

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland

Reports and  
Financial Statements  
for the financial year ended  
31 December 2023

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# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Restan (Chairperson)  
Aveen Murray (Deputy Chairperson)  
Robin Bradley  
Noelle Burke  
Anthony Candon (appointed 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2023)  
Carol Ellis Barton (resigned 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2023)  
Jacinta Kelly  
Dr Rebecca Maguire  
Sean Martin (appointed 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2023)  
Maurice O'Connor (Company Secretary)  
Martin Power  
Rory Mulcahy  
Mary Sheahan Lonergan  
Leslie Warren (appointed 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2023)

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Ava Battles

### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

William Lonergan  
Allen O'Connor

### FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Martin Power (Chairperson)  
Robin Bradley  
Jacinta Kelly  
Sean Martin (appointed 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2023)  
Rory Mulcahy  
Maurice O'Connor  
Ava Battles (In Attendance)

### REGISTERED OFFICE

80 Northumberland Road  
Dublin 4  
D04 T856

### CHARITY NUMBER

CHY 5365

### CHARITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY NUMBER

20007867

### COMPANY NUMBER

296573

### DATE OF INCORPORATION

19<sup>th</sup> November 1998

### YEAR MS IRELAND WAS FOUNDED

1961

**THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND**

**DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

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**AUDITORS**

Deloitte Ireland LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm  
Deloitte & Touche House  
Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 2

**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

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

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 2023.

### 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 potential”.*

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.

### 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, monitor 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.

DIRECTORS REPORT (CONTINUED)

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)**

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](http://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 Board is supported by Council, which is an elected consultative body representing the views of the Branches of the Society and its members. Council is made up of delegates from every Branch. Council meetings enable Branches to voice the concerns of their members while receiving updates from the CE and Chairperson of the Board on developments in MS Ireland. Council meetings are held bi-annually.

There are three Council members on the Board. Each year the Council members elect one new member to serve on the Board for a term of three years.

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. Finance, Audit, Risk and Strategy Committee
2. Services, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee
3. Research Information, Advocacy and Communications Committee
4. Nominations and Remuneration Committee
5. Governance and Sustainability Committee
6. Organisation and People Committee

**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 69% 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 2023 Board members expenses were €701 (2022: € 623). No emoluments are paid to Board members. The list of Board members and biographies can be found on our website.

DIRECTORS REPORT (CONTINUED)

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- MS Ireland is a registered charity and is in compliance with the requirements of Charities Governance Code and is listed on the [Search the Register of Charities | Charities Regulator](#) 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 year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 will be available following the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
- We adhere to the [Guidelines for Charities | Charities Institute Ireland](#) 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 76 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 and the Services Manager. In 2023 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 twelve beds available and our regional offices provided services both virtually and in person.

## REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

**Activities for 2023 are reviewed under the headings of MS Ireland's Strategic Plan 2020-2024:**

In 2023, 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 2023 the company underwent the fourth 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 2023, 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 NorthWest, NorthEast, Dublin (NA,ECA,SWA), SouthEast, Southern, Mid-West, West and Midlands areas. In 2023, 2,665 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. 237 new referrals were accepted into the casework service in 2023, 61 of those were newly diagnosed in 2023. All reviews were completed on the National Ability Supports System (NASS) database.

A scoping exercise for the Casework Salesforce Project commenced in 2023, to implement the recommendations from the Framework for Multiple Sclerosis Service ("FRAMES") report and the Quality Matters project.

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 7) to PwMS and their families.



### **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. In 2023 the Information Line received 337 contacts. 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 runs several different programmes as part of our exercise and physiotherapy services. Our focus is on exercise and physiotherapy programmes 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 2023 continues to 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 822 individual clients in 509 programmes and offered 16,795 treatment episodes in our physiotherapy services in 2023.

### **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, 50% of those contractors are funded by branches. The service in the West is provided by our directly employed senior physiotherapist and a team of physiotherapy assistants.

There were 131 Getting the Balance Right physiotherapy programmes across the 10 regions in 2023 with 499 participants. In addition there were 85 yoga programmes with 764 participants.

New initiatives in 2023 included the increased use of the care centre gym for regional services.

### **Active Neuro**

The Active Neuro programme ran in the West and Mid-West only in 2023 and was funded by the HSE. This extension of the Sláintecare Integration fund project in the Midwest provides physiotherapist led physical activity and symptom management programmes for people with MS and other neurological conditions and provides greater availability of and access to physio programmes for people with MS in those regions. Active Neuro had 27 programmes for 165 participants in 2023.

### **Move Smart MS**

Move Smart MS programmes are tailored for ability and time since diagnosis and address specific symptoms using an exercise and education approach that enables peer learning and social support. Move Smart MS was funded by the Hospital Saturday fund and our branches in 2023.

In 2023 there were 25 Move Smart MS programmes for 262 participants.

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.

## THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

### DIRECTORS REPORT (CONTINUED)

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#### **Physio West**

In Galway, Mayo and Roscommon we have a directly employed full time physiotherapist and 0.5 WTE physiotherapy assistant funded by the HSE. In addition, we have a team of physiotherapy assistants through the Community Employment scheme.

That team runs Getting the Balance Right in person and online classes, Active neuro in person and online classes, and individual assessments and treatments including the intensive, semi-supervised programme.

In 2023 in addition to programmes detailed above we provided 140 individual assessments and 527 individual Physio or Physio Assistant sessions.

#### **The MS Care Centre**

The MS Care Centre is a 12-bed respite facility. The capacity was increased to 12 residents, with lengths of stay options of 5/7/12 nights in 2023. 368 individuals availed of respite in the Care Centre, with high dependency beds having the greatest demand. The Care Centre continued to operate under HSE advice in line with Covid Management recommendations.

