

Company Registration No. 1150776 (England and Wales)

**THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023**

**IDS Chartered Accountants LLP
23/25 Queen Street
COLERAINE
Co Londonderry
BT52 1BG**

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

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THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

CHARITY INFORMATION

Charity registration number	1150776
Registered office	PO Box 270 Guildhall LONDON EC2P 2EJ
Auditor	IDS Chartered Accountants LLP 23/25 Queen Street COLERAINE Co Londonderry BT52 1BG
Bankers	Danske Bank Corporate Banking Centre PO Box 183 BELFAST BT1 6JS
Investment managers	Cazenove Capital Management 1 London Wall Place LONDON EC2Y 5AU CCLA Fund Managers Ltd 1 Angel Lane LONDON EC4R 3AB
Solicitors	Elliott Duffy Garrett 40 Linenhall Street BELFAST BT2 8BA

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

CHARITY INFORMATION

List of Trustees 2022-23

Governor:	Alderman Sir William Bowater Russell
Deputy Governor:	Wendy Hyde (to 09/03/23)
Deputy Governor:	Edward Lord OBE, JP, Deputy (from 09/03/23)
Aldermen:	Robert Howard Gregory Jones
Commoners:	John Absalom, Deputy (to 09/03/2023) James Bromiley-Davis, (from 09/03/2023) Anne Corbett (from 19/05/2022) Peter Dunphy, Deputy (to 09/03/2023) Mary Durcan John Foley (from 09/03/2023) John Griffiths (from 09/03/2023) Christopher Hayward, Deputy (to 09/03/2023) Shravan Joshi, MBE, Deputy Eamonn Mullally (from 19/05/2022) Hugh Selka (from 09/03/2023) Oliver Sells, KC Philip Woodhouse, Deputy Dawn Wright
Officers:	
Society's Representative (Northern Ireland) & Secretary:	Edward Montgomery, MBE DL
Assistant Secretary:	Candya Farmer

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Society's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

WHO ARE WE?

Established through Royal Charters granted by King James I in 1613 and King Charles II in 1662, The Honourable The Irish Society has since then maintained interests and managed its ownership in land, buildings and rivers for the benefit of the community of County Londonderry and adjoining areas. A modernising Supplemental Charter was granted to the Irish Society on 20 December 2012. The Society is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales - Registration number 1150776.

OBJECTIVE

From its early association with the Plantation of Ulster, the Irish Society has evolved into a self-funding, cross-community charitable organisation; a succession of trustees have been committed to ensuring that the Society continues to make a positive impact by remaining contemporary, credible and relevant in everything that it does; and they have agreed a Mission Statement *"to work with key partners for the economic and social benefit of Northern Ireland"*.

The Society's objects are defined in the 2012 Supplemental Charter as follows: The promotion of any exclusively charitable purpose for the benefit of the community of the County of Londonderry and neighbouring areas including those within the following descriptions:

- the advancement of education;
- the advancement of citizenship or community development;
- the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science;
- the advancement of amateur sport;
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement; and/or
- the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

OVERVIEW

2022-23 saw a return to something approaching normality following the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The staff in London and Northern Ireland reverted to office-working for the most part, although thanks to technology it remained feasible and effective for some home-working to continue by all except the fishery staff.
- Trustees in London held sub-committee meetings on a hybrid basis, enabling external members or advisers to join remotely whilst conferring the advantage of trustees being able to meet in Guildhall.
- Court meetings were mainly held face to face once again, with a remote facility for anyone unable to be present.
- Visitations to Northern Ireland by trustees returned to normal and the usual pre-pandemic activities such as civic visits, school prize days and charity events took place once more.
- Charitable activity once again increased during the year, with almost £250k allocated in direct grants to community groups and charities by the Local Advisory Committee and the trustees. The Society continued to work with charitable partners such as Co-operation Ireland, Cavell Nurses Trust and several others, to help deliver funding support to young, old and disadvantaged groups.
- The Clothworkers and Drapers Livery Companies continued their support for the Society for a 10th successive year by providing funds for small grants in Northern Ireland.
- The Society's Commercial Property portfolio was reviewed by a former City of London surveyor during the year, and several recommendations made were accepted by the trustees. Income rose slightly and the key properties continued to perform as expected, although some of the smaller tenancies were still struggling following the pandemic period.
- Despite an increase in income received, the fisheries of the Lower Bann had a challenging year, especially at the key Carnroe salmon fishery.

