

A photograph of two elderly women smiling and hugging. The woman on the left has short blonde hair and wears glasses. The woman on the right has short grey hair. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

89%

feel more urgency needed to deliver  
safeguarding laws and services.

# Annual Report 2020

**Promoting the rights of  
vulnerable adults**

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[safeguardingireland.org](https://safeguardingireland.org)



**Safeguarding**  
I R E L A N D





**91%**

in favour of stronger laws to  
safeguard people from abuse  
or neglect.

## Foreword.

We have all just come through a very challenging year, with a lot of uncertainty still remaining in relation to the future course of the Covid-19 pandemic. As we emerge into 2021, vaccination appears to offer some hope that many of the necessary public health restrictions imposed over the last 12 months can gradually be lifted.

It has been a difficult year for all. There is little doubt that the public health measures that had been imposed were necessary in order to curtail the spread of infection and prevent illness and death. However, we have all missed our independence and our freedom to make choices. We are now more appreciative of those precious gifts of freedom, independence and choice. It's reasonable to say that things which we had heretofore taken for granted are now more cherished and valued.

While the restrictions on our freedom were warranted, imagine living a life where those freedoms are permanently taken away, simply because we might be vulnerable or dependent on others. Imagine living a life where everything you do is controlled by someone else. Imagine you have no control, now or into the future, of your choices, your finances, your freedom to visit or talk to friends or family. This, unfortunately, is the reality of what many people are living with now. People continue to suffer abuse, exploitation and neglect at the hands of others – very often the very people who should be supporting and safeguarding those people.

The introduction of adult safeguarding legislation is long overdue in this country in order to properly protect those people living under constant and severe restrictions. Safeguarding Ireland has long been calling for such legislation and will continue to do so relentlessly in the future.

We are very fortunate in some ways in this country to have so many organisations supporting efforts to combat abuse. In that regard, from Safeguarding Ireland's perspective, I want to acknowledge the very real contribution to our work over the last year of the members of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee. Its advice and support to the Board is invaluable and I would like to formally thank all of its members.

Hopefully, as we emerge from this pandemic in the coming months, the value we have attached to simple freedoms and basic human rights can be translated to an acceptance by all of the need to cherish and protect those rights, especially when they are under threat at the whim of someone upon whom we depend.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Patricia Rickard-Clarke'.

**Patricia Rickard-Clarke,**  
Chair.

# Objectives of Safeguarding Ireland

The main object for which Safeguarding Ireland is established is to promote safeguarding of adults who may be vulnerable, protect them from all forms of abuse by persons, organisations and institutions and develop a national plan for promoting their welfare. This will be achieved by promoting inter-sectoral collaboration, developing public and professional awareness and education, and undertaking research to inform policy, practice and legislation in the Republic of Ireland.

## Subsidiary Objects

Objects, incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the Main Object, are:

To do the following for the benefit of adults in the Republic of Ireland who may be vulnerable:

- (a) To raise public understanding of attitudes, behaviours, circumstances and systems that create vulnerability that may result in abuse and that may require a safeguarding response.
- (b) To promote the protection and rights of people who may be vulnerable by encouraging organisations and services to recognise, prevent and deal with exploitation and abuse effectively.
- (c) To inform and influence Government policy and legislation to safeguard the rights of people who may be vulnerable.

# Table of Contents

Governance and Structure	7
Main Activities in 2020	8
Annual Report and Financial Statements for Y/E 31st December, 2020	15
Appendix 1 – Board of Directors	29
Appendix 2 – Membership of National Safeguarding Advisory Committee	30





95%

not recorded plans for their  
future healthcare.

# Governance And Structure

## Board of Safeguarding Ireland

Safeguarding Ireland is registered with both the Companies Registration Office and the Charities Regulatory Authority and complies with the requirements of both of those Bodies.

Safeguarding Ireland has a nine-member Board of Directors - see Appendix 1.

The Board establishes Working Groups from time to time to consider particular issues. One such Working Group is the State Payments Working Group which has been established to identify safeguarding issues that arise in relation to state payments and make recommendations to prevent abuse and exploitation related to such payments.

