

FEIS @EOIL

SUPPORTED BY THE RDS



ANNUAL
REPORT
2019

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(Photos courtesy of Clare Keogh and Frances Marshall)

Chairperson's statement

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it gives me great pleasure to present the Feis Ceoil Association's (the "Feis Ceoil") Annual Report in respect of the year ended 31 July 2019.

I would like to begin by thanking the Feis' staff and volunteers and compliment them on the success of Feis Ceoil 2019. Yet again, their hard work, dedication and generosity ensured that the ever-astounding quality of the performances on stage was matched and facilitated by the well-oiled organisational machine that operates so efficiently in the background.

In addition to the competitions, the Gala Concert at the National Concert Hall and the Young Platform Concert Series were great successes, and gave performance opportunities and the experience of performing in premier national venues to many superb up-and-coming performers.

As always, most of the work that goes into running the Feis goes on un-noticed behind the scenes and this has never been more true than in the last year.

As a charitable organisation, new regulatory, statutory reporting and governance requirements are constantly coming on stream and, while we welcome them, they do create an ever-increasing administrative workload. It is testament to the dedication and extraordinary hard work of our Board, staff and volunteers that I can report that we are fully in compliance with all applicable regulations and requirements. I want to express particular thanks to our staff and volunteers for their generosity of spirit and hard work in satisfying all these new and sometimes onerous demands.

In my AGM Chairman's Report last year I detailed our difficult financial position, the extreme cost-cutting which we had embraced out of necessity, and also the fact that we were in ongoing discussions with the RDS regarding a possible funding arrangement which would see the RDS and both corporate and private donors enter into a multi-annual sponsorship-type deal with the Feis Ceoil. We were also in ongoing discussions seeking to break through the many barriers to receiving State Funding. However, when I reported to you last year I had no choice but to point out that none of these desired outcomes was a certainty. But I also said that ; *"Despite the financial challenges of recent years, the Board of the Feis has remained strong and optimistic.*

The Feis is the largest and best-run competitive classical music festival in Europe with a proud and long history of excellence and so, in looking to solve our funding difficulties, we have been looking to move to broader based funding models that will secure not only the survival of the Feis - but will ensure that it flourishes and enhances its service to young musicians, music teachers and Irish Society as a whole."

And now I am very happy to report that, due to mammoth effort and good will, all of these objectives have been brought to fruition and the Feis Ceoil now has a broadened funding-base which will ensure that the Feis will not only survive, but is positioned to flourish and further enhance its offering over the coming years.

This positive outcome - or 'suite of outcomes' - could not have been achieved without a phenomenal, sustained effort by our CEO and Board, and I want to acknowledge their indefatigable dedication. Equally, I want to express my appreciation and thanks to Michael Duffy and his team in the RDS for all their hard work and good will in creating wonderful new and exciting dimensions to our long-established relationship as eminent cornerstone-organisations of central importance in Ireland's cultural and educational life. We look forward with enthusiasm and energy to a highly fruitful, enhanced partnership with the RDS and you will see "Supported by the RDS" appearing as part of our redesigned Feis Logo.

I am delighted to report that the relationship between the Feis Ceoil and our former Title Sponsor, ESB continues with the ESB staying with us as a substantial (non-title) corporate sponsor - and I want to express our appreciation and thanks to Edel McCarthy and to Pat O'Doherty CEO and all at the ESB for their ongoing support.

In addition to the RDS as our primary grant-provider and the ESB as a substantial corporate sponsor, we now have three philanthropic donors who have committed funding to the Feis for a five year term.

Our President, Mrs Carmel Naughton has been instrumental in the design and actualisation of this greatly-enhanced funding model and I can't make mention of Carmel without acknowledging her unfailing loyalty and dedication to the Feis. Without her personal engagement, advice, and untiring support I would not be reporting such a positive outlook this evening. Thank you Carmel.



So, in summary, income from memberships / various categories of Friends and other giving, competition entry fees, programme advertising and audience receipts provides only a fraction of our running costs. Additional funding has always been essential to us, and going forward the Feis will be resourced by a broader than hitherto funding model comprising the RDS as primary grant-giver, three philanthropic donors and the ESB as a corporate sponsor. While this may appear to be very positive - and it is - I must stress that we need to redouble efforts to grow our membership / Friends numbers and competition audiences, and, in tandem with growing our online reach and public profile, this will be an important focus in coming years.

With funding secured, we have been quick to action plans to make what is already Europe's largest and best competitive music festival and its offering to those we serve even better : As a start to the roll-out of our plans to enhance our engagement and service to young musicians, their families, teachers and audiences all over the island of Ireland, we recently held our first Young Platform Concert outside Dublin.

It took place in The Curtis Auditorium at the Cork School of Music and was a great success. Our thanks to Head of School, Aiveen Kearney and to all at the CIT Cork School of Music.

I am also delighted to report that our Cork Young Platform Concert was part-funded by a small grant from The Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. This is significant in that, notwithstanding our best efforts, the Feis Ceoil has long been denied State Funding despite our clear, established, quantifiable, unique and indispensable role in music education and the arts in Ireland. Arts Council Funding is not available to "competitive festivals" so we got a firm 'no' there (even for funding for non-competitive parts of our activity), and so we focused our attention on The Dept. of Education and Skills and The Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

I want to express particular appreciation to Ray Bates whose patience, skill and tenacity in pursuit of the Holy Grail of State Funding has yielded this result - a small grant but a significant breakthrough in pursuit of our aim of broadening our funding base to include demonstrably well-deserved State funding.

I also wish to express our thanks to Minister Josepha Madigan and her officials at The Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

In addition to the enhancement to our all-island engagement that I have just detailed, Feis 2020 will see the introduction of two new competitions which will expand, enhance and modernise our offering in the field of Musical Theatre. Other enhancements to our Competition Syllabus are under ongoing consideration, and demand and other factors are continually monitored to ensure optimal provision for all applicable genres and instruments etc.

During my tenure as Chairman we had no option but to conduct an exhaustive multi-annual audit of our competitions which entailed some difficult decisions including amalgamating some competitions which weren't attracting the requisite numbers of competitors etc. Now, having allowed 'bedding in' time those difficult decisions have resulted in healthier competitions and better competitor experiences. That said, we will continue to monitor demand and other factors and should circumstances indicate that it would be appropriate, competitions may be revived.

It is, however, a particular pleasure to be in a position to announce the new Musical Theatre Competitions - and to see the Feis responding to contemporary trends and serving new cohorts of young performers, and flourishing.

Additionally, we acknowledge with gratitude other ongoing positives such as the continued provision at no cost by Pianos Plus of practice pianos at the RDS during the competitions. This is a great resource, especially to young pianists who have travelled long distances, and I want to express our gratitude to Pianos Plus.

Feis Ceoil is also continuing to collaborate with Barry Douglas' Clandeboye Festival, which gives a recital opportunity to the winner of the Mabel Swainson competition. This year's winner was JJ MacNamara. And I also want to acknowledge our collaboration in our Conducting Competition with the RTE Concert Orchestra. It is a dream for budding conductors to have an opportunity to work with a professional orchestra of the calibre of the RTE Concert Orchestra, and the prize of an engagement for a studio concert with the orchestra, recorded by RTE lyric fm, is an invaluable experience and an important 'career stepping stone'.



Additionally Seamus Crimmins's €500 Prize adds much to the competition and I would like to thank Seamus for his continued support for the competition.

The ongoing strength of the public profile of the Feis Ceoil organisation is thanks in no small part to our association with our media partners (The Irish Times, and RTÉ Lyric FM) and the dedication of our publicist Christine Monk. I take this opportunity to acknowledge Christine's excellent work and express our appreciation and thanks to her and to RTE Lyric FM and The Irish Times. In addition to 'traditional' broadcast and print media, our online / social media penetration is showing healthy growth.

