



The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited Reconvened Annual General Meeting

Notice and Information Pack

Thursday, 30th November 2023 at 8.00 p.m.
in the MS Care Centre, 65 Bushy Park Road,
Rathgar, Dublin 6 & Via Zoom

(Note: The Reconvened AGM will be held online via Zoom. The Reconvened AGM meeting will be recorded) To attend the Reconvened AGM virtually (via Zoom), members need to complete the registration form attached on page 60 and we will send the zoom link to you on receipt of your registration form)

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Separate document circulated with the AGM Pack:

Proxy Form

NOTICE OF THE RECONVENED ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the twenty third Reconvened National Annual General Meeting of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited will take place in the MS Care Centre, 65 Bushy Park Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6 in person and via Zoom on Thursday, 30th November at 8.00 p.m.

(Note The Reconvened AGM will be online. The Reconvened AGM will be recorded.) To attend the Reconvened AGM virtually (via Zoom), members need to complete the registration form on page 60 and we will send the zoom link to you on receipt of your registration form.)

The Reconvened AGM is being held for the following purposes:

Ordinary Resolution

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution which will be proposed as an ordinary resolution:

Ordinary Resolutions

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution which will be proposed as an ordinary resolution:

1. To receive and consider the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022 together with the directors' report and the auditors' report thereon

By Order of the Board



Maurice O'Connor
Company Secretary
MS Ireland

24th October 2023

Patron Michael D. Higgins, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

A list of names and personal details of every Director of the Company is available for inspection to the public at the Company's Registered Office for a nominal fee.
Registered Office: 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. Company Registration Number 296573; Registered Charity Number: 20007867; Charity Number: 5365.

Re: 24th Reconvened National Annual General Meeting ("AGM") (since incorporation – the Society was founded in 1961) of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited on Thursday, 30th November 2023 at 8.00 p.m. in the MS Care Centre, 65 Bushy Park Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6 and via Zoom

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed information regarding the Reconvened Annual General Meeting ("AGM"). Particular points to note are the following:

1. Voting at the Reconvened AGM

Members are entitled to vote on the resolution being proposed in the enclosed Notice of the Reconvened AGM. Votes for the Reconvened AGM may be registered in person at the Reconvened AGM or by proxy, which means that if you are unable to attend or vote online at the Reconvened AGM, you can fill in the attached Proxy Form to appoint the Chairperson, to speak and vote on your behalf at the Reconvened AGM. A proxy form that is not complete or does not meet the requirements of S.183 and S.184 of the Companies Act will not be counted.

To be valid this proxy form (and where applicable, any power of attorney under which it is signed) must reach the Company Secretary by post or by hand to 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4, D04 T856 not less than forty-eight hours before the time appointed for the Reconvened AGM, i.e. by no later than 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th November 2023.

If you have any queries regarding the Reconvened AGM, please contact National Office on 01 678 1608.

Yours sincerely



Maurice O'Connor
Company Secretary, MS Ireland

Reconvened Annual General Meeting Agenda

Approval of Agenda

Ordinary Resolution – To receive and consider

1. Directors' Report, Auditors' Report and Financial Statements 2022

Please note that the Reconvened AGM will be recorded

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Reports and
Financial Statements
for the financial year ended
31 December 2022

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Directors and Other Information

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

These are our current directors:

Anne Restan (Chairperson)
Aveen Murray (Deputy Chairperson)
Maurice O'Connor (Company Secretary)
Robin Bradley
Noelle Burke
Anthony Candon
Carol Ellis-Barton
Jacinta Kelly
Dr Rebecca Maguire
Rory Mulcahy
Sean Martin
Martin Power
Mary Sheahan Lonergan
Leslie Warren

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Ava Battles

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

William Lonergan
Allen O'Connor

FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Martin Power (Chairperson)
Robin Bradley
Tom Cronin
Jacinta Kelly
Rory Mulcahy
Maurice O'Connor
Ava Battles

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

REGISTERED OFFICE	80 Northumberland Road Dublin 4, D04 T856
CHARITY NUMBER	CHY 5365
CHARITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY NUMBER	20007867
COMPANY NUMBER	296573
DATE OF INCORPORATION	19th November 1998
YEAR MS IRELAND WAS FOUNDED	1961
AUDITOR	Deloitte Ireland LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm Deloitte & Touche House 29 Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2, D02 AY28 Ireland
PRINCIPAL BANKERS	Bank of Ireland College Green Dublin 2
SOLICITORS	Joynt & Crawford 8 Anglesea Street Dublin 2

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT

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

In this report the Directors of The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland ("MS Ireland") present its activities, governance, achievements, and finances for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND MISSION, VISION, OBJECTIVES AND VALUES

MS Ireland's mission is "to enable and empower people affected by multiple sclerosis to live the life of their choice to their fullest".

MS Ireland has a vision of an Irish society where all people affected by MS live positive and active lives in the community.

Its principal objectives are:

- To enable and empower people with multiple sclerosis (hereinafter referred to as "PwMS") to live the life of their choice to their fullest potential
- To provide support for the families and carers of PwMS
- To co-operate with the medical, scientific, social, and caring professions to promote scientific research into the causes of, cure for and management of MS, and the alleviation of medical and social symptoms
- To exchange and disseminate information relating to MS and
- To provide an identifiable focal point by developing an efficient, effective, and caring organisation to serve the needs of PwMS and to advocate on their behalf

Values

MS Ireland is committed to being supportive, transparent, informative, and empowering. These core values are the fundamental beliefs of our organization.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Board

MS Ireland is directed by a voluntary Board which comprises of people with varied backgrounds, some with MS. Its function is to provide leadership, develop strategy, formulate effective policies, and oversee their implementation, monitoring the delivery of services, ensure good governance and financial control.

The Board is provided with regular financial and operational information. Detailed budgets are prepared in line with the current Strategic Plan and are reviewed by the Finance, Audit, Risk and Strategy Committee and further reviewed and approved by the Board. Actual results and outcomes are compared against the budget to ensure alignment with the Plan and to maintain tight budgetary control and value for money.

Governance of MS Ireland is conducted in accordance with Charity Regulator Governance Code 2018, its Constitution, and its Bye Laws. These are available on our website www.ms-society.ie

The Board continues to be committed to a high level of transparency and disclosure in relation to staff remuneration. As in previous years, Note 10 to the financial statements provides details on Staff Remuneration in line with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) as developed by the Financial Reporting Council.

The Branches, Council and Committees

MS Ireland's voluntary Branches are primarily run by people with MS and their families. They are governed by an elected committee to organise the activities of the Branch including all the services and fundraising activities. Voluntary Branches work very closely with the regional offices. MS Ireland has a network of 29 voluntary Branches.

The Council is the consultative body that represents the views of the Branches around the country. The Council provides a direct link between members, Branches, and the Board. The structure of the Council has changed in parallel with the introduction of the Regional Integrated Meetings (Meetings where regional staff members, a National Office representative and local Branch representatives come together to discuss service delivery in the region and National Office updates).

The Board is responsible for the strategy, and it creates/appoints committees. The following committees are appointed by the Board to aid in the internal workings of MS Ireland:

1. Digital Innovation and Technology Committee
2. Finance, Audit, Risk and Strategy Committee
3. Services, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee
4. Research Advocacy and Communications Committee
5. Remuneration and Nomination Committee
6. Governance Committee
7. Organisation and People Committee

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance

We want to reassure you that MS Ireland is transparent, ethical and has on-going and effective audit processes in place. We value every donation we receive and are always mindful that it is our duty to use the money to achieve the biggest possible impact for people living with MS.

Here are some facts for you about our governance:

- The Board hold meetings 6 times a year with the Chief Executive in attendance at those meetings. The Chief Executive reports to the Board but is not a member of the Board. MS Ireland's Constitution and Code of Conduct details the process on the selection and rotation of Board members, the roles and duties of the Chairperson and Chief Executive. We require formal disclosure of any potential conflict of interest or loyalty of Directors at meetings. We have a committed and strong Board, currently made up of 62% people living with MS or family members. They give their time for free and receive no payments for their work. However, Board members are entitled to claim for travel and subsistence expenses in attending meetings. In 2022 Board members expenses were €623 (2021: Nil). No emoluments are paid to Board members. The list of Board members and biographies can be found on our website.
- MS Ireland is a registered charity and is in compliance with the requirements of Charities Governance Code and is listed on the [Register of the Charities Regulatory Authority](#).
- Our annual financial statements are audited by Deloitte Ireland LLP. Accounts for the last number of years can be obtained from our website.
- MS Ireland's accounts adhere to the SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities) accounting standard. Accounts for year ended 31st December 2022 will be available following the reconvened Annual General Meeting on Thursday, November 30th 2023.
- We adhere to the [Guiding Principles for Fundraising](#). The principles set the standard for best practice in fundraising in Ireland.

Management

The Chief Executive, to whom day to day management of the charity is delegated, leads a team of 71 employees working throughout the National Office, the MS Care Centre and 10 regional offices, plus an additional 46 Community Employment workers employed with the support of the Department of Social Protection ("DSP").

The National Office is the base for the overall administrative and support services of MS Ireland, including Information and Advocacy, Finance, Fundraising, IT, HR, and Communications. Regional offices provide services to PwMS, people affected by MS ("PaMS") and support to the network of Branches throughout the country. The Care Centre provides respite services. Service development and operations currently sit within the remit of the Chief Executive, the Services Manager, and the National Services Development Manager. In 2022 we had a roster system in operation in MS Ireland National Office to ensure a presence in the office daily. The Care Centre was open with ten beds available and our regional offices provided services both virtually and in person.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Activities for 2022 are reviewed under the headings of MS Ireland's Strategic Plan 2020–2024:

In 2022, MS Ireland worked towards achieving our strategic priorities, as set out in our Strategic Plan 2020–2024. The Board of MS Ireland is committed to building an organisation which is integrated, effective, outcome-driven, and accountable.

