



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Promoting the rights of
vulnerable adults

safeguardingireland.org



Safeguarding
IRELAND





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National Safeguarding Ireland (trading as Safeguarding Ireland) (a company limited by guarantee) CRO #612163.

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Directors: David Byrne, Bernice Evoy, Carol Grogan, Paschal Moynihan, Colm Nolan, Nora Owen, Amanda Phelan, Phelim Quinn, Patricia T Rickard-Clarke (Chair), Mervyn Taylor.

Chairperson's Foreword.

Safeguarding Ireland's second Strategic Plan was adopted by the Board in March 2022 and will continue until 2025. In developing its second Strategic Plan, Safeguarding Ireland reviewed its achievements over the lifetime of its first plan and consulted with its stakeholders who volunteered richly varied perspectives and important suggestions.

The related annual programme of work for 2022 continued with many of the main objectives contained in the first plan. However, a central component of this Strategic Plan and related work during 2022, is the pursuit of the introduction of adult safeguarding legislation in Ireland, with an independent overarching National Adult Safeguarding Authority.

A major milestone in 2022 was the publication, on May 31st, of 'Identifying RISKS – Sharing RESPONSIBILITIES: The Case for a Comprehensive Approach to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults'. Commissioned by Safeguarding Ireland and led by Dr Michael Browne 'Identifying RISKS – Sharing RESPONSIBILITIES' is the most detailed analysis of research and data on adult safeguarding carried out to date in the country. The report clearly demonstrates the urgent need for a much wider and more comprehensive and co-ordinated response and related accountabilities both within and beyond health and social care.

In early 2022, Safeguarding Ireland made detailed submissions on all 14 of the Decision Support Service's draft Codes of Practice in anticipation of the full commencement of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act. In addition, Safeguarding Ireland made a wide variety of submissions to a range of Government Departments and Agencies on relevant aspects of legislation and policy.

Raising public and professional awareness on the many facets of adult abuse continued to be a key focus in 2022. National Adult Safeguarding Day is now an annual event and in 2022 was undertaken with our partners the National Safeguarding Office in the HSE and was widely supported by members of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee and the wider public. 2022 also saw the launch of Safeguarding Ireland's voluntary Adult Safeguarding Charter, which was developed in conjunction with a group of stakeholders drawn from the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee. Over the course of 2022 the Charter had been adopted by a wide number of organisations.

In 2022, Safeguarding Ireland and its State Payments Group, placed a particular focus on the changes in the Irish retail banking landscape and worked with banks and financial institutions and their representative bodies to ensure there was continued awareness of the potential risks of harm /abuse arising from the migration of bank accounts and also to assist stakeholders, as possible, to support their customers with the transition. Safeguarding Ireland also made submissions on related matters to a range of Government Departments and regulators.

Together with the National Safeguarding Office in the HSE and our adult safeguarding partners in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, Safeguarding Ireland continued to support the 'Five Nations' seminar series on adult safeguarding.

In all aspects of its work Safeguarding Ireland aims to ensure that it has strong systems of governance, and the Board continues to develop, monitor and review its performance in this regard.

The National Safeguarding Advisory Committee and the State Payments Group now have a combined representation from approximately 40 national organisations, and I wish to acknowledge my gratitude for their partnership, collaboration, and expertise. In addition, I welcome the strong and collaborative partnerships Safeguarding Ireland has developed across the jurisdictions comprising the 'Five Nations'. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to our funders, the HSE, for their ongoing support for the work of Safeguarding Ireland. This ongoing inter-sectoral, and multi-disciplinary work remains as the foundation of everything Safeguarding Ireland achieves.



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.



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.

During 2022, Safeguarding Ireland had a nine-member Board of Directors.

Patricia Rickard-Clarke (Chair)

David Byrne

Colm Nolan

Annmarie O'Connor

Louise O'Mahony

Nora Owen

Amanda Phelan

Phelim Quinn

Mervyn Taylor

The Board met on seven occasions in 2022, with all meetings taking place via video conference.

The Board met on the following dates:

January 18th

March 8th

April 26th

May 23rd

July 26th

September 13th

November 1st

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 continues to be an invaluable resource in this regard.

During 2022, the Committee met on four occasions – February 7th, April 25th, July 25th and October 17th. This committee now comprises approximately 40 members from a wide range of organisations, including healthcare, finance, trades unions, essential services, and Irish Rural Link.



State Payments Group.

In addition to the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee, the State Payments Group which was established to identify safeguarding issues that arise in relation to State payments and make recommendations to prevent abuse and exploitation related to such payments continued to meet, usually on the same days as the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee. This Group prepared a workplan for 2022 which reflected the very dynamic environment for financial services in Ireland, the opportunities, and potential for adverse consequences, for adults who may be at risk of harm or abuse.



Public Awareness Reference Group

Safeguarding Ireland also has a Public Awareness Reference Group which is critical to the development of materials and messaging on all campaigns. For further information about the structure and governance of Safeguarding Ireland see <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/about/>

Strategic Plan 2022-2025.