In addition to our new funding partnership with the RDS, I also want to thank the RDS for continuing their Music Bursary, which now stands at €15,000, making it the largest single music bursary in the country. In addition to the bursary, the winner receives an engagement with the NSO and a performance arranged by Irish Heritage in London. This year's winner, Kevin Jansson (who has just done his Leaving Cert) is now studying in The Juilliard School in New York. At 18, Kevin is a Feis Ceoil veteran! Yet another example of the Feis supporting the ongoing development of Irish musicians from junior to the most senior levels of their studies! In addition to the bursary, a second award, The Jago Award of €5,000 goes to the 2nd Prize winner who this year was flautist, Amy Gillen. Amy is now continuing her studies at Masters level in the Royal College of Music in London. While we will all watch Kevin's and Amy's progress over coming years with interest and pride, we also celebrate every competitor and their families and teachers for their exceptional dedication and excellence.

Year after year our international adjudicators are effusive in their praise for the exceptionally high standard of music performance teaching in Ireland. The Feis Ceoil provides an indispensable platform, performance opportunities, international expert assessment and impartial benchmarking to young musicians - these experiential and evaluative resources are greatly valued by their teachers.

Our collaborative partnership with music teachers is at the heart of everything we do, and planning is underway to further enhance our service to, and support for, music teachers all over the island of Ireland. There is world-class teaching being done day in, day out all over the country and I want to add my voice to the perennial chorus of admiration and respect from our international adjudicators.

The Feis and its community suffered a number of losses this year with the passing of a number of loyal members and supporters, most notably:

Mary Thomson, Feis Ceoil member

Dr. Eithne Sharkey, Feis member and erstwhile volunteer typist (before computing days!)

Isolde McCullough, daughter of well-known singing teacher Percy Whitehead, who until recently attended Feis Ceoil annually to present the Percy Whitehead Cup.

Most recently, **Déirdre Kelleher**, former Director of Feis Ceoil, a driving force behind the Feis for many years, whose dedication, tenacity and strategic decisions kept Feis Ceoil at the top of its game during some of its most trying periods.

No words can express the enduring value of their contributions to the Feis Ceoil and the exponential benefits to current and future generations of young musicians. And so, on their behalf and on all our behalf, I want to express our thanks to those who have passed, and our heartfelt condolences to their loved ones.

And now to the Board: like all our volunteers, our Board members are exceptional people whose sincere altruism and indefatigable dedication to helping future generations of musicians are truly remarkable. The willingness of such eminent individuals to share their expertise and give so generously of their time and energy speaks volumes about the Feis and of its standing in Irish society, its proud history, its present excellence, and its great future.

Last year we welcomed our Finance Director, James Gleeson to the Board. James's expertise and wisdom are great additions to our skill base and I want to again express our thanks to KPMG for facilitating James' membership of our Board. Equally Chris O'Toole and Deirdre Seaver are eminent new additions to the Board bringing extensive legal, and performing, corporate entertainment and event management expertise to the Board. Ray Bates needs no introduction and we are, of course, delighted by his return.

While I will restrain myself from detailing the enormous contribution of every Board member here, there is one Board member whose annual mammoth task as Music Secretary is at the heart of every competition.

The magnitude and complexity of Edith Forrest's voluntary work for the Feis would normally take an army of musicians, librarians and administrators to accomplish - and so I want to express enormous thanks and appreciation from us all. Indeed, as Chairman, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to every member of the Board, old and new.

In conclusion, I want to express my thanks; firstly to the Feis Ceoil Association Members, for their continued and invaluable support.

Our volunteers are the life-blood of the Feis and we hugely appreciate their work, skill, dedication and generosity. The Feis simply couldn't function without them! They are frequently at the 'front line' of our interactions with those we serve and it must be acknowledged that they have embraced new legislation, training, systems and practices with characteristic good will, great care and understanding. And as Chairman I want to acknowledge that again with admiration and deepest appreciation. Thanks to all our volunteers, staff and Board, the Feis not only complies with all applicable Child Protection legislation, our engagement in this most important area is exemplary.

Our Chief Executive Laura Gilson is a class act, whether organising our key activities, administrating the organisation, or presenting our Gala Concert at the National Concert Hall! Laura's wide skill-base, breadth of knowledge, and insuperable dedication to the Feis is the engine at the heart of the Feis's magnificent 'machine'. On all our behalf I want to express appreciation and thanks. Laura is ably assisted in the office by Andy whose work is also, of course, invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Finally I want to express deepest gratitude and appreciation to our President, Carmel Naughton. Over the last year her support, advice and unswerving loyalty to the Feis have been called on more than ever and she has responded every time with characteristic wisdom and generosity.

It is now seven years since I was honoured to be invited to join the Board of The Feis Ceoil. As you know we have a Board Rotation Policy, and, having had my term of office extended twice it is now time for me to step down from the Board which I will do following our AGM on 21st November.

The infamous curse "May you live in interesting times." comes to mind when I look back on those seven years as they were years in which we faced some major challenges (not least financial ones) and had to make some difficult decisions. But those challenges have been dwarfed by the indefatigable dedication, good will, generosity and spirited insuperability of the wonderful people around me.

Our President Carmel Naughton, Board, CEO Laura, Administrator Andy, Edith our Music Secretary, our Volunteers and the Members of the Feis Ceoil Association have shown in abundance the dedication, loyalty and unswerving vision that have characterised the 'Feis Ceoil Community' throughout its long and proud history.

The Feis changes lives and serves a number of vital functions in support of young musicians, their teachers and music education on the island of Ireland. I know that because I have experienced the Feis myself at every level from competitor to teacher, vocal sub-committee member to Board member, and latterly as Chairman.

In 1985 a young Joan Cowle stewarded the Tenor Solo Competition when a certain schoolboy became its youngest-ever winner. Within days I had been offered my first engagement as a soloist with the RTE Concert Orchestra and that changed everything for me. It was an important stepping stone on the way to Carnegie Hall, The Lincoln Centre, The Royal Albert Hall etc. And now my students' names appear among the winners of that and many other Feis competitions and some have also gone on to perform on major international stages.

The Feis made an enormous difference in my life and it has been a great honour to serve on the Board and as Chairman. And I still remember with great appreciation that snowy night in 1985 when my now fellow-board-member, Joan Cowle put her hand on the shoulder of that schoolboy and reassured him "You'll be grand." That's what the Feis is all about!

Emmanuel Lawler

Chairperson

Feis Ceoil

About the Feis

Our story

Established in 1896, Feis Ceoil Association promotes excellence in music education and performance across all ages, levels and disciplines. We run an annual festival before Easter each year in Dublin which comprises almost 200 competitions, attracting over 5,000 participants from all over the island of Ireland. We also run non-competitive events and concerts throughout the rest of the year.

Feis Ceoil occupies a unique position in Irish life. It is an essential element in the musical infrastructure of the country and has made an immeasurable contribution to the study and cultivation of music at all levels in Ireland. The Association looks to the future with confidence and welcomes the opportunity to continue operating at a fully professional level with new partnership arrangements in place.

Feis Ceoil was founded by the chief representatives of music activity in Ireland under the guidance of Dr. Annie Patterson, to counteract the neglect of music development in this country. It consisted of competitions for performance and composition and was supported by all musicians of the day, both national and classical.

Since then the Feis has undergone many changes to accommodate the development of music in Ireland. Gone are the competitions for Bamboo Pipes and the Whistling of Irish Airs!

Today, Feis Ceoil is an event of major significance in the development of classical music talent in Ireland. To be successful at the Feis is very important in the musical career of many entrants, for many others it is a means of obtaining enhanced enjoyment from their music while also providing a yardstick by which to measure their personal standards.



