Registered number: 448565

The Press Council of Ireland CLG

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Directors' Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2018

The Press Council of Ireland CLG
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Contents

Directors' Report
for the year ended 31 December 2018

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the company are the promotion and protection of the freedom of the press, and to provide a forum for the handling and mediation of complaints for the public in relation to the press media in Ireland, on a not for profit basis.

Review of activities

Both the level of activity and the year end financial position were in accordance with directors' expectations and the directors expect that the present level of activity will be sustained for the foreseeable future.

Results and dividends

The surplus for the year, after taxation, amounted to €8,911 (2017: €14,037).

Principal risks and uncertainties

The directors have responsibility for, and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of The Press Council of Ireland. They are confident that adequate systems of control provide reasonable assurance against such risks. The internal control systems aim to ensure compliance with laws and policies, ensure efficient and effective use of company's resources, safeguard company's assets, and maintain the integrity of financial information produced.

Economic Risk
Financial information is subject to detailed and regular review at director level allowing for continuous monitoring of the company's operations and financial status. The directors continuously monitor and plan for the financial stability of the organisation taking into account the external funding environment.

Market Risks
Credit or finance risk is low and closely monitored with an emphasis on income being collected as it falls due.

Financial Risks
In addition to the application of internal procedures the company is subject to statutory external audit. The company has developed procedures and practices throughout the organisation to ensure the company has adequate internal controls. The company will continue to improve these systems to ensure it maintains the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

Directors' Report (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2018

Directors

The directors who served during the year were:

Sean Donlon
Norah Casey (Resigned 30 April 2018)
Brendan Butler
Patricia O'Donovan
Ruth Barrington
Patricia Sisk Taormina (Resigned 30 April 2018)
Denis Doherty
Denise Charlton
Ken Davis
Deaglán de Bréadún
Kevan Furbank (Resigned 30 June 2018)
John J Lynch
Ruadhan MacCormaic
Maeve Conrick (Appointed 1 May 2018)
Catherine Lee (Appointed 1 May 2018)
Frank Fitzgibbon (Appointed 1 July 2018)

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of the company being wound up while he/she is a member or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, for payment of the debt and liabilities of the company contracted before he/she ceases to be a member, and of the cost, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of contributions among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding €1.00.

Political contributions

The company made no political donations during the year, as defined by the Electoral Act 1997.

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the audited financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare the audited financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.

Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date, of the surplus or deficit for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

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

- select suitable accounting policies for the company's financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting 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 confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

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 surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at Clyde Lodge, 15 Clyde Road, Dublin 4.

Statement on relevant audit information

Each of the persons who are directors at the time when this Directors' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware, and
- the director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year end that require disclosure in the financial statements.

Auditors

The auditors LHM Casey McGrath Limited resigned and Nexia Smith and Williamson (Ireland) Limited were appointed on casual vacancy. They have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

This report was approved by the board on 29 May 2019 and signed on its behalf.

Brendan Butler	**Catherine Lee**
Director	Director

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Press Council of Ireland CLG

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Press Council of Ireland CLG (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2018, which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes in Funds and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2018 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, 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.

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 Auditors' 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.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

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

- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements;
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements;
- we have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit; and
- the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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.

Respective responsibilities

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 the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditors 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 Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/ISA-700-(Ireland). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Press Council of Ireland CLG (continued)

The purpose of the audit report and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Damien Kealy
Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of

Nexia Smith & Williamson (Ireland) Limited

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Corrig Road
Sandyford Industrial Estate
Sandyford
Dublin 18

31 May 2019

Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 €	2017 €
Income		**415,955**	414,948
Administrative expenses		**(407,044)**	(400,911)
Operating surplus		**8,911**	14,037
Surplus for the financial year		**8,911**	14,037
Other comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the financial year		**8,911**	14,037

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2018 or 2017 other than those included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Signed on behalf of the board on 29 May 2019.

Brendan Butler

Director

Catherine Lee

Director

Statement of Financial Position
as at 31 December 2018

	Note		2018 €		2017 €
Current assets					
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	6	**46,431**		17,759	
Cash at bank and in hand	7	**67,069**		101,348	
		113,500		119,107	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	**(44,480)**		(58,998)	
Net current assets			**69,020**		60,109
Total assets less current liabilities			**69,020**		60,109
Net assets			**69,020**		60,109
Reserves					
Designated reserves			**69,020**		60,109
Total funds			**69,020**		60,109

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board on 29 May 2019.

Brendan Butler
Director

Catherine Lee
Director

The notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Funds
for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Designated reserves	Total funds
	€	€
At 1 January 2018	**60,109**	**60,109**
Comprehensive income for the year		
Surplus for the year	**8,911**	**8,911**
Total comprehensive income for the year	**8,911**	**8,911**
At 31 December 2018	**69,020**	**69,020**

Statement of Changes in Funds
for the year ended 31 December 2017

	Designated reserves	Total funds
	€	€
At 1 January 2017	**46,072**	**46,072**
Comprehensive income for the year		
Surplus for the year	**14,037**	**14,037**
Total comprehensive income for the year	**14,037**	**14,037**
At 31 December 2017	**60,109**	**60,109**

The notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

The Press Council of Ireland CLG
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Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 €	2017 €
Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus for the financial year	**8,911**	14,037
Adjustments for:		
Movement in debtors	**(28,672)**	108,758
Decrease in creditors	**(14,518)**	(55,084)
Net cash generated from operating activities	**(34,279)**	67,711
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	**(34,279)**	67,711
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	**101,348**	33,637
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	**67,069**	101,348
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**67,069**	101,348
	67,069	101,348

1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention and comply with the financial reporting standards of the Financial Reporting Council and Companies Act 2014..

