



*Leabharlann
Náisiúnta
na hÉireann*

National Library
of Ireland

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

Annual Report 2023



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

Annual Report 2023



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Cover Image: Manuscripts Reading Room, Myles Shelly

Chairperson's Remarks

Throughout an eventful 2023, the National Library of Ireland (NLI) made significant progress under each of our five strategic pillars—collect, protect, reveal, engage and innovate.

We were especially pleased to see work on the NLI's Capital Development Programme progress. The Manuscripts Reading Room and Art Room were opened following refurbishment work. A planning application for the development of the West Wing was lodged with Dublin City Council in September 2023 and permission was granted in January 2024. When completed, the development will deliver much more public space and greatly increase the NLI's offering.

Reinforcing our commitment to develop our communications across multiple platforms, the NLI launched an entirely redesigned website, www.nli.ie. This award-winning website features more ways of inspiring people and revealing all that the NLI has to offer.

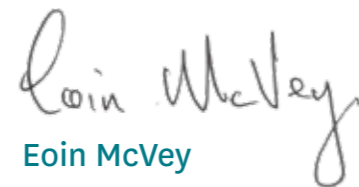
Important acquisitions enhanced the collection. A highlight was the acquisition of the *Bonar Law Collection* of 10,000 maps and some 9,000 prints, the most comprehensive visual record of Ireland in existence. The purchase was made possible through special funds allocated by Minister Catherine Martin TD, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Under a loan agreement, the collection is housed in the Boole Library, at University College Cork.

Other areas of note last year included the centenary of WB Yeats being awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.

The NLI engaged in two major collaborations—a series of lectures presented by us as partners in a programme with the Yeats Society, supported by funding from the Department, and a collaboration with the Seanad to reflect Yeats' literary and political achievements through the creation of a series of readings of his poems and Seanad speeches. Another achievement was the NLI's newly adopted Digital Preservation Policy, which is a national benchmark for Ireland's digital culture.

On behalf of the Board and myself, I would like to thank Minister Catherine Martin and her officials for their valued support. Our thanks too to the Office of Public Works, who continued to work assiduously with us in progressing the Capital Development Programme and in maintaining our facilities in first-class condition.

I would like to pay tribute to Professor Maeve Conrick, Dr Conor Kostick, and Jennifer Taaffe, who stepped down in 2023 after eight years of dedicated service, over two terms, as NLI Board Members. Finally, I would like to thank the Director, Dr Audrey Whitty and all her staff for their continued hard work and dedication throughout the year.



Eoin McVey



Director's Foreword

My first year as Director was busy and memorable. This report captures some of the highlights. The National Library of Ireland's (NLI) unique collections are at the heart of everything we do and are accessible to all. They record Ireland's memory, allowing us to share the stories of Ireland with the world.

A highlight of 2023 was the One Family, formerly known as Cherish, archive donation. One Family is Ireland's national organisation for one-parent families. Dating from Cherish's establishment in the early 1970s through to the early 2000s, the archive provides a wide-ranging insight into the experiences and challenges of lone-parent families during that time. Such donations are vital in addressing critical gaps within our national collections.

We also continued to capture Irish online life by archiving the Irish web. In 2023, we added 6.15 TB of data to the NLI's Selective Web Archive.

Throughout 2023, we welcomed visitors to our buildings to research in our reading rooms and attend performances, lectures, panel discussions and tours.

The NLI works with partners in order to achieve more together than we ever could alone. A standout initiative this year was the launch of the inaugural photographer-in-residence award, a collaboration between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the NLI.

This residency allows a photographer to creatively engage with our collections and produce original digital work, which will become part of the NLI photographic collections. Collaboration with external institutions is fundamental to the NLI's mission, driving innovation and expanding our reach.

Reflecting on the past year, I am filled with pride in our achievements. I am inspired by the potential of what is yet to come as we progress our development of the West Wing space along with new exhibitions and partnerships, whilst continuing to care for and grow the national collections. It is an honour to lead this vibrant institution that plays such a crucial role in the cultural life of our nation.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our numerous donors who help us enrich the national collections.

Finally, I would also like to thank the Chairperson, the Board and my colleagues on the NLI staff for their consummate professionalism and unwavering commitment throughout the year.



Dr Audrey Whitty





2023

at a glance

COLLECTING + CATALOGING




6.15
Terabytes of Irish website data collected

ITEMS DIGITISED THIS YEAR
 **7,000**
Digitised items added to the online catalogue

TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS DIGITISED
 **167,000**
Digitised items now available online

7,336
Newspapers
3,032
Serials acquired




3,995
Books acquired


14,000
Records added to our collections

95%
Of published collections acquired in 2023 were catalogued

85%
Of special collections acquired in 2023 were catalogued

VISITORS + ENGAGEMENT

ONSITE RESEARCHERS

19,918 

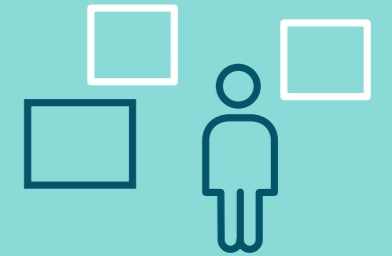
Main Reading Room

Manuscripts Reading Room

Family History Room

ONSITE VISITORS TO EXHIBITIONS

141,003
(Excludes MoLI figures)







ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

1 New website launched 

NLI website views: **927,104****
Flickr views: **7,004,698**


**Year-on-year decrease due to transition between analytics providers in March 2023

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

 35,531  49,287
 26,598  2,976

10.3% Growth across platforms

COLLABORATIONS + INITIATIVES

 Energy savings **52.7%**

Compared to baseline of 2009, as reported by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

51  Collaborative projects

Collect

The National Library of Ireland (NLI) is the library of record for Ireland. We care for over twelve million items, including books, newspapers, photographs, maps, ephemera, drawings, manuscripts, and digital-born material.

The national collection continues to grow through a combination of purchased and donated materials and our expansive legal depository.

The expansion of the NLI's collections is fundamental to our work. Throughout 2023, we continued to enhance these collections through donations and acquisitions. Noteworthy additions include:

- The archive of American illustrator Margaret Anne Suggs, featuring her illustrations from Kathleen Watkins' *Pigin of Howth* book series.
- Artwork from Chris Judge, an award-winning Dublin-based illustrator and author known for works such as *The Lonely Beast* series, *TiN*, and *Brilliant*.
- The papers of the late Irish writer Val Mulherns (1925–2018), containing drafts from her critically acclaimed novels and short stories.

Recent additions to our five million-plus photograph collection include:

- *Marnell-Dunne Collection* (1830-2022): Chronicles the Marnell and Dunne families from Dublin tenements to Belfast, including their World War I service.
- *Veronica Rowe Collection* (1882-1916): Compiled by Florence Vere O'Brien showcasing her work in healthcare and lacemaking in County Clare.
- *Owen Kiernan Collection* (1850-1900): Used by Owen Kiernan in lectures across the UK to support Irish nationalism.
- *Bluett Collection* (silent cinema era to 2020s): Compiled by Liam Bluett, featuring over 520 autographed photographs.

Our commitment to documenting all aspects of Irish life was further strengthened this year with the addition of the archive from One Family, Ireland's national organisation for one-parent families, previously known as Cherish.



Liam Bluett donation event



One Family / Cherish donation event

Spanning from its inception in the early 1970s to the early 2000s, this archive offers insight into the lives and challenges faced by one-parent families over these decades. Additionally, we received the personal archive of LGBTQ+ advocate and social justice campaigner Michael Barron. His papers chronicle his impactful work with BeLonG To, an organisation supporting LGBTQ+ youth, and EQUATE, which champions children’s rights.

As the year concluded, we were pleased to acquire the *Bonar Law Collection*, featuring an array of maps, topographical prints, and political cartoons. This acquisition was made possible through special funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Under a loan agreement, the collection is housed at University College Cork. Additionally, we acquired the O’Brien Press publishing archive, which includes thousands of items ranging from manuscripts and first editions of O’Brien Press titles to original artwork, covering the period from 1974 to 2023.

Digital Collections

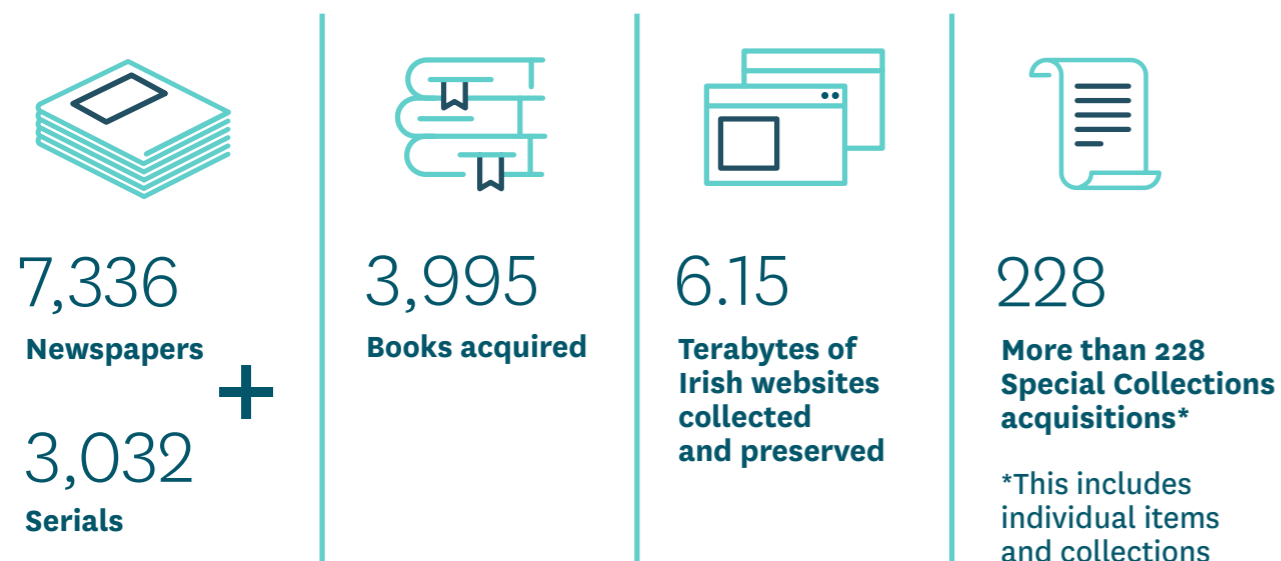
Information exchange increasingly occurs in digital form. Like our counterparts around the world, the NLI is tackling the challenge of collecting, preserving, and providing access to this digital material. We have actively preserved digitised material and websites since the early 2010s.