The Board met on seven occasions in 2020, with all but two of the meetings taking place via videoconference due to the ongoing restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Board met on the following dates:

**January 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**March 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**April 29<sup>th</sup>.**

**June 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**July 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**September 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## National Safeguarding Advisory Committee

The National Safeguarding Advisory Committee provides advice to the Board of Safeguarding Ireland on issues relating to adult safeguarding and also acts as a forum for communication and information sharing on issues relating to adult safeguarding across a range of organisations. The Board of Safeguarding Ireland recognises the importance of multi-agency collaboration on the issue of adult safeguarding and the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee has been an invaluable resource in this regard.

The National Safeguarding Advisory Committee met on three occasions during 2020 as follows:

**January 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**July 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**October 19<sup>th</sup>.**

The meeting that had been scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> April was deferred due to the restrictions and uncertainty related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Organisations represented on the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee at the end of 2020 are outlined in Appendix 2.

# Main Activities in 2020.

## Public Awareness.

Raising public awareness of the issues relating to adult abuse and creating a better understanding of safeguarding continued to be one of the central activities of Safeguarding Ireland during 2020.

Five public awareness campaigns were progressed during the year and all were informed by research from RED C surveys commissioned by Safeguarding Ireland.

Each of the campaigns involved national and local radio advertisements, digital advertising on national newspaper sites, extensive social media activity, posting of materials on the Safeguarding Ireland website and circulation of materials to a wide range of stakeholders.

In addition, all of the campaigns generated extensive media coverage, including national and local radio and newspaper interviews with the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland.

### Place of Care.


The first public awareness campaign of 2020 took place from February 16<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> and focussed on encouraging people to plan ahead in relation to their preferred '*Place of Care*'.

<https://www.safeguardingireland.org/news/>

### Planning Ahead Healthcare.


A public awareness campaign on '*Planning Ahead Healthcare*' took place from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. This campaign focused on planning ahead using an *Advance Healthcare Directive* and completing the *Think Ahead* form.



<https://www.safeguardingireland.org/95-have-not-recorded-plans-for-their-future-healthcare/>



**Choose  
your place  
of care  
before it's  
chosen  
for you**

**PLAN AHEAD -  
turn your wishes  
into PLANS**

Safeguarding  
IRELAND   
safeguardingireland.org



## Financial Safeguarding.

In early October, Safeguarding Ireland collaborated with the Banking and Payments Federation Ireland (BPFI) on financial safeguarding during the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.safeguardingireland.org/majority-who-needed-help-managing-money-during-covid-lockdown-have-not-taken-back-control/>

BPFI and Safeguarding Ireland recommend that, while people should follow all public health guidelines, they should take back and keep control of their own money as much as possible in order to combat financial abuse.



## Impact of COVID-19 on Adult Abuse and Safeguarding.

Also in October, a public awareness campaign was carried out on the impact of COVID-19 relating to experiences of adult abuse and safeguarding. A rise in cyber abuse during the pandemic was also identified. Safeguarding Ireland encouraged people to report adult abuse and promoted ways to do this.

## Public Support for Stronger Laws.

In December, Safeguarding Ireland carried out its final campaign of the year which outlined what constitutes abuse and the campaign highlighted strong public support for improved safeguarding laws. Drawing on the RED C commissioned research, it was also found that the vast majority of the public supported establishing a National Authority for Safeguarding.

Key findings included:

- 91% supported stronger laws to safeguard people from abuse or neglect.
- 85% supported the establishment of a national authority on safeguarding.
- 87% said a dedicated authority should have enforcement powers.
- 89% said more urgency was needed to deliver safeguarding laws and services.

<https://www.safeguardingireland.org/strong-public-support-for-improved-safeguarding-laws/>

**I locked the door to  
keep him safe when  
I went shopping.  
I never saw it  
as abuse.**



**Promoting the rights of  
vulnerable adults**

[safeguardingireland.org](https://www.safeguardingireland.org)  

**Safeguarding  
IRELAND**



During the year, Safeguarding Ireland also issued a number of additional news releases, together with engagement on social media, with the following key messages:

- Need to protect vulnerable adults during COVID-19 amid heightened risks.
- Need to guard against increase in financial abuse, including use of ‘temporary agents’.
- Support for International World Elder Awareness Abuse Day and importance of Planning Ahead.
- Call for ‘one integrated system’ and ‘national standards’ for long-term care.
- Call for radical and new plan on long-term care of ageing population.
- Response to HSE National Safeguarding Office Annual report, including call for authority for the HSE to make Protection Order applications on behalf of vulnerable people.
- Call for the full implementation of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act, 2015.

