



*Leabharlann
Náisiúnta
na hÉireann*

National Library
of Ireland

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

Annual Report 2024





NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

Annual Report 2024

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Chairperson's Remarks

While global and national issues inform the Board's strategic responses and future planning, our focus remains clear and we continue to lead the work of the National Library of Ireland (NLI) under the five strategic pillars: Collect, Protect, Reveal, Engage and Innovate.

We hold firm to our commitment to enhance our public offerings with the progression of plans for the Capital Development Project in our West Wing building and Kildare Street campus.

In January 2024, planning permission for the redevelopment of the former six-storey 19th-century storage site was granted. Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD, along with Minister of State for the Office of Public Works (OPW), Kieran O'Donnell TD, officially opened the new tiered Joly Lecture Theatre in May. The state-of-the-art, fully accessible theatre is a key achievement in the delivery of a new public cultural space in the NLI. Additional planning permission was submitted in October to include the creation of a glass-fronted visitor gallery overlooking our historic reading room.

Protection of the National Collections is another strategic aim for the NLI. The wide-ranging impact of climate change is a going concern and is illustrated by an urgent need to remediate and enhance the Library's storage infrastructure. With the support of the Board, colleagues in the NLI are responding to the challenges with innovation and resolution to address these issues and progress towards a long-term solution in partnership with the Government.

This year, the NLI Climate Action Plan was approved by the Board and will be supported by the OPW Optimise Power @ Work Programme. As a national institution, we are committed to mitigating and reducing our carbon imprint. With regards to the national target for the Public Sector outlined for completion by 2030 (51% carbon reduction and 50% energy reduction), we are proud to report that, six years ahead of delivery, the NLI has achieved this goal with an energy reduction of 51%. Innovative energy-saving schemes, with the support of the OPW, and staff engagement were instrumental in this accomplishment.

Under the expert care of the NLI, the National Collection continues to grow and diversify, and we were honoured to receive the second *tranche* of papers from the archive of acclaimed poet Paul Durcan. The acquisition in 2024 of the Press Photographers of Ireland's evocative photographic collection *Life in Ireland during Covid-19* demonstrates the NLI's commitment to recording Ireland's stories and history in all circumstances and across Irish society.

The Board and its committees provide robust leadership in advancing plans for the redevelopment of our Kildare Street premises and I acknowledge with thanks the contributions made by the following Board members who recently completed their second term of office: Professor Maeve Conrick, Dr Conor Kostick and Jennifer Taaffe.

I welcome three new members: Michael Diviney, Dr Brian Lang and Genevieve Wyeth. They each bring valued skills and relevant experience, and I am confident they will help ensure the NLI continues to be Ireland's foremost national cultural institution.

On behalf of the Board and Director, I wish to express our appreciation to our colleagues in the OPW for their invaluable support and advice as we proceed into the next phase of our milestone redevelopment project.

I would also like to thank former Minister Catherine Martin and her staff for their support of our Capital Development Project through 2024. I very much welcome the appointment of Minister Patrick O'Donovan, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and I greatly appreciate the interest he has shown in the many challenges facing the NLI.


Eoin McVey



Director's Foreword

This past year at the National Library of Ireland was engaging and immensely fulfilling, with several standout moments that defined my second year as Director.

2024 brought advancements in the Library's landmark Capital Development Project. In early summer, the fully accessible, state-of-the-art Joly Theatre opened for public events, and — located in the recently refurbished Art Room — the Prints and Drawings reader service reopened to the public from August.

I was honoured to mark the naming of the Richard Hayes Room, commemorating my predecessor, Dr Richard Hayes (1902-1976), who was Director of the NLI from 1940 to 1967 and who was also a highly successful codebreaker during World War II.

As custodians of Ireland's cultural heritage, we recognise the important preservation role we hold, and I am enthused by the progress achieved this past year in expanding our digital holdings with over 100,000 digital images produced and extensive web archiving undertaken. Following the publication of our inaugural Digital Preservation Policy in 2023, and the hosting of a Digital Preservation Coalition workshop in our new Joly Theatre this autumn, we welcomed confirmation that the international, three-day 'No Time to Wait' Digital Preservation Conference will take place here in the NLI in 2025.

The viral media campaign on the rediscovered Bram Stoker short story *Gibbet Hill* generated vast international interest and highlighted the richness and research value of the NLI collections. For Pride Month, we were honoured to make available the *Michael Barron* papers. Key additions to our collections this year included the *Paul Durcan* archive alongside a series of illustrations from artist Annie West and

the concluding illustrations from the Ross O'Carroll Kelly book series — reflecting the importance of acquiring contemporary collections of work.

It is heartening to note a one-third increase in readers using our main reading room from 2023 to 2024. New reader registrations are also up by one-fifth this year, and we celebrate this upward onsite engagement.

2024 offered significant opportunities to travel and engage with partners across the globe. We enjoyed extensive public engagements and collaborations with partners, including the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Office of Public Works (OPW), University College Cork (UCC), Poetry Ireland, 2027 Year of the Normans and the Environmental Protection Agency Ireland (EPA). I was honoured to welcome many national and international guests to the Library this year, including visiting groups from China, Taiwan, Japan and Italy.

A busy programme of events ran throughout the year including a sell-out Booker Prize Winners series of talks featuring 2024 winner Paul Lynch, as well as previous Irish Booker Prize winners John Banville, Anne Enright and Roddy Doyle. Supplementary to ongoing public tours, I was pleased to continue leading monthly Director tours exploring the history of our building on Kildare Street.

Recurring annual highlights included the Hassett Yeats Lecture, which featured an insightful keynote from Dr Belinda McKeon on the subject of 'Yeats and the Objects of Home', and the Poetry Aloud competition, which engages our younger (and future) users, and this year received over 350 entries from secondary schools across the island.

With a growing online presence, we continue to explore new ways of reaching the widest possible audience through our bilingual website, social platforms, virtual events and online catalogue. Our website received an Ireland eGovernment Award for digital innovation and excellence, recognising efforts to enhance public access through our digital transformation initiatives. The website was also awarded both 'Best in Universal Design' and the overall 'Grand Prix' award at the 2024 Spider Digital Excellence Awards. This recognition exemplifies the NLI's dedication to ensuring the website is user-friendly and accessible, aligning with our commitment to diversity and inclusion.

In 2024, we welcomed new colleagues to the NLI staff across Estates, HR, Conservation, Programming and Collections. Among the twelve million items in the national collection, our greatest asset is the dedicated staff members who work to safeguard and share Ireland's stories. I sincerely thank all the staff, stakeholders, users and readers who support and engage with the NLI to create this essential forum for learning and thought.



Dr Audrey Whitty





2024 at a glance

COLLECTING + CATALOGUING



READER + RESEARCH SERVICE



24,000+ items consulted onsite

Online catalogue pageviews: **2,250,000+**

VISITORS + ENGAGEMENT

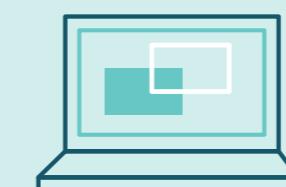


New spaces opened
Joly Theatre | Richard Hayes | Art Room

COLLABORATIONS + INITIATIVES



WEBSITE



1.3 million

Combined website visits:
1,300,000 (53% Ireland / 47% international)

nli.ie website visits:
244,000

SOCIAL MEDIA



12%

Growth of 12% across all social media platforms (combined followers)



1 new social media platform launched (Bluesky)

Collect

The NLI is the library of record for Ireland. On behalf of the people of Ireland we hold over twelve million items in the national collection, including books, newspapers, prints and drawings, over five million photographs, maps, ephemera, manuscripts and digital-born material. NLI collection items are acquired through donation, purchase, digital archiving and the legal depository.

The total NLI collection shelving requirement is estimated to comprise 43km of shelving with expected growth of up to 50km by 2040. Almost 3,500 books were added to the published collections this year.



Notable acquisitions in 2024 included:

- The second tranche of papers from the poet Paul Durcan, covering the period from the 1960s to the present. The archive includes hundreds of notebooks and folders with manuscript drafts, annotated publications, letters, cards and ephemera.
- Life Under Covid-19 in Ireland: A Press Photographers Association of Ireland Project PPAI Press Photographers Collection* featuring 74 Donors, 195 photos and five videos.