The key goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 of MS Ireland are as follows: -

Goal: Service Delivery

Objective 1 Services Development and New Service Models

Objective 2 Research

Objective 3 Advocacy

Goal: Sustainable Finances

Objective 4 Grow Sustainable Income Base

Objective 5 Develop Partnerships

Goal: Innovation

Objective 6 Develop Digital Operations and Governance

Goal: People and Culture

Objective 7 Develop and Invest in our People

Objective 8 Grow Branch and Community Volunteer Base

Goal: Service Delivery

Objective 1: Services Development & New Service Models

During 2022 the Company underwent the third year of its Strategic Plan. It continued to review and develop our suite of services provided by professionals and volunteers. The provision of online services continued. This was an exciting development resulting in many of our programmes being non location specific thus appealing to a potentially wider audience. This offered us an opportunity to capacity build our staff, volunteers, and MS community with digital literacy opportunities.

Regional Community Work

In 2022, MS Ireland ensured the provision of practical and emotional support through the casework services. Ten Service Level Arrangements (SLA) exist with the HSE in the North West, North East, Dublin (NA,ECA,SWA), South East, Southern, Mid-West, West and Midlands areas. In 2022, 2,316 individuals received a 1:1 casework service nationally. The top presenting issues for PWMS included emotional support, financial welfare, accommodation, aids and appliances, home support, access to healthcare and respite. 198 new referrals were accepted into the casework service in 2022, 48 of those were newly diagnosed in 2022. All reviews were completed on the National Ability Supports System (NASS) database.

The Casework practice group engaged with Quality Matters and completed a significant project regarding casework evaluation and outcomes in December 2022. The completion of this project was required first, to progress Salesforce changes. The Casework Salesforce Project is scheduled for 2023.

Community Workers facilitated the delivery of community physiotherapy and other health promoting physical activity programmes (see Exercise & Physical Activity), health promotion programmes, coping strategies and well-being services (see Wellness on page 10) to PwMS and their families.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Information Services

The Information Line is often the first port of call for a person with MS and/or a family member. This is a confidential service, and the main thrust is the provision of reliable and accurate information and support in a timely fashion. The information is given on an individual basis to people affected by MS ("PaMS") and health professionals through the MS Information Line – Telephone – 0818 233 233. 1,655 people contacted the Information Line in 2022, 903 of these contacts were by telephone, 490 were by email and 262 were made by social media. The information line also provides information to Regional Staff, and to other services and/or agencies as appropriate.

Exercise and Physical Activity Programmes

MS Ireland run several different programmes as part of our exercise and physiotherapy services. Our focus is on health promoting physical activity to enable people to live well at home, reduce disability and symptom severity and improve quality of life. We have a team of directly employed physiotherapists and also engage with independent physio, yoga and fitness contractors around the country to deliver this service.

Evidence gathered in 2022 show that our programmes have a range of benefits including improvements in symptoms and quality of life, reductions in fatigue and mental health issues, reductions in falls and improved confidence to be physically active and reduced healthcare utilisation.

We had 2,077 participants in 233 programmes and provided 682 individual sessions in our physical activity services in 2022.

Getting the Balance Right (GTBR)

GTBR physio, yoga and fitness instructor-led programmes ran across all 10 of our regions and are reliant on fundraised income and provided by contractors. The service in the West is provided by our directly employed senior physiotherapist and a team of physiotherapy assistants. There were 69 yoga programmes with 630 participants and 122 physio programmes with 1,078 participants run in 2022. There were 6 fitness programmes with 54 participants attending.

Active Neuro

The Active Neuro programme ran for part of the year (due to challenges with staffing) as a new service in the West, and for 5 weeks in the Midwest on receipt of funding from the HSE in November. In the West we ran two blocks of 3 online Active Neuro classes with a total of 154 sessions.

In the Midwest we ran one short block of programmes for 5 weeks for 2 programmes. Restarting in the Midwest and expanding in the West will be the focus of 2023.

Move Smart MS

Twenty-eight Move Smart MS programmes were delivered across three blocks in 2022. 218 participants took part, and the Move Smart MS programme provided 245 1.5 hour long sessions across its programmes. This resulted in 1,808 hours of physiotherapy received.

The unique feature of Move Smart MS is that programmes are tailored to specific symptoms using an exercise and education combination. We ran programmes of High Level Fitness, Dizziness and Balance, Better Balance for Falls prevention, Step it up to the Exercise Guideline, Newly diagnosed, Strength and Balance, Pilates and Seated Fitness.

Physio West

In Galway, Mayo and Roscommon we provided 30 different programmes, to 261 participants taking part in 2,296 sessions. We ran three blocks of 7 online Getting the Balance Right classes with a total of 63 individuals and a total of 1920 sessions. Our directly employed physiotherapist is assisted by physiotherapists assistants optimizing the physios time and the intensity of programmes.

We provide 146 individual sessions to 43 individuals. Sessions were provided at home or at Cheshire House Galway or with an innovative new approach at a local gym to enable the person to integrate into their community resources.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

What is the impact of our programmes?

MS Ireland's Health Promoting Physical Activity programmes result in improvements in symptoms such as strength, fitness, balance and walking and a reduction in MS impact, fatigue, depression and anxiety. They also provide a forum for peer learning, social support and a sense of community for those living with neurological conditions.

The impacts of our programmes are wide ranging and include:

- Significant reductions (44%) in healthcare utilisation, both in terms of primary and tertiary care services following the programme.
- A 30% reduction in the number of falls and a 49% reduction in the number of participants experiencing falls.
- Clinically and statistically significant improvements in strength (29%), balance (44% right leg, 67.2% left leg) and walking endurance (7.5%) measured objectively.
- Clinically and statistically significant improvements for patient reported questionnaires of MS Impact (32.5%), fatigue (21%), perceived walking ability (26.1%) and mental health (19%).
- 77% of participants reported their confidence in their ability to exercise was significantly or very much better after the programmes.

May's story; May had an MS relapse and deterioration in her walking which was managed by her GP with oral steroids, she subsequently had 6 sessions of physiotherapy from Primary Care but was still not steady enough to walk without an aid and return to working as a nurse in an acute hospital. She took part in two blocks of 10 sessions of Active Neuro exercise and education sessions and increased her strength sufficiently for her to return to work, Active Neuro Participant.

"Life changing. I'm now able to use a single stick for walking out of the house instead of a rollator. I'm now able to go shopping and walk in the street without getting nauseous and a bad headache. It has given me very positive improvements and definitely provided information, strategies and exercises to continue improving." Move Smart MS Participant.

"I find participating in the Getting the Balance right exercise program very beneficial. I can move a lot easier and my transfer are better and more reliable. This helps me with the basic tasks like picking things off the floor and transferring to bed and the toilet. I'm less fatigued – exercising gives me energy." Getting the Balance Right Participant.

Are people with MS satisfied with their experience?

Participants report excellent experiences and high levels of satisfaction with our programmes.

Participants were asked how satisfied they were with their programmes on a scale of 1-10, the average score was 9.4 for physio and 9.69 for yoga indicating high levels of satisfaction.

"Going to the exercise class means that you are disciplined in doing the exercises and that you are doing them properly. The social part is very important to meet others and to just form a network and to be able to talk with others that understand"

A satisfaction survey was also used for Move Smart MS which uses an Education and Exercise approach – 98% of participants agreed with the statement "The education and chat was helpful for me to manage my MS symptoms better." And 100% of respondents agreed that " The Move Smart MS programme had added benefits to a general exercise class."

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

The MS Care Centre

The MS Care Centre is a 12 bed respite facility. Following a reduction in beds during COVID, in 2022, the capacity was increased to 10 residents, with lengths of stay options of 5/7/12 nights. In 2022, 228 individuals availed of respite in the Care Centre, with high dependency beds with the greatest demand. The Care Centre continued to operate under HSE advice in line with Covid Management recommendations.

The MS Care Centre, - registered by the Health Information Quality Authority ("HIQA"). The Care Centre is monitored every three years by HIQA and was approved for re-registration in October 2020. The Clinical Nurse Manager and the Quality Manager at the Care Centre ensure that the standards and regulations set by HIQA are maintained. The most recent HIQA report has been published and is available <https://www.hiqa.ie/areas-we-work/find-a-centre/multiple-sclerosis-society-ireland-ms-care-centre>

Wellness Programmes

MS Ireland offers programmes that aim to improve the overall well-being of people with MS. These programmes are facilitated by a combination of MS Ireland staff, external contractors, volunteers and partner organisations (such as the HSE and Education and Training Boards (ETB)). They aim to improve overall well-being by providing up to date information, encouraging peer engagement and support and providing opportunities to improve symptom management.

In 2022, the Community Worker team facilitated FACETS (Fatigue: Applying Cognitive behavioural and Energy effectiveness Techniques to lifestyle). It is a 6 week evidence-based group fatigue management programme run online or in-person specifically for PwMS. The service is offered online nationally 3 times per year and also in regions where staff capacity allows. Each programme is facilitated by 2 MS Ireland Regional Community Workers.

The decision was taken in August 2022 to pause the FACETS salesforce project. This was due to the additional training of staff and a lack of clarity as to whether the upgrades to salesforce would be necessary. The work resumed (and was completed) in February 2023.