The MS Care Centre is registered with 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 Care Centre had an announced inspection on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023. 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/system/files?file=inspectionreports/1940-multiple-sclerosis-society-of-ireland-ms-care-centre-16-november-2023.pdf>

#### **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 2023, 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. In 2023 staff facilitated 4 national programmes and one regional programme. Each programme is facilitated by 2 MS Ireland Regional Community Workers.

Adaptations to the programme were undertaken using a co-design methodology to better reflect the experience of people with MS that are wheelchair users. These adaptations will be piloted in a programme scheduled in early 2024.

#### **Branches**

In 2023 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 were also facilitated for all Branches. The provision of branch level support to PwMS is made possible by voluntary local fundraising.

DIRECTORS REPORT (CONTINUED)

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**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 17 Community Employment participants assisting in the work of the Care Centre, 13 Community Employment participants assisting with the exercise training plans for PwMS in the Western region and 13 visiting PwMS in their homes, in the North West region. All regions have a number of Community Employment participants that assist with data collection for the Health Research Board.

**Website**

In 2023 the website had a total of 274,377 pageviews, 223,349 unique pageviews (-3.1% 2022). There was an -12.5% decrease in downloads from the website. The biggest page visit increase was Donate +166.9%, News +29.4%, MS and Me +58.2%. The average page visit duration was 2 min 15s average visit duration +2.3% with 2.7 average interactions (0%). 13,107 unique outlinks +33.6%.

The most viewed pages were 1. About MS (unique pageviews 30,118) 2. Homepage (unique pageviews 22,963) 3. MS and Me (unique pageviews 17,568) 4. News (unique pageviews 16,404) 5. What We Do (unique pageviews 15,345) 6. Donate (unique pageviews 15,097) 7. Research (unique pageviews 8,359) 8. Events (unique pageviews 4,808) 9. Our Services (unique pageviews 4,462) 10. Get Involved (unique pageviews 4,237).

The most popular means of accessing our website was from search engines 49.8% (54% in 2022) of people accessing our website from this source. Direct entry accounted for 24% (29% in 2022) followed by Social Networks at 22% (11% in 2022) and finally other websites was 3.7% (3% in 2022) and campaigns 0.5%

The smartphone is the most popular device used to access our website at 60.3% (54% in 2022), followed by Desktop at 33.3% (36% in 2022) and then Tablets at 3.3% (3% in 2022). Ireland accounted for 76% of our website visitors in 2023.

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 an excellent way to drive traffic to our website.

Work was done on the Website to enhance user experience and navigation on the Community Work and Physiotherapy & Exercise pages.

Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) & Google ad words: We receive free ads from Google, and we received the equivalent of €6,000 in Google ads.

**Social Media**

In MS Ireland, we continued to develop our social media throughout 2023. 23,000 (+9.5%) people accessed our Facebook page, 9,654 (+2%) people accessed Twitter and 6,024 (+20%) followed us on Instagram and 1,820 (+20%) on LinkedIn.

The Facebook page reach was 1.5m (+12.4%) and pages visits 68,100 (+115%). Instagram reach was 1.2m (+93%) and profile visits were 20,400 (+229%).

We used social media to support our various online fundraisers in 2023. The Facebook/Instagram paid reach was 2.1m (+27%) and paid impressions were 11.7m (+21%) with a total spend of €36,577 compared to €35,000 in 2022.

We also post most days with organic posts on all our social channels.

**Webinars**

In continuation of our webinar series, throughout 2023 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***

In 2023 MS Ireland continued this popular series (supported by Novartis) and produced 3 podcasts. These focused on information for people newly diagnosed, dealing with fatigue and advancements in the management of MS. These aimed to highlight some of the key supports that exist to support people living with MS.

## REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

### Information resources

During 2023 information resources were developed in the areas of fatigue management, financial resources and general information about MS Ireland's services.

### Young persons' survey

Data elicited from the survey was used in the Young Persons Report. This report summarised the findings of the research and presented a series of recommendations to practice within MS Ireland services and elsewhere.

### Objective 2: Research

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

##### Research

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. Throughout 2023, 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 2023 through collaboration with the All-Ireland MS Research Network (AIMSRN) as well as through Maynooth University and other research organisations. During the year preliminary work with Maynooth University took place regarding a research project focusing on the needs of people with MS regarding peer support and engagement. This research will support the direction of peer support engagement projects in the future.

The My MS, My Needs survey data collection was undertaken in 2023 with a total of 979 respondents. This is a repeat of the 2016 survey. The results of this will help MS Ireland to plan and possibly improve services and will inform ongoing advocacy work over the coming years. The report will be launched in 2024.

## REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

### Objective 3: Advocacy

#### Business cases & Pre Budget Submissions 2023

During 2023 two substantial advocacy campaigns took place regarding business cases for two major funding deficits within the organisation. The Care Centre business case was launched seeking an increase of €627,000 in annual investment. Sustainable funding for MS Ireland's national physiotherapy programme was also sought to the amount of €800,000 per annum. Both of these business case submissions formed the basis of the MS Ireland pre budget submissions.

#### Micro-Advocacy:

In 2023 engagement regarding micro-advocacy activities linked to issues raised by regional teams continued. 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.

#### 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 2023, 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.

#### 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 2023 was 'Connections'. MS Ireland's campaign in 2023 was about building community connection, self-connection, celebrating support networks, championing self-care and finding connections to quality care. The MS community was encouraged to use the hashtag #IaMSomeone on all social channels.

Some examples of activities held to mark WMSD in 2023 included: 'Face of MS' exhibition in Stephen's green shopping centre, light up of prominent public building across the country, Care Centre coffee morning, Leinster house AV room briefing, regional information and social events across the country. In addition to events a range of media coverage was facilitated in print media, local and national radio and TV coverage.'

#### AGM

The 2023 AGM was held online via zoom on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 4.00pm. There were 28 members in attendance.