The diversification of the national collection remains fundamental to the NLI's acquisition of new material. Throughout 2024, we continued to enhance our collections through a combination of donations and acquisitions.

Highlights from these recent additions are outlined below.

Special Collections:

- Letters from WB Yeats to Elizabeth Radcliffe (1913-1917), largely relating to "automatic writing" in their seances.
- Estate and family papers of the Vandeleur family of Wardenstown, County Westmeath (1670-1985).
- The archive of A Little Lifetime Foundation, supporting bereaved families in Ireland since 1983.
- Norah McGuinness Papers*: correspondence, diaries, news cuttings and personal documents of the artist Norah McGuinness (1903-1980).

Prints, Drawings and Ephemera:

- Illustrations and original artworks from contemporary artists including Alan Clarke and Annie West.
- Poetry of Flowers* manuscript and extensive watercolour album (1820s) by Laetitia Emerson Tennent.



Paul Durcan Papers



Keeper Ciara Kerrigan, artist Annie West and Director Dr Audrey Whitty

Additions to our expansive collection of over 5 million photographs include:

- *Tony Coyne Skydiving Collection* of six black and white and colour albums.
- *Philippe Schlessner Eurovision Collection* – 20 colour albums relating to the contests that took place in Ireland 1988, '93, '94, '95, '97.
- *Kate Horgan Collection* – featuring photos by the award-winning journalist of people and events all over Ireland from 1985-2000s.

Digital Collections

2024 was a significant election year, with the web archive capturing the March referendums, Local and European elections in summer, and the General Election in December. Websites of candidates, political parties, media, advocacy groups, and Olympic/Paralympic coverage were archived.

Additional selection of archived websites:

- Websites documenting the 39th and 40th Amendments.
- Websites of members of the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts (RHA), selected by staff of the Library & Archives Department of the National Gallery of Ireland.
- The 100 Archive.
- Budget 2025.

Celebrating our donors:

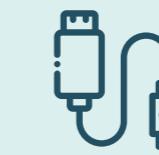
We remain indebted to the generosity of individuals and groups who entrust their materials to the NLI. From our founding donors such as Jasper Robert Joly to recent contributions including the Fishamble New Theatre Company and *The Malcolm Proud Archive*, these gifts safeguard Ireland's stories for future generations. In June we hosted an event honouring donors for their contributions.

2024 Acquisitions



380

Websites Archived



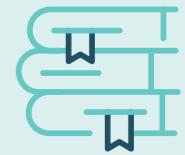
2.54

Terabytes of Irish Website Data Delivered



7,323

Newspapers



1,784

Legal Deposit Books Acquired



2,872

Serials



1,599

Books Purchased



5,914

Manuscripts



1,041

Photographs



40

Ephemera



74

Prints and Drawings

Protect

The management and safeguarding of the collections is central to the NLI's mission to preserve the heritage of Ireland, its people and its culture. Collection care is an essential function of the NLI. The specialist preservation actions and conservation treatment we provide cover everything from restoration and purpose-built storage, to the increasing challenges of digital preservation and cybersecurity planning. These critical tasks ensure we keep the national collections safe and accessible in the present and into the future.



Conservation and Preservation

2024 saw a vital increase in conservation staff. Full conservation treatments of prioritised collection items were undertaken throughout the year alongside a wide range of preventative measures.

Conservation activities and highlights during 2024:

- NLI conservation staff spoke at national and international conferences and published essays with the University of Amsterdam.
- Environmental monitoring of collections storage and exhibition spaces.
- Provided specialised advice and equipment for proposed rehousing project of photographic equipment and materials in the National Photographic Archive.
- Identification and mitigation of risks from physical forces (fire, water, pests, theft, inappropriate temperature, light).
- Preparation of loans including: an 18th-century watercolour portrait of Rajah Lall Singh for *Maharaja Ranjit Singh: Lion of the Punjab* (London, April–October 2024), and gold and silver boxes for *The Metal Stamp'd by Honest Fame* (Dublin Castle, November 2024–March 2025).
- 5,732 bespoke archival boxes produced onsite.

Assess and Protect

Assessment of the NLI's current archival storage and repository development options continued throughout the year. Flooding in the East Wing Attic Store in 2024 caused damage to a selection of volumes requiring specialist remediation. Mitigation measures such as improved monitoring have been introduced, but infrastructure remains critical. Over 60% of collections are stored offsite.

Digital Preservation and Repository Services

Digital Preservation refers to the 'series of managed activities necessary to ensure continued access to digital materials for as long as necessary'. It combines technical work through backups and repositories, and classical archival processes to support continued and reliable future access to the collections.

The Digital Collections team is responsible for growing, managing and preserving the NLI's digital collections, and for developing the underpinning systems and core technical infrastructure. Following the 2023 launch of the NLI's first Digital Preservation Policy, progress continued toward Trusted Digital Repository certification.

In 2024, work advanced on procuring a new Digital Repository System, with staff consultation across departments. Cybersecurity and Data Protection training was delivered to all staff.



Rebecca Taldo, Conservation Intern

Reveal

Since 1877, the NLI has held and revealed the national collections of Ireland. Our public research spaces include the Main Reading Room, the Manuscripts Reading Room and the recently launched Prints and Drawings reader service.

Beyond our physical buildings, cataloguing and digital access ensures the visibility of the NLI's holdings globally.



2024 Outputs Included:

171,000	digitised items made available online through the NLI catalogue
14,565	special collections images digitised in 2024
7,280	published collection catalogue records created (books only)

Filming and Recording Highlights:

- RTÉ documentary *Christy Brown: Self Portrait* featuring NLI archival material filmed onsite.
- Ireland's Hidden Treasures* (three-part RTÉ 1 series) featuring NLI staff and materials premiered on national television and on the RTÉ Player.

Media and Press Highlights:

- Following the exciting rediscovery by an NLI reader of an unknown Bram Stoker story, *Gibbet Hill*, the viral media campaign garnered huge interest and was covered by international press including *The New York Times* and BBC News.
- National media coverage was received for campaigns relating to Seachtain na Gaeilge, EPA Photographer in Residence programme and the PPAI Covid-19 photographic collection.

Studentships Programme

Since 1999, this programme has offered placements in collaboration with UCD Schools of Library and Information Studies and History, the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences, and the Heritage Council.



Ireland's Hidden Treasures, RTÉ 1



Brian Cleary, Bram Stoker discovery

Building Programme Advancements

‘Reimagining the National Library’ began in 2017. Since then, we have completed major building works across our Kildare Street campus. This included the relocation of over 350,000 collection items from the original book stacks to a new, purpose-built onsite book repository and the public opening of renovated spaces.

The Capital Development Project of the West Wing building is the most significant investment in the physical infrastructure of our Kildare Street campus since it opened its doors in 1890. Through this work, we will modernise our facilities to the highest standards, while making every effort to preserve the heritage and architectural beauty of our Victorian-era premises.

2024 Milestones:

Q1

Planning permission was granted for this landmark redevelopment
Approval was also received from our parent department, allowing us to move ahead with the next phase of work. This is a major milestone for the Library and a vote of confidence in our vision for the future.

Q2

Our new Joly Lecture Theatre was opened
This welcome addition to the NLI’s public space offers state of the art facilities and is fully accessible with seating for almost 100. This new facility is designed for public events, lectures and performances and marks another step forward in our mission to welcome a wider and more diverse audience.

Q3

- Special Collections: Prints and Drawings and Ephemera Reader Service re-opened to the public** from August 2024. Service is by appointment and is located in the recently refurbished Art Room.
- Opening of Richard Hayes Room** honouring former NLI Director and renowned World War II codebreaker Dr Richard Hayes.

Q4

Planning application lodged for conservation works to the Main Reading Room and installation of a glazed visitor’s gallery overlooking the Main Reading Room.



Opening of the Joly Lecture Theatre



Opening of the Prints and Drawings Reader service in the refurbished Art Room

Engage

The NLI's tradition of welcome shapes our engagement. Public programmes, exhibitions and hybrid events are central to our programming. Our hybrid events model brings awareness to the NLI's collections and ensures the learning resources available are accessible to an ever-wider audience. The dedicated and fully serviced reading rooms, including our Family History Room, create a unique opportunity for readers to engage first-hand with the NLI collections.



