

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report and financial statements

Year ended 31 December 2023

Company Registration Number: 55616

Charity Tax Number: CHY 6006

Registered Charity Number: 20009977

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Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

I am honored to present the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 and to provide a summary of how Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is delivering on its mission to help provide independence for our clients who are visually impaired and the families of children with Autism.

On behalf of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, I want to thank our community of clients, volunteer fundraisers, breeders and boarders, puppy raisers, supporters generally and our dedicated staff for all their focus and energy on changing lives through our Dog Services. It genuinely takes an army to deliver the services that we do but truly it feels like a family.

In 2023, we delivered 27 successful Guide Dog Partnerships (2022:23) and 27 Assistance Dog Partnerships (2022:33) and 8 Community Dog Partnerships (2022:9). This represents a total of 62 successful partnerships as compared to 65 partnerships in 2022.

We are humbled by the difference our Dogs make for the clients around the country and we are glad to confirm we have received confirmation of a further 5 years of funding for the next iteration of the Employment Vision Project, the Workability; Inclusive Pathways to Employment Programme.

In 2023, we recorded a deficit of €136,000, which was a good outcome as we continue to rebuild after Covid-19. Through the continued prudent management of our resources and considered planning, we continue to focus on improvements for the future. For the support received we are extremely grateful to all our donors, supporters and those that have left bequests to the charity as well as the State. We remain, as always, humbled and thankful for the continued generosity of all of the communities across Ireland.

We live in a time of great change and challenges, however our optimism and focus remain as steadfast as it was almost fifty years ago when the organization was founded. Our work as a charity will continue as we aim to support and empower our clients to live a fulfilled life whilst at the same time creating the conditions to maintain the highest standard of welfare in our dogs. This has always been founded on a deep commitment to quality and we see our role in society continue to evolve to deliver our purpose. Our purpose is important in society, we have a role to play and we will continue to do so with energy, agility and passion to ensure our clients needs are met.

We remain committed to serving our clients and changing as many lives as we can.



AnnMarie Phillips,

Board Chair

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors and other information

Directors	Mr. Patrick Burke – Chair (<i>Resigned February 2024</i>) Mr. Martyn Byrne (<i>Resigned July 2023</i>) Mrs. Alison Flack (<i>Resigned June 2024</i>) Mr. Martin Gordon (<i>Resigned June 2024</i>) Mr. Nicky Kealy Ms. Poppy Masterson (<i>Resigned August 2023</i>) Mr. John Mitchell Mr. Terence O’Keeffe Mr. Conor Simpson Ms. Ann Marie Phillips (<i>Appointed July 2023</i>) Mr. John O’Donnell (<i>Appointed August 2023</i>) Ms. Judi Pheysey (<i>Appointed September 2023</i>) Mr. Aengus Wright (<i>Appointed September 2023</i>)
Charity Secretary	Mr. John Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer	Mr. Tim O’Mahony
Registered name	Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind
Also known as	Irish Guide Dogs Association
Registered office	National Headquarters and Training Centre Hill Farm Model Farm Road Cork, T12 WT4A
Auditor	KPMG Chartered Accountants 85 South Mall Cork
Bankers	AIB Douglas Cork Bank of Ireland Ballincollig Co. Cork
Solicitors	Ronan Daly Jermyn Mahon Cork
Company Registration Number:	55616
Revenue Charity Number	CHY 6006
Charity Registration Number	20009977

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' Report

The Board of Directors of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind ("the Charity") are pleased to present their annual Directors' Report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are prepared to meet with the requirements for a Directors' Report and accounts for Companies Act 2014 purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2009, the Companies Act 2014, the Companies (Accounting) Act 2017, the Constitution, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice ("Charities SORP") applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

The Directors' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Directors' Annual Report under the Charities SORP.

Our current services are:

- Guide Dog Programme
- Assistance Dog Programme
- Community Dog Programme
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Child Mobility Training
- Next Step Programme to help young adults with the transition to life in school/college
- Orientation and Mobility Training (*Long Cane Training*)
- Pobal Employment Vision Project 2022-2023
- Pobal Workability: Inclusive Pathways to Employment Programme 2024-2028

All of our programmes are offered free of charge with intensive support and aftercare available to all our clients.

Objectives and activities

Our Core Purpose

To enable people who are vision impaired and families of children with autism to lead better lives and become more independent and more mobile.

Our Goal Is Simple:

- We support people who are vision impaired and families of children with autism by providing life-changing services.
- With help from the community, we create exceptional partnerships between people and their dogs.
- Our highly trained dogs empower people to move safely and confidently around their communities.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Our values:



Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Achievements and performance

Training programmes – some key numbers

In 2023 we directly trained 192 people (2022: 223). As at the year end, there were 387 working Guide Dog and Assistance Dog partnerships (2022: 398).

We retire our dogs when they reach the age of 10. In 2023, we retired 27 Assistance Dog partnerships and 24 Guide Dog Partnerships. In addition to training new partnerships, we carry out assessments for prospective clients and ensure ongoing aftercare is provided to our existing clients through aftercare supports and further training.

	2023	2022
Guide Dog partnerships*	27	23
Assistance Dog partnerships**	27	33
Community Dogs placed***	8	9
Orientation and Mobility – Long Cane Training	66	87
Child Mobility Training	41	48
Employment Vision Project	23	23
	<hr/> 192 <hr/>	<hr/> 223 <hr/>

* In 2023, 27 new Guide Dog partnerships were trained. Of these 27 new partnerships, 2 Guide Dogs who qualified in 2023 were returned in 2023. Both requalified as Guide Dogs. 1 Guide Dog who qualified in 2023 was returned in 2024.

** In 2023, 27 new Assistance Dog partnerships were trained. Of these 27 new partnerships, 1 Assistance Dog who qualified in 2023 was returned in 2023. This dog requalified as an Assistance Dog.

*** In 2023, there were 8 Community Dogs trained.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Our services – it starts with one incredible dog

It is hard to believe that in less than two years our amazing puppies become some of the most responsible dogs in the country. Here is a guide through the life of a Guide Dog or Assistance Dog from puppy to retirement.

First steps

Our puppies begin life with their mother (called a Brood Bitch) in the home of one of our breeding dog volunteers. By breeding our own dogs, we can ensure that they have the best temperament and characteristics.

Each puppy is introduced to various environmental stimuli in a controlled and secure way to allow the puppy to develop coping skills and encourage the pups' confidence to grow.

All our litters are organised alphabetically. The puppies in each litter are then given a name that starts with the litter's letter.

Home socialisation

At seven weeks old, our puppies are put into Volunteer homes as pairs for one week. Early socialisation is continued and overcoming obstacles like stairs, sleeping away from mum and siblings and car travel are all developed further.

Early learning

At eight weeks, each puppy is placed with a Volunteer Puppy Raiser, whose role involves house-training, grooming, and basic obedience exercises. This education forms an essential foundation for the future.

It means the essential socialisation and training for each puppy to be confident and happy in a variety of settings, for example, busy town conditions and on quiet country roads, taking it into shops and railway stations, travelling on buses and trains and getting into lifts.

The puppy also needs to be able to cope with heavy traffic, road works, and loud noises, behave well in restaurants, church, and generally learning to deal with every situation.

We are highly indebted to the 100 volunteers who act as puppy raisers (2022: 126) and who through their commitment, skills, and knowledge, guide our pups through the first 12 to 14 months. There is always a need for additional puppy raisers, and in 2023, 131 volunteers were recruited to support puppy raising. It is aimed that by the end of 2024, we will have 126 active puppy raisers with our pups embedded in the community.

Off to school

When the puppy is 13 months old, it leaves family life to join other dogs at our Training Centre where they start "Technical Training". This phase lasts for five months with a specially trained instructor.

The dog is taken on several walks each day where it is taught how to crossroads, to stop at kerbs and how to avoid obstacles that would cause problems for its owner.

It is brought into the city and shopping centres, to get used to the traffic and noise, and also taken on buses, trains and lifts. It must also learn how to behave in places such as restaurants.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Our services – it starts with one incredible dog *(continued)*

Off to school *(continued)*

If the dog reaches the high standards needed to be a Guide or Assistance Dog, it will be matched with a client and begin its working life. We are grateful to our volunteers, staff and everyone who plays a part in this journey; you are changing lives.

The instructor will look at how the dog behaves, its personality, whether it walks fast or slow, whether it prefers working in the country or city. From these traits, the dog is matched with a client on our waiting list who suits this particular type of dog.

Getting the dog/client match right is crucial and a lot of time and effort is put in to make sure the best possible partnership is made.

Out to work

From 18 months old, our dogs are now ready to graduate as fully trained Guide or Assistance Dogs. Having been matched with their new owner, in most cases the clients attend residential classes together at our Training Centre in Cork. Where necessary we undertake domiciliary classes to support clients.

Normally, Guide Dog residential training programmes take place in Cork and involves the clients coming to our Training Centre where our team of specialists train the clients with their new partner on everyday skills, from crossing roads to using public transport, as well as dog handling, feeding, grooming and vet care.

We train people from the age of 16 and there is no upper age limit. All our services are provided at no cost to our clients.

Once the dog and their owner return home, one of our specialists will visit to make sure they are both working well together and will help them to get to know different routes that the owner would make regularly to support independence and mobility.