Safeguarding Ireland’s Strategic Plan is based on four key Objectives.

Each of these Objectives is underpinned by a set of priorities and supporting actions to achieve the Objectives. The Strategic Plan is designed as a working and dynamic document which is flexible so that modifications can be made as the external environment changes. The remainder of Safeguarding Ireland’s Annual Report for 2022 summarises the work and achievements of Safeguarding Ireland under each of its 4 key objectives.



Figure 1 Safeguarding Ireland - Strategic Objectives, 2022-2025

Objective No.1. Adult Safeguarding Legislation.

Safeguarding Ireland will promote and pursue the introduction and enactment of Adult Safeguarding Legislation.

Key Priorities.

Work with legislators, key stakeholders and influencers towards the commencement of robust adult safeguarding legislation.

Develop and promote evidence to inform policy that outlines the State's responsibility to adults that may be at-risk, to include adult safeguarding legislation.

In order to evidence the need for Adult Safeguarding legislation and a related statutory authority, Safeguarding Ireland commissioned research on Adult Safeguarding in Ireland. The lead researcher was Dr Michael Browne assisted by Niamh Ní Leathlobhair BL., Gearóid Mac Eochaidh M.Sc., and Dr Ann O'Mahony. The resulting report, 'Identifying RISKS - Sharing RESPONSIBILITIES' The Case for a Comprehensive Approach to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults' was launched on May 31st and is the most comprehensive analysis of issues on adult safeguarding ever undertaken in the Irish context.

Having collated and comprehensively analysed the existing evidence base across a range of areas (Current Safeguarding and Regulatory Framework in Ireland-Existing Provisions and Main Shortcomings, Nature and extent of abuse and exploitation of adults at risk in Ireland, Financial Abuse, Safeguarding People Resident in Nursing Homes, Coercive Control of Adults at Risk, Self-neglect by Adults at risk: Issues and Challenges, Data Sharing: Challenges in Implementing an Integrated Safeguarding Approach, Role of Independent Advocacy in Safeguarding Adults at Risk etc.), Safeguarding Ireland conclude that:

'Currently there is no clear obligation on the State, state agencies or organisations to prevent harm or generally to protect adults at risk. In developing a regulatory framework, it is necessary to impose a statutory obligation on state bodies and organisations providing care and support services on behalf of the State to prevent or reduce abuse in all its forms, as distinct from the current approach where the focus is primarily on the management of crises and responding to concerns reported'.

Safeguarding Ireland further identified the factors that necessitate legislation, including:

The need for an independent oversight body;

The need to broaden the issue of safeguarding vulnerable adults beyond the domain of health and social care;

The need for HSE Safeguarding and Protection Teams to have stronger rights of entry and inspection and for such Teams to be independent of the HSE;

The need for better intra- and inter-agency liaison and collaboration, it identified in particular the fragmented nature of the allocation of responsibility for safeguarding;

The need to ensure that people who experience abuse in any form have easy access to safeguarding and to redress (where the latter is relevant);

The need to ensure that vulnerable adults in nursing homes and in other residential care facilities are fully safeguarded and their legal and human rights protected.

While the promotion and pursuit of the introduction and enactment of Adult Safeguarding legislation is a key strategic priority, Safeguarding Ireland also avails of opportunities to prepare submissions on relevant policy and legislation. This ongoing work ensures that policymakers and legislators are aware, and can take account of, adult safeguarding and the related risks of harm and abuse. Submissions are based on Safeguarding Ireland's own research, the contributions of its stakeholders and day-to-day experience of responding to queries from members of the public concerned about adult abuse and professionals working to support adults who may be at risk of harm or abuse.

Currently there is no clear obligation on the State, state agencies or organisations to prevent harm or generally to protect adults at risk, accordingly, in all submissions, Safeguarding Ireland continues to highlight the need for the introduction of Adult Safeguarding legislation.



Submissions:

Safeguarding Ireland responded to the Decision Support Service's consultation on its **Draft Codes of Practice relating to the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act, 2015**, providing detailed observation on all 14 draft Codes.

Safeguarding Ireland made two submissions in response to the Department of Health's consultations on the development of **Homecare Regulations**.

Submission on the **Draft General Scheme and Heads of Bill for the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Bill 2021 and Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015**

'The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 (2015 Act) is an extremely important piece of human rights legislation which is to replace archaic 19th century legislation. Its main purpose is to provide for the reform of the law relating to persons who require, or may require, assistance in exercising their decision-making capacity and to respect the dignity and rights of those persons. It is, therefore, important that, on the commencement of the 2015 Act, it is clear in its purpose that full consideration has been given to ensure its smooth implementation and that procedural barriers are not provided in the legislation that are both unnecessary and expensive and do not comply with the Guiding Principles set out in the Act to comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCPRD).'