CHARITABLE GRANTS

Applications for **small grants** to local 'not-for-profit' organisations can be made through a simple process – by e-mail, post or via the Society's website (www.honourableirishsociety.org.uk). All applications are scrutinised by a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) which has existed since 1974 and is comprised of cross-party elected representatives drawn from three local authorities in the North-West established in April 2015: Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council; Derry City & Strabane District Council; and Mid Ulster District Council. Grants are equally available to both main sections of Northern Ireland's divided community, Roman Catholic and Protestant, on a wholly impartial basis – which reflects the broad makeup of the community in which the Society works. Indeed, many of the grants made go to groups in which Catholics and Protestants work together in harmony promoting peace and reconciliation.

The Society has been able to achieve a much greater charitable impact in Northern Ireland in recent years, thanks to the active support of City Livery Companies and the City of London Corporation. The trustees again acknowledge with much gratitude donations from:

- **The Drapers' Company** - an annual donation to the Society's small grants programme of **£20,000** per annum, plus a further **£10,000** for the Co-operation Ireland project described below in the Education section.
- **The Clothworkers' Foundation** – a continuing donation of **£20,000** to the Northern Ireland Fund, enabling the Society to reach out to other parts of NI beyond the North West.
- **The City of London Corporation** - again boosting the Society's general grant-making ability by **£30,000** - offsetting reduced income from capital tied up in a potential property development site in Coleraine. In 2022-23 this money was used to assist a boys' school in Londonderry with a hardship fund, a nurses hardship fund in the same city and 3 donations to charities working with young people and musicians.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

SCHOOLS & EDUCATION SUPPORT

Primary Schools (Ballougry, Culmore, D H Christie Memorial, The Irish Society's and Millburn): Although all have been in the state controlled sector for many years, the Society's trustees continue to maintain a special link and level of financial support for five primary schools in County Londonderry that were originally founded by the Irish Society for both Protestant and Catholic children between the ages of 4 and 11. As in previous years, the Society contributed to annual prize-giving for pupils completing their primary education and a donation was also made to each school at Christmas time towards festivities for the children. This year, for the first time since 2019, two of the schools were able to visit the City of London with a large number of pupils and teachers. Across the five primary schools, over 1,300 children still benefit every year from the Society's support. On a more sombre note, one of the smaller schools located near Londonderry is under threat of closure due to a drop in pupil numbers; the Society has joined the school governors, parents and local community in arguing for it to be kept open and there is currently a slight cause for optimism.

The Society was this year able to fund Hatchery in the Classroom once again – an environmental project for primary schools along the Lower Bann corridor - with **£6,000**. Stephen McIlwaine, the newly-appointed project leader has been very successful in delivering the project in 9 primary schools along the Lower Bann corridor, pairing mainly Catholic schools with mainly Protestant ones for extra community benefit. The Governor and colleagues were able to meet Stephen at one of the schools during their visit in February 2023.

Secondary Schools: During the year, the Irish Society again partnered with Enterprise Causeway to deliver a Careers Convention in March 2023 with **£5,000**, enabling the event to take place to the benefit of well over 1,000 children from schools all over the North-West. Without the Society's funding, this event (which returned to a traditional face to face format) would not have happened.

The Society also continued to support the Star Programme linking **Lisneal College** and **St Mary's College** in Londonderry. In October 2022 the Deputy Governor and other trustees made a visit to Lisneal, where they heard first hand of the special Saturday School activities that our funds are used for. Riding and bowling seem to be the most popular and the positive collaboration between the two schools was as evident as always.

The Society's annual support for **Sandelford School** in Coleraine, which caters for children from ages 3 to 19 with a wide range of special educational needs, was repeated this year and **£5,000** was donated in February to the new principal, Mrs McShane, towards a new school minibus.

At higher education level, a new bursary programme was initiated with the **North West Regional College** in Londonderry and Limavady, with 7 students receiving bursaries of **£1000**. This is a 3 year commitment to support disadvantaged young people undertaking vital career training in the traditional skills areas. The fund was generously augmented by a donation from an individual who wished to remain anonymous.

OTHER GRANTS

During the year, around 100 small community grants and around a dozen larger grants were made by the Society.

The largest of these remains our support for Co-operation Ireland in delivering a youth support programme. In the year, **£20,000** was donated to a programme for young leaders and former National Citizen Service students in Londonderry. 15 young people benefited from in-depth personal improvement training and working with other young people from a wide geographical area on social and community projects. An additional **£5000** went to support Co-operation Ireland's work in bringing other young people from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and England together for the project.