Branches

In 2022 MS Ireland staff continue to support Branches to utilise various digital platforms and facilitate hybrid meetings due to the return of in person meetings and activities after the pandemic. Branch activities include support groups, social activities, therapies and in some instances, financial assistance. Capacity building opportunities and training was also facilitated for all Branches. The provision of branch level support is made possible by voluntary local fundraising.

Community Employment Schemes

The provision of services and supports throughout the country relies on the quality contribution of our Community Employment Scheme Participants. They contribute hugely to the work of MS Ireland on a day-to-day basis. There are 23 CE participants assisting in the work of the Care Centre, 12 CE participants assisting with the exercise training plans for PwMS in the Western region: 16 visiting PwMS in their homes, in the North West region. Three offices, the North East, the South East and the Mid-West have a number of CE participants that assist with data collection for the Health Research Board, which represents the needs of PwMS.

Social Media

In MS Ireland, we continued to develop our social media throughout 2022. 21,070 people accessed our Facebook page, 9,454 people accessed Twitter and 5,051 followed us on Instagram and 1,517 on LinkedIn. The facebook page reach was 1.7m (+22.4% from 2021) and pages visits 42,486 (+146%). Instagram reach was 758,283 (+53%) and profile visits were 10,874 (+11%).

We used social media to support our various online fundraisers in 2022. The Facebook/Instagram paid reach was 1.6m (+44%) and paid impressions were 9.6m (+48%).

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

MS Ireland Website

In 2022 the website had a total of 231,385 unique page views (-2% 2021). The small drop in total visits is reflected in the Covid pages visits reducing by -88% compared to 2021. The biggest page visit increases were Work with Us +69%, Research +64% and News +46%. There was a 34% increase in downloads from the website. The average page visit duration was 2.12 minutes (-3% from 2021) with average 2.7 interactions (-7%).

The most viewed pages were 1. About MS (34,154 unique page views) 2. Index (30,124) 3. MS and MS Blog (18,634) 4. News (16,672) 5. What we do (16,617) 6. Research (9,886) 7. Donate (5,656) 8. Checkout (5,380) and 9. Get Involved (5,173) 10. Shop (5,105) 11. Our Services (4,967) 12. Events (4,911) 13. Work US (3,204) and 14. Who are we (3,403).

The most popular means of accessing our website was from search engines with 54% (52% in 2021) of people accessing our website from this source. Direct entry accounted for 29% (25%) followed by Social Networks at 11% (17%) and finally other websites was 3% (2%) and unknown 3% (4%).

The smartphone is the most popular device used to access our website at 57% (59% in 2021), followed by Desktop at 36% (33%) and then Tablets at 3% (4%). Ireland accounted for 77% of our website visitors in 2022.

We have a team of volunteer bloggers who write about their own personal experiences of living with MS. We share these blogs on our website and promote them through social media to signpost our members to this resource. This continues to be a great resource to drive traffic to our website.

Webinars

In continuation of our webinar series, throughout 2022, MS Ireland arranged several online information webinars which allowed people in the MS community to virtually attend expert led information sessions. We recorded the majority of these sessions and made them available on our website on our dedicated 'Online Video Catalogue section'. Providing the information in this format allows our community to access these videos on demand at a time that suits them.

MS Explored – The Podcast

MS Ireland produced a 5-part videos series which aimed to highlight some of the key roles that exist to support people living with MS. This included a neurologist, nurse, scientist, physiotherapist, and an MS Ireland community worker.

Societal Cost of MS Report

MS Ireland in collaboration with Novartis produced an updated publication of The Societal Cost of MS. A cross-sectional, online survey opened in 2021 which invited people living with MS to take part. This provided us with self-reported data relating to the direct, indirect and intangible costs associated with living with multiple sclerosis in Ireland as well as the cost associated with relapse. The report from this research was published and launched in 2022.

The data from this survey was also compared to data from a previous survey which was conducted in 2015. This helped us to determine what had changed and what had remained the same in the interim.

Young persons' survey

MS Ireland conducted a survey of young people living with MS in Ireland to better understand their experiences with MS Ireland. This was conducted with a view to creating tailored information and supports for young people living with MS so we are best placed to meet the unique needs they may have.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Objective 2: Research

Service design and development informed by research, international best practice, and outcomes.

Sharing opportunities with our community to engage in and learn more about MS research is an important part of the work that MS Ireland does, and throughout 2022, we shared numerous opportunities with our community members. We shared research findings through our eNews, website and social media platforms. MS Ireland collaborated with Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF) on updates to the Atlas of MS and the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP).

MS Ireland have continued to develop the 'Researchers profiles' section on our website. This involved having up to date Researchers Profiles and call outs on our website and ensuring this section was easy to navigate for people with MS and researchers alike.

MS Ireland has remained active within the research space throughout 2022 through collaboration with the All Ireland MS Research Network (AIMSRN) as well as through Maynooth University and other research organisations. Since late 2022, MS Ireland has been facilitating a collaborative research project between MS Ireland, AIMS RN and Future Neuro which will hopefully result in a catalogue of plain English explanations from researchers which can be accessed by the MS Community. We have also engaged with other research organisations such as the Ulysses Neuroscience through attendance of their Rare Disease Day events.

Objective 2: Research

Service design and development informed by research, international best practice, and outcomes.

In collaboration with Maynooth University, MS Ireland held a public lecture around the areas of MS, Neuropsychology, Mental Health and Wellness.

We also held an internal research session on the topic of MS and Anxiety attended by our regional teams.

Objective 3: Advocacy

Improve access to services to ensure PwMS can exercise choice over their lives and careers.

Pre-Budget 2023:

During this period, the Advocacy and Research Officer prepared and launched MS Ireland's 2023 Pre-Budget submission and held several meetings with the various party spokespeople on Health including Roisin Shortall TD, Duncan Smith TB and Colm Burke TD. The Fine Gael members of the Health Committee which include Bernard Durkan TD, Senator Sean Kyne and Senator Martin Conway also attended the meeting with Deputy Colm Burke.

At a grassroots level, MS Ireland also invited members of our community to have their voice heard by sending a template letter to their local member, which was included in MS News and also posted online.

Our spokespeople also took part by sending letters to their local member as well as individuals who would have the lived experience of the services we are looking for additional funding to give the campaign a personal perspective. MS Ireland also liaised with other organisations particularly with regards to our physiotherapy programme ask for support, which we received from the Irish Heart Foundation, Early Onset Parkinson's Disease Ireland and the Parkinson's Association of Ireland.

MS Ireland also held a Pre-Budget Briefing and Panel Discussion in the AV Room of Leinster House, which consisted of a panel discussion with Mags Rogers from the Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) with regards to the MS nurses ask, Dr Susan Coote with regards to the physiotherapy ask and a representative from the Care Centre.

Representatives from Novartis were also in attendance as this acted as a launch for The Societal Cost of MS document outside the gates of Leinster House. This briefing was attended by over 20 Oireachtas members who continually engaged with us regarding our asks after the day. Throughout the Pre-Budget Submission campaign, over 1,000 emails were sent to members of the Oireachtas for their support of our asks.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Dying with Dignity:

As part of the media cycle around Dying with Dignity (DWD), MS Ireland prepared a presentation for our regional teams which clearly stated the law as it stands today as well as analysed the upcoming piece of legislation. We also reassessed and tweaked our statement regarding the topic and are continuing to proactively monitor the topic as it progresses.

Micro-Advocacy:

The Information Advocacy and Research (IAR) working group was also inaugurated during this period as well as engaging in micro-advocacy activities which may be brought to attention by members of our regional team such as escalating a housing issue to Senator Victor Boyhan who gave us a referral to the Director of Housing at Dublin City Council as well as various other small advocacy issues. Issues regarding the Primary Medical Certificate were also escalated to the Department of Finance and issues regarding cessation of services for over 65s which were escalated to the DFI.

National Care Centre Visit:

MS Ireland also welcomed Labour Party Leader, Ivana Bacik to visit the National MS Care Centre. Deputy Bacik was given a tour of the Care Centre by Clinical Nurse Manager, Janet Lee and was given the opportunity to meet a number of our residents, Deputy Bacik also engaged with our 'Pop-Up MS House' set up by Information Officer Aoife Kirwan, which demonstrates the difficulties in everyday life for some people living with MS.

Collaborative Advocacy – Organisations

MS Ireland believes in the power of working in partnership with other organisations. By doing this, we use our collective voice to be heard more clearly. In 2022, MS Ireland continued working with the Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) on some issues including a campaign to help highlight the severe shortages of specialist neurology nurses, including MS nurses, across Ireland. This campaign included virtual meetings from various locations, most impacted by these shortages. At each of these events, a person living with MS had the opportunity to speak and share their experience. The Advocacy and Research Officer was also appointed to the Board of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland in December 2022.

World MS Day

On May 30th, MS Ireland joined people living with MS and other MS organisations around the world to mark World MS Day. The theme for World MS Day 2020-2022 was 'Connections'. The MS Connections campaign was all about building community connection, self-connection, and connections to quality care.

The campaign tagline was #MSConnections. MS Connections challenges social barriers that leave people affected by MS feeling lonely and socially isolated. It was an opportunity to advocate for better services, celebrate support networks and champion self-care. MS Ireland held an art exhibition in collaboration with Novartis to mark World MS Day 2022. The Art of MS-Symptoms Under the Spotlight featured 12 original works of art created by people living with MS in Ireland. The aim of the exhibition was to raise awareness of MS and the wide-ranging symptoms associated with the condition. Following a nationwide call for artists living with MS, 12 networks created by people living with Multiple Sclerosis were selected to be part of this exhibition which was held in Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute. The exhibition featured paintings, digital illustrations, freestanding sculptures and creative video content all of which aimed to help the viewer better understand what it is like to live with MS day to day

The 2022 AGM was held online via zoom on 17th September 2022 at 4.00pm. There were 33 members in attendance.

