

A bronze statue of a man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, holding an open book. The statue is the central focus of the cover, set against a blurred green background. The man's face is weathered, and he is looking down at the book with a focused expression.

# Annual Report 2019

*Leabharlann  
Náisiúnta  
na hÉireann*

National Library  
of Ireland



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

# Annual Report 2019

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National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Telephone: +353 1 603 0200

Fax: +353 1 676 6690

Email: [info@nli.ie](mailto:info@nli.ie)

Website: [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)

Cover image: 'Birdsong' by Bob Quinn, from the garden of the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI). Photographer: Jason Clarke

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# Chairman's Remarks

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2019 saw the National Library of Ireland make major progress under each of our five strategic pillars - collect, protect, connect, innovate and collaborate.

The Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), our landmark partnership with University College Dublin, opened at Newman House on Dublin's St Stephen's Green in September. MoLI is the culmination of nearly a decade of collaborative work. It brings together the National Library's unparalleled collections, UCD's magnificent buildings, and the expertise of two major institutions. MoLI is on course to be a major visitor destination in the heart of Dublin, sharing our treasures, including Copy No 1 of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, with new audiences.

The first major phase of the redevelopment of the Library's main building was completed this year. Together with our partners in the Office of Public Works and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, a new book repository was created on site. 350,000 books were moved out of unsuitable Victorian storage in our West Wing into safe and secure new conditions. Work is now continuing to transform the West Wing into new public space. I was particularly pleased to see our regional outreach programme expand, with events such as that celebrating the work of photographer Denis Tynan in Donegal.

I would like to thank the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, for their strong support of the National Library. I would also like to thank all my Board colleagues for their commitment to the National Library. On behalf of all of us, I extend our gratitude to Dr Sandra Collins and everyone on the National Library team, for their dedicated work throughout this successful year. As this is my final year to have the honour of reporting as Chair, I would like to conclude by wishing the Library continued success in the future, on behalf of my Board colleagues and myself.



H. Paul Shovlin



# Director's Foreword

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Throughout 2019, our work was driven by our central vision: to share the story of Ireland with the world through our unique collections.

Our Diversity and Inclusion Policy is essential to making that vision a reality. In February 2019, I was proud to host our first Diversity and Inclusion Forum, welcoming more than 70 participants from a broad spectrum of advocacy organisations. They shared insights on how the NLI can be more inclusive, which will inform our work from now on.

It was wonderful to see our exhibition 'Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again' welcome more than 100,000 visitors in its first year, and also to launch two new photographic exhibitions, 'A Modern Eye: Helen Hooker O'Malley's Ireland' and 'From Turmoil to Truce: Photographs of the War of Independence.'

Our commitment to recording and sharing all aspects of Irish life through the centuries saw great progress during 2019. We were delighted to announce our first Digital Pilot, with writer Marian Keyes, and look forward to sharing details of our next pilots in 2020. 'Towards a Republic,' our major cataloguing and digitisation project for the Decade of Commemorations, continued through the year.

The acquisition of the JP Donleavy Archive, under Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, and the Rowan Collection, were particular highlights in 2019. I would like to thank all our donors, who play such an important role in supporting the NLI.

Finally, I would also like to thank the Chairman, the Board and my colleagues on the National Library staff, for their unwavering commitment through the year.



Dr Sandra Collins



# 2019 at a glance



MORE THAN **280,000** VISITS



PEOPLE RECEIVED  
FREE FAMILY  
HISTORY ADVICE



NEW BOOKS, NEWSPAPERS  
& PERIODICALS



IRISH WEBSITES  
COLLECTED & PRESERVED



**57,000**  
FOLLOWERS



**350,000**  
BOOKS MOVED TO NEW STORAGE



COMBINED ONLINE  
INTERACTIONS

**35,000** PEOPLE



ATTENDED TOURS,  
TALKS, WORKSHOPS  
& EVENTS



WITH  
**210,000**  
VISITORS



**1 NEW MUSEUM**  
THE MUSEUM OF  
LITERATURE IRELAND



The National Library's mission is to collect, protect and make available the recorded memory of Ireland. We care for more than ten million items. This includes a copy of every book, periodical and newspaper published in Ireland under what is known as legal deposit. The Library's Special Collections include an extraordinary wealth of manuscripts, prints and drawings, ephemera and photographs. All our collections are permanent and accessible to everyone.

## 2019 Acquisitions



**8,417 newspapers  
and 3,463 serials**



**More than 150 Special  
Collections acquisitions\***

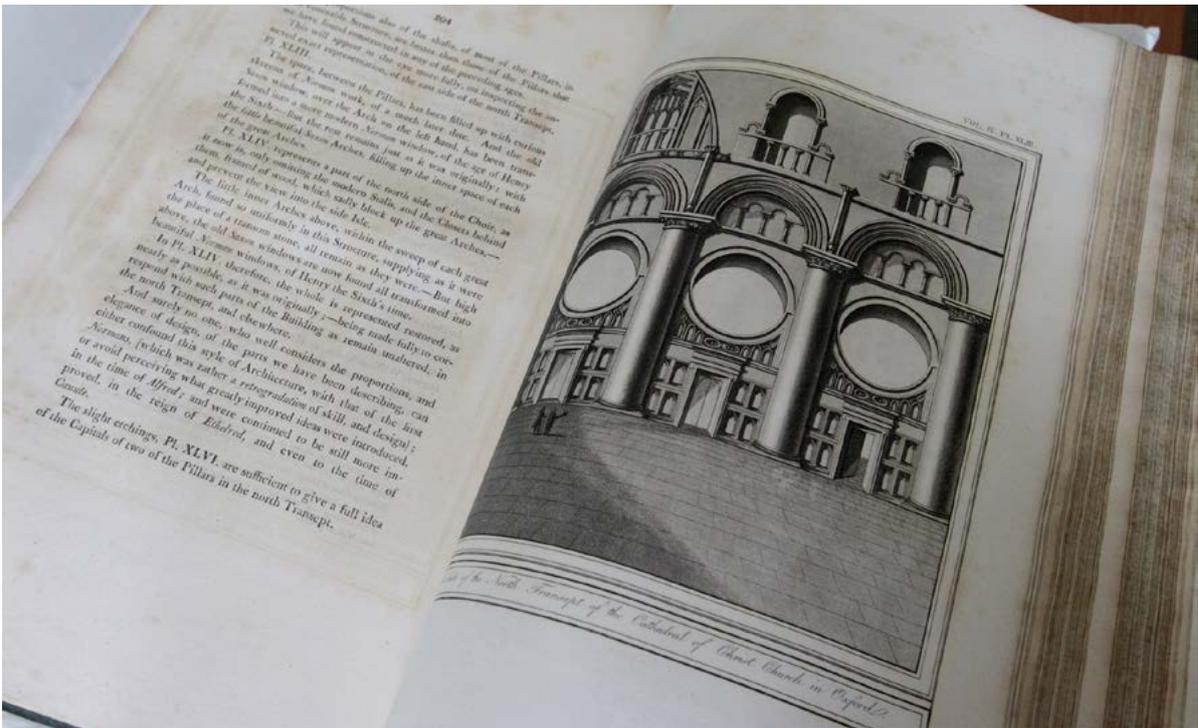


**4,123 books acquired**

\* (this includes individual items and collections)



The JP Donleavy Archive was donated to the National Library by the writer's family under Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997. The Irish American author's archive includes notebooks, manuscripts, playscripts, letters, theatrical posters and programmes, as well as first editions of the author's work. Amongst the treasures in the archive is a typescript draft of 'The Ginger Man' from 1951, with various notes by Brendan Behan, bringing together two of Ireland's most fascinating literary figures of the mid-20th century.



Throughout 2019, we continued to add significantly to our Special Collections through donation and purchase.

These included an extensive library of children's literature and writing on children's literature; the Seán Ó Mórdha Papers including an extensive collection of Samuel Beckett correspondence; and accounts and financial papers of Sinn Féin Bank, Irish National Aid and Volunteer Dependants' Fund, purchased with special funding allocated by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

We were also delighted to acquire the Rowan collection, an impressive collection of 215 books on architecture, with a special funding allocation of €166,185 provided by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The collection was acquired in collaboration with the Irish Architectural Archive, where the collection will be made available for consultation. At the end of the year, we welcomed the donation of Traveller-researched family histories detailing the ancestry of three Travellers living in Finglas and Coolock. These family history materials were created as part of the 'Pavee Roads Home' project with our archives, and provide insights into Traveller history and identity.



## 2. PROTECT

Collection care is a core function of the National Library. The collections we look after range from fragile glass photographic plates and 14th century Gaelic manuscripts, more than 30 kilometres of books and the archive of Irish websites. We are working to meet modern standards for all our physical and digital infrastructure, and to provide the best possible experience for our users.

### Building Programme

2019 saw major developments under our Protect pillar, as Phase 1 of our capital development project was completed with the opening of a modern book repository on Kildare Street.

This multi-year project will help to secure and safeguard the national collections, and create new and transformed public spaces at the National Library. Capital development funding for the redevelopment works carried out by OPW, and for the enabling works carried out by the NLI, has been provided by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, as part of an overall €23 million allocated to the National Library under Project 2040.

Under Phase 1, funding of €1.6 million was made available for work delivered collaboratively by the National Library, the Office of Public Works, and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The completion of this phase was a major milestone, bringing a key part of the national collections from poor conditions into modern, safe storage. This work represents the most significant development in collection care since the National Library of Ireland first opened the doors to our main Kildare Street building in 1890.