The Cultural Agenda

Internationally	Feis Ceoil's role
<p>At its 33rd session in Paris on 21 October 2005, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) affirmed that cultural diversity is a defining characteristic of humanity, and acknowledged that cultural diversity creates a rich and varied world, which increases the range of choices and nurtures human capacities and values, and therefore is a mainspring for sustainable development for communities, peoples and nations.</p> <p>Certain of the key objectives of its Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions therefore are to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions and raise awareness of its value at the local, national and international levels.</p>	<p>Feis Ceoil has been protecting and promoting music in Ireland since its inception. Having a rich seam of indigenous talent in which to tap, Ireland has been exceptionally well-represented nationally and internationally. Of its nature as a small island, the majority of professional musicians are required to move abroad to further their studies and/or to find employment. Feis Ceoil has significantly contributed to the cultivation of a standard of classical musicianship which allows our musicians to perform at the highest international standards.</p>
In Europe	Feis Ceoil's role
<p>The European Commission also recognises that the culture sector is increasingly a source of job creation, contributes both to growth in Europe and quality of life for EU citizens, and is also an excellent conduit for promoting social inclusion and supporting cultural diversity.</p> <p>It's five main priorities under the 2019-22 Work Plan for Culture, adopted on 27 November 2018, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainability in cultural heritage ▪ Cohesion and well-being ▪ An ecosystem supporting artists, cultural and creative professionals and European content ▪ Gender equality ▪ International cultural relations 	<p>Drawing from our European neighbours as adjudicators and by extension forming links with conservatories and studios across Europe, Feis Ceoil is at once being fed by and feeding into the European Arts network. The freedom to study and work within the EEA has improved standards of teaching and performing exponentially.</p>
In Ireland	Feis Ceoil's role
<p>The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has issued a draft discussion paper entitled "Culture 2025 / Éire Ildánach" which sets a proposed overarching vision and framework for the future and outlines the priorities for action over the coming years. Through this Framework Policy, the Government seeks to nurture creativity, boost citizen participation, help more people to follow a sustainable career in the cultural sector, promote Ireland's cultural wealth and ensure a cultural contribution to wider social and economic goals.</p> <p>The Framework Policy is underpinned by certain key values. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The intrinsic value of culture ▪ The value of culture to our lives and our communities ▪ The right of everyone to participate in the cultural life of the nation ▪ The importance of the Irish language, our cultural heritage, folklore, games, music and the uniqueness of our Gaeltacht areas ▪ The value of cultural diversity, informed by the many traditions and social backgrounds now in Ireland ▪ The value of culture as a means of fostering a more sustainable future for Ireland, including through economic and social policy ▪ The value of culture in presenting Ireland to the world 	<p>Feis Ceoil's primary focus has always been the island of Ireland. However, the Ireland of today is almost unrecognisable from when the Association was first established. Throughout that period, Feis Ceoil has remained committed to its original mission and objectives, while evolving and responding to myriad cultural and social developments.</p> <p>By virtue of its age range (7+), diversity of instruments and inclusion of ensembles, choirs and orchestras, Feis Ceoil promotes inclusivity at its core. As a result, development and the promotion of Ireland's cultural wealth is a natural consequence of its core activities.</p>

Our purpose

What are our strategic goals?

1. Cultivating and advancing the musical arts in Ireland
2. Responsible and sustainable fundraising

What does this mean terms of outcomes?

Our overarching charitable purpose is the advancement of the arts, culture and Irish heritage. Our principal objectives are to;

- promote the general cultivation and advancement of the musical arts in Ireland, especially among the young; provide a forum of professional benchmarking, constructive criticism and general encouragement of young musicians in Ireland;
- foster an appreciation of the country's wealth of musical talent;
- to develop further opportunities for competitors through partnerships with appropriate organisations; and
- to maintain a viable organisation through which to attain the aims stated above.

How will we achieve them?

We seek to achieve our objectives through the organisation and promotion of an annual Music Festival, or "Feis Ceoil", consisting of competitions, concerts, lectures, recitals and musical performances, both in Ireland and abroad.

Who benefits from our efforts?

The immediate beneficiaries of the Feis Ceoil are its participants. Irrespective of the outcome of any competition, we believe that participation in the festival instils key values in young people including; dedication, determination, resilience, musical appreciation, and an appreciation of Irish heritage.

At a wider level, we believe that Irish society benefits from our efforts to nurture the very best in Irish musical talent, to provide a platform for this talent to launch their careers, and to showcase this talent on an international level.

What are our values?

1. We cherish our relationships with participants, adjudicators, teachers, members and collaborative partners.

2. We promote diversity, equality, inclusivity, honesty, integrity, respect and understanding across all our activities; and
3. We adhere to the highest ethical standards of fairness and consistency.

Why do we do it?

Our founders initially set up the festival to combat a neglect of Irish music and musicians. The fact that the festival remains a cornerstone in the development of aspiring musicians almost 125 years later is testament to commitment of Irish society to its musical heritage.

Irish culture is one of our greatest strengths: it is a source of values, identity and a sense of belonging. It also contributes to people's well-being, to social cohesion and inclusion. We believe that our efforts are in-keeping with the separate cultural agendas of UNESCO, the European Commission, and the Irish State.

Hosting the Feis Ceoil is our way of protecting and preserving our culture for future generations of Irish citizens.

Impact case study: Robin Sammon Wharton (Piano)

I was awarded Highly Commended in the Junior Piano Repertoire under 11 years.

I am continuing to study piano with Mary Beattie in Cork and am working on pieces by Bach, Haydn, Mozart and Scriabin. I plan to compete in the same competition as last year as I am 10 years old and love the freedom the repertoire competition offers.

How the Feis has helped

The Feis really helped by giving me the opportunity to compete with some of the best pianists of my age in the country.

Note from Robin's mum Nicky: Competing in the Feis has given Robin an idea of the standard expected in Feis Ceoil and how to improve her own performance. I thought very carefully before taking her to Feis Ceoil in Dublin. I contacted your office and Andy was able to answer all my questions and we found everything so well organized right down to the practice pianos. She is now busily getting ready for Feis 2020.

Who are we?



Participants

The festival participants are our reason for being. Aged from 7 years upwards, this annual cohort of circa 5,000 aspiring musicians are the future of Irish classical music.

Participants' support network

The Feis owes its existence to the army of parents, other support networks and (critically) music teachers from around the country who encourage our performers and facilitate their participation each year.

Volunteers

Feis Ceoil is essentially a voluntary organisation. Apart from its two paid staff, the festival is largely reliant on its dedicated cohort of volunteers. As well as the Board, our Music sub-committees, competition stewards, door staff and meet-and-greeters are populated by music-loving volunteers, some of whom have been with us for decades. The 'Feis family' is loyal, enthusiastic, flexible and very hardworking. They follow the progress and careers of our competitors with great interest and collectively represent an impressive repository of Feis knowledge, history and folklore! Simply put, the Feis could not happen without them.

Carmel Naughton (President)

Our President, Carmel Naughton, is one of Ireland's foremost philanthropists and champions of the Arts. Since the beginning of her term with Feis Ceoil, she has provided invaluable support to the Association. She has seen the organisation through numerous milestones and challenges, through which we have had the benefit of her support and advice. We are hugely indebted to Carmel for her unfailing dedication and commitment to the organisation.