Notable acquisitions to the published collections included limited editions of books by John Millington Synge, dating from 1909 to 1910, printed for John Quinn, a patron of literature and the arts. We also acquired the La Touche family library, which includes 170 rare books from the 18th and 19th centuries, covering history, religion, geography, and literature. Kingsmill Bond generously donated this material.

We were delighted to receive a donation of Ukrainian literature from the Ukrainian Embassy in Ireland. Additionally, Literature Ireland presented the National Library with a collection of titles by Irish authors that have been translated into Ukrainian. Operating since 1995, Literature Ireland has funded the translation of over 2,000 works of Irish literature into 56 languages. These translations are a significant addition to the NLI’s collections.

This year, work progressed on collecting digital material that explore the COVID-19 pandemic, gender equality and areas of cultural interest such as film, music and sports.

2023 Acquisitions



Ukrainian donation event



O'Brien Press donation

Protect

Collection care is a core function of the National Library of Ireland (NLI). This work necessitates a range of specialist preservation actions and conservation treatment providing fit-for-purpose collection storage to digital preservation, security and disaster recovery planning. These critical tasks underpin all we do and ensure we keep the national collections safe and accessible for today's users and for future generations.

Conservation and Preservation

In 2023, the Conservation Department played a key role in preserving the national collections. The team treated various items, from manuscripts to three-dimensional artworks, ensuring their preservation and accessibility.



The team condition-checked and repaired all items selected for digitisation, conducted preservation assessments on large off-site collections like the *Bonar Law Collection*, and implemented checks for materials used in our reading rooms. Training for Special Collections staff was prioritised alongside practical steps like archival boxing and storage improvements.

Additionally, the team prepared materials for exhibitions and loans to various institutions, including Carrickfergus Museum and the National Gallery of Ireland. Conservation staff also participated in key conferences, served on important committees, and featured in the RTÉ documentary *Ireland's Hidden Treasures*.

Digital Preservation Policy

In November, we published our first Digital Preservation Policy, which represents a formalisation of existing and emerging practices within the NLI. The policy is an important recognition of the need to continuously improve our digital preservation capability to ensure continued access to our digitised and born-digital collections. These include twelve years of born-digital web archive collections that document the online life of Ireland.

Despite changing formats since the NLI's founding in 1877, our mission remains to collect, protect, and share Ireland's recorded memory. With over two decades of digitised material creation, the NLI now offers access to 167,000 items through its online catalogue.



A member of the NLI's Conservation Department



Digital Preservation Policy 2023

Reveal

The National Library of Ireland (NLI) has been revealing the story of Ireland for almost 150 years. We have family history services and research spaces for Published and Special Collections. We also reach beyond our physical buildings, as cataloguing and digital access makes our collections available to an unprecedented number of users. Cataloguing remains one of our core functions, ensuring the visibility of the NLI's holdings globally, while digitisation allows users to access materials from anywhere.

Items digitised in 2023	7,000
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Records added to our collections in 2023	14,000
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Digitisation Highlights

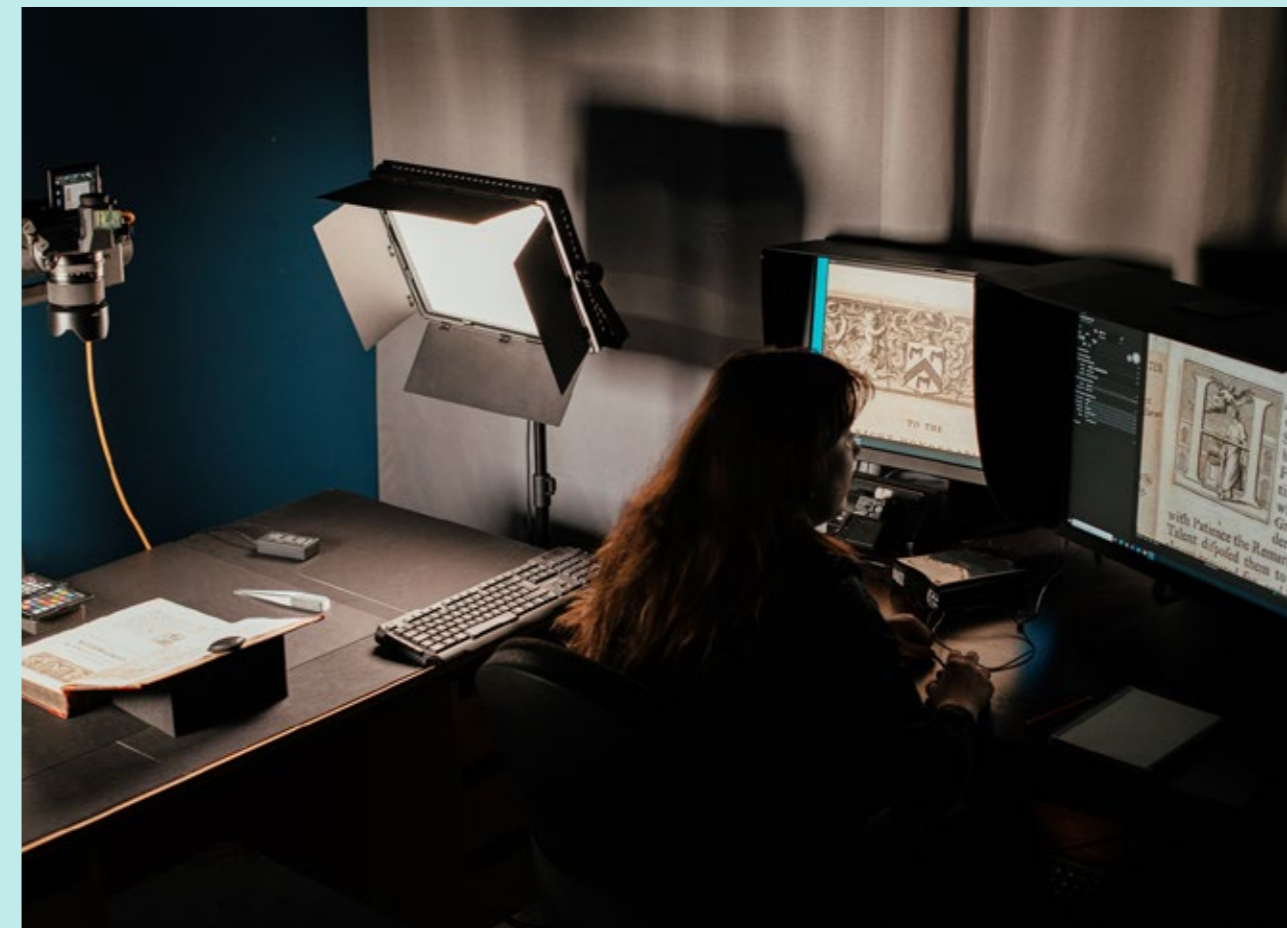
Our digitisation programme made over 7,000 items, including books, photographs, and manuscripts available in 2023. A particular focus this year was on digitising bound volumes from the *Genealogical Office Manuscript Collection* and the *Kilmainham Papers*.

Building Programme

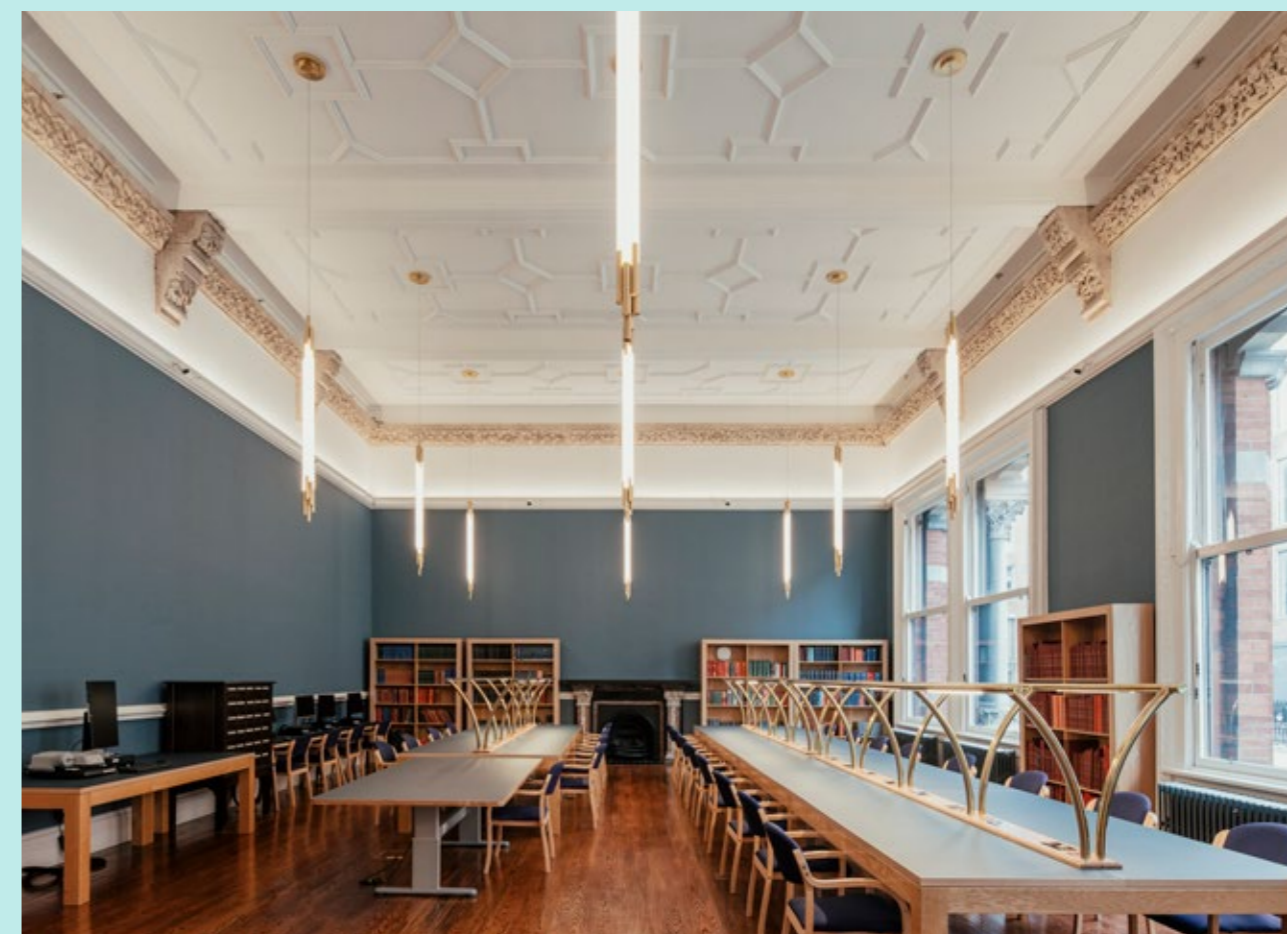
Our multi-year 'Reimagining the National Library' Capital Development Project is our most ambitious project since we opened our doors in 1890. We made significant progress on this project in 2023.

In partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, two new public spaces were opened to the public in June. The Manuscripts Reading Room and the Art Room, have been sustainably restored and repurposed, marking critical advancements in the ongoing, large-scale redevelopment of the NLI. Work commenced to create a new fully accessible lecture theatre.

A planning application for refurbishment works and a new extension in the West Wing of the NLI was lodged with Dublin City Council and the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland in September 2023. The proposed redevelopment will include the conservation, refurbishment, and adaptation of the West Wing of the building into a new publicly accessible cultural space. There will be a new extension in the rear courtyard and refurbishment of the West Wing of the main building on six floors to facilitate universal access to new exhibition galleries and event spaces, a bespoke learning centre, a café, a retail space and additional public facilities.



Kilmainham Papers in the digitisation process



New Manuscripts Reading Room

The West Wing is a former book storage area. The refurbishment project will focus on sustainability and sensitivity to the Victorian-era building's architectural heritage.

With the support of Minister Martin and her Department, this project will be a transformational redevelopment for the NLI, enhancing our historic building for significant new uses for everyone to enjoy.

Studentships Programme

Each year, the NLI offers a limited number of studentships and internships to suitable applicants. Since its inception in 1999, the programme has collaborated with various bodies and organisations. Key partners include the UCD School of Library and Information Studies, the UCD School of History, the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences, and the Heritage Council.



Minister Catherine Martin with Eoghan Ó Carragáin at the launch of the Art Room



Exhibition space concept proposal. Image credit: Digital Dimensions



Retail space concept proposal. Image credit: Digital Dimension

Engage

The National Library of Ireland’s tradition of welcome underpins everything we do. At the heart of our mission is public engagement, which we illustrate through exhibitions, events, tours, learning activities, and our Reading Rooms. These initiatives foster inclusive engagement with the valuable collections we hold in trust.

Onsite Visitor Numbers

Researchers	
Main Reading Room	14,676
Manuscripts Reading Room	2,647
Family History Room	2,595
Exhibitions	
<i>Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again</i>	57,598
National Photographic Archive	20,977*
<i>Yeats: The Life and Works of WB Yeats</i>	62,428
Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI)	30,410
*Closed for month of January	
Events	
<i>Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again</i>	2,906
Kildare Street Campus and National Photographic Archive	5,021

Overview of the National Library of Ireland’s engagement platforms

Social media continues to enable us to reach an online audience and 2023 saw high levels of engagement across our platforms. LinkedIn and Instagram played significant roles in connecting with our audience and expanding our reach.

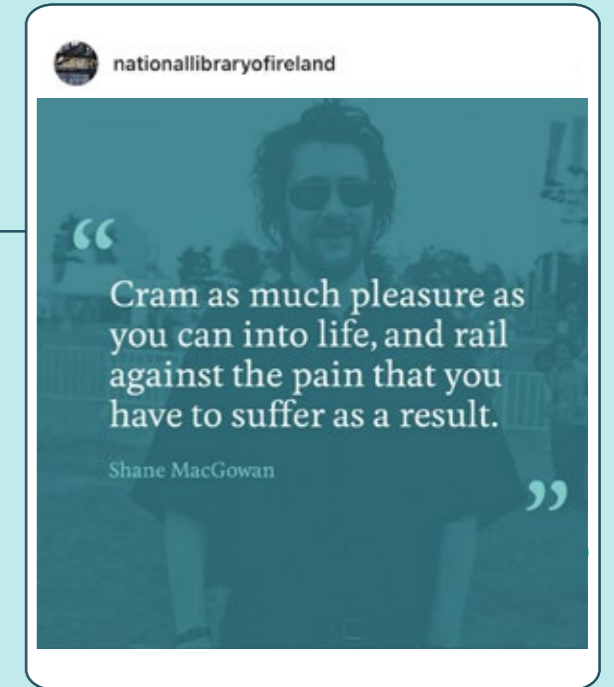


Top Social Media Posts

Top Instagram Post

Shane MacGowan tribute

- 1.6k likes
- 20.6k views



Top Facebook Post

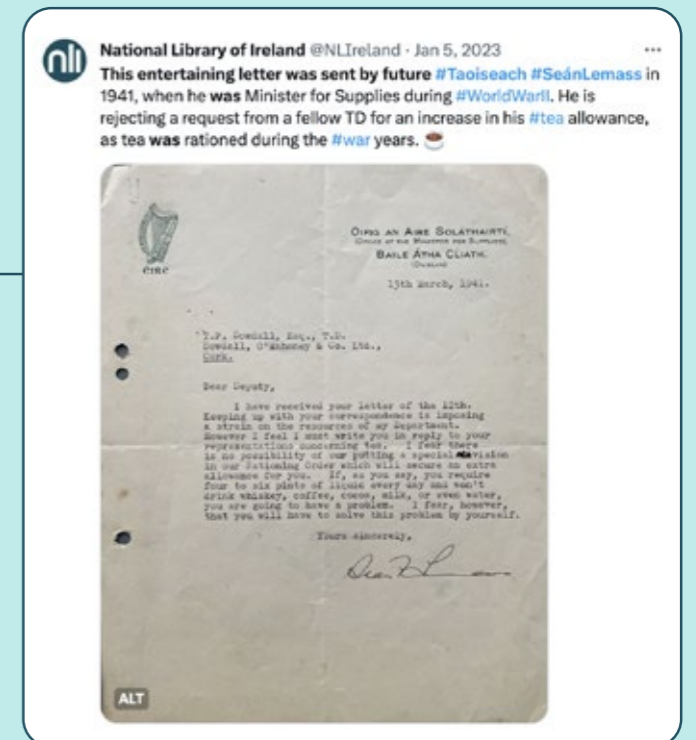
World Sight Day

- 1.4k likes
- 159 shares
- 110k views

Top Twitter/X Post

New acquisition: letter from Seán Lemass

- 304 likes
- 109 retweets
- 56k views



Exhibitions, Events and Engagements 2023

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 one of the twentieth century's greatest poets. It also explores Yeats' many fascinating interests, including literature, folklore, theatre, politics and the occult.



Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again

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

- ◆ Since opening at the Bank of Ireland Cultural and Heritage Centre in July 2018, the exhibition has welcomed more than a quarter of a million visitors, both in person and online. This partnership project between the NLI, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, and the Bank of Ireland draws on the NLI's extensive archive of Heaney documents.
- ◆ As part of our fifth anniversary celebrations, we launched *Le Grá, Seamus*, a temporary exhibition of the Des and Mary Kavanagh Postcard Collection in July. This exhibition displays a selection of postcards sent by Seamus and his wife, Marie, to their lifelong friends Des and Mary Kavanagh, over many decades.



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

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

- ◆ January saw the launch of a new photographic exhibition *People & Places: Ireland in the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries*. The exhibition captures the social, cultural, and technological changes across Ireland from the middle of the 19th century to right up to the present day.
- ◆ A series of curator's tours were held over the summer and the autumn.

TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS

In 2023, the NLI continued to extend its reach through our 'Borrow a Banner' exhibitions. These displays contain information and reproductions of NLI exhibitions, allowing us to share our collections nationally and internationally.

Highlights included:

SEAMUS HEANEY: LISTEN NOW AGAIN

- ◆ Lund University, Stockholm
- ◆ Irish Embassy, Zagreb
- ◆ Bulgarian National Library

LIVING WITH PRIDE: PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRISTOPHER ROBSON

- ◆ County Library Tallaght, Dublin
- ◆ Featured at Bród 93/23, Dublin

Other exhibitions travelled around the country, reaching counties including Wicklow, Cavan, and Mayo.

Exhibitions, Events and Engagements 2023

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.

Some highlights from our programmes are included below.



DIRECTOR'S TOURS

Newly appointed Director, Dr Audrey Whitty, led a series of popular monthly tours exploring the history of our building on Kildare Street.

JOSEPH HASSETT YEATS LECTURE

We hosted the annual Joseph Hassett Yeats Lecture, delivered by Prof Margaret Kelleher in June. The lecture, titled 'Ireland's Interpreter and Europe's Welcome: WB Yeats and the Nobel Prize in Literature, 1923,' marked the 100th anniversary of Yeats receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature.

BLOOMSDAY

We invited visitors to travel back in time with our Bloomsday photobooth and offered them the opportunity to explore the magnificent Reading Room, which was open throughout the day.