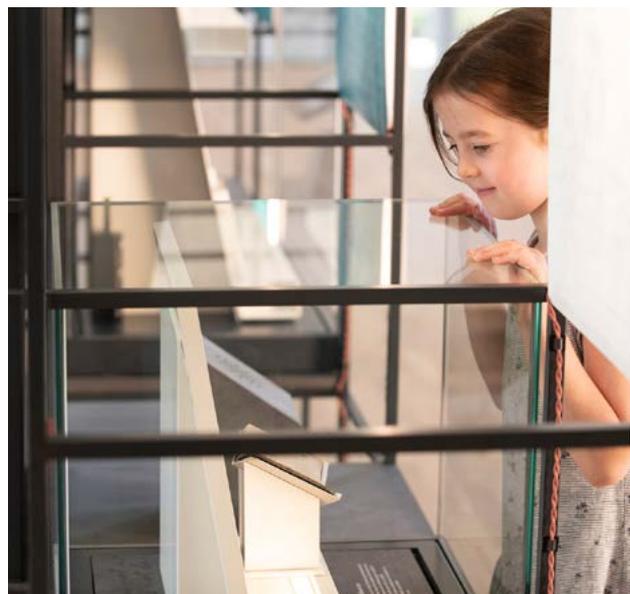


Phase 1 of the project began in 2017. Enabling works were carried out to ensure the most efficient use of space in a new book repository, re-ordering all the books in the Victorian West Wing of the NLI by size. Construction of the book repository began in 2018, and was completed in 2019, comprising 4,700 linear metres of storage. Once it was completed, 190,000 volumes from the West Wing were transferred to the repository, while 160,000 items in less demand were moved to offsite storage. This major milestone was marked with the formal opening of the repository in June 2019.

The work on Phase 1 through 2017 – 2019 was facilitated by a temporary closure of the reading rooms on Mondays. This service was restored from Monday, 30th September 2019.

## Conservation & Preservation

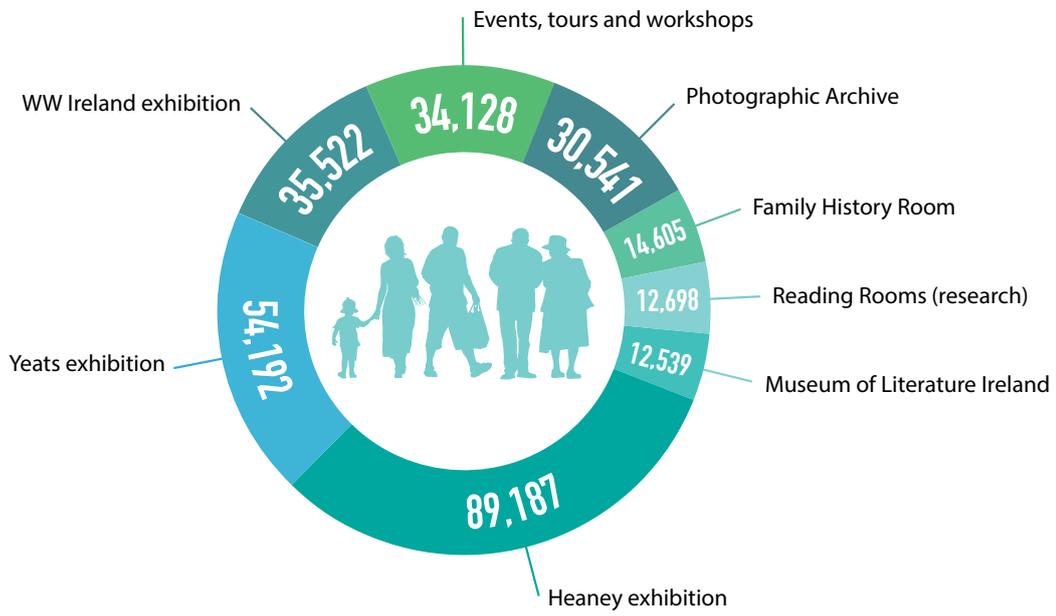
Our conservation team are heavily involved with the building programme, but this is just one part of their work to preserve and conserve the national collections. Conservators advise on how to handle objects safely, assess the condition of material and rehouse it, give advice to members of the public at events and offer workshops on collection care. They also prepare items for digitisation and for exhibitions, at the National Library and elsewhere. During 2019 this included the conservation and transport of material for loan to the exhibition 'Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier' at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, USA. They also prepared material for display in, and provided expert advice to, the Museum of Literature Ireland, our partnership project with UCD.



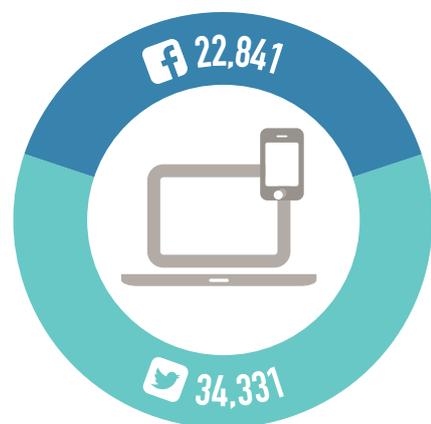
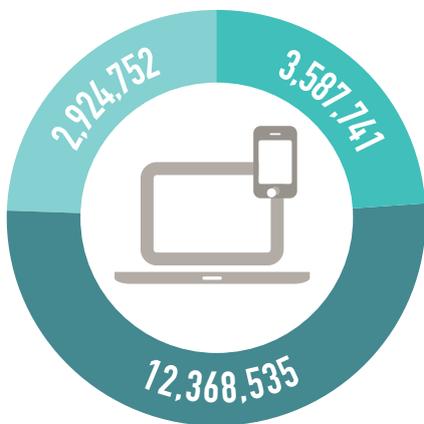
# 3. CONNECT

The National Library has been connecting people with the story of Ireland since 1877, and through the year aimed to inspire all our users, and to grow and further strengthen our connections nationally and internationally.

## Visitor numbers



## Online engagement



- Registers views
- Flickr views
- NLI website views

- Twitter followers
- Facebook likes

## Top Facebook Posts

 **National Library of Ireland**  
December 12, 2019 · 🌐

Muriel MacSwiney, widow of Terence MacSwiney who died on hunger strike during the War of Independence, visited the US in December 1920 to generate awareness of the Irish cause - leading to supportive protests such as this one.



55,392 reach / 1839 likes / 252 shares

 **National Library of Ireland**  
December 26, 2019 · 🌐

An old Irish tradition for the 26th of December (St Stephen's Day) - the Wren Boys, shown here in Dingle Co Kerry.



32,588 reach / 947 likes / 149 shares

 **National Library of Ireland**  
June 28, 2019 · 🌐

Yesterday, the NLI welcomed Minister Josepha Madigan, Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran, OPW Ireland and authors Marie Heaney and Sarah Maria Griffin to celebrate the launch of our new book repository, keeping our collections secure into the future. Read more, via The Irish Times, below.

National Library of Ireland unveils new book repository: <https://www.irishtimes.com/.../national-library-of-...>



17,471 reach / 103 likes / 25 shares

## Top Tweets

 **National Library of Ireland** @NLireland · Dec 26, 2019

An old Irish tradition for the 26th of December (St Stephen's Day) - the Wren Boys, shown here in Dingle Co Kerry.



65,894 impressions / 446 likes / 172 retweets

 **National Library of Ireland**  
@NLireland

WATCH: The NLI is delighted to bring a selection of Seamus Heaney's poetry to public transport users across the country, to coincide with what would have been his 80th birthday on 13th April. Watch the video below to learn more, and be sure to keep an eye out for the campaign!



57,120 impressions / 250 likes / 104 retweets

 **National Library of Ireland** @NLireland · Aug 13, 2019

'The love I had for the green lamps and the clacking bookrests'...writer Kate O'Brien, who died #OTD in 1974, describing her affection for our beautiful reading room.



28,724 impressions / 247 likes / 52 retweets

## Visit & Event Highlights

Throughout 2019, we welcomed visitors to our buildings to enjoy music and performances, lectures and panel discussions, tours and knowledge-sharing. Members of the National Library team also availed of opportunities to share our story nationally and internationally.