Other larger grants were made to a wide variety of organisations in need, such as: Cavell Nurses Trust to support nurses and care staff in difficulties, Age Concern Causeway in Coleraine to support older people with dementia, a Walled City animation project to generate tourism in Londonderry, a musical bursary to encourage young jazz musicians and once again helping mental health charity Ashes to Gold in Coleraine to get young and disabled people into fishing and outdoor activities.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

RIVER & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Society continued to manage the 38 mile long Lower Bann river and its fisheries this year. The voluntary sub-committee (Bann Division) maintained its oversight of the fishing and environmental protection operations, as it has done for many years.

One full-time and two part-time members of staff were employed during the year to perform river bailiffing, management and protection duties for the Society - which involves regular patrolling of the river and its tributaries to enforce the government's Catch & Release policy and prevent / deter general poaching, pollution and predation of the fisheries. This expenditure of over **£100,000** per annum is necessary given the extent and importance of the Lower Bann fisheries to the whole NI economy and environment and as a resource for recreation, tourism and education.

The income from fishing in 2022 was significantly up from the previous year, largely on the basis of an excellent run of salmon in 2021 which gave anglers encouragement. Regrettably, this good run of fish was not repeated in 2022 and the key Carnroe beat only returned 280 salmon compared with 600 the previous year. Game fishermen endured very dry weather conditions during June-September, with accompanying low river flows; this resulted in high water temperatures which almost curtailed salmon angling at the end of July due to the detrimental effect on the health of migratory fish which need colder water. A disappointing season total of c.4600 salmon was counted heading upstream – barely a quarter of the previous year's number.

The anglers' difficulties were compounded by the much-delayed start of at least 3 years of engineering works at Carnroe Weir, led by the NI government's statutory agencies. Diverted water flows caused significant river bank and riverbed erosion during the autumn of 2022 and this has resulted in great difficulties for fishermen in the 2023 season. The Society's Bann Division Committee is working with Waterways Ireland to make temporary repairs where possible and the trustees intend to pursue an insurance claim for losses sustained.

Tourist angling continues its slow growth, overseen by Catherine and Kieran Deery of Cressabelle.

2 large coarse fishing competitions were held on the Portglenone stretch of the Bann in October/November and were again well-attended by over 40 NI/GB/RoI anglers. The trustees congratulated Derek Buckley the organiser for his hard work in running the competitions and finding sponsorship and other support.

A successful game angling conference was held in Coleraine in November, with live streaming and recording. Over 90 anglers attended, to hear speakers such as Professor Ken Whelan of the Atlantic Salmon Trust and Dr Richard Kennedy of AFBI and Bushmills Salmon Station. For the first time, young people who have learned to fish through the Ashes to Gold initiative, were invited to attend and present to the audience.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ESTATE

The key points relating to the Society's commercial property portfolio during the year were as follows:

- Income overall rose slightly during the year as most of the Society's tenants returned to full trading after the pandemic, despite the difficult economic and political situation in Northern Ireland and the effects of the wider UK cost of living crisis.
- Slow but steady progress has been made with the planning application for apartments and a business unit at the former ABC Laboratory site in Castleroe; it is now expected that this will be achieved during the coming year. Local agents continue to advise that the property market is buoyant in Coleraine and the North Coast generally.
- The larger former Spanboard factory site nearby remains undeveloped, although a local business continues to use part of the area for open air storage of engineering equipment, bringing in a useful additional income.
- The situation with regard to the Coleraine shops continues to be difficult. 2 of the 4 are trading successfully, one is closed with the tenant blaming staff shortages while the last is vacant and being divided into 2 upgraded units for re-letting.
- The tenant at Rocks Lodge Trout Farm in Co Tyrone has sold all its interests to another commercial fish farming company, one of the largest in the world, and it has declared its intention to invest in the site and sort out the various operating consent issues that remain from the previous tenancy.
- There has been engagement with the trustees of a city-centre church in Londonderry, tenants of the Society, to try to help them to find a new use for the disused building and halls.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Trustees are mindful of the Society's Policy on Risk and elements of the Risk Register are reviewed at every Court meeting on a rolling basis to ensure that all relevant risks are given due consideration and the Register is updated in its entirety over a 12-month period. Overall, the trustees consider that the assets of the Society will continue to be well diversified.

