

Annual Report 2023

**Promoting the rights of
of adults at risk**

safeguardingireland.org





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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, Carol Grogan, Bernice Evoy, Colm Nolan, Nora Owen, Amanda Phelan, Phelim Quinn, Patricia T Rickard-Clarke (Chair), Bibiana Savin, Mervyn Taylor

Chairperson's Foreword.

Over the course of 2023, Safeguarding Ireland continued to progress its strategic objectives in line with its second Strategic Plan which was adopted by the Board in March 2022 and will continue until 2025.

At the start of 2023, Safeguarding Ireland reviewed progress over the first year of its plan (2022) and, in developing its work programme for 2023, placed a renewed emphasis on its first objective and the pursuit of the introduction of adult safeguarding legislation in Ireland, together with an independent overarching National Adult Safeguarding Authority. To this end, throughout the year, Safeguarding Ireland engaged on a cross-party basis with members of the Oireachtas to create awareness of adult abuse and the need for change. Safeguarding Ireland also welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Law Reform Commission as an aspect of the Commission's finalisation of its research on a Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding.

In April 2023, the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 (the ADMC Act) was commenced. The Act recognises that all adults have the right to play an active role in decisions that affect them, and there are new obligations to take every possible step to assist people to continue making their own decisions about their health, finances, housing, work, or personal welfare – even if there are challenges in doing so. Its effective implementation is central to adult safeguarding and, throughout 2023, Safeguarding Ireland placed an emphasis on creating awareness of the Act amongst the public, practitioners, policymakers, and legislators. (Findings of Safeguarding Ireland research indicated that 67% of adults had not heard of the new Assisted Decision-Making legislation).

Throughout 2023, Safeguarding Ireland worked closely with its funder, the HSE, and greatly welcomed open engagement with the HSE's CEO, Bernard Gloster, on adult safeguarding and the opportunity to contribute views to the work of Jackie McIlroy, the independent expert appointed to review the HSE's safeguarding policy, procedures and structures.

Safeguarding Ireland made several detailed submissions on relevant policy, strategy and regulations, spanning a range of relevant areas - legal aid, health/social care, and financial regulation. This aspect of its work, together with its engagement in various working groups and engagements with legislators, regulators, and policymakers, is an important aspect of achieving Safeguarding Ireland's objectives.

To further inform this strand of its work, Safeguarding Ireland carries out and commissions research and, in 2023, commissioned two novel pieces of research. The first related to an examination of safeguarding issues and responses by all Government Departments/Agencies responsible for administering payments from, or to, adults who may be at risk of harm or abuse and the identification of possible enhancements to the payments landscape with the overall aim of safeguarding, empowering and protecting adults who are at risk of harm and abuse.

The second, initiated in mid-2023, was a scoping exercise on 'Peer to Peer' Adult Abuse. Following consultation with national and international experts on the issue, Safeguarding Ireland issued a tender for this piece of work in December 2023. In addition, Safeguarding Ireland continues with its series of Red C polls on various themes related to Adult Safeguarding.

Raising public and professional awareness on the many facets of adult abuse continued to be a key focus in 2023. National Adult Safeguarding Day is now an annual event and in 2023 was, once more, 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. The theme for 2023 was 'Planning Ahead' and Safeguarding Ireland's related Adult Safeguarding Day Seminar included presentations on 'HSE Adult Safeguarding Policy' (Bernard Gloster, CEO, HSE), 'Data Sharing in the Context of Adult Safeguarding' (MB (Mary-Bridget) Donnelly, Deputy Commissioner Strategy, Finance, Governance and Risk at Data Protection Commission) and 'The Court's Approach to Hearing the Voice of the Person' (Judge John O'Connor).

Following the launch of Safeguarding Ireland's voluntary Adult Safeguarding Charter in 2022, Safeguarding Ireland undertook a review and gathered feedback from signatories. The feedback endorsed the Charter and its value to the organisations that had become signatories.

