

PRESS RELEASE

Skopje, 5 June 2019 – As a result of investigative journalism, the public was recently notified about the simultaneous engagement of two journalists actively employed in two different television stations as advisers to Prime Minister Zoran Zaev. Taking these information into account, the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services wants to draw attention to the following:

The role of the media is to be critics of the government and, in this context, it is necessary that, when hiring staff, the latter makes sure to ensure independence, autonomy and responsibility of the editors, journalists and other authors when creating the programmes and the editorial policy. This is an important premise for (among other things) ensuring an objective and unbiased reporting, along with equal treatment of diverse viewpoints, so that the public could freely build their opinion about the developments and events in our society.

At a time when our country is making efforts to increase the media professionalism and freedom of information, this dual engagement may constitute an obstacle to establishing professional detachment when informing the public and may jeopardize the freedom of expression.

The Agency also brought this to the attention of Prime Minister Zoran Zaev and the two television stations concerned.