National Conference

In November 2022 MS Ireland hosted a virtual National Conference. This event brought a number of expert speakers together to provide information to the MS community who were able to connect from home. The speakers covered a range of topics including 'Grey and White Matter in MS'; 'Pregnancy and MS', 'MS and Brain Fog' as well as 'Bladder', bowel and sexual dysfunction in MS'. 230 individuals registered for this event. The sessions were recorded and added to our YouTube channel and website.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Goal: Sustainable Finances

Objective 4: Grow Sustainable Income Base

In 2022, after 25 years, MS Ireland held its final foreign trek on the Camino. While these treks have been incredible source of income over the years, we recognise that the world has changed since COVID, and we are now looking to invest our time in more sustainable revenue streams, such as one-off Irish challenge events and building on our corporate partnerships.

Online fundraising and challenges continue to grow and be a valuable source of income for the Society. This fundraising space is continually evolving, and we have been proactive in ensuring our staff have up-to-date training. We held three successful Facebook challenges, and hundreds of our community members set up birthday fundraisers on Facebook for us.

Objective 5: Develop partnerships

In order to build capacity around the vast grant and foundation space, we have collaborated with grant specialists 'Yellow Harbour' to build on our successes in this area. We are delighted to have the continued support of Perrigo, the Community Foundation, Bank of Ireland, and the Hospital Saturday Fund, and we were thrilled to be announced as partners of UCS.

At MS Ireland, we have a special community, and we strive to develop strong relationships and partnerships with them. Once again, our community rallied around us, helping to organise some wonderful fundraisers and events, including running marathons, bungee jumps, ladies' lunches, office parties, Cluedo nights and golf events.

Goal: Innovation

Objective 6: Develop Digital Operations and Governance

Overall Aim: Develop Digital Operations and Governance structures and strategies to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness. Ensure the Organisation has a robust ICT (Information & Communication Technology) strategy roadmap and execution plan, including the financial, tactical, and strategic benefits of proposed major ICT initiatives.

- We planned and budgeted the rollout of salesforce across the organisation
- The project to develop the system to enable Physio contractors to record attendance and complete the required documentation of the treatment episode in Salesforce was completed by the end of 2022. All treatment records and attendance statistics are now held in Salesforce optimising clinical governance and reporting
- Fatigue: Applying Cognitive Behavioural and Energy Effectiveness Techniques to Lifestyle (FACETS) The decision was taken in August 2022 to pause the FACETS salesforce project. This was due to the additional training of staff and a lack of clarity as to whether the upgrades to salesforce would be necessary. The work resumed and targeted for completion in February 2023.
- Casework
The Casework practice group engaged with Quality Matters and completed a significant project regarding casework evaluation and outcomes in December 2022. The completion of this project was required first, to progress Salesforce changes. The Casework Salesforce implementation project will continue into 2023.
- Recruitment: After several rounds of advertising for a digital specialist we were unable to recruit a suitably qualified person for the role. Recruitment for this role is now on hold.
- Website: Much work to enhance website user experience and navigation of page content was completed and more work identified. We continue to make improvements to the site.
- Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) & Google ad words: We engaged a digital agency on retainer to manage our google ad word accounts and a series of campaigns. The first two campaigns launched in early July.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Goal: People & Culture

Objective 7: Develop and Invest in Our People

Recruitment of staff was robust and it presented challenges during 2022. This was a national issue. We acquired Employee Self service module for managing annual leave and absence. Dignity at work training was provided for employees and volunteers. We continued to operate the remote working pattern while waiting on publication of the Remote Working Bill and the Work Life Balance bill. Under the pay restoration for Section 39 organisations, salaries for the majority of MS Ireland employees were increased in 2022.

Objective 8 Grow Branch and Community Volunteer Base

Branches continued to meet through zoom and many held their AGM's on zoom. Some fundraising was done virtually and physically. Compliance training was provided to branches.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

RISKS ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the major risks are identified, managed, and monitored. The major risks facing MS Ireland defined by the Board and the management are potential loss in income or significant increase in costs, potential loss of some services or breach of regulations, potential damage to MS Ireland's reputation or a significant loss of capital. These risks have been reviewed and their potential impact assessed. The Board ensures control processes are subject to continuous improvement. Given the objectives of MS Ireland, and the nature of the activities by which it furthers them, some of the risks must be accepted: it is not possible for MS Ireland to eliminate them. However, appropriate steps have been taken to mitigate them where possible.

MS Ireland Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Risk description	Management
<p>Strategy Risk</p> <p>MS Ireland's strategic objectives and activities are not properly or sufficiently focused in order for the charity to deliver its mission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our 3-year Strategic Plan outlines the key objectives for the successful delivery of our strategy, with ongoing monitoring and review by the Board and Senior management team. • We prepare detailed budgets, operational plans and target outcomes as part of our annual planning cycle. • The Board scrutinises and approves any business case and funding requirements for all significant investments. • We ensure regular monitoring and reforecasting of financial performance throughout the year.
<p>Funding and fundraising income risk</p> <p>External factors have the potential to significantly reduce income or increase costs, impacting on our ability to deliver services and supports for people with MS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Ireland provides vital respite, community case work, physio, information symptom management programmes, peer support information and advocacy services to people with MS. We continue to seek further annual investment and section 39 funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operate our Care Centre respite centre 52 weeks of the year (currently 40) and allow additional people with MS the chance to avail of a place. - Provide a sustainable, national physiotherapy service provided by a team of specialist physiotherapists directly employed by MS Ireland, delivered at a regional level using a blend of 'online' and 'in-person' programmes. • Our active fundraising team manage a pipeline of fundraising campaigns and events throughout the year and we accelerated development of online platforms to support our fundraising activities. • Our senior management team, Finance Audit Risk & Strategy Committee and the Board monitor at regular intervals financial performance throughout the year.
<p>Regulatory environment</p> <p>Changes in government policy, regulatory requirements and/ or charity sector guidance that could negatively impact on MS Ireland's strategy and activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We monitor public policy and the regulatory and environment to ensure potential risks can be proactively managed. • We work to develop multi-level relationships across government and proactive advocacy campaigns and events to ensure our views are shared. • We participate and have representation at key events and forums to help shape the MS services agenda.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Risk description	Management
<p>Technology and Cyber risk</p> <p>Operations impacted due to cyber-attack or a breach of MS Irelands' IT infrastructure or services results in loss of data or denial of service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work closely with our IT partners on security, firewall, proxy and anti-virus protection measures, with associated vulnerability monitoring and penetration testing. • We review & update the IT back-up & recovery plan. • We have robust business continuity plans in place and we carry our disaster recovery and penetration testing on a systematic basis.
<p>GDPR risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work continuously to ensure full compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2014. • We have data protection and information security policies in place across the organisation. • We work closely with our IT partners to review and continuously improve our data management systems and workforce education and training programmes.
<p>People risk</p> <p>Attracting, developing and retaining talented staff in a competitive employment market.</p> <p>Attracting developing, retaining and training volunteers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continuously monitor trends and benchmark compensation and benefits within the charity sector. • We continue to strengthen our talent management, development and succession planning programmes. • We work to ensure a vibrant and supportive working environment for our staff team.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Risk description	Management
<p>Reputation risk</p> <p>Failure to appropriately manage our reputation and media attention could impact supporters' and donors' views of the charity and could ultimately result in a reduction in support, donations and income.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board ensures the charity meets its legal and regulatory obligations in the course of fulfilling its charitable purpose. • The board and senior leadership team regularly review the capabilities required to deliver on the strategy and address issues as they appear. • We work to ensure proactive detection, monitoring, reporting and whistleblowing arrangements to enable investigation of potential adverse events and incidents. • We carry out digital and traditional media monitoring. • The board sets and reviews the charity's strategy. They conduct regular reviews to consider changes in the external environment, social matters and the charity response.
<p>Health & Safety risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Ireland maintains a health and safety policy, with detailed minimum standards, and standard operating procedures which sets out requirements. • We work closely with HIQA in completing service audits and inspections and maintaining our quality service record. • We keep abreast of H&S education and training programmes to ensure progress in Health and Safety for all our workforce. • Risk Registers are reviewed across services to ensure delivery of safe and effective services.
<p>Governance & Leadership risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board ensures a strong governance model including effective committee structures to support board oversight. • The board sets risk appetites, taking into account the expectations of stakeholders, and the macroeconomics context. • The board meets regularly to discuss strategic, financial, leadership and operational issues and plans throughout the year, with additional meetings convened as required to address emerging issues. • We conduct regular board skills audits and agree skills required/skills matrix in line with strategic objectives. • Our Nomination and Remuneration Committee review annually board evaluation and succession plan. • We provide induction for new board members. • We review board training needs and provide relevant training to board. • The Senior Management Team (SMT), led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), is responsible for executive decision-making. This includes implementing and ensuring compliance with the Society's risk management policy.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Risk description	Management
Stakeholder Management risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We engage with and understand the views of our different stakeholders and taking their views into consideration in strategy and policy development. • We review stakeholder communications plans, methods of engagement and distribution channels. • We conduct regular service satisfactions surveys.
Service delivery risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We conduct regular service user satisfaction surveys and monitor service user feedback. • Our respite centre completes regular service audits and inspections overseen by HIQA • We monitor our systems and controls to promote consistent service delivery and standards.