Together with the National Safeguarding Office 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 and, in late 2023, began planning to manage the administration and promotion of these seminars in 2024 with the continued support of the HSE.

The Board continues to develop, monitor, and review its performance related to the achievement of its strategic objectives. It invested time in 2023 to Board renewal and succession planning, as well as ensuring newly appointed Board Members/Trustees were fully inducted and that all Board members/Trustees were aware of Safeguarding Ireland's obligations and their individual responsibilities as Trustees and Directors.

Ongoing, inter-sectoral, and multi-disciplinary work remains as the foundation of everything Safeguarding Ireland achieves. The National Safeguarding Advisory Committee and the State Payments Group now have a combined representation from approximately 40 national organisations, and their partnership, collaboration, and expertise remain vital to the achievement of Safeguarding Ireland's objectives. We all greatly benefit from the rich learning achieved through the '5 Nations Adult Safeguarding' seminars and the expertise and experience of the network in each of the jurisdictions that plan and support this work. Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to our funders, the HSE, for their ongoing support for the work of Safeguarding Ireland.



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.



Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Chair, Safeguarding Ireland - Adult Safeguarding Day Seminar - 9th November 2023

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 2023 the composition of the Board of Safeguarding Ireland was as follows:

Patricia Rickard-Clarke (Chair)

David Byrne

Bernice Evoy (appointed 23rd May 2023)

Carol Grogan (appointed 18th April 2023)

Paschal Moynihan (appointed 13th February 2023)

Colm Nolan

Annmarie O'Connor (resigned 10th February 2023)

Louise O'Mahony (resigned 23rd May 2023)

Nora Owen

Amanda Phelan

Phelim Quinn

Mervyn Taylor



The Board met on nine occasions in 2023, with meetings taking place both in person and in 'hybrid' formats.

The Board met on the following dates:

- **January 24th**
- **February 13th**
- **March 7th**
- **April 18th**
- **May 23rd**
- **July 11th**
- **September 12th**
- **October 24th**
- **December 5th**

National Safeguarding Advisory Committee (NSAC)

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 2023, the NSAC met on 3 occasions:

The NSAC now comprises approximately 40 members from a wide range of organisations, including healthcare, finance, trades unions, essential services, and Irish Rural Link.

Between meetings, Safeguarding Ireland circulates information and updates on adult safeguarding, policy, legislation etc., to all stakeholders for information and onward circulation to their memberships. The agenda for all meetings includes an update on Safeguarding Ireland's activities, a stakeholder presentation on a relevant theme, and also a 'tour de table' discussion between stakeholders.

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.

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 2023 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.

Adult Safeguarding Legislation

'Recognising Risks- Sharing RESPONSIBILITIES' The Case for a Comprehensive Approach to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults' ('Recognising Risks -Sharing Responsibilities') was launched on May 31st, 2022, and is the most comprehensive analysis of issues relating to adult safeguarding ever undertaken in an Irish context. Throughout 2023, Safeguarding Ireland sought opportunities to engage with policymakers and legislators on a cross-party basis to highlight the findings of the research and the report's recommendations on the need for adult safeguarding legislation and an independent Adult Safeguarding Authority.

Research - evidence to inform policy

Financial abuse of adults at risk was a key area of concern identified in Recognising risks – Sharing Responsibilities. In May 2023, Safeguarding Ireland commissioned research on safeguarding issues and responses by Government Departments/Agencies responsible for administering payments from, or to, adults who may be at risk of harm or abuse. As part of this research a range of State stakeholders were consulted to determine the current operational and policy response and to identify opportunities to strengthen the response to financial abuse. The consultants also met with the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee at its October meeting to share the initial findings.

Over the last number of years, a growing incidence of 'Peer to Peer abuse' has been identified in concerns about alleged adult abuse referred to the HSE, and developing an appropriate and evidence-based response to its mitigation is a concern for the HSE and for services that support adults at risk of abuse across settings. Safeguarding Ireland conducted a preliminary examination of the existing literature and consulted with key stakeholders in developing terms of reference for a 'Scoping Study on Peer-to-Peer Abuse.' The resulting Request for Tenders was published in December.