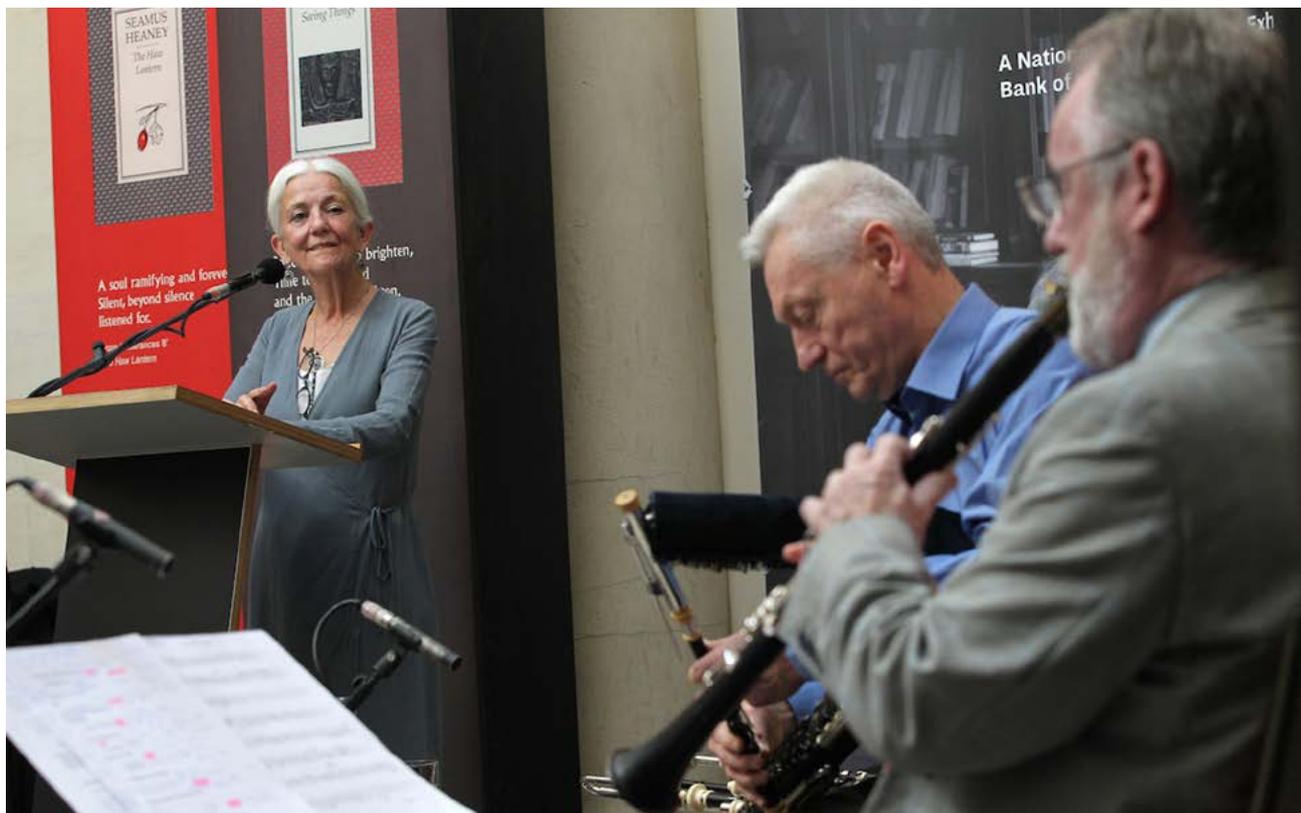
### Families & Young People

Throughout the year we engaged with schools and family groups, through tours, workshops, storytelling and competitions. Poetry Aloud – our partnership with Poetry Ireland where students from all over the island of Ireland take part in a verse-speaking competition – attracted over 1500 entries from all over Ireland, and we also welcomed school groups for tours and workshops during the school year. In April, we welcomed families to the National Photographic Archive for the Big Bang music festival, an EU funded festival for children (in collaboration with The Ark) where visitors heard some pieces from our music collection. In July our programme centred on events for children and young people with storytelling, drawing, a coat of arms workshop and our two day history camp, 'Hands-on History!'



### Tours, Talks, Seminars & Courses

We offered guided tours of our ongoing exhibitions throughout 2019 in English and Irish, as well as our popular 'History and Heritage' tour and introductory research workshops each month. We hosted ongoing courses in partnership with UCD Adult Education and programmed many well-attended talks including those delivered by Professor Roy Foster, Dr Joe Hassett, and poet Paul Muldoon at our exhibition 'Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again'. The annual Joseph Hassett Yeats lecture in June was delivered by Professor Geraldine Higgins, reflecting on Yeats' attitude to the border. In September, we offered a half-day seminar on preservation of digital photography entitled Digital Photography: Create, Curate, Save.



## Music & Performance

A highlight of performance was our 'Listen Now Again Live' concert series, which ran throughout the summer. These free lunchtime concerts at the Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre were curated by Lorelei Harris, and brought leading musicians and distinguished readers together to share and respond to the poetry of Seamus Heaney. We offered a Bloomsday concert in the Reading Room in partnership with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, and in November, we hosted 'Gallipoli, the GPO and Flanders', a special production by award-winning composer Michael Holohan. Supported by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, performers included actor Barry McGovern, playwright and actor Donal O'Kelly and the RTÉ ConTempo String Quartet. We also hosted the Bray Gospel Singers for an evening event in December.

## Sharing our Story

Dr Sandra Collins represented the National Library at the inauguration of the National Library of Luxembourg and at other events nationally and internationally throughout the year. Dr Collins was also invited by Women in Technology and Science (WITS) to deliver the annual Mary Mulvihill lecture in October. Members of staff attended and presented at conferences, including the LAI Conference, IFLA, and the (IIPC) Web Archiving Congress. The National Library was represented at the gala Ireland Funds dinner in New York in May, where the support of the Ireland Funds for Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again was one of the featured projects, and the Director and Deputy Director also attended the launch of an exhibition of Seamus Heaney manuscripts as guests of the Irish Arts Centre in New York in November.



## Exhibitions

### Yeats exhibition: The Life and Work of William Butler Yeats

Drawing on the NLI's extensive Yeats collection, this award-winning, permanent, multimedia exhibition delves into the life of one of the great poets of the twentieth century and his many fascinating interests including literature, folklore, theatre, politics and the occult.



### World War Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience

'World War Ireland' opened in November 2014, with support from the British Embassy in Ireland. The exhibition explores the Irish experience on the home front during WWI through collections of letters, diaries, recruiting posters, newspaper reports, cartoons, and leaflets. First hand personal accounts and eyewitness testimony give visitors a unique insight into what life was like for Irish soldiers both overseas and at home during the Great War. The exhibition is also available in a travelling version which has been hosted in venues all around Ireland.



### From Ballots to Bullets: Ireland 1918-1919

'From Ballots to Bullets: Ireland 1918-1919' opened at the National Photographic Archive in September 2018 and ran until May 2019. It charted two turbulent and defining years in Irish life, through the NLI's rich holding of photographs, newspapers, posters, postcards and advertisements. It was launched by Senator Ivana Bacik, chair of the Oireachtas Vótáil100 committee.



## A Modern Eye: Helen Hooker O'Malley's Ireland

This exhibition, a partnership with the Gallery of Photography Ireland, ran from June to November at our National Photographic Archive. It was the first major retrospective of the photographic work of American-born Helen Hooker O'Malley (1905-1993). A fascinating insight into a modern, independent woman's creative vision of post-Independence Ireland, the exhibition offered visitors more than 50 photographs capturing a decades-long love affair with the landscape, history, and people of Ireland. It was accompanied by a joint publication showcasing the work in further detail.



## From Turmoil to Truce: Photographs of the War of Independence

'From Turmoil to Truce' was launched at the National Photographic Archive in November, by Professor Diarmaid Ferriter. The exhibition draws on the NLI's rich and varied holdings of photographs and newspaper cuttings to explore the key aspects of a dramatic, brutal and extreme period of Irish history. It presents the impact felt across the country and at all levels of Irish society, and the personal experiences of both individuals and families.



## Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again

A partnership project between the NLI, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Bank of Ireland, the exhibition draws on the National Library's extensive archive of Heaney documents, and features Heaney's original manuscripts as well as letters, unpublished works, diary entries, photographs, note books, and multi-media recordings. Curated by Professor Geraldine Higgins, Director of Irish Studies at Emory University, and designed by Ralph Appelbaum and Associates, the exhibition takes the visitor on a multi-sensory journey from Heaney's origins through his remarkable poetic career.

Launched in 2018, it is the first exhibition to be housed in the new Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre within Bank of Ireland's College Green complex. In 2019, the exhibition was shortlisted for the prestigious International category of the Museums and Heritage Awards, and won a 2019 GOOD DESIGN Award - the oldest and the world's most recognized program for design excellence worldwide.

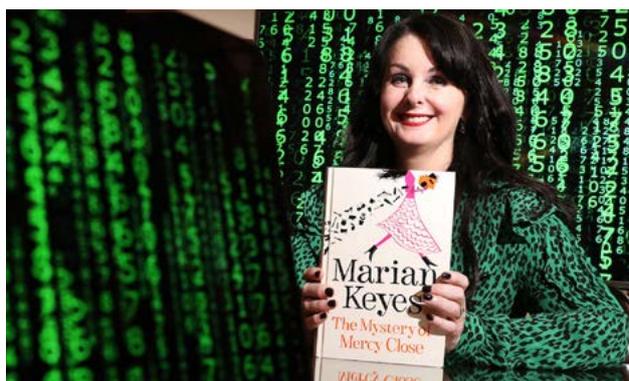
## Travelling Exhibitions

Our travelling exhibitions explore heraldry, children's literature, World War I, Joyce and Ulysses, maps and newspapers. All exhibitions are available to borrow nationally and internationally. In 2019, the exhibitions travelled to schools, libraries and visitor centres around Ireland. We were particularly pleased in 2019 to see 'A Modern Eye: Helen Hooker O'Malley's Ireland' travel to the University of Limerick in December.

## 4. INNOVATE

The National Library aims to meet the challenges of the digital world - collecting, preserving and providing access to information in new and innovative ways.

The Digital Collections team collected born digital material throughout 2019, adding to our web archive, which preserves and makes Irish content websites openly available. We also continued work through 2019 on our Born Digital pilot projects, liaising closely with our three pilot participants, and announcing our first partner, writer Marian Keyes. We consulted international colleagues from Europe and Australia about our workflows and we continued our outreach and advocacy, alongside training and development.



## Digitisation Highlights

We created more than 23,000 digital images through our digitisation programme in 2019, including 1,776 photographs, 696 prints and drawings, and 4,696 manuscripts. This included the Helen Hooker O'Malley photographic collection and the first phase of the Towards a Republic project.



# Selective Web Archiving

The NLI Selective Web Archive continued to grow and develop during 2019. We crawled 630 websites, adding a further terabyte of data to the archive. A large range of sites were covered, from education, culture, climate, sport and rural life to Brexit and social movements.

The screenshot shows the homepage of Tuairisc.ie. At the top, there is a navigation menu with categories: Nuacht, Tuairimíocht, Spórt, Cultúr, Saol, Pobal, Foghlaimeoirí, Greann, and Folúntais. Below the menu is a header banner for 'Seirbhís Iniúchóireachta Imheánaí trí mheán na Gaeilge' (Irish Language Online Monitoring Service) with a date of 10 Nollaig 2019. The main content area features a large image of Boris Johnson at a polling station, with a 'POLLING STATION' sign and a 'TOGHCHÁN WESTMINSTER 2019' graphic. The headline reads: 'OLLTOGHCHÁN WESTMINSTER / Mórámh mór ag Boris Johnson agus an bealach réitithe don Bhreathimeacht'. Below the headline is the date 'Dé hAoine, Nollaig 13 2019 ag 6:06 am' and a short paragraph. To the right, there are two smaller article teasers: 'Má chloisim 'Dunquin Pier in Dingle' uair amháin eile rachaidh mé le báiní Daithí De Mórdha' and 'Ó DHÚCHAS... Chuir mo ghrá bán chugam leagan 'Dhá lá dhéag na Nollag' as Conamara...'. A search bar is visible in the top right corner.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'belong TO' website. The logo is a pink circle with 'belong TO' in white. Below the logo is the text 'Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans Young People in Ireland'. A navigation menu at the top includes: Home, Young People, Parents & Carers, Professionals, Support Us, Contact Us, Donate, About Us, and EXIT. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a large image of a group of young people at a parade, holding a rainbow flag and wearing white t-shirts with the text 'I BELONG TO YOU LGBTQ+ STAY'. The website has a purple and white color scheme.