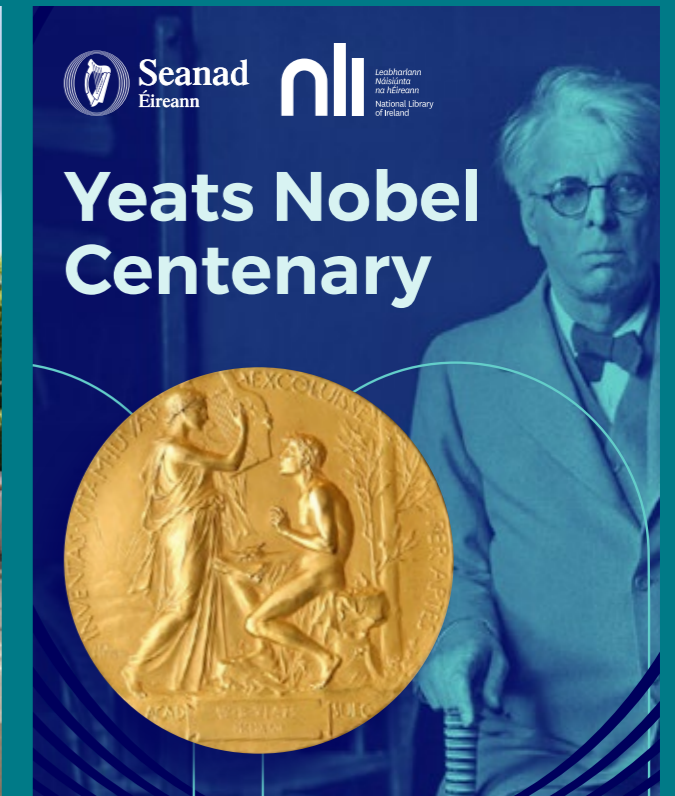


LATE AT THE LIBRARY

The NLI hosted evening events as part of our Late at the Library series, which featured traditional music, stand-up comedy, private tours, spoken word and literary readings. The booked-out series was supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as part of the Night-Time Economy After Hours at the Museum Scheme.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Participating in local and national festivals and events allows the NLI to reach new audiences. In 2023, we were delighted to work with Culture Night, Heritage Week, the Bealtaine Festival, the Dublin Book Festival, Open House, Culture Connects, First Fortnight, Positive Ageing, National Drawing Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge and the Dublin Festival of History, amongst others.



PHOTOGRAPHER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAMME

In October, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the NLI launched a new Photographer-in-Residence, to visually document Ireland's evolving landscape. Throughout 2024, the appointed photographer will capture the shifting climate and environmental conditions across four seasons, aided by access to EPA experts and the NLI's rich archives.

WB YEATS NOBEL CENTENARY EVENTS

2023 marked the centenary of the award of the Nobel Prize for Literature to WB Yeats 'for his always inspired poetry, which in a highly artistic form gives expression to the spirit of a whole nation'. To celebrate his remarkable achievement, the NLI engaged in two significant collaborations.

Exhibitions, Events and Engagements 2023

YEATS 100

In the winter, we celebrated the anniversary with on-site and online lectures, presented in partnership with the Yeats Society and supported by funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

YEATS NOBEL CENTENARY

The 'Yeats Nobel Centenary' series, a collaboration between Seanad Éireann and the NLI to reflect Yeats' literary and political achievements consists of twelve short videos featuring readings of Yeats' poems and excerpts from his Seanad speeches.

Launched towards the end of the year, with a special event in the Seanad Chamber, the series was produced by the Oireachtas Broadcasting Unit and features on the NLI and Oireachtas social media channels and on Oireachtas TV.

POETRY ALOUD

Organised with Poetry Ireland / Éigse Éireann and supported by University College Cork, our 2023 competition drew 365 entries from 65 schools across the island. There were 22 finalists who performed in the surrounds of our beautiful Reading Room, from across 14 counties, from Antrim to Kerry.

CREATIVE COMMISSION

At the end of 2023, we worked with artist Ludmila Korol to produce a painting featured on the NLI's annual seasonal card.

Online Engagement

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEBSITE VIEWS

927,104*

FLICKR VIEWS

7,004,698

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

FACEBOOK: 35,531

INSTAGRAM: 26,598

X: 49,287

LINKEDIN: 2,976

10.3%

Growth of 10.3% across our social media channels (combined followers)

4,829**

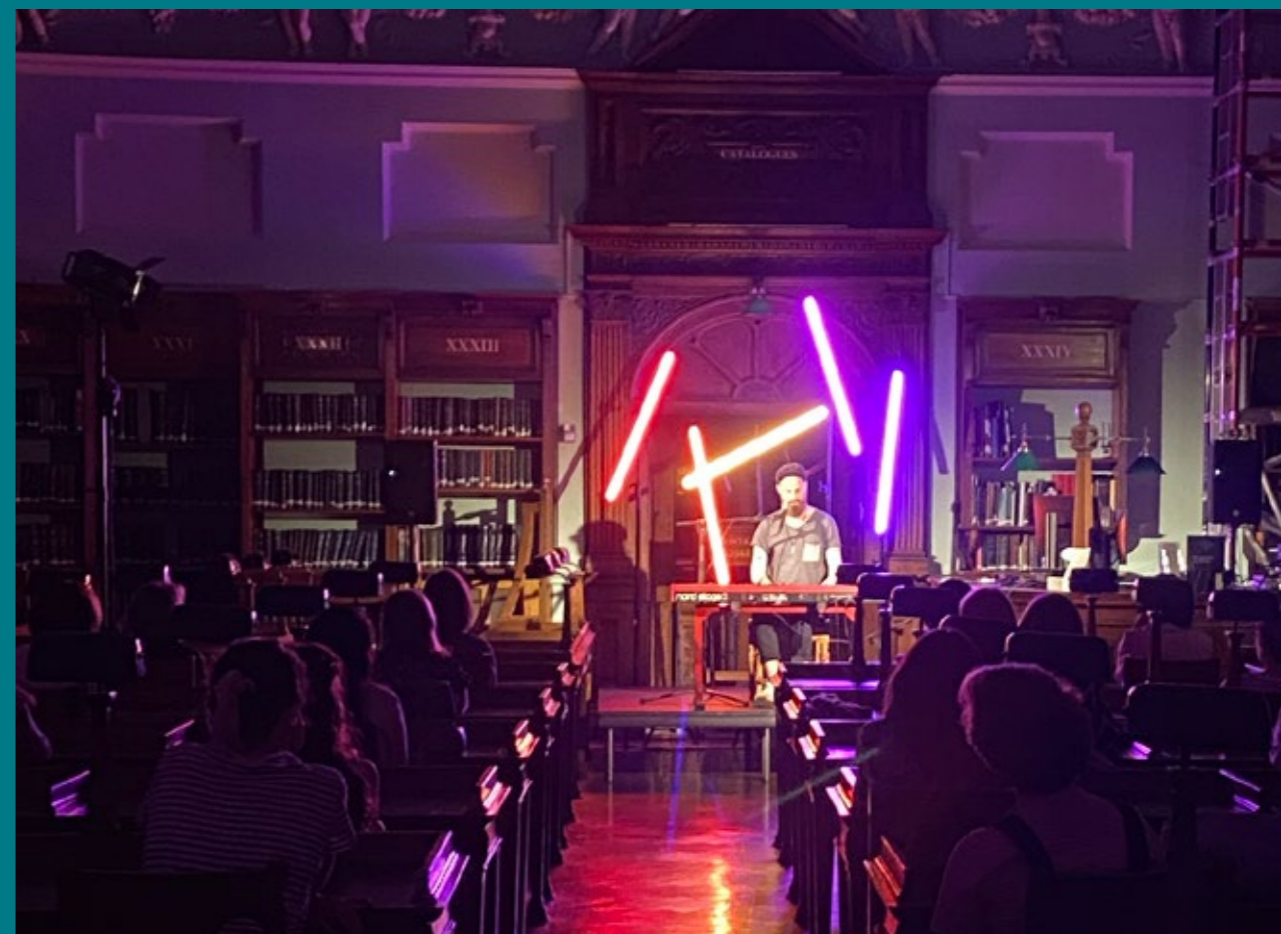
People attended events, tours and exhibitions online

*Year-on-year decrease due to transition between analytics providers in March 2023

**NLI online events (excluding MoLI)



Joseph Hassett and Paula Meehan at the final Yeats 100 event



I Have a Tribe performing in the Reading Room at a Late at the Library event

Innovate

The very concept of a national library as a repository of a nation's knowledge, heritage, culture, and memory, all openly and freely available to all, is a radical innovation. We are taking the lead in digital collecting and digitisation to ensure the evolving landscape of culture and history is conserved into the future and accessible to all. To date, we have digitised over 167,000 items from the national collections.

Selective Web Archiving

The NLI selectively archives the Irish web on a permission basis, with public input. In the archive, users can browse websites precisely as they would online, ensuring these sites remain accessible and secure even if they change or go offline.

Our web archive collection preserves and makes Irish content websites from 2011 to the present openly available. During 2023, we added a further 6.15TB of data to the NLI Selective Web Archive. A range of sites were covered, from culture, diaspora and education, to sport and social movements.