We trained 27 people with a Guide Dog in 2023 *(2022: 23 people)*. In 2023, there were 2 Guide Dogs returned who had been originally matched in 2023. Both dogs were successfully rematched in 2023, as Guide Dogs. We provided 442 aftercare sessions. There is a continued emphasis on client care and the continued success of the partnerships created.

During 2023, 27 people graduated with an Assistance Dog *(2022: 33 people)*. In 2023, there was 1 Assistance Dog returned who had been originally matched in 2023. This dog was successfully rematched in 2023, as an Assistance Dog. We provided 362 aftercare sessions. There is a continued emphasis on client care and the continued success of the partnerships created.

Our Assistance Dog Programme includes a week-long residential training course, as well as further training in the client's home to allow the Assistance Dog to settle in, which is then followed up with aftercare visits by our team of Instructors.

During the client's stay in our Training Centre, they learn how to lead their Assistance Dog through everyday situations, such as family outings, going to a shop or park. As with the Guide Dog Programme, clients are also taught the skills of dog handling, feeding, grooming and vet care.

During 2023 we placed 8 Community Dogs *(2022: 9)* in schools on the Community Dog Programme.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Our services – it starts with one incredible dog *(continued)*

Out to work *(continued)*

What are the benefits of having an Assistance Dog?

Our Assistance Dogs help to control and improve the behaviour of a child with autism by promoting calmness and acting as a safety aid to the parents. With the help of our dogs, family outings can become less stressful as our dogs allow families to enjoy greater freedom and mobility.

Our dogs were first trained as a safety aid to prevent a child bolting. Since introduction of the service, we have found further benefits which include:

- greater aptitude for learning.
- improved participation in social activities.
- improved communication skills; and
- a greater sense of responsibility and improved confidence.

Retirement

A Guide Dog or Assistance Dog will begin to tire before the age of 10 and at this stage we look at retiring the dog. This is a very difficult time for both dog and owner as they have spent many years together.

Sometimes, the Guide or Assistance Dog owner will keep their dog as a pet for the remainder of their life. If they can't, we always find a suitable home for these hard-working dogs. For existing clients getting successor dogs, the owner is then trained with a new Guide Dog as soon as possible.

In 2023, 24 Guide Dogs retired and 27 Assistance Dogs retired - these Dogs have provided excellent service and have earned retirement!

Dog Welfare

Throughout each dog's life we look after the health and welfare of the dogs. From monitoring each dog's weight to ensuring that the dog has regular vet visits, we aim to ensure that all of our dogs are well taken care of and our staff work closely with our volunteers and clients to help support them in giving the highest level of care to the dog in their home.

Challenges faced

Guide Dog Waiting lists

We do not want clients on waiting lists longer than is fair or necessary. To help, waiting lists are prioritised so that high priority cases are given urgent attention. At the start of the year, we had 18 clients on the waiting list for a Guide Dog, with the total list at year end being 24.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Challenges faced *(continued)*

Assistance dog lists

Demand for Assistance Dog services is high. In August 2023, we opened the Assistance Dog waiting list and we added 79 applications to the waiting list. At the end of 2022 there were 53 on the waiting list.

Throughout 2023, we matched 27 partnerships leaving 89 on waiting list at the end of 2023. During 2024 our aim is that these clients will be assessed matched and provided with our services. We will aim to re-open waiting list in Q3 of 2025.

Equally, we are proud to confirm we achieved accreditation to Assistance Dogs International during 2023. This accreditation ensures the quality of our Assistant Dog service and access rights for our clients.

Future developments and outlook for 2024 Services

In 2024, we will continue training the majority of our clients at the training centre in Cork, this will benefit clients and allow for more efficient delivery of our services. Through Lean we will look to review our processes and increase touch time for our trainers. Greater understanding of our process delivery will help our trainers focus on production, training and improve service delivery. During 2024 we will also look at capturing greater details around the length of the working lives for our dogs with the objective of understanding in detail the key drivers impacting the working life of our partnerships. This work, along with continued vigilance on welfare, will support and maximise the working life of our dogs.

We were delighted to be granted further funding from Pobal to build on the success of the Employment Vision Project. The Workability: Inclusive Pathways to Employment Project 2024-2028 will provide progressive pathways into employment (including self-employment) through education, training, skills development, and in-work supports for people with disabilities based on their needs, their abilities and their potential. The objectives of this project are to improve the employment prospects of people currently distant from the labour market, to build the capacity of employers to recruit, retain and progress people with disabilities within their workforce and to facilitate new partnerships amongst stakeholders (people with disabilities, disability services, employment services and employers) while developing new approaches to providing employment supports to people with disabilities. The project will also support potential employers to provide employment for people who are blind or vision impaired.

Other services to highlight

Orientation and Mobility/Independent Living Skills Training

Our Orientation & Mobility programme supports our Guide Dog owners and Guide Dog applicants in maintaining the skills needed to remain independent and mobile.

Our Long Cane or Orientation & Mobility Programme is tailored to meet the needs of each individual with a strong emphasis on safety, confidence building and promoting independent travel.

The course involves daily one-on-one instruction. Learning to use a long cane is an effective way to get out and about safely and independently. For our Guide Dog service, we train people from the age of 16 and there is no upper age limit.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Other services to highlight *(continued)*

Orientation and Mobility/Independent Living Skills Training *(continued)*

During the course our Mobility Instructor show clients how to utilise a long cane in everyday practical situations and will teach clients the orientation and mobility skills required to travel safely and efficiently at home, school, work, and in the community.

The course is followed by a visit to the client's home by the Mobility Instructor who will ensure that they have mastered the use of the long cane and are able to move independently in their environment.

In 2023, 66 clients completed our Long Cane/O&M classes (2022: 87).

As part of the overall programme, most summers we bring visually impaired students from all backgrounds to a Next Step Programme which prepares them for the transition from second to third level education. This programme evolves to match the client needs. In addition, it is planned to hold more one to one workshops to compliment the Next Step Programme. We are planning to run a residential course in the summer of 2024. The type of course will be designed around the students' needs.

Child Mobility Programme

On our Child Mobility Programme, children and young adults are taught skills such as long cane training and daily living skills. We offer them assistance to support their learning experience, such as accessing information and participating in physical education.

We work with children or young adults, their parents/guardians, their teacher and the school in order to enhance our students' quality of life. We also provide schools, parents and guardians with hints and tips on how to make their environment more accessible for the visually impaired student.

2023 was our 25th year providing this critical service to children and young adults in the Munster region partnering with the Department of Education and Skills, and a great team of visiting teachers to provide highly personalised Orientation and Mobility and Independent Living Skills Training for children from age 3 to 18. This programme is only available in Cork, Tipperary and Waterford and can be accessed through direct referral from Visiting Teacher Services provided by the Department of Education and Skills.

In many cases, this has enabled them to not just participate but to thrive in school, by overcoming the inherent challenges which come with being vision impaired in a busy school and built-up environment. Parents describe the service as invaluable.

Pobal Employment Vision Project

Throughout 2023 we worked with a total of 23 participants on the Employment Vision Project. The project was very successful and well received by participants as it addressed the needs identified by the participants themselves regarding blocks to employment. Participants availed of personal centred planning, mobility and route training, assistive technology assessments and training, including use of software and Microsoft suite for work, as well as technology to assist mobility and independent living skills. They were mentored throughout the project and received career guidance advice, CV and cover letter skills training, interview techniques training as well as advice and information on various entitlements as they looked to gain entry to the workforce. Participants also looked at re-education opportunities to facilitate work readiness. 11 participants gained employment, 11 achieved accredited training & education and 1 received training which was not accredited.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Other services to highlight *(continued)*

Advocacy, Access and Education

As well as supporting our clients through mobility and independent living skills, we respond to client concerns over matters affecting their daily lives in wide ranging areas from local government and equality rights. During 2023 we made continued to progress with several webinars, ezines and client engagements taking place.

Financial review

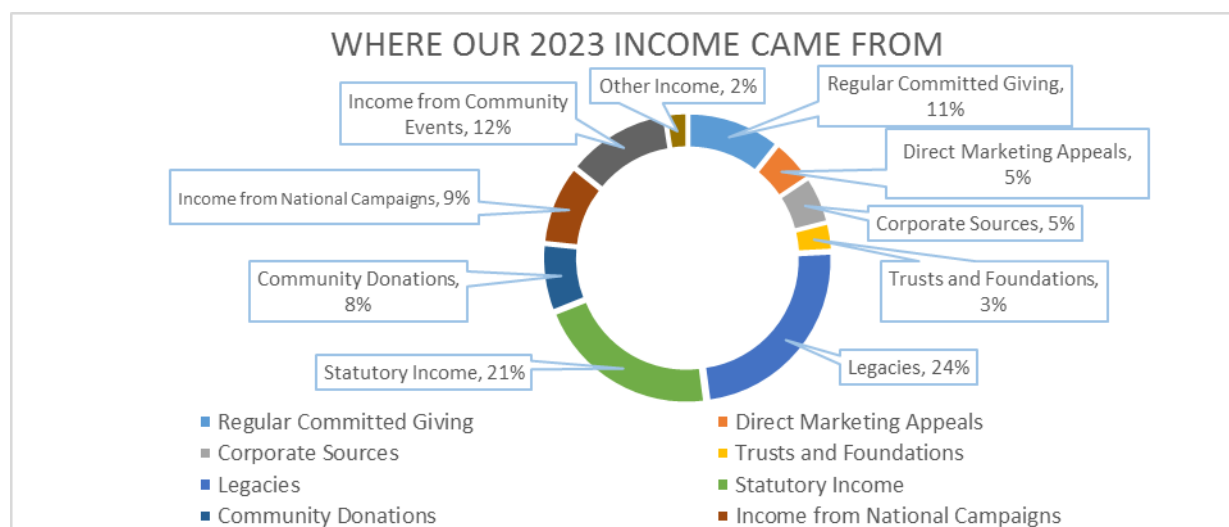
Results for the year

The financial results for the year ended 31 December 2023 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 27.

