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@Threadslrish

🧵 🧵 🧵 on COVID

[twitter.com/Threadslrish/status/1371414625959485441](https://twitter.com/Threadslrish/status/1371414625959485441)

Jun. 18, 2021 · 6 min read

**T** Read on Threader

## 1. Does The Truth Matter To Ireland's National Broadcaster RTE ?

This 🧵 has many 🐰 🍷 to go down so please bear with me. Take your time reading it. Once you understand what they are and how everything links together you may see things in a whole new light New 🧵 1/28



2. Back in September 2020 RTE launched a “Truth Matters” marketing campaign on the Six One News to highlight the critical role of Irish journalism amid an “infodemic” of Covid-19 misinformation

It is headed up by Jon Williams MD of News and Current Affairs, formerly of BBC & ABC

3. The script on the news was

"Before you arrive at your opinion, do you know where your information is coming from? Not everything on your feed can be trusted. You need to move past the rage,

deception & fear, & find the truth about the story.”

[irishtimes.com/business/media...](https://www.irishtimes.com/business/media...)

4. What RTE are implying is that the only reliable source of information is RTE. The public saw through this as can be seen when the “Truth Matters” campaign was announced on their FB page.

546 comments, nearly all of which are really negative.

[facebook.com/rtenews/posts/...](https://www.facebook.com/rtenews/posts/...)

A screenshot of a Facebook post from RTE news, showing four comments. Each comment includes a profile picture, the user's name, the text of the comment, and interaction icons (like, reply, and a count of reactions).

- Aaron Ryan**: "Truth" shouldn't be in the same sentence as RTE. (8 reactions)
- Barry Hornibrook**: If truth mattered to RTE they would allow balanced views in opinions and referendums. Instead they are a mouthpiece for the government and scare mongerers. (10 reactions)
- Colm Nolan** (Top Fan): I'd rather get my information off Waterford whispers !!! (13 reactions, 2 replies)
- Gerry Mahady**: Rte bunch of lying toe rags (5 reactions)

5. RTE proudly claim that “9/10 people in Ireland say RTE has been their main media source for accessing Covid information”

And to prove their point, RTE posted on their website an article from Reuters saying only 11 per cent say they do not trust it.

[rte.ie/news/2020/0616...](https://www.rte.ie/news/2020/0616...)

6. Reuters fact check and are also a news service. They are owned by the Thomson Corporation who are 55% funded by the Blackstone group who are an investment management company.

Blackstone has just employed ex board members from Pfizer and Moderna.

[blackstone.com/press-releases...](https://blackstone.com/press-releases...)

7. On May 17th, the 2nd part of RTE's "The Truth Matters" was launched in the form of a podcast hosted by Shane Creevy of Kinzen and Della Kilroy of RTE.

All roads end up leading back to a company called Storyful (thanks @grahamneary)

[rte.ie/news/2020/0916...](https://rte.ie/news/2020/0916...)

8. Storyful was set up by former RTE journalist Mark Little in 2010 as a service that "verified news sources and online content". In 2013 Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, purchased Storyful for US\$25 mil

Many of  misinformation experts come from Storyful.

[irishtimes.com/business/techn...](https://irishtimes.com/business/techn...)

9. News Corp is one of the most powerful media conglomerates in the world. It is also a very big player in the World Economic Forum. [newscorp.com/about/](https://newscorp.com/about/)

# News Corp

News Corp is a global, diversified media, information, publishing and digital real estate services company. The company comprises businesses across a range of media, including: news and information services, cable network programming in Australia, digital real estate services, book publishing, and pay-tv distribution in Australia. Headquartered in New York, the activities of News Corp are conducted primarily in the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom and India.

Visit the News Corp website →

10. Little & Aine Kerr (who had worked for Storyful) set up Kinzen in 2018. In 2020 Kinzen raised \$2.2m to help clients fight ‘misinformation’.

[irishtimes.com/business/techn...](https://www.irishtimes.com/business/techn...)

11. Creevy who presents the RTE podcast was at Storyful for 10 yrs prior to Kinzen and Kilroy was formerly with Storyful before moving to RTE. Their journalism is very News Corp influenced

And the podcasts ? Hardly riveting. Even the IT agreed

[irishtimes.com/culture/tv-rad...](https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/tv-rad...)

12. The guests they chose for the podcasts were very deliberate as you'll see. In episode 1 was Martina Chapman. She is the national coordinator for Media Literacy Ireland (MLI). Upon entering the MLI site you see a quote by Mike Ryan to do with vaccines.

[podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/the...](https://podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/the...)

## **"We need a vaccine against misinformation"**

Dr. Mike Ryan, head of WHO's health emergencies program.

The coronavirus outbreak has sparked what the World Health Organization is calling an "infodemic". The Be Media Smart campaign was developed by members of Media Literacy Ireland to help people tell the difference between reliable and accurate information and deliberately false or misleading information.