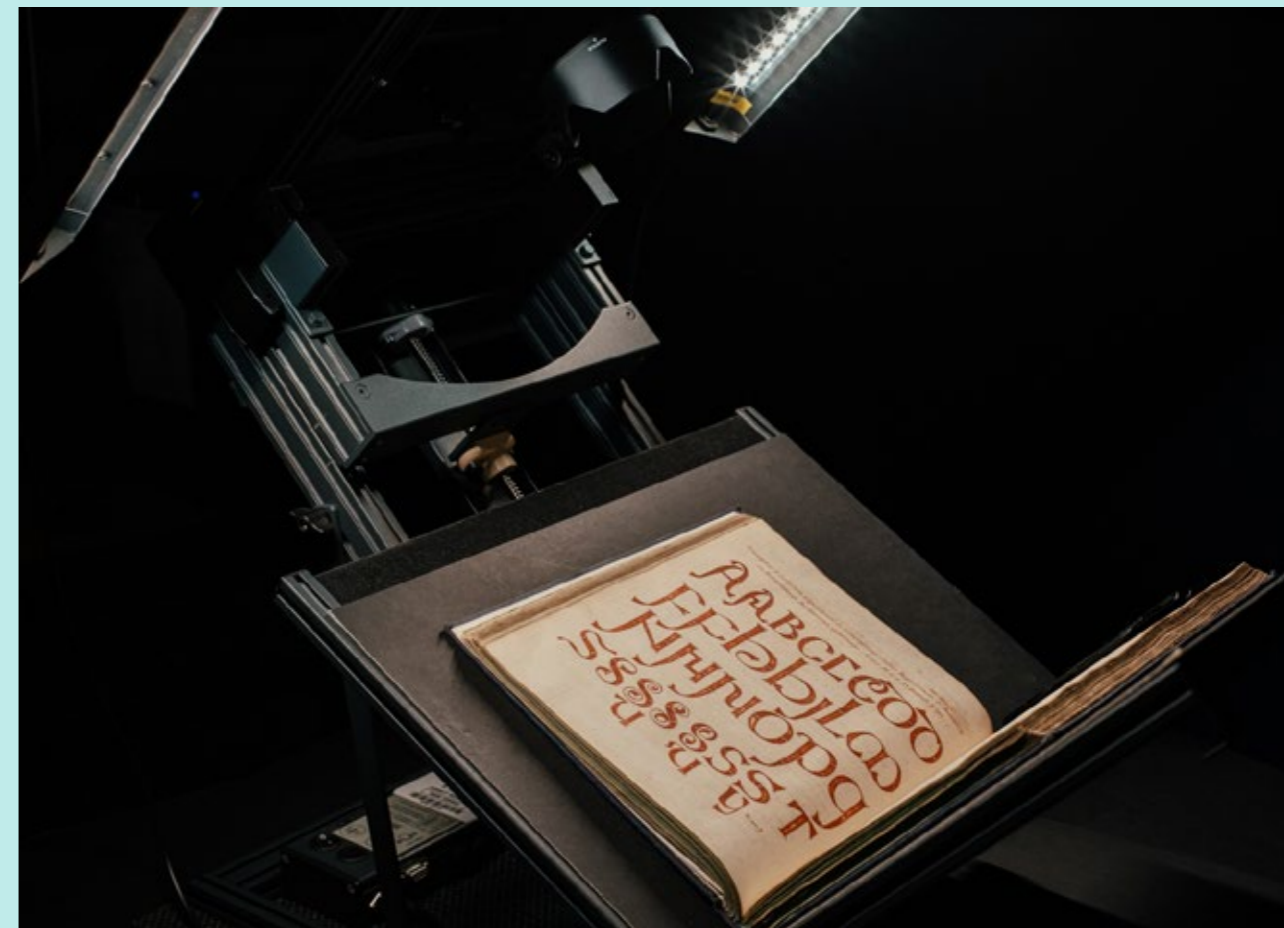
Digital Highlights

The Digital Studio plays a crucial role in revealing the national collections. In 2023, the team enhanced its image production capabilities by expanding its permanent digitisation staff and upgrading its camera fleet.

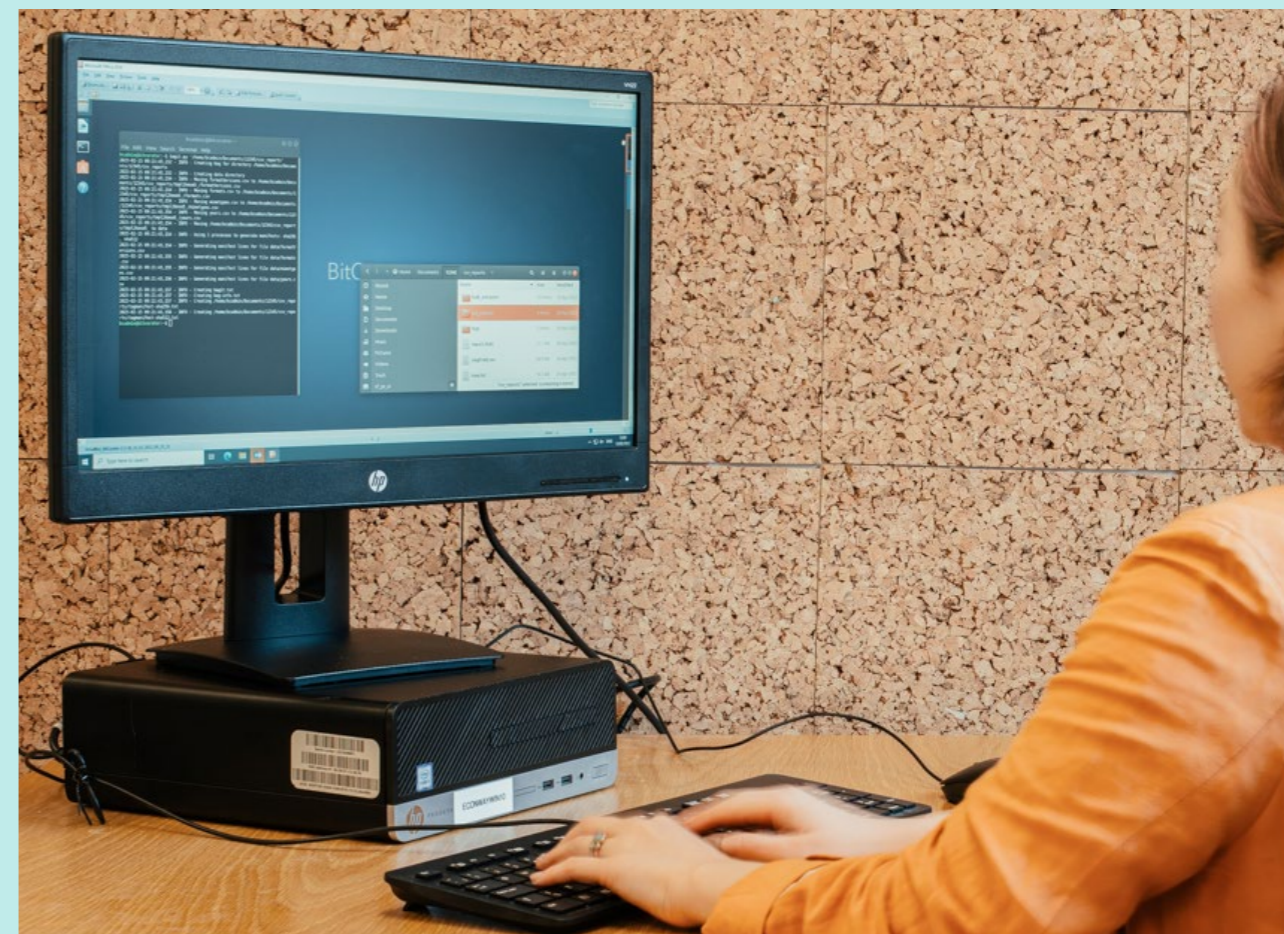
The team invested in book cradles to better stage bound materials for digitisation, leading to an expanded and standardised approach. This has particularly benefited the *Clóliosta* project, which aims to digitise published volumes in the NLI's collections. This project represents the first major collection from Published Collections systematically digitised by the Digital Studio.

The Digital Studio also digitised many photographs and other items from the *Live Aid Collection*, which documents a major cultural event of the 1980s. Work also began on the *Kilmainham Papers*, a large collection of British military records discovered in Kilmainham Hospital in 1922, just after the evacuation of the British Army. These contain correspondence of the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in Ireland from 1780 to 1894.

A range of other materials relating to figures such as Roger Casement, Maria Edgeworth, Frank Ryan, and many more were also digitised. The National Photographic Archive also had collections digitised, including some created by Alice Stopford Green, Kathleen O'Brennan, Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington, and others.



Clóliosta digital project



Web archiving

Digital Partnerships

The NLI continued to play an active role in our communities of practice during 2023. Staff served as committee members on the International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC), Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC), Digital Scholarship Network Ireland (DSN-IE), and the Global Bit List of Endangered Digital Species or DPC BitList Council, as well as presenting at international conferences including Archives & Records Association and iPres (International Conference on Digital Preservation).

For World Digital Preservation Day 2023, NLI staff, in collaboration with colleagues from the Digital Preservation Coalition, led an in-person workshop aimed at those interested in developing a digital preservation policy for their organisations. Participants representing 27 different Irish organisations attended the event.

Complete Website Redesign

In March, the NLI launched a new, entirely redesigned website, www.nli.ie. The new website features more ways of inspiring people and revealing everything we offer. It offers improved navigation, a visually appealing interface, and full bilingual support. It is accessible to all users per Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 and is optimised for both desktop and mobile devices. Other notable new features include an events calendar, direct access to the NLI's catalogue, news updates, educational resources and an option for online donations. Since the launch of our new website, it has earned several prestigious accolades, including the Digital Media Award for Best Website, a Silver in Digital/UI Design at the Kinsale Shark Awards, and an eGovernment Award. At the Spider Awards, we won the Best in Universal Design and received the coveted Grand Prix.