A review led by a professional risk and health and safety consultant covering the Society's operations, buildings and policies is being undertaken during 2023, to ensure that matters are kept up to date.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

It is the policy of the trustees to generate sufficient income to pay for the Society's charitable purposes and management each year, while maintaining the overall value of the Society's assets, so that it may continue to achieve its charitable objectives into the future. The trustees aim to spend increased resources each year on charitable activities based on budgeted income and expenditure, while at the same time maintaining sufficient reserves to meet any expected capital requirements.

The Society has a number of mainly commercial properties and property interests in Northern Ireland which it uses to generate income for grant-giving purposes in support of its activities. The property portfolio was professionally revalued in early 2021 with a total restated value of £3.8m (up from £3.2m in 2016).

The Society also has an investment portfolio managed on a discretionary basis by external fund managers – CCLA Fund Managers Ltd and Cazenove Capital Management.

The rearrangement of the Cazenove portfolio into 3 separate fund segments at the start of the year has proved to be satisfactory with results in line with expectations, although the higher-risk private equity fund with 10% of the holding has suffered more from the adverse equity markets.

In general, there are no restrictions on the investments that the Society can make. The portfolios are monitored by the trustees against industry benchmarks and a specific target.

The Society's cash investments are deposited in the charities pooled fund overseen by the Chamberlain of London's Department Of the city of London Corporation and managed externally on its behalf.

At 30 April 2023 free reserves amounted to £11,724,478 (2022: £11,987,374 - see Balance Sheet at page 16).

REVIEW OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR

Despite increased income from various sources and a resulting trading surplus of £41,312, unrealised losses on investments caused Net Movements in funds to 30 April 2023 to be negative: **-£252,897** (2022 -£118,901) The reduction in investment values was mainly due to less favourable global investment conditions following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the associated economic aftershocks.

Charitable expenditure amounted to £629,452 (2022: £556,355). Taking into account other unrealised losses of £294,209 (2022: £192,206) as set out on page 15, this left an overall deficit for the year of £252,897 (2022: £-118,901).

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

During the period, the Society has continued to keep tight control of its administration and other costs. As a result, the trustees were again able to allocate increased funds to the charitable budget during the year, and it is hoped this trend will continue into the future, based on the following strategies:

- The Society has a long term aim of restructuring / developing its property portfolio where possible to produce an increased income, especially by bringing the Castleroe sites to fruition. The trustees are not generally in favour of selling freeholds where this can be avoided.
- Resources will continue to be spent on managing the fishery assets and protecting the environment of the Lower Bann River and its tributaries in order to enable greater public use and enjoyment, while generating a surplus of income over expenditure. This may be achieved by focussing on renewable energy projects (eg hydro, heat pumps and hydrogen generation) and also by developing external angling tourism, which has to date been very modest in NI.
- The trustees believe that the Irish Society could achieve more if greater funds were available generally, and they continue to work with the London Livery Companies – particularly those with historic connections in County Londonderry. The longer term intention is to expand the number of Livery Companies engaged – not just with the purpose of increasing funding ability but by harnessing their networks and expertise.
- The Society will also seek to develop connections with philanthropic individuals and organisations, including the Northern Irish diaspora that may consider the Society as a charitable vehicle for making donations into the Province for specific projects or programmes.

Trustees will also continue to work with partner organisations such as Co-operation Ireland, Cavell Nurses Trust and Community Foundation NI where their objectives align with the Irish Society's strategy. They will also explore what other organisations might be engaged to further the Society's aims

STRUCTURE, MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

The Society is administered by a Court of 15 trustees, which meets at least four times a year. All are Aldermen or Common Councilmen of the City of London Corporation and elected onto the Court of the Irish Society by fellow members of the Court of Aldermen and Common Council. Trustees for the period covered by the Report & Financial Statements are listed under Charity Information. The Society requires all trustees to commit to a written Code of Conduct governing their behaviour; all new trustees are given an introduction to the work of the Society and provided with copies of recent accounts and minutes of meetings; and are encouraged to participate in at least one formal visit to Northern Ireland as early as possible following appointment, to see the operations of the Society and the difference its grants make to the community. The Charity's Secretary is based in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, and the Assistant Secretary at Guildhall in London.

The trustees confirm that they are aware of the Guidance promulgated by the Charity Commission under the Charities Act 2011 in relation to Public Benefit, recognise their obligation to have regard thereto and – from the feedback received from grant recipients – are confident that their activities are delivering Public Benefit.