Onsite Visitor Numbers

Researchers

Main Reading Room	19,448
Manuscripts Reading Room	2,943*
Family History Room	2,791
New Reader Registrations	6,753

Exhibitions

Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again	37,990
National Photographic Archive	23,345
Yeats: The Life and Works of WB Yeats	66,067

Online Engagement 2024

Online Events

Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again	1,027
Kildare Street campus	2,339

Website Usage

National Library Website	243,941 visits
	582,232 pageviews
Flickr Views	6,508,902

*Includes National Photographic Archive Reading Room

Social Media 2024

Overview of the National Library of Ireland's engagement platforms

Social media continues to enable us to reach an online audience and 2024 saw high levels of engagement across our platforms. LinkedIn and Instagram played significant roles in connecting with our audience and expanding our reach.

Top Posts



Followers

40,930 (+ 4%)	48,920 (- 1%)
32,163 (+ 21%)	6,055 (+ 103%)
4,063 (new platform)	

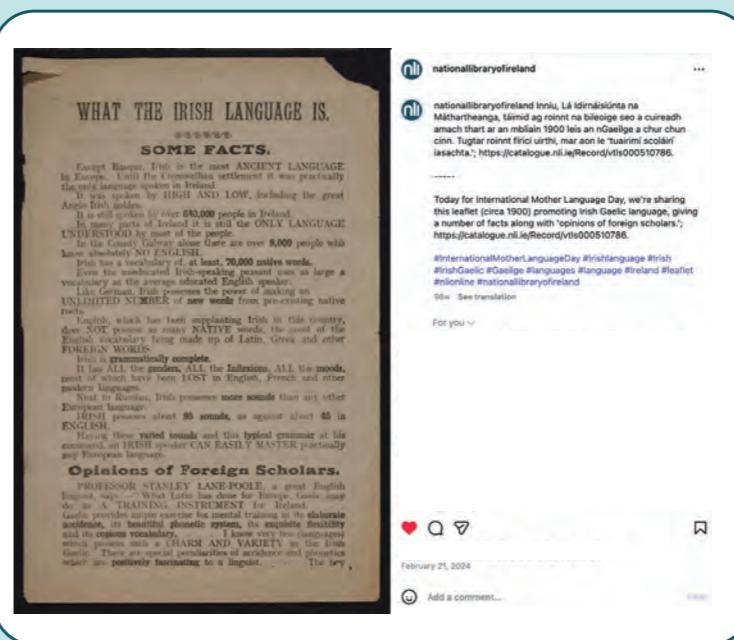


LinkedIn

Rest in peace, Edna O'Brien
9,196 impressions

Top Facebook Post

The Tipperary Hurling Team
104,671 reach



Top Instagram Post

Celebrating International Mother Language Day
3,272 likes
26,093 views

Exhibitions, Events and Engagements 2024

EXHIBITIONS



Yeats: The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats

**National Library of Ireland,
7/8 Kildare Street, Dublin 2**

Drawing on the NLI's extensive Yeats collection, this award-winning, multimedia exhibition explores the life of Yeats' and his areas of interest including literature, folklore, theatre, politics and the occult.

Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again

**Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre,
Westmoreland Street, Dublin 2**

This partnership project between the NLI, the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, and the Bank of Ireland draws on the NLI's extensive archive of Heaney documents.

People & Places: Ireland in the 19th, 20th & 21st Centuries

National Photographic Archive, Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

- ◆ This exhibition showcases 50 images from the NLI's extensive photographic collections and captures the social, cultural and technological changes across Ireland.
- ◆ A digital display featuring images from the *PPA/Covid-19 collection* was added to the exhibition space.

TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

Highlights include:

- *Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again* in Westport House, February 2024. The exhibition was successful with over 1,275 visitors during its fourteen day-run.
- *Tall Tales and Deadly Drawings and Ireland from Maps* both in North Mayo Heritage Centre, July - October 2024.
- *The Past from the Press* in St Benildus College, Stillorgan, January 2024.

Exhibitions, Events and Engagements 2024

A varied programme of events aims to make the NLI's collections and resources accessible and approachable to an ever-wider audience. We have expanded our programming to offer a hybrid model, enabling audiences worldwide to access many of our events.

Celebrating Ireland's Booker Winners:

The live series of talks commenced in April, with the 2024 Booker Prize winner, Paul Lynch in conversation with novelist Belinda McKeon. The series continued over May and June with previous Irish Booker Prize winners John Banville, Anne Enright and Roddy Doyle.

National Heritage Week

The 2024 programme featured talks on Conservation, Cookery with 'Cooking the Books', EPA Photographer in Residence and a Photo Detectives Children's Workshop.

Poetry Aloud

Organised by the NLI and Poetry Ireland, in partnership with University College Cork, this year's competition drew 358 entries from schools across the island. There were 29 finalists from across 15 counties.

EPA Photographer in Residence

In partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the NLI launched a new Photographer in Residence, with the aim of visually documenting the evolving landscape of Ireland. Throughout 2024 and into 2025, the appointed photographer, Paula T. Nolan captured the shifting climate and environmental conditions across four seasons, aided by access to EPA experts and the rich archives of the NLI.

Festivals and Events

Participating in local and national festivals and events allows the NLI to contribute to a larger programme, and to reach new audiences. In 2024, we were delighted to work with partners such as Harps Alive Festival, Milwaukee Irish Festival, Dublin Book Festival, Dublin Festival of History, Culture Night and Open House Dublin. Collaborative events included the launch of the *Atlas of the Irish Civil War: New Perspectives* with UCC, a livestream of the Yeats International Summer School, National Drawing Day and a celebration of 100 years of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland (FNCI).

Creative Commission

At the end of 2024, we worked with artist Margaret Anne Suggs to produce artwork that featured on the NLI's annual seasonal card. The illustration is inspired by the owl featured in the mosaic floor in the Main Hall of the National Library. Designed by Oppenheimer of Manchester, the mosaic features tones of green, blue, grey, and gold, with the owl — the symbol of knowledge and learning — surrounded by the Latin motto *Sapientia* (wisdom).



Innovate

The very concept of a national library as a repository of the knowledge, heritage, culture, and memory of a nation, openly and freely available to all, is a radical innovation. We are taking the lead in digital collecting and digitisation to ensure Ireland's culture remains accessible into the future. The Digital Studio at the NLI plays a crucial role in revealing the national collections and produced 102,000 images in 2024.



Selective Web Archiving

The NLI selectively archives the Irish web with public input. In the archive, users can browse websites exactly as they would online. Our web archive collection preserves and makes Irish content websites (from 2011 to the present) openly available, ensuring these sites remain accessible and secure even if they change or disappear.

Digital Partnerships

In September, the NLI organised an in-person workshop on procuring digital preservation systems in collaboration with the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC). There were over 40 attendees from all four provinces of Ireland.

The NLI Web Archive collaborated with the National Gallery Library & Archives staff to select websites of members of the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA) to include in the web archive. Additionally, we worked with Coimisiún na Meán to archive their website before it was re-designed.

Awards and Achievements

NLI Website

- 2024 Ireland eGovernment Award for digital innovation and excellence.
- 2024 Spider Digital Excellence Awards 'Best in Universal Design' and the overall 'Grand Prix'.

NLI Graphic Design

Three designs from the work of the NLI in-house graphic designer were included in The 100 Archive Selection, showcasing the best of Irish communication design. Featured works: *Late at the Library* event series, *People and Places* exhibition and *Yeats 100 Nobel Centenary*.

Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and inclusion are central to all we do, building on a long tradition in the NLI of welcoming everyone. We continue to prioritise equality and incorporate diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our work, collections and working relationships.

Highlights Include:

- Accessibility tour hosted with guests Lord Mayor Daithí de Róiste and James Casserly.
- ISL awareness training delivered for staff.
- Staff Disability Census was completed.

Climate and Sustainability Highlights

- Certified Bronze as a European Cycle Friendly Employer, EU Cyclist Federation.