¹<https://www.safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/6516-Safeguarding-REDC-FINAL-blue.pdf>

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 research¹ and analysis, the perspectives of its stakeholders and day-to-day experience of responding to queries from members of the public concerned about adult abuse and also from professionals working to support adults who may be at risk of harm or abuse.

Submissions/responses to consultations²

- Submission to the Review of the Civil Legal Aid Scheme.
- Letter to the Department of Finance – Response to the Report of the Review of Retail Banking
- Submission to the Central Bank of Ireland on its review of the Consumer Protection Code
- Regulations for Providers of Home Support Service Targeted Consultation May 2023 (post Public Consultation Amendments)
- Response to the National Counter Disinformation Strategy Working Group - Public Consultation
- Short submission to Central Bank of Ireland on the Individual Accountability Framework Consultation – highlighting need to consider 'vulnerable persons' as part of the new regulatory framework.
- Submission to the Department of Finance on its Financial Literacy Strategy
- Safeguarding Ireland continued to communicate with key Government Departments about the need for all consumers to have access to the requisite ID to enable them to open a bank account. Safeguarding Ireland wrote to the Minister for Social Protection about this issue and the difficulties and risks it poses for some people who lack a passport or driver's licence and the need for changes in regulations to permit use of the Public Services Card on an 'opt-in' basis for this purpose.

² <https://safeguardingireland.org/resources/>

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.