Service updates

- Regional Coordinators/Regional workers continuing to provide a casework service as per Government/HSE guidelines
- There are a range of Zoom classes in operation in the regions, these classes range from information sessions, FACETs (Fatigue Management), 1:1 physio to group physio classes
- Regular Zoom meetings for all regional staff
- Regional Integrated Meetings returned to in-person and were held on Zoom where preferable.

Care Centre Update

- The Care Centre continue to operate as per Government/HSE guidelines.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

In 2022, MS Ireland launched its Physiotherapy Business Case and Care Centre Business Case.

In addition, to the National Advocacy campaign, in 2022 the Community Worker Service submitted business cases in Sligo/Leitrim, the Midlands and the South East for additional funding to extend Community Worker services having identified the need. A further business case was submitted in Louth/Meath for respite funding for PWMS in the counties due to the large number availing of respite. While there is currently no outcome for these business cases, the teams will continue to advocate locally with the HSE regarding these business cases in 2023.

In 2022, the Community Worker service completed a significant piece of work with Quality Matters regarding measurements and outcomes of casework. This project will progress into the next phase in 2023, requiring a Salesforce review.

Create public awareness of MS and understanding of the needs of people with MS

In 2023, MS Ireland plan to use World MS Day as an opportunity to help raise awareness of MS and MS Ireland. We wish to challenge some of the misconceptions about MS with a public awareness campaign that will highlight a range of experiences of living with MS. This will be achieved through a number of key activities which will include a public engagement activity in a central Dublin location, an online campaign inviting people to share their photo, story and connection to MS using a unique and trackable hashtag. We will be hosting a briefing in Leinster House with members of the Oireachtas and hosting a public information event in Trinity College Dublin. In addition to this, buildings from across the country will be illuminated in MS Ireland's iconic red branding in a show of solidarity and celebration of the MS community.

National FACETS programme:

- There were 5 online FACETS programmes provided where Community Workers facilitated in teams of two. 69 participants have participated in the programmes.
- Training of 6 additional Regional Community Workers took place in December 2022.
- Fatigue Management working group established and the group have agreed to oversee the following deliverables:
 - Development of member facing website page with downloadable resources
 - Redesign of fatigue management booklet
 - Continue to roll out online and in-person fatigue management programmes
 - Adapt or develop FACETS so that it is inclusive of non-ambulatory PwMS

Webinars

MS Ireland will continue to work through our calendar of webinars for 2023 to ensure we continue to provide our community with access to expert information and the opportunity to ask the questions that matter to them. National Office will work closely with Regional teams on these webinars. By making online events available nationally, we will ensure the maximum number of people possible are benefiting from our efforts. Recordings will continue to be added to the online catalogue. This will mean that people can access the information after the live event at a time that suits them and from anywhere, they wish.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUED

Develop 'Young Persons' services group and online communications platform.

In collaboration with Novartis in 2023, MS Ireland is planning to build on the success of season 1 of the 'MS Explored' podcast and produce a second series of episodes. Our intention is to create another three episodes, inviting both people living with MS and relevant experts on to discuss various topics.

Following on from our survey with young people with MS, MS Ireland is also exploring in relation to online communications platforms for young people living with MS.

Foster a network of Researchers, PwMS and health care professionals, to enable and participate in MS research and communicate findings.

Throughout the year, MS Ireland share multiple opportunities for the MS community to get involved with research. We also circulated research findings.

From an international perspective, we collaborated with Multiple Sclerosis International Federations (MSIF) on updates to the Atlas of MS.

MS Ireland also liaised with the European MS Platform (EMSP) regarding the MS Barometer. MS Ireland continued our work with the All Ireland Multiple Sclerosis Research Network (AIMS Research Network) which brings researchers sharing a common interest in MS together, from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in order to support collaborative research. The mission of this network is three-fold. First, it supports collaborative research across the island of Ireland that holds the potential to limit the progression of MS. The second is to train future generations of MS researchers and finally, to contribute to global MS research. An important element of MS Ireland's role in research is facilitating public and patient involvement in research (PPI). As part of this, we attended the AIMS RN Symposium at Queens University Belfast in September.

MS Ireland, with support from Merck Serano Ireland, recently conducted a repeat of a 2016 comprehensive survey of needs of people with MS. The results of the survey will help us to plan our services and will inform our ongoing advocacy work. It will also help to inform us of where there are gaps currently in service provision and the information gathered will offer us an evidence based platform to campaign on behalf of our community. This provided a vital opportunity for people with MS to have their voices heard and make their needs known.

MS Ireland facilitated a number of PPI activities with members of the MS community and researchers. The aim of this was to ensure that people living with MS were given the opportunity to be active partners in research which related to them.

As part of our World MS Day activities, MS Ireland held a research event which focused on the topic of MS and Cognition, Psychotherapy and Mental Wellbeing. This event received over 100 registrations and received positive feedback on the day.

MS Ireland also provided support to healthcare professionals regarding projects they wished to progress which would add immense value to the MS community in Ireland.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Fundraising

After several years of no in-person events, we are thrilled to have been able to meet both old and new supporters at various fundraising events throughout the last year, including the Women's Mini Marathon, the Dublin Marathon, skydives, and abseils. We look forward to building on this success in 2023 and meeting even more of our inspiring community in person to thank them for their support.

The introduction of the online MS Readathon was a huge success, and we will continue to offer both online and offline options in the future. Our decision to give book vouchers instead of physical rewards was popular with kids, teachers, and parents in 2022. Our May 50k event while not making the income target, exceeded our expectations when it came to generating awareness of MS in the community for MS Ireland and our event partner, MSIF. We are excited to see even more countries join Ireland in hosting this special fundraising event in 2023 and we are hopeful for a positive fundraising result.

After the successful launch of a new jumper designed by pop artist Lauren Murphy on World MS Day in 2022, we are excited to announce that a newly designed tote bag will be available in the MS Ireland shop in 2023.

Governance and Regulation: Continue to strengthen the governance and regulation of MS Ireland ensuring compliance with relevant regulatory bodies

In 2019 MS Ireland reviewed the new Governance Code which it adopted in 2020 and we continue to review the Code annually.

The Branch Development Committee undertook a review of the Branch Handbook, and it was rolled out to Branches in 2021. We will also be promoting the Children First training to our branches.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The detailed results for the financial year are set out on page 29. The net income for the year after tax before exceptional items was €205,047 (2021: €450,972).

Income

Income totalled €6,155,525 (2021: €5,950,477) which represents an increase of €54,028 (0.89%) on 2022. Donations and fundraising income increased by €98,367 (5.78% more than 2021).

Expenditure – Before Exceptional items

During the financial year €5,950,477 (2021: €5,650,525) was spent on the provision of charitable activities/ services to PwMS, reflecting an increase of €299,952 (5.3%) on 2021.

Exceptional items

In 2018 the Society received three investment Properties valued in total at €1,375,000 this was revalued to €1,380,000 in 2020.

The net income for the year after exceptional items was €205,047 (2021: net income of €450,972).

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FINANCIAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Financial position at the end of the financial year

The fund balances totalled €10,368,008 (2021: €10,162,961) at the end of the financial year.

These funds are represented by the following:

	National Office € & CEP	Branches	Total
	€	€	€
Tangible Fixed Assets	4,184,405	27,425	4,211,830
Investment properties	1,380,000	-	1,380,000
Net Current Assets (excl. Bank loan)	4,011,945	1,292,739	5,304,684
Bank Term Loan	(528,506)	-	(528,506)
Total	9,047,844	1,320,164	10,368,008

The tangible fixed assets of the National Office are comprised mainly of the premises at Northumberland Road and Bushy Park Road, Dublin.

Reserves Policy

The Board has the responsibility for establishing an appropriate reserves policy. It is the policy of the Board of MS Ireland to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard the continuity of its operations, while at the same time committing the maximum possible resources to its current services.

The total reserves at 31 December 2022 of €10,368,008 fall into two categories, Restricted and Unrestricted funds:

Restricted funds of €3,411,056 represent income received that can only be used for particular purposes which arise because of restrictions on their use imposed by the donor at time of receipt or because the funds were collected in a public appeal to raise money for a particular purpose. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the Society. It is the policy of MS Ireland to fully apply such funds for the purposes for which they were donated as quickly as possible.

Unrestricted funds of €6,956,952 are funds that have no specific restrictions attached to them but are categorised as follows:

Designated funds of €5,934,529 which represent amounts that MS Ireland has, at its discretion, set aside for specific purposes, which would otherwise form part of its general unrestricted funds. At the end of 2022, funds had been designated for specific purposes as follows:

- The carrying value of tangible fixed assets for use by MS Ireland less associated capital grants €3,496,706 which is not available for distribution.
- The net assets of the Society's branches €1,292,739 which are retained for the furtherance of services and supports to PwMS in the future.
- Funds set aside to cover the planned budgeted deficit on unrestricted funds in 2022 of €739,107
- Funds set aside to ensure continuity of regional support of €405,978

General unrestricted funds of €1,022,423 represent funds which are available for the general purposes of the Society.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

It is also the policy of the Society to hold sufficient reserves to fund its activities and maintain the quality of its services for a minimum period of six months. This threshold has been set following an assessment of the following factors: the need to provide short term protection against unforeseen downward fluctuations in annual income; and the need to provide a financial cushion in the event of extreme circumstances affecting the Society's ability to operate.

We aim to maintain general unrestricted reserves within a policy range of a lower limit of six months. At the 31 December 2022, general unrestricted funds held were €1,022,423 (2021: €1,003,832), equating to ten months' reserves (2021: ten months).

The Board reviews the level of reserves held periodically.