Digital Studio

Corporate Reporting

Public Sector Climate Action Mandate

The public sector climate mandate highlights the main climate action objectives for public bodies. In compliance with the mandate, the NLI reports on the following:

1. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting report for 2024 shows energy savings of 50.6% for the NLI when compared to the 2009 baseline. The GHG emissions must still be reduced by 42.9% to meet the 2030 target.

2. Implementation of the mandate

The NLI Climate Action Roadmap 2024 was approved by the Board in June 2024.

Access to Information

In 2024, four Parliamentary Questions and fourteen FOI requests were received by the NLI.

Gender Balance, Diversity and Inclusion on the National Library of Ireland Board

The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) specifies a minimum target of 40% representation of each gender in the membership of State Boards. At the end of 2024, the Board had seven (58%) female and five (42%) male members.

The NLI ensures that Gender Balance, Diversity and Inclusion are highlighted in the NLI's Public Appointments Service recruitment booklets when seeking to fill Board vacancies.

3. Sustainability activities report

Energy-saving projects undertaken in 2024 included:

- Campus development planning with a gap-to-target modelling to help model energy use and emissions impact.
- Review of hot water production strategy to reduce summer circulation losses.
- Building Management System controls strategy for more efficient energy output.
- Installation of insulated valve jackets and pipework insulation to reduce heat loss.

4. Circular 1/2020

The NLI confirms compliance with Circular 1/2020 procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel.

Irish Language Act

The NLI is committed to meeting all its obligations under the Official Language Acts (2003 & 2021).

The Head of Published Collections at the NLI has been appointed to oversee performance and report on the NLI's obligations under the Official Languages Acts (2003 & 2021).

The following actions were taken by the NLI during the year 2024 to ensure compliance with the Act:

- The NLI's Irish Language Policy was completed and published on the NLI website in Irish and English.

Board (as of October 2025)

The principal functions of the National Library of Ireland Board are:

“to conserve, restore, maintain and enlarge the library material in the collection of the 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.”



Eoin McVey
Chairperson



Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh
Deputy Chairperson



Dr Marie Bourke



Michael Diviney



John Grenham



Lisa Grimm



Lorelei Harris



Dr Brian Lang



Prof Kalpana Shankar



Caitriona Sharkey



Genevieve Wyeth



Liz Coffey
Staff Nominee

For more information and full biographies, please visit our Corporate Information page on www.nli.ie

Committees & Leadership Team (as of October 2025)

Readers Advisory Committee

The Readers Advisory Committee assists and advises the Board on NLI services.

Chairperson: Lorelei Harris

Members:

- Lian Bell
- Michael Diviney
- Harry Hughes
- Liam O'Brien
- Prof Mary O'Dowd (Resigned October 2025)

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee assists and advises the Board on the NLI's risk, control, governance and associated assurances.

Chairperson: Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh

Members:

- Denis O'Connor
- Prof Philip O'Regan
- Caitriona Sharkey
- Genevieve Wyeth

Committee on Genealogy and Heraldry

The Committee on Genealogy and Heraldry assists and advises the Board on the NLI functions, genealogy and heraldry.

Chairperson: John Grenham

Members:

- Dr Marie Bourke
- Catriona Crowe
- Lisa Grimm
- Tony Hennessy
- Nicola Morris
- Dr Rachel Murphy
- Prof Kalpana Shankar

Ex-officio: Dr Audrey Whitty, Director

NLI Senior Leadership Team:

The Leadership Team includes the Director and each head of the NLI's departments.

The Leadership Team's purpose is to successfully develop and drive the implementation of the NLI strategy, founded on the team's expertise, showing leadership through collective decision-making and shared responsibility.

Director: Dr Audrey Whitty

- Deputy Director & Head of Estates: Brian O'Donnell
- Head of Communications and Development: Elizabeth Coffey
- Head of Human Resources: Katy Lumsden
- Head of Published Collections: Eoin McCarney
- Head of Exhibitions, Learning and Programming: Dr Sinéad McCoole
- Head of Service Delivery: Sandra McDermott
- Head of Digital Collections: Eoghan Ó Carragáin
- Head of Special Collections: Crónán Ó Doibhlín (Joined June 2025)
- Head of Finance and Chief Risk Officer: Kathleen Ruane

A Brief History of the National Library of Ireland



1877

The National Library of Ireland was established under the Dublin Science and Art Museum Act and was initially housed in the RDS premises in Leinster House, Kildare Street.



1890

The Library relocated into its newly built premises at 7/8 Kildare Street. The library of Dr Jasper Robert Joly was transferred to the National Library of Ireland from the RDS and formed the nucleus of the National Library of Ireland's collection. His extensive donation comprises books, manuscripts, prints, maps and sheet music.



1927

Received legal deposit status, entitling it to a copy of everything published in the Irish Free State.



1990

The Manuscripts Reading Room opened in the former premises of the Kildare Street Club (no. 2/3 Kildare Street).



1998

National Photographic Archive (NPA): opened in Temple Bar, as an exhibition premises for the photographic collection.



2005

Established as a National Cultural Institution with a Board replacing a Council of Trustees.



2017

Capital Development Project: *'Reimagining the National Library'* commences. It will transform the main building on Kildare Street with new exhibitions and spaces for learning and events.



2018

The NLI's *Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again* exhibition opens in the Bank of Ireland Cultural & Heritage Centre, College Green.

2019

Collaborated with University College Dublin (UCD) in setting up the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) in Newman House, St Stephen's Green.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

Financial Statements 2024

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Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

For the year ended 31st December 2024

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, Communications and Sport 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 the 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.

The NLI is a registered Charity. The Registered Charity Number of the NLI is 20206624 and the NLI has been granted charitable tax exemption.

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 NLI to prepare financial statements in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport and to keep all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these financial statements, the Board of the 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 the 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 the NLI at 31st December 2024. The Board approved the signing of this statement and the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024 on the 23rd October 2025.

Board Structure

The Board consists of a Chairperson and 11 ordinary members, all of whom were appointed by the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport. The Board members were appointed for a period of 3 or 5 years and meet 6 times per annum. The Table below details the appointment period of the Board members who served during the year ended 31st December 2024:

Board Members	Role	Date Appointed	Term Expiry Date	Additional Detail
Eoin McVey	Chairperson	Appointed as ordinary member on 8 February 2021, and appointed as Chairperson on 29 July 2021	7 February 2026	Royal Dublin Society Nominee Reappointed in 2021
Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh	Deputy Chairperson and Ordinary Member	29 July 2021	28 July 2026	
Dr Marie Bourke	Ordinary Member	8 February 2021	7 February 2026	Royal Dublin Society Nominee
Michael Diviney	Ordinary Member	10 May 2024	9 May 2029	
John Grenham	Ordinary Member	29 July 2021	28 July 2026	
Lisa Grimm	Ordinary Member	29 July 2021	28 July 2026	
Lorelei Harris	Ordinary Member	29 July 2021	28 July 2026	
Dr Brian Lang	Ordinary Member	10 May 2024	9 May 2029	
Prof Kalpana Shankar	Ordinary Member	29 July 2021	28 July 2026	
Caitriona Sharkey	Ordinary Member	29 July 2021	28 July 2026	
Genevieve Wyeth	Ordinary Member	10 May 2024	9 May 2029	
Elizabeth M. Kirwan	Ordinary Member	30 November 2023	Retired: 3 January 2025	NLI Staff Nominee

The Board completed an internal self-assessment effectiveness review in June 2025 and completed an external self-effectiveness review in September 2022. 28 recommendations arose from the Board's external self-effectiveness review in September 2022 which are in the process of being implemented.

Board sub-committees

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).