## 5. COLLABORATE

The National Library works with partners to achieve more together than we ever could alone. This tradition of partnership underpins some of our most significant and valued achievements.

### Diversity & Inclusion

With the launch of our Diversity & Inclusion Policy in 2018, a key priority centred on the need for the NLI to engage more fully with the communities and groups it seeks to better represent, serve and welcome. Our Diversity and Inclusion Committee decided that a forum-style event would help shape their next phase of activity.

Taking place in February 2019, the NLI's Diversity and Inclusion Forum engaged with a broad spectrum of advocacy organisations, individual activists, embassies, and groups representing the Travelling Community, LGBTI+, people with disabilities, gender equality, black, asian and minority ethnic [BAME], social disadvantage, young people, and other underrepresented communities. The forum provided a platform for participants to provide their feedback and ideas on how the NLI can be more inclusive, and these insights and suggestions will inform our work from now on.



### Digital Partnerships

The National Library contributed to the *Executive Guide on Digital Preservation*, released on 1st May, produced by the Digital Preservation Coalition and supported by members of the UNESCO/Memory of the World/PERSIST project. We continued our work with third level organisations, including the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, UCD, and presented a joint poster presentation entitled *Exploring Selective Web Archives via Network Analysis: an Irish Case Study* at LIBER 2019 at Trinity College Dublin in June.

We also organised the seminar 'How do you eat an elephant? One byte at a time!' to celebrate annual World Digital Preservation Day in November, featuring a keynote address by Patricia Sleeman, Digital Archivist at the UN High Commission for Refugees, and speakers Hugh Campbell from the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and Maeve Gebruers from the Irish Traditional Music Archive (ITMA). In July, we hosted two training events run by the Digital Preservation Coalition: *Digital Preservation Futures: Community Forum 2019 and Advocating for Digital Preservation*.



## MoLI: The Museum of Literature Ireland

Our major partnership project with University College Dublin, the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), opened to the public on Culture Night, 20 September. The Museum, supported by The Naughton Foundation and Fáilte Ireland, is set in the historic surrounds of UCD Newman House on St Stephen's Green, and features rare treasures from the National Library's collections including Copy No 1 of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, and a selection of Joyce's drafts for *Ulysses*.



## Programming Partnerships & Visits

Throughout the year, we participated in national events such as Heritage Week and Cruinniú na nÓg. We worked with partners to create engaging and accessible programmes, and to welcome new and established audiences to the National Library.

Highlights included our work with Culture Club through Dublin City Council Culture Company; work with festivals including the Dublin Book Festival, the Dublin Festival of History, Dublin One City One Book, Mountains to Sea, Limerick Literary Festival and Open House Dublin; hosting talks and events for bodies such as the Folklore Society of Ireland and the Irish Association of Professional Historians; and performances such as the Curlew Theatre Performance in association with the University of Southern Maine. We were delighted to partner with embassies including those of Italy, Spain and Norway, and to work with the Swedish Embassy to host a seminar in our Reading Room on the links between Swedish and Irish literature, attended by the King and Queen of Sweden, and President Michael D Higgins and Sabina Higgins. We were also very pleased to welcome EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics, to 'Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again' in January, as part of a visit organised by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

# Board Member Attendance

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<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Meetings attended</i>
H. Paul Shovlin (Chairman)	9
Ciara Breathnach	9
Bob Collins	8
Maeve Conrick	8
James Dorgan	9
Jack Keyes	7
Conor Kostick	8
Katherine McSharry	8
Eoin McVey	6
Susan Philips	7
Susan Schreibman	6
Jennifer Taaffe	6

Board Members serve in a voluntary capacity and receive no payments for attendance at Board meetings.



# Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

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For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

## Governance

The Board of the National Library of Ireland (NLI) was appointed in accordance with the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. The functions of the Board are set-out in Section 12 of the Act (Functions of Board of the Library). The Board is accountable to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of NLI are the responsibility of the Director and the senior leadership team. The Director and the senior leadership team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board and must ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The Director acts as a direct liaison between the Board and management of the Library.

## Board Responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of all those associated with the operation of the Board are set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) for Board members, Chairperson, Director and Secretary. The Code also sets out the matters specifically reserved for Board decision. Standing items considered by the Board include:

- Declarations of interests,
- Reports from committees,
- Financial reports/management accounts,
- Performance reports, and
- Reserved matters.

The National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, Section 35, requires the Board of the National Library of Ireland (NLI) to prepare financial statements in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and to keep all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these financial statements, the Board of NLI is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the NLI will continue in operation; and
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Board confirms that it has complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the NLI and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 35 of the Act. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the NLI's website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budgets. There is an on-going evaluation of the performance of NLI by reference to its annual business plan and budget. The Board is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board considers that the financial statements of the NLI give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of NLI at 31 December 2019. The Board approved the signing of this statement and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 on the 10th September 2020.

## Board Structure

The Board consists of a Chairperson and 11 ordinary members, all of whom are appointed by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The members of the Board were appointed for a period of 5 years and meet 9 times per annum. All Board members' terms will expire during 2020. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht are progressing the appointment of the new Board by the Minister, and will consider the NLI's recommendations with regard to reappointment of some Board members for knowledge retention, and staggering the expiration dates for the next Board over 3-5 years. The Table below details the appointment period for the current members:

<i>Board Members</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Date Appointed</i>	<i>Additional Detail</i>
H. Paul Shovlin	Chairman	23 October 2015	
Bob Collins	Ordinary Member	30 September 2015	
Ciara Breathnach	Ordinary Member	30 September 2015	
Conor Kostick	Ordinary Member	30 September 2015	
Eoin McVey	Ordinary Member	11 November 2015	Royal Dublin Society Nominee
Jack Keyes	Ordinary Member	30 September 2015	
James Dorgan	Ordinary Member	30 September 2015	
Jennifer Taaffe	Ordinary Member	30 September 2015	
Katherine McSharry	Ordinary Member	19 November 2015	NLI Staff Nominee
Maeve Conrick	Ordinary Member	30 September 2015	
Susan Phillips	Ordinary Member	11 November 2015	Royal Dublin Society Nominee. Re-appointed in 2015 for another term.
Susan Schreibman	Ordinary Member	30 September 2015	

The Board completed a self-assessment effectiveness review in November 2019 and completed an external self-effectiveness review in March 2019.

The Board are currently planning an internal self-assessment effectiveness review to take place in September 2020.

There are three sub-committees of the Board of which two are statutory, namely the Readers Advisory Committee, the Genealogy and Heraldry Committee and one non-statutory committee, the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC).

- From March 2019 the Readers Advisory Committee is made up of two board members and four external independent members. The main function of the Readers Advisory Committee is to advise the Board on matters relating to the provision of services by the Library. This Committee met five times during 2019.
- The Genealogy and Heraldry Committee comprises four board members and four external non-board members. The main function of the Genealogy and Heraldry Committee is to advise the Board on matters arising from the Board's statutory powers and functions in the areas of genealogy and heraldry. This Committee met three times during 2019.
- The ARC comprises three board members and one independent external member. The role of the ARC is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular, the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARC reports to the Board after each meeting and provides an annual report to the Board. The members of the ARC are Mr. Eoin McVey (Chair), Ms. Maeve Conrick, Mr. James Dorgan and Ms. Teresa Harrington (external independent member – a qualified accountant). There were four meetings of the ARC in 2019.

## Schedule of Attendances, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance at the Board and Committee meetings for 2019 is set out in Note 5(d) to the Financial Statements.

## Key Personnel Changes

During the year, the NLI made appointments to the roles of Head of Estates, Head of Exhibitions, Learning and Programming and to a new role of Deputy Director. In January 2020 the NLI appointed a Head of Human Resources and the Head of Finance retired. A new Head of Finance was appointed by the NLI in June 2020. There were no changes to the membership of the Board during 2019.

## Disclosures Required by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the NLI has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code"), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code:

- Employee short-term benefits breakdown – set out in note 5(c) to the financial statements.
- Consultancy costs - set out in note 5(f) to the financial statements
- Legal costs and settlements – set out in note 5 (f) to the financial statements
- Travel and subsistence expenditure – set out in note 5 (a) to the Financial Statements
- Hospitality expenditure – there was no hospitality expenditure by the NLI in either 2018 or 2019.

## Statement of Compliance

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of Statement Bodies (2016) and has put in place procedures to ensure compliance with the Code. The National Library of Ireland operated in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for 2019 with the exception of the requirement for the Board to undertake an annual review of the effectiveness of internal control systems no later than three months after the year end. This review was conducted on 10th September 2020.

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland:



H. Paul Shovlin  
*Chairman*

Dr Sandra Collins  
*Director*

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Statement on Internal Control

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For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

## Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of the National Library of Ireland, we acknowledge the Board's responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

## Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has been in place in the National Library of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2019 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

## Capacity to Handle Risk

The National Library of Ireland has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprising three Board members and one external member, with financial and audit expertise. The ARC met four times in 2019.

The National Library of Ireland has an internal audit function as defined in the Board's Charter for Internal Audit. The work of the internal audit function is informed by analysis of the risk to which the body is exposed, and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. The analysis of risk and the internal audit plans have been endorsed by the ARC and approved by the Board. The Internal Auditor provides the Board with reports of internal audit activity. The internal audit function has been outsourced to an external firm.