#### National Conference

In September 2023 MS Ireland hosted an in-person conference - its first in 3 years. This event took place over 2 days and brought a number of expert speakers to provide input for a healthcare professionals session (including regional Community Workers) and for a more general audience. The event also featured a gala dinner. Over 250 people from the MS community attended the event. The speakers covered a range of topics, fatigue, assistive technologies, physical activity and mental health. Feedback from the community was positive and provides a firm basis for the continuation of the conference for 2024.

**REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

**Goal: Sustainable Finances**

**Objective 4: Grow Sustainable Income Base**

Individually we saw a decline in income for online challenges with the move away from some popular social media platforms but as we held two additional challenges the income stayed static - we tested new platforms to diversify this area. This initiative aims to future-proof our online fundraising efforts.

We believe that online fundraising will remain an important source of income for MS Ireland and we decided to invest more funds in the May 50k to try and build this event for future years.

To enhance our database, we invested in cold corporate data for a Christmas direct mail appeal, which yielded results on target and contributed to our growth. This initiative aligns with our overarching goal of achieving sustainable finances.

**Objective 5: Develop partnerships**

We continue to invest time into building our corporate partnerships and we saw good results from work in this area in 2023.

At MS Ireland, we are privileged to be part of a dedicated community with whom we cultivate strong relationships and partnerships. Once again, our community has demonstrated their unwavering support by organising remarkable fundraisers and events, including an outstanding team for the Dublin Marathon, courageous skydivers, and numerous extraordinary community events across the country.

## REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

### 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;
- Fatigue: Applying Cognitive Behavioural and Energy Effectiveness Techniques to Lifestyle (FACETS) : The FACETS salesforce project was completed in 2023.
- Casework: Enclude completed a technical scoping exercise based on the recommendations of the Quality Matters Report in 2023, with a schedule of work planned for 2024.
- Recruitment: We are no longer recruiting for the Digital Specialist role due to previous funding for the role being revoked.
- Website: Work was done to enhance user experience and navigation on the Community Work and Physiotherapy & Exercise pages
- 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.

### Goal: People & Culture

#### Objective 7: Develop and Invest in Our People

Recruitment of staff presented challenges during 2023. This was a national issue. We implemented the Employee Self service module for managing annual leave and absence. Training was provided for employees and volunteers, including LGBTQ+ Awareness Training and Personal Safety & Lone Worker Training. We continued to operate the remote working pattern in line with the Remote Working Bill and the Work Life Balance bill published in 2023. Pay restoration for Section 39 organisations was completed in 2023, salaries for the majority of MS Ireland employees were increased as a result.

#### Objective 8 Grow Branch and Community Volunteer Base

1. **Continuation of Virtual Meetings:** Branches continued to utilize Zoom for their meetings, with some adopting a hybrid approach that combines both in-person and virtual attendance.
2. **Annual General Meetings (AGMs):** A total of 24 Branch AGMs were conducted in 2023, primarily facilitated through the Branch Development Zoom account.



**REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)**

3. **Fundraising Efforts:** There was a gradual return to physical fundraising activities, complemented by ongoing digital fundraising efforts, with support from the National Fundraising Department.
4. **Training Programs:** Branches were provided with training in Compliance, Content Design & Creation, and Financial Assistance as part of the 2023 training program.
5. **Pilot Project Initiation:** A Pilot Branch project was initiated in Galway, with plans for further development in 2024.
6. **Council and National Meetings:** Two Council meetings and one National meeting were held, providing opportunities for branch members to receive national updates and share news and concerns.

2023 was a busy year for the branches, with good interaction and collaboration with both the Branch Development Office and the National Office.

**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><b>Strategy risk</b> 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"> <li>• The Board and the senior management team have a clear vision and strategy for the immediate future and longer term.</li> <li>• Our current 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.</li> <li>• We prepare detailed budgets, operational plans and target outcomes as part of our annual planning cycle that are approved by the Board.</li> <li>• The Board scrutinises and approves any business case and funding requirements for all significant investments.</li> <li>• We ensure regular monitoring and reforecasting of financial performance throughout the year.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Funding and fundraising income risk</b> External factors and events have the potential to significantly reduce income or increase costs, impacting on our ability to deliver services and supports for people with MS.</p>	<p>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 additional section 39 funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ 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'</li> <li>○ keep pace with inflation and rising energy and operating costs.</li> <li>• Our active fundraising team manage a pipeline of fundraising campaigns and events throughout the year. We continually develop online platforms to support our fundraising activities.</li> <li>• Our senior management team, Finance Audit Risk &amp; Strategy Committee and the Board at</li> </ul>

DIRECTORS REPORT (CONTINUED)

	regular intervals monitor financial performance throughout the year.
<b>Regulatory environment</b> Changes in government policy, regulatory requirements and/or charity sector guidance that could negatively impact on MS Ireland's strategy and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We monitor public policy and the regulatory environment to ensure potential risks can be proactively managed.</li> <li>• We work to develop multi-level relationships across government and proactive advocacy campaigns and events to ensure our views are shared.</li> <li>• We participate and have representation at key events and forums to help shape the MS services agenda.</li> </ul>
<b>Technology and cyber risk</b> 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We work closely with our IT partners on security, firewall, proxy and anti-virus protection measures, with associated vulnerability scanning, monitoring and penetration testing.</li> <li>• We review &amp; update the IT back-up &amp; recovery plan.</li> <li>• We continue to develop training for staff on the importance of cybersecurity including prevention and detection of potential cyber-attacks.</li> </ul>