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

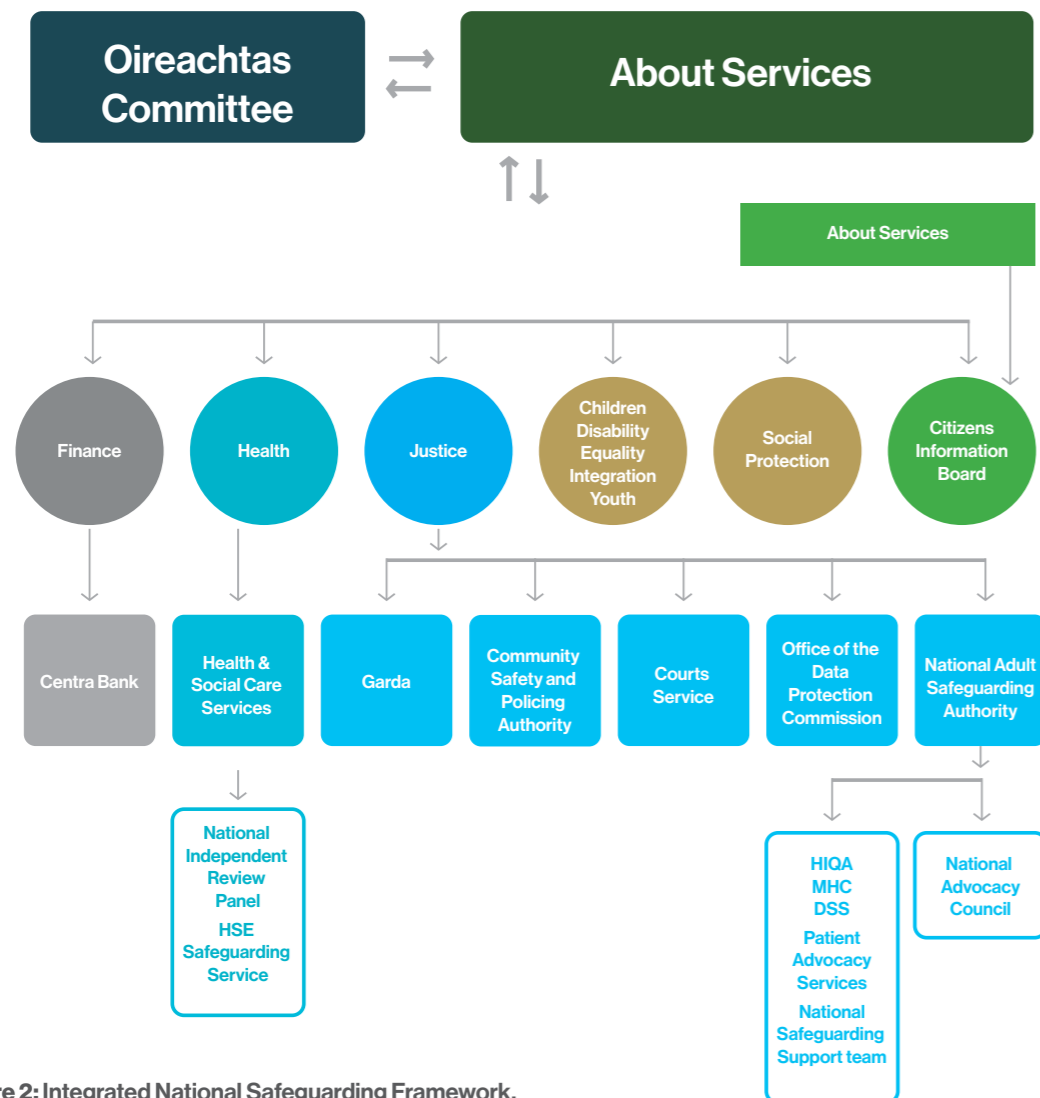


Figure 2: Integrated National Safeguarding Framework,
Source: Identifying Risks- Sharing Responsibilities (p. 212)

A National Adult Safeguarding Authority would have overarching responsibility for:

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

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

In submissions to, and engagements with, various Government Departments and Agencies throughout 2023, Safeguarding Ireland continued to advocate for the need for an Independent National Adult Safeguarding Authority. Safeguarding Ireland's position on this issue is informed by its experience and its research.

Over the course of 2023, Safeguarding Ireland anticipated the publication of the Law Reform Commission's report on a 'Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding' and had an opportunity to meet with the Commission (November 2023) in advance of its finalisation of its research on a Regulatory Framework for Adult Safeguarding.

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

In 2023 there were 3 meetings of the National Safeguarding Advisory Committee and 3 meetings of the State Payments Group. The meeting agendas allow for sharing of information on Safeguarding Ireland's activities as well as providing a forum for presentations on key issues of relevance to stakeholders.

Presentations at NSAC meetings over the course of 2023 included:

- Supporting 'vulnerable customers'- Electric Ireland's approach
- Safeguarding Ireland 'State Payments'
- Research - Grant Thornton, Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 – updates and experiences.

Between meetings, Safeguarding Ireland includes and involves its stakeholders in its communications and also facilitates the exchange of information between stakeholders.

Measurement

Awareness of adult abuse in Ireland, and the need for cross-sectoral expertise to prevent and respond to adult abuse has developed in Ireland over recent years - but from a relatively low base. In 2022, Safeguarding Ireland launched a voluntary Adult Safeguarding Charter, which any organisation can sign up to as part of its organisational commitment to adult safeguarding. To measure the effectiveness of the Charter, Safeguarding Ireland contacted all signatories to gather feedback on their experiences with Charter. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

By mid-2023 almost 100 organisations had signed-up to the Charter from the following sectors.

- Disability 30%
- Older persons 30%
- Health 11%
- Social care 10%
- Remainder – 'other' – including, justice, arts, sports.

Reasons for signing the Charter – survey responses...

- *We signed up to have a complementary commitment in place to our Child Safeguarding Statement. We work with many groups of vulnerable adults.*
- *We work in domestic violence and understand the importance of this Charter.*
- *It is essential for any organisation dealing with vulnerable adults to sign the Charter*
- *Safeguarding is a crucial part of every service and the organisation supports strong and robust safeguarding as part of our values.*
- *It is the right thing to do as we work with a range of people who are vulnerable, and it is important that we as an organisation are to the forefront of safeguarding.*

Public Awareness

Public awareness campaigns continue to contribute significantly to Safeguarding Ireland's activities and these campaigns are important in raising awareness of issues related to adult abuse and adult safeguarding.

