

## TUBRIDY EXCLUSIVE



By KEN SWEENEY, Showbiz Editor, in London

**FORMER** Late Late Show host Ryan Tubridy is setting up home in London after landing a plum presenting job with top UK station Virgin Radio. Tubs, 50, outlined his plans to The Irish Sun, saying RTE is firmly in his "rear-view mirror". The Dubliner also confessed he hasn't watched Patrick Kielty host his old show yet — because he is "always out" on Friday nights.

Full Story — Pages Four and Five

# I'm moving to London.. RTE is behind me now

### CHEL TENHAM



### NOVEMBER MEETING



### 8-PAGE PULLOUT FREE INSIDE



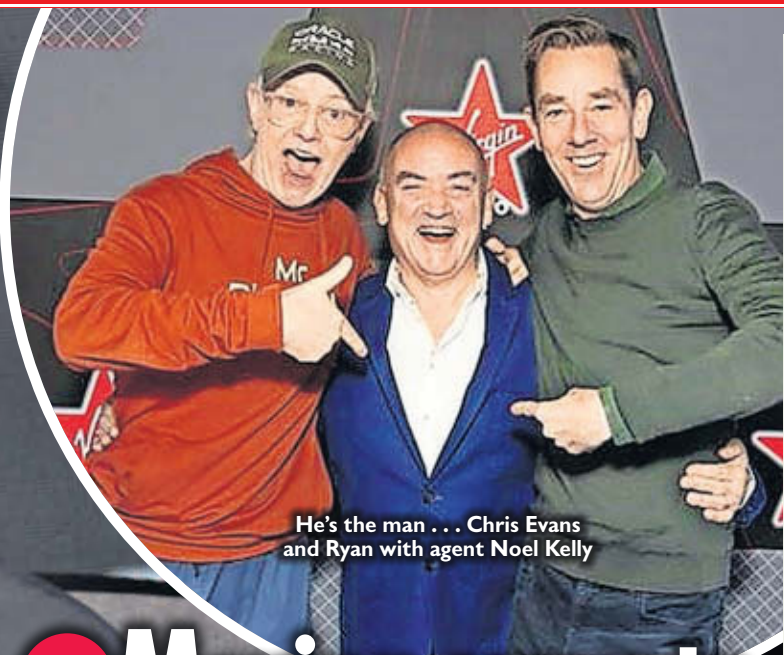
# EXCLUSIVE: TUBRIDY'S FIRST INTERVIEW SINCE RTE EXIT



Making friends . . . Ryan settles in at Virgin Radio with mega star Chris

## BACK ON THE AIRWAVES

Ryan with Irish Sun's Ken Sweeney during their chat in London yesterday



He's the man . . . Chris Evans and Ryan with agent Noel Kelly

By **KEN SWEENEY**  
Showbiz Editor, in London

**RYAN Tubridy has ruled out a return to RTE — saying the nation's broadcaster is now in his “rear-view mirror”.**

The former Late Late Show host made the vow after confirming he will be hosting a new UK morning show on Virgin Radio from January 4. The huge move means the Dubliner will be broadcasting to millions across Britain from 10am to 1pm every weekday.

And he hasn't forgotten his Irish fans, as the show will be simultaneously broadcast on Dublin's Q102. He'll also host a dedicated Irish weekend show — meaning he'll be on air here six days a week.

Way up on the 17th floor of a skyscraper beside The Shard in London, Tubs, 50, was yesterday meeting his new team and raring to go.

In his first press interview since leaving RTE last July, he told The Irish Sun he never imagined he would make the move across the water. Not only that, but he's also looking into a possible further move into television in Britain.

RTE's former top star said he credits much of the latest breakthrough to his long-standing agent and friend Noel Kelly. Last summer, it looked like Tubs might never work again — but now he's bouncing back with his own three-hour daily radio show on one of Britain's most popular radio stations.

He said: “Noel negotiated the best deal. He is the best in the business and always was . . . and he's got on extremely well with the management here at Virgin.”

“I've had a bunch of people around me, advising me in the last few months and they have been spectacular. And Noel is the best in the land.”

Some had suggested Tubs would be better off parting from his now famous agent after a summer of challenging headlines around undeclared payments and heated Dail Committee appearances.

But Tubs insisted: “No question, Noel will remain my agent. He is also my friend, which I think is really important.”

“And that's what it's all about — loyalty, and trust and standing by who and what you believe. And look at that today, here I am starting a new career in London.”

In an interview with The Irish Independent yesterday, RTE Director General Kevin Bakhurst acknowledged Tubs as a “talented broadcaster”, adding “the door is

not shut” on a possible return. But in our interview, Tubs ruled out any return to Montrose with a gentle laugh. “In a word, ‘no,’” he said. “I am happy to be in Virgin Radio — my new home.”

“I don't see any reason to go back there because I am starting a new beginning here.”

“Don't get me wrong, I am not saying, ‘Oh, that place,’ because I had 20 years of lovely experience on TV in Ireland.”