The Irish Society's Court has appointed a Finance Committee (chaired by the Deputy Governor) to consider and monitor its financial position and recommend the approval of the annual financial statements to its Court members. Committee members during the accounting year were as follows: Edward Lord, OBE, JP (Chair); Wendy Hyde (Vice Chair to 09/03/2023) Alderman Robert Howard; Philip Woodhouse; Mary Durcan JP; Peter Dunphy (to 09/03/23); Eamon Mullally (Vice Chair from 25/04/23); Hugh Selka (from 25/04/23); James Bromiley-Davis (from 25/04/23); Dawn Wright (from 25/04/23). Common Councilmen Nick Bensted-Smith, JP and Simon Duckworth OBE DL (from 25th April 2023) have been co-opted to the Finance Committee for investment matters

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION

The board of trustees and the Secretary are the key management personnel in charge of directing, controlling, running and operating the Society on a day to day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Details of reimbursed expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in the notes to the accounts (see page 25).

Trustees are required to disclose all relevant interests; register them with the Secretary; and, in accordance with the Society's policy, withdraw from discussion / decisions where a potential conflict of interest arises. The Assistant Secretary maintains a Register using information drawn from the City of London Corporation's declarations of interest.

The Secretary's salary is reviewed annually and, like that of other staff, normally increased in accordance with average earnings. In view of the nature of the Society, its economy of operations, and the extensive use of professional advisers, the trustees consider that a multiple of up to three times the median average salary for UK employees is appropriate for the role of Secretary. The remuneration is also benchmarked with grant-making charities of a similar size and activity to ensure that the level set is fair and not out of line with that generally paid for similar roles.

In early 2022 the Secretary informed the trustees of his intention to retire during the next financial year, subsequently the Society has set up a subcommittee, led by the Deputy Governor, tasked with appointing a suitable successor and has employed recruitment consultants to assist.

STATEMENT OF THE COURT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Court is responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Relevant Financial Reporting Framework. The Court is required to prepare financial statements for each year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Society for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Court is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- 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;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Society will continue in business.

The Court is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Court is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

AUDITOR

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that IDS Chartered Accountants LLP be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITOR

Each of the Trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The Trustees report was approved by Order of the Court

Alderman Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell
Governor

25 July 2023



THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Honourable The Irish Society (the 'Society') for the year ended 30 April 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 April 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) 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 Society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, 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 Trustees' 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 Society's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Court's Responsibilities, the Court is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Society'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 the Trustees either intend to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 (UK) 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the society through discussions with trustees and management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence.

We assessed the susceptibility of the society's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- testing journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessing whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias;
- investigating the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, relevant regulators and the Society's legal advisors.

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

This report is made solely to the Society's trustees, as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Society's trustees 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 Society and the Society's trustees as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

IDS Chartered Accountants LLP

IDS Chartered Accountants LLP

Statutory Auditor

23/25 Queen Street

COLERAINE

Co Londonderry

BT52 1BG

25 July 2023

IDS Chartered Accountants LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Society by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Donations and grants	3	30,000	50,000	80,000	70,000
Other trading activities	4	340,143	-	340,143	320,319
Investment income	5	253,075	-	253,075	256,823
Other income	6	4,144	-	4,144	1,683
Total income		627,362	50,000	677,362	648,825
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Managing funds	7	6,598	-	6,598	19,165
Charitable activities	8	589,452	40,000	629,452	556,355
Total resources expended		596,050	40,000	636,050	575,520
Trading surplus/(deficit)		31,312	10,000	41,312	73,305
Net unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	14	(294,209)	-	(294,209)	(192,206)
Net movement in funds		(262,897)	10,000	(252,897)	(118,901)
Fund balances at 1 May 2022		12,162,296	156,130	12,318,425	12,437,325
Fund balances at 30 April 2023		11,899,399	166,130	12,065,529	12,318,425

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 APRIL 2023

	Notes	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		691,016		707,517
Investment properties	16		3,802,000		3,802,000
Investments	17		7,308,941		7,603,150
			<u>11,801,957</u>		<u>12,112,667</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	19	190,954		184,921	
Cash at bank and in hand		261,114		252,648	
		<u>452,068</u>		<u>437,569</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(188,497)		(231,810)	
Net current assets			<u>263,571</u>		<u>205,759</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>12,065,529</u>		<u>12,318,425</u>
Income funds					
Restricted funds			166,130		156,130
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General unrestricted funds		11,724,478		11,987,374	
Revaluation reserve		174,921		174,921	
		<u>11,899,399</u>		<u>12,162,295</u>	
			<u>12,065,529</u>		<u>12,318,425</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 25 July 2023