The campaign content, news release materials and relevant newly published safeguarding resources were added to the Safeguarding Ireland website ([www.safeguardingireland.org](https://www.safeguardingireland.org)) throughout the year, as well as posted to Twitter (@safeguardingire) and Facebook Accounts (<https://www.facebook.com/safeguardingire>).

## Training And Education.

Safeguarding Ireland contributed to a number of training and education events throughout 2020. These included:

- A Central Remedial Clinic Erasmus + Empowerment Workshop on ***Safeguarding.***
- Technical University of Dublin Second Year Social Care students on ***Safeguarding.***
- Financial Abuse at the ICTU Retired Workers Seminar.
- Social Care Ireland – Adult Safeguarding Conference on ***‘Main legislative gaps with regard to Person Centred Care’*** at CMG National Dementia Care Conference presentations on ***‘Advance Care Planning’*** and ***‘Assisting and Supporting a Person to Make Decisions.’***
- Chair of Safeguarding Ireland was an invited panelist at the ***Irish Gerontological Society – Willie Bermingham Lecture*** given by Dr. Mike Ryan of WHO.
- HSE Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Unit, Clonmel, on ***‘Protection of Liberty Safeguards’.***

In addition to the above, Safeguarding Ireland participated on the International Planning Group for the **Adult Support and Protection and Safeguarding Five Nations Conference Series**. This is an ongoing series of online conferences devoted to adult safeguarding, involving a collaboration between England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

## Influencing.

Throughout the year, Safeguarding Ireland continued the promotion of the adult safeguarding agenda through engagement and correspondence with legislators and policy makers.

## Covid-19.

Much of Safeguarding Ireland’s activity focussed on concerns relating to the Covid-10 pandemic and the fallout of that and the public health measures imposed to curtail the spread of infection. Some of the specific activities included:

- ▶ Submission to Government and key Departments on issues relating to the Covid-19 pandemic and associated government restrictions, including the need for vulnerable adults to continue to have access to services; the need to treat everyone with dignity and respect, including the need for respectful language to be used in public discourse; the need for a flexible approach for people who may have had difficulties paying for utilities; the need to respect people’s place of care preferences; the need to recognise the risk to older people; and the need for heightened awareness among all staff of government departments on the possible increase in opportunities for abuse of people’s finances during restrictions. Safeguarding Ireland also highlighted the issues of staff shortages in non-HSE Nursing Homes and the importance of constant and direct communication with each nursing home to assess staffing requirements, the need for guidance for staff about risk and to have a person available to counsel staff and help allay some of their fears and anxieties.

- A submission to the **Nursing Homes Expert Panel** in relation to a future model of care. Safeguarding Ireland also attended a virtual meeting with the Covid-19 Nursing Homes Expert Panel along with other agencies in order to further explore suggestions and proposals made to them.

The full submission made by Safeguarding Ireland is available at <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Nursing-Homes-Expert-Panel-Submission-%E2%80%93-June-2020.pdf>

A submission to the **Oireachtas Special Committee on Covid-19 Response** in June. The full submission is available at <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SI-Submission-Oireachtas-Committee-June2020.pdf>

## Adult Safeguarding Legislation.

Safeguarding Ireland strongly supports the introduction of adult safeguarding legislation and the introduction of such legislation was one of the proposals in the submissions to both the Nursing Homes Expert Panel and the Oireachtas Special Committee on Covid-19. In addition, Safeguarding Ireland made a comprehensive submission to the **Law Reform Commission** on its Issues Paper – **A Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding**. <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Final-Submission-to-LRC-Issues-Paper-17.5.2020.pdf>

## Data Sharing.

Safeguarding Ireland recognises the need to share data between agencies where there are genuine safeguarding concerns relating to a vulnerable adult. However, there appears to be a general confusion and lack of understanding on the part of many organisations in relation to what is and is not permissible. In that regard, Safeguarding Ireland engaged with the **Office of the Data Protection Commissioner** on a number of occasions in 2020.