The ARC has developed a risk management policy, which sets out the NLI's risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within the National Library of Ireland's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

## Risk and Control Framework

The National Library of Ireland has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks. The Library's Board has retained risk management as a standing item on its meeting agenda. The risk management policy and risk appetite statement approved by the Board during 2018, were in place during 2019.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing the National Library of Ireland and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the ARC on a half-yearly basis and is reviewed by the Board on an annual basis. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff. We confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- procedures for all key business processes have been documented,
- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability,
- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management,
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems,
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets, and
- control procedures to ensure adequate control over grant funding so that it has been applied for the purpose intended.

## Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures which have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Board, where relevant, in a timely way. We confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies,
- reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/forecasts.

## Procurement

We confirm that the National Library of Ireland has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines. Other than those contracts disclosed in the 'Internal Control Issues' paragraph below, the Library complied with its procedures during 2019.

## Review of Effectiveness

We confirm that the National Library of Ireland has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. The National Library of Ireland's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee (which oversees their work) and the senior management within the National Library of Ireland responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

We confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2019 on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## Internal Control Issues

There were no internal control weaknesses identified during 2019 other than those disclosed below relating to expenditure in the amount of €145,592:

- One contract (2019 €137,597; 2018 €59,757) related to the provision of off-site storage for the National Library of Ireland's collections on an expired contract that had been rolled-over. The National Library of Ireland tendered and secured a new contract with an alternative provider in September 2018. The 2019 costs on the expired contract relate to additional costs of transferring the NLI's collections to the new service provider and storage costs during the transition to the new service provider.
- Expenditure amounting to €7,995 (2018: €8,241) related to the provision of pension disclosures under accounting regulations which was not procured in line with best practice procurement guidelines.
- In 2019 a temporary breakdown in controls in relation to the production of Management Accounts was identified by the Leadership Team and immediately disclosed to the Board. An external consultant was engaged to examine the accuracy of Management Accounts prepared to September 2019. Findings from this examination are being remediated and the Board is now content that Management Accounts produced present a true picture of the financial position of the NLI.

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland:



H. Paul Shovlin  
*Chairman*



Dr Sandra Collins  
*Director*

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Comptroller & Auditor General's Report



## Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste Comptroller and Auditor General

### Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas National Library of Ireland

#### Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the National Library of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2019 as required under the provisions of section 35 of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the National Library of Ireland at 31 December 2019 and of its income and expenditure for 2019 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 — *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

#### Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the National Library of Ireland and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

#### Report on information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

The National Library of Ireland has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement and Board members' report and the statement on internal control. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.

Orla Duane  
For and on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General

30 September 2020

## Appendix to the report

### Responsibilities of Board members

As detailed in the governance statement and Board members' report, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of financial statements in the form prescribed under section 35 of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- 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.

### Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 35 of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 to audit the financial statements of the National Library of Ireland and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I 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 my 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.
- I 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 internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.
- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit

evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the National Library of Ireland's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the National Library of Ireland to cease to continue as a going concern.

- I 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.

I 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 I identify during my audit.

### Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

### Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

# Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

	Note	2019 €	2018 €
<b>INCOME</b>			
Oireachtas Grants	2	8,437,333	7,652,880
Donations (Materials and Cash)	3	795,364	2,087,739
Net Deferred Pension Funding	6 (c)	1,117,000	1,366,196
Other Income	4	425,913	421,627
Transfer to the Capital Account	9	(956,509)	(2,795,413)
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>9,819,101</b>	<b>8,733,029</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Administration and Operations	5	5,761,820	5,565,393
Programmes	7	1,558,384	847,304
Retirement Benefit Costs	6(a)	1,672,000	1,914,000
Depreciation	10	373,950	389,849
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>9,366,154</b>	<b>8,716,546</b>
Surplus for the Year after Appropriations		452,947	16,483
Balance Brought Forward at 1 January		265,208	248,725
<b>Balance Carried Forward at 31 December</b>		<b>718,155</b>	<b>265,208</b>

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland:



H. Paul Shovlin  
Chairman



Dr Sandra Collins  
Director

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

	Note	2019 €	2018 €
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>452,947</b>	<b>16,483</b>
Experience gains/(losses) on retirement benefit obligations	6 (d)	675,000	1,577,000
Change in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations	6 (b)	(5,012,000)	4,157,000
<b>Total actuarial (loss) / gain in the year</b>		<b>(4,337,000)</b>	<b>5,734,000</b>
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefits funding		4,337,000	(5,734,000)
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>		<b>452,947</b>	<b>16,483</b>

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland:

H. Paul Shovlin  
*Chairman*

Dr Sandra Collins  
*Director*

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Statement of Financial Position

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

	Note	2019 €	2018 €
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	10	2,200,792	2,498,429
Heritage Assets	11	25,420,237	24,166,091
		<u>27,621,029</u>	<u>26,664,520</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Receivables	12	362,693	158,897
Cash and Cash Equivalents		915,889	1,187,142
		<u>1,278,582</u>	<u>1,346,039</u>
<b>Current Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)</b>			
Payables	13	560,427	1,080,831
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>718,155</u>	<u>265,208</u>
<b>Retirement Benefits</b>			
Retirement Benefit Obligations	6 (b)	(44,696,000)	(39,242,000)
Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding Asset	6 (b)	44,696,000	39,242,000
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u><b>28,339,184</b></u>	<u><b>26,929,728</b></u>
<b>Representing</b>			
Capital Account:			
Heritage Fixed Assets	9	25,420,237	24,166,091
Operational Fixed Assets	9	2,200,792	2,498,429
Retained Revenue Reserves		718,155	265,208
		<u>28,339,184</u>	<u>26,929,728</u>

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of the National Library of Ireland:

H. Paul Shovlin  
Chairman

Dr Sandra Collins  
Director

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020

# Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	€	€
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		
Excess Income over Expenditure	452,947	16,483
Donated Materials	(672,000)	(2,077,500)
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	373,950	389,849
(Increase) / Decrease in Receivables	(203,796)	3,372
(Decrease) / Increase in Payables	(520,404)	156,432
Increase in Capital Account	956,509	2,795,413
<b>Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities</b>	<b>387,206</b>	<b>1,284,049</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>		
Payments to acquire Property, Plant & Equipment	(76,313)	(559,727)
Payments to acquire Heritage Assets	(582,146)	(548,036)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>	<b>(658,459)</b>	<b>(1,107,763)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>		
Bank Interest received	-	-
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net (Decrease) / Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>(271,253)</b>	<b>176,286</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1 January	1,187,142	1,010,856
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>915,889</b>	<b>1,187,142</b>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

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For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

## 1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and the significant accounting policies adopted by the National Library of Ireland are set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year and for the preceding year.

### a) General Information

The National Library of Ireland was set up under the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, with a head office at Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

The National Library of Ireland's primary objectives as set out in Part 12 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 are as follows:

*"...to conserve, restore, maintain and enlarge the National Library material in the collection of the National Library for the benefit of the public and to establish and maintain a record of library material (including material relating to the Irish language) in relation to Ireland and to contribute to the provision of access by members of the public to material relating to other countries."*

The National Library of Ireland is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

### b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of the National Library of Ireland ("The National Library") for the year ended 31 December 2019 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

### c) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities that are measured at fair values as explained in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht under the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the National Library's financial statements.

As set out in Note 14, the National Library of Ireland Trust (the Trust) was established to aid the development of the National Library. These financial statements do not consolidate the results of the Trust on the basis that it is not required by Section 35 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.

### d) Revenue

#### Oireachtas Grants

Revenue from Oireachtas Grants, Sub-head A.7, Reimagining the National Library – Capital Development, is recognised on a reimbursable basis in line with the expenditure incurred in the year. All other revenue from Oireachtas Grants is recognised on a cash receipts basis.

#### Other Revenue

Other revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

#### Direct Costs

Direct costs relating to the generation of other revenue through the activities of the National Library, e.g. Heraldry, are shown gross on the face of Note 4, Other Income.

## e) Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, adjusted for any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment at rates estimated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

- |                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| (i) Fixtures and Fittings          | 10% per annum |
| (ii) Computers                     | 25% per annum |
| (iii) Office and General Equipment | 20% per annum |

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of an asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Reserves in the year.

The fixed assets of the National Library of Ireland are funded from a combination of capital grants and allocations from current revenue. Funding sourced from grants is transferred to a capital account which is amortised in line with the depreciation of the related assets.

## f) Receivables

Receivables are recognised at fair value, less a provision for doubtful debts, where applicable. A provision for doubtful debts is a specific provision, and is established when there is objective evidence that the National Library will not be able to collect all amounts owed to it. All movements in any provision for doubtful debts are recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

## g) Employee Benefits

### Short-term Benefits

Short term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the year, and benefits that are accrued at year-end are included in the Payables figure in the Statement of Financial Position.

### Retirement Benefits

The National Library previously established its own defined benefit pension scheme ("the Main Scheme"), funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies provided by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and from contributions deducted from staff members' salaries. The National Library also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme ("the Single Scheme"), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER).

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees, and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by the National Library. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The financial statements reflect – at fair value – the assets and liabilities arising from the National Library's pension obligations and any related funding, and recognise the costs of providing pension benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees. Retirement benefit scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method.

## h) Heritage Assets and Library Collections

A Heritage Asset is defined as a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

### Initial Recognition

Purchased items are recorded at cost in the financial statements. Donation items are recorded at a current valuation ascertained by Keepers of the Library with reference, where possible, to commercial markets using recent transaction information from auctions. Donations, where the National Library avails of Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 are recorded on the basis of the valuation of the Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

Donations are recognised as income with a corresponding transfer to the Heritage Fixed Assets capital account as follows:

- Donations that do not impose specified future performance-related conditions on the Library are recognised in income when the resources are received or receivable;
- Donations that do impose specified future performance-related conditions on the Library are recognised in income only when the performance-related conditions are met; and
- Where resources are received before the revenue recognition criteria are satisfied, a liability is recognised.