DIRECTORS REPORT (CONTINUED)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have robust business continuity plans in place, and we carry out disaster recovery and penetration testing on a systematic basis.</li> </ul>
<b>GDPR risk</b> Taking steps to ensure that data is handled legally, securely, efficiently and effectively in order to deliver the best possible care to our MS community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We work continuously to ensure full compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2014.</li> <li>We have data protection and information security policies in place across the organisation.</li> <li>We work closely with our IT partners to review and continuously improve our data management systems and workforce education and training programmes.</li> </ul>
<b>Fraud prevention</b> Evolving threat of fraudsters targeting charities and the requirement to continually adapt and enhance awareness across our organisation (amongst staff, volunteers and trustees) to prevent and detect fraud.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We engage closely with our IT partners and industry on the latest trends and scams being deployed by fraudsters and drive education and awareness across our organisation (e.g. what a phishing email might look like).</li> <li>We regularly review and update our IT security solutions to make sure they are fit for purpose.</li> <li>We implement robust procedures and strict authorisation protocols for controlling, inter alia, bank accounts, supplier accounts, invoice payments, expense claims, contract agreements and grant applications.</li> <li>We implement regular monitoring, internal controls and auditing procedures.</li> <li>We have a clear whistleblowing policy through which members of staff, volunteers and trustees can confidently report concerns.</li> </ul>
<b>People risk</b> Attracting, developing and retaining talented staff in a competitive employment market. Attracting and developing volunteers, trustees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We continuously monitor trends and benchmark compensation and benefits within the charity sector.</li> <li>We adapted to post-Covid, hybrid working practices.</li> <li>We continue to strengthen our talent management, development and succession planning programmes.</li> <li>We work to ensure a vibrant and supportive working environment and culture for our staff, volunteers, trustees and stakeholders.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Reputation risk</b> 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"> <li>• The board ensures the charity meets its legal and regulatory obligations in the course of fulfilling its charitable purpose.</li> <li>• The board and senior leadership team regularly review the capabilities required to deliver on the strategy and address issues as they appear.</li> <li>• We work to ensure proactive detection, monitoring, reporting and whistleblowing arrangements to enable investigation of potential adverse events and incidents.</li> <li>• We carry out digital and traditional media monitoring.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health &amp; Safety risk</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MS Ireland maintains a health and safety policy, with detailed minimum standards, and standard operating procedures which sets out requirements.</li> <li>• We work closely with HIQA in completing service audits and inspections and maintaining our quality service record.</li> <li>• We keep abreast of H&amp;S education and training programmes to ensure progress in Health and Safety for all our workforce.</li> <li>• Risk Registers are reviewed across services to ensure delivery of safe and effective services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Governance &amp; Leadership risk</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The board ensures a strong governance model including effective committee structures to support board oversight.</li> <li>• The board sets risk appetites, taking into account the expectations of stakeholders, and the macroeconomic context.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• We conduct regular board skills audits and agree skills required/skills matrix in line with strategic objectives.</li> <li>• Our Nomination and Remuneration Committee review annually board evaluation and succession plan.</li> </ul>

DIRECTORS REPORT (CONTINUED)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We provide induction for new board members.</li> <li>• We review board training needs and provide relevant training to board.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Management risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We engage with and understand the views of our different stakeholders and taking their views into consideration in strategy and policy development.</li> <li>• We review stakeholder communications plans, methods of engagement and distribution channels.</li> <li>• We conduct regular service satisfactions surveys, including our "My MS, My needs survey". We openly communicate survey results across our stakeholder groups</li> </ul>
<b>Service delivery risk</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We conduct regular service user satisfaction surveys and monitor service user feedback.</li> <li>• Our respite centre completes regular service audits and inspections overseen by HIQA</li> <li>• We monitor our systems and controls to promote consistent service delivery and standards.</li> </ul>

**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.

## **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

In 2023, MS Ireland continued to campaign for the Physiotherapy Business Case and the Care Centre Business Case.

In addition, to the National Advocacy campaign, in 2023 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. 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 2024.

In 2023, the Community Worker service completed a scoping exercise with Enclude regarding measurements and outcomes of casework. This project will progress into the next phase in 2024.

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

In 2024, MS Ireland plan to use World MS Day as an opportunity to help raise awareness of MS and MS Ireland. We wish to share stories about MS through a letter writing initiative to 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 letters about 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 Dublin city centre. 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. We are also planning to share facts about MS across a variety of platforms including local pharmacies and the HSE.

National FACETS programme:

The plans for 2024 are to continue to deliver the programme in regional and in national settings. Particular attention will be placed on national programmes being offered to specific groups, namely people with MS that are newly diagnosed and people with MS that are wheelchair users.

### ***Webinars***

MS Ireland will continue to work through our calendar of webinars for 2024 to ensure we continue to provide our community with access to expert information and the opportunity to ask the questions that matter to them. 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.

### ***MS Awareness in the Workplace***

In 2024, MS Ireland plan to develop an 'MS Awareness in the Workplace' training initiative. This will see MS Ireland present to workplaces across the country, highlighting some of the issues, challenges people living with MS can face in the work place. It will have an experiential aspect which will allow employers and colleagues of people living with MS to see first hand what some of the symptoms of MS can feel like, to give them a greater understanding of how these may impact the experience of work life for those living with MS.

This project is possible due to the support of Merck.

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

In 2024 MS Ireland plan to create a young persons network. The aim of this network will be to:

- Strengthen the relationship between MS Ireland and young people living with MS.
- Ensure the inclusion of young people's views and preferences in MS Ireland's initiatives and resources.
- Provide young people with MS the opportunity to connect, share experiences, and offer support to one another.
- Harness the energy of the Young Persons Network to actively support MS Ireland's activities, campaigns, and projects.

MS Ireland, with support from Merck Serano Ireland, in 2024 will launch the report of a 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 will hold a research event which focused on the topics featured in our Research Ezine.

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.

MS Ireland plan to continue engagement in these spaces in 2024.

MS Ireland will be engaging in a piece of research which aims to explore the motivations that attract volunteers to work at MS Ireland, and the factors that contribute to volunteers' sustained involvement with MS Ireland. In 2024, MS Ireland will be facilitating an online survey which will be designed with the help of public and patient involvement from 9 PwMS and 3 MS caregivers, with responses collected in February-March, 2024. As well as questions relating to participants' preferences for and engagement with peer support, the survey included a number of questions which will ask people about their background, experiences of loneliness, social support and wellbeing

In 2024, MS Ireland will be seeking an academic researcher to partner with us for an application to the HRB Applied Partnerships Award (APA) 2024. The project aims to focus on mental health and will address the following provisional research questions:

- What are the key characteristics of effective mental health interventions for people living with MS in a community setting?
- What is the optimal evidence-based and theory-informed community mental health service for people with MS?



## THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

### DIRECTORS REPORT (CONTINUED)

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#### Fundraising

It's an exciting time for MS Ireland fundraising with the redesign of our flagship campaign, the MS Readathon, and the launch of a brand new major fundraising drive in 2024. The refreshed Readathon will feature updated visuals, prizes, and reading rewards, with a focus on educational incentives such as books, book vouchers, science and art sets, and LEGO. A significant PR campaign will accompany these changes to enhance the program's impact.

Additionally, MS Ireland will soon introduce ReNewMSIreland, a major fundraising drive aimed at supporting the refurbishment and renovation of the MS Care Centre and the MS Resource Centre in Limerick. A new website will be created to allow supporters to gift or pledge capital items to our cause.

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

The detailed consolidated results for the financial year are set out on page 30. The net excess of Expenditure over Income for the year after tax before exceptional items was €207,811 (2022: €205,047, Profit).

#### Income

Income totals €6,504,380 which represents an increase of €348,855 (6%) over 2022. Donations and fundraising income increased by €133,689 (6.8% more than 2022).

#### Expenditure

During the financial year €6,712,191 (2022: €5,950,477) was spent on the provision of charitable activities/ services to PwMS, reflecting an increase of €761,713 (12.8%) over 2022.

#### Financial position at the end of the financial year

##### Detailed analysis in Balance Sheet Page 31.

The fund balances total **€10,147,896** (2022: €10,368,008) as at 31 December. These funds are represented by the following (including Branch Assets mainly of Cash Balance of €1,313,294)

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	€	€
Tangible Fixed Assets	<b>3,983,554</b>	4,211,830
Investment properties	<b>1,380,000</b>	1,380,000
Net Current Assets	<b>4,784,342</b>	4,776,178
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,147,896</b>	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.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)**

**Reserves**

The Board has the responsibility for establishing an appropriate reserves practice. It is the practice 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 as at 31 December 2023 of €10,147,896 fall into two categories, Restricted and Unrestricted funds:

Restricted funds of €2,623,479 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 practice of MS Ireland to fully apply such funds for the purposes for which they were donated as quickly as possible.

Unrestricted funds of €7,524,417 are funds that have no specific restrictions attached to them but are categorised as follows:

Designated funds of €6,024,417 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 2023, 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 €3,983,554 which is not available for distribution.
- The net assets of the Society's branches €1,342,473 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 2023 of €250,000
- Funds set aside to ensure continuity of regional support of €334,732

General unrestricted funds of €1,500,000 represent funds which are available for the general purposes of the Society.

It is also the practice of the Society to hold sufficient reserves to fund its activities and maintain the quality of its services for a minimum period of three 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 three months. At the 31 December 2023, general unrestricted funds held were €1,500,000 (2022: €1,022,423), equating to three months' reserves.

**DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT**

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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.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

### Report on the audit of the financial statements

#### Opinion on the financial statements of Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland ("the company")

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2023 and of the result 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 their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' issued by the Financial Reporting Council ("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.

#### 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 Reports and Financial Statements. 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.

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND**

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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on IAASA's website at: <https://iaasa.ie/publications/description-of-the-auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-financial-statements>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### **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 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.

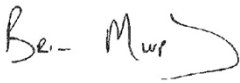
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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

### 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.



Brian Murphy  
For and on behalf of Deloitte Ireland LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm  
Deloitte & Touche House, 29 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

19 August 2024

**THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

		Unrestricted Funds 2023 €	Restricted Funds 2023 €	Total Funds 2023 €	Total Funds 2022 €
	Notes				
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants and service contract income	3,5				
- Community services		-	2,359,232	2,359,232	2,280,954
- Respite care services		272,995	1,245,573	1,518,568	1,420,006
- Governance		4,017	515,822	519,839	481,512
<b>Voluntary Income -</b>					
- Fundraising -National Office	3,6	1,126,495	390,483	1,516,978	1,543,793
- Fundraising -Branch	3,6	589,763	-	589,763	429,260
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,993,270</b>	<b>4,511,110</b>	<b>6,504,380</b>	<b>6,155,525</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activity costs</b>	8				
- Community services		85,625	2,476,407	2,762,032	2,548,322
- Respite care services		123,895	1,855,876	1,979,771	1,637,185
- Governance costs		151,031	773,512	924,543	777,824
- Branch services		408,595	-	408,595	382,169
<b>Voluntary income costs</b>					
- Fundraising -National Office	3	586,364	-	586,364	574,700
- Fundraising -Branch	3	50,886	-	50,886	30,278
		<b>1,406,396</b>	<b>5,305,795</b>	<b>6,712,191</b>	<b>5,950,478</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/ income for the year</b>		<b>586,874</b>	<b>(794,685)</b>	<b>(207,811)</b>	<b>205,047</b>
Transfer between funds		(935,516)	935,516	-	-
Net Movement in funds		(348,642)	140,831	(207,811)	205,047
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		6,944,651	3,411,056	10,355,707	10,150,660
Prior year adjustment restricted funds	11	928,408	(928,408)	-	-
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		<b>7,524,417</b>	<b>2,623,479</b>	<b>10,147,896</b>	<b>10,355,707</b>

# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	12	3,983,554	4,199,849
Investment Properties	13	1,380,000	1,380,000
		<u>5,363,554</u>	<u>5,579,849</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks	15	14,531	8,788
Debtors	15	1,100,798	655,442
Cash at bank and in hand	16	4,427,885	5,159,955
		<u>5,543,214</u>	<u>5,824,185</u>
<b>CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>	17	<u>(758,872)</u>	<u>(756,993)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>4,784,342</u>	<u>5,067,192</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>10,147,896</u>	<u>10,647,041</u>
<b>Creditors: (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>	18	-	(291,334)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>10,147,896</u>	<u>10,355,707</u>
<b>FUNDED BY:</b>			
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>			
Designated		6,024,417	5,934,529
General		1,500,000	1,010,122
		<u>7,524,417</u>	<u>6,944,651</u>
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Endowment		1,380,000	1,380,000
General		1,243,479	2,031,056
		<u>2,623,479</u>	<u>3,411,056</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<u>10,147,896</u>	<u>10,355,707</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Jacinta Kelly  
Director

Aveen Murray  
Director



# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		2023	2022
	<i>Notes</i>	€	€
<b>NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	20	<b>(436,745)</b>	<b>(55,848)</b>
<b>CASH INFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Interest received	20	982	122
Interest paid	20	(41,221)	(44,792)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	12	(16,015)	(35,836)
<b>NET CASH INFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(56,254)</b>	<b>(80,506)</b>
<b>CASHFLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
REPAYMENTS OF BORROWINGS	18	(239,071)	(240,890)
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>(732,070)</b>	<b>(377,244)</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF</b>		<b>5,159,955</b>	<b>5,537,199</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF YEAR</b>		<b>4,427,885</b>	<b>5,159,955</b>

**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").

**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.

**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.

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**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	20% straight line
Computer Equipment	33% straight line
Furniture and Fittings	20% straight line
Motor Vehicles	20% straight line
Branches' Motor Vehicles/Mobile Homes	20% straight line

**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.

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**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.

**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.

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**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.

**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.

# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3. INCOMING / EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted 2023 €	Restricted 2023 €	Total 2023 €	2022 €
<b>INCOME</b>				
Community services	-	2,359,232	2,359,232	2,280,954
Respite Care services	272,995	1,245,573	1,518,568	1,420,005
Governance	4,017	515,822	519,839	481,513
Fundraising - National and regions	1,126,495	286,191	1,412,686	1,543,793
Fundraising - Branches	589,763	-	589,763	429,260
Legacies		104,292	104,292	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,993,270</b>	<b>4,511,110</b>	<b>6,504,380</b>	<b>6,155,525</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Community services	85,625	2,676,407	2,762,032	2,548,322
Respite care services	123,895	1,855,876	1,979,771	1,637,185
Governance	151,031	773,512	924,543	777,824
Branch services	408,595	-	408,595	382,169
Fundraising - National and regions	586,364	-	586,364	574,700
Fundraising Branches	50,886	-	50,886	30,278
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,406,396</b>	<b>5,305,795</b>	<b>6,712,191</b>	<b>5,950,478</b>
<b>NET INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>586,874</b>	<b>(794,685)</b>	<b>(207,811)</b>	<b>205,047</b>

### 4 Pharmaceutical Donations

	Total 2023 €	Total 2022 €
Perrigo	40,085	40,000
Novartis	14,000	18,873
Merck Serono Ireland Ltd	10,000	15,000
Roche Pharma holding B.V	5,000	660
Alkermes Pharma Ireland Limited	20,000	20,000
	<b>89,085</b>	<b>94,533</b>

All pharmaceutical donations in 2023 were restricted.



# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5. GRANTS AND OTHER SERVICE CONTRACT INCOME		2023	2022
	Note	€	€
➤ HSE Statutory Community		1,535,319	1,739,444
HSE Statutory Respite		967,999	1,208,115
HSE Statutory Governance		515,822	481,152
HSE-National Lottery Funding		52,010	36,522
HSE-Other Grants		97,385	104,285
Pobal		91,000	90,500
Other Grants-Non HSE		75,220	64,285
Community Employment Schemes	28	785,876	769,903
		<b>4,120,631</b>	<b>4,494,566</b>
Respite services		272,991	168,898
Members fees		4,017	520
		<b>4,397,639</b>	<b>4,663,984</b>
6 OTHER INCOME CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES		2023	2022
		€	€
Fundraising National office		1,516,979	1,543,793
Fundraising Branch		589,763	429,260
		<b>2,106,742</b>	<b>1,973,053</b>
7 NET OUTGOING RESOURCES		2023	2022
		€	€
<b>The net outgoing resources for the year are stated after charging:</b>			
Depreciation		232,993	245,084
Interest payable and similar charges		-	44,792
Auditor's remuneration - Company		76,760	40,235
- Branches		27,524	23,557
- CEP Schemes		4,722	4,340
Operating lease rentals		14,778	26,728
<b>and after crediting:</b>			
Interest received		<b>(982)</b>	<b>(122)</b>

Board member's travel and subsistence expenses in attending meetings in 2023 were €701 (2022: €623).

No emoluments are paid to Board members.

# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 8 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Direct Salary Costs	Other Direct Costs	Support Costs (Note 9)	Total 2023	Total 2022
	€	€	€	€	€
Community Services	2,205,690	49,361	299,660	2,554,711	2,402,934
Respite Care Services	1,275,176	21,208	481,666	1,778,050	1,550,627
Governance	505,623	35,375	383,545	924,543	777,825
Fundraising	230,627	544,943	219,836	995,406	836,924
Branch Services	-	385,400	74,081	459,481	382,168
	<b>4,217,116</b>	<b>1,036,287</b>	<b>1,458,788</b>	<b>6,712,191</b>	<b>5,950,478</b>

### 9 ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	2023 €	2022 €
Staff and related costs	138,470	117,666
Administration	317,056	217,847
Property maintenance	610,120	463,568
Depreciation	232,993	233,256
Audit and other costs	110,337	34,653
Governance	49,812	3,578
	<b>1,458,788</b>	<b>1,070,568</b>

#### Audit and other costs.

after charging

Auditor's remuneration	- Company	76,760	42,449
	- Branches	27,524	23,557
	- CEP schemes	4,722	4,340
Annual Report		630	570
Board of Directors Expenditure		701	527
Other Administration costs		-	10,867
		<b>110,337</b>	<b>82,310</b>

# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 10 EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

The average number of persons employed by the Group in the financial year was 122 (2022:117), analysed into the following categories:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Regional & National services	29	28
Care	30	25
Administration	12	13
Fundraising activities	5	5
CEP	46	46
	<b>122</b>	<b>117</b>

The numbers shown above are inclusive of 46 (2022: 46) persons employed under the Department of Social Protection Scheme and exclusive of persons contracted on a consultancy basis to provide counselling and fundraising services.