Published collections collaboration

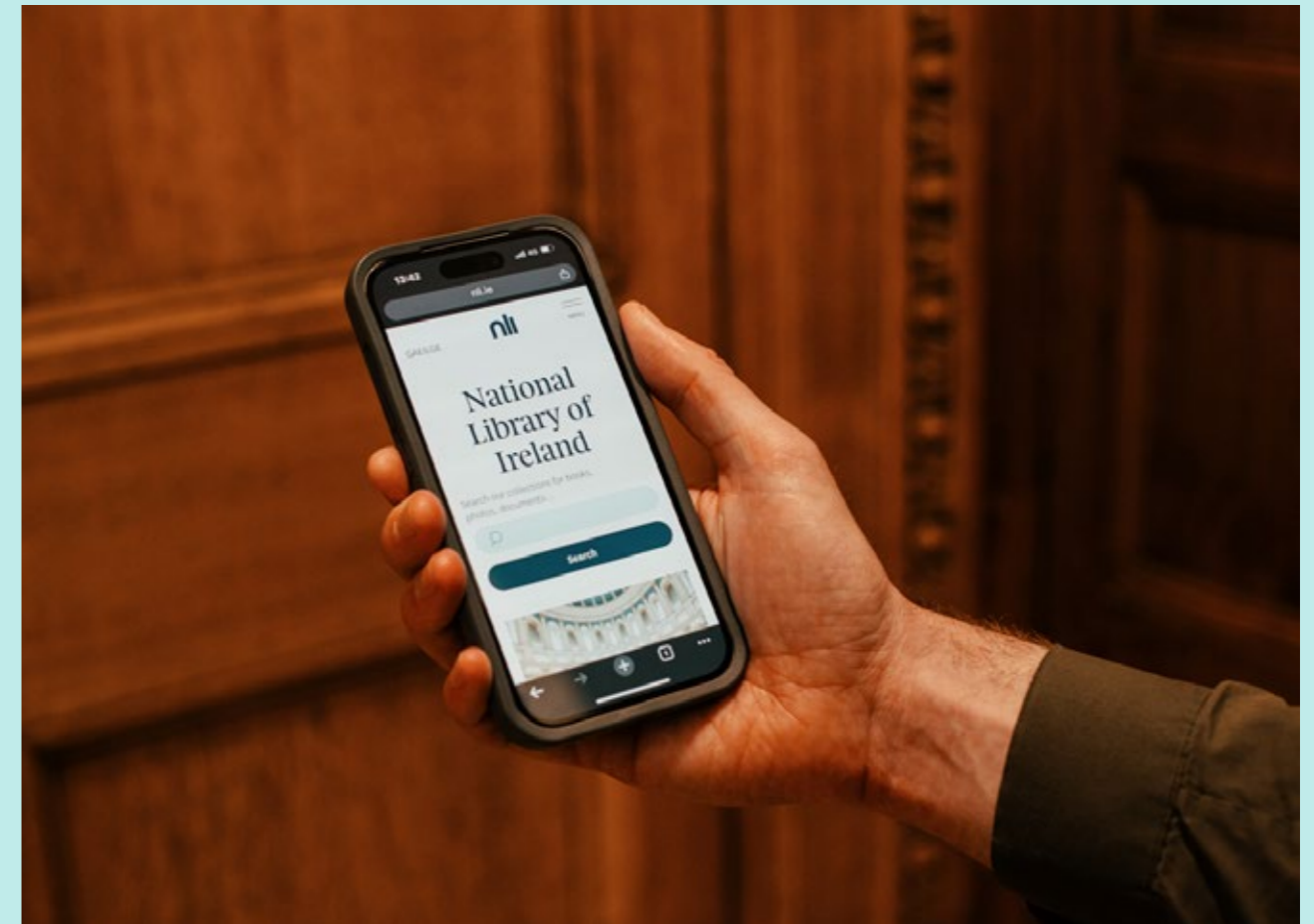
In 2023, the NLI initiated a collaboration with Dr Tapasya Narang under the Irish Research Council Enterprise Partnership Scheme. Dr Narang, a postdoctoral researcher at University College Dublin, is investigating the NLI's published collections through her project, *'Radical Poetics: A Comparative Study of Small Press Productions from Dublin and Bombay, 1960-1980'*. This project aims to uncover previously understudied elements of the NLI's collections and will pave the way for future research.

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 prioritising equality and incorporating diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our work, collections and working relationships.

Highlights include the renewal of the NLI's Silver level award under the Irish Centre for Diversity's *'Investors in Diversity'* programme, and the provision of period products free of charge in bathroom facilities on our main campus.

A new Access Officer was appointed, whose email and phone contact details are published on the NLI website.



The new website is fully responsive on all devices



Annertech and NLI staff collect Spider Award

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 update for 2023 shows energy savings of 52.7% for the NLI when compared to the 2009 baseline year, which exceeds the target set for 2030. GHG emissions are to be reduced by 41.3% to meet the target by 2030.

2. Implementation of the mandate

The Board of the NLI approved a new NLI Climate Action Roadmap 2024 in June 2023.

3. Sustainability activities report

Several sustainable initiatives occurred and were continued in 2023 including:

- More energy efficient heaters with improved controls replacing older model electric storage heaters.
- Replacement of chiller plant at National Photographic Archive.
- Installation of secondary glazing to selected windows at Kildare Street campus.
- Development and Gap to Target Modelling of a project pipeline.

4. The NLI confirms compliance with Circular 1/2020

Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel.

Access to Information

In 2023, 11 Parliamentary Questions were received by the NLI.

Board (as of August 2024)



Eoin McVey
Chairperson



Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh
Deputy Chairperson



Dr Marie Bourke



Michael Diviney



John Grenham



Lisa Grimm



Lorelei Harris



Elizabeth M. Kirwan
Staff Nominee



Dr Brian Lang



Prof Kalpana Shankar



Caitriona Sharkey



Genevieve Wyeth

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

Note: Prof Maeve Conrick, Dr Conor Kostick and Jennifer Taaffe terms expired in November 2023, having served on the Board for eight years, over two Board terms.

Committees (as of August 2024)

Readers Advisory Committee

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

Chairperson: Lorelei Harris

Members:

Lian Bell
 Michael Diviney
 Liam O'Brien
 Harry Hughes
 Prof Mary O'Dowd
 Dr Audrey Whitty

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:

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

Ex-officio:

Dr Audrey Whitty, Director
 Colette O'Flaherty, Chief Herald of Ireland

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:

Caitriona Sharkey
 Prof Philip O'Regan
 Genevieve Wyeth



John Cox, University of Galway Librarian; Caitriona Sharkey, Board Member; John Grenham, Board Member; Dr Audrey Whitty, Director of the National Library of Ireland; Eoin McVey, Chair of the Board; Dr Marie Bourke, Board Member; Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, Deputy Chair of the Board.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

Financial Statements 2023

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Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

For the year ended 31st December 2023

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 Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media 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.

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 Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media 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 2023. The Board approved the signing of this statement and the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023 on the 29th August 2024.

Board Structure

The Board consists of a Chairperson and 11 ordinary members, all of whom were appointed by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. 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 2023:

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 Maeve Conrick	Ordinary Member	24 November 2020	Term Expired: 23 November 2023	Reappointed in 2020
Dr Conor Kostick	Ordinary Member	24 November 2020	Term Expired: 23 November 2023	Reappointed in 2020
Jennifer Taaffe	Ordinary Member	24 November 2020	Term Expired: 23 November 2023	Reappointed in 2020
Dr Marie Bourke	Ordinary Member	8 February 2021	7 February 2026	Royal Dublin Society Nominee
Katherine McSharry	Ordinary Member	8 February 2021	Resigned: 12 January 2023	NLI Staff Nominee
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	
Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh	Deputy Chairperson and Ordinary Member	29 July 2021	28 July 2026	
Prof Kalpana Shankar	Ordinary Member	29 July 2021	28 July 2026	
Caitriona Sharkey	Ordinary Member	29 July 2021	28 July 2026	
Elizabeth M. Kirwan	Ordinary Member	30 November 2023	7 February 2026	NLI Staff Nominee

The Board completed an internal self-assessment effectiveness review in February 2024 and completed an external self-effectiveness review in September 2022.

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 the Director 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 2023. The members of the Readers Advisory Committee during 2023 were:
 - Lorelei Harris (Chairperson)
 - Lian Bell (external member)
 - Liam O'Brien (external member)
 - Harry Hughes (external member)
 - Prof Mary O'Dowd (external member)
 - Dr Audrey Whitty (appointed on 27th April 2023)

- ◆ 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 three times during 2023. The members of the Genealogy and Heraldry Committee during 2023 were:
 - John Grenham (Chairperson)
 - Lisa Grimm
 - Dr Conor Kostick (term expired on 23rd November 2023)
 - Prof Kalpana Shankar
 - Dr Marie Bourke (appointed on 24th November 2023)
 - 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 at least three board members and one independent external member. The role of the ARC is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular, the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARC reports to the Board after each meeting and provides an annual report to the Board. There were six meetings of the ARC in 2023. The members of the ARC during 2023 were:

- Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh (Chairperson)
- Prof Maeve Conrick (term expired on 23rd November 2023)
- Jennifer Taaffe (resigned from ARC on 9th May 2023)
- Caitriona Sharkey
- Prof Philip O'Regan (external independent member – a qualified accountant)
- Dr Marie Bourke (appointed on 24th November 2023)

Schedule of Attendances, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance at the Board and Committee meetings for 2023 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	6/6				-	224
Prof Maeve Conrick	5/5	4/5			-	90
Dr Conor Kostick	5/5			1/2	-	-
Jennifer Taaffe	3/5	1/2			-	-
Dr Marie Bourke	6/6	0/1		1/1	-	207
Katherine McSharry	0/0*				-	-
John Grenham	5/6			3/3	-	-
Lisa Grimm	3/6			2/3	-	-
Lorelei Harris	5/6		3/3		-	-
Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh	6/6	6/6			-	361
Prof Kalpana Shankar	5/6			3/3	-	-
Caitriona Sharkey	5/6	6/6			-	219
Elizabeth M. Kirwan	1/1				-	-
					-	1,101

* On 8 April 2022, Katherine McSharry withdrew as a member of the Board for the period in which she was serving as Acting Director.

Prof Philip O'Regan attended 5/6 Audit and Risk Committee meetings during 2023.

The Library does not pay fees to Board members.

Key Personnel Changes

Details of changes to the membership of the Board during 2023 are set out above under Board Structure. The Acting Director resigned from the NLI in January 2023 and the new Director was appointed in February 2023. A new head of Human Resources was appointed to the NLI in March 2023. In August 2023, the Head of Estates was appointed to the role of Deputy Director. A new head of Exhibitions, Learning and Programming was appointed to the NLI in November 2023.

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

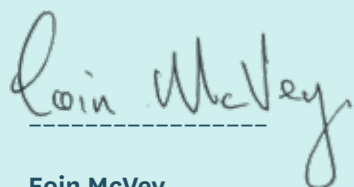
The Board is responsible for ensuring that the NLI has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (“the Code”), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code:

- ◆ 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 – there was no hospitality expenditure by the NLI in either 2022 or 2023.

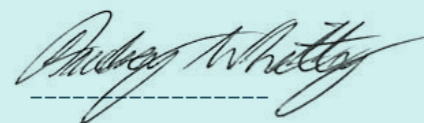
Statement of Compliance

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 National Library of Ireland operated in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for 2023.

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



Eoin McVey
Chairperson



Dr Audrey Whitty
Director

Date: 29th August 2024

Statement on Internal Control

For the year ended 31st December 2023

Scope of Responsibility

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

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 2023.

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 2023.

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 National Library of Ireland for the year ended 31st December 2023 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The National Library of Ireland has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprising of at least three Board members and one external member, with financial and audit expertise. The ARC met six times in 2023.

The National Library of Ireland has an internal audit function as defined in the Board’s Charter for Internal Audit. The work of the internal audit function is informed by analysis of the risk to which the body is exposed, and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. The analysis of risk and the internal audit plans

have been endorsed by the ARC and approved by the Board. The Internal Auditor provides the Board with reports of internal audit activity. The internal audit function has been outsourced to an external firm.