### Valuation

The Board does not consider that reliable cost or valuation information can be obtained for all the items held in the collections of the National Library. This is because of the diverse nature of materials held, the number of items in the collections and the lack of comparable market values. The National Library therefore does not recognise all its collections as assets in the Statement of Financial Position other than acquisitions which cost or were valued at €5,000 or more and were acquired or donated since the Board was established in May 2005. These are classified as Heritage Assets at the recording date.

Heritage assets are initially recognised at the cost of acquisition as the value attributed for donated items. The items are carried at cost in the statement of financial position with reductions for impairment where relevant.

All acquisitions for the collection purchased for €5,000 or more are funded from the National Library's capital funding allocation for the year while acquisitions which cost less than €5,000 are funded from the current funding allocation.

Web Archiving and Digitisation are capitalised at cost and where cataloguing and metadata is directly related to the Web Archiving and Digitisation projects, these costs are also capitalised.

### Impairment

Heritage assets are not depreciated. If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of a heritage asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves in the year. A heritage asset may be impaired, for example where it has suffered physical deterioration, breakage or doubts arise as to its authenticity.

### Conservation Costs

Conservation expenditure which is required to conserve or prevent further deterioration of individual items is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves when it is incurred.

## i) Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the reporting date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

### Donated Heritage Assets

The values of collection items donated to the National Library are determined by using valuation techniques. The National Library exercises judgment in selecting a variety of methods as outlined in the accounting policy for Heritage Assets (h) above.

### Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use. For the purpose of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

### Depreciation and Residual Values

The Directors have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes, and in particular, the useful economic life and residual values of fixtures and fittings, and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

### Deferred Funding for Retirement Benefits

With reference to the Superannuation Schemes referred to in the "Employee Benefits" section above:

- The Board has recognised an asset corresponding to the unfunded liability for retirement benefits payable under the Main Scheme and the Single Scheme and has recognised deferred funding for retirement benefits recognised in the year ended 31 December 2019. In the judgement of the Board the funds required to meet these unfunded pension obligations will continue to be provided by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or its successor entities.
- Pension contributions under the Single Scheme are remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. For Single Scheme members, section 44 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012 provides for funding of pension payments as they fall due by way of payments out of the Central Fund or from funds provided by the Oireachtas for that purpose. The single scheme is a defined benefit scheme and is included in the 2019 FRS 102 disclosures.

### Retirement Benefit Obligation

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels and mortality rates) are updated annually based on current economic conditions, and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- (i) the discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds; and
- (ii) future compensation levels, future labour market conditions.

## 2. Oireachtas Grants

The Oireachtas Grants voted to the National Library from the Vote 33 of the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht ("the Department") as shown in the financial statements consist of:

		<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
		<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
	<b>Sub-head</b>		<i>reclassified</i>
National Library of Ireland – Current	A.11	7,347,000	7,085,000
Cultural Infrastructure and Development - Capital	A.7	607,333	79,880
National Library of Ireland – Capital	A.11	478,000	478,000
NLI Diversity and Inclusion – Current	A.6	5,000	10,000
		<b>8,437,333</b>	<b>7,652,880</b>

Grants under Sub-head A.11 are the National Library's annual grants for operational purposes including pay, pensions, administrative and programme expenditure, collections and minor capital improvements.

Grants under Sub-head A.6 are towards the National Library's initiatives in the area of Diversity and Inclusion.

Grants from the Cultural Infrastructure and Development Fund (Sub-head A.7) comprised:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
		<i>reclassified</i>
The Alistair and Ann Martha Rowan collection of architectural publications	166,185	-
Accounts and Financial papers of the Sinn Fein Bank and the Irish National Aid and Volunteer Dependants' Fund	21,780	-
Reimagining the National Library – Capital Development	232,144	75,373
Digitisation Fund	187,224	4,507
	<b>607,333</b>	<b>79,880</b>

All grant funding provided under Sub-heads A.7 is reimbursed in arrears based on the production of invoices, contracts and evidence of payment.

Income of €232,144 was recognised in relation to the contribution provided towards the Westwing Development which will form part of our ongoing works with the Office of Public Works. An amount of €232,144 (2018:€nil) was outstanding at year end and is reflected in Accrued Income in Note 12.

Grants under the Digitisation Fund are to support the National Library to digitise its collections to facilitate and support on-line access.

### 3. Donations

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Donated Materials	672,000	2,077,500
Donations – Cash	123,364	10,239
	<b>795,364</b>	<b>2,087,739</b>

Donations of collection items are capitalised if they are valued at €5,000 or more in accordance with the Collection Policy (see Note 7 (a)). During 2019, three donations were made to the National Library's Special Collections valued at €5,000 or more and these are detailed in Note 7 (a), Collections. Donations made under Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (as amended by the Finance Act 2002) during 2019 amounted to €650,000, these are detailed in Note 7 (a).

### 4. Other Income

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Copying Services	39,033	51,244
Royalties and Reproduction Services	10,549	22,016
Heraldry Income	64,247	41,157
Direct Costs of Heraldry	(32,846)	(40,546)
Research Data Alliance – European Grant	(24,120)	121,929
Café Joly	22,643	1,274
Heritage Council Grant	-	9,151
Heaney Exhibition Retail Income	72,902	43,631
Heaney Exhibition Retail Costs	(28,087)	(28,351)
Sponsorship	300,000	200,000
Miscellaneous Income	1,592	122
	<b>425,913</b>	<b>421,627</b>

The grant received from the Research Data Alliance (RDA) supports research data management consultancy services and events, the expenses incurred by the Director in relation to her participation in the Research Data Alliance, and an administrative overhead. Grant received and unspent amounting to €25,719 was refunded to the RDA Project Co-ordinator in 2019.

The Sponsorship monies in the amount of €300,000 were received from Bank of Ireland. This represents the Bank's contribution towards the operation of the National Library's Heaney Exhibition 'Listen Now Again'. The Exhibition is housed in Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre in its premises on College Green, Dublin 2.

## 5. Administration & Operations

		<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>Note</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Remuneration and other Staff Costs	5(a)	4,425,210	4,212,741
Electricity, Cleaning and Utilities		314,363	310,553
Communications and IT		315,917	262,434
Security		205,253	228,313
Consultancy Costs	5(f)	255,463	146,402
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses		32,555	204,058
Storage Costs		105,991	97,453
Office Expenses		47,287	37,566
Repairs, Maintenance and Leasing Charges		13,473	61,772
Foreign Exchange Rate Losses		22,290	3,894
Prompt Payment Interest		1,063	207
Outsourced Service Costs		15,195	-
Research Data Alliance Expenses		7,760	-
		<b>5,761,820</b>	<b>5,565,393</b>

### (a) Remuneration - Aggregate Employee Benefits

		<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>Note</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Staff Salaries		3,862,102	3,743,308
Employer PRSI		311,727	291,093
Board Members' Expenses and Director Remuneration	5 (d)/(e)	122,238	119,134
<b>Aggregate Employee Benefits</b>		<b>4,296,067</b>	<b>4,153,535</b>
Staff Travel and Subsistence		42,484	20,781
Staff Training and Development		86,659	38,425
<b>Remuneration and other Staff Costs</b>		<b>4,425,210</b>	<b>4,212,741</b>

No termination benefits were paid in 2019 (2018: €nil).

Subhead A.11 Total Pay Allocation for 2019 was €4,679,000 of which €641,512 was underspent in 2019 and is carried forward to 2020.

### Staff Short-Term Benefits

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Basic pay	3,747,508	3,629,482
Overtime	20,687	18,782
Allowances	93,907	95,044
	<b>3,862,102</b>	<b>3,743,308</b>

The staff Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC) for 2019 was €111,112. The staff Pension Related Deduction (PRD) for 2018 was €147,609. The ASC was introduced with effect from 1st January 2019 and replaced the PRD. The ASC applies to pensionable remuneration.

## Board Members and Staff Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

		<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
		<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Board Members and Staff Travel and Subsistence			<i>restated</i>
Domestic	- Board Members	4,878	2,679
	- Staff	5,704	4,157
International	- Board Members	-	-
	- Staff	36,780	16,624
		<b>47,362</b>	<b>23,460</b>

## (b) Staff Numbers (Full-Time-Equivalents or FTEs)

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Staff Numbers (FTEs)	87	85.7

## (c) Employee short-term benefits breakdown

Employee short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following:

Range of total employee benefits From - To	Number of Employees	
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
€60,000 - €69,999	10	16
€70,000 - €79,999	7	6
€80,000 - €89,999	3	3
€90,000 - €99,999	1	0
€100,000 - €109,999	0	0
€110,000 - €119,999	1	1

Note: For the purpose of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the reporting period include salary, overtime and other payments made on behalf of the employee but exclude employer's PRSI.

## Key Management Personnel

This table includes the Leadership Team (formerly known as the Management Advisory Committee ("MAC")) and other senior grades authorised to enter contracts and make financial commitments on behalf of the organisation subject to specified authorisation limits and whose members are considered to be key management personnel of the NLI as defined under FRS 102. Key Management Personnel in the NLI consists of Members of the Board and the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team includes the Director; the Deputy Director and Head of Development; the Head of Human Resources; the Head of Published Collections; the Head of Estates; the Keeper of Special Collections and Chief Herald of Ireland; the Head of Exhibitions, Learning and Programming; the Head of Finance and Chief Risk Officer; and the Head of Digital Collections. Employee benefits paid to or on behalf of Leadership Team members in 2019 comprised Salary of €613,071 (€631,432:2018) and Employer PRSI of €49,274 (€49,907:2018).