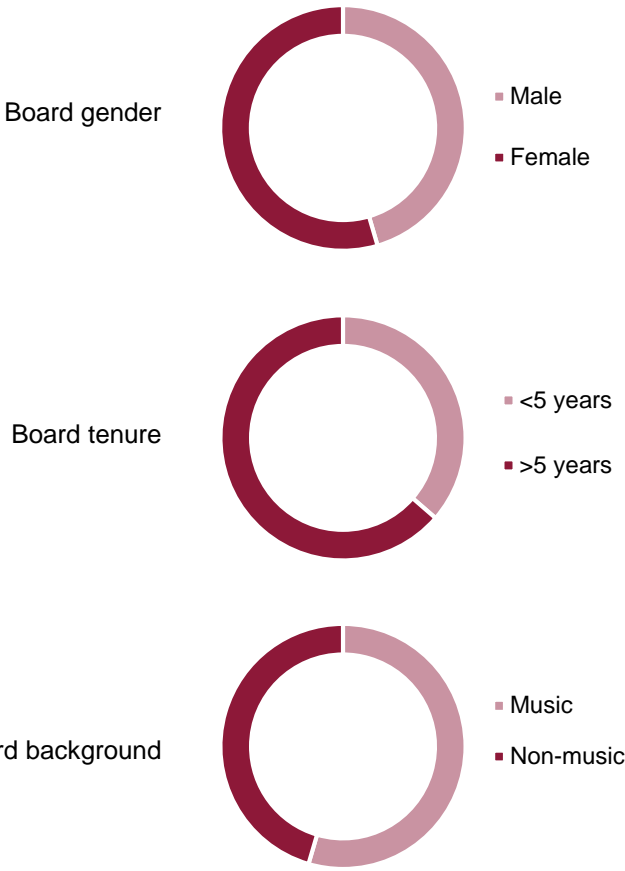
Laura Gilsenan (Chief Executive Officer)

A keen musician, Laura Gilsenan has thirteen years' experience in Arts administration, the last eleven of which as CEO of Feis Ceoil Association. Previously, she worked with the Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition and the Great Music in Irish Houses Festival. Having graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 1989 with an honour's degree in English and French, she moved to Paris, where she taught several modules on the English language degree programme at the Sorbonne University. Upon her return to Ireland, Laura moved into the area of Human Resources and spent a number of years as a Human Resources manager before making the full-time move to music and Arts administration.

Board of Directors

In order to serve the complex needs of a Charitable organisation with very specialised artistic goals, our Board comprises individuals with music, business, governance, legal and financial expertise. Within those categories, specific areas of individual responsibility have been identified to ensure the organisation is constantly moving forward.

Director	Area of individual responsibility	Term (years)
Emmanuel Lawler	Chairperson of the Board	7
Chris O'Toole	Company Secretary	1
Edith Forrest	Honorary Music Secretary	12
James Gleeson	Finance	1
Ray Bates	Strategy	7
Joan Cowle	Heritage and History	12
Ursula Gormley	Non-competitive events	8
Anna McCabe	Governance & Fundraising	7
David Mooney	Teacher relations	11
Fiona Naughton	Governance & Fundraising	4



Structure, governance & management

Roles and responsibilities of the Board

The Board is accountable to the Feis Ceoil's members and wider stakeholders for the overall performance of the organisation and for ensuring good governance. The Board takes all significant strategic decisions, retaining full and effective control of the organisation's activities, while delegating regular day-to-day management to the Chief Executive Officer.

The CEO implements the strategic direction set by the Board and ensures the Board has a clear understanding of their key activities, decisions and performance results and of any significant risks likely to arise.

The Board delegates authority to the its Strategy and Risk Committee to carry out certain tasks on its behalf so that it can give the appropriate level of attention and consideration to those and other matters. This Committee of the Board identifies the policies and actions necessary to assure the continued survival of the Feis Ceoil Association and to bring all issues arising to the attention of the Board of the Association for timely resolution.

Matters considered by the Board in 2019

The Board met 7 times during the year and achieved an 86% attendance rate. The following were the key matters considered by the Board over the course of the year:

Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic Direction of the Feis Ceoil
Charitable purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extent of success of Feis Ceoil and concerts ▪ Effectiveness of 2019's Feis Ceoil in achieving charitable purposes
Corporate governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Board evaluation ▪ Induction of new Board members ▪ Approval of Procurement and Payments policy ▪ Inducted 3 new board members during the year
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New funding model/partnerships ▪ Annual budget ▪ Annual published results

Risk Management

The Board has overall responsibility for ensuring the organisation has an appropriate risk management system in place. The Board's processes to identify and evaluate business risks includes:

- Identifying the nature, extent and implications, including financial, of risks facing the Feis Ceoil including the extent and categories which it regards as acceptable;
- Assessing the likelihood of identified risks occurring; and
- Assessing the organisation's ability to manage and mitigate these risks.

The following are the organisations principal risks and uncertainties:

Background and mitigation

Funding position and going concern:

The main risk facing the viability of the Feis Ceoil is the availability of long-term sponsors and private donors.

To address this risk, the Board seeks to diversify its funding streams: Feis Ceoil is committed to fostering existing funding relationships while continuing to identify potential additions to its funding portfolio.

Succession risk:

As a small organisation, the Feis Ceoil relies heavily on its CEO to carry out its operating activities and coordinate the hosting of the annual festival.

We are in the process of developing a comprehensive procedures manual for both the CEO's and Administrator's functions to facilitate a change in personnel, should that arise.

Reputational risk:

Artistic: Annual review of existing competitions, and identification of monetary award and bursary funders to maintain our reputation as the pre-eminent classical music festival in Ireland.

Governance: Structures are under review to ensure compliance with all requisite statutory reporting and governance requirements. Garda vetting has been carried out for all relevant staff and volunteers.

Board composition

Decisions regarding the appointment and re-appointment of Board members are made by the Board, in line with our rotation policy. Board Members have a blend of skills and experience and the necessary competence to support effective decision making.

Based on the breadth of expertise required (as exemplified in the 'areas of individual responsibility'), the requirement for additional/complementary expertise is always under review. Vacancies are notified via the membership base when they arise.

Independence

The Board is satisfied that the non-executive Board members are independent of management, in character and judgement, and free from relationships or circumstances that could affect, or appear to affect, their judgement and ability to meet the requirements of the role.

Each Board member brings independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct. Board members must declare any conflict of interest which could interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement.

Charities Governance Code readiness plan

The Charities Regulator's Charities Governance Code ("the Code") will be brought into force in 2020, at which point all registered charities will be expected to comply with the Code.

The Board and the CEO of the Feis Ceoil are currently undertaking a readiness review of the organisation's governance structure to ensure compliance.

The Code provides six principles of governance and core standards that the Charities Regulator expects all charities to meet when putting the principles into action. Additional standards are provided for charities with high levels of income, complex organisational and funding structures, or significant numbers of employees. The Board's current assessment is that the Feis Ceoil will not fall within the scope of these additional standards.

The following summary provides an overview of the current status of the Feis Ceoil's governance structures by reference to the Code's principles:

Advancing our charitable purpose

The Board believes the Feis Ceoil has a clearly defined charitable purpose, and has committed itself to an annual review to ensure our strategy and objectives remain in line with our charity's purpose and continue to provide a public benefit.





The Board has implemented a firm plan of the forthcoming 12 months setting out what the organisation will do to advance its purpose and works to ensure that that we have adequate resources to execute that plan.

Behaving with integrity

The Board has established a clear set of values and works to ensure that everyone involved in the organisation understands the way things should be done and how everyone is expected to behave. The Board is in the process of developing a Code of Conduct for all charity trustees which will include matters such as conflicts of interests and loyalties, board confidentiality, gifts and hospitality and out-of-pocket expenses.

Leading people

The Board works to ensure arrangements are in place for the effective involvement of the organisation's volunteers, including what to do if any problems arise. The arrangements for paid staff are governed by contracts of employment which comply with relevant employment legislation including remuneration, development, support, and grounds for dismissal.

Exercising control

The Risk and Strategy sub-committee conducts an annual Risk Assessment and reports to the Board on key risks to which the organisation is exposed and proposes plans to the mitigation of these risks. The Feis Ceoil has implemented appropriate financial controls relative to the size and complexity of the organisation, particularly focussed on the disbursement of expenditure.

Working effectively

The Board works to ensure its members has the collective skillset necessary to advance its charitable purpose. Regular board meetings are held with adequate advance notice and agendas provided to members. Standing agenda items include approval of previous meeting's minutes, reporting on activities, review of finances and conflicts of interest and loyalties.