“I loved working in RTE. I worked with the best in the business in RTE. I had the best team in the business and they remained steadfast and loyal, and kind, and I

do miss them. I will always cherish my time there.

“Now I am going to have a great time with someone else. I have a future here. This is where I am happy. It's all here.”

“I have a new start in a new city with new colleagues.”

Tubs' exciting start at Virgin Radio comes just as RTE announced plans for up to 400 redundancies, and swingeing cuts.

These include a ban on any big name RTE presenters earning more than the DG's salary of €250,000. Quizzed what he makes of it all, Tubs would only say: “I feel that RTE is in my rear-view mirror.”

But asked if he feels for former colleagues at the station, he told us: “Yes, I do feel for them. It's a very difficult time for RTE, and I hope they sort it all out.”

“I hope my colleagues are doing OK. They are the real stars of that organisation, the people who work on the ground.”

Ryan has previously stood in for Graham Norton on BBC radio — but does his new role at Virgin mean he's making a permanent move to England?

He replied: “Yes, I'm relocating because I didn't want to do a half-baked approach, coming and going (from Ireland) like that. I said if I

am in, I'm in, and I think the team here in Virgin Radio respect that.”

Neither does Tubs plan on changing the broadcasting style, which made him Ireland's top broadcaster, for a UK audience.

He told us: “No, I don't think so. Sure, we're sitting here in this beautiful studio, looking out at the city of London and this extraordinary skyscape.”

“I think it's going to feel a little different, sure, but I haven't changed my DNA to come over here.”

“What you see is what you get. I'm a straight shooter and, no, I don't think there will be an enormous difference between what I

was doing in Ireland and what I will do over here.

“I must mention Terry Wogan — he liked his Irishness, but it was gentle and wasn't ‘whack the table with your shoe’.”

“Terry gave great encouragement to me when I met him. I'm only sorry he is not around to see me here in London today.”

And, of course, moving to Virgin Radio in London puts Beatles fan Ryan that bit closer to landing his dream interview.

He always wanted to interview music legend Paul McCartney, but never managed it during his 14 years helming the Late Late. Ryan

said: “Paul did send a lovely message for my last Late Late and I was chuffed about that.”

“But yes, there's definitely a better chance of getting him over here than in Dublin.”

“However, I think that Chris Evans has a better chance of getting him in — and at least I'll be next door and able to pop in and say hello.”

And it hasn't escaped Tubs that his favourite band hold the No 1 Spot in the UK charts as he starts his new job.

He beamed: “It's a great time to be a Beatles fan.”  
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- **Moving away to join top UK station**
- **Insists he won't return to Montrose**
- **New show to be broadcast here too**

‘I’m always out during Late Late’



New Late Late host . . Patrick Kielty

By **KEN SWEENEY**, Showbiz Editor

RYAN Tubridy has yet to tune into Patrick Kielty's Late Late Show, because he is “always out” on a Friday night.

And the former host told us he had backed plans to radically revamp the show's format during his 14 years at the helm.

Tubs told The Irish Sun: “I said for the last three years to shorten the Late Late, to have less parts, and they did eventually do that.”

The 50-year-old said he had also explored a Graham Norton-style panel — as used by new host Patrick Kielty — “but I felt it wasn't working”.

And Ryan, like the late Gay Byrne before him, said he hasn't seen much of the revamped show because he is “always out on a Friday night”.

Tubs told us: “Gay was right. The truth of the matter is, when you do Friday nights for 14 years, the last thing you want to do is watch TV on a Friday night. I have been studiously working my way through my diary to meet people.”

“I haven't watched the Late Late and it's not out of any badness. Make sure you print that, because it's not that at all.”

“I respect Paddy, I think he's a great broadcaster, and I presume he is doing great and I wish him all the very best.”

## ‘Pure excitement’



By **KEN SWEENEY**  
Showbiz Editor

RYAN Tubridy is really buzzing. As we met up to chat yesterday, he was smiling in a way that I haven't seen him smile for months.

He introduced me to some of his new behind-the-scenes team, people he has only just met himself.

“What I'm feeling,” he told me on the eve of his rebirth as a major star on radio, “is

pure excitement.” It was obvious, too.

He said: “I wouldn't have expected this a year ago, and here we are.”

The Irish Sun brought you the news in July that Tubs was headed for talks about

his future in London. And, yesterday, I saw how that had panned out.

Frankly, it couldn't have gone much better for the much-loved star.

Ireland's former top TV and radio broadcaster might now be a small fish in a big pond.

But, fired up with renewed ambition, it's as if he's ready to take on the world.

**Irish audiences can listen to Tubridy's new daily Virgin Radio show at 10am to 1pm on Dublin's Q102 and enjoy an Ireland-only weekend show on Cork's 96FM, Live 95 in Limerick and LMFM**

# VIRGIN TERRITORY

‘I have a new start in a new city with new colleagues’