Some of the highlights of Safeguarding Ireland's public awareness activities in 2023 included:

Adult Safeguarding Day took place on Friday November 10, 2023. The event is 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 2023 was to raise a greater understanding of adult abuse and safeguarding and the emphasis for the 2023 campaign was on 'go to' actions all adults can take to Plan Ahead and reduce their risk of adult abuse.

The 2023 Adult Safeguarding Day Message included 3 'go to' actions that all adults can take:

1. Make an Enduring Power of Attorney
2. Nominate a Designated Healthcare Representative
3. Choose who can Assist with Decisions.

Safeguarding Ireland also organised a seminar on the eve of Adult Safeguarding Day which focused on 'Planning Ahead: Developing an Adult Safeguarding Framework'

Speakers included: HSE CEO Bernard Gloster, on 'HSE Adult Safeguarding Policy', Data Protection Commission Deputy Commissioner, Mary-Bridget Donnelly, on 'Data Sharing and Adult Safeguarding' and Circuit Court Judge, John O'Connor on 'The Court's Approach To Hearing The Voice Of The Person'.

Learn more at: safeguardingday.ie



Bernard Gloster, CEO, HSE, with Patricia Rickard-Clarke, Chair, Safeguarding Ireland - Adult Safeguarding Day Seminar - 9th November 2023

Understanding Ireland's new assisted decision-making laws, May & September 2023

Raising public awareness of issues relating to adult abuse and creating a better understanding of adult safeguarding was a central activity of Safeguarding Ireland during 2023.

The public awareness campaigns were developed in collaboration with partners on a Public Awareness Reference Group which the organisation hosts – <https://www.safeguardingireland.org/about>

Public Awareness Activities 2023

In May 2023, Safeguarding Ireland ran an extensive public awareness campaign to strengthen public understanding of the assisted decision-making capacity laws which had commenced in April.

Research commissioned by Safeguarding Ireland has found awareness and understanding of the Act was low, and a key objective of the public awareness work for 2023 was to address this.

The campaign promoted via radio and social media advertising, information materials, a news release and social media activity aimed to ensure that adults and professionals understand the new Decision Support Arrangements, are aware of the role of the Decision Support Service, and also to create awareness for professionals to change their work practices.

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://safeguardingireland.org/assisted-decision-making-may-2023/>

A repeat burst of this campaign was run in September.

Outputs of the campaign included:

- 100 top-level decision makers attended an Adult Safeguarding Day 'in person' seminar
- Thousands of information packs – including campaign booklets, posters and badges – were distributed to hundreds of organisations and locations across the country.
- Media interviews took place on Adult Safeguarding Day across national and local broadcast, print and online media.
- Six high-quality public information videos were developed and promoted.

Lots of activity on social media, with endorsement and support from across leading Irish organisations concerned with safeguarding. On the day the campaign was trending at number two on Twitter in Ireland.

<https://safeguardingireland.org/adult-safeguarding-day-2023/>

Other ongoing public awareness activities during 2023

Media Engagement

There was ongoing engagement with national and local media across the year, with six news releases issued. The public messaging responded to live issues of the day and also supported World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Safeguarding Ireland's press releases included both constructive critique of shortcomings in safeguarding structures in Ireland, and also clear recommendations on improving policy, legislation and structures to reduce adult abuse.

Social Media

Safeguarding Ireland maintains a public awareness profile on four social media channels: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram. New content including visuals and videos was posted on an ongoing basis and relevant content from other organisations was engaged with and shared.

Newsletter

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 public awareness activities of Safeguarding Ireland.

Promotion of awareness, capacity, and capability

Safeguarding Ireland contributed to a number of training and education events related to adult safeguarding throughout 2023. A major focus of this activity in 2023 was creating awareness of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act and the role it plays in safeguarding adults and ensuring their human rights are upheld.