Safeguarding Ireland made a submission to An Garda Síochána Inspectorate on its consultation on **An Inspection into the effectiveness and efficiency of the Garda Síochána response to domestic abuse**, and also to An Garda Síochána's **Older Persons Strategy**.

Safeguarding Ireland made a submission to the Minister for Finance on the Department's **Retail Banking Review**.

'Safeguarding Ireland suggests that greater innovation and collaboration are needed, as well as a policy/regulatory impetus to encourage the emergence of accessible and affordable products and services within the retail banking sector and across Irish financial services generally, which better cater to the needs of adults at risk and empower them to safely manage their own money and financial affairs'. (p5)

Safeguarding Ireland made a submission to the Central Bank of Ireland on its **Consumer Protection Outlook Report, 2022**.

A key focus for Safeguarding Ireland during 2022 was the enactment of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Act 2022 and Safeguarding Ireland wrote to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on a number of occasions throughout the year in relation to submissions. The Act was finally enacted in December 2022.

In addition, Safeguarding Ireland frequently identifies and highlights legislative gaps and practices that can give rise to additional risks of harm or abuse for some groups of adults. In this regard, Safeguarding Ireland wrote to the Minister for Finance copying the Minister for Social Protection in relation to the lack of a universally accepted form of photographic identification for all Irish citizens, requesting that the Departments enable arrangements/regulations to be put in place so that persons who wish to tender their Public Service Card to regulated financial and banking service providers, for identification purposes, are facilitated to do so.

Safeguarding Ireland wrote to the Minister for Justice in relation to the limitation of the Domestic Violence Act 2018 and the consequent need to address the issue of coercive control in a wider context than provided for in the legislation.

Following concerns raised at a meeting of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee, Safeguarding Ireland wrote to ComReg in relation to continued high volumes of unsolicited emails, SMS messages, phone calls and other electronic communication, many of which are sent with the intent of defrauding people of their assets. Noting the establishment by ComReg of the 'Nuisance Communications Industry Taskforce', Safeguarding Ireland highlighted the importance of the Taskforce in combatting financial abuse of vulnerable people and the urgency of putting in place measures to combat nuisance communications.



Objective No.2. National Adult Safeguarding Authority.

Safeguarding Ireland will work towards the development of a plan for the establishment of a National Adult Safeguarding Authority.

Key Priorities.

Work with stakeholders and key figures in the Oireachtas, government departments, state agencies, regulatory authorities and publicly funded organisations to plan for the establishment of a National Adult Safeguarding Authority.

'Identifying RISKS – Sharing RESPONSIBILITIES', defines the essential elements of a National Safeguarding Framework and describes the role of a National Safeguarding Authority.