On 16<sup>th</sup> January, Safeguarding Ireland made a written submission to the Office of the Data Protection Commission on the development of its Regulatory Strategy 2020 – 2025. <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Sumission-to-DPC-Jan-2020.pdf>

Safeguarding Ireland had further engagement with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner during the year relating to the need for greater clarity for public and business entities in relation to data sharing where there are concerns of abuse, neglect and /or exploitation of adults at risk of abuse. Safeguarding Ireland believes that there is confusion, misinterpretation and lack of understanding in relation to data legislation. Safeguarding Ireland suggested the development of a guidance document specifically on data sharing in the context of safeguarding.

Safeguarding Ireland hopes to have further engagement with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner in 2021.

## Research.

In September, Safeguarding Ireland published a comprehensive discussion document entitled *'Funding Long Term Support and Care for Older People – A Safeguarding Perspective'* – available at <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Web-Version-Funding-Long-Term-Support-and-Care-for-Older-people.pdf>

This document raised a number of important issues and points of discussion relative to funding long term care for older people. Issues that this document raised included –

- The financial implications of the significant increases in our ageing population that is currently taking place present new challenges which cannot be ignored.
- Vulnerable older people are regularly victims of financial abuse as a result of people (usually relatives) encouraging and facilitating them to transfer assets to them or to put money into a joint account.
- The Nursing Homes Support Scheme (NHSS) may not be the 'fair deal' that it is purported to be in that people can and do put assets beyond the reach of the scheme through legally transferring assets and/or not fully declaring assets.
- There is a basic conflict in Irish society between:
  - People as citizens who typically want the best possible care and quality of life for vulnerable older people;
  - People as taxpayers who do not wish to pay their equitable share to ensure that such care is available to all who require it; and
  - People as family members who want to pass on or inherit family wealth and who may privilege inheritance over paying for care in later years.
- A fundamental question arises as to what is the justification, from an equality and rights perspective, and, indeed, from a safeguarding perspective, of leaving some NHSS recipients (those whose only source of income is a Non-Contributory Pension) with less than €50 a week to cover the range of personal and social expenditure normative in society.
- At its core, inter-generational solidarity assumes a consensus between the generations on how the resources of society, both financial and non-financial, are shared for the benefit of all – however, there is a real danger, as may have happened during the pandemic, that the economic prospects of the young are perceived as being damaged by the need to protect the most vulnerable.

Safeguarding Ireland also made a financial contribution to research being carried out in Trinity College Dublin on **Exploring Older People's Experiences of Shielding During the Covid-19 Pandemic**. This research is expected to be completed and published in the second half of 2021.

## Other Activities.

Some of the other activities that Safeguarding Ireland engaged in during 2020 included:

- ▶ Corresponded with the Chief Justice on the establishment of the Judicial Council and Judicial Studies Committee to encourage the development of a programme of training for all judges to deal with vulnerable adults.
- ▶ Meetings with representatives of the Irish Banking Culture Board to discuss areas of mutual interest in relation to financial abuse.
- ▶ Submission on Commitment no. 4 – Reducing Common Causes of Harm - of the HSE's Patient Safety Strategy, 2019-2024.
- ▶ Meeting and correspondence with the Central Bank of Ireland as part of the Bank's pre-planning and preparatory phase in its review of the Consumer Protection Code.
- ▶ Submission to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs with regard to the definition of 'child' under the Child Care Act 1991 and Adult Safeguarding Bill 2017.



# Annual Report and Financial Statements for Y/E 31st December, 2020

	<b>Page</b>
Directors and Other Information	3
Directors' Report	4 - 5
Directors' Responsibilities Statement	6
Independent Auditor's Report	7 - 8
Income and Expenditure Account	9
Balance Sheet	10
Reconciliation of Members' Funds	11
Statement of Cash Flows	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 - 16
Supplementary Information on Income and Expenditure Account	17

## National Safeguarding Ireland Directors and Other Information

### Directors

Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Colm Nolan  
Phelim Quinn  
Mervyn Robert Taylor  
Amanda Phelan  
Annmarie O' Connor  
Louise O' Mahony  
Nora Owen  
David Byrne

### Company Secretary

Paschal Moynihan (Appointed 16 January 2020)  
Patricia T Rickard-Clarke (Resigned 16 January 2020)

### Company Number

612163

### Registered Office and Business Address

Unit 23 Block B,  
Maynooth Business Campus,  
Maynooth,  
Co. Kildare

### Auditors

FMB Advisory Limited  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm  
4 Ormond Quay Upper  
Dublin 7  
D07PF53

### Bankers

AIB  
7/12 Dame Street  
Dublin 2.