Total incoming resources amounted to €5,309,000 (2022: €5,318,000). Total expenditure was €5,849,000 (2022: €5,573,000). The overall outcome was a decrease in funds of €136,000 once the positive movement in the revaluation of the portfolio of €404,000 was accounted for.

Income

Income from donations and legacies decreased in the year from €3,200,000 to €2,950,000. In 2023, the amounts received from people to support Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind with a gift in their will decreased from €1,395,000 to €1,258,000. Other donations, decreased from €1,804,000 to €1,691,000. A breakdown of this income is disclosed in note 2 to the financial statements.



Income from charitable activities, which is made up mainly of statutory funding and includes income arising as a result of our services increased from €1,014,000 to €1,127,000, mainly due to an increase in the Department of Education and Skills grant of €69,000. A breakdown of this income is disclosed in note 3 to the financial statements. We are eternally grateful to the Health Service Executive, The Department of Health, The Department of Education and Skills and to POBAL who administered the Dormant Accounts Funding for their financial support. The total amount received from POBAL for the project *Measures to Support Employment of People with Disabilities* was €105,000 for 2022/2023. Further funding has been granted by Pobal for *Workability: Inclusive Pathways to Employment Project 2024-2028*.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report (continued)

Financial review (continued)

Income (continued)

We remain committed to securing additional financial support from statutory agencies and government, our services change lives in the most positive of ways, and on that basis, we will work to increase the funding given the impact of our work and comparable funding provided to peer organisations.

Multi-annual funding received from The Health Service Executive (HSE) through a Section 39 grant increased from €767,000 in 2022 to €795,000 in 2023. The HSE funding contributes to the charitable expenditure for vision impaired services. These Service Level Agreements have been renewed for 2024.

Income from other trading activities also increased in the year from €1,062,000 to €1,157,000. A breakdown of this income is disclosed in note 4 to the financial statements.

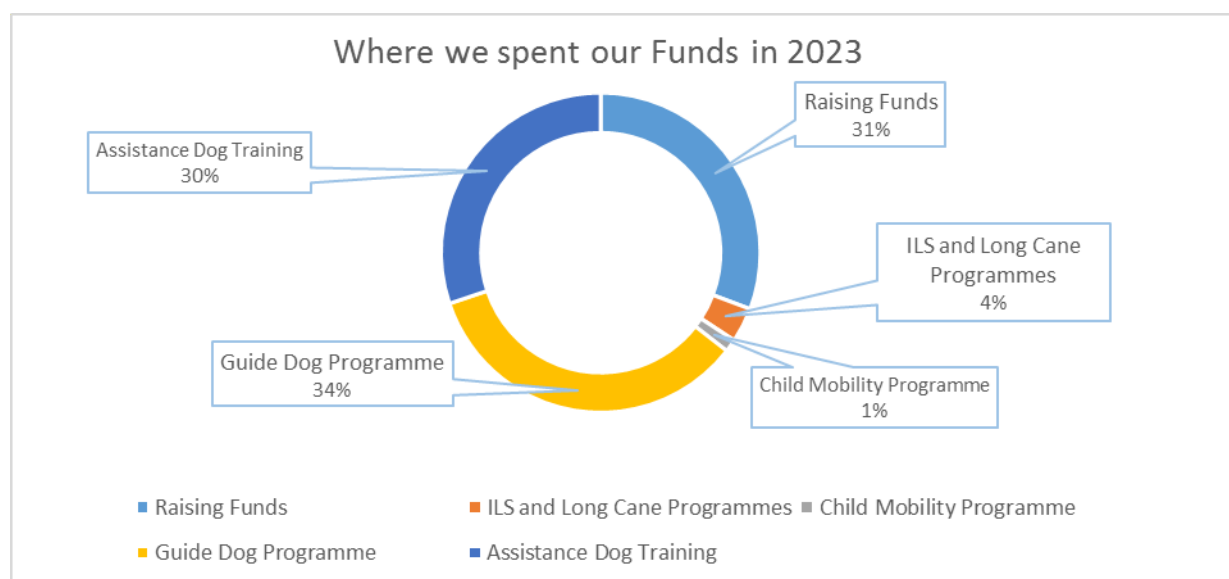
Expenditure

In line with best practice, expenditure is disclosed in accordance with the Charities SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRS102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

Total expenditure amounted to €5,849,000 (2022: €5,573,000). The increase of €276,000 (5%) against 2022 is explained below.

The cost of raising funds was €1,472,000 (2022: €1,507,000) which amounts to 25% of total expenditure. In 2022, this was 27%. The cost of raising funds represents 28% of income raised. In 2022, this was 28%.

Excluding Direct Marketing the cost of raising funds was €1,180,000 (2022: €1,086,000), which amounts to 20% of total expenditure. In 2022, this was 19%.



A breakdown of the direct costs of raising funds is detailed in note 7, where the direct costs are split out and allocated to the respective main income category.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Financial review *(continued)*

Expenditure *(continued)*

Included in the cost of raising funds is the cost of the direct marketing campaign. This campaign focuses on communicating the impact of our services to mass audiences using traditional and social media channels and is proving effective in building a community of donors who are happy to support our work with a regular monthly or once off donation. The campaign enables us to reach donors who may not necessarily have an opportunity to otherwise give through our branch fundraising events.

Expenditure on charitable activities was €4,377,000 (2022: €4,066,000) which amounted to 75% of total expenditure (2022: 73%). A breakdown of expenditure is included in note 8 to the financial statements. This represents 82% of income raised (2022: 76%).

We continue to focus on maintaining our working dogs, breeding stock and pups and dogs in training in the best of health with a focus on value.

During 2023, total irrecoverable VAT was €348,475 (2022: €417,000).

Our Volunteers – Volunteering that Changes Lives!

We are very grateful to the hours of assistance and commitment our Volunteers give every year in:

- Fundraising
- Breeding Dog Holding
- Home Socialising/Puppy Raising
- Temporary Boarding
- Late walking in Kennels and
- Providing support in a number of roles in Finance, Fundraising and other roles.

Our Fundraising team, working in partnership with our volunteers are focused on building a nationwide Community, made up of volunteers, clients and supporters who are working together, committing time and energy to helping us raise the resources required to deliver our mission. We currently have over fifty branches spread throughout the country, who link in with the fundraising team on a regular basis to support our fundraising initiatives. The role played by our fifty plus branches nationwide and volunteers is invaluable and is one of the cornerstones on which our future plans are built.

We continue to focus on recruiting volunteers to assist with all aspects of our work and to better supporting these volunteers, so they have a rewarding and enjoyable experience with Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.

The level of cooperation and engagement between staff, clients and volunteers is a unique feature of everyday life at Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind and it is a major contributor to the continued success of the Charity.

In addition, we greatly appreciate the generosity and trust of the thousands of individual donors both at home and abroad, who through their generosity have led to us increasing income in the year.

During 2023, led by our Branch network we completed a full year of face to face fundraising. During the remainder of the year, we ran several successful events including our annual Guide Dog Day Appeal, Mizen to Malin cycle (M2M), Holiday Raffle, Camino, our annual Christmas Campaign and twelfth annual car raffle. Building on the progress achieved in the previous year, we continued developing our digital and social media footprint to support our wider fundraising and Holiday and Car Raffles.

We are grateful for every event, for the funds raised and the opportunity to create a footprint for Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind virtually, in the community, workplace, school or club where the event takes place.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Structure, governance and management

Legal status

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind was founded in 1976. Our primary purpose is to enable persons who are vision impaired and families of children with autism achieve independence and dignity through our world-class Guide Dogs, Assistance Dogs and ancillary services.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is a charity registered with the Revenue Commissioners – Registration number CHY6006.

Governing document

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is incorporated as a charity limited by guarantee without having share capital. It is guaranteed by its paid-up members to the extent of €20 per member. Total paid-up members at 31 December 2023 were 39 (2022: 49).

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind operates under a comprehensive Board Charter which sets out the Board's responsibilities and terms of reference as articulated within the framework of the Constitution made up of the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment of directors

The Board of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is made up of up to ten directors, all of whom, with the exception of the 'continuing members' as defined in the organisation's Constitution, are elected in general meeting from among the membership. Recruitment of new directors is open and transparent and focused on creating a diverse and effective team who will contribute to the strategic direction and oversee the operations.

All directors appointed in a given year submit their resignation prior to the AGM and under Article 43 of the Articles of Association, agree to be put forward for election at the next AGM. The members of the board are listed on pages 2 and 18. In line with best practice in governance, no director can be appointed to any salaried position.

Directors' Term of Office

A director's term of office has a lifetime limit of 9 years for directors appointed prior to 2019 and 6 years for all directors appointed after that. In certain circumstances, it may be necessary to allow for an extension of a director's term of office beyond 6 or 9 years.