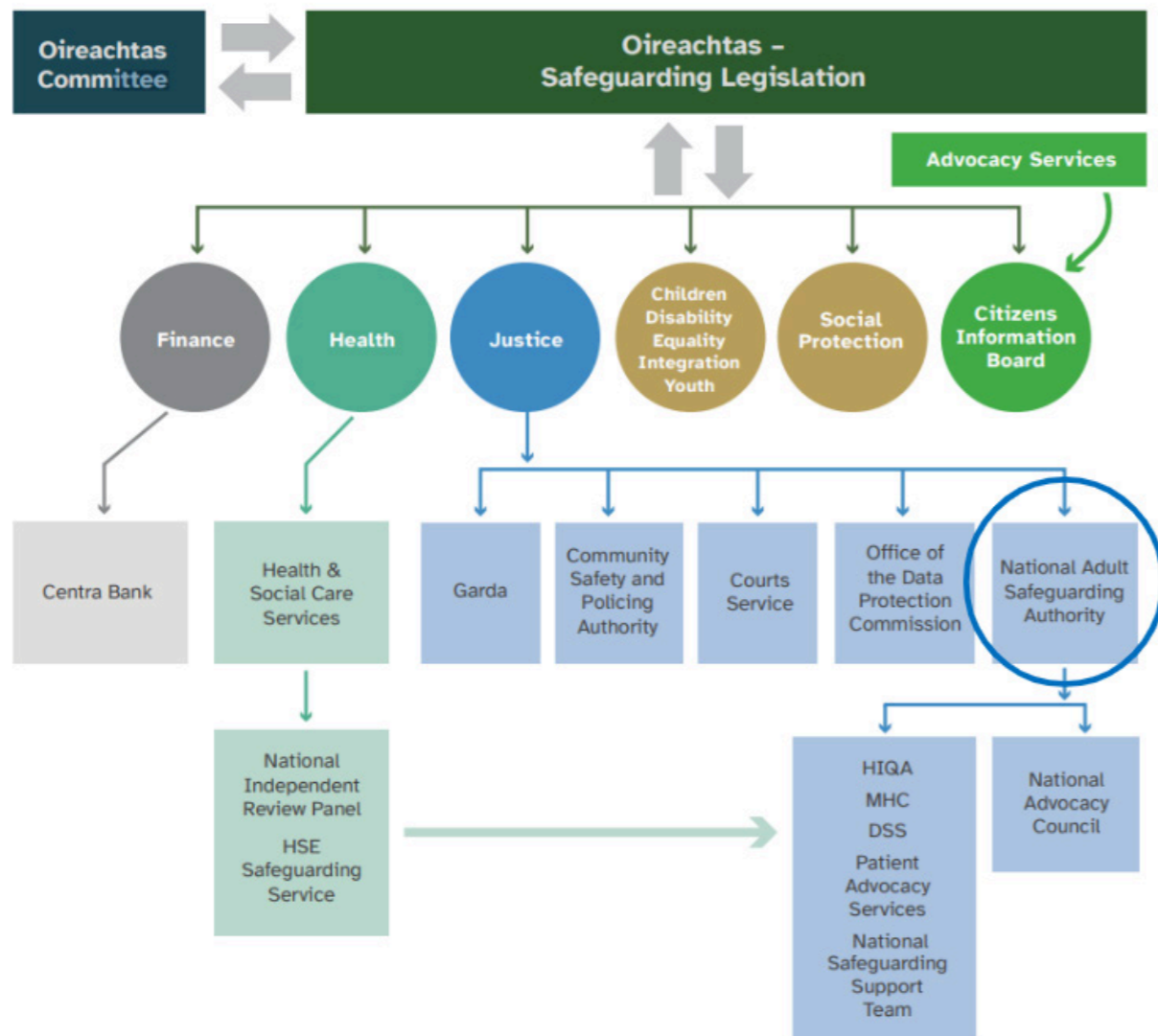


Figure 2: Integrated National Safeguarding Framework, Source: Identifying Risks- Sharing Responsibilities (p. 212)

A National Adult Safeguarding Authority would have overarching responsibility for:

- Promotion of standards
- Overall reporting and data collection
- Investigation of abuse allegations
- Enforcement of safeguarding laws
- Provision of independent advocacy
- Education and training
- Public and professional awareness.

The report recommends that the Safeguarding Authority sit under the Department of Justice, together with involvement of the Departments of Health; Social Protection; Housing; Finance and Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs.

Addressing TDs and Senators about the report's findings and recommendations in Leinster House on the 16th of June, Safeguarding Ireland Chairperson, Patricia Rickard-Clarke, said:

"The discussion paper makes clear that there is a very significant lack of scope and integration in Ireland's current safeguarding response. Our current measures are too narrowly focused on health and social care and lie mainly among a small number of organisations who have limits to their powers (the HSE Safeguarding Service, HIQA, the Mental Health Commission and An Garda Síochána). A major change of culture is needed towards a broader approach that is underpinned by legislation, policies and structures which hold individuals and organisations accountable for crimes of abuse, or also for not taking identified steps to prevent abuse."

Over the course of 2022 Safeguarding Ireland anticipated the publication of the Law Reform's report on a 'Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding'.



Figure 3: Chairperson of Safeguarding Ireland, Patricia Rickard-Clarke, pictured with Safeguarding Ireland Board members at Leinster House, June 16th, 2022. From Left to Right, Colm Nolan, David Byrne, Patricia Rickard-Clarke (Chair), Paschal Moynihan (Programme Manager), Nora Owen, Annmarie O'Connor, Mervyn Taylor.

Objective No.3. Public And Professional Awareness.

Safeguarding Ireland will raise public and organisational awareness of issues of abuse, neglect and exploitation and of the need for a rights-informed approach to adult safeguarding issues.

Key Priorities.

Collaborate with members of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee on raising public and professional awareness.

Measure and measurably improve public awareness and understanding of issues related to abuse, exploitation and neglect of adults who are, or may be, at-risk of abuse.

Promote awareness, and capacity and capability, among professionals in health and social services, policing, income support, financial services and other relevant agencies regarding issues related to abuse, neglect and exploitation of at-risk adults and the importance of collaboration.

Collaboration

Public awareness campaigns continue to contribute in a large part to Safeguarding Ireland activities and these campaigns are important in raising awareness of issues related to adult abuse and safeguarding. Some of the highlights of Safeguarding Ireland's public awareness activities included the launch of the Adult Safeguarding Charter on Safeguarding Ireland's website on May 3rd, followed by a media statement on the launch of the Charter on May 9th. The Charter was developed with the input of several members of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee and a range of organisations had signed-up to the voluntary Charter by year end.

Each year, Safeguarding Ireland supports the HSE's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and, in 2022, the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland gave a presentation at the joint HSE/ TCD conference – 'Rights Don't Get Old' - to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The title of the presentation was 'Why Safeguarding Legislation is needed to Protect the Rights of Older People'.



Adult Safeguarding Day took place on Friday November 11, 2022.

The event was an initiative of Safeguarding Ireland – and supported by the HSE – in partnership with a wide reach of organisations across the health, social, financial and justice sectors.

The aim in 2022 was to raise a greater awareness and understanding of safeguarding with respect to 1) preventing adult abuse and 2) responding to adult abuse.