## National Safeguarding Ireland Directors' Report

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

### Principal Activity and Review of the Business

The principal activity to promote safeguarding of adults who may be vulnerable, protect them from all forms of abuse by persons, organisations and Institutions and develop a national plan for promoting their welfare.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The company was confirmed as a registered charity by the Charities Regulatory Authority on 30 November 2019 and received a charity number of 20204851.

There has been no significant change in these activities during the financial year ended 31 December 2020.

### Financial Results

The surplus for the financial year amounted to €7,813 (2019 - €125,634).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €291,411 (2019 - €281,956) and liabilities of €5,732 (2019 - €4,090). The net assets of the company have increased by €7,813.

### Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the financial year were as follows:

Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Colm Nolan  
Phelim Quinn  
Mervyn Robert Taylor  
Amanda Phelan  
Annmarie O' Connor  
Louise O' Mahony  
Nora Owen  
David Byrne

The secretaries who served during the financial year were:

Paschal Moynihan (Appointed 16 January 2020)  
Patricia T Rickard-Clarke (Resigned 16 January 2020)

There were no changes in company members between 31 December 2020 and the date of signing the financial statements other than as disclosed.

In accordance with the Constitution, the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

### Future Developments

The company has continued to engage in its principal activity subsequent to the financial year end, as follows:

1. Raise public understanding of attitudes, behaviours, circumstances and systems that create vulnerability that may result in abuse;
2. Promote the protection and rights of people who may be vulnerable, by encouraging organisations and services to recognise, prevent and deal with exploitation and abuse effectively;
3. Inform and influence Government policy and legislation to safeguard the rights of people who may be vulnerable to optimise its collective capacity and available external resources to achieve its aims and objectives;
4. The directors can confirm that the company's relationships with key stakeholders, including the HSE, continue to be excellent.

The directors are not expecting to make any significant changes in the nature of the company's operational activities in the near future.

At the time of approving the financial statements, the company is exposed to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic which may have a negative effect on the availability of funding in future periods potentially resulting in a lower than expected level of promotional and associated activity. In planning its future activities, the directors are continuing to engage with its key stakeholders to develop the company's activities whilst managing the effects associated with the outbreak to ensure that the company continues to have sufficient cashflows available so that it can continue as a going concern.

## National Safeguarding Ireland Directors' Report

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

### Post Balance Sheet Events

Significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end are disclosed in Note 11 to the financial statements.

### Auditors

FMB Advisory Limited, (Chartered Accountants), were appointed auditors by the directors to fill the casual vacancy and they have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

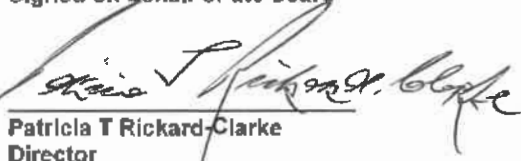
### Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

### Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at Unit 23 Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Signed on behalf of the board

  
Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Director

Date: 28 March 2021



Colm Nolan  
Director

Date:

## National Safeguarding Ireland Directors' Responsibilities Statement

for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

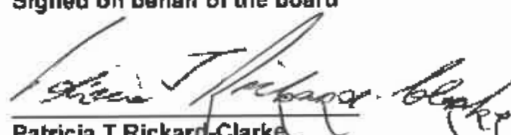
- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the company's auditor in connection with preparing the auditor's report) of which the company's auditor is unaware, and
- the directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the board



Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Director

Date: 28 March 2021



Colm Nolan  
Director

Date:

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of National Safeguarding Ireland

### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of National Safeguarding Ireland ('the company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Reconciliation of Members' Funds, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2020 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where;

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

#### Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. In our opinion the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.



## Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of National Safeguarding Ireland

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Respective responsibilities

#### Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

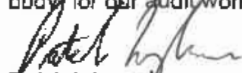
#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: <[www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description\\_of\\_auditors\\_responsibilities\\_for\\_audit.pdf](http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf)> The description forms part of our Auditor's Report.