Trustee



THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

	Notes	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash absorbed by operations	25		(234,418)		(156,412)
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(3,592)		(2,691)	
Purchase of investments		-		(151,438)	
Schroders fees deducted at source		(6,598)		(10,006)	
Investment income received		253,075		256,823	
Net cash generated from investing activities			242,885		92,688
Net cash used in financing activities			-		-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			8,467		(63,724)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			252,648		316,372
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			261,114		252,648

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Honourable The Irish Society is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016). The Society is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Society. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Society has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

In making this assessment the Trustees have considered the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Society's cash flows and liquidity.

With respect to the next reporting period, the most significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the Society are the levels of investment return and the performance of investment markets (see the Risk Management and Financial Review sections of the Trustees' report for more information).

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in notes 3 and 8 to the financial statements.

1.4 Incoming resources

All income is recognised once:

- the charity has entitlement to the income;
- it is probable that the income will be received; and
- the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services provided in the normal course of business, net of discounts, VAT and other sales related taxes.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.5 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Society to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

The costs of generating funds consists solely of investment management fees.

Costs of charitable activities include grants made, governance costs and an apportionment of support costs as shown in Note 8.

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Support costs include office and staff costs and have been allocated to the activity cost category or on a basis consistent with the use of resources – e.g. staff costs by the time spent, and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the Society and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Governance costs include the governance arrangements which relate to the general running of the charity as opposed to the direct management functions in generating funds, service delivery, project work and grant making. These costs include such items as external legal advice, Trustees' expenses are associated with visits to Northern Ireland.

The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in Note 11.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

The Society's properties were valued in the prior financial year by O'Connor Kennedy Turtle, Chartered Surveyors, providing a market value as at 30 April 2021, in line with the Society's intentions of carrying out a formal valuation of its properties every five years in accordance with FRS 102.

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold land and buildings	Straight line over 50 years
Motor vehicles and boats	25% straight line
Furniture and office equipment	20% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Other properties occupied by the Society are not treated as investment properties. These are depreciated on a straight line basis over fifty years. They are similarly valued at least once in every five years and included in the above report.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.7 Investment properties

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is measured using the fair value model and stated at its fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. No depreciation is provided on investment properties, in accordance with accounting standards. The majority of the investment properties which are generating rental income are valued by reference to yield. Those which are not generating rental income have been valued at the Trustees' best estimates.

1.8 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

The Society does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

The main form of financial risk faced by the Society is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.9 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the Society reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in income/(expenditure) for the year, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but so that the increased carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised immediately, unless the relevant asset is carried in at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation increase.

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.11 Financial instruments

The Society has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Society's balance sheet when the Society becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Society's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Taxation

The Society is not liable to tax on capital gains, rent, investment income and certain other income.

1.13 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Society is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the Society's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical judgements

Valuation of investment properties

Investment properties were revalued as at 30 April 2021. It is the Society's policy to obtain external valuations every 5 years.

3 Donations and grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations and grants	30,000	50,000	80,000	70,000
For the year ended 30 April 2022	30,000	40,000		70,000
Donations and gifts				
Grant from Drapers	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Clothworkers grant	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Annual contributions to small grants 2021-22 (6th year of 10)	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
Drapers to Co-Operation Ireland	-	10,000	10,000	-
	30,000	50,000	80,000	70,000

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2023	2022
	£	£
Commercial property rent	173,162	169,186
Fishing, coarse, game and sporting	166,981	151,133
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Other trading activities	340,143	320,319
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2023	2022
	£	£
Dividends - equities	253,075	256,823
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2023	2022
	£	£
Other income	4,144	1,683
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7 Managing funds

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2023	2022
	£	£
Investment management fees	6,598	19,165
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>6,598</u>	<u>19,165</u>