## (d) Board Members' Expenses

Board Member	Board Meetings Attended	Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)	Readers Advisory Committee Attended	Genealogy & Heraldry Committee Attended	Board Fees	Vouched Expenses €
H. Paul Shovlin (Chairman)	9				-	782
Ciara Breathnach	9		5		-	-
Bob Collins	8				-	-
Maeve Conrick	8	2			-	1,314
James Dorgan	9	4			-	-
Jack Keyes	7		5		-	1,942
Conor Kostick	8			3	-	-
Katherine McSharry	8				-	-
Eoin McVey	6	4			-	-
Susan Philips	7			1	-	840
Susan Schreibman	6				-	-
Jennifer Taaffe	6			2	-	-
						<b>4,878</b>

The Library does not pay fees to Board members in line with Government policy. It should be noted that 79% of the above expenses relate to 2019 and 21% relate to 2017 and 2018.

## (e) Director Remuneration

	2019 €	2018 €
Director excl. employers PRSI (appointed August 2015)	117,360	112,799
Correction of 2017 Salary – Arrears Paid in 2018	-	3,656
	<b>117,360</b>	<b>116,455</b>

The remuneration package also includes standard public sector pension arrangements. There are no bonuses or Benefits-in-Kind applicable to this position.

## (f) Consultancy Costs

	2019 €	2018 €
Consultancy	68,563	84,081
Audit	50,320	33,743
- External Audit	23,000	21,000
- Internal Audit	27,320	12,743
Legal (including provisions)	125,273	21,147
Translation	11,307	7,431
	<b>255,463</b>	<b>146,402</b>

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

No legal costs, settlements or conciliation and arbitration costs were incurred in the year relating to contracts with third parties.

## 6. Retirement Benefit Costs

### a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Gross Current Service Cost	1,140,000	1,308,000
Interest Cost	777,000	735,000
Employee Contributions	(245,000)	(129,000)
	<b>1,672,000</b>	<b>1,914,000</b>

### b) Movement in net retirement benefit obligations during the financial year

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	39,242,000	43,590,000
Current Service Cost	1,140,000	1,308,000
Interest Cost	777,000	735,000
Actuarial Loss / (Gain) – Financial Assumptions	5,012,000	(4,157,000)
Actuarial Gain– Experience	(675,000)	(1,577,000)
Benefits less Paid Member Contributions	(800,000)	(657,000)
<b>Closing Defined Benefit Obligation</b>	<b>44,696,000</b>	<b>39,242,000</b>

### c) Deferred funding for retirement benefits

The Board recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the retirement benefit scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The Board has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The net deferred funding for retirement benefits recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves is as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Funding recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	1,917,000	2,043,000
State grant applied to pay retirement benefits	(800,000)	(676,804)
	<b>1,117,000</b>	<b>1,366,196</b>

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 amounts to €44.7m (2018: €39.2m).

## d) History of defined benefit obligations

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Defined Benefit Obligations	44,696	39,242	43,590	39,625	33,634
Experience Gains / (Losses) on Defined Benefit Scheme Liabilities	675	1,577	(682)	754	415
Percentage of Plan Liabilities	1.5%	4.0%	(1.6%)	1.9%	1.2%

## e) General description of the scheme

The Library's retirement benefit scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current "model" public sector scheme regulations. The scheme provides a pension (being 1/80 per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (being 3/80 per year of service) and spouses and children's pensions. Normal retirement age is a member's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, and pre-2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

The Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Single Scheme) is also operated by the National Library of Ireland and it is a defined benefit pension scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013 in accordance with the Public Service Pension (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012. The scheme provides for a pension and a retirement lump sum based on career-average pensionable remuneration and spouse's and children's pensions. The minimum pension age is 66 years (rising in line with State pension age changes). It includes an actuarially-reduced early retirement facility from age 55. Pensions in payment increase in line with the consumer price index.

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation performed on the 9th March 2020 by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Inflation	1.70%	1.70%
Rate of general long-term increase in salaries	2.50%	2.70%
Rate of increase in state benefits	1.50%	1.70%
Rate of increase in deferred benefits	1.50%	1.70%
Pension increases	1.50%	1.70%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.20%	2.00%

## Mortality

The mortality basis explicitly allows for improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age. The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2019 and 2039.

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2039</b>
Life expectancy – male	87.1	89.0
Life expectancy – female	90.2	92.3

## 7. Programmes

		2019	2018
	Note	€	€
<b>Special Collections</b>			
Cataloguing Project		246,088	22,574
Special Collection Acquisitions	7 (a)	190,074	283,904
Conservation		84,493	72,382
MSS Reading Room Services		-	660
		<hr/> 520,655	<hr/> 379,520
<b>Published Collections</b>			
Published Collection Acquisitions	7 (a)	210,399	107,388
Processing and Binding		5,563	4,640
Reader Services		5,186	7,493
		<hr/> 221,148	<hr/> 119,521
<b>Exhibitions, Learning and Programming</b>			
Public Programmes, Communications, and Engagement		33,561	211,061
WW1 Ireland: Exploring the Irish Experience		247	11,788
2017 Commemorations		-	816
Heaney Exhibition – ‘Listen Now Again’		144,409	4,009
Other Exhibitions		57,451	44,994
William Butler Yeats Exhibition		9,184	7,161
		<hr/> 244,852	<hr/> 279,829
<b>Genealogy &amp; Heraldry</b>			
Genealogical Research Service		23,342	26,097
Genealogical Office Cataloguing and Conservation Projects		-	12,358
Other Genealogy & Heraldry Expenses		5,171	3,090
		<hr/> 28,513	<hr/> 41,545
<b>Digital Collections</b>			
Library-Specific Software		8,403	13,156
Digital Collections Cataloguing		6	518
Library Equipment & Maintenance		10,987	13,215
		<hr/> 19,396	<hr/> 26,889
<b>Development Office</b>			
Communications, PR and Promotion		291,676	-
		<hr/> 291,676	<hr/> -
<b>Capital Development Building Project</b>			
Reimagining the National Library Refundable Expenses		232,144	-
		<hr/> 232,144	<hr/> -
		<hr/> <b>1,558,384</b>	<hr/> <b>847,304</b>

## (a) Acquisitions

	2019
Note	€
<b>Special Collections acquisitions funded through Current Grant</b>	
• Antiquarian and Rare Books	74,577
• Manuscripts	78,061
• Prints & Drawings	20,902
• Ephemera	8,088
• Music Collection	437
• Photographs	8,009
	<hr/> 190,074
<b>Special Collections acquisitions funded through Capital Grant</b>	
• The archive of the printer and designer Hans van Eijk for Seamus Heaney's translation of Aeneid VI (Bonenfant, 2016)	15,143
• Institution for the Diseases of Children at Pitt Street 1839-1847	7,500
• Diaries of Stephen Moore, 3rd Earl Mount Cashell, c. 1853-82 written at Moore Park, county Cork, and in Dublin, London, the US and Canada	9,968
• Accounts and Financial papers of the Sinn Fein Bank	21,780
• Collection of Papers relating to the Mansfield family of Morristown	14,000
• The Alistair and Ann Martha Rowan collection of architectural publications	166,185
• Archive containing correspondence with S. Beckett	130,000
• Collection of Irish, and other children's books	25,000
• Papers of Paul Mercier and theatre designer Anne Gately	95,000
	<hr/> 484,576
<b>Special Collections acquired through donation</b>	
• Two Volumes of manuscript maps from the Bessborough Estate in county Kilkenny	10,000
• Collection of letters written by Robert Baden-Powell and an album of Boer War Photographs	6,000
• The archive of writer J.P. Donleavy (under Section 1003)	650,000
• Papers of Sean Kearney relating to Sinn Fein, Dail elections and the American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic	6,000
	<hr/> 672,000
<b>Digital Collections acquisitions funded through Capital Grant</b>	
• Web Archiving	91,484
	<hr/> 91,484
<b>Published Collections acquisitions funded through Current Grant</b>	
• Books	94,396
• Online Subscriptions	81,378
• Newspapers	21,056
• Official Publications	1,216
• Periodicals	12,353
	<hr/> 210,399
<b>Total Acquisitions</b>	<hr/> <b>1,648,533</b> <hr/>

As outlined in Note 1(h) heritage assets acquired/donated since the Board was established in 2005 are included in the Statement of Financial Position. The existing collections of the National Library at establishment date were not vested in the Board - they remained vested in the State. The Board is of the view that valuing these collections or determining their original cost is impractical and would not, in any event, yield information that is relevant or useful in assessing its stewardship of the collections.

Most items acquired for the collections are individually of low value such as books, newspapers and periodicals. Materials published in Ireland are acquired through legal deposit in accordance with the provisions of Section 198 of the Copyright and Related Rights Act, 2000 (as amended). Materials published elsewhere are acquired by purchase or donation in accordance with the National Library's Collection Development Policy. This includes materials published in Northern Ireland as well as materials published abroad of Irish interest in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 of the Cultural Institutions Act 1997.

Collections during 2019 are shown in the table above, distinguishing between expenditure charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves on items individually valued at less than €5,000 – which is shown by type – and expenditure on capitalised items or digital projects valued at €5,000 or more – which are itemised.