◆ The Readers Advisory Committee is made up of a Chairperson, who is a member of the Board of the NLI and five members, four of whom are external independent members and one being a Board member of the NLI. 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 three times during 2024. The members of the Readers Advisory Committee during 2024 were;

- Lorelei Harris (Chairperson)
- Lian Bell (external member)
- Michael Diviney (member – appointed 27th June 2024)
- Harry Hughes (external member)
- Liam O'Brien (external member)
- Prof Mary O'Dowd (external member)
- Dr Audrey Whitty (stepped down from Readers Advisory Committee on 26th June 2024)

◆ The Genealogy and Heraldry Committee comprise four board members and four external non-board members. The Director of the NLI and the Chief Herald of Ireland are also ex-officio 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 3 times during 2024. The members of the Genealogy and Heraldry Committee during 2024 were;

- John Grenham (Chairperson)
- Lisa Grimm
- Prof Kalpana Shankar
- Dr Marie Bourke
- Nicola Morris (external member)
- Dr Rachel Murphy (external member)
- Tony Hennessy (external member)
- Catriona Crowe (external member)
- Dr Audrey Whitty (ex-officio member)
- Colette O'Flaherty (ex-officio member)

◆ The ARC comprises three board members and two independent external members. 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. There were six meetings of the ARC in 2024. The members of the ARC during 2024 were;

- Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh (Chairperson)
- Dr Marie Bourke (resigned from ARC on 27th June 2024)
- Caitriona Sharkey
- Genevieve Wyeth (appointed on 28th June 2024)
- Prof Philip O'Regan (external independent member – a qualified accountant)
- Denis O'Connor (external independent member – appointed on 12th December 2024)

Schedule of Attendances, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance at the Board and Committee meetings for 2024 is set out below including the fees and expenses received by each member:

Board Member	Board	Audit & Risk Committee	Readers Advisory Committee	Genealogy & Heraldry Committee	Board Fees	Vouched Expenses
Number of meetings	6	6	3	3		
Eoin McVey	5/6				-	586
Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh	5/6	6/6				623
Dr Marie Bourke	5/6	2/3	3/3	-	98	
Michael Diviney	4/4		2/2			112
John Grenham	6/6		2/3	-	-	
Lisa Grimm	4/6		3/3	-	-	
Lorelei Harris	4/6		3/3	-	-	
Dr Brian Lang	3/4					-
Prof Kalpana Shankar	2/6		3/3	-	98	
Caitriona Sharkey	5/6	6/6		-		291
Genevieve Wyeth	3/4	3/3				-
Elizabeth M. Kirwan	6/6					186
					-	1,994

Prof Philip O'Regan attended 6/6 Audit and Risk Committee meeting during 2024.

The NLI does not pay fees to Board members.

Key Personnel Changes

Details of changes to the membership of the Board during 2024 are set out above under Board Structure. There were no changes to the senior leadership team during 2024.

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, NDP Delivery and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code:

- ◆ Employee short-term benefits breakdown – set out in note 5 (f) to the financial statements
- ◆ Consultancy costs – set out in note 6 (b) to the financial statements
- ◆ Legal costs and settlements – set out in note 6 (b) to the financial statements
- ◆ Travel and subsistence expenditure – set out in note 6 (a) to the Financial Statements
- ◆ Hospitality expenditure – The Income and Expenditure Account includes €386 spent on hospitality in 2024 (2023: €nil).

Statement of Compliance

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) and has put in place procedures to ensure compliance with the Code. The NLI operated in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for 2024.

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



Eoin McVey
Chairperson



Dr Audrey Whitty
Director

Date: 23rd October 2025

Statement on Internal Control

For the year ended 31st December 2024

Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of the National Library of Ireland (NLI), 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).

Shared Services

Payroll and human resource functions are provided on a shared services basis by the National Shared Service Office (Vote 18). The Accounting Officer of the National Shared Services Office is responsible for the operation of controls within the Shared Service Centres.

The Accounting Officer for Shared Services has put in place an audit process to provide independent assurance on the operation of controls within shared services. This assurance is a combination of:

- ◆ Internal audit work performed by the National Shared Service Office's Internal Audit Unit, and
- ◆ Audits conducted by a firm of accountants in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (ISAE 3402), designed to report to user departments and their auditors on the controls within shared services. These audits report on the effectiveness of controls operated in 2024.

The Accounting Officer for shared services has provided a letter of assurance on the internal control and audit arrangements and reports on the audits of the operation of controls during 2024.

The NLI takes assurance from the system of control within shared services as reported by the Accounting Officer for the National Shared Services Office.

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, NDP Delivery and Reform has been in place in the NLI for the year ended 31st December 2024 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The NLI has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprising three Board members and two external members, with financial and audit expertise. The ARC met six times in 2024.

The NLI 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 NLI'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 NLI 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 NLI's Board has retained risk management as a standing item on its meeting agenda. The Board reviewed and updated its risk management policy and risk appetite statement for the Library in 2024.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing the NLI 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 NLI has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that during 2024, the NLI complied with these procedures.

Review of Effectiveness

We confirm that the NLI has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. The NLI'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 NLI 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 2024 on 27th February 2025.

Internal Control Issues

There were no internal control weaknesses identified during 2024 (2023: none).

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



Eoin McVey
Chairperson



Dr Audrey Whitty
Director

Date: 23rd October 2025

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 2024 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 2024 and of its income and expenditure for 2024 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.

Mary Henry
For and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General

24 October 2025

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 annual 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.

I 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.

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.

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		€	€
INCOME			
Oireachtas Grants	2	10,583,909	12,303,347
Donations (Materials and Cash)	3	74,919	240,465
Net Deferred Pension Funding	7(c)	1,341,000	1,164,000
Other Income	4	241,310	275,695
Total Income		12,241,138	13,983,507
EXPENDITURE			
Remuneration	5	9,126,045	7,876,078
Administration and Operations	6	2,019,807	1,818,559
Programmes	8	918,079	1,337,541
Depreciation	11	96,848	364,260
Total Expenditure		12,160,779	11,396,438
Net Operating Surplus		80,359	2,587,069
Transfer to the Capital Account – Heritage Assets	10	(637,352)	(3,099,818)
Transfer to the Capital Account – Operational Fixed Assets	10	(189,111)	169,201
Deficit for year		(746,104)	(343,548)
Balance Brought Forward at 1 January		1,245,188	1,588,736
Balance Carried Forward at 31 December		499,084	1,245,188

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

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



Eoin McVey
Chairperson



Dr Audrey Whitty
Director

Date: 23rd October 2025

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		€	€
Deficit for year			
		(746,104)	(343,548)
Experience gains / (losses) on retirement benefit obligations	7(b)	254,000	(2,722,000)
Change in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations	7(b)	353,000	(2,333,000)
Total actuarial gain / (loss) in the year		607,000	(5,055,000)
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefits funding		(607,000)	5,055,000
Total Comprehensive Expense for the year		(746,104)	(343,548)

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

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



Eoin McVey
Chairperson



Dr Audrey Whitty
Director

Date: 23rd October 2025

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31st December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Non Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	11	527,066	337,955
Heritage Assets	12	32,194,422	31,557,070
		32,721,488	31,895,025
Current Assets			
Receivables	13	354,480	395,716
Cash and Cash Equivalents		928,729	1,562,184
		1,283,209	1,957,900
Current Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)			
Payables	14	784,125	712,712
Net Current Assets		499,084	1,245,188
Retirement Benefits			
Retirement Benefit Obligations	7(b)	(42,090,000)	(41,356,000)
Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding Asset	7(b)	42,090,000	41,356,000
Total Net Assets		33,220,572	33,140,213
Representing			
Capital Account			
Heritage Assets	10	32,194,422	31,557,070
Operational Fixed Assets	10	527,066	337,955
Retained Revenue Reserves		499,084	1,245,188
		33,220,572	33,140,213

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

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



Eoin McVey
Chairperson



Dr Audrey Whitty
Director

Date: 23rd October 2025

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Excess Expenditure over Income		(746,104)	(343,548)
Donated Materials		(46,000)	(234,050)
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	11	96,848	364,260
Decrease in Receivables		41,236	22,127
Increase / (decrease) in Payables		71,413	(25,656)
Increase in Capital Account		826,463	2,930,617
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities		243,856	2,713,750
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payments to acquire Fixed Assets	11	(285,959)	(195,059)
Payments to acquire Heritage Assets	12	(591,352)	(2,865,768)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		(877,311)	(3,060,827)
Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents		(633,455)	(347,077)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1 January		1,562,184	1,909,261
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December		928,729	1,562,184

Date: 23rd October 2025

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

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

(a) General Information

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

The NLI'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 library material in the collection of the 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 NLI is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

(b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of the NLI for the year ended 31st December 2024 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).