Outputs of the campaign:

To coincide with the Day, Safeguarding Ireland co-hosted, with the HSE, an online Seminar entitled Hidden Abuse. More than 500 delegates attended.

Thousands of information packs – including campaign booklets, posters and badges – were distributed to hundreds of organisations and locations across the country. Four high quality public information videos were developed and promoted.

Lots of activity on social media, with endorsement and support from across the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee and major Irish organisations concerned with safeguarding.

There was a high level of traffic to the Safeguarding Ireland website & Adult Safeguarding Day public awareness page (almost 7,000 new visitors in the campaign month).

A RED C on public understanding of the campaign theme 'reporting and responding to adult abuse' was carried out and the findings disseminated via all channels.

Media reports on Adult Safeguarding Day were carried on the RTE TV news and RTE Morning Ireland. Local radio interviews were carried out regionally by HSE National Safeguarding Office Principal Social Workers, who were versed on the key campaign messages.

A photocall was held with participation from Acting HSE CEO, Stephen Mulvaney and Garda Commissioner, Drew Harris.

See: <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/adult-safeguarding-day-2022/>

Improving Public Awareness

In September 2022, Safeguarding Ireland ran an extensive public awareness campaign to encourage more people to 'Plan Ahead' by making an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA). The number of people making EPA in Ireland is unusually low by international standards. Research commissioned by Safeguarding Ireland has found this to be at a level of 6% among adults, whereas a majority of adults make an EPA in some other countries. The campaign, promoted via radio and social media advertising, information materials, a news release and social media activity, encouraged all adults to put in place an EPA as part of 'Planning Ahead', to reduce the risk of adult abuse with regard to money and property.

As part of the campaign a news release was issued, and interviews were completed on national and local radio and reports carried in national newspapers.

<https://www.safeguardingireland.org/public-awareness/make-an-enduring-power-of-attorney-sept-2022/>

On November 11th, to coincide with Adult Safeguarding Day, Safeguarding Ireland launched results of a Red C poll indicating that less than 20% people who experience adult abuse report it. The research also found that 44% have experienced adult abuse and 66% know someone who has.

Safeguarding Ireland also published a summary of the findings of all of the Red C research it had carried out over the period 2017-2022.

<https://www.safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/6516-Safeguarding-REDC-FINAL-blue.pdf>



Promotion of awareness, capacity, and capability

Safeguarding Ireland contributed to a number of training and education events related to adult safeguarding throughout 2022. A major focus of this activity in 2022 was preparations for the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act. In addition, Safeguarding Ireland contributed, where requested, to the work programmes implemented by financial institutions (and co-ordinated by the BPFII) to support customers in vulnerable situations to move their accounts, following the decision by two banks to exit the Irish market.

Safeguarding Ireland is responsive to requests for training on Adult Safeguarding which come from a very wide range of sectors and organisations. The diversity of groups with an interest in developing internal competence is indicative of a growing awareness of Adult Safeguarding and related issues and risks.

A sample of the range of this activity delivered in 2022 includes: –

Meetings, presentations and training on Adult Safeguarding and the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act

The Chair of Safeguarding Ireland presented on the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act at a Seminar for Circuit Court staff and also, in February gave a presentation on Assisted Decision-Making at the Annual Circuit Court Conference.

In February, the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland delivered a lecture to postgraduate students of the Department of Forensic and Legal Medicine (UCD).

In March, the Chair of SI was a guest speaker at the All-Ireland Interprofessional Healthcare Challenge hosted by UCC.

In May, the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland gave a presentation at National Conference of National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland on 'Safeguarding vulnerable people, - human rights-based approach in the context of Church ministry'.

In July, the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland gave a presentation for La Touche training for Lawyers on Enduring Power of Attorney and Advanced Healthcare Directives.

In October, the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland participated in a Q and A session with students on the Safeguarding Adults at Risk Course, at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, TCD.

In October, representatives of Safeguarding Ireland met with representatives of the Department of Health in relation to Protection of Liberty Safeguards.

In November, the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland gave a presentation at the Central Remedial Clinic Clontarf.

In November, the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland gave a presentation, RCPI, Kildare Street.

In November, the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland delivered a presentation to clients of Reach Deaf Services on will making and EPAs.

In November, the Chair Safeguarding Ireland attended Wicklow Older Persons' Forum.

In December, the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland gave a presentation to staff of Bloomfield Hospital on Enduring Power of Attorney and Advanced Healthcare Directives.

In December the Programme Manager, gave a presentation on adult safeguarding to bus drivers contracted by TFI Local Link, Mayo.

Banking and financial institutions

Over the course of 2022, Safeguarding Ireland engaged regularly with banks, their representative bodies and others centrally involved in the administration of payments for adults who are at risk of financial abuse.