Director induction and training

Board members, on joining, undergo an orientation programme, which briefs them on their legal obligations under charity law, the Codes of Fundraising, and inform them of the contents of the Constitution, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction day, they meet key employees and other directors. Directors are also encouraged to attend appropriate external training events where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role. This induction process aims to create awareness for what is expected and what is best practice for not-for-profit organisations. In addition, a Governance Charter and manual is available for reference and back up for all directors.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

Organisation

The Board of Directors, which can have up to 10 members, administers the charity. The Board normally meets at least six times annually and there are sub committees covering finance, risk, investments, governance, compliance, fundraising and Dog supply and training which normally meet every two months. The following Sub-Committees are in place:

- 1 Audit, Risk, Compliance and Investment Sub-Committee (ARCIC formerly ARC) has responsibility for the review of Capital Management and Financial Reporting, Risk Management, Audit and Compliance matters.
- 2 Nominating and Governance Sub-Committee (N&G) has responsibility for appointments to the Board of Directors, oversight and review of the activity of the Board and the executive in the delivery of the Vision, Mission and Strategy along with the Goals and Objectives.
- 3 Science Training and Development Sub-Committee (STAD formerly T&D) has responsibility for reviewing the performance of the organisation's Client training and Dog training functions against targets and service delivery objectives. The Sub-Committee provides important inputs on strategy and direction on all matters relating to services.
- 4 Client Consultative Sub-Committee (CCC) has responsibility for ensuring Client voices are being heard and needs are being met and that we increase our focus on being a client focused charity. This work is done through review of systems, processes and services and collecting feedback from clients to ensure they reflect and support their needs.

Membership of the Sub-Committees is made up of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind directors and external specialists who volunteer their expertise to progress the Sub-Committee agenda. Management attend as required to update each Sub-Committee on progress.

Responsibility for the day-to-day management and administration of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer assisted by the leadership team. The Chief Executive Officer manages Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind in accordance with the strategy, plans and delegations as approved by the Board of Directors.

The directors have responsibility for, and are aware of, the risks associated with the operating activities of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind which are set out below. Oversight of risk management initiatives has been delegated to the Audit, Risk, Compliance and Investment Sub-Committee (ARCIC). The Board retains overall responsibility which has been codified within the Board Charter. The directors are satisfied that appropriate procedures and systems of internal control are in place and that these controls provide assurance against such risks.

Related parties and co-operation with other organisations

No member of the Board of Directors has received remuneration or other benefit from their work with Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. Any connection between a director or a senior manager and a supplier, or other organisation must be disclosed to the full board of directors in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party. This is codified in the Board Charter. In the current year, no such related party transactions were reported.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

Pay policy for Senior Staff

The Board of Directors have delegated authority to the Executive team for the day-to-day operations of the organisation. All directors give their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of director's expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 10 to the accounts.

The Nominating and Governance Sub-Committee (on behalf of the Board) have responsibility for review of senior management terms and conditions, ensuring that they remain appropriate given the roles and responsibilities and the operating environment.

Political Contributions

No political contributions were made by Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind in the year (2022: €Nil).

Commitment to Fundraising Codes

The Board of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is committed to the Codes of Fundraising and the Charities Institute Ireland's triple lock standards which is designed to:

Improve Fundraising practice

Promote high levels of accountability and transparency by organisations fundraising from the public, and provides clarity and assurances to donors and prospective donors about the organisations they support.

We welcome feedback on our performance. Details of our Public Compliance and Disclosure Statements, Donor Charter, along with our Feedback and Complaints Procedures are available within the Governance section of our website: www.guidedogs.ie.

Donor charter:

- As a charity seeking donations from the public, we aim to comply with the Codes of Fundraising.
- Our pledge is to treat all our donors with respect, honesty and openness.
- We commit to being accountable and transparent so that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- We will ensure that where possible, family members of those who bequeathed funds to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind are thanked appropriately.
- We guarantee that we will effectively apply all gifts received for their intended purposes.

We commit that donors and prospective donors:

- Will be informed of the organisation's mission, and of the way the organisation intends to use donated resources.
- Will be informed of the identity of those serving on the organisation's governing board, and that the board will exercise prudent judgement in its stewardship responsibilities.
- Will have access to the organisation's most recent financial statements.
- Be assured your gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- Receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.
- Be assured that information about your donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
- Can expect that all relationships with individuals representing Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind will be dealt with professionally.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

- Will be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organisation or hired third party agents.
- Have ready access to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind's Complaints Policy and procedures.
- Have the opportunity of having their name deleted from Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind's mailing lists and to be informed if the organisation intends to share the mailing lists with third parties.
- Receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers to questions relating to fundraising and use of funds.

Disclosure statement:

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is open about whether those seeking donations on their behalf are volunteers, employees of the organisation or are third party agents.

If or when a member of the public enquires about the employment standing of a fundraiser, they must receive an honest and open answer. The standing in this case relates to whether or not a fundraiser is a volunteer, a paid employee of the charitable organisation or a third-party agent working on behalf of the charity.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):

GDPR sets out a series of EU laws concerning how personal data is processed and used. The objective of the regulation is to strengthen and standardise data protection laws for all EU citizens. These regulations will apply to any organisation that controls and/or processes personal data on behalf of an individual or group of individuals.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind have worked through the legislation by adhering to the GDPR principles, training all staff in data protection both in-person and by LMS (Learning Management System) and ensuring policies are regularly updated and compliant with GDPR regulations.

Our data protection implementation programme is underpinned by staff awareness and education, by the use of PrivacyEngine (our data protection software compliancy platform) and by the support of our DPO (Data Protection Officer) all of which are fully supported by IGDB Management. We can confirm ongoing demonstrable compliance with legislation.

Staff, Volunteers and Clients:

The Board of Directors express their appreciation to staff, volunteers and clients, for their ongoing contribution to Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is an equal opportunities employer. The aim of its equal opportunities policy is to ensure that all people receive equality of opportunity with Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind regardless of gender, race, religion, disability, nationality, marital/family status, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

A Volunteer policy is in place to ensure that volunteers receive appropriate support and recognition for their invaluable commitment.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Structure, governance and management *(continued)*

Governance:

We continue to develop our governance structures and processes in order to reassure the public, our supporters and donors that their commitment, either in time or money, is used appropriately to support an increased number of people who require our services. The organisation is compliant with the Governance Code for Community and Voluntary Organisations in Ireland. Compliance is monitored and reviewed by the Nominating and Governance Sub-Committee.

Our fundraising activities are planned and delivered in line with Codes of Fundraising. The Board continues to adhere to the Codes of Fundraising and has put in place an internal audit system to review compliance and ensure that all staff, volunteers and third parties acting on our behalf are aware of the codes and acting in compliance.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind can confirm full adoption of the Governance and Fundraising Codes, along with the presentation of the Financial Statements according to FRS 102 and the Charities SORP (where applicable), and as such, we are compliant with the Triple Lock for best practice within the charity sector.

The directors and officers serving during the year and since were as follows:

Directors:	Board	Meeting Attendance:			CCC
		ARCIC	STAD	N&G	
Mr. Patrick Burke – Chair until Feb 24	9/9	2/6		3/5	
Mr. Terence O’Keeffe	9/9			5/5	
Mrs. Alison Flack	8/9				
Mr. Martyn Byrne	1/5	4/6	1/2	2/5	
Mr. Nicky Kealy	8/9				6/6
Ms. Poppy Masterson	3/4		2/2		
Mr. Conor Simpson	9/9				4/6
Mr. John Mitchell	9/9				
Mr. Martin Gordon	2/9			4/5	4/6
Ms. Judi Pheysey***	3/4		2/2		
Ms. AnnMarie Phillips* - Chair from Feb 2024	4/4				
Mr. John O’Donnell**	3/4				
Mr. Aengus Wright***	2/4				

* AnnMarie Phillips joined July 2023

** John O’Donnell joined August 2023

*** Judi Pheysey and Aengus Wright joined in September 2023

Acronyms per table above explained:

Audit, Risk, Compliance and Investment Sub-Committee (ARCIC)

Nominating and Governance Sub-Committee (N&G)

Science Training and Development Sub-Committee (STAD)

Client Consultative Sub-Committee (CCC)

Reserves

Reasons to hold onto targeted level of reserves

It takes over 18 months of specialist training, involving members of staff and volunteers, all with different skills sets, to turn a new-born puppy into a confident working Guide, Assistance or Community Dog.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Reserves *(continued)*

The reserves policy seeks to ensure that reserves are maintained at a level that Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind can manage financial risk and any short-term income volatility. We aim to manage this, so that we are in a good position to ensure our longer-term commitments can be met and that our most costly activity, that of training our Dogs, can be financed. This requires us to commit funding in advance so that our Dogs are funded in the medium to long term.

The working capital fund is managed to ensure that this covers the next twelve months and help ensure our Dogs are funded for the next generation of clients and we have the funding to fulfil our service delivery plans for the medium term.