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

8 Charitable activities

	Education £	Community Development £	Environmental Protection & Improvement £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Grant funding of activities (see note 9)	142,923	74,817	26,459	244,196	232,065
Share of support costs (see note 11)	68,154	68,154	204,462	340,770	287,355
Share of governance costs (see note 11)	8,896	8,896	26,689	44,481	36,936
	<u>219,973</u>	<u>151,867</u>	<u>257,610</u>	<u>629,452</u>	<u>556,355</u>
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	198,918	132,924	257,610	589,452	
Restricted funds	21,057	18,943	-	40,000	
	<u>219,975</u>	<u>151,867</u>	<u>257,610</u>	<u>629,452</u>	
For the year ended 30 April 2022					
Unrestricted funds	155,496	150,434	209,555		515,485
Restricted funds	13,050	27,820	-		40,870
	<u>168,546</u>	<u>178,254</u>	<u>209,555</u>		<u>556,355</u>

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

9 Grants payable

	Education	Community Development	Environmental Protection & Improvement	Total 2023	Total 2022
	2023	2023	2023		
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants to institutions:					
Advisory Committee	30,421	28,084	7,959	66,464	63,549
Clothworkers	6,464	13,536	-	20,000	19,500
Drapers	14,593	5,157	-	19,750	20,000
London Budget	91,895	27,540	18,500	137,935	106,263
To Co-operation Ireland	-	-	-	-	22,500
Other	(2,700)	-	-	(2,700)	-
	<u>140,673</u>	<u>74,317</u>	<u>26,459</u>	<u>241,446</u>	<u>231,812</u>
Grants to individuals	2,250	500	-	2,750	250
	<u>142,923</u>	<u>74,817</u>	<u>26,459</u>	<u>244,196</u>	<u>232,062</u>

The Society makes grants for assistance in line with its aims of promoting the welfare of County Londonderry and adjoining areas in Northern Ireland. Grants are made on a cross-community basis to local organisations and individuals for deserving causes and to local primary, secondary and tertiary educational establishments. Details of some of the London grants that the Society paid out during the year can be seen in the Trustees' Report (pages 4-5). Full details of all Advisory Committee, Drapers' and Clothworkers' grants can be found on the Society's website. Grants payable are payments made in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the Society.

10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the Society during the year. Expense claims totalling **£4,319** (2022: £1,575) were reimbursed by the Society for travel and subsistence on behalf of **five** trustees.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

11 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	192,730	39,458	232,188	218,415
Depreciation	20,093	-	20,093	19,673
Rent, rates, insurance & utilities	26,522	-	26,522	17,938
Repairs & maintenance	17,970	-	17,970	9,105
Advertising, PR, & printing	1,514	-	1,514	293
Telephone	2,972	-	2,972	2,617
Computer & website costs	1,011	-	1,011	947
Motor & travel	28,508	-	28,508	19,006
Legal & professional (NI property)	30,227	-	30,227	30,594
Audit & accountancy	2,029	-	2,029	1,884
Bad debt provision	12,279	-	12,279	-
General (office sundries, stationery, subscriptions)	4,919	-	4,919	3,680
Audit fees	-	2,400	2,400	2,400
Accountancy	-	1,600	1,600	1,600
Legal fees (non-property)	-	1,023	1,023	(3,859)
	<u>340,770</u>	<u>44,481</u>	<u>385,251</u>	<u>324,291</u>
Analysed between				
Charitable activities	<u>340,770</u>	<u>44,481</u>	<u>385,251</u>	<u>324,291</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the auditors of **£2,400 (2022 - £2,400)** for audit fees, and additional accounts preparation work of **£1,600 (2022 - £1,600)**.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

12 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Direct charitable activities	4	4
Administration	2	2
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

Employment costs

	2023 £	2,022 £
Wages and salaries	180,669	171,201
Social security costs	19,667	17,292
Other pension costs	31,852	29,922
	<u>232,188</u>	<u>218,415</u>

No member of the Court received any remuneration.

The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2023 Number	2,022 Number
£60,001-£70,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

14 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Total
	2023 £	2022 £
Net unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	<u>(294,209)</u>	<u>(192,206)</u>

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings	Motor vehicles and boats	Furniture and office equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 May 2022	780,000	54,583	21,580	856,163
Additions	-	3,292	300	3,592
At 30 April 2023	780,000	57,875	21,880	859,755
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 May 2022	85,369	43,826	19,451	148,646
Depreciation charged in the year	15,600	3,287	1,206	20,093
At 30 April 2023	100,969	47,113	20,657	168,739
Carrying amount				
At 30 April 2023	679,031	10,762	1,223	691,016
At 30 April 2022	694,631	10,757	2,129	707,517

Land and buildings with a carrying amount of £780,000 were revalued at 30 April 2021 by O'Connor Kennedy Turtle, independent valuers not connected with the Society on the basis of market value. The valuation conforms to International Valuation Standards and was based on recent market transactions on arm's length terms for similar properties.