Engagement included meetings with the Irish League of Credit Unions and both the Irish Banking Culture Board and the Banking and Payments Federation of Ireland (BPF), as well as the BPF's 'vulnerable customer units' forum' and ongoing engagement with a number of individual retail banks. Engagements related both to preparation for the commencement of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act as well as to the migration of bank accounts. Louise O'Mahony, Head of Sustainable Banking at the BPF, gave a presentation on 'Banking arrangements as Ulster Bank and KBC withdraw from the Irish market' at the July Meeting of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee.

The varied and complex issues emerging for some customers as part of that process, demonstrated the urgency of the full commencement of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act and the related arrangements to support and facilitate adults to make decisions about the management of their money.

In addition, Safeguarding Ireland met with representatives of the Department of Finance in relation to the Credit Union Act and the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act, 2015 and the need to amend the Credit Union Act 1997 to take account of the provisions of the ADMCA and also, following its submission, in relation to the Department's Review of Retail Banking.

Safeguarding Ireland also participated in events/roundtables convened by the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI) on its planned review of the Consumer Protection Code. The CBI's Director of Consumer Protection presented to the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee at its October 17th meeting. The Chair of Safeguarding Ireland was also a panellist at the Central Bank of Ireland Conference – 'Financial System Conference Supporting the Economy, Delivering for the Consumer'.

Professor Fergal Carton of the Cork University Business School at UCC gave a presentation on 'Money Management and Payments for Vulnerable Adults' which explored, inter alia, the potential uses of fintech to safeguard adults from financial abuse at the October meeting of the State Payments Group

Safeguarding Ireland also met with representatives of a number of state bodies and regulators on the issue of financial abuse.

Working Groups

During 2022, Safeguarding Ireland participated in the HSE's Primary Care Reimbursement Service Communications Group.

Safeguarding Ireland is a member of the 'Safeguarding Working Group on Data Sharing'. This Group, which comprises of representatives of the HSE's National Safeguarding Office, Sage Advocacy, the Decision Support Service, Safeguarding Ireland, HIQA, the Law Reform Commission, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the BPF share a common concern about risk of harm and abuse that can arise due to 'over caution' with regard to data-sharing.

The Group aims to see progression of the Data Protection Commission's (DPC's) commitment (within its Regulatory Strategy 2022-2027), to develop guidance for those tasked with the care of vulnerable persons, and the clarification of the bases for data sharing so that individuals are not at risk from abuse or harm as a consequence of over caution on the part of data controllers. In the first quarter of 2022, Safeguarding Ireland contributed to the preparation, by the Group, of a detailed submission to the DPC setting out the main issues that are impacting clarity and consistency in the application of data protection laws and the sharing of information in this context. As part of this Group, Safeguarding Ireland participated in two meetings with the DPC's office during 2022.

The Chair of Safeguarding Ireland participated in meetings of a HIQA Working Group on the development of an online learning course on '*The Fundamentals of advocacy in health and social care*'.

'Five Nations Seminars'

Throughout 2022, Safeguarding Ireland worked in partnership with the HSE's National Safeguarding Office and colleagues in the Decision Support Service, the Law Reform Commission, the Department of Health (amongst others) and experts from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Wales to plan and deliver a programme of professional development seminars to those working to safeguard adults at risk of harm or abuse across those jurisdictions. The seminars (which are delivered online), provide a platform for sharing inter-disciplinary expertise and experience on all aspects of adult safeguarding with a view to deepening and developing professional awareness and competence. The initiative is jointly chaired by the 'Lead Nation' (Scotland) and the 'Host Nation' (currently Ireland). Attendance figures grew over the course of 2022, with numbers attending in the region of 150-200 per seminar.

Amongst the topics covered in the 'Five Nations Seminar' programme during 2022 were:

'Safeguarding Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers: A review of law, policy and practice' presented by Mike Ward, Senior Consultant, Alcohol Change, UK. (May 13th).

'Autonomy Does Not Evaporate with Loss of Capacity – Appraising Responses to Service Refusal' presented by Kirsty Keywood, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Manchester and Margaret Flynn, Chair of the National Mental Capacity Forum and commissioning editor of the Journal of Adult Protection (June 17th).

'Adult Safeguarding - Insights from Focus Groups with Health and Social Care Service Users in Ireland' presented by Professor Roger O'Sullivan, Director of the Ageing Research and Development Division within the Institute of Public Health in Ireland and an additional presentation by Sarah Mahon, Principal Social Worker in the HSE National Safeguarding Office entitled *'Whose Safeguarding is it anyway?'* (October 21st).

'Supported Decision-Making' Speakers – Ms. Áine Flynn, Director of the Decision Support Service and Sandra McDonald, past Public Guardian consultant to the Scottish Review Team (November 18th).

Objective No.4. Governance

As a registered charity, Safeguarding Ireland will work to ensure the highest standards of Governance in the delivery of its objectives and obligations.

Key Priorities.

Demonstrate compliance with all legal and governance obligations.

Ensure transparency and stewardship of all its resources.