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

Risk and Control Framework

The National Library of Ireland has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks. The Library's Board has retained risk management as a standing item on its meeting agenda. The 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 National Library of Ireland and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the ARC on a half-yearly basis and is reviewed by the Board on an annual basis. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level.

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

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

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

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

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

Procurement

We confirm that the National Library of Ireland has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines. Other than those contracts disclosed in the 'Internal Control Issues' paragraph below, the Library complied with its procedures during 2023.

Review of Effectiveness

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

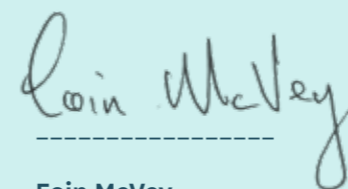
We confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2023 on 29th February 2024.

Internal Control Issues

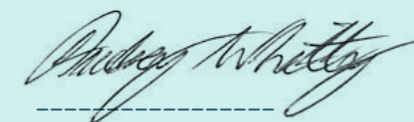
There were no internal control weaknesses identified during 2023 other than those disclosed below relating to expenditure in the amount of €nil (2022: €145,176):

- ◆ One contract (2023: €nil, 2022: €95,872) relating to the provision of public relations, communications and marketing services, had been awarded under a competitive process, but was extended with Board approval, beyond its contract end date. A procurement competition for the provision of this service is concluded and a new contract was put in place in September 2022.
- ◆ One contract (2023: €nil, 2022: €49,304) relating to the provision of security services to the NLI, had been awarded under a competitive process, but was extended with Board approval, beyond its contract end date. A procurement competition for the provision of this service is concluded and a new contract was put in place in September 2022.

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



Eoin McVey
Chairperson



Dr Audrey Whitty
Director

Date: 29th August 2024

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 2023 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 2023 and of its income and expenditure for 2023 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.

Paula O'Connor
For and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General

2 September 2024

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.

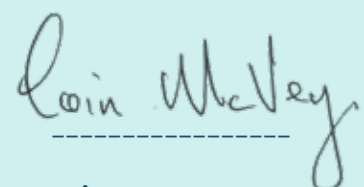
Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

For the year ended 31st December 2023

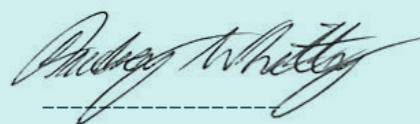
	Note	2023 €	2022 €
Income			
Oireachtas Grants	2	12,303,347	9,911,208
Donations (Materials and Cash)	3	240,465	49,000
Net Deferred Pension Funding	7(c)	1,164,000	1,511,000
Other Income	4	275,695	304,013
Total Income		13,983,507	11,775,221
Expenditure			
Remuneration	5	7,876,078	7,821,059
Administration and Operations	6	1,818,559	1,521,408
Programmes	8	1,337,541	1,475,394
Depreciation	11	364,260	342,954
Total Expenditure		11,396,438	11,160,815
Net Operating Surplus		2,587,069	614,406
Transfer to the Capital Account – Heritage Assets	10	(3,099,818)	(335,242)
Transfer to the Capital Account – Operational Fixed Assets	10	169,201	304,659
(Deficit) / Surplus for year		(343,548)	583,823
Balance Brought Forward at 1 January		1,588,736	1,004,913
Balance Carried Forward at 31 December		1,245,188	1,588,736

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: 29th August 2024

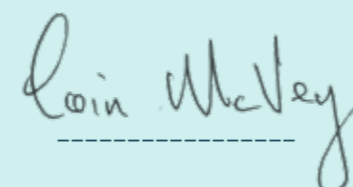
Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31st December 2023

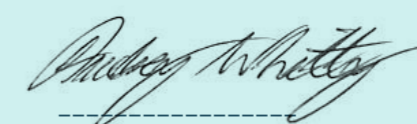
	Note	2023 €	2022 €
(Deficit) / Surplus for year		(343,548)	583,823
Experience (losses) / gains on retirement benefit obligations	7(b)	(2,722,000)	303,000
Change in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations	7(b)	(2,333,000)	18,981,000
Total actuarial (Loss) / Gain in the year		(5,055,000)	19,284,000
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefits funding		5,055,000	(19,284,000)
Total Comprehensive (Expense) / Income for the year		(343,548)	583,823

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: 29th August 2024

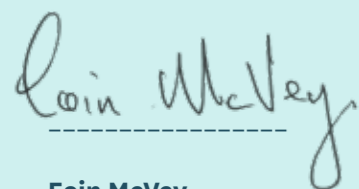
Statement of Financial Position

As at 31st December 2023

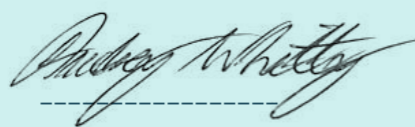
	Note	2023 €	2022 €
Non Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	11	337,955	507,156
Heritage Assets	12	31,557,070	28,457,252
		31,895,025	28,964,408
Current Assets			
Receivables	13	395,716	417,843
Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,562,184	1,909,261
		1,957,900	2,327,104
Current Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)			
Payables	14	712,712	738,368
Net Current Assets		1,245,188	1,588,736
Retirement Benefits			
Retirement Benefit Obligations	7(b)	(41,356,000)	(35,137,000)
Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding Asset	7(b)	41,356,000	35,137,000
Total Net Assets		33,140,213	30,553,144
Representing			
Capital Account			
Heritage Assets	10	31,557,070	28,457,252
Operational Fixed Assets	10	337,955	507,156
Retained Revenue Reserves		1,245,188	1,588,736
		33,140,213	30,553,144

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: 29th August 2024

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31st December 2023

	Note	2023 €	2022 €
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Excess (Expenditure over Income) / Income over Expenditure		(343,548)	583,823
Donated Materials		(234,050)	(48,000)
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	11	364,260	342,954
Decrease / (Increase) in Receivables		22,127	(2,775)
Decrease in Payables		(25,656)	(28,018)
Increase in Capital Account		2,930,617	30,583
Disposal of Fixed Assets	11	-	15,164
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities		2,713,750	893,731
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payments to acquire Fixed Assets	11	(195,059)	(53,459)
Payments to acquire Heritage Assets	12	(2,865,768)	(287,242)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		(3,060,827)	(340,701)
Net (Decrease) / Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents			
		(347,077)	553,030
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1 January			
		1,909,261	1,356,231
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December		1,562,184	1,909,261

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2023

1. Accounting Policies

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

(a) General Information

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

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

“...to conserve, restore, maintain and enlarge the 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 National Library of Ireland is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

(b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of the National Library of Ireland (“The National Library”) for the year ended 31st December 2023 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 Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the National Library's financial statements.

As set out in Note 15, the National Library of Ireland Trust (the Trust) was established to aid the development of the National Library. These financial statements do not consolidate the results of the Trust on the basis that it is not required by Section 35 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997.

(d) Revenue

Oireachtas Grants

Revenue from Oireachtas Grants, Sub-head 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 National Library, e.g. Heraldry, are shown gross on the face of Note 4, Other Income.

(e) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

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

(f) Receivables

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

(g) Employee Benefits

Short-term Benefits

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

Retirement Benefits

The National Library previously established its own defined benefit pension scheme (“the Main Scheme”), funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and from contributions deducted from staff members' salaries. The National Library also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme (“the Single Scheme”), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 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 National Library. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

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

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

(h) Heritage Assets and Library Collections

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

Initial Recognition

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

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

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

Valuation

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

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

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

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

Impairment

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

Conservation Costs

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

(i) Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

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

Donated Heritage Assets

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

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Depreciation and Residual Values

The 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 2023. In the judgement of the Board the funds required to meet these unfunded pension obligations will continue to be provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media 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 2023 FRS 102 disclosures.

Retirement Benefit Obligation

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

The assumptions can be affected by:

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

2. Oireachtas Grants

The Oireachtas Grants voted to the National Library from Vote 33 of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (“the Department”) as shown in the financial statements consist of:

		2023	2022
		€	€
	Sub-head		
National Library of Ireland – Current	B.11	9,275,000	9,205,000
National Library of Ireland – Capital	B.11	478,000	478,000
Cultural Infrastructure and Development - Capital	B.7	2,540,347	215,508
Regional Museums, Galleries, Cultural Centres and Project - Current	B.6	10,000	12,700
		12,303,347	9,911,208

Grants under Sub-head B.11 are the National Library’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 €9,275,000 (2022: €9,205,000) is stated net of retirement benefits contributions totalling €242,000 (2022: €236,000), €145,000 (2022: €139,000) remitted to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in respect of the National Library of Ireland’s staff Additional Superannuation Contribution and €97,000 (2022: €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:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Andrew and Charlotte Bonar Law: Collection of Maps and Topographical Prints of Ireland	2,300,000	-
Reimagining the National Library – Capital Development	240,347	118,832
Digitisation Fund	-	96,676
	2,540,347	215,508

Income of €2,300,000 (2022: €nil) was recognised in relation to the contribution provided towards the purchase of the Andrew and Charlotte Bonar Law: Collection of Maps and Topographical Prints of Ireland. This funding was awarded on a pre-funding basis.

Income of €240,347 (2022: €118,832) 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 €7,050 (2022: €29,792) was outstanding at year end and is included in Accrued Income in Note 13.

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

3. Donations

	2023	2022
	€	€
Donated Materials	234,050	48,000
Donations – Cash	6,415	1,000
	240,465	49,000

Donations of collection items are capitalised if they are valued at €5,000 or more in accordance with the Collection Policy. During 2023, six donations were made to the National Library’s Special Collections valued at €5,000 or more and one donation was made to the National Library’s Published Collections valued at €5,000 or more and these are detailed in Note 8 (a). In 2022, four donations were made to the National Library’s Special 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 2023 (2022: none).

4. Other Income

	2023	2022
	€	€
Copying Services	40,996	39,476
Royalties and Reproduction Services	22,093	22,680
Heraldry Income	29,195	51,453
Direct Costs of Heraldry	(49,484)	(47,632)
Genealogy Income	6,700	5,994
Heritage Council Grant	12,250	8,555
Irish Research Council Grant	-	4,625
Heaney Exhibition Retail Income	31,248	31,486
Heaney Exhibition Retail Costs	(17,333)	(18,983)
Sponsorship	200,000	206,000
Miscellaneous Income	30	359
	275,695	304,013

Income of €200,000 (2022: €206,000) was recognised in relation to sponsorship provided by Bank of Ireland. This represents the Bank's contribution towards the operation of the National Library'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 €200,000 (2022: €206,000) was outstanding at year end and is included in Debtors at Note 13.