#### The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Patrick Loughnane

for and on behalf of

**FMB ADVISORY LIMITED**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm

4 Ormond Quay Upper

Dublin 7

D07PF53


Date:

01/04/2021

**National Safeguarding Ireland  
Income and Expenditure Account**  
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
<b>Income</b>		<b>247,000</b>	<b>251,250</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>(239,187)</b>	<b>(125,616)</b>
<b>Surplus before tax</b>		<b>7,813</b>	<b>125,634</b>
Tax on surplus	6	-	-
<b>Surplus for the financial year</b>		<b>7,813</b>	<b>125,634</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>7,813</b>	<b>125,634</b>

Approved by the board on \_\_\_\_\_ and signed on its behalf by:

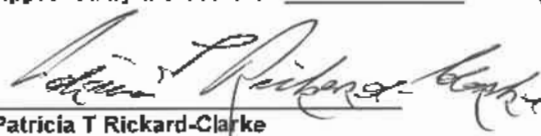
  
Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Director

  
Colm Nolan  
Director

**National Safeguarding Ireland**  
**Balance Sheet**  
as at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	7	-	34,455
Cash and cash equivalents		291,411	247,501
		<u>291,411</u>	<u>281,956</u>
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	<u>(5,732)</u>	<u>(4,090)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>285,679</u>	<u>277,866</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<u>285,679</u>	<u>277,866</u>
<b>Reserves</b>			
Income and expenditure account		285,679	277,866
<b>Members' Funds</b>		<u>285,679</u>	<u>277,866</u>

Approved by the board on \_\_\_\_\_ and signed on its behalf by:

  
Patricia T Rickard-Clarke  
Director

  
Colm Nolan  
Director

**National Safeguarding Ireland  
Reconciliation of Members' Funds  
as at 31 December 2020**

	<b>Retained surplus</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>At 1 January 2019</b>	152,232	152,232
Surplus for the financial year	125,634	125,634
<b>At 31 December 2019</b>	277,866	277,866
Surplus for the financial year	7,813	7,813
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>285,679</b>	<b>285,679</b>

**National Safeguarding Ireland**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Surplus for the financial year		7,813	125,634
		<u>7,813</u>	<u>125,634</u>
<b>Movements in working capital:</b>			
Movement in debtors		34,455	(34,455)
Movement in creditors		1,642	127
		<u>43,910</u>	<u>91,306</u>
Cash generated from operations			
		<u>43,910</u>	<u>91,306</u>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>43,910</b>	<b>91,306</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year</b>		<b>247,501</b>	<b>156,195</b>
		<u>247,501</u>	<u>156,195</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	12	<b>291,411</b>	<b>247,501</b>
		<u>291,411</u>	<u>247,501</u>

## National Safeguarding Ireland Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

National Safeguarding Ireland is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland with a registered number of 612163. The registered office of the company is Unit 23 Block B, Maynooth Business Campus, Maynooth, Co. Kildare which was the principal place of business of the company during the financial year. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

#### Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2020 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102).

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

#### Income Recognition

The company's income, which consists of grant funding received from the Health Service Executive (HSE) and other member voluntary contributions in the financial period, is recognised on an accrual's basis.

#### Expenditure Recognition

Expenditure relating to the company's strategy and provision of advocacy and information to the public is included on an accruals basis and is inclusive of VAT which is not recoverable.

#### Related parties

For the purposes of these financial statements a party is considered to be related to the company if:

- the party has the ability, directly or indirectly, through one or more intermediaries to control the company or exercise significant influence over the company in making financial and operating policy decisions or has joint control over the company;
- the company and the party are subject to common control;
- the party is an associate of the company or forms part of a joint venture with the company;
- the party is a member of key management personnel of the company or the company's parent, or a close family member of such as an individual, or is an entity under the control, joint control or significant influence of such individuals;
- the party is a close family member of a party referred to above or is an entity under the control or significant influence of such individuals; or
- the party is a post-employment benefit plan which is for the benefit of employees of the company or of any entity that is a related party of the company.

Close family members of an individual are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that individual in their dealings with the company.

#### Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

#### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Balance Sheet bank overdrafts are shown within Creditors.



**National Safeguarding Ireland  
Notes to the Financial Statements**  
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

continued

**Trade and other creditors**

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

**Taxation**

The company is not subject to corporate taxes being a registered charity limited by guarantee.

The directors have confirmed that the company continued to engage with the Charities Regulatory Authority to achieve charitable status during the financial year and it was successful issued with a confirmation of charitable status effective on 30 November 2019. The company's issued charity number is 20204851.

**Grant funding**

The company applies for grant funding from the HSE on an annual basis to allow it to undertake its principal activities. Grant funding is recognised as income on an accruals basis when confirmation of agreement is reached with the HSE.