Being accountable and transparent

The Board works to identify the stakeholders in the Feis Ceoil and decides an appropriate communication strategy for each cohort of stakeholder. In particular, the organisation strictly adheres to the reporting requirements of its funders and donors. The Board is committed to ensuring that the Feis Ceoil's Registered Charity Number is displayed on our written materials (including online platforms).

What we achieved in 2019

Highlights



CEO's report

A year of challenges and exciting opportunities

New funding model

The last year has presented many challenges and opportunities for Feis Ceoil. As an organisation, we came to the end of our title sponsorship arrangement with ESB, which had been in place for 10 years. This was in no way a reflection of the esteem in which ESB holds the organisation, but rather a natural transition from a 'Title' role to a 'Corporate Sponsor' role, which we are very grateful to have in place until 2020.

This development opened the way for Feis Ceoil to explore a new funding model, comprising a portfolio of corporate and private donors, whose commitment to Feis Ceoil over the next five years will ensure that we may continue to develop and grow the organisation as intended.

The primary grant-provider in this model is the RDS Foundation, with whom of course we already have strong links via the RDS Music Bursary which has been run in conjunction with Feis Ceoil since 2003 and via the RDS Venue, which has been the home of the Feis since 1984. Both organisations share the goal of facilitating the individual to reach their full potential, achieve excellence and contribute to the development of classical music performance – and appreciation – in Ireland. Both organisations wish to increase the visibility of the work they do in this regard. Therefore, by combining our strengths, the aim is to further our objectives to the benefit of those we serve, the musicians of Ireland.

Additionally, there are three philanthropic donors who have most generously committed funding to the organisation over the next five years. This diversity of funding streams provides for more flexibility in relation to the provision of our core income, without the potential for having to replace one very large funder, should that relationship change. We of course extend our sincere gratitude to all our donors whose confidence in us as an organisation is at once highly gratifying and humbling.

Strategic goals

For the past three years, due to a decrease in our core funding, it was necessary for us to postpone new initiatives and focus on delivering the best festival and concert series we could, while strictly controlling our costs. As part of our discussions around the new funding model, we were delighted to be able to present a series of proposals which would bring Feis Ceoil to the next level.

During our time with ESB, we accomplished a great deal in terms of professionalising our organisation, raising awareness of our brand and developing our role as Ireland's pre-eminent classical music festival.

In the next phase of our development, we plan to continue that work, while increasing our competition offering, increasing our visibility outside of Dublin, and forging new partnerships with a view to improving our service to our competitors and music teachers around the country.

Challenges

Regulation

There is not a charitable organisation in the country that does not have its challenges! Additional regulatory, statutory reporting and governance requirements which are constantly coming on stream place increased pressure on small charities such as Feis Ceoil. While welcome, no additional resources are made available to charities to cope with the increased, and highly specialised, workload.

Staffing

We are hugely fortunate in Feis Ceoil to have a dedicated group of volunteers to whom much can be outsourced during festival fortnight. However, we do rely on only two staff during the rest of the year.

Key performance indicators

Metrics are extremely useful in assessing trends and organisational performance over time. We have selected some basic KPIs as a starting point which address the fundamentals of Feis Ceoil performance. The Feis Ceoil has established the following key performance indicators to measure its performance on an annual basis:

<i>Metric</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018</i>
Competition applications	1,605	1,540
Attendees at Feis Ceoil concerts	1,095	1,136
Competition attendees	1,871	1,662
Income (€000)	277	178

Year on year, we would envisage an increase or at least no decrease in any of the figures above. Between 2018 and 2019 the only figure which decreased was concert attendance, relating to attendance at the Gala concert. This was as a result of two factors: the reduced requirement for stakeholder tickets and the reduction of our PR budget for 2019.

Impact case study: Róisín Walters (Violin)

I won several junior competitions at the Feis including the St. Cecelia Cup, Under 11, 13 and 17 Violin (the under 15 eluded me!!) and the Terry O'Connor Trophy. In the senior competitions I won the Arthur Catterall and the Aileen Gore Recital Competition, from which I went on to win the RDS Music Bursary.

I am currently enjoying a busy and varied career. I have performed as a soloist in the Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, at the Barbican Centre and the Purcell Room at the Queen Elisabeth Hall. I am the first violinist of the Liverpool String Quartet with whom I regularly perform in the UK and Europe, we are currently working on our second CD. I am also assistant Concertmaster of Britten Sinfonia with whom I have played at the Wigmore Hall, the BBC proms and am just this week travelling to perform at the Lincoln Centre, New York. As well as this as an orchestral musician I perform regularly as a principal player with orchestras throughout the UK and have performed as Concertmaster with the Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata and with my own group, Britten Sinfonia.

How the Feis has helped

The Feis was without a doubt somewhere I developed a confidence and focus for my playing. Like so many other young players in Ireland the Feis shaped the year, it gave you an aim, a goal, something to work towards.

For me it also brought me into contact with so many musicians who to this day are some of my closest friends and colleagues. The Feis was where you were exposed to a much bigger world of music than what was happening week to week in your one on one lessons.

It was exciting, at times emotional, and extremely formative. The feelings you feel aged 12 playing two set pieces in front of an adjudicator are the same feelings you feel as a professional standing in front of a panel in an audition. My journey as a musician has been improved by experiencing those things at a young age and in an environment so full of enthusiasm.

This means that we not only need to have very streamlined processes in place, but need to have very clear operational instructions documented, should it be necessary for someone to take over either role at relatively short notice. This is something that will be developed over the coming year.

Stakeholder relationships

As an organisation which is entirely reliant on non-government funding, our list of stakeholders comprises corporate and philanthropic donors, members, prize fund donors (numbering more than 30 individuals), competitors and corporate friends. By virtue of their sheer number, it can be challenging to allocate the appropriate time and energy to each valuable cohort.

Achievements

As soon as our new funding was formalised, we set about implementing some plans that had been on hold:

Musical Theatre competitions

For Feis 2020, we are introducing two new Musical Theatre competitions, at senior and junior level. There has been increasing demand for the genre over the last number of years and while we already had a 'light opera' competition in the form of the Rathmines and Rathgar Cup, we wanted to extend the range to encompass all aspects of musical theatre, which is a thriving genre.

We are most grateful to the Rathmines and Rathgar Society for continuing their relationship with us by providing both the Cup and a monetary award of €500 for the winner of Senior Musical Theatre (which replaces the R&R competition).

Our primary focus in the provision of this opportunity for singers is vocal health. To that end, it will be imperative that the choice of repertoire be appropriate to their range and stage of vocal development. We invited a number of professionals working in the industry to form our Musical Theatre sub-committee, who have been most helpful in the design of what we hope will be a very exciting new development for Feis Ceoil.

Young Platform on tour

As part of our plan to engage with communities outside of Dublin, we held our first Young Platform Concert in Cork on 6 October 2019.

Having so many talented competitors travel to the Feis from Cork every year, we felt it was a very good place to base our first concert outside the Pale! We chose the Curtis Auditorium of the Cork School of Music ("CSM") and while we featured a number of Cork-based musicians, we represented many counties, disciplines and a range of ages, as we do at all our Young Platform concerts.

We were delighted with the reception from performers, the feedback from the audience and the facilities kindly made available to us by our colleagues at CSM. We also learned a lot about the challenges of taking a logistically complex event to a new venue. All in all, it was a great foundation from which to grow.

Feis Ceoil 2019

The Festival

Despite uncertainty around funding at the beginning of the year, Feis 2019 was very successful. Competition applications were slightly increased with some of the junior string and piano competitions accounting for the increases. The standard, as always, was extremely high and adjudicators in all disciplines commented on the exceptional quality of teaching that we are fortunate enough to have in this country.

Once again, the winner of the ESB School Choir of the Year was St. Brigid's NS Castleknock, under the direction of Niamh Williams. This is the fourth year in a row they have won this prize, staving off serious competition from other excellent post-primary and primary school choirs.