	<i>Note</i>	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Net unrestricted (deficit)/income in the financial year		(136)	(1,370)
Total funds carried forward at start of year		13,254	14,624
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds brought forward at year end	20	13,118	13,254
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Reserves at year end comprise:			
Restricted funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds		-	-
Designated funds:			
- working capital fund		6,998	7,538
- tangible fixed asset fund		4,473	4,069
- project funds		1,647	1,647
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	20	13,118	13,254
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Reserves policy

Restricted funds:

Restricted funds represent grant income and donations received which are subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or grant making institutions. They are not available for the general purposes of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. Expenditure which meets these conditions is shown as charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds:

General funds:

These represent amounts which can be used at the discretion of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, in furtherance of our charitable objectives. Such funds may be held, in order to finance working capital or capital investment or to fund new programmes. Our aim is to have twelve months' working capital available in the fund at any time.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Reserves *(continued)*

Designated funds:

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind may at its discretion, and/or with the agreement of the original donor(s), set aside funds for specific purposes in the furtherance of our charitable objects which would otherwise form part of the general reserves of the organisation.

Designated funds are categorised into:

- Working Capital Fund
- Tangible Fixed Asset Fund
- Long Term Financial Asset Fund
- Project Fund

At the end of 2023 funds were designated to cover the following:

- a) to cover potential deficits in 2024 and 2025
- b) to recognise that a portion of reserves is invested in the Charity's fixed assets and therefore not available for other purposes
- c) to ensure the continuity of operations in the event of a significant temporary drop in income
- d) to ensure that new projects at our national training facility resulting in improved client experiences through improved site layout or other future projects planned, have sufficient capital to allow them to be progressed without impacting on general working capital.

The level of reserves is reviewed by the Directors on an on-going basis. It is assumed that restricted reserves will be used as soon as reasonably possible. We recognise the importance of a robust reserve policy as a means of dealing with fluctuating income arising from challenging economic environments.

Investment policy

It is the policy of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind that funds not immediately required for operational purposes are invested in interest bearing deposits, and appropriate investment products.

From time to time, Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind has received donations in the form of shares through bequests etc. Shares held by Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind are managed by specialist investment advisors. The performance of the investment portfolio is actively monitored by the Audit, Risk, Compliance and Investment Sub Committee (ARCIC) which reviews the investment portfolio against the Investments Guidelines and Benchmarks agreed by the ARCIC.

The Investment Strategy recognises that no asset can be viewed as 100% secure, so the risks of not achieving the security of the portfolio can be mitigated by focusing on the risk rating of institutions, ensuring that there is a wide breadth of investment categories and ensuring liquidity rules are maintained. To this end, the Investment Strategy is reviewed regularly.

In 2023, the unrealised gain in respect of the valuation of these investments was €404,000 (2022: €1,115,000 loss).

Going concern

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind's business activities, along with a summary of risk which may affect its development, performance and financial management are set out in the directors' report. The directors' report reviews the financial position of the organisation, its use of reserves, investments and the risk management.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Going concern (continued)

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind meets its day to day working capital through fundraising, donations and statutory grants with shortfalls in income over expenditure being met from managed reserves. The directors have also considered the ongoing cost of living increases, threat of global recession and the continued Ukraine war, which may have implications for donations from the public, in their going concern assessment and have determined that this does not give rise to conditions that cast doubt over the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind's ability to continue as a going concern. The directors have a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operation and meet the client expectations for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

Events since the year-end

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since the year-end.

Future Plans

The year 2024 will allow for the opportunity for growth in our Guide, Assistance and Community Dog Partnerships. The priority for the year is to maintain high quality safe services for our clients. Full operation of our national training facility remains a priority as is the delivery of aftercare for clients for the coming year.

Organisational risk management and internal control

The Audit, Risk, Compliance and Investment Sub-Committee (working with senior management) monitor and review the level of operational and financial risks. The Directors retain overall responsibility for risk management.

A full risk review is carried out annually and updates on risks are standing items for each of the main sub-committees. The risk statement forms the basis to establish policies, systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the annual review and monitors the implementation of procedures to minimise or manage any potential impact on the Charity should those risks materialise.

The review has identified four key risks that have been incorporated into the 2024 business plan. These include:

- The availability and sustainability of income
- Supply of dogs to meet service needs
- Data protection and cyber threat and
- Management Information Systems – reporting capacity for timely/appropriate decision making.

The Board of Directors, Management and staff are actively engaged, at a strategic and operational level, to minimise the risk in key areas. Where applicable, appropriate policies and procedures are in place to assist in these control measures.

Relevant audit information

The Directors believe that they have taken all steps necessary to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and have established that the Charity's statutory auditors are aware of that information. In so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's statutory auditors are unaware.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Directors' report *(continued)*

Exemptions from disclosures

Disclosure of individual remuneration of senior staff

The remuneration for each staff member in the senior management team is not disclosed individually due to the over-riding requirements of the Data Protection Act. Total remuneration for the team is disclosed in note 10.

Companies Act 2014

The full reporting requirements of the Companies Act 2014, relating to financial statements do not apply to the charity, as it is a charity limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

Independent auditor

KPMG will resign as auditor on completion of the Charity's 2023 audit. A formal external audit tender process is underway by the Audit, Risk, Compliance and Investment Committee on behalf of the Board. We would like to take this opportunity to formally and publicly thank KPMG for the services provided to the Charity since their appointment and look forward to continued engagement with KPMG and appointing a new auditor.

Accounting records

The directors believe that they have complied with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, with regard to adequate accounting records, by employing accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and by providing adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the charity are maintained at National Headquarters and Training Centre, Hill Farm, Model Farm Road, Cork, T12 WT4A.

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Ms AnnMarie Phillips
Chairperson



Mr. Terence O'Keefe
Director

Date:

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the directors' report and the financial statements

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

Charity law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

Under charity 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 Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources including its income and expenditure for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assess the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Charity or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and its incoming resources and application of resources including its income and expenditure of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2014. They are responsible for such internal controls as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. The Directors are also responsible for preparing a Directors' report that complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Charity's website. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

On behalf of the board



Ms AnnMarie Phillips
Chairperson



Mr. Terence O'Keeffe
Director

14/8/2024

Date:



KPMG
Audit
85 South Mall
Cork
T12 A3XN
Ireland

Independent auditor's report to the members of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind ("the Company") for the year ended 31 December 2023 set out on pages 27 to 54, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and related notes, including material accounting policies set out in note 1.

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 deficit for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- the financial statements 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 further described 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 ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to the going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.



Independent auditor's report to the members of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind (continued)

Report on the audit of the financial statements (continued)

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information presented in the Annual Report together with the financial statements. The other information comprises the information included in the directors' report. The financial statements and our auditor's report thereon do not comprise part of the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work we have not identified material misstatements in the other information.

Based solely on our work on the other information undertaken during the course of the audit, we report that:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report;
- in our opinion, the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion, the Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by Sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.



Independent auditor's report to the members of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind (continued)

Respective responsibilities and restrictions on use

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 23, the directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements including being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; 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; assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have 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 fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on IAASA's website at <http://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards/International-Standards-on-Auditing-for-use-in-Ire/Description-of-the-auditor-s-responsibilities-for>.

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 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.

21 August 2024

Brian MacSweeney
for and on behalf of
KPMG
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Audit Firm
85 South Mall
Cork

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023


	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €'000	Restricted Funds 2023 €'000	Total Funds 2023 €'000	Unrestricted Funds 2022 €'000	Restricted Funds 2022 €'000	Total Funds 2022 €'000
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and Legacies	2	2,708	242	2,950	2,811	389	3,200
Charitable activities	3	8	1,119	1,127	3	1,011	1,014
Other trading Activities	4	1,155	2	1,157	1060	2	1,062
Investments	5	75	-	75	42	-	42
Total income		3,946	1,363	5,309	3,916	1,402	5,318
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6/7	(1,382)	(90)	(1,472)	(1,369)	(138)	(1,507)
Charitable activities	6/8	(3,104)	(1,273)	(4,377)	(2,802)	(1,264)	(4,066)
Net gain/(loss) on Investment	17	(4,486)	(1,363)	(5,849)	(4,171)	(1,402)	(5,573)
		404	-	404	(1,115)	-	(1,115)
Net (expenditure)/ income	9	(136)	-	(136)	(1,370)	-	(1,370)
Reconciliation of Funds							
Net movement in Funds	20	(136)	-	(136)	(1,370)	-	(1,370)
Total funds brought forward	20	13,254	-	13,254	14,624	-	14,624
		13,118	-	13,118	13,254	-	13,254

There are no other recognised gains or losses other than those listed above and the net expenditure for the financial year. Incoming resources and the net (expenditure) / income arose solely from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 30 to 54 form part of the financial statements.
On behalf of the board



Ms AnnMarie Phillips
Chairperson



Mr. Terence O'Keeffe
Director

14/8/2024

Date:

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	5,943	5,945
Intangible assets	14	84	97
Total fixed assets		6,027	6,042
Current assets			
Stocks	15	163	149
Debtors	16	651	197
Investments	17	7,300	6,396
Cash at bank and in hand		1,087	2,497
Total current assets		9,201	9,239
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts due within one year	18	(629)	(495)
Net current assets		8,572	8,744
Total assets less current liabilities		14,599	14,786
Creditors: amounts due after more than one year	19	(1,481)	(1,532)
Total net assets		13,118	13,254
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds	20	-	-
Unrestricted funds	20	6,998	7,538
Designated funds	20	6,120	5,716
Total Charity Funds		13,118	13,254

The notes on pages 30 to 54 form part of the financial statements.
On behalf of the board



Ms AnnMarie Phillips
Chairperson



Mr. Terence O'Keeffe
Director

14/8/2024

Date:

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 31 December 2023

Reconciliation of net income to cash used in charitable activities

	Note	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Net income for the reporting period		(136)	(1,370)
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Depreciation charge	13	288	272
Amortisation charge	14	41	53
Release of capital grants from deferred income	19	(50)	(50)
(Gains)/ Loss on investments	17	(404)	1,115
Dividends and interest from investments	5	(75)	(42)
(Increase)/Decrease in stocks	15	(14)	(11)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	16	(454)	(97)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	18	134	(129)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash flows (in)/from operating activities		(670)	(259)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest from dividends	5	75	42
Purchase of plant and equipment	13	(286)	(145)
Purchase of intangible assets	14	(29)	(5)
Proceeds from sale of investments	17	-	-
Investment Income Reinvested	17	(500)	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		(740)	(108)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(1,410)	(367)
Increase in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of year		2,497	2,864
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(1,410)	(367)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year		1,087	2,497
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes on pages 30 to 54 form part of the financial statements.