(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, Communications and Sport 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 NLI's financial statements.

As set out in Note 15, the National Library of Ireland Trust (the Trust) was established to aid the development of the NLI. 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.

Going Concern

The NLI incurred a deficit in both 2023 and 2024, which has reduced its accumulated reserves. The NLI is funded primarily through annual allocations from its parent Department, the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, which enables it to carry out its core activities and meet its financial obligations. In October 2025, the NLI received confirmation of its 2026 funding allocation from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, which provides for an increase on 2025 levels.

Based on this allocation and other information available to it at the date of approval of the financial statements, the Board has a reasonable expectation that the NLI will continue to operate as a going concern for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

(d) Revenue

Oireachtas Grants

Revenue from Oireachtas Grants, Sub-head B.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 NLI, 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) Furniture and Fittings	10% per annum
(ii) IT Equipment	25% per annum
(iii) Office and General Equipment	20% per annum
(iv) Exhibitions Operating	20% per annum or over life of exhibition

Property, plant and equipment below the capitalisation threshold of €10,000 (prior to 1st January 2022, capitalisation threshold of €1,000 applied) are expensed in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves in the year of purchase.

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 Revenue Reserves in the year.

The fixed assets of the NLI 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 NLI 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 NLI 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, Communications and Sport and from contributions deducted from staff members’ salaries. The NLI 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 1st January 2013. Single Scheme members’ contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees, and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by the NLI. 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, Communications and Sport.

The financial statements reflect – at fair value – the assets and liabilities arising from the NLI’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 NLI 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 Assets Capital Account as follows:

- ◆ Donations that do not impose specified future performance-related conditions on the NLI are recognised in income when the resources are received or receivable;
- ◆ Donations that do impose specified future performance-related conditions on the NLI 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 NLI. 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 NLI 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 NLI’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 NLI are determined by using valuation techniques. The NLI 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 Board 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 31st December 2024. 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, Communications and Sport or its successor entities.
- ◆ Pension contributions under the Single Scheme are remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery 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 2024 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:

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

2. Oireachtas Grants

The Oireachtas Grants voted to the NLI from Vote 33 of the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport (“the Department”) as shown in the financial statements consist of:

		2024	2023
	Sub-head	€	€
National Library of Ireland – Current	B.11	9,481,000	9,275,000
National Library of Ireland – Capital	B.11	478,000	478,000
Cultural Infrastructure and Development - Capital	B.7	525,909	2,540,347
Regional Museums, Galleries, Cultural Centres and Project - Current	B.6	90,000	10,000
Decade of Centenaries 1912-1922 – Current	B.15	9,000	-
		10,583,909	12,303,347

Grants under Sub-head B.11 are the NLI’s annual grants for operational purposes including pay, pensions, administrative and programme expenditure, collections and minor capital improvements.

The National Library of Ireland - Current B.11 grant of €9,481,000 (2023: €9,275,000) is stated net of retirement benefits contributions totalling €293,000 (2023: €242,000), €170,000 (2023: €145,000) remitted to the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport in respect of the NLI’s staff Additional Superannuation Contribution and €123,000 (2023: €97,000) remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform in respect of the single service retirement benefits scheme.

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

	2024	2023
	€	€
Paul Durcan (additional) archive	290,000	-
Michael Collins – Susan Killeen archive, 1915-1920	150,000	-
Reimagining the National Library – Capital Development	85,909	240,347
Andrew and Charlotte Bonar-Law: Collection of Maps and Topographical Prints of Ireland	-	2,300,000
	525,909	2,540,347

Income of €85,909 (2023: €240,347) 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 €8,477 (2023: €7,050) was outstanding at year end and is included in Accrued Income in Note 13.

3. Donations

	2024	2023
	€	€
Donated Materials	46,000	234,050
Donations – Cash	28,919	6,415
	74,919	240,465

Donations of collection items are capitalised if they are valued at €5,000 or more in accordance with the Collection Policy. During 2024, four donations were made to the NLI’s Special Collections valued at €5,000 or more and two donations were made to the NLI’s Published Collections valued at €5,000 or more and these are detailed in Note 8(a). In 2023, six donations were made to the NLI’s Special Collections valued at €5,000 or more and one donation was made to the NLI’s Published Collections valued at €5,000 or more. There were no donations made under Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (as amended by the Finance Act 2002) during 2024 (2023: none).

4. Other Income

	2024 €	2023 €
Copying Services	43,452	40,996
Royalties and Reproduction Services	17,936	22,093
Heraldry Income	23,945	29,195
Direct Costs of Heraldry	(23,945)	(49,484)
Genealogy Income	5,700	6,700
Heritage Council Grant	13,000	12,250
SOLAS Apprenticeship Employer Grant	1,000	-
Environmental Protection Agency Funding	18,375	-
Direct costs of Photographer in Residence Programme	(18,375)	-
Heaney Exhibition Retail Income	27,476	31,248
Heaney Exhibition Retail Costs	(18,321)	(17,333)
Sponsorship	150,000	200,000
Miscellaneous Income	1,067	30
	241,310	275,695

Income of €150,000 (2023: €200,000) was recognised in relation to sponsorship provided by Bank of Ireland. This represents the Bank's contribution towards the operation of the NLI's exhibition Seamus Heaney:Listen Now Again. The Exhibition is housed in Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre in its premises on College Green, Dublin 2. An amount of €150,000 (2023: €200,000) was outstanding at year end and is included in Debtors at Note 13.

5. Remuneration

(a) Aggregate Employee Benefits

	2024 €	2023 €
Staff short-term benefits	6,419,162	5,395,773
Termination benefits	-	-
Retirement benefit costs	2,106,000	2,007,000
Employer PRSI	600,883	473,305
Aggregate Employee Benefits	9,126,045	7,876,078

The total number of staff employed (Full-Time-Equivalents or FTEs) at year end was 119 (2023: 108).

(b) Staff Short-Term Benefits

	2024 €	2023 €
Basic pay	6,298,043	5,273,885
Overtime	17,060	17,023
Allowances	104,059	104,865
	6,419,162	5,395,773

The staff Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC) for 2024 was €169,879 (2023: €144,738).

(c) Termination Benefits

No termination benefits were paid in 2024 (2023: €nil).

(d) Key Management Personnel

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 Estates; the Head of Human Resources; the Head of Published Collections; the Keeper of Special Collections and Chief Herald of Ireland; the Head of Exhibitions, Learning and Programming; the Head of Communications and Development; the Head of Finance and Chief Risk Officer; the Head of Digital Collections and the Head of Service Delivery. The Library does not pay fees to Board members. The total value of employee benefits for key management personnel is set out below:

	2024 €	2023 €
Salary	921,147	866,882
Allowances	14,965	21,322
	936,112	888,204

This does not include the value of retirement benefits earned in the period. The remuneration package for key management personnel also includes standard public sector pension arrangements and their entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public service pension scheme.

(e) Director Remuneration

The Director's remuneration package for the financial period was as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
Director (appointed February 2023)	127,868	104,757
Acting Director (appointed March 2022, resigned January 2023)	-	12,412
	127,868	117,169

This does not include the value of retirement benefits earned in the period. The remuneration package also includes standard public sector pension arrangements and the Director's entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public service pension scheme. There are no bonuses or Benefits-in-Kind applicable to this position.

(f) Employee short-term benefits breakdown

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

Range of total employee benefits		Number of Employees	
From	To	2024	2023
€60,000	- €69,999	14	8
€70,000	- €79,999	13	14
€80,000	- €89,999	6	2
€90,000	- €99,999	2	3
€100,000	- €109,999	2	1
€110,000	- €119,999	0	0
€120,000	- €129,999	1	0
€130,000	- €139,999	0	0

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.