DIRECTORS AND SECRETARY

The current directors are set out on page 2. The directors, who served at any time during the financial year, were as follows:

Directors:

Anne Restan (Chairperson)
Aveen Murray (Deputy chairperson)
Robin Bradley
Noelle Burke
Tom Cronin (Resigned 16/9/23)
Carol Ellis-Barton
Eugene Kearney (Resigned 16/9/23)
Anthony Kelly (Retired on 13th January 2023)
Jacinta Kelly (Resigned as deputy chairperson 16/9/23)
Dr Rebecca Maguire
Rory Mulcahy
Maurice O'Connor (Resigned as chairperson 16/9/23)
Martin Power
Mary Sheahan Lonergan

Secretary:

Maurice O'Connor
Rory Mulcahy (Resigned 16/9/23)

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

The directors and secretary had no disclosable interests in the shares of the Society as deferred in section 329 of the Companies Act 2014, at 31 December 2022 or 31 December 2021.

ACCOUNTING RECORDS

The measures that the directors have taken to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF RELEVANT AUDIT INFORMATION

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time the Directors' Report and Financial Statements are approved:

- a. As far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- b. Each director has taken all steps appropriate to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There have been no events subsequent to the year end that require an adjustment to or additional disclosure in the 2022 financial statements. There have been no significant matters affecting the company post the financial year end.

GOING CONCERN

Based on the results for the year, the year-end financial position and the approved budgets 2023 and 2024 the Board of Directors believe that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual financial statements.

AUDITOR

The auditor, Deloitte Ireland LLP, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm, continue in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Maurice O'Connor
Director

Jacinta Kelly
Director

Date: _____

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

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

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

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

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

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

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements of The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland (the 'company')

In our opinion the Company financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2022 and of the surplus of the Company for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

The financial statements we have audited comprise:

- the Statement of Financial Activities;
- the Balance Sheet;
- the Cash Flow Statement; and
- the related notes 1 to 31, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in note 1.

The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council ("the relevant financial reporting framework").

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report.

We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority, 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 when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Continued on next page/

Other information

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

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

Continued on next page/

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Continued)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity (or where relevant, the company) to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the business activities within the company to express an opinion on the financial statements. The auditor is responsible for the direction, supervision, and performance of the audit. The auditor remains solely responsible for the audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- 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.
- The company financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements and the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the provisions in the Companies Act 2014 which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.

Use of our report

This 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.

For and on behalf of Deloitte Ireland LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Deloitte Et Touche House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

Date:

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

including income and expenditure account and recognised gains and losses

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2022 €	Restricted Funds 2022 €	Total Funds 2022 €	Unrestricted Funds 2021 €	Restricted Funds 2021 €	Total Funds 2021 €
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:							
Income from generated funds:							
Voluntary Income							
- Donations and fundraising		1,652,356	148,230	1,800,586	1,573,793	128,426	1,702,219
- Legacies		72,953	-	72,953	10,500	30,000	40,500
- Pharmaceutical	4	5,033	91,500	96,533	7,170	84,411	91,581
- Research		-	2,670	2,670	-	2,210	2,210
- Subscriptions		220	-	220	1,220	-	1,220
Income from charitable activities							
- Fees received		168,898	-	168,898	121,687	-	121,687
- Grants and other service contract income	5	-	3,105,747	3,105,747	-	3,243,183	3,243,183
- Community employment schemes	27	-	769,903	769,903	-	756,646	756,646
- Other income	6	5,810	132,205	138,014	19,987	122,264	142,251
TOTAL INCOME	3	1,905,270	4,250,255	6,155,525	1,734,357	4,367,140	6,101,497
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Costs of generating funds:							
Costs of generating voluntary income							
- Fundraising		684,924	121,723	806,647	533,677	106,300	639,977
Charitable activities							
- Community services		514,103	2,161,384	2,675,487	25,502	2,814,004	2,839,506
- Respite care services		193,561	1,772,352	1,965,913	119,063	1,727,970	1,847,033
- Research		66	7,608	7,674	1,973	10,141	12,114
- Local MS services		308,186	104,261	412,447	193,964	117,931	311,895
Governance		77,970	4,340	82,310	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3	1,778,810	4,171,668	5,950,478	874,179	4,776,346	5,650,525
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	7	126,460	78,587	205,047	860,178	(409,206)	450,972
Transfer between funds	22	(683,091)	683,091	-	(497,896)	497,896	-
Net movement in funds		(556,631)	761,678	205,047	362,282	88,690	450,972
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:							
Total funds brought forward	21	6,830,492	3,332,469	10,162,961	6,468,210	3,243,779	9,711,989
Total funds carried forward		6,956,952	3,411,056	10,368,008	6,830,492	3,332,469	10,162,961

All gains and losses arose from continuing activities and are included in the statement of financial activities for the current and prior financial year.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	11	4,211,830	4,421,076
Investment Properties	12	1,380,000	1,380,000
		<u>5,591,830</u>	<u>5,801,076</u>
Current Assets			
Stocks		8,788	9,692
Debtors	13	655,443	410,442
Investments	14	5,127	15,379
Cash and cash equivalents	15	5,154,827	5,532,072
		<u>5,824,185</u>	<u>5,967,585</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(756,673)</u>	<u>(1,080,460)</u>
Net current assets		<u>5,067,512</u>	<u>4,887,125</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>10,659,342</u>	<u>10,688,201</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	<u>(291,334)</u>	<u>(525,240)</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>10,368,008</u>	<u>10,162,961</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated	18	5,934,529	5,826,660
General	18	1,022,423	1,003,832
		<u>6,956,952</u>	<u>6,830,492</u>
Restricted funds:			
Endowment	18	1,380,000	1,380,000
General	18	2,031,056	1,952,469
		<u>3,411,056</u>	<u>3,332,469</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>10,368,008</u>	<u>10,162,961</u>

The net income dealt within the financial statements of the company was €205,047 (2021: net income of €450, 972).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 24th October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Maurice O'Connor
Director

Jacinta Kelly
Director

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

		Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
	<i>Notes</i>	€	€
Net cash flows from operating activities	<i>20(i)</i>	(55,848)	985,201
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest received		122	28
Interest paid		(44,792)	(55,105)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(35,837)	(111,313)
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Net cash flows from investing activities		(80,507)	(166,390)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of borrowings	<i>20</i>	(240,890)	(238,428)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	<i>20(ii)</i>	(377,245)	580,383
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		5,532,072	4,951,689
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		5,154,827	5,532,072

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and voluntarily in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, as applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, "the Charities SORP") and in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland ("the Society") is constituted under Irish company law as a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity with registration number 296573. The address of the registered office is 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. In prior years, company law scoped out companies not trading for gain for the members from the requirements with regard to formats and content of financial statements which applied to for profit companies, thus permitting the adoption of a format appropriate to a charity. Accordingly, the Society adopted and reported its performance in accordance with the format provided for in the Charities SORP and in particular reports its performance for the financial year in the format of the SORP's Statement of Financial Activities ("SOFA").

The financial statements for 2022 include the financial statements of The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland and its branches. Transactions between the national office, branches and MS Care Centre (including The Multiple Sclerosis C.E.P. Company Limited) have been eliminated.

Going Concern

Based on the results for the year, the year-end financial position and the approved budgets 2023 and 2024 the Board of Directors believe that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual financial statements.

Income

Income is accounted for when the company has entitlement, there is certainty of receipt, and the amount is measurable.

Grants from statutory bodies are credited to income in the financial year to which they relate. Where the grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors. Capital grants are accounted for as income as soon as they are receivable.

Member subscriptions are taken to revenue in the financial year in which they are received.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Income (continued)

Gifts of assets are included in income at a reasonable estimate of their value, at the date received. These assets are treated as either tangible fixed assets or current assets depending on whether the gift is to be disposed of or retained for use by the Company. Gifts for fundraising purposes are accounted for when realised.

Legacy income is accounted for when the Company has entitlement, the receipt is probable, and the amount is measurable.

Legacies are recognised when all the three criteria below are met:

- a. Establish entitlement – in practice this would be estate accounts being finalised or cash received or where there is agreement on an interim distribution.
- b. Where receipt is probable – receipt is probable when there has been grant of probate, executors have established that there are sufficient assets after settling any liabilities to pay the legacy and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met. There will normally be sufficient certainty of receipt when notice of intention to pay the legacy is received from the personal representatives of the estate.
- c. The amount is measurable – in practice this could come from estate accounts, cash received or correspondence from executors/solicitors confirming an amount to be distributed. Measurability will also be met where a reasonably accurate assessment can be made of the value.

Where legacies have been notified to the company or the company is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Rental income is recognised on accruals basis.

Deferred Income and Expenditure

Funds received and expenditure incurred by the company for fundraising events to be held in the future are treated as deferred income and expenditure.

Stocks

Stocks, which comprise fundraising materials, are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are recorded at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives. The rates and methods of depreciation are as follows:

Freehold Premises	2% straight line
Office Equipment	10% straight line
Computer Equipment	33% straight line
Furniture and Fittings	20% straight line
Motor Vehicles	20% straight line
Branches' Motor Vehicles/Mobile Homes	10% straight line

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Investment Properties

Investment properties, arising from legacies, are initially recorded at open market value based on an independent professional valuation. The market values are assessed at each year end reporting date.

Asset held for resale

Assets held with the intention of resale are included at open market value.

Leased Assets

All leases entered into by the Company are operating leases. Operating lease costs are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period to which they relate.

Retirement Benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Retirement benefits to employees of the Company are funded by contributions from the Company and the employees. Payments are made to pension trusts which are financially separate from the Company. These payments, which are made in accordance with periodic calculations by consulting actuaries, are charged in the statement of financial activities in the period in which they become payable.