On behalf of the board



Ms. AnnMarie Phillips
Chairperson



Mr. Terence O Keeffe
Director

14/8/2024

Date:

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes

forming part of the financial statements

1 Accounting policies

The significant accounting policies adopted by the Charity are as follows:

Basis of preparation

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* ("FRS 102").

The registered number of the charity is 55616 and the address of its registered office is at National Headquarters and Training Centre, Hill Farm, Model Farm Road, Cork, T12 WT4A.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is a Charity Limited by Guarantee (registered number 55616) and is a registered charity (RCN 20009977). The Charity meets the definition of a Public Benefit Entity under the FRS 102. As a registered charity, the Charity is exempt from the reporting and disclosure requirements to prepare a directors' report under Section 325 (1) (c), Companies Act 2014 but does so in compliance with the Charities SORP. There is nothing to disclose in respect of directors' interests in shares or debentures of the Charity under Section 329, Companies Act 2014.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind has applied the recommendations contained in the Charities SORP preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preparing the financial statements. There have been no material departures from FRS 102.

The format of the analysis and disclosure of expenditure complies fully with the Charities SORP in the statement of financial activities on page 27 and in notes 6 to 8.

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

The presentation currency of these financial statements is Euro (€). All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest €'000.

Going concern

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind's business activities, along with a summary of risks which may affect its development, performance and financial management are set out in the directors' report. The directors' report reviews the financial position of the organisation, its use of reserves, investments and the risk management.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind meets its day to day working capital through fundraising, donations and statutory grants with shortfalls in income over expenditure being met from managed reserves. The directors have a reasonable expectation that the organisation has adequate resources to continue in operation and meet the client expectations for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes *(continued)*

1 **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

Income

Income is included in the statement of financial activities only when realised in the form of cash or other assets, the ultimate realisation of which can be assessed as probable. Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, in common with many similar charitable organisations, derives a proportion of its income from voluntary donations and fundraising activities held by individuals/parties outside the control of the charity.

Donations comprise gifts that will not provide any economic return to the donor other than the knowledge that someone will benefit from the donation.

Monetary donations (including donations from the public – directly and through direct marketing campaigns; corporations, and major donors) are recognised when the donations are received.

Income from tax refunds is recognised upon filing necessary forms, when relevant legislative requirements have been met and when receipt of the funds is probable.

Donations in kind relate to donations of services or assets that can be valued with sufficient reliability. Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, in common with many similar charitable organisations, receives assistance from many sources which are not recognised due to the difficulty in establishing a value that can be assessed with sufficient reliability. Assets donated under bequests or otherwise are included in the statement of financial activities at their value to the association on the date of receipt where they can be valued with sufficient certainty.

Legacy income is recognised in the accounting period that it is received or when it is probable that the legacy will be received and the value of the legacy can be measured with sufficient accuracy. Investment income is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the financial year that it is receivable.

Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for when they are incurred and include amounts due at the end of the year but not paid. Resources expended include attributable value added tax which cannot be recovered.

Short term employee benefits

The cost of providing employee benefits such as wages and salaries, annual leave, post-employment benefits are recognised in the period in which the benefit is earned by the employee, rather than when it is paid or payable. Short term employee benefits are those expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period during which the employee services are rendered.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes *(continued)*

1 **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities comprise all expenditure incurred in pursuit of the organisation's objectives to enable people who are vision impaired and families of children with autism to lead better lives and become more independent and more mobile. Included here are direct costs of training our dogs (purchase, payroll, equipment, maintenance of dogs along with direct travel and subsistence incurred in their training), and running ancillary programmes, associated governance costs together with related support costs. All costs of charitable activities are recognised on an accruals basis.

Support costs

Support costs are costs incurred to facilitate an activity. Support costs do not change directly as a result of the activity taken. Support costs include the central office functions, such as governance, general management, payroll administration, budgeting and accounting, information technology, human resources and finance. Support costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities and raising funds costs based on staff numbers.

Governance costs

Governance costs are the costs associated with the stewardship arrangements of the charity. They comprise costs arising from the constitutional and obligatory arrangements, as well as the costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. Typical costs would be audit and legal fees, direct salary and overhead costs incurred in the strategic as opposed to the day-to-day management of the organisation.

Raising funds costs

Raising funds costs include expenditure directly associated with generating fundraising income. Costs included here are direct fundraising salaries, donor acquisition and maintenance costs, marketing, support materials and event costs.

Tangible assets

Freehold land is stated at cost. Tangible assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated in order to write off the cost of tangible assets, other than land, over their estimated useful lives.

The estimated useful lives of tangible assets by reference to which depreciation is calculated are as follows:

- Buildings 50 years
- Motor vehicles 5 years
- Furniture and fittings 10 years
- Office equipment 5 years
- Freehold Land not depreciated

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes *(continued)*

1 **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

Intangible assets

Intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is charged to the income and expenditure on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets. Intangible assets are amortised from the date they are available for use. The Charity reviews the amortisation period and method when events and circumstances indicate that the useful life may have changed since the last reporting date.

Financial assets

Financial assets are investments which are stated at market value as at the date of their last valuation. Quoted securities have been valued at the bid price at close of business at the year-end date. The investments held are level 1 based on the fair value hierarchy.

Unrealised movements on revaluation are included in the statement of financial activities.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand are treated as cash and cash equivalents where it is comprised of cash on deposit at banks required less than or equal to three months' notice of withdrawal.

Stocks

Stocks, which consist solely of consumable stores, are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises invoice price. Net realisable value comprises the actual or estimated worth through use in the association's activities. An allowance is made for obsolete, slow-moving or defective items where appropriate.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discounts offered. Income recognised by the charity from government or other donors, but not yet received at year end, is included in debtors.

Creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be reliably measured or estimated.

Retirement benefits

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind operates a defined contribution retirement benefit scheme and makes contributions to these plans and administers contributions made by (and on behalf) of employees. The amounts charged to the statement of financial activities are the contributions payable in the year. Differences between the contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid into the scheme are shown either as accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes *(continued)*

1 **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

Capital grants

Grants received in respect of capital expenditure are treated as a deferred credit and are released to the statement of financial activities in line with the associated costs. The amount released is recognised as income from charitable activities.

Revenue grants

Grants and assistance to fund non-capital expenditure are credited to the statement of financial activities in the period in which the related expenditure is incurred.

Taxation

No charge to taxation arises due to the tax-exempt status of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind. This is in accordance with the provisions of Section 207 (as applied to companies by Section 76), Section 609 (Capital Gains Tax) and Section 266 (deposit Interest Retention Tax) of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 under charity number CHY6006.

The charity is eligible for the scheme of tax relief for donations to eligible charities and approved bodies in relation to income tax refunds on donations in excess of €250 (Section 848A Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997).

The charity is a member of the VAT Compensation scheme for Charities which commenced in 2019. Irrecoverable VAT is expensed in the statement of financial activities.

Restricted and unrestricted reserves

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind operates the following funds:

Restricted funds:

Restricted funds represent income, which has been received and recognised in the financial statements, which is subject to specific conditions imposed by the donors or grant making institutions. Donations or grants may become repayable in the event that the conditions of the related agreements are not adhered to. These funds are not available for the general purposes of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Expenditure which meets these conditions is shown as charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds:

General funds: these represent amounts which can be used at the discretion of Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital, capital investment or new programmes. The use of unrestricted funds is therefore not restricted to any particular charitable purpose of the charity.

Designated funds: these represent amounts that Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind may at its discretion set aside for specific purposes which would otherwise form part of the general reserves of the charity. Specifically, Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind has set aside funds to protect ongoing work from unexpected variations of income, finance tangible assets for ongoing use by the charity and fund any future budgeted deficits.