Safeguarding Ireland continued to be 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 2023 includes: –

Meetings, presentations, and training on Adult Safeguarding and related issues Health and social care-related

- Participation in the Department of Health's Expert Advisory Group on Protection of Liberty Safeguards.
- Presentation UCD School of Medicine to UCD Graduate Diploma in Healthcare (Risk and Quality) Students
- Meeting HSE Human Rights Group relating to the finalisation of a form for 'Advance Healthcare Directives'
- Participation at HSE 'Adult Safeguarding Stakeholder Seminar'
- Participation -HSE roundtable – 'Access to finances for people with disabilities and for people whose capacity may be in question'

Legislation, regulation, policy

- Meetings 'Data Sharing Working Group' in relation to Guidance on Data Sharing in the context of Adult Safeguarding – meeting (September) with the Data Protection Commissioner in relation to this issue.
- Meeting with representatives of the Bar Council of Ireland on the provision of Legal Aid under the ADMC Act
- Meeting relating to work being carried out by An Garda Síochána on the Policing Security and Community Safety (PSCS) Bill as an aspect of stakeholder consultation on the 'vulnerability' workstream.'
- Meeting with officials in the Department of Health relating to the Review of Rental Income and Fair Deal Scheme Proposal and potential impacts on at-risk adults.
- Meeting with officials in the Department of Health in relation to ongoing work on developing policy proposals for Adult Safeguarding in Health and Social care.
- Participation in stakeholder event 'Financial Literacy Strategy' – (Department of Finance)

Community

- Presentation to staff at Bloomfield Hospital on ADMC Act.
- Meeting at St Joseph's Crinken re Erasmus Plus Project – Dementia Rights
- Adult Safeguarding Day – Stewarts Care – presentation to staff and service users
- Presentation on 'Adult Safeguarding' incorporating the new arrangements under the ADMCA to staff and residents of the Central Remedial Clinic

Academic /research

- Chair of Safeguarding Ireland presented at the 'Inaugural International Safeguarding Conference' TCD
- Participation 'Roundtable Discussion on the Future of Long-Term Residential Care' (NUIG)
- Meeting with DKIT (round table) about the development of a certificate in Adult Safeguarding

Banking and financial institutions

Financial abuse of adults at-risk remained a key area of concern for Safeguarding Ireland during 2023. Over the course of 2023 several key developments were initiated or progressed, including the review of the Consumer Protection Code by the Central Bank of Ireland – within which 'vulnerability' was a key theme. The National Financial Literacy Strategy, and the National Payments Strategy were also initiated by the Department of Finance. Accordingly, over the course of 2023, Safeguarding Ireland continued to engage regularly with banks, their representative bodies, relevant Government Departments and others centrally involved in the administration of payments for adults who are at risk of financial abuse.

Engagement included meetings with the Central Bank of Ireland, relating to the review of the Consumer Protection Code, as well as with the Financial Services Union (FSU) about adult safeguarding, financial inclusion, financial abuse, and the roles played by FSU members in supporting at-risk customers and preventing financial abuse, as well as engagement with the BPF and the Irish Banking Culture Board. During 2023, both the ADMC Act and the exit of two banks from the Irish market had significant ramifications for the provision of financial services to some cohorts of customers in vulnerable circumstances. Safeguarding Ireland also met with representatives of AIB, Ulster Bank and PTSB on the support provided to vulnerable customers.

Working Groups

During 2023, Safeguarding Ireland participated in the **HSE's Primary Care Reimbursement Service Communications Group** and highlighted changes in the relevant thresholds for eligibility for medical cards to its stakeholders and their wider membership.

Safeguarding Ireland is a member of the '**Safeguarding Working Group on Data Sharing.**' This Group, which comprises 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. As part of the Group, Safeguarding Ireland had an opportunity to meet with the Data Protection Commissioner and very much welcomed the presentation on this topic by Deputy Data Protection Commissioner, MB Donnelly at its Adult Safeguarding Day Seminar.

