists.

Mary Carroll is Senior Producer with The Last Word on Today Fm, the award-winning national drive-time show. She has previously produced the Sunday-morning talk-radio show Sam Smyth on Sunday as well as working with Prime Time Investigates. Mary has also won three awards at the prestigious international New York Radio Awards for her radio documentary series. She is also a trainer with Today Fm School of radio.

Sarah Binchy is Sarah Binchy produces Arts Tonight on RTÉ Radio One and has made two radio documentaries, *Never No More: Maura Laverty Remembered* and *One Hundred Years of Names*. She has produced many current affairs and feature programmes in radio, and before that worked as a television producer (Agenda, TV3), and as a journalist for various newspapers and magazines.

Pat O'Mahony is a Dublin-based freelance TV and radio producer/director/presenter.

Berni Dwan has been a teacher, freelance journalist, poet and radio broadcaster, and her poetry has been widely published. Berni got second place in the Johnathan Swift Poetry Competition and was shortlisted for the Anthony Cronin International Poetry Award. Her first collection, *Frankly Baby*, was published by Lapwing Poetry. Two of her shows have been performed in Smock Alley. Berni's twenty-six-part radio series, *The A to Z of Historical Blunders* was recently completed on Near FM 90.3. She also presented outside broadcasts in Dublin City Libraries as part of the 2019 Dublin Festival of History.

Barry McCall is principal of McCall Media. He is a writer, editor and copywriter with extensive experience in newspapers, magazines, public relations and online media. As a writer and journalist since 1978 he has contributed to a wide variety of newspapers and magazines while also working extensively in the public relations area. He is currently a regular contributor to The Irish Times specialising in the business, finance and technology areas. He also acts as a consultant copywriter for many of Ireland's leading PR agencies.

Celine Quinn of Financial Taxation is a chartered tax adviser based in Dun Laoghaire.

The Joy of Tax

Not everyone's favourite topic but it's unavoidable. We may complain about it with varying degrees of bitterness, but freelance journalists have to develop a certain degree of expertise on the subject if they are to stay out of trouble with the Revenue Commissioners. The session will focus on two key areas – compliance and how not to pay too much tax. It will not look at anything with the remotest resemblance to a tax dodge. The aim is to keep people out of trouble not to lead them into it.

Compliance: The first half will deal with compliance. It will look at the mechanics of tax returns, the preceding year basis of self-assessment income tax, preliminary tax, key dates, the Revenue Online Service (ROS) and so on.

Particular attention will be paid to record keeping; the critical need to keep a record of all income and expenditure. Useful tips will also be shared.

Making sure you are not paying too much: The second half of the session will be devoted to what expenditure is and is not deductible, potential grey areas and how to deal with them, and other allowances such as medical bills and so on which many people forget to claim.

This will be followed by a Q&A session. This will deal with particular queries such as claiming house insurance against tax if you work from home, claiming for capital items such as cameras or computers, and why entertainment is not allowable!

Last updated 5 March 2020