	2023 €	2022 €
<b>Total staff costs were comprised of the following:</b>		
Wages and Salaries	3,881,270	3,309,029
Employer social welfare costs	276,102	287,438
Employer pension contributions	150,735	92,962
Annual Leave Accrued	55,673	43,403
	<b>4,363,780</b>	<b>3,732,832</b>

The Group 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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
€60,000 - €70,000	2	2
€70,000 - €80,000	2	1
€80,000 - €90,000	1	-
€100,000 - €110,000	-	1
€110,000 - €120,000	1	-

Key Management Personnel are the Board, the Chief Executive, Services Manager, National Services Development Manager, Fundraising Manager, HR Manager and Financial Controller. Total emoluments (including benefits and Pension) paid to key management personnel was € 433,947 (2022: €487,743).

### 11 Prior year adjustment

	Note	2023 €	2022 €
Capital Grant	19	715,124	-
Proceeds of property for sale	19	48,098	-
Other item previously restricted	19	165,186	-
Opening balance adjustment		<b>928,408</b>	<b>-</b>
			<b>42</b>

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold	Office	Computer	Furniture	Motor	Branch Equipment Motor Vehicles & Mobile Homes	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
<b>Cost:</b>							
At 1 January 2023	7,192,143	294,532	262,578	568,068	134,594	191,379	8,643,294
Additions	-	3,718	10,118	2,179	-	-	16,015
Disposals	-	(168,546)	(87,800)	(417,875)	(40,000)	-	(714,221)
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>7,192,143</b>	<b>129,704</b>	<b>184,896</b>	<b>152,372</b>	<b>94,594</b>	<b>191,379</b>	<b>7,945,088</b>
<b>Depreciation:</b>							
At 1 January 2023	3,172,826	246,257	220,595	511,852	116,084	175,831	4,443,445
Charge for the year	143,844	16,362	29,965	25,049	12,338	5,435	232,993
Disposals	-	(168,546)	(87,800)	(417,875)	(40,000)	-	(714,221)
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>3,316,670</b>	<b>94,073</b>	<b>162,760</b>	<b>119,026</b>	<b>88,422</b>	<b>181,266</b>	<b>3,961,534</b>
<b>Net Book Value:</b>							
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	<b>3,875,473</b>	<b>35,631</b>	<b>22,135</b>	<b>33,346</b>	<b>6,172</b>	<b>10,796</b>	<b>3,983,554</b>
At 31 December 2022	4,019,317	48,275	41,983	56,216	18,510	15,548	4,199,849

# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	2022
	€	€
<b>13 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES</b>		
Market Value	1,380,000	1,380,000

The properties were valued on an open market value basis in January 2021 by an independent valuer.

### 14 Assets held for resale

The National office has been sale agreed in March 2024 and is expected to be completed later in the year.

	2023	2022
	€	€
<b>15 DEBTORS AND STOCK</b>		
15.1 Amount due from fundraising activities	87,445	66,517
Prepayments	84,986	121,866
Community Employment Scheme	29,504	46,626
HSE grants	751,368	341,086
Residents fees and other Debtors	147,495	79,347
	<u>1,100,798</u>	<u>655,442</u>
15.2 Stocks	<u>14,531</u>	<u>8,788</u>

	2023	2022
	€	€
<b>16 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND</b>		
National and Regional services	3,129,845	3,878,304
Branches	1,298,040	1,281,651
	<u>4,427,885</u>	<u>5,159,955</u>

Of the €3,129,845 (2022: €3,873,177) of National and Regional Services cash at bank and in hand a total of €1,629,845 (2022; €2,730,813) is unrestricted cash.

# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

<b>17 CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Trade creditors	138,524	213,755
Accruals	176,406	127,832
Deferred income	3,981	1,355
Bank term loan	289,435	237,172
PAYE/PRSI	75,632	74,703
Community Employment Scheme	74,894	102,177
	<b>758,872</b>	<b>756,993</b>

<b>18 CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due after more than one year)</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Bank term loan	-	291,334

These loans were all cleared and paid in full on 30 April 2024.

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Within one year	289,435	237,172
Within two to five years	-	291,334
	<b>289,435</b>	<b>528,506</b>

# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 19.1 TOTAL FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total Funds €
Funds at beginning of year	6,944,651	3,411,056	10,355,707
Movement during year	(348,642)	140,831	(207,811)
Prior year adjustment	928,408	(928,408)	-
<b>Funds at end of year</b>	<b>7,524,417</b>	<b>2,623,479</b>	<b>10,147,896</b>

### 19.3 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Fund at the beginning of the year €	Net movement €	Fund at end of The year €
<b>General fund</b>	<b>1,022,423</b>	<b>477,577</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>			
Fixed assets	3,890,382	541,562	4,431,944
Branch net assets	1,292,739	49,734	1,342,473
Planned budget deficit	739,107	(489,107)	250,000
<b>Total Designated funds</b>	<b>5,922,228</b>	<b>102,189</b>	<b>6,024,417</b>
<b>Funds at end of year</b>	<b>6,944,651</b>	<b>579,766</b>	<b>7,524,417</b>

# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 19.2 FUNDS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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