Throughout 2023 the Chair of Safeguarding Ireland participated in the Department of Health's **Advisory Group on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards** and the **National Disability Authority's Ethics Committee** for its research on the experiences of Wards of Court.

'Five Nations Adult Safeguarding Seminars'

Throughout 2023, 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, and 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). Both attendance figures and the number wishing to join the mailing list to be informed about the seminars continued to grow over the course of 2023, with the number on the mailing list reaching more than 600 professionals from across the jurisdictions by the end of 2023.

Amongst the topics covered in the 'Five Nations Seminar' programme during 2023 were:

- 'Making Meetings good experiences - 5 key tips for Chairs'
- 'Self-Neglect'
- 'Homelessness'
- 'Capacity, Risk and Safeguarding'
- 'Thinking about Suicide'

At the end of 2023, in agreement with the HSE, Safeguarding Ireland started to plan to take over the ongoing administration and promotion of the seminars from the HSE, with the HSE committed to continued support for the seminars in 2024.

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 work plan 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. The Board also undertook a process to review its membership and consider succession planning. New Board members appointed during 2023 were fully inducted into the work of Safeguarding Ireland, and its governance suite.

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 2023 were completed and are published on www.lobbying.ie.

Compliance features as an agenda item at each Board meeting, in addition at its September meeting, the Board considered all aspects of its governance and compliance responsibilities and related obligations in detail.

Safeguarding Ireland held a special meeting of the Board in February 2023 to consider in detail progress made over the first year of its Strategic Plan and to ensure that all of its activities remained aligned with its charitable objects and the related objectives and priorities as described in its Strategic Plan. Safeguarding Ireland operates to an annual work plan derived from its Strategic Plan, which is reviewed throughout the year to ensure that it remains relevant and is delivering the best value in the use of all resources. In December 2023, the Board considered its priorities for 2024 and the related strategic approach in anticipation of the publication of several relevant consultations and reports on aspects of policy and law pertinent to the landscape for adult safeguarding in Ireland.

Within each annual work plan, a key focus for Safeguarding Ireland is its Public Awareness Campaigns and related PR activity. The Public Awareness Reference Group is instrumental in informing this work. Plans, outcomes, and related expenditures are approved and monitored by the Board.

The State Payments Group's work plan for 2022 rolled forward into 2023 as many of the key project areas were still ongoing, further, it was anticipated that the State Payments Group's work could both inform and be shaped by, changes occurring in the wider payments landscape and their potential impact on adults at risk of harm or abuse. In this regard, Safeguarding Ireland reached out to the Department of Finance in December 2023 to request that the National Payments Strategy team make a presentation on their consultation at the first meeting of the NSAC in 2024.

Safeguarding Ireland does not provide a service to the public and cannot provide advice on individual queries but 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. The Board formally considered its process for oversight of this aspect of Safeguarding Ireland's work at its September meeting. 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 and other stakeholders.

<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 2022 is published on Safeguarding Ireland's website.

<https://safeguardingireland.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/6602-SI-Annual-Report-22-web.pdf>

Annual Report and Financial Statements for Y/E 31st December, 2023

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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 (Resigned 23 May 2023) Nora Owen David Byrne Carol Grogan (Appointed 18 April 2023) Bernice Evoy (Appointed 23 May 2023) Paschal Moynihan (Appointed 13 February 2023, Resigned 9 April 2024) |
| 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 2023

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

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 2023.

Financial Results

The surplus for the financial year amounted to €57,560 (2022 - €89,920).

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €170,497 (2022 - €101,618) and liabilities of €19,495 (2022 - €8,176). The net assets of the company have increased by €57,560.

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 (Resigned 23 May 2023)
Nora Owen
David Byrne
Carol Grogan (Appointed 18 April 2023)
Bernice Evoy (Appointed 23 May 2023)
Paschal Moynihan (Appointed 13 February 2023, Resigned 9 April 2024)

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 2023 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.