Research

Expenditure on research projects is charged to the statement of financial activities as incurred.

Fund Accounting and Reserves Policy

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds:

General

Restricted funds represent grants, donations and legacies which can only be used for the particular purposes specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the company.

Endowment

A gift of endowment arises where there is no power to convert capital into income i.e., must be retained intact.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Unrestricted funds:

General funds

General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the Board, in furtherance of the objectives of the Company.

MS Ireland defines its reserves as its total unrestricted funds. In planning and budgeting for its activities, the company considers the level of unrestricted reserves to maintain a balance between the need to safeguard the continuity and development of its services and the need for prudent management of its activities as well as providing for contingencies. The Board aims to maintain its total unrestricted reserves level at three months operating costs.

Designated funds

Designated funds represent amounts that the company has, at its discretion, set aside for specific purposes, which would otherwise form part of its general unrestricted funds.

Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for any financial assets classified as at fair value through the SOFA, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs). Trade and other receivables, trade and other payables and interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the balance sheet when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the company intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts 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 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 directors do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation uncertainty except for those set out in the accounting policies in Note 1.

3. TOTAL INCOME/EXPENDITURE

	Restricted 2022 €	Unrestricted 2022 €	Total 2022 €	Total 2021 €
Community Services-National and Regional	2,398,640	16,529	2,415,169	2,548,402
Fundraising & Donations-National office and Regional	60,990	1,272,087	1,333,077	1,343,986
Local MS Services-Branches	17,971	411,290	429,261	309,709
Respite Care Services	1,002,751	205,364	1,208,115	1,142,754
Government Schemes	769,903	-	769,903	756,646
Total Income	4,250,255	1,905,270	6,155,525	6,101,497

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

3. TOTAL INCOME/EXPENDITURE (CONTINUED)

EXPENDITURE:	Restricted 2022 €	Unrestricted 2022 €	Total 2022 €	Total 2021 €
Community Services-National and Regional	2,362,006	420,188	2,782,194	2,864,044
Fundraising & Donations-National office and Regional	-	657,514	657,514	502,953
Local MS Services-Branches	1,925	380,244	382,169	272,706
Respite Care Services	1,037,834	317,526	1,355,360	1,248,748
Government Schemes	769,903	3,338	773,241	762,074
TOTAL EXPENDITURE EXCLUDING EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS	4,171,668	1,778,810	5,950,478	5,650,525
Exceptional items	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	78,587	126,460	205,047	450,972

4. PHARMACEUTICAL INCOME

	Restricted 2022 €	Unrestricted 2022 €	Total 2022 €	Total 2021 €
Perrigo Company plc	40,000	-	40,000	46,000
Novartis Ireland Ltd	16,500	2,373	18,873	7,581
Merck Serono (Ireland) Ltd	15,000	-	15,000	10,000
Roche Pharm holding B.V	-	660	660	8,000
Alkermes Pharma Ireland Ltd	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
Accord Healthcare	-	2,000	2,000	-
	91,500	5,033	96,533	91,581

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

5.	GRANTS AND OTHER SERVICE CONTRACT INCOME	2022	2021
		€	€
	HSE - Statutory Funding	2,810,155	2,701,420
	HSE - National Lottery Funding	36,522	54,334
	HSE - Other Grants	104,285	860
	Pobal Funding - Craiga Grant	90,500	90,000
	Pobal Slaintecare	-	69,903
	Pobal - Stability	-	90,500
	Rethink Ireland - Social Innovation	9,029	130,498
	Other Grants - Non HSE	55,256	105,668
		<u>3,105,747</u>	<u>3,243,183</u>
6.	OTHER INCOME	2022	2021
		€	€
	Rental Income	60,220	57,121
	Donations for Programmes (Physio Et Yoga)	42,195	30,355
	EMSP (European Multiple Sclerosis Platform)	28,900	32,540
	Other Income (VAT Refund, Bank Interest)	6,699	22,235
		<u>138,014</u>	<u>142,251</u>
	The rental income arises in respect of the investment properties (see note 12).		
7.	NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	2022	2021
		€	€
	The net income/(expenditure) for the financial year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Depreciation	245,084	242,402
	Interest payable and similar charges	44,792	55,105
	Auditor's remuneration - Company	40,235	37,150
	- Branches	23,557	22,564
	- CEP Schemes	4,340	4,206
	- Other	2,214	2,214
	Operating lease rentals	26,728	40,728
	and after crediting: Interest received	<u>(122)</u>	<u>(28)</u>

Board member's travel and subsistence expenses in attending meetings in 2022 were €527 (2021: Nil). No emoluments are paid to Board members.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

8. EXPENDITURE ON FUNDRAISING AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Direct Salary Costs	Other Direct Costs	Support Costs (Note 9)	Total 2022	Total 2021
	€	€	€	€	€
Fundraising	227,011	473,137	106,498	806,646	639,977
Community Services	1,849,050	473,202	353,234	2,675,486	2,839,506
Respite Care Services	1,146,985	559,377	259,553	1,965,915	1,847,033
Local MS Services	42,015	315,978	54,454	412,447	311,895
Research	6,661	-	1,013	7,674	12,114
Governance (Note 9)	-	-	82,310	82,310	-
	<u>3,271,722</u>	<u>1,821,694</u>	<u>857,062</u>	<u>5,950,478</u>	<u>5,650,525</u>

9. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	2022	2021
	€	€
Charitable activities:		
Staff and related costs	471,758	525,669
Other costs	241,516	179,855
Depreciation	72,345	73,257
Governance	71,443	77,435
Total	<u>857,062</u>	<u>856,216</u>

Support costs are allocated on the basis of the percentage expenditure incurred for each charitable activity.

Governance costs

Auditor's remuneration - National Office	42,449	37,150
- Branches	23,557	22,564
- Government/CEP Schemes	4,340	4,206
- Other	-	2,214
Annual Report	570	480
Board of Directors expenditure	527	-
Support costs	10,867	10,821
Total	<u>82,310</u>	<u>77,435</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

10. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

The average number of persons employed by the Company in the financial year was 117 (2021: 119), analysed into the following categories:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Regional and National services	28	30
Care	25	22
Administration	13	15
Fundraising activities	5	6
Community Employment schemes	46	46
	<u>117</u>	<u>119</u>

The numbers shown above are inclusive of 46 (2021: 46) persons employed under the Department of Social Protection Scheme and exclusive of persons contracted on a consultancy basis to counselling and fundraising services.

	2022	2021
	€	€
Total staff costs comprised of the following:		
Wages and salaries	3,309,029	3,461,828
Employer social welfare costs	287,438	297,398
Employer retirement benefit contributions	92,962	100,000
Annual Leave Accrued	43,403	54,050
	<u>3,732,832</u>	<u>3,913,246</u>

The company also receives significant support from voluntary workers.

The number of employees whose emoluments, excluding employer pension contributions, were greater than €60,000 is set out below:

	2022	2021
	Number	Number
€60,000 - €70,000	-	3
€70,000 - €80,000	1	1
€80,000 - €90,000	-	-
€90,000 - €100,000	-	-
€100,000 - €110,000	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are the Board, the Chief Executive, Services Manager, National Services Development Manager, Fundraising Manager and Head of Finance. Total emoluments (including benefits and employer pension contributions) paid to key management personnel was €487,743 (2021: €472,678).

The Society's Chief Executive was paid a salary of €105,105 (2021: €101,337) and received a 10% contribution to a defined contribution pension scheme. The Chief Executive received no additional benefits in the current or prior year.

Board members receive no remuneration.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

GROUP AND COMPANY

	Freehold Premises €	Office Equipment €	Computer Equipment €	Furniture & Fittings €	Motor Vehicles/ Mobile Homes €	Branches Mobile Homes/ Motor Vehicles €	Total €
Cost:							
At 1 January 2022	7,192,143	275,516	247,737	566,090	134,594	191,379	8,607,459
Additions	-	19,015	14,843	1,978	-	-	35,836
At 31 December 2022	7,192,143	294,531	262,580	568,068	134,594	191,379	8,643,295
Depreciation:							
At 1 January 2022	3,028,983	229,600	189,732	481,381	103,746	152,941	4,186,383
Charge for the financial year	143,843	16,542	30,863	30,471	12,337	11,026	245,082
At 31 December 2021	3,172,826	246,142	220,595	511,852	116,083	163,967	4,431,465
Net Book Value:							
At 31 December 2022	4,019,317	48,389	41,985	56,216	18,511	27,412	4,211,830
Net Book Value:							
At 31 December 2021	4,163,161	45,915	58,005	84,709	30,848	38,438	4,421,076

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

12. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES	2022	2021
	€	€
Market Value	<u>1,380,000</u>	<u>1,380,000</u>
As set out in Note 11, the company received a legacy of three properties in 2018 which are restricted in use. The properties were valued on an open market value basis by an independent valuer.		
13. DEBTORS	2022	2021
	€	€
Amounts due from fundraising activities	66,518	72,016
Prepayments	121,866	84,084
Community Employment Schemes	46,626	33,611
HSE grants	341,086	176,502
Residents' fees and other debtors	79,347	40,224
Deferred Fundraising Expenditure	-	4,005
	<u>655,443</u>	<u>410,442</u>
14. INVESTMENTS	2022	2021
	€	€
At 1 January and 31 December (principally prize bonds)	<u>5,127</u>	<u>15,379</u>
15. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2022	2021
	€	€
National and Regional services	3,873,177	4,239,777
Branches	1,281,650	1,292,295
	<u>5,154,827</u>	<u>5,532,072</u>

Of the €3,873,177 (2021: €4,239,777) of National and Regional Services cash at bank and in hand a total of €2,730,813 (2021: €3,478,048) is unrestricted.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	2022	2021
	€	€
Trade creditors	213,754	284,035
Accruals	127,512	151,353
Bank term loan (note 17)	237,172	244,156
Deferred income	1,355	179,206
PAYE/PRSI	74,703	133,335
Community Employment Schemes	102,177	88,375
	<u>756,673</u>	<u>1,080,460</u>

17. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2022	2021
	€	€
Bank term loan	<u>291,334</u>	<u>525,240</u>

The loan is repayable by monthly instalments of €21,066 of which €19,764 represents capital repayments. As at 31 December 2022 the balance remaining on the loan was €528,506, of which an amount of €155,823 was at a variable interest rate of 1.15% (remaining term of 3 years), €182,956 was fixed for 10 years (remaining term of 3 years) at an interest rate of 3.220% and €189,727 was fixed for 3 years (remaining term of 3 year) at an interest rate of 2.57%. The loans are secured by a fixed charge on the premises at 65 Bushy Park Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6.