The RDS €15,000 Music Bursary was won by pianist Kevin Jansson from Cork. Kevin completed his Leaving Certificate in June, but had little concern for CAO points, as he had been accepted to the highly prestigious Juilliard School in New York, where he has recently commenced his piano studies. The Jago award of €5,000 was awarded to flautist Amy Gillen, now studying at the Royal College of Music in London.

In addition, over €30,000 in prizes and bursaries was awarded during the Feis. As is very evident, study and performance at such a level is extremely expensive and these prizes help to ensure that our competitors can avail of the very best international tuition and master class opportunities.

Public relations and social media engagement

Despite having had to curtail our publicity investment this year, we were fortunate enough to attract some very high-profile press coverage, including RTÉ One news, The Irish Times (both in print and online), The Examiner, The Independent and the Sunday Business Post. Regional papers also covered the Feis, with features in The Kilkenny People and The Offaly Express.





Feis Social Media Channels were managed from the press launch (25 March 2019) to the Gala Concert (30 April 2019):

- Facebook: 4189 Followers. 26 Posts. Reach 58,344
- Instagram: 412 Followers. 12 Posts. 427 likes.
- Twitter: 1530 Followers. 42 Tweets.

In 2019 there was no budget for sponsored posts, so all engagement was through organic posts. Where we did notice an impact on the lack of investment in PR was in the numbers attending the Gala Concert on Tuesday April 30th. This was further impacted by the RTÉ lyric fm anniversary concert taking place on the following night, May 1st, to which we may have lost some audience members. While Lyric fm is always highly supportive of our Gala, understandably their focus this year was on their own concert.

Concerts

That being said, the Gala Concert was a great success from an artistic point of view. We showcased some stunning performances from soloists, ensembles, a choir and orchestra, allowing the audience to enjoy a wide variety of styles and to sample a distilled version of the Feis experience.

The Young Platform Series in the National Concert Hall was exceptionally well-attended this year

Attendance across the three concerts increased by over 9% compared to 2018. Again, a variety of performers – somewhat younger and/or less experienced than the Gala performers – displayed great talent and poise to very appreciative audiences. We consider these non-competitive performance opportunities to be a vital component of the musical development of our young musicians.

Looking forward

Over the course of the next year, amongst our plans we will:

- Assess the impact of the addition of Musical Theatre as a genre;
- Consider additional performance opportunities outside of Dublin;
- Increase our PR and social medial presence to ensure best outcomes;
- Undertake a re-branding exercise to reflect the energy and dynamism of the organisation;
- Continue to keep our governance and organisational progress under review; and
- Work with RDS to leverage our partnership to the benefit of both organisations.

I look forward to reporting on all of the above this time next year.

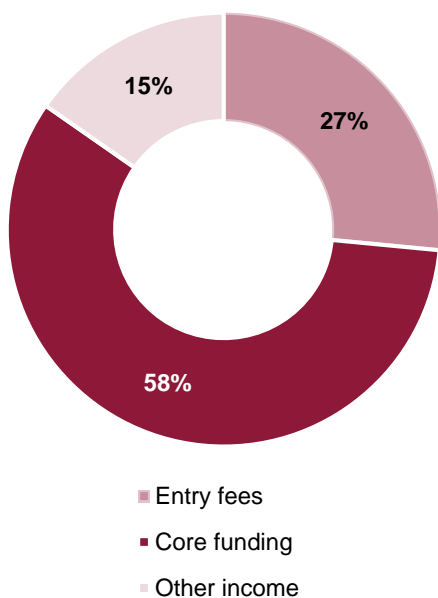
Laura Gilsenan (Chief Executive Officer)

Financial review

As Directors, we are the stewards of an ancient institution which is intrinsically linked with Irish heritage, and so ensuring the financial stability and long-term viability of the Company is a key priority.

Prima facie, the Feis Ceoil might not be a large organisation nor be exposed to significant credit, liquidity or market risks. Nonetheless, maintaining the equilibrium between annual income and expenditure, along with securing multi-annual funding arrangements, can be a challenge – and not one that the Directors or management take lightly.

FY19 income analysis



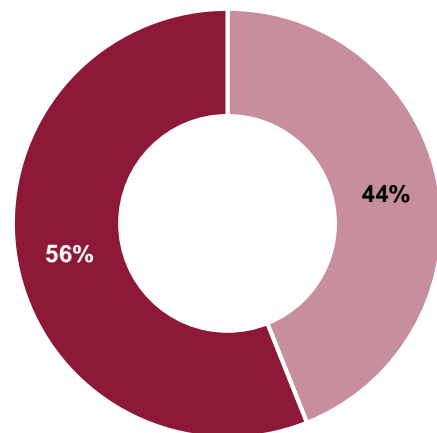
The Feis Ceoil charges competition entry fees to participants to assist with the running costs of the festival. In setting these fees, we are mindful of balancing the financial pressures on music students and their families with the delivery of a quality service to our participants.

Core funding comprises title sponsorship, grant income and private donations. Our new funding model with the grant from the RDS Foundation led to an increase in core sponsorship in FY19.

Other income principally comprises membership fees, door-takings during Feis Week, advertising income and programme sales.

FY19 expenditure analysis

Our expenditure is split between the running costs of the festival, and ongoing establishment costs to facilitate its long-term viability.



- Establishment costs
- Festival expenditure

Festival expenditure largely comprises the rental of halls and pianos during Feis Week, coupled with the engagement of professional international adjudicators and accompanists. These costs increased during FY19 as certain advertising and public relations costs were reimbursed by our title sponsor under the former funding model.

Establishment costs comprise personnel, premises, utility and general administration costs.

Historic review

Notwithstanding the baseline level of expenditure necessary to host a quality festival to advance the musical arts in Ireland, management have demonstrated a track record of fiscal prudence. As can be seen from the graph overleaf, while total income has been in steady decline for the past decade, management were largely able to maintain a no gain, no loss position with limited use of the company's reserve funds. This trend ended in FY19 with the implementation of the new funding model referred to in the CEO's report which the Directors expect will enable us to continue working towards our charitable purposes into the future.

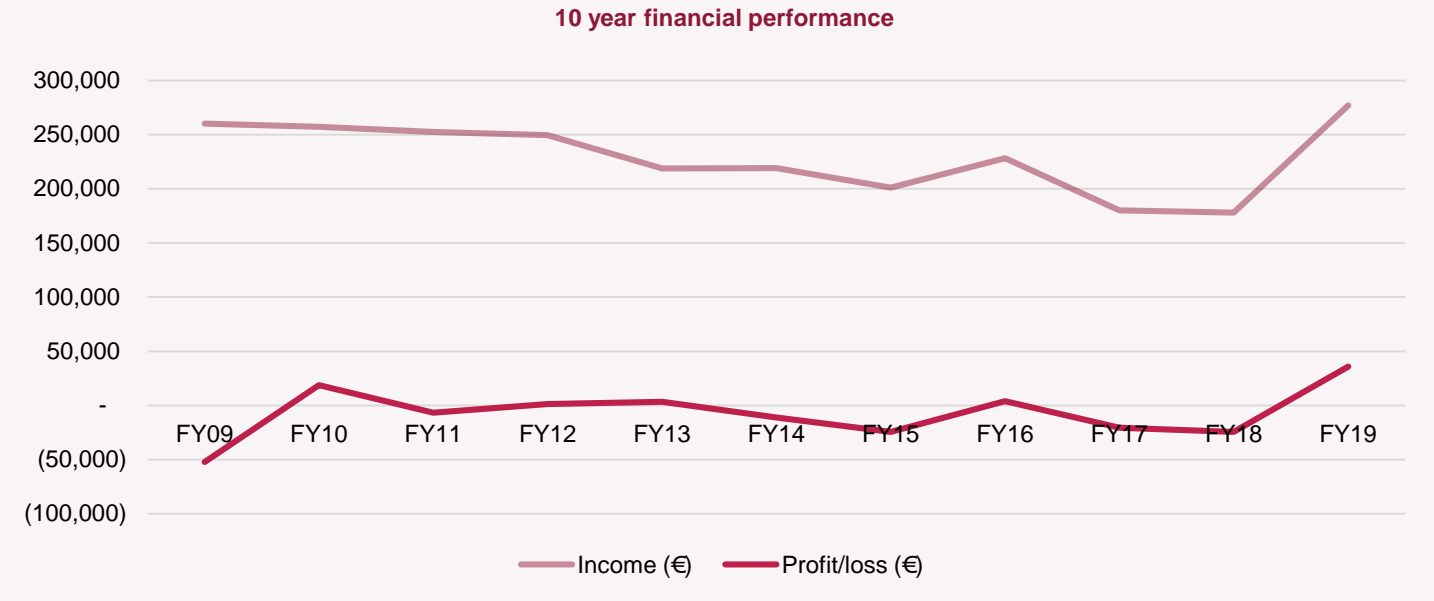
Financial position

The Company's balance sheet as at 31 July 2019 is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. Our net asset position comprises the Company's investment in the Common Investment Fund (administered by the Charities' Regulator) and its investment in working capital. The Company has no long-term indebtedness.

