

## THE WHEEL'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2024, 12PM – 12.30PM HYBRID: BUSWELL'S HOTEL, MOLESWORTH ST, DUBLIN 2 AND VIA ZOOM

Attended In-Person	Organisation	Membership
Barra O Briain	Pspa Ireland	Full
Damon Matthew Wise	NCPD	Full
Deirdre O'Driscoll	Extern Ireland	Full
Elena Garcia	Comhlámh	Full
Gráinne O'Rourke	The Spiritans	Full
Joe Kenny	The Ronald McDonald House Charities Ireland	Full
Josephine Bleach	Early Learning Initiative - National College of Ireland	Full
Kerry McLaverty	LauraLynn, Ireland's Children's Hospice	Full
Leonard Dowling	Voice	Full
Liam MacReamonn	Living Communities	Full
Michael Smyth	COPE Galway	Full
Sharon Hearty	Extern Ireland	Full
Vincent Keenan	North & East Housing Association	Full
Damian Penston	Purpose+Impact	Associate
Martin Craul	N/A	Individual
Attended Online	Organisation	Membership
Ailish O'Reilly	Bothar	Full
Darya Yegorina	Clanwilliam Institute	Full
Ekaterina Koneva	Immigrants Training and Advice Services	Full
Mary Kearney	Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance Ireland	Full
Pierre Yimbog	Black and Irish	Full
Rosie Bissett	Dyslexia Association of Ireland	Full
Apologies	Organisation	Membership
Emma Little	The Research Atlas	Full
Sarah Benson	Women's Aid	Full
Janis Morrissey	Irish Heart Foundation	Full
Bee Verheyden	Ballyhall Kindergarten Kilkenny Steiner School	Full
Sheila Gilheany	Alcohol Action Ireland	Full
Caitriona Freir	Dublin Rape Crisis Centre	Full
Clare Dempsey	St John of God Community Services	Full
Chris Sullivan	Huntstown Family Resource Centre CLG	Full
Mark McGee	Erasmus Student Network Ireland	Full
Siobhan Walsh	Carmelite Institute of Britain and Ireland	Full
Jaimie Williams	Dreambig Foundation (SE) CLG	Full
Diarmaid Ó Corrbaí	Carmichael	Full
Joanne Ryan	Trust Grant Writing	Associate
Felix O'Regan	N/A	Individual
Jonathan Buttner	N/A	Individual

**In attendance :** Colette Bennett, Perrine Cesbron, Ivan Cooper, CathyAnne Fox, Jon McBride, Fergal Moran, Emily Nelson, Matthew Norman, Paul O'Sullivan, Johnny Sheehan, Sinead Vaughan,

## Welcome

Vincent began the meeting by welcoming attendees. He noted the meeting as being quorate and read the organisations from whom proxies had been received prior to the meeting.

Organisation		
Women's Aid	Dublin Rape Crisis Centre	St John of God Community Services
Kilkenny Steiner School	Leave No Trace	Carmelite Centre
Irish Heart Foundation	East Wall Watersports	Carmichael
Alcohol Action Ireland	Huntstown FRC	Dreambig Foundation

## 1. To approve the minutes of Annual General Meeting of 07 July 2023.

Vincent invited the meeting to approve the minutes of the 2023 This was proposed by Kerry McLaverty, LauraLynn and seconded by Damon Matthew Wise, NCDP and unanimously approved.

## 2. To receive and consider the Trustees Report and Financial Statements for the 12 months ended 31st December 2023.

Vincent introduced the item, drawing particular attention to the below factors for 2023

- He thanked Tony Ward for his stewardship as interim CEO and welcomed Ivan as CEO having been appointed by the board in May 2023. He also welcomed Colette Bennett to the role of Director of Advocacy and Research noting an ongoing review of the senior management structure for the organisation.
- He drew attention to the ongoing campaign of the organisation for pay parity for section 39/10/56/40 organisations. He noted that there are other organisations in the sector who also need attention and that it's on The Wheel's radar to facilitate this process too.
- He noted a strategic review which took place in November with the board approving amendments to the nuances of our strategy which reflect the new operating environment in Ireland.
- He thanked the board for their voluntary contributions to the organisation during the year and reminded members that their participation in the organisation's governance structures is encouraged. Opportunities to join the board and its subcommittees take place throughout the year.