Restricted funds	Fund balance at the start of year €	Prior year adjustment €	Movement	Transfer From Unrestricted €	Fund balance at the end of year €
HSE Statutory Funding Community	-	-	(184,008)	184,008	-
HSE Statutory Funding -Respite	-	-	(401,245)	401,245	-
HSE Statutory Funding -Governance	-	-	(257,691)	257,691	-
CEP community	-	-	15,637	39,620	55,257
CEP respite	-	-	(7,337)	22,762	15,425
HSE Lottery Funding	30,744	-	29,636	-	60,380
HSE Other Grants	-	-	24,466	-	24,466
Pobal Funding	-	-	(30,189)	30,189	-
Other Government Grants	-	-	34,605	-	34,605
Research	69,223	24,080	500	-	93,803
Bequest	63,472	-	104,292	-	167,764
J.P. MacManus	5,642	15,846	(765)	-	20,723
Other	1,098,753	(205,112)	(122,585)	-	771,055
Capital grants	715,124	(715,124)	-	-	-
Proceeds of Property Held for Resale	48,098	(48,098)	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,031,056</b>	<b>(928,408)</b>	<b>(794,684)</b>	<b>935,515</b>	<b>1,243,479</b>
<b>Endowment</b>	<b>1,380,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,380,000</b>
	<b>3,411,056</b>	<b>(928,408)</b>	<b>(794,685)</b>	<b>935,516</b>	<b>2,623,479</b>



# THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

### 19.3 Analysis of Other Restricted funds

The other restricted funds include funds received for the following:

	Fund balance at the start of year	Prior year adjustment	Movement	Fund balance at the end of year
Regional Offices	384,864	-	(50,132)	334,732
Pharmaceutical Companies	241,323	-	37,648	278,971
Care Centre	202,297	-	(93,882)	108,415
Getting the Balance Right Programmes	21,466	-	(16,029)	5,437
T J Ennis	26,190	-	(190)	26,000
Community Foundation (948)	4,000	-	-	4,000
Movesmart	13,500	-	-	13,500
Other	205,113	(205,112)	-	-
	<b>1,098,753</b>	<b>(205,112)</b>	<b>(122,585)</b>	<b>771,055</b>

19.4 The Capital Grant relates to a lien on the Care Centre that was removed in 2021.

19.5 The proceeds of the property in Clare were return to the Branch in 2022.

**20 NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

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

	2023 €	2022 €
Net incoming resources	(207,811)	205,047
Interest received	(982)	(122)
Interest & Charges payable	41,221	44,792
Depreciation	240,167	245,084
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(4,815)	904
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(454,141)	(245,001)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(50,384)	(316,804)
Sale of Investments	-	10,252
Net cash inflow from operating activities	(436,745)	(55,848)

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

	2023 €	2022 €
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in year	(732,070)	(377,244)
Cash flow from debt financing	239,071	240,890
Change in net cash	(492,999)	(136,355)
Net cash at beginning of year	4,631,449	4,767,804
Net cash at end of year	4,138,450	4,631,449

**(iii) ANALYSIS OF NET CASH**

	2023 €	Cash Flow	2022 €
Cash at bank and in hand	4,427,885	(732,070)	5,159,955
Debt due within one year	(289,435)	(52,263)	(237,172)
Debt due after one year	-	291,334	(291,334)
	4,138,450	(492,999)	4,631,449

**21 Taxation**

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.

## 22 GIFTS IN KIND

The Group 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 €16,000 (2022: €12,500).

## 23 PENSIONS

The Company operates a defined contribution insured pension scheme for employees. The employer pension cost for the year was € 97,330 (2022: €92,962) there was balance outstanding at the end of the year €18,439 (2022: €17,149).

## 24 FUNDRAISING

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

## 25 LEASE COMMITMENTS

### Operating Leases:

#### Premises

Annual lease commitments at 31 December 2023 amount to € 14,778 (2022: €26,728) and relate to leases which expire.

	2023	2022
	€	€
- Within one year	14,778	26,728
	<u>14,778</u>	<u>26,728</u>

## 26 OTHER COMMITMENTS

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

There was no significant capital commitments contracted for by the Company as at 31 December 2023.

## THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

### NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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#### 27 CEP GRANTS

MS Ireland operates three Community Employment Schemes supported by the Department of Social Protection.

The provision of services and supports throughout the country relies on the contribution of our Community Employment Scheme Participants.

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.

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
<b>INCOME</b>		
Care Centre CEP Scheme	277,574	286,841
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	253,388	260,845
Western Region CEP Scheme	254,914	222,217
<b>Total</b>	<b>785,876</b>	<b>769,903</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Care Centre CEP Scheme	276,706	286,769
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	250,711	263,397
Western Region CEP Scheme	241,976	223,076
<b>Total</b>	<b>769,393</b>	<b>773,242</b>
<b>DEBTORS</b>		
Care Centre CEP Scheme	5,975	11,143
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	11,105	30,451
Western Region CEP Scheme	12,424	5,032
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,504</b>	<b>46,626</b>
<b>Creditors</b>		
National Office	-	20,000
Care Centre CEP Scheme	24,124	24,251
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	19,784	32,694
Western Region CEP Scheme	30,987	25,232
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,894</b>	<b>102,177</b>

## 28 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
· Amounts due from fundraising activities	87,445	66,518
· Community Employment schemes	29,504	46,626
· HSE Grants	751,368	341,086
· Residents fees and other debtors	147,495	79,347
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
· Trade Creditors	138,524	213,755
· Bank Term Loan (See note 18)	289,435	528,506
· Community Employment Schemes	74,894	102,177

## 29 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

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

## 30 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.

## 31 EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Since the Balance Sheet Date there have been a few major developments primarily relating to our properties:

### National Office

MS Ireland have entered into a binding legal contract to sell the National Office in Northumberland Road, Dublin 4.

The anticipated completion and moving date is Quarter 1, 2025.

To accommodate this move of the National Office, it is planned that our Premises in Bushy Park Rd. Rathgar, Dublin 6 will be extended and renovated and become the new National Office of MS Ireland.

### Limerick Office

The Limerick property since year end MS Ireland have agreed to sell the current Regional Office and to purchase a new larger purpose-built Office.