1.2 Income

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the company and the revenue can be reliably measured. Income is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes. The following criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

Rendering of services

Income from a contract to provide services is recognised in the period in which the services are provided in accordance with the stage of completion of the contract when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the amount of revenue can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the company will receive the consideration due under the contract;
- the stage of completion of the contract at the end of the reporting period can be measured reliably; and
- the costs incurred and the costs to complete the contract can be measured reliably.

1.3 Members' Contributions

Members' contributions are accounted for as income in the year to which they relate.

1.4 Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

1.6 Financial instruments

The company only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in non-puttable ordinary shares.

Debt instruments (other than those wholly repayable or receivable within one year), including loans and other

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Financial instruments (continued)

accounts receivable and payable, are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade debtors and creditors, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received. However, if the arrangements of a short-term instrument constitute a financing transaction, like the payment of a trade debt deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate or in the case of an out-right short-term loan not at market rate, the financial asset or liability is measured, initially, at the present value of the future cash flow discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument and subsequently at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. If a financial asset has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract.

For financial assets measured at cost less impairment, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and best estimate of the recoverable amount, which is an approximation of the amount that the company would receive for the asset if it were to be sold at the reporting date.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Statement of Financial Position when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1.7 Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.8 Operating leases: the company as lessee

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.9 Retirement benefit

Defined contribution pension plan

The company operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the company has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position. The assets of the plan are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.10 Holiday pay accrual

A liability is recognised to the extent of any unused holiday pay entitlement which is accrued at the reporting date and carried forward to future periods. This is measured at the undiscounted salary cost of the future holiday entitlement so accrued at the reporting date.

1.11 Provisions for liabilities

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the company a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefit, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year that the company becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the reporting date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the reporting date.

1.12 Designated reserves

Designated reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that the organisation's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. Designated reserves for this purpose are calculated as estimated running costs of the organisation for a period of six months. The amount of reserves required for this purpose are reviewed on an annual basis by the Board of Directors.

2. Employees

Staff costs, including directors' emoluments, were as follows:

	2018	2017
	€	€
Wages and salaries	**280,105**	283,895
Social welfare costs	**13,777**	13,750
Retirement benefit costs	**6,225**	6,225
	300,107	303,870

Capitalised employee costs during the year amounted to €NIL (2017 : €NIL).

The average monthly number of employees, during the year was as follows

The average monthly number of employees, including the directors, during the year was as follows:

	2018 No.	2017 No.
Total	**4**	4

3. Directors' emoluments

	2018 €	2017 €
Directors' emoluments	**55,000**	55,000
	55,000	55,000

4. Key management compensation

Key management includes the directors of the company, all members of the company management and the company secretary. The compensation paid or payable to key management for employee services is shown bellow:

	2018 €	2017 €
Salaries and other short term employee benefits	**55,000**	55,000
	55,000	55,000

5. Retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension charged in the Statement of Comprehensive Income amounted to €6,225 (2017: €6,225). The assets of the scheme are held in an independently administered pension scheme.

6. Debtors

	2018 €	2017 €
Trade debtors	**32,738**	6,335
Other debtors	**1,683**	22
Prepayments	**12,010**	11,402
	46,431	17,759

7. Cash and cash equivalents

	2018 €	2017 €
Cash at bank and in hand	**67,069**	101,348
	67,069	101,348

8. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2018 €	2017 €
Trade creditors	**5,134**	284
Taxation and social insurance	**34,791**	54,260
Other creditors	**1,043**	1,042
Accruals	**3,512**	3,412
	44,480	58,998

Some trade creditors has reserved title to goods supplied to the company. Since the extent to which such creditors are effectively secured depends on a number of factors and conditions, some of which are not readily determinable, it is not possible to indicate how much of the above amount is secured under reservation of title.

9. Financial instruments

	2018 €	2017 €
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through surplus or deficit	**95,700**	107,710
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	**6,946**	1,326

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise bank and trade debtors.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade creditors and other creditors.

10. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 December 2018 the company had future minimum lease payments under non-concealable operating leases as follows:

	2018	2017
	€	€
Not later than 1 year	**24,000**	24,000
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	**26,000**	50,000
	50,000	74,000

The company signed a 5 year operating lease for its premises in Unit 3, Westland Square, Dublin 2 on 20 January 2016.

11. Company status

The company is limited by guarantee and consequently does not have a share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding €1 towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

12. Related party transactions

There were no transactions with related parties such as are required to be disclosed under Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 33.

13. Controlling party

The company is controlled by the board of directors acting in concert.

14. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 29 May 2019