Safeguarding Ireland operates in compliance with the terms of its annual grant aid agreement with its funder the HSE. Safeguarding Ireland submits its Board approved financial reports to the HSE and representatives of the Board meet periodically with representatives of the National Safeguarding Office in the HSE to discuss and review the workplan and the operation of the annual grant.

In compliance with its commitment to the Charities Governance Code, Safeguarding Ireland has developed and adopted a range of policies which govern its work as a Board and its operations. These policies are subject to periodic review by the Board. Policies considered and reviewed by the Board during 2022 included, data protection and data security, records retention, communications, risk, whistleblowing, adult safeguarding, complaints, the Safeguarding Ireland Trustee Handbook, Internal Financial Controls and overall compliance with the Charities Governance Code. The Board also commenced a process to review its membership and consider succession planning.

Safeguarding Ireland is required, under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, to register with the Register of Lobbying and is required to report on all relevant activity. All returns for 2022 were completed and are published on www.lobbying.ie

Safeguarding Ireland concluded its work on reviewing the outcomes of its first Strategic Plan and finalising its second Strategic Plan (2022-2025) in March 2022. Safeguarding Ireland operates to an annual workplan derived from its Strategic Plan, which is reviewed throughout the year to ensure that it remains relevant and is delivering best value in the use of all resources. Within this workplan a key focus is the Public Awareness Campaigns, and related PR activity. The Public Awareness Reference Group is instrumental in informing this work. Plans, outcomes, and related expenditure are approved and monitored by the Board.

The State Payments Group reviewed its terms of reference in 2022 and developed a workplan which was informed by priorities of the Group and changes occurring in the wider payments landscape and their potential impacts on adults at risk of harm or abuse.

Safeguarding Ireland does not provide a service to the public and cannot provide advice on individual queries but nonetheless receives queries and concerns from the public, professionals and organisations on a wide range of issues. Safeguarding Ireland has a process for managing its responses to all queries ensuring that any individual or organisation that makes contact with Safeguarding Ireland is sign-posted on a timely basis to a relevant provider of information or support. The Board retains strategic oversight of this activity and receives an anonymised report on all queries received and a summary of the Safeguarding Ireland response.

Safeguarding Ireland uses its website www.safeguardingireland.org and its social media channels, to share information about its own work and to disseminate messaging created by members of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee.

<https://ie.linkedin.com/in/safeguarding-ireland-0055b821b>,

<https://twitter.com/safeguardingire>,

<https://www.facebook.com/safeguardingire/>,

<https://www.instagram.com/safeguardingireland/>

Safeguarding Ireland has developed a comprehensive database of relevant stakeholder organisations across the health, social, financial and justice sectors. Sector focused newsletters were issued at key times across the year including updates on important developments in safeguarding and upcoming activities of Safeguarding Ireland.

The Safeguarding Ireland Annual Report for 2021 is available on the website.



Financial Statements

For Y/E 31st December, 2022



Company Number: 612163

National Safeguarding Ireland

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National Safeguarding Ireland DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors	Patricia T Rickard-Clarke Colm Nolan Phelim Quinn Mervyn Robert Taylor Amanda Phelan Annmarie O'Connor (Resigned 10 February 2023) Louise O' Mahony Nora Owen David Byrne Paschal Moynihan (Appointed 13 February 2023) Carol Grogan (Appointed 18 April 2023)
Company Secretary	Annmarie O'Connor (Appointed 13 February 2023) Paschal Moynihan (Resigned 13 February 2023)
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 2022

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

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 the principal activities undertaken by the company during the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

Financial Results

The surplus/(deficit) for the financial year amounted to €89,920 (2021 - €(282,157)).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €101,618 (2021 - €82,593) and liabilities of €8,176 (2021 - €79,071). The net assets of the company have increased by €89,920.

Directors and Secretary

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

Patricia T Rickard-Clarke
Colm Nolan
Phelim Quinn
Mervyn Robert Taylor
Amanda Phelan
Annmarie O'Connor (Resigned 10 February 2023)
Louise O' Mahony
Nora Owen
David Byrne
Paschal Moynihan (Appointed 13 February 2023)
Carol Grogan (Appointed 18 April 2023)

The secretaries who served during the financial year were:

Annmarie O'Connor (Appointed 13 February 2023)
Paschal Moynihan (Resigned 13 February 2023)

There were no changes in company members between 31 December 2022 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.

In planning its future activities, the directors are continuing to engage with its key stakeholders to develop the company's activities 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 2022

Post Balance Sheet Events

Significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end are disclosed in Note 13 to the financial statements.

In January 2023, following the passing of a Special Resolution, the directors agreed to amend Section 15 (c) of the Articles of Association. The tenure of the chairperson of the board of directors shall be for an initial period of three years and may be now be re-elected for two additional periods of three years only.

Auditors

The auditors, FMB Advisory Limited, (Chartered Accountants) have indicated 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


Colm Nolan
Director

Date: 23 May 2023

Date: 23 May 2023

National Safeguarding Ireland DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

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.