13. The members of MLI developed a campaign called Be Smart. Be Smart is funded by Broadcasting Authority Ireland, Facebook, Twitter, Google, Kinzen, Sky, TG4 , Virgin, [Thejournal.ie](http://Thejournal.ie) & RTE.

Basically all of Ireland's TV media and the Journal

[bemediasmart.ie/about](http://bemediasmart.ie/about)

14. Here's the fun part. The Fact check companies MIL use are [TheJournal.ie](http://TheJournal.ie), FactcheckNI, Poynter, MediaWise, Full Fact & Snopes



15. [Thejournal.ie](http://Thejournal.ie) uses Poynter to factcheck, they've been funded 383k by BMGF. Mediawise redirects to the Poynter site. Full fact has received £895,175 from FB & £608,320 from Google

Snopes has received 500k from FB

[snopes.com/disclosures/](http://snopes.com/disclosures/)

[fullfact.org/about/funding/](http://fullfact.org/about/funding/)



## The Poynter Institute for Media Studies, Inc.

[Grantee Website](#) → St. Petersburg, Florida, United States

### Purpose

*To improve the accuracy in worldwide media of claims related to global health and development*

DIVISION	DATE
Global Policy and Advocacy	NOVEMBER 2015
REGION SERVED	COMMITTED AMOUNT
GLOBAL, AFRICA, NORTH AMERICA	\$382,997
GRANT TOPIC	DURATION (MONTHS)
Global Health and Development Public	18

16. In 2019, FactCheckNI joined Facebook's Third Party Fact Checking programme, under which they receive payment for submitting certain fact check articles. For calendar year 2019, they received £10,752 under the programme. They also use



Poynter.

On 17 April 2019, FactCheckNI joined Facebook's Third Party Fact Checking programme, under which we receive payment for submitting certain fact check articles. For calendar year 2019, we received £10,752 under the programme.



17. So the companies that are funding the fact checkers are the ones who are censoring content online such as FB, Twitter, Google, Youtube etc.

RTE's Truth Matters podcast guest and the company she works for can hardly be considered impartial.

18. In Episode 2 was Aoife Gallagher of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD). Gallagher formerly worked for Storyful. She considers herself an expertise on far-right extremism and says that conspiracy theories are the far rights greatest weapon.

[podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/the...](https://podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/the...)

19. Gallagher features in The Journal & IT as well. ISD are also funded by Gates to the tune of 200k.

You would think that ISD have a narrative to fulfil with so much investment coming from BMGF. Maybe something to do with Gilly Bates has vaccine interests.

# Institute for Strategic Dialogue US

Grantee Website → Toledo, Ohio, United States

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## Purpose

*To research public discourse on vaccines in Germany and address possible implications for the global COVID-19 response*

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DIVISION	DATE	REGION SERVED	COMMITTED AMOUNT
Global Policy and Advocacy	AUGUST 2020	GLOBAL, EUROPE	\$199,704
GRANT TOPIC	DURATION (MONTHS)	GRANTEE LOCATION	
Global Health and Development Public Awareness and Analysis	9	Toledo, Ohio, United States	



# How to talk to the vaccine denier in your life

Anti-vax sentiment is strong among people who rely on social media for most of their news

🕒 about 22 hours ago

Patrick Freyne, Conor Gallagher

💬 29



Anti-vaxxers: an Irish Freedom Party protester outside Custom House in



**DELIVER  
a Life-Saving  
COVID-19  
Vaccine Today**

**VISIT UNICEF.IE**



## 'My body, my choice': How some Irish wellness Instagram accounts became a hotbed of Covid-19 misinformation

The platform is being used to spread false information about Covid-19 in novel ways,.

May 8th 2021, 12:05 AM 85,157 Views 0 Comments

Share 40

Tweet

Email 3

ON 1 APRIL, Aisling O'Loughlin posted on Instagram for the first time in over seven months.

Although the former TV3 presenter's feed used to regularly showcase her life as a showbiz reporter, images of her smiling alongside celebrities or glamorously dressed on red carpets slowly disappeared after she was replaced as the co-host of Xposé in 2017.

Over time, a new cast of characters began to feature in her photos: her mother tanning herself on a beach in Clare; a street in France, where O'Loughlin now lives; a tabby cat sprawled on a bed in hazy sunshine.