The maturity analysis of the bank loan at 31 December is as set out below:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Within one year (Note 16)	237,172	244,156
Within two to five years	291,334	525,240
After more than five years	-	-
	<u>528,506</u>	<u>769,396</u>

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

18. FUNDS

	Restricted Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Total Funds €
Funds at beginning of financial year	3,332,469	6,830,492	10,162,961
Movement during financial year:	78,587	126,460	205,047
Funds at end of financial year	<u>3,411,056</u>	<u>6,956,952</u>	<u>10,368,008</u>

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

General

Unrestricted funds are funds received where the donor has not specified how the funds are to be used.

	Opening balance as at 01/01/2022 €	Net movement 2022 €	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2022 €
General fund	<u>1,003,833</u>	<u>18,590</u>	<u>1,022,423</u>

Designated

The designated fund comprises amounts allocated by the directors from unrestricted income.

	Opening balance as at 01/01/2022 €	Net movement 2022 €	Closing Balance as at 31/12/2022 €
Tangible fixed assets less associated capital grants	3,679,232	(182,527)	3,496,705
Branch Net Assets	1,280,348	12,391	1,292,739
Planned budget Deficit	515,456	223,651	739,107
Regional Support Continuity Fund	351,624	54,354	405,978
Total Designated funds	<u>5,826,660</u>	<u>107,869</u>	<u>5,934,529</u>

The movement in restricted funds in the financial year was as follows:

RESTRICTED FUNDS

(i) Endowment

This legacy of €1,380,000 is comprised of three mews properties located in Dublin. The use of the properties is restricted for use in providing services for MS. The properties must be held for at least 20 years before they can be sold. In the meantime, the properties are rented, and the net rental income is applied in the provision of services for MS.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

18. FUNDS (CONTINUED)

(ii) General

Restricted fund	Fund balance at beginning of financial year	Income	Expenditure	Fund balance at end of financial year
	€	€	€	€
HSE Statutory Funding	-	2,810,155	2,810,155	-
HSE Lottery Funding	54,672	36,522	60,450	30,744
HSE Other	-	104,285	104,285	-
Pobal	-	90,500	90,500	-
Other Grants	-	63,860	63,860	-
Government Schemes	-	769,903	769,903	-
Capital grants	741,845	-	26,721	715,124
Other (a)	956,365	372,360	229,972	1,098,753
Research (b)	66,553	2,670	-	69,223
Bequests (c)	63,472	-	-	63,472
J.P. McManus (d)	21,463	-	15,821	5,642
Total excluding exceptional item	1,904,370	4,250,255	4,171,667	1,982,958
Proceeds of Property held for resale	48,098	-	-	48,098
Total including exceptional item	1,952,468	4,250,255	4,171,667	2,031,056

The Property held was sold in 2020 for €48,098.

The restricted funds are represented by fixed assets of €715,124 (2021: €741,845) and net current assets of €1,315,930 (2021: €1,210,623).

- The other restricted funds include funds received from funds received for the Care Centre and funds received for Getting the Balance Right Programmes and events.
- The research fund is restricted to research expenditure.
- Bequests are restricted to expenditure in Cork, the Mid-West, and Care Centre.
- The J.P. McManus Fund is restricted to expenditure in the Mid-West region.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

19. TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS

The transfer between funds reflects the amount incurred by MS Ireland in providing community and respite services which are only part funded by the HSE.

20. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(i) RECONCILIATION OF CHANGES IN RESOURCES TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	€	€
Net incoming resource	205,047	450,972
Interest received	(123)	(29)
Interest payable	44,792	55,105
Depreciation	245,084	242,402
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	904	(2,771)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(245,001)	60,163
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(316,803)	179,359
Sale of investments	10,252	-
	<u>(55,848)</u>	<u>985,201</u>

(ii) RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN NET DEBT

	2022	2021
	€	€
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in financial year	(377,245)	580,383
Cash flow from debt financing	240,890	238,428
	<u>(136,355)</u>	<u>818,811</u>
Change in net cash	(136,355)	818,811
Net cash at beginning of financial year	4,762,677	3,943,866
	<u>4,626,323</u>	<u>4,762,677</u>

(iii) ANALYSIS OF NET CASH

	2021	Cash Flow	2022
	€		€
Cash at bank and in hand	5,532,072	(377,245)	5,154,827
Debt due within one year	(244,156)	6,984	(237,172)
Debt due after one year	(525,240)	233,906	(291,334)
	<u>4,762,676</u>	<u>(136,355)</u>	<u>4,626,321</u>

TAXATION

21. The company has been granted charitable status, and accordingly no charge to corporation tax arises by virtue of Section 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 (2021:nil).

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

22. GIFTS IN KIND

The company receives financial support through the provision of services at reduced costs, from its advertisers, architects, printers, solicitors, and other suppliers. The value of this support was approximately €12,500 in 2022 (2021: €1,500).

23. PENSIONS

The company operates a defined contribution insured pension scheme for employees. The employer pension cost for the financial year was €92,962 (2021: €100,000) there was a balance outstanding at the end of the year €17,149 (2021: €22,854).

24. FUNDRAISING

The company has a fundraising department. Commissions are not paid for any fundraising activities.

25. LEASE COMMITMENTS

Operating Leases:

Premises

Total lease commitments at 31 December 2022 amounted to €26,728 (2021: €40,728) and relate to leases which expire.

	2022	2021
	€	€
- Within one year	26,728	33,728
- Within two to five years	-	7,000
	<u>26,728</u>	<u>33,728</u>

26. OTHER COMMITMENTS

In certain circumstances grants received could become repayable by the company.

There were no significant capital commitments contracted for by the company as at 31 December 2022.

27. CEP GRANTS

MS Ireland operates three Community Employment Schemes which are funded by the Department of Social Protection. The schemes support the provision of services throughout the country.

CEP Grants are credited to income in the financial year in which they relate. Where the grant is received in advance its recognition is deferred and included in creditors.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

CEP GRANTS (CONTINUED)	2022	2021
	€	€
INCOME		
Care Centre CEP Scheme	286,841	292,000
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	222,217	235,279
Western Region CEP Scheme	260,845	229,367
Total	769,903	756,646
EXPENDITURE		
Care Centre CEP Scheme	286,769	292,004
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	223,076	238,966
Western Region CEP Scheme	263,347	230,804
Other CEP Schemes (Sponsor Contribution)	50	299
Total	773,242	762,073
DEBTORS		
Care Centre CEP Scheme	11,143	12,533
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	5,031	10,699
Western Region CEP Scheme	10,451	10,379
Total	26,626	33,611
CREDITORS		
National Office	20,000	-
Care Centre CEP Scheme	24,251	26,643
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	25,232	27,243
Western Region CEP Scheme	32,694	34,339
Other CEP Schemes (Sponsor Contribution)	-	150
Total	102,177	88,375

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

28. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying values of the company's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Financial assets		
<i>Measured at amortised cost</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amounts due from fundraising activities	66,518	72,016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Employment Schemes	46,626	33,611
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HSE grants	341,086	176,502
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residents' fees and other debtors	79,347	40,244
	<u>666,577</u>	<u>422,373</u>

	2022	2021
	€	€
Financial liabilities		
<i>Measured at amortised cost</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trade creditors	213,755	284,035
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bank term loan (note 16 and 17)	528,506	769,396
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Employment Schemes	102,177	88,375
	<u>844,438</u>	<u>1,141,806</u>

29. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The comparative figures, where necessary, have been regrouped on a basis consistent with the current year.

30. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There have been no significant events affecting the Society since the year-end that would require adjustment to or additional disclosure in the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

31. LEGAL STATUS

By virtue of Section 1180 of the Companies Act 2014 the company is exempt from including the word "Limited" in its name. The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The amount of the guarantee is limited to €1.27 per member.

As permitted by Section 304(2) of the Companies Act 2014, the statement of financial activities of the company is not presented as part of these financial statements. The net income dealt within the financial statements of the company was €205,047 (2021: net income of €450,972).

REGISTRATION FORM – YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM TO RECEIVE THE LINK TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIRTUALLY



I will attend the Reconvened A.G.M. on Thursday, 30th November 2023 at 8.00 p.m. –
Please tick one of the boxes

Yes, I will attend
virtually

or

No, I will not
attend

e-mail confirmation of your attendance at the Reconvened AGM to Alice McKeon
(E-mail address is: alicem@ms-society.ie)

By the 28th November 2023

Name

.....

Address

.....

.....

Phone/Mobile No.

E-mail address

(Note: We must have your email address to send you the link to the meeting if you are attending virtually)

Branch (if applicable)

.....

Please note that the Reconvened AGM will be recorded.