6. Administration and Operations

	Note	2024	2023
		€	€
Travel and Subsistence Expenditure	6(a)	31,429	25,837
Staff Training and Development		47,214	62,030
Diversity and Inclusion Policy Expenditure		7,655	13,109
Electricity, Cleaning and Utilities		474,748	445,385
Communications and IT		585,242	499,340
Security		276,927	243,188
Consultancy Costs	6(b)	336,849	257,779
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses		32,395	37,209
Storage Costs		105,532	111,734
Office Expenses		65,675	58,281
Repairs and Maintenance		35,109	38,456
Foreign Exchange Rate Losses		1,077	6,513
Prompt Payment Interest		920	2,030
Outsourced Service Costs		19,035	17,668
		2,019,807	1,818,559

(a) Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:		2024	2023
		€	€
Domestic	Board Members	4,874	1,101
	Staff	7,512	6,622
International	Board Members	375	-
	Staff	18,668	18,114
		31,429	25,837

(b) Consultancy Costs

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

	2024	2023
	€	€
Consultancy	237,326	107,362
Financial	-	51,303
Audit	47,441	46,201
- External Audit	24,000	23,000
- Internal Audit	23,441	23,301
Legal	36,713	17,424
Translation	15,369	35,489
	336,849	257,779

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

7. Retirement Benefit Costs**(a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves**

	2024	2023
	€	€
Gross Current Service Cost	1,050,000	875,000
Interest Cost	1,486,000	1,487,000
Employee Contributions	(430,000)	(355,000)
	2,106,000	2,007,000

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

	2024 €	2023 €
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	41,356,000	35,137,000
Current Service Cost	1,050,000	875,000
Interest Cost	1,486,000	1,487,000
Actuarial (Gain) / Loss – Financial Assumptions	(353,000)	2,333,000
Actuarial (Gain) / Loss – Experience	(254,000)	2,722,000
Benefits Paid	(1,195,000)	(1,198,000)
Closing Defined Benefit Obligation	42,090,000	41,356,000

(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:

	2024 €	2023 €
Funding recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	2,536,000	2,362,000
State grant applied to pay retirement benefits	(1,195,000)	(1,198,000)

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31st December 2024 amounts to €42.1m (2023: €41.4m).

(d) History of defined benefit obligations

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Defined Benefit Obligations	42,090	41,356	35,137	52,910	48,403
Experience Gains / (Losses) on Defined Benefit Scheme Liabilities	254	(2,722)	303	(1,382)	313
Percentage of Plan Liabilities	0.6%	(6.6%)	0.9%	(2.6%)	0.6%

(e) General description of the schemes

The NLI'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 65th 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 NLI and it is a defined benefit pension scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1st 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 in February 2025 by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31st December 2024.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

	2024	2023
Inflation	2.00%	2.10%
Rate of general long-term increase in salaries	3.00%	3.10%
Rate of increase in state benefits	2.50%	2.60%
Rate of increase in deferred benefits	2.50%	2.60%
Pension increases	2.50%	2.60%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	3.60%	3.60%

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 2024 and 2044.

Year of attaining age 65	2024	2044
Life expectancy – male	21.7	23.3
Life expectancy – female	24.2	25.7

8. Programmes

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Special Collections			
Special Collection Acquisitions	8(a)	69,292	123,755
Conservation		66,951	65,103
Cataloguing Project		26,783	65,434
		163,026	254,292
Published Collections			
Published Collection Acquisitions	8(a)	126,073	216,290
Irish Research Council Enterprise Mentorship scheme		16,609	5,448
Processing and Binding		2,975	5,502
		145,657	227,240
Service Delivery			
Reader Services		86,440	93,051
Family History Services		4,983	6,076
		91,423	99,127
Exhibitions, Learning and Programming			
Heaney Exhibition – ‘Listen Now Again’		42,541	65,542
Public Programmes, Communications, and Engagement		29,527	63,076
William Butler Yeats Exhibition		5,169	8,704
Other Exhibitions		1,312	22,539
		78,549	159,861
Heraldry			
Heraldry Materials		-	3,898
		-	3,898
Digital Collections			
Digitisation		18,998	106,937
Library Equipment and Maintenance		15,790	14,247
Born Digital Collections		5,355	7,971
		40,143	129,155
Development Office			
Communications, PR and Promotion		283,379	314,917
		283,379	314,917
Capital Development Building Project			
Masterplan Capital Project ¹		64,052	-
Reimagining the National Library Refundable Expenses		51,850	149,051
		115,902	149,051
		918,079	1,337,541

(a) Acquisitions

	Note	2024 €
Special Collections acquisitions funded through Current Grant		
◆ Manuscripts		60,252
◆ Prints and Drawings		4,676
◆ Photographs		2,500
◆ Ephemera		1,864
		69,292
Published Collections acquisitions funded through Current Grant		
◆ Books		75,144
◆ Antiquarian and Rare Books		31,312
◆ Newspapers		15,046
◆ Periodicals		4,571
		126,073
Special Collections acquisitions funded through Capital Grant		
Manuscripts		
◆ Paul Durcan (additional) archive		290,000
◆ Richard Robert Madden archive		108,000
◆ George, Earl Macartney manuscript volume		24,621
◆ Pluto Press archive		22,745
◆ Dowell family archive, 1815-1850		14,750
◆ Letters of Seamus Heaney and Harry Thomas, 1993-2004		11,598
◆ Margaret Barrington and Liam O’Flaherty archive		10,833
◆ Mansfield estate archive		6,250
		488,797
Special Collections acquisitions funded through Capital Grant		
Visual		
◆ The Late Night Writers Club archive		25,000
◆ Ross O’Carroll Kelly (additional) archive		6,500
		31,500
Special Collections acquired through donation		
◆ Liam Ó Briain and Eileen Mary O’Brien papers		8,000
◆ Michael and Anne Yeats papers, 1968-2019		6,000
◆ Letters from Seamus Heaney to Brian and Anne Friel, 1989-1999		6,000
◆ An Post Museum Archive - Ephemera		6,000
◆ An Post Museum Archive - Manuscripts		4,000
		30,000

¹ Costs relating to strategic and economic review of modernising collection storage in the NLI

	Note	2024 €
Published Collections acquired through donation		
♦ Rolf and Magda Loeber collection of Irish literary texts		9,000
♦ An Post Archive (Collection of books and periodicals on the workings of An Post and postal services)		7,000
	12(f)	16,000
Service Delivery acquisitions funded through Capital Grant		
♦ Digitised Archival Database		32,912
	12(f)	32,912
Digital Collections acquisitions funded through Capital Grant		
♦ Web Archiving		38,143
	12(f)	38,143
Total Acquisitions		832,717

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 NLI 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 NLI'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 2024 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.

9. Commitments

There was no contractual commitments in place at 31st December 2024 (2023: none).

10. Capital Account

(a) Heritage Assets

	2024 €	2023 €
At 1 January	31,557,070	28,457,252
Transfer from/(to) the Statement of Income and Expenditure & Retained Revenue Reserves		
To fund Heritage Assets acquired	591,352	2,865,768
Heritage Assets donated	46,000	234,050
	637,352	3,099,818
At 31 December (Note 12 (f))	32,194,422	31,557,070

(b) Operational Fixed Assets

	2024 €	2023 €
At 1 January	337,955	507,156
Transfer from/(to) the Statement of Income and Expenditure & Retained Revenue Reserves		
To fund Fixed Asset purchases	285,959	195,059
Amortisation in line with asset depreciation	(96,848)	(364,260)
	189,111	(169,201)
At 31 December (Note 11)	527,066	337,955

11. Property, Plant and Equipment

	IT Equipment €	Equipment €	Furniture & Fittings €	Exhibitions Operating or in course of construction €	Total €
Cost					
At 1 January	990,751	1,163,512	822,337	1,496,015	4,472,615
Additions	257,423	28,536	-	-	285,959
Disposals	-	-	(15,315)	-	(15,315)
At 31 December	1,248,174	1,192,048	807,022	1,496,015	4,743,259
 Depreciation					
At 1 January	956,694	930,015	751,936	1,496,015	4,134,660
Disposals	-	-	(15,315)	-	(15,315)
Charge for the year	16,383	65,886	14,579	-	96,848
At 31 December	973,077	995,901	751,200	1,496,015	4,216,193
 Net Book Value					
At 1 January	34,057	233,497	70,401	-	337,955
Net movement for the year	241,040	(37,350)	(14,579)	-	189,111
At 31 December	275,097	196,147	55,822	-	527,066

(a) General information note

Cost or valuation at the beginning and end of the year include assets acquired for less than €10,000 prior to 1st January 2022.