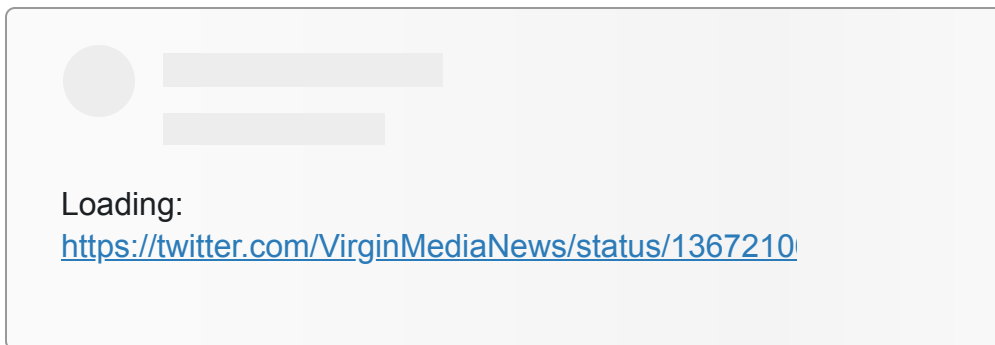
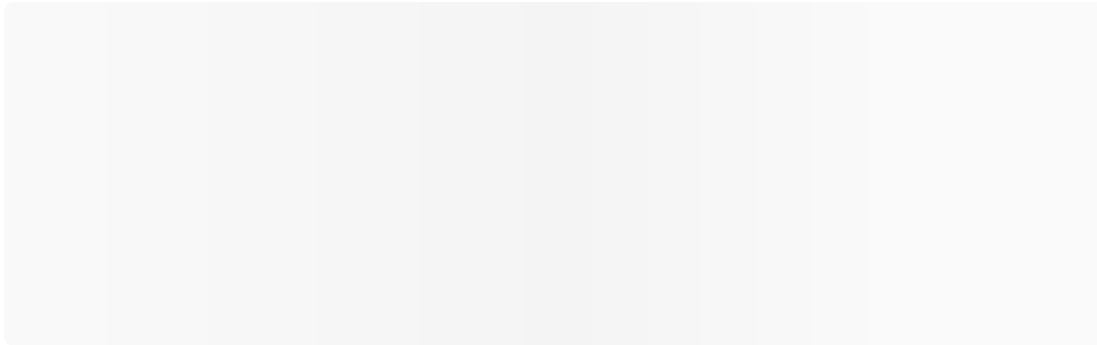


Even these updates began to dry up after she took to Instagram Stories instead, posting content that was more fleeting to a section of the app that allows posts to disappear forever once they've been live for 24 hours.

Aisling O'Loughlin in a recent video on Instagram

Image: Instagram

20. In episode 3 they had on Donie O Sullivan, a CNN journalist who also previously worked for Storyful. In March, Donie appeared on Virgin Media referring to people as scumbags. Shane Creevy from Kinzen (formerly at Storyful) was also a guest.



21. Referring to COVID on the podcast Donie said “There’s accounts, people, personalities beginning to spread this stuff and are buying into it. I don’t frankly think regulations or tweaking of algorithms is going to solve the whole problem” @ 7:20

[podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/ep-...](https://podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/ep-...)

22. Other guests were Christine Bohan, deputy editor of [Journal.ie](https://www.journal.ie) and Joe Galvin, formerly Managing editor of Storyful.

Creevy even said “Platforms need to be doing more to stop the spread of disinformation. A lot of that will be about taking down posts” @ 20.00

23. In Episode 4, Solutions to Misinformation, Olaf Steenfadt of Journalist Trust Initiative said they "needed to be able to tackle disinformation so we can tackle the other big issues of today such as Biodiversity, Climate change"

See where this is headed

24. Another guest, Paddy Leerssen, did say there "shouldn't be any prohibitions on disinformation" but said

“The govt also has a role in funding the kinds of journalism that is necessary to fact correct and get the stories right” @ 14.00

Seriously

[cyberlaw.stanford.edu/about/people/p...](https://cyberlaw.stanford.edu/about/people/p...)

25. On the same episode, Ronan Costello of Twitter said back in Summer 2019 (pre covid) they were working with the HSE and by Sep they had set up a search prompt with them for vaccine misinformation keywords 19.30

Almost as if they knew what was coming

[podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/ep-...](https://podcasts.apple.com/ie/podcast/ep-...)

26. It should be very evident by now that the truth has never mattered, does not matter and will never matter to RTE. There are far too many conflicts of interests at play where everyone is sticking to the same narrative. RTE's "The Truth Matters" is the media equivalent of ISAG.

27. RTE want to control the narrative with no dissenting viewpoints. Their guests prove that

RTE want to be the judge, jury & executioner of what they deem to be the truth.  
PRAVDA.

I'll leave the final words to a comment a person made about the podcast 🙏

Very telling indeed.



liamK1916, 28/05/2021

**Unhelpful**

The state broadcaster that is funded directly by the government on top of the licence fee is now upset when the people discuss things amongst themselves online.

RTE have failed the people for decades. There is absolutely no debate, no corruption held to account and Ireland is absolutely dictated by the woke neo liberal group think.

It's time to end this madness.

Aoife Gallagher is a well know proponent of ANTIFA and Storyful is known across the world as an ultra biased left wing narrative driver.

How biased can a state broadcaster be?

Ireland deserves better.

28. You know the drill 😁 I write these 📌 in my spare time and would really appreciate if you could retweet the very 1st tweet. Likes are great but retweets are required to reach as large an audience as possible to expose what is really going on behind the scenes. Many thanks.