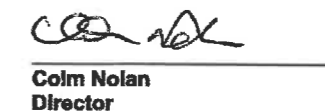
Disclosure of Information to Auditor

Each persons who are directors at the date of approval of this report confirms that:

- 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


Colm Nolan
Director

Date: 23 May 2023

Date: 23 May 2023

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 2022 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Reconciliation of Members' Funds, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related 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 2022 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 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 applicable legal requirements.

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 and 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 requirements of any of 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 set out on page 6, 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/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/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 Loughrane
for and on behalf of
FMB ADVISORY LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
4 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin 7
D07PF53

Date: 23/05/2023

National Safeguarding Ireland INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Income		249,000	277,901
Expenditure		(159,080)	(560,058)
Surplus/(deficit) before tax		89,920	(282,157)
Tax on surplus/(deficit)	7	-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		89,920	(282,157)
Total comprehensive income		89,920	(282,157)

Approved by the board on 23 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:


 Patricia T Rickard-Clarke
 Director


 Colm Nolan
 Director

National Safeguarding Ireland BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Current Assets			
Debtors	8	-	30,901
Cash and cash equivalents		101,618	51,692
		101,618	82,593
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(8,176)	(79,071)
Net Current Assets		93,442	3,522
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		93,442	3,522
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		93,442	3,522
Members' Funds		93,442	3,522

Approved by the board on 23 May 2023 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 2022

	Retained surplus	Total
	€	€
At 1 January 2021	285,679	285,679
Deficit for the financial year	<u>(282,157)</u>	<u>(282,157)</u>
At 31 December 2021	3,522	3,522
Surplus for the financial year	<u>89,920</u>	<u>89,920</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u><u>93,442</u></u>	<u><u>93,442</u></u>

National Safeguarding Ireland STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		<u>89,920</u>	<u>(282,157)</u>
		89,920	(282,157)
Movements in working capital:			
Movement in debtors		30,901	(30,901)
Movement in creditors		<u>(70,895)</u>	<u>73,339</u>
Cash generated from/(used in) operations		<u>49,926</u>	<u>(239,719)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		49,926	(239,719)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		51,692	291,411
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	9	<u><u>101,618</u></u>	<u><u>51,692</u></u>

National Safeguarding Ireland NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

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 2022 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 solely of grant funding received from the Health Service Executive (HSE) in the financial year, is recognised on an accruals 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 by the company.

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 2022

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 financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis which assumes that the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future with no intention to significantly curtail its activities in the next 12-month period. The company generated a surplus for the financial year of €89,920 and has net assets of €93,442 at 31 December 2022. The company has available cash at bank of €101,618 at 31 December 2022 and the directors confirm that the primary reasoning for the deficit in the current financial year relates to decisions taken by the directors to utilise available and committed resources within the company for specific projects which are in accordance with its principle activities and overall designated charitable status.

The directors confirm that National Safeguarding Ireland Limited by Guarantee has continued to operate during the current financial year, despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and also that income and funding levels have not been negatively impacted and remain consistent with prior periods. The directors have prepared a projected budget for future financial year 2023 to 2025, in conjunction with the application for funding, which show that the company will maintain positive cash resources at all times. In April 2023, 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. Operating surplus/(deficit)	2022	2021
	€	€
Operating surplus/(deficit) is stated after charging/(crediting):		
HSE Grant funding received	<u>(249,000)</u>	<u>(247,000)</u>

6. Employees

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

7. Tax on surplus/(deficit)

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

National Safeguarding Ireland NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

continued

8. Debtors	2022	2021
	€	€
Other debtors	-	30,901
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
9. Cash and cash equivalents	2022	2021
	€	€
Cash and bank balances	101,618	51,692
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
10. Creditors	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year	€	€
Accruals	8,176	79,071
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The directors confirm that the company has no further actual or contingent liabilities outstanding as at 31 December 2022.

11. 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.

12. Capital commitments

The company had no material capital or other commitments at the financial year-ended 31 December 2022.

13. Post-Balance Sheet Events

The company has prepared future financial projections for the extended financial years 31 December 2023 to 31 December 2025 and the directors confirm that they will actively monitor and adjust the company's operational activities as required to ensure it remains in a positive cashflow position and can undertake its designated charitable activities on a going concern basis.

14. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 23 May 2023.

NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING IRELAND

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

NOT COVERED BY THE AUDITORS REPORT

THE FOLLOWING PAGES DO NOT FORM PART OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

National Safeguarding Ireland
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 €	2021 €
Income	249,000	277,901
Expenditure		
Insurance	1,062	880
Public Awareness & Research	65,489	420,640
IT and webhosting expenses	17,198	2,460
Secretariat Expenses	34,490	30,317
Campaign Management	36,345	98,997
Accountancy	-	3,399
Bank charges	283	195
Auditor's remuneration	4,213	3,170
	159,080	560,058
Net surplus/(deficit)	89,920	(282,157)



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I R E L A N D