Capital funds: these reflect the net value of fixed assets purchased Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind less capital grants outstanding on those assets.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes *(continued)*

1 **Accounting policies** *(continued)*

Provisions:

Contingent liability

A contingent liability arises where a possible obligation from past events arises where its existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the charity's control or a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised in the accounts – either because it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, or because the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Critical accounting judgement and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the organisation's accounting policies, the Board are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily available from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The following are critical judgements that the Board have made in the process of applying the organisation's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts carried in the financial statements:

Tangible fixed assets

In note 13 to the financial statements, tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. The Board has noted that there is a difference between the market value and the value based on historical cost less depreciation. The Board considers, that due to the specialised nature of the property and its value-in-use (based on the continued demand for the services that the charity delivers, continued statutory support and the available reserves to sustain this delivery), that this policy is appropriate.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

2	Income from donations and legacies	2023	2023	2023
		Unrestricted €'000	Restricted €'000	Total donations and legacies €'000
Donations arising from:				
	Community	407	-	407
	Regular committed giving	507	61	568
	Direct marketing appeals	157	106	263
	Corporate sources	261	24	285
	Trusts and Foundations	118	50	168
	Total donations	1,450	241	1,691
	Legacies	1,257	1	1,258
	Association membership subscriptions	1	-	1
	Total donations and legacies	2,708	242	2,950
		2022	2022	2022
		Unrestricted €'000	Restricted €'000	Total donations and legacies €'000
	Donations arising from:			
	Community	175	17	192
	Regular committed giving	559	51	610
	Direct marketing appeals	321	182	503
	Corporate sources	271	90	361
	Trusts and Foundations	93	45	138
	Total donations	1,419	385	1,804
	Legacies	1,391	4	1,395
	Association membership subscriptions	1	-	1
	Total donations and legacies	2,811	389	3,200

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

3 Income from charitable activities	2023 Unrestricted €'000	2023 Restricted €'000	2023 Total €'000
Health Services Executive grants – visually impaired support services			
HSE Cork Kerry	-	764	764
HSE Northern	-	16	16
HSE North West	-	15	15
HSE North Area & HSE South West	-	-	-
	-	795	795
Child Mobility Programme			
Department of Education and Skills	-	138	138
Health Services Executive Grants – National Lottery – Assistance Dogs			
HSE West	-	1	1
HSE East Coast	-	2	2
HSE North East	-	5	5
HSE North	-	-	-
HSE Midlands	-	12	12
HSE South East	-	11	11
	-	31	31
Deferred income recognised - (note19)	-	50	50
Employment Vision Project - Pobal	-	105	105
Total statutory income	-	1,119	1,119
Other income from charitable Activities			
Sale of dogs and equipment	8	-	8
Total income from charitable purposes	8	1,119	1,127

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

3 Income from charitable activities	2022 Unrestricted €'000	2022 Restricted €'000	2022 Total €'000
Health Services Executive grants – visually impaired support services			
HSE Cork Kerry	-	737	737
HSE Northern	-	15	15
HSE North West	-	15	15
HSE North Area & HSE South West	-	-	-
	-	767	767
Child Mobility Programme			
Department of Education and Skills	-	69	69
Health Services Executive Grants – National Lottery – Mobility Assessments			
HSE West	-	6	6
HSE East Coast	-	16	16
HSE North East	-	-	-
HSE North	-	-	-
HSE Midlands	-	-	-
HSE South West	-	-	-
	-	22	22
Deferred income recognised - (note19)	-	50	50
Employment Vision Project - Pobal	-	103	103
Total statutory income	-	1,011	1,011
Other income from charitable Activities			
Sale of dogs and equipment	3	-	3
Total income from charitable purposes	3	1,011	1,014

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

4 Income from other trading activities	2023	2023	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000
Income from fundraising activities			
National campaigns	482		482
Community events and campaigns	272	2	274
Volunteer activity	353	-	353
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,107	2	1,109
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Income from other trading activities			
Rental from facilities*	3	-	3
Charity VAT rebate	45	-	45
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	48	-	48
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income from other trading activities	1,155	2	1,157
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2022	2022	2022
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000
Income from fundraising activities			
National campaigns	291	1	292
Community events and campaigns	236	1	237
Volunteer activity	478		478
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,005	2	1,007
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Income from other trading activities			
Rental from facilities*	3	-	3
Charity VAT rebate	52	-	52
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	55	-	55
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income from other trading activities	1,060	2	1,062
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

* Rental income recognised in the period relates to use of office space based at the National Headquarters in Cork rented out to the Health Services Executive.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes *(continued)*

5 Investment income	2023 Unrestricted €'000	2022 Unrestricted €'000
Bank interest receivable	-	-
Dividends receivable	75	42
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	75	42
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

6 Expenditure

In accordance with the FRS 102 and the Charities SORP, expenditure is analysed as follows:

	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
	Raising funds (note 7) €'000	Charitable activities (note 8) €'000	Management and administration €'000	Governance €'000	Total €'000
Direct costs:					
Maintenance, expenses of dogs and other direct costs	2	526	10	-	538
Food allowance – dogs	-	12	-	-	12
Breeding Regeneration Programme – purchase of dogs	-	4	-	-	4
Other costs:					
Staff remuneration and other staff costs	388	2,018	555	53	3,014
Travel, subsistence and motor expenses	23	156	49	-	228
Premises, IT and communications	66	18	887	-	971
Fundraising costs including advertising	754	-	-	-	754
Professional fees, recruitment and other costs	30	126	118	54	328
Total direct costs	<u>1,263</u>	<u>2,860</u>	<u>1,619</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>5,849</u>
Allocation of support costs to activities					
Governance <i>Allocated by staff headcount</i>	13	94	-	(107)	-
Finance <i>Allocated by staff headcount</i>	23	176	(199)	-	-
Management Information Systems <i>Allocated by staff headcount</i>	4	30	(34)	-	-
Human Resources <i>Allocated directly and by staff headcount</i>	26	184	(210)	-	-
Overheads <i>Allocated by staff headcount</i>	143	1,033	(1,176)	-	-
Total resources expended – year ended 31 December 2023	<u>1,472</u>	<u>4,377</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,849</u>
Restricted	90	1,273	-	-	1,363
Unrestricted	1,382	3,104	-	-	4,486

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

6 Expenditure (continued)

	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
	Raising funds	Charitable	Management	Governance	Total
	(note 7)	activities	and	€'000	€'000
	€'000	(note 8)	administration	€'000	€'000
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Direct costs:					
Maintenance, expenses of dogs and other direct costs	3	470	-	-	473
Food allowance – dogs	-	11	-	-	11
Breeding Regeneration Programme – purchase of dogs	-	29	-	-	29
Other costs:					
Staff remuneration and other staff costs	313	1,889	485	59	2,746
Travel, subsistence and motor expenses	16	139	50	-	205
Premises, IT and communications	37	7	900	-	944
Fundraising costs including advertising	846	-	-	-	846
Professional fees, recruitment and other costs	15	72	144	88	319
Total direct costs	<u>1,230</u>	<u>2,617</u>	<u>1,579</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>5,573</u>
Allocation of support costs to activities					
Governance <i>Allocated by staff headcount</i>	24	123	-	(147)	-
Finance <i>Allocated by staff headcount</i>	66	349	(415)	-	-
Management Information Systems <i>Allocated by staff headcount</i>	13	66	(79)	-	-
Human Resources <i>Allocated directly and by staff headcount</i>	31	150	(191)	-	-
Overheads <i>Allocated by staff headcount</i>	143	751	(894)	-	-
Total resources expended – year ended 31 December 2022	<u>1,507</u>	<u>4,066</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,573</u>
Restricted	138	1,264	-	-	1,402
Unrestricted	1,369	2,802	-	-	4,171

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

7 Raising funds expenditure	2023 Unrestricted €'000	2023 Restricted €'000	2023 Total €'000
Direct costs of raising funds allocated by main income category:			
Regular committed giving	162	19	181
Corporate donations	120	24	144
Direct marketing appeals	49	34	83
Community fundraising	430	1	431
Legacies	400	-	400
Investments	24	-	24
	<hr/> 1,185 <hr/>	<hr/> 78 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,263 <hr/>
	2022 Unrestricted €'000	2022 Restricted €'000	2022 Total €'000
Direct costs of raising funds allocated by main income category:			
Regular committed giving	160	15	175
Corporate donations	104	38	142
Direct marketing appeals	92	52	144
Community fundraising	353	6	359
Legacies	398	-	398
Investments	12	-	12
	<hr/> 1,119 <hr/>	<hr/> 111 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,230 <hr/>

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

8 Charitable activities expenditure	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023
	Guide Dog Programme €'000	Assistance Dog Programme €'000	ILS and Long Cane Programmes €'000	Child Mobility Programme €'000	Total €'000
Direct costs:					
Maintenance, expenses of dogs and other direct costs	256	255	14	-	525
Food allowance – dogs	13	-	-	-	13
Dog Supply Programme – purchase of dogs	2	2	-	-	4
Other costs:					
Staff remuneration and other staff costs	1,008	882	75	53	2,018
Travel, subsistence and motor expenses	97	50	10	-	157
Premises, IT and communications	1	2	14	-	17
Professional fees, recruitment and other costs	40	54	32	-	126
Total direct costs	1,417	1,245	145	53	2,860
Allocation of governance and support costs to activities* <i>*Allocated by staff costs</i>	759	663	55	40	1,517
Total charitable activities expenditure – year ended 31 December 2023	2,176	1,908	200	93	4,377
Restricted – 2023	868	220	98	87	1,273
Unrestricted – 2023	1,308	1,688	102	6	3,104
Total charitable activities expenditure – year ended 31 December 2022	1,967	1,788	221	90	4,066