Funding position and going concern

We have adequate financial resources to meet our policy of holding funds enough in reserve to host at least one additional year's Feis Ceoil. As a result, the Directors have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Moreover, we consider the viability of the Company to be greatly enhanced by our new funding model and express our profound appreciation to the RDS Foundation and our private donors. In the absence of any form of government support, it is their generosity that enables us to continue to foster the wealth of talent in musical arts that Ireland has to offer.



Appendix I:

Audited financial
statements

Registration number 446869

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

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FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors	Ray Bates Joan Cowle Edith Forrest James Gleeson Ursula Gormley Joseph Hickey Emmanuel Lawler Anna McCabe David Mooney Fiona Naughton Christopher O'Toole Deirdre Seaver Terence Sheridan	(Appointed 22nd November 2018) (Resigned 10th May 2018) (Appointed 17th February 2019) (Appointed 19th March 2019) (Resigned 19th March 2019)
Secretary	Pearse Trust Limited Christopher O'Toole	(Resigned 19th March 2019) (Appointed 19th March 2019)
Company number	446869	
Charity number	4430	
CRA number	20005771	
Registered office	37 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.	
Auditors	KSí Faulkner Orr Limited, Statutory Auditors Behan House, 10 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2.	
Bankers	AIB Bank, 1/4 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2.	
Solicitors	Linda Scales, Castlevue House, Sandymount Green, Dublin 4.	

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2019.

Principal activities and review of the company

The activities of the association consist of the promotion and advancement of the musical arts in Ireland.

The directors aim to present a balanced and comprehensive review of the development and performance of the organisation during the year and its position as at the year end. Our review is consistent with the size and non-complex nature of our organisation and is written in the context of the risks and uncertainties we face.

The directors are satisfied that the results for the year are consistent with expected levels.

Results

The results for the year are set out on page 10.

Future developments

The organisation will continue to promote and organise the Feis Ceoil.

Directors of the company

The present membership of the board is listed on the 'Directors and other information' page.

The directors and secretary who served during the year had no financial interests in the organisation.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, regarding adequate accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the finance function. The accounting records of the organisation are maintained at the Registered Office at 37 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2.

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

..... continued

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

There is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, KSi Faulkner Orr Limited, have indicated their willingness to accept re-appointment under Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

This report was approved by the Board on 18 November 2019 and signed on its behalf by

Emmanuel Lawler
Director

James Gleeson
Director

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

**STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE
MEMBERS' FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

The directors are responsible for preparing the Director's Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland including the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

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 Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. 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 organisation as at the financial year end date and of the income and expenditure of the company for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

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

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

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and income and expenditure of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and the 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.

On behalf of the board

Emmanuel Lawler
Director

James Gleeson
Director

Date: 18 November 2019

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019**

..... continued

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Feis Ceoil Association for the year ended 31 July 2019 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

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 July 2019 and of its results for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and the Provisions Available for Small Entities, in the circumstances set out in note 17 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019**

..... continued

Other Information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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.

Opinions 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;
- The information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- In our opinion, 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 any material misstatements in the Directors' Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

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 for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to the going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019**

..... continued

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 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 contained in the appendix to this report, located at page 9, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's shareholders, 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 shareholders those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's shareholders, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

John G. Kelly
for and on behalf of KSi Faulkner Orr Limited.

KSi Faulkner Orr Limited,
Behan House
10 Lower Mount Street
Dublin 2

Date: 18 November 2019

APPENDIX TO THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR REPORT

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as going concerns.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

	Notes	Appendix	Continuing operations	
			2019	2018
			€	<i>Restated</i> €
Income	2	I	271,809	172,175
Expenditure		II	<u>(241,271)</u>	<u>(202,538)</u>
Operating surplus			30,538	(30,363)
Interest receivable			5,195	5,908
Value adjustments in respect of financial assets			<u>11,978</u>	<u>(4,233)</u>
Surplus for the year			<u><u>47,711</u></u>	<u><u>(28,688)</u></u>

There are no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above two financial years.

On behalf of the board

Emmanuel Lawler
Director

James Gleeson
Director

Date: 18 November 2019

The notes on pages 13 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 JULY 2019

	Notes	2019		2018	
		€	€	€	€
					<i>Restated</i>
Fixed assets					
Financial assets	6		185,753		173,775
Current assets					
Debtors	7	92,670		8,174	
Cash at bank and in hand	8	35,123		90,250	
			<u>127,793</u>		<u>98,424</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(24,956)		(30,320)	
Net current assets			<u>102,837</u>		<u>68,104</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			288,590		241,879
Deferred income	11		<u>(4,000)</u>		<u>(5,000)</u>
Net assets			<u>284,590</u>		<u>236,879</u>
Reserves					
Opening retained earnings			236,879		265,567
Surplus for the year			47,711		(28,688)
Members' funds	12		<u>284,590</u>		<u>236,879</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 18 November 2019 and signed on its behalf by

Emmanuel Lawler
Director

James Gleeson
Director

The notes on pages 13 to 20 form an integral part of these financial statements.

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

	2019	2018
	€	€
Reconciliation of operating surplus/(deficit) to net cash outflow from operating activities		
Operating surplus/(deficit)	30,538	(30,363)
(Increase) in debtors	(84,496)	(260)
(Decrease) in creditors	(5,364)	162
Prize fund released	(1,000)	(1,000)
Net cash outflow from operating activities	<u>(60,322)</u>	<u>(31,461)</u>
Cash flow statement		
Net cash outflow from operating activities	(60,322)	(31,461)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance	14 5,195	5,908
(Decrease) in cash in the year	<u>(55,127)</u>	<u>(25,553)</u>
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds (Note 13)		
(Decrease) in cash in the year	(55,127)	(25,553)
Net funds at 1 August 2018	<u>90,250</u>	<u>115,803</u>
Net funds at 31 July 2019	<u>35,123</u>	<u>90,250</u>

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

1. Statement of accounting policies

Feis Ceoil Association (the "Company") is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated and domiciled in Ireland. The address of its registered office is 37 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2, and its company registration number is 446869.

The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

Prior period adjustment

In these financial statements the Company has changed its accounting policy in respect of the measurement of the Company's interest in The Common Investment Fund operated by the Charities Regulator. Having previously been carried at cost less impairment, the Directors consider that fair value is a more appropriate means of measuring this financial asset.

Further detail is provided in Note 6.

1.1. Basis of preparation

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with the provisions of Section 1A 'Small Entities' of Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"), issued in September 2015. There have been no material departures from that standard. The functional currency of the company and the presentation currency of these financial statements is Euro.

1.2. Measurement convention

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis except the Company's investment in The Common Investment Fund which is stated at fair value.