**3. DEPARTURE FROM COMPANIES ACT 2014 PRESENTATION**

The directors have elected to present an Income and Expenditure Account instead of a Profit and Loss Account in these financial statements as this company is a not-for-profit entity.

**4. GOING CONCERN**

The company generated a surplus for the financial year of €7,813 and has net assets of €285,679 at 31 December 2020. The company also has available cash at bank of €291,411 at 31 December 2020.

During the first quarter of 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has spread initially from Asia to Europe and subsequently worldwide. The initial economic effect of this has been a worldwide slowdown in economic activity while in Ireland restrictions have been placed on "non-essential" businesses which has resulted in many businesses temporarily closing in measures designed to restrict the movement of people and to slow down the spread of the virus.

National Safeguarding Ireland Limited by Guarantee has continued to operate during the pandemic and has not experienced a negative impact on its income levels in the current financial year as a result of the virus. The directors have prepared a projected budget for the 2021 financial year, in conjunction with the application for funding, which show that the company will generate a surplus. In March 2021 the company received confirmation of further grant funding from the Health Services Executive on a similar basis to that received in the current and prior periods. The directors confirm that they continue to actively monitor and adjust the company's operations as circumstances change and further note that the company only commits to the funding of projects and awareness campaigns based on the availability of relevant funding and cash reserves.

As a result of the above it is considered appropriate for the financial statements to continue to be prepared on a going concern basis.

**5. EMPLOYEES**

The company did not have any employees during the current and previous financial periods. All members of the Board of Directors operated during the period on a voluntary basis.

**6. TAX ON SURPLUS**

The company is not subject to corporate taxes being a company limited by guarantee which is a registered charity. The company registered charitable number is 20204851.

**National Safeguarding Ireland**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
for the financial year ended 31 December 2020

continued

<b>7. DEBTORS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Other debtors	-	34,455
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>8. CREDITORS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Accruals	5,732	4,090
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

The directors confirm that the company has no further actual or contingent liabilities outstanding as at 31 December 2020.

**9. STATUS**

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding €2.

**10. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

The company had no material capital or other commitments at the financial year-ended 31 December 2020.

**11. POST-BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

As documented in Note 4 "Going Concern", the Covid-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact economic activity in the Irish and worldwide economies. The directors confirm that the company will monitor and adjust its operational activities as required in the post year end period and that it remains in a strong financial position and will continue to operate as a going concern.

<b>12. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Cash and bank balances	291,411	247,501
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**13. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 23/03/2021.

## Appendix 1.

### Safeguarding Ireland Board Members 2020.

**Mr. David Byrne** – Former AG and European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection.

**Mr. Colm Nolan** – Society of Financial Planners Ireland.

**Ms. Annmarie O'Connor** – Business Manager MABS.

**Ms. Louise O'Mahony** – Head of Sustainable Banking BPFI.

**Ms. Nora Owen** – Former Minister for Justice.

**Professor Amanda Phelan** – TCD.

**Mr. Phelim Quinn** – CEO, Health Information and Quality Authority.

**Ms. Patricia Rickard-Clarke** – Chair.

**Mr. Mervyn Taylor** – Former Executive Director SAGE.

## Appendix 2.

# National Safeguarding Advisory Committee Membership end 2020.

Active Retirement Ireland.	Irish Congress of Trade Unions.
Age Action.	Irish Farmers Association.
Age Friendly Ireland.	Irish Hospice Foundation.
An Garda Síochana.	Irish League of Credit Unions.
An Post.	Irish Rural Link.
Cavanagh Communications.	Law Society of Ireland.
Decision Support Service.	Mental Health Commission.
Department of Social Protection.	National Advocacy Service.
Inclusion Ireland.	National Disability Services Association.
Disability Rights Network.	National Federation of Voluntary Service Providers.
Faculty of Old Age Psychiatrists.	National Independent Review Panel.
Health Service Executive.	Safeguarding Ireland.
Irish Association of Social Workers.	Sage Advocacy.
Irish Banking Culture Board.	St. Vincent de Paul.
Irish College of General Practitioners.	



85%

favour the establishment  
of the National Safeguarding  
Authority.

# Promoting the rights of vulnerable adults

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[safeguardingireland.org](http://safeguardingireland.org)



**Safeguarding**  
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