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

8 Charitable activities expenditure (continued)

	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022
	Guide Dog Programme €'000	Assistance Dog Programme €'000	ILS and Long Cane Programmes €'000	Child Mobility Programme €'000	Total €'000
Direct costs:					
Maintenance, expenses of dogs and other direct costs	241	229	-	-	470
Food allowance – dogs	11	-	-	-	11
Breeding Regeneration Programme – purchase of dogs	14	15	-	-	29
Other costs:					
Staff remuneration and other staff costs	897	833	108	51	1,889
Travel, subsistence and motor expenses	74	53	12	-	139
Premises, IT and communications	1	2	4	-	7
Professional fees, recruitment and other costs	41	17	14	-	72
Total direct costs	1,279	1,149	138	51	2,617
Allocation of governance and support costs to activities* <i>*Allocated by staff costs</i>	688	639	83	39	1,449
Total charitable activities expenditure – year ended 31 December 2022	1,967	1,788	221	90	4,066
Restricted - 2022	940	217	27	80	1,264
Unrestricted - 2022	1,027	1,571	194	10	2,802
Total charitable activities expenditure – year ended 31 December 2021	2,020	1,414	109	103	3,646

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

9 Net movement in funds

Net movement in funds are stated after charging:

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Auditor's remuneration:		
For audit	33	26
For tax advisory services	-	-
For other non-audit services	-	-
Depreciation	288	272
Amortisation	41	53
Profit on disposal of tangible assets	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

10 Employees and remuneration

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Staff costs comprise:		
Wages and salaries	2,662	2,420
Social welfare costs	284	258
Retirement benefits (note 11)	68	68
Other compensation costs	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

3,014	2,746
<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Average staff remuneration in the year was:

42	40
<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Employee emoluments

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
€75,000 - €100,000*	1	1
€65,000 - €74,999	2	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Average whole-time equivalents

72	69
<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

* Remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer for the year was €102,500 (2022: €101,000) in gross pay and €5,125 (2022: €5,000) in charity retirement benefit contributions in line with the universal charity retirement benefit scheme contribution policy of 5%.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

10 Employees and remuneration (continued)

	2023		2022	2022
	Number		Number	Number
Average headcount	79			75
	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
Made up as follows:	2023	2023	2022	2022
	Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time
Dog Pillar	15	5	15	5
Training Pillar	28	2	22	2
Client Support	3	-	3	-
<u>Support Services:</u>				
Governance	1	-	2	-
Finance	2	2	1	2
Human Resources	-	3	-	2
Shared services	2	2	4	2
Fundraising	6	2	8	1
Facilities	2	4	2	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	59	20	57	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Retirement benefit costs are allocated to activities in proportion to the related staffing costs incurred and are wholly charged to unrestricted funds.

The charity's directors were not paid in the year, nor received any benefits from engagement with the charity. No director received payment for professional services or other services to the charity. In 2023, a total of €Nil (2022: €Nil) was reimbursed to directors.

Inclusive of the remuneration paid to the Chief Executive Officer, the key management compensation for the financial year was €217,692, being gross pay of €212,567 and charity retirement benefit contributions of €5,125 (2022: €199,000, being gross pay of €191,000 and charity retirement benefit contributions of €8,000).

11 Retirement benefit costs

The retirement benefit entitlements of certain employees arise under a defined contribution retirement benefit scheme and are secured by contributions by Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind and the employees to a separately administered retirement benefit fund. The retirement benefit charge for the year was €68,000 (2022: €68,000) and was made out of unrestricted funds.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

12 Taxation

In accordance with the provisions of Section 207 (as applied to companies by Section 76), Section 609 (Capital Gains Tax) and Section 266 (deposit Interest Retention Tax) of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, under charity number CHY6006, Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind is exempt from taxation.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings €'000	Motor vehicles €'000	Furniture, fittings and equipment €'000	Total €'000
Cost				
At 1 January 2023	8,093	653	1,658	10,404
Additions	2	204	80	286
Disposals	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	8,095	857	1,738	10,690
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Accumulated depreciation				
At 1 January 2023	2,644	603	1,212	4,459
Charge for the year	164	43	81	288
Disposals	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	2,808	646	1,293	4,747
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Net book amounts				
At 31 December 2023	5,287	211	445	5,943
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	5,449	50	446	5,945
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The directors consider the carrying value of the tangible fixed assets as at 31 December 2023 to be appropriate.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes *(continued)*

14 Intangible assets	Software, database and website- total €'000
Cost	
At 1 January 2023	560
Additions	29
Disposals	-
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	589
	<hr/> <hr/>
Accumulated amortisation	
At 1 January 2023	463
Charge for the year	42
Disposals	-
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	505
	<hr/> <hr/>
Net book amounts	
At 31 December 2023	84
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	97
	<hr/> <hr/>

The directors consider the carrying value of the intangible fixed assets as at 31 December 2022 to be appropriate.

15 Stocks	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Fundraising materials	76	74
Kennel and training equipment stocks	87	75
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	163	149
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

16 Debtors	2023	2022
	€'000	€'000
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments	152	146
Accrued income	499	51
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	651	197
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

17 Financial assets – investments at fair value	2023	2022
	€'000	€'000
Equities	2,444	2,589
Bonds	3,274	2,657
Managed funds	1,486	828
Cash	96	322
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,300	6,396
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The movement in investments for the year is analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	€'000	€'000
At beginning of year	6,396	7,511
Investment in financial assets in year	500	-
Increase/(Decrease) in fair value of the investments	404	(1,115)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At end of year	7,300	6,396
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

Investments made by Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind are governed by an Investment Strategy which is monitored by the Audit, Risk, Compliance and Investment Sub-Committee. The principal objective is to secure the assets of the charity and secondly to target a return in line or slightly above inflation.

Investment funds are included in the financial statements at market value and any fluctuations are accounted for in the statement of financial activities. Fund adjustments represent withdrawals, gains and losses earned by investments within the fund, investment income and fees. The investments are held at level 1 of the fair value hierarchy. All investments are classed as current assets as they can be liquidated at short notice and converted to cash in hand.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

17 Financial assets – investments at fair value (continued)

The investments were held with the following investment managers at the financial year end:

	2023	2022
	€'000	€'000
Cantor Fitzgerald – Diversified portfolio	2,062	2,045
Quilter Cheviot Investment Management – Diversified portfolio	1,960	1,691
Zurich Life – Unitised funds	1,073	1,008
Standard Life – Unitised funds	1,701	1,648
Davy – Diversified portfolio	4	4
Cantor Barclays 3 Year Bond	500	-
	7,300	6,396
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18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	€'000	€'000
Trade creditors	287	208
Accruals	221	163
Income tax deducted under payroll taxes	35	37
Pay Related Social Insurance	32	33
Deferred income – capital grants (note 19)	54	54
	629	495
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Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

19 Deferred income – capital grants	€'000
Gross	
At 1 January 2023 and at 31 December 2023	3,019
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Recognised in statement of financial activities	
At 1 January 2023	1,433
Recognised in year	51
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At 31 December 2023	1,484
	<hr/> <hr/>
Net book amounts	
At 31 December 2023	1,535
	<hr/>
At 31 December 2022	1,586
	<hr/> <hr/>
	€'000
Shown as:	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (note 18)	54
	<hr/>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	1,481
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Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind has provided a legal charge to the Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs over Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind's property for a period of 16 years (expiring in 2026). This is in connection with the capital grant received from the Dormant Accounts Fund (administered by Pobal) in 2009.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

20 Funds of the charity	Opening balance €'000	Income €'000	Expenditure €'000	Closing balance €'000
Unrestricted				
Working capital fund	7,538	3,946	(4,486)	6,998
Designated funds:				
Tangible fixed asset fund	4,069	404		4,473
Project funds	1,647	-	-	1,647
	<u>13,254</u>	<u>4,350</u>	<u>(4,486)</u>	<u>13,118</u>
Restricted				
Guide Dog Programme	-	868	(868)	-
Assistance Dog Programme	-	220	(220)	-
Child Mobility Programme	-	87	(87)	-
ILS & Long Cane Programme	-	98	(98)	-
Raising funds	-	90	(90)	-
Equipment and overheads	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,363</u>	<u>(1,363)</u>	<u>-</u>
21 Analysis of net assets between funds	2023 Unrestricted €'000	2023 Restricted €'000	2023 Total €'000	
Tangible fixed assets	4,408	1,535	5,943	
Intangible assets	84	-	84	
Current assets	9,201	-	9,201	
Current liabilities	(575)	(54)	(629)	
Creditors due after more than one year	-	(1,481)	(1,481)	
	<u>13,118</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,118</u>	

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind

Notes (continued)

21 Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

	2022 Unrestricted €'000	2022 Restricted €'000	2022 Total €'000
Tangible fixed assets	4,359	1,586	5,945
Intangible assets	97	-	97
Current assets	9,239	-	9,239
Current liabilities	(441)	(54)	(495)
Creditors due after more than one year	-	(1,532)	(1,532)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13,254	-	13,254
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

22 Changes in Net Debt

	Net Cash and Cash Equivalents €'000	Financial Investments €'000	Total €'000
At 1 January 2023	2,497	6,396	8,893
Cashflow	(1,410)	-	(1,410)
Fair value gains and losses and exchange movements	-	904	904
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 December 2023	1,087	7,300	8,387
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

23 Commitments and contingent liabilities

As at the 31 December 2023, there are no commitments or contingent liabilities.

24 Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting the Charity since year end.

25 Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the directors on 14th August 2024.