Equipment additions of €28,536 were funded through the Cultural Infrastructure and Development Fund (Sub-head B.7).

(b) Exhibitions operating or in the course of construction

The balance of exhibitions operating or in the course of construction as at 31st December 2024 relates to the NLI's exhibition *Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again* that launched on 4th July 2018. This is a collaborative project between the NLI, the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport 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 2027, following approval received in early 2025 to extend the exhibition to December 2027.

12. 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 NLI.

- ◆ The principal functions of the Board of the NLI are to conserve, restore, maintain and enlarge the library material in the collection of the NLI 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 NLI has the power to enlarge the collections of the Library.
- ◆ The Board of the NLI 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 NLI 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 NLI'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 NLI'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 NLI'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, 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, rare and antiquarian 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 NLI 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 NLI has the power to enlarge the collections of the NLI 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 NLI receives important donations to the collections. Donations are subject to appraisal in line with the criteria set out the NLI'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 NLI. 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 NLI'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 NLI'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 NLI. 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 NLI 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 NLI does not normally dispose of material from the collections.

(f) Analysis of Acquisitions

As outlined in the Accounting Policies (Note 1, (h)), the NLI 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 2024 and the previous four accounting periods are set out below.

	Manuscripts	Digital	Visual	Printed	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
Cost or Valuation:					
At 1 January	20,896,245	3,418,706	5,432,031	1,810,088	31,557,070
Purchases	488,797	71,055	31,500	-	591,352
Donation Materials	24,000	-	6,000	16,000	46,000
At 31 December	21,409,042	3,489,761	5,469,531	1,826,088	32,194,422

(g) Five Year Financial Summary of Heritage Asset Transactions

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
	€	€	€	€	€
Additions					
Manuscripts	512,797	660,269	167,671	872,793	696,949
Digital	71,055	41,637	75,834	80,026	94,631
Visual	37,500	2,352,187	61,680	88,300	-
Printed	16,000	45,725	30,057	10,565	30,482
	637,352	3,099,818	335,242	1,051,684	822,062

13. Receivables

	2024	2023
	€	€
Debtors	175,450	237,650
Prepayments	170,553	151,016
Accrued Income (Note 2)	8,477	7,050
	354,480	395,716

14. Payables

	2024	2023
	€	€
Accruals	364,957	284,927
Taxation and Social Welfare	213,660	168,007
Trade Creditors	114,201	154,022
Deferred Revenue	91,307	105,756
	784,125	712,712

15. Related Party Disclosures

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

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

One NLI Board member has an interest in a company which provided services to the NLI to the value of €493 (2023: €493).

The National Library of Ireland Trust (the Trust), a company limited by guarantee without share capital was established to aid the development of the NLI and to acquire printed books, manuscripts, and other material, by Irish people or relating to Ireland. The NLI and the Trust are related parties as the majority of the Trustees are either current members of the NLI Board or management team. The NLI 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 30th April 2024 which record expenditure of €4,347 (2023: €4,433); income of €nil (2023: €nil); and year end retained revenue reserves/net assets of €456,311 (2023: €460,461). The Trust provided funding of €13,850 to the NLI in December 2024 to advance a specific Digital Collections project. There were no other transactions between the Trust and the NLI during 2024.

16. Contingent Liabilities

The NLI is involved in a personal injury claim which is being handled by the State Claims Agency. An amount has been provided within Accruals in Note 14 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

The NLI Staff Nominee to the Board, Elizabeth M. Kirwan retired from the NLI in January 2025. On 16th April 2025, the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport appointed Liz Coffey as the NLI Staff Nominee to the Board.

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

18. Going Concern

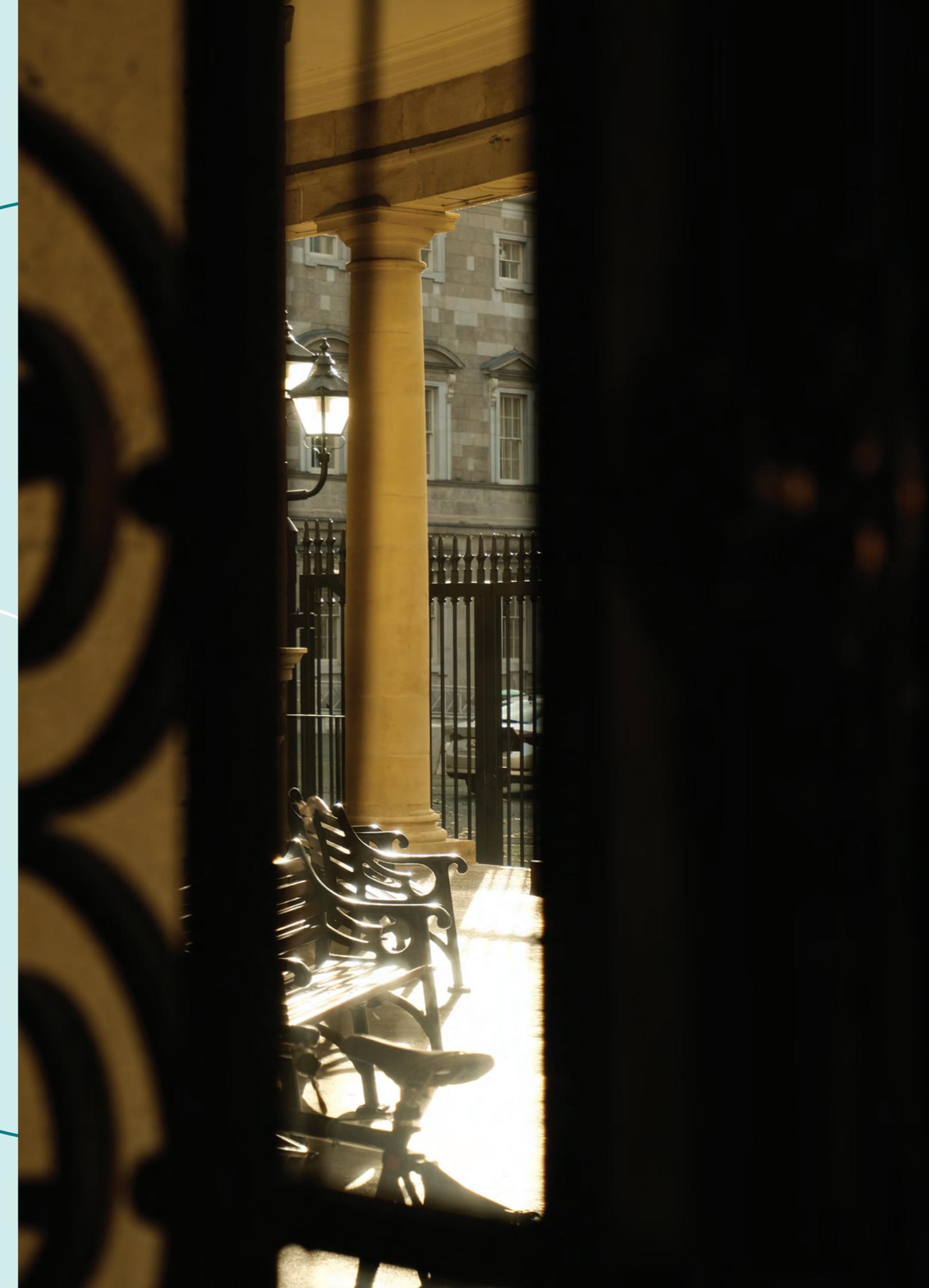
The Board has considered the financial position of the NLI as part of its review of the 2024 financial statements. The NLI incurred a deficit in both 2023 and 2024, which has reduced its accumulated reserves.

The NLI is funded primarily through annual allocations from its parent Department, the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, which enables it to carry out its core activities and meet its financial obligations. In October 2025, the NLI received confirmation of its 2026 funding allocation from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, which provides for an increase on 2025 levels.

Based on this allocation and other information available to it at the date of approval of the financial statements, the Board is satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the 2024 financial statements on a going concern basis.

19. Approval of the Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of the NLI on the 23rd October 2025.



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 twelve 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 of Ireland for 2022-2026 are to collect, protect, reveal, engage and innovate.

Further information is available at www.nli.ie

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