The Society owns paintings, silver and other fixed assets in Northern Ireland, which are included at a £Nil book value but were valued in June 2011 by Danny Kinahan Fine Art & Antiques at £272,630. The Society also owns some silver items, five badges of office, a 17th Century (copy) Royal Charter and a modern Charter, all normally held in London and together valued at £100,000. No further valuations have been obtained since June 2011.

16 Investment property

	2023 £
Fair value	
At 1 May 2022 and 30 April 2023	3,802,000

Investment property comprises a number of different commercial properties. The fair value of the investment properties has been arrived at on the basis of a valuation carried out at 30 April 2021 by O'Connor Kennedy Turtle Chartered Surveyors, who are not connected with the Society. The valuation was made on an open market value basis by reference to market evidence of transaction prices for similar properties. It is the accounting policy of the company to obtain independent valuations for investment properties every five years.

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

17 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Other investments	Cash held by investment manager	Total
	£	£		£
Cost or valuation				
At 1 May 2022 & 30 April 2023	7,599,574	2	3,574	7,603,150
Carrying amount				
At 30 April 2023	7,599,574	2	3,574	7,603,150
At 30 April 2022	7,599,574	2	3,574	7,603,150

18 Financial instruments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	7,308,658	7,599,574

19 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	131,328	113,248
Other debtors	51,654	64,450
Prepayments and accrued income	7,971	7,223
	190,954	184,921

20 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	31,707	38,791
Trade creditors	1,829	5,191
Other creditors	128,650	166,380
Accruals and deferred income	26,311	21,448
	188,497	231,810

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

21 Retirement benefit schemes

The Society operates a Pension Scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay for all of its employees.

The assets of the Scheme are held separately from those of the Society in the City of London Corporation Pension Fund.

The Scheme is a funded, defined benefit scheme. However it is also classified as a multi-employer scheme under FRS 102. Although the employer's contributions are affected by a surplus or deficit in the scheme, the employer is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities in the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis.

As a result, the Scheme is accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme, as required by FRS 102. The employer's contributions made to the Scheme in the period were £31,852 (2022: £29,922), with an employer's contribution rate of 17.5% of pensionable pay. Employee's contributions were between 5.5% and 12.5% of pensionable pay.

Valuation date	31 March 2022	31 March 2019
Value of assets (smoothed)	£1,370m	£1,063m
Value of liabilities	£1,404m	£1,176m
Funding level of accrued benefits	98%	90%
Investment return on future contributions per annum	4.6%	5.7%
Investment return on accumulated assets per annum	4.6%	5.7%
Pension increases per annum	2.9%	2.6%
Rate of price inflation	2.9%	2.6%

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total Unrestricted 2023 £	Unrestricted 2022 £	Restricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances at 30 April 2023 are represented by:						
Tangible assets	691,016	-	691,016	707,517	-	707,517
Investment properties	3,802,000	-	3,802,000	3,802,000	-	3,802,000
Investments	7,308,941	-	7,308,941	7,603,150	-	7,603,150
Current assets/(liabilities)	263,570	-	263,570	205,759	-	205,759
	<u>12,065,529</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,065,529</u>	<u>12,318,425</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,318,425</u>

THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2023

23 Operating lease commitments

At the reporting end date the Society had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	550	550

This refers to the monthly Licence to Occupy arrangement with the City of London Corporation in respect of the Society's office at Guildhall, London.

24 Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows.

	2023 £	2022 £
Aggregate compensation	85,414	82,236

The Society considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees and the Society's Secretary & Representative (Northern Ireland).

No guarantees have been given or received.

25 Cash generated from operations

	2023 £	2022 £
Deficit for the year	(252,897)	(118,901)
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(246,477)	(237,658)
Fair value gains and losses on investments	294,209	192,206
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	20,093	19,673
Movements in working capital:		
(Increase) in debtors	(6,033)	(16,242)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(43,313)	4,510
Cash absorbed by operations	(234,418)	(156,412)



The Honourable Irish Society

Our Mission Statement:

'To work in partnership for the economic and social benefit of Northern Ireland'

For more information about how to join us in helping communities in Northern Ireland, contact us at:

office@irishsociety.co.uk

or visit our website at:

www.honourableirishsociety.org.uk/