## 8. Capital Commitments

There was no contractual commitments in place at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

## 9. Capital Account

### a) Heritage Assets

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Opening Balance	24,166,091	21,540,555
Heritage Assets acquired	582,146	548,036
Heritage Assets donated	672,000	2,077,500
<b>Closing balance (Note 11(f))</b>	<b>25,420,237</b>	<b>24,166,091</b>

### b) Operational Fixed Assets

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Opening Balance	2,498,429	2,328,551
To fund Fixed Asset purchases	76,313	559,727
Amortisation in line with asset depreciation	(373,950)	(389,849)
<b>Closing Balance (Note 10)</b>	<b>2,200,792</b>	<b>2,498,429</b>

## 10. Property, Plant & Equipment

	IT Equipment	Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Exhibitions operating or in the course of construction	Total
<b>Cost</b>	€	€	€	€	€
At 1 January	2,827,862	1,385,793	1,167,273	1,496,015	6,876,943
Additions	34,273	16,583	25,457	-	76,313
<b>At 31 December</b>	<b>2,862,135</b>	<b>1,402,376</b>	<b>1,192,730</b>	<b>1,496,015</b>	<b>6,953,256</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 January	1,822,364	1,328,757	1,013,677	213,716	4,378,514
Charge for the year	95,567	36,231	47,864	194,288	373,950
<b>At 31 December</b>	<b>1,917,931</b>	<b>1,364,988</b>	<b>1,061,541</b>	<b>408,004</b>	<b>4,752,464</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>					
At 1 January	1,005,498	57,036	153,596	1,282,299	2,498,429
Net movement for the year	(61,294)	(19,648)	(22,407)	(194,288)	(297,637)
<b>At 31 December</b>	<b>944,204</b>	<b>37,388</b>	<b>131,189</b>	<b>1,088,011</b>	<b>2,200,792</b>

### a) Exhibitions in the course of construction

The balance of exhibitions operating or in the course of construction as at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2019 relates to the Seamus Heaney exhibition that launched on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018. This is a collaborative project between the NLI, the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Bank of Ireland. The exhibition is in the Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre on College Green and it is to operate until December 2023. The expected book value of these items will be €nil at the conclusion of the exhibition. The depreciation charge to 2019 includes an adjustment amounting to (€77,715) for 2018, since initially the depreciation period was from July 2018 to December 2021. However, during 2019 the NLI received Ministerial approval for the extension of the exhibition until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The exhibition has a finite life and related assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives or over the useful life of the exhibition, whichever is shorter. Continuing to disclose the exhibition in its current asset category is a departure from the NLI fixed asset policy which requires exhibition assets to be transferred to the correct asset category once brought into use.

## 11. Heritage Assets

### a) General Information

In accordance with the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 all Library Collections are the property of the State and are managed by the Board of the Library.

- The principal functions of the Board of the Library are to conserve, restore, maintain and enlarge the library material in the collection of the Library for the benefit of the public; to establish and maintain a record of library material (including material relating to the Irish language) in relation to Ireland; and to contribute to the provision of access by members of the public to material relating to other countries.
- The Board of the National Library of Ireland has the power to enlarge the collections of the Library.
- The Board of the National Library of Ireland also has the power to lend materials, subject to the provisions of Section 18 (1) of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.
- The Board of the National Library of Ireland also has the power to dispose of library materials subject to the provisions of Section 18 (2) of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.
- All acquisitions for the collection purchased in excess of €5,000 are funded from the Library's capital funding allocation for the year while acquisitions which cost less than €5,000 are funded from the current funding allocation.

### b) Nature and Scale of the Collection

The National Library's holdings constitute the most comprehensive collection of Irish documentary material in the world and offer an invaluable representation of Ireland's history and heritage.

The National Library's management structure reflects three broad strands of collecting focus, each the responsibility of a Keeper or Head of Division, as follows:

- Special Collections
- Published Collections
- Digital Collections.

#### Special Collections

Special Collections comprises rare and unique material such as manuscripts, photographs, prints, drawings, ephemera, rare and antiquarian books, manuscript maps and music. It includes many millions of items with, for example, over 4.5 million items in the photographic collections and over one million items in the manuscript collection.

#### Published Collections

Published Collections comprises modern and new books, newspapers and periodicals. One of the main collections within Published Collections is the Legal Deposit Collection which includes all material – books, newspapers and journals published in Ireland – acquired under the Legal Deposit provisions of the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000 (as amended).

#### Digital Collections

Digital Collections comprises digital objects created by the National Library as a result of the digitisation of material from Special Collections and Published Collections (new assets) as well as the items described as "Born Digital", such as websites that have never existed except in digital format.

### c) Acquisition

The Board of the National Library has the power to enlarge the collections of the National Library and material is acquired in three ways: by legal deposit, donation, and purchase.

#### Legal Deposit

Legal deposit is a statutory provision which obliges publishers to deposit copies of their publications in certain libraries, usually in the country in which they are published. In the Republic of Ireland statutory provision for legal deposit is set out in the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000 (as amended).

#### Donation

Each year the National Library receives important donations to the collections. Donations are subject to appraisal in line with the criteria set out the National Library's Collection Development Policy.

In certain instances - as provided for under section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 - donors may be allowed tax relief for donations of heritage items to the National Library. This relief may apply to gifts or "heritage items" such as archives, books, estate records, manuscripts and prints where the total value of the items donated exceeds €150,000.

#### Purchase

The National Library's acquisitions budget is used to further develop the National Library's collections, whether by direct purchase or by auction. Decisions to purchase antiquarian material and unique heritage items are made in accordance with the criteria set out in the National Library's Collection Development Policy. Current and new publications of Irish interest, not acquired under legal deposit, are purchased as a matter of course.

### d) Preservation and Conservation

The Conservation Department works to preserve and conserve the collections of the National Library of Ireland. In general, preservation measures do not improve the condition of an object, but slow down degradation and prevent damage by passive methods. By contrast, conservation aims to prolong the life and accessibility of collections through interventive treatments, which improve the physical, chemical and often visual condition of an object.

As well as the conservation treatment of rare and unique objects, the conservators work on a diverse range of measures to reduce risks of damage to the collections. These activities include supporting and training staff in all aspect of collection care and management including handling, condition assessment, surveying, rehousing and phase-boxing. Conservators also prepare items for exhibition, digitisation and loan for exhibition.

### e) Disposal

The Board of the National Library also has the power to dispose of library materials subject to the provisions of Section 18(2) of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. The National Library does not normally dispose of material from the collections.

## f) Analysis of Acquisitions

As outlined in the Accounting Policies (Note 1, h), the National Library recognises all Heritage Assets (with an individual value of more than €5,000) purchased or acquired since 2005. Such assets are carried at cost with adjustment for impairment where required. The transactions in relation to 2019 and the previous four accounting periods are set out below.

	<b>Manuscripts</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Visual</b>	<b>Printed</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Cost or Valuation:</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
At 1 January	17,341,987	2,207,067	2,929,864	1,687,173	24,166,091
Purchases	484,576	91,484	-	6,086	582,146
Donation Materials	672,000	-	-	-	672,000
At 31 December	<b>18,498,563</b>	<b>2,298,551</b>	<b>2,929,864</b>	<b>1,693,259</b>	<b>25,420,237</b>

## (g) Five Year Financial Summary of Heritage Asset Transactions

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Additions</b>					
Manuscripts	484,576	427,629	825,505	433,672	533,631
Digital	91,484	120,407	74,574	81,210	225,673
Visual	-	-	63,102	15,092	1,515,263
Printed	6,086	-	439,334	-	31,905
	<b>582,146</b>	<b>548,036</b>	<b>1,402,515</b>	<b>529,974</b>	<b>2,306,472</b>

## 12. Receivables

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Prepayments	64,561	97,557
Accrued Income	232,144	-
Debtors	65,988	61,340
	<b>362,693</b>	<b>158,897</b>

## 13. Payables

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Accruals and Deferred Revenue	298,794	176,011
Taxation and Social Welfare	114,350	149,310
Trade Creditors	147,283	755,510
	<b>560,427</b>	<b>1,080,831</b>

## 14. Related Party Disclosures

Please refer to Note 5 for a breakdown of the remuneration and benefits paid to key management.

The National Library adopts procedures in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform covering the personal interests of Board members. In the normal course of business, the National Library may approve grants or enter into other contractual arrangements with entities in which the National Library's Board members are employed or are otherwise interested.

The National Library of Ireland Trust (the Trust), a company limited by guarantee without share capital was established to aid the development of the National Library of Ireland and to acquire printed books, manuscripts, and other material, by Irish people or relating to Ireland. The National Library and the Trust are related parties as the majority of the Trustees are either current members of the National Library Board or management team. The National Library of Ireland exercises control over the National Library of Ireland Trust.

The Trust prepares annual financial statements which are audited by a firm of commercial auditors. The latest available audited financial statements are for the year ended 30 April 2019 which record expenditure of €5,319; income of €nil and year end retained revenue reserves/net assets of €474,558. There were no transactions between the Trust and the National Library during 2019.

## 15. Comparatives

Certain costs have been regrouped and reclassified in the current year; the comparatives have not been amended as the impact is considered immaterial.

## 16. Contingent Liabilities

NLI is involved in a personal injury claim which is being handled by the State Claims Agency. An amount has been provided within Accruals and Deferred Revenue in Note 13 relating to this claim. No further detail is provided so as not to seriously prejudice the NLI's position in the related claim.

## 17. Events After Reporting Period

There are no events between the reporting date and the date of approval of these financial statements for issue that require adjustment to the financial statements.

The NLI recognises that the Covid-19 pandemic is a significant event which has occurred since the reporting date. The Board of the NLI is monitoring the situation with all due diligence, and is regularly briefed by NLI management on an ongoing basis. The NLI closed on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 following Government instruction, and reopened to the public on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020. NLI's business continues to operate with measures in place to protect staff and visitors. Staff are working remotely or onsite depending on their role, and services continue to be provided. To date, the operations and most of the NLI's activities are being maintained while adjusting to the different way in which the business is being delivered. While NLI is unable to reliably predict the impact of Covid-19 on its cash flows, the performance and operations of the organisation are being monitored closely and regular cash flow forecasts are provided to the Board and to the Department.

The Board considers that, as the entity provides a public service that is funded by moneys provided by the Exchequer, via the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, it is appropriate to prepare these financial statements on a going concern basis.

## 18. Approval of the financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of the National Library of Ireland on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.





The National Library of Ireland (NLI) is the library of record for Ireland. Established in 1877, we share the story of Ireland with the world through our unique collections. We care for more than ten million items, including books, manuscripts, newspapers, photographs, prints, maps, drawings, ephemera, music and digital media. The Library is open, free of charge, to all those who wish to consult the collections.

The five strategic priorities for the National Library for 2016 – 2021 are to collect, protect, connect, innovate and collaborate. Further information is available at [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie).

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