1.3. Going concern

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis. Notwithstanding that the Company has adequate financial resources to meet its liabilities as they fall due, its longer-term viability remains dependent on the support of private and institutional donors. The Directors seek to mitigate risks regarding the Company's ability to continue as a going concern by securing multi-annual grant agreement and proactively managing donor relations.

1.4. Turnover

Title sponsorship is accounted for on an accruals basis; supporting sponsorship is accounted for when received. All other income is accounted for when received, except interest income from The Common Investment Fund and deposit accounts which is accounted for on an accruals basis.

1.5. Interest receivable

Interest receivable on funds invested is recognised in profit or loss as it accrues, using the effective interest rate method.

1.6. Taxation

The company has received charitable status from the Revenue Commissioners. Accordingly no taxation charge has been included in the financial statements. The company's charitable number is 4430.

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

..... continued

1.7. Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. The company assesses at each reporting date whether tangible fixed assets are impaired.

Depreciation is charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of tangible fixed assets. The estimated useful lives of leasehold improvements is 10 years.

1.8. Financial instruments

Trade and other debtors/creditors

Trade and other debtors/creditors are recognised initially at transaction price plus/less attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses in the case of trade and other debtors. If the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, for example if payment is deferred beyond normal business terms, then it is measured at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Interest in The Common Investment Fund

The Company's interest in The Common Investment Fund is considered to be an Other Financial Instrument not meeting the definition of Basic Financial Instruments, and is therefore recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition other financial instruments are measured at fair value with changes recognised in profit or loss.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash on hand, demand deposits and other short term highly liquid investments regardless of maturity. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the balance sheet.

1.9. Provisions

A provision is recognised when the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, that can be reliably measured and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are recognised at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

1.10. Related party transactions

The company discloses transactions with related parties which comprise its directors.

2. Income

The total income of the company for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in Ireland.

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

..... continued

3. Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2019	2018
	Number	Number
Administrator	1	1

Employment costs

	2019	2018
	€	€
Wages and salaries	50,870	33,396
Social insurance costs	5,907	3,539
	<u>56,777</u>	<u>36,935</u>

4. Transactions with directors

There were no transactions with the directors during the year.

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

..... continued

5. Tangible assets

	Office, Furniture and Equipment €	Total €
Cost		
At 1 August 2018	2,283	2,283
Disposals	(2,283)	(2,283)
At 31 July 2019	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 August 2018	2,283	2,283
On disposals	(2,283)	(2,283)
At 31 July 2019	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net book values		
At 31 July 2019	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 July 2018	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

..... continued

6. Investments	2019	2018
	€	<i>Restated</i> €
Prize bonds	38	38
Investment in The Common Investment Fund	185,715	173,737
	185,753	173,775
	185,753	173,775

The Charities Regulator held, on behalf of the company, 36,950 units of a common investment fund, administered by AIB Investment Managers Ltd. The value per unit as at 30 June 2019 was €5.07, the latest written valuation available. During the year, the Directors changed the value basis for this investment from historical cost less impairment to its fair value.

Unrecognised investments held in trust

The Company holds a further 9,832 units of the same common investment fund in trust on behalf of certain donors. Income generated from these investments is held in bank accounts administered by the Company (see Note 8), for which an offsetting liability has been recognised to pay these amounts in prizes and bursaries at the company's discretion.

	2019	2018
	€	€
Edith Best Scholarship	11,859	11,094
Mairin Ni She Bursary	7,116	6,657
Arthur Caterall Cup	1,660	1,553
Gertrude Morris-Grant Bursary	30,835	28,846
	51,470	48,150
	51,470	48,150

7. Debtors	2019	2018
	€	€
Grant income receivable	86,275	-
Prepayments	6,395	8,174
	92,670	8,174
	92,670	8,174

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

..... continued

8. Cash at bank and in hand	2019	2018
	€	€
Current account	13,908	33,433
AIB notice 7 deposit account	8,917	43,917
Petty cash	96	118
Trust fund accounts	12,394	12,782
	<u>35,123</u>	<u>90,250</u>
	<u><u>35,123</u></u>	<u><u>90,250</u></u>
9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2019	2018
	€	€
<i>Other creditors</i>		
Trust fund liabilities (Note 10)	13,131	13,632
Trade creditors	1,599	8,984
Accruals	4,960	6,963
<i>Taxation creditors</i>		
PAYE/PRSI	5,266	741
	<u>24,956</u>	<u>30,320</u>
	<u><u>24,956</u></u>	<u><u>30,320</u></u>

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

..... continued

10. Trust Funds

€

1. Edith Best Scholarship

Balance at 1 August 2018	7,316
Add:	
Interest received from deposit account of Edith Best scholarship	-
Income from investment in the Common Investment Fund	356
	7,672
Balance at 31 July 2019	7,672

2. Gertrude Morris - Grant bursary

Balance at 1 August 2018	1,692
Add:	
Income from investment in the Common Investment Fund	1,370
Revenue Rebate	501
Awards paid/payable by Morris-Grant fund	(2,942)
	621
Balance at 31 July 2019	621

3. Mairin Ni She bursary

Balance at 1 August 2018	4,624
Add:	
Interest received from deposit account of Mairin Ni She bursary	-
Income from investment in the Common Investment Fund	214
	4,838
Balance at 31 July 2019	4,838

11. Deferred income

	2019	2018
	€	€
Mollie Murray award		
At 1 August 2018	5,000	6,000
Released in year	(1,000)	(1,000)
	4,000	5,000
At 31 July 2019	4,000	5,000

FEIS CEOIL ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019

..... continued

12. Reconciliation of movements in members' funds	2019	2018
	€	€
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	47,711	(28,688)
Opening members' funds	236,879	208,883
Prior year adjustment (Note 1)	-	56,684
Opening members' funds (restated)	<u>236,879</u>	<u>265,567</u>
Closing members' funds	<u><u>284,590</u></u>	<u><u>236,879</u></u>

13. Analysis of changes in net funds	Opening balance	Cash flows	Closing balance
	€	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>90,250</u>	<u>(55,127)</u>	<u>35,123</u>
Net funds	<u><u>90,250</u></u>	<u><u>(55,127)</u></u>	<u><u>35,123</u></u>

14. Company limited by guarantee

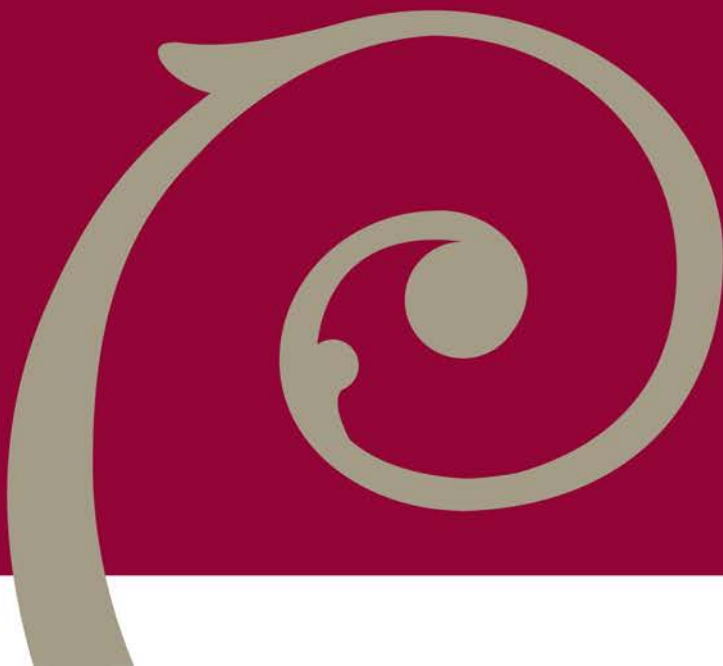
The company is one limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The liability of each member, in the event of the company being wound up is €1.

15. Provisions Available for Small Entities

In common with many other companies of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the Revenue Commissioners and assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

16. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements and authorised them for issue on 18 November 2019.



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