Passing to Ivan who introduced the Trustees Report and Financial Statements, Ivan drew attention to the quality of the finished report for the year. Ivan introduced Colette who spoke to the context of The Wheel's work in 2023.

- Cost of living and operations continued to be an issue for our members, with costs increasing despite a drop in inflation. 60% of members have reported that they would have had insufficient funding in 2023 to maintain 2022 levels of service.

- Our members stepped up to provide supports for increases in migration, noting 20% of our members have provided support to those fleeing the war in Ukraine.
- Following European research, loneliness emerged as a critical issue facing the populace with 20% of people in Ireland reporting that they feel lonely most or all of the time. 70% of the supports provided to combat this have been by nonprofits.
- The publication of the Charities Act Amendment bill in December 2023 was welcomed and the bill continues to pass through the Oireachtas, with the most recent update in May.

Ivan then spoke to the work of The Wheel in 2023, drawing attention to

- Increasing our membership to 2323 by year-end and maintaining a retention rate of 90% which is above the industry standard for membership organisations.
- He spoke to the variety of programmes The Wheel delivered, which lies at the heart of the work we do, speaking to the work of programmes such as Access Europe, We Act, and Sector Skills that are outlined in more detail in the report.
- He thanked the team of staff at The Wheel for their continued dedication and hard work during his first year as CEO.

Fergal then spoke on the finances in 2023. He noted

- The picture overall was largely consistent year on year with a surplus of €16,000 in 2023 following on from a surplus of €20,000 the year before. That was in tandem with an increase in income and expenditure of approximately 7% from the prior year.
- Our income from charitable activities was €2.43m last year and €2.36m in 2022, while other income rose from €434,000 to €551,000 in 2023.
- Meanwhile, expenditure on charitable activities went from €2.7m in 2022 to €2.9m last year, while our spending on raising funds was €88,000 in 2022 and €47,000 in 2023.
- Fergal also noted the appointment of a new auditor, RBK, during the year and that it had been a smooth transition resulting in an unqualified audit opinion. He thanked RBK for their work on this year's audited accounts.

Questions and comments were then welcomed from attendees and the below points were raised.

- A suggestion was made that the financial statements contained information better suited to the Trustees Report, and that in future years, the Trustees Responsibility Statement would find a better home in the latter.
- The use of the term charity trustee consistently throughout the document was welcomed.
- A question arose as to the consistency between job titles of members of senior management noted between the report and those stated on our website.
- Use of the term surplus was noted as being synonymous with the terms net movement or net income used by the auditors and it was suggested consistency would be optimal.
- There appeared to be a difference in figures for Wages and Salaries in Note 5 of the financial statements, and Staff Costs in Note 7. Fergal spoke to this, clarifying

that the difference in figures relates to third-party salaries for contract employees. While note 5 contains the overall figure, note 7 contains a more detailed expenditure analysis and this is substantiated by the supplemental information at the end of the report.

Approval of the Trustees Report and Financial Statements for 2023 were proposed by Elena Garcia of Comhlamh, seconded by Grainne O'Rourke of The Spiritans and approved unanimously.

**3. To ratify the reappointment of RBK as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.**

Vincent invited the meeting to approve the re-appointment of the auditors, and authorise the directors to set their remuneration.

This was proposed by Michael Smyth, Cope Galway, seconded by Barra O'Briain, PSPA Ireland, and unanimously approved.

**4. To announce the election by members of two directors to the Board as part of the 2023 election process, one new director co-opted by the board since the AGM in 2022, and to announce the re-appointment of an existing co-opted director.**

Vincent began by thanking Sarah Benson for her contributions both to the board and as chair of the Public Policy subcommittee during her term with The Wheel. Sarah will be stepping down from the board at the end of June.

He then announced the appointments and elections of board members which took place in the twelve month since the 2023 AGM

**Elected in 2024**

- Kathleen Dowd
- Michael Smyth

**Re-appointed in 2024**

- Mary Doyle

**5. To transact any other business which may be properly transacted at an Annual General Meeting**

No other business was declared. Vincent thanked attendees for their time and declared the meeting closed.