Post Balance Sheet Events

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

**National Safeguarding Ireland
DIRECTORS' REPORT**
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

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.

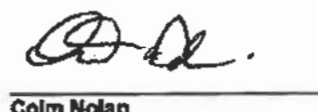
Accounting Records

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

28 May 2024


Coim Nolan
Director

28 May 2024

**National Safeguarding Ireland
DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT**
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

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 person 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

28 May 2024


Coim Nolan
Director

28 May 2024

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 2023 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 2023 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 have 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.

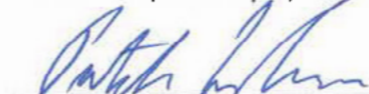
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 Loughmane
for and on behalf of
FMB ADVISORY LIMITED
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
4 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin 7
D07PF53

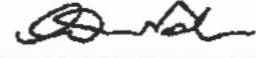
Date: 28/05/2024

**National Safeguarding Ireland
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

| | Notes | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Income | | 249,000 | 249,000 |
| Expenditure | | (191,440) | (159,080) |
| Surplus before tax | | 57,560 | 89,920 |
| Tax on surplus | 8 | - | - |
| Surplus for the financial year | | 57,560 | 89,920 |
| Total comprehensive income | | 57,560 | 89,920 |

Approved by the board on 28 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Patricia T Rickard-Clarke
Director



Colm Nolan
Director

**National Safeguarding Ireland
BALANCE SHEET**
as at 31 December 2023

| | Notes | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | 170,497 | 101,818 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 8 | (19,495) | (8,176) |
| Net Current Assets | | 151,002 | 93,442 |
| Total Assets less Current Liabilities | | 151,002 | 93,442 |
| Reserves | | | |
| Income and expenditure account | | 151,002 | 93,442 |
| Members' Funds | | 151,002 | 93,442 |

Approved by the board on 28 May 2024 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 2023

| | Retained surplus | Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| At 1 January 2022 | 3,522 | 3,522 |
| Surplus for the financial year | 89,920 | 89,920 |
| At 31 December 2022 | 93,442 | 93,442 |
| Surplus for the financial year | 57,560 | 57,560 |
| At 31 December 2023 | <u>151,002</u> | <u>151,002</u> |

National Safeguarding Ireland
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

| | Notes | 2023 € | 2022 € |
|--|-------|----------------|----------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Surplus for the financial year | | 57,560 | 89,920 |
| | | <u>57,560</u> | <u>89,920</u> |
| Movements in working capital: | | | |
| Movement in debtors | | - | 30,901 |
| Movement in creditors | | 11,319 | (70,895) |
| | | <u>68,879</u> | <u>49,926</u> |
| Cash generated from operations | | 68,879 | 49,926 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | | 68,879 | 49,926 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year | | 101,618 | 51,692 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year | 7 | <u>170,497</u> | <u>101,618</u> |

National Safeguarding Ireland
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

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 2023 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 voluntary contributions 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.

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.

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.

continued

National Safeguarding Ireland
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

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. Operating surplus

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | € | € |
| Operating surplus is stated after charging/(crediting): | | |
| Grant funding received | <u>(249,000)</u> | <u>(249,000)</u> |

5. 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.

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's registered charitable number is 20204851.

7. Cash and cash equivalents

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| Cash and bank balances | <u>170,497</u> | <u>101,618</u> |

8. Creditors

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| | € | € |
| Amounts falling due within one year | | |
| Accruals | <u>18,495</u> | <u>8,176</u> |

The directors confirm that the company has no further actual or contingent liabilities outstanding as at 31 December 2023.

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 2023.

continued

National Safeguarding Ireland NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

11. Post-Balance Sheet Events

The company has prepared future financial projections for the extended period covering the financial years ended 31 December 2024 and 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.

12. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 28 May 2024.



safeguardingireland.org