5. Remuneration

(a) Aggregate Employee Benefits

	2023	2022
	€	€
Staff short-term benefits	5,395,773	5,276,514
Termination benefits	-	-
Retirement benefit costs	2,007,000	2,086,000
Employer PRSI	473,305	458,545
Aggregate Employee Benefits	7,876,078	7,821,059

The total number of staff employed (Full-Time-Equivalents or FTEs) at year end was 108 (2022:101).

(b) Staff Short-Term Benefits

	2023	2022
	€	€
Basic pay	5,273,885	5,163,522
Overtime	17,023	9,491
Allowances	104,865	103,501
	5,395,773	5,276,514

The staff Additional Superannuation Contribution (ASC) for 2023 was €144,738 (2022: €138,869).

(c) Termination Benefits

No termination benefits were paid in 2023 (2022: €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:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Salary	866,882	833,373
Allowances	21,322	7,364
	888,204	840,737

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:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Director (appointed February 2023)	104,757	-
Acting Director (appointed March 2022, resigned January 2023)	12,412	80,151
Director (appointed August 2015, resigned March 2022)	-	34,688
	117,169	114,839

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	2023	2022
€60,000	- €69,999	8	9
€70,000	- €79,999	14	14
€80,000	- €89,999	2	3
€90,000	- €99,999	3	2
€100,000	- €109,999	1	1
€110,000	- €119,999	0	0
€120,000	- €129,999	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

		2023	2022
		€	€
	Note		
Travel and Subsistence Expenditure	6(a)	25,837	13,269
Staff Training and Development		62,030	26,682
Diversity and Inclusion Policy Expenditure		13,109	26,171
Electricity, Cleaning and Utilities		445,385	367,460
Communications and IT		499,340	361,164
Security		243,188	215,248
Consultancy Costs	6(b)	257,779	253,275
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses		37,209	26,304
Storage Costs		111,734	104,637
Office Expenses		58,281	53,460
Repairs and Maintenance		38,456	28,964
Foreign Exchange Rate Losses		6,513	7,513
Prompt Payment Interest		2,030	2,757
Outsourced Service Costs		17,668	19,340
Loss on disposal of Fixed Assets		-	15,164
		1,818,559	1,521,408

(a) Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

		2023	2022
		€	€
Domestic	Board Members	1,101	1,026
	Staff	6,622	2,276
International	Board Members	-	-
	Staff	18,114	9,967
		25,837	13,269

(b) Consultancy Costs

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

		2023	2022
		€	€
Consultancy		107,362	112,691
Financial		51,303	43,524
Audit		46,201	48,243
	- External Audit	23,000	23,000
	- Internal Audit	23,201	25,243
Legal		17,424	30,854
Translation		35,489	17,963
		257,779	253,275

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**

	2023	2022
	€	€
Gross Current Service Cost	875,000	1,783,000
Interest Cost	1,487,000	651,000
Employee Contributions	(355,000)	(348,000)
	2,007,000	2,086,000

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

	2023	2022
	€	€
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	35,137,000	52,910,000
Current Service Cost	875,000	1,783,000
Interest Cost	1,487,000	651,000
Actuarial Loss / (Gain) – Financial Assumptions	2,333,000	(18,981,000)
Actuarial Loss / (Gain) – Experience	2,722,000	(303,000)
Benefits Paid	(1,198,000)	(923,000)
Closing Defined Benefit Obligation	41,356,000	35,137,000

(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:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Funding recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	2,362,000	2,434,000
State grant applied to pay retirement benefits	(1,198,000)	(923,000)
	1,164,000	1,511,000

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31st December 2023 amounts to €41.4m (2022: €35.1m).

(d) History of defined benefit obligations

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Defined Benefit Obligations	41,356	35,137	52,910	48,403	44,696
Experience (Losses) / Gains on Defined Benefit Scheme Liabilities	(2,722)	303	(1,382)	313	675
Percentage of Plan Liabilities	(6.6%)	0.9%	(2.6%)	0.6%	1.5%

(e) General description of the schemes

The Library's retirement benefit scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current "model" public sector scheme regulations. The scheme provides a pension (being 1/80 per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (being 3/80 per year of service) and spouses and children's pensions. Normal retirement age is a member's 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 National Library of Ireland 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 June 2024 by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31st December 2023.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

	2023	2022
Inflation	2.10%	2.25%
Rate of general long-term increase in salaries	3.10%	3.25%
Rate of increase in state benefits	2.60%	2.75%
Rate of increase in deferred benefits	2.60%	2.75%
Pension increases	2.60%	2.75%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	3.60%	4.20%

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 2023 and 2043.

Year of attaining age 65	2023	2043
Life expectancy – male	87.1	89.3
Life expectancy – female	89.4	91.4

8. Programmes

	Note	2023 €	2022 €
Special Collections			<i>Reclassified</i>
Special Collection Acquisitions	8(a)	123,755	106,830
Cataloguing Project		65,434	123,364
Conservation		65,103	90,208
		254,292	320,402
Published Collections			
Published Collection Acquisitions	8(a)	216,290	209,026
Processing and Binding		5,502	4,915
Irish Research Council Enterprise Mentorship scheme		5,448	-
		227,240	213,941
Service Delivery			
Reader Services		93,051	74,977
Family History Services		6,076	3,383
		99,127	78,360
Exhibitions, Learning and Programming			
Heaney Exhibition – ‘Listen Now Again’		65,542	84,151
Public Programmes, Communications, and Engagement		63,076	43,848
Other Exhibitions		22,539	54,306
<i>William Butler Yeats Exhibition</i>		8,704	9,430
		159,861	191,735
Heraldry			
Heraldry Materials		3,898	5,507
		3,898	5,507
Digital Collections			
Digitisation		106,937	68,570
Library Equipment & Maintenance		14,247	13,216
Born Digital Collections		7,971	15,946
		129,155	97,732
Development Office			
Communications, PR and Promotion		314,917	448,766
		314,917	448,766
Capital Development Building Project			
Reimagining the National Library Refundable Expenses		149,051	118,951
		149,051	118,951
		1,337,541	1,475,394

(a) Acquisitions

	Note	2023 €
Special Collections acquisitions funded through Current Grant		
♦ Manuscripts		72,409
♦ Ephemera		29,572
♦ Prints & Drawings		18,730
♦ Photographs		3,044
		123,755
Published Collections acquisitions funded through Current Grant		
♦ Books		109,008
♦ Antiquarian and Rare Books		90,264
♦ Newspapers		11,791
♦ Periodicals		5,227
		216,290
Special Collections acquisitions funded through Capital Grant		
Manuscripts		
♦ Michael Collins – Susan Killeen archive, 1915-1920		162,500
♦ O’Brien Press Archive		104,987
♦ Letters by Samuel Beckett to Marcel Mihalovici, 1960-1963		25,550
♦ Letters from W.B. Yeats to Elizabeth Radcliffe, 1913-1917		21,292
♦ Letters by Samuel Beckett to Édith Fournier, 1962-1978		21,010
♦ Letters by Austin Clarke to Margaret Barrington, ca.1938-1969		17,266
♦ Seán Ó Mordha (2023) papers		13,500
♦ Letters by Samuel Beckett to Stefan Wigger, 1972-1989		12,898
♦ Maria Edgeworth letters, 1818-1831		11,794
♦ Crimean War Journal of Captain Walter Nugent, 1854-1855		10,447
♦ Louis Pasteur letter, 1892		8,967
♦ Countess Markievicz – Fianna Éireann archive		8,125
♦ W.B. Yeats: Celtic Twilight (1905) with letters to Winifred Letts		8,124
♦ Letters by Roger Casement to Max W. Karstensen and related items, ca. 1915-1921		6,759
	12(f)	433,219
Special Collections acquisitions funded through Capital Grant		
Visual		
♦ Andrew and Charlotte Bonar Law: Collection of Maps and Topographical Prints of Ireland		2,300,000
♦ Chris Judge archive		17,025
♦ Frances de la Poer albums		14,962
♦ Margaret Anne Suggs – Píógín of Howth archive		7,300
♦ Coote Family album		6,700
♦ Graphic Studio Dublin – Ulysses Imagined, 2022		6,200
	12(f)	2,352,187

	Note	2023 €
Special Collections acquired through donation		
♦ McCabe – Heaney archive		175,000
♦ Val Mulkerns archive		20,000
♦ Brendan Lehane archive		15,000
♦ Margaret Anne Suggs – A Chocolate in My Pocket archive		6,000
♦ Letters from the poet Michael Hartnett to Dr James Finucane, 1961		6,000
♦ Stiofáin Ó hAnnracháin papers		5,050
	12(f)	227,500
Published Collections acquisitions funded through Capital Grant		
Printed		
♦ Synge, John Millington. Poems and Translations. [Preface by W.B. Yeats]. New York: Printed for John Quinn, 1909		12,774
♦ Synge, John Millington. Deirdre of the Sorrows. [Preface by W.B. Yeats]. New York: Printed for John Quinn, 1910		12,774
♦ O'Brien Press Archive – Books		7,500
♦ Donne, John. Poems & C. with elegies on the author's death. 1669		5,667
	12(f)	38,725
Published Collections acquired through donation		
♦ La Touche family library collection		7,000
	12(f)	7,000
Digital Collections acquisitions funded through Capital Grant		
♦ Web Archiving		41,637
	12(f)	41,637
Total Acquisitions		3,439,863

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

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

Collections during 2023 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 2023 (2022: none).

10. Capital Account

(a) Heritage Assets

	2023 €	2022 €
At 1 January	28,457,252	28,122,010
Transfer from/(to) the Statement of Income and Expenditure & Retained Revenue Reserves		
To fund Heritage Assets acquired	2,865,768	287,242
Heritage Assets donated	234,050	48,000
	3,099,818	335,242
At 31 December (Note 12 (f))	31,557,070	28,457,252

(b) Operational Fixed Assets

	2023 €	2022 €
At 1 January	507,156	811,815
Transfer from/(to) the Statement of Income and Expenditure & Retained Revenue Reserves		
To fund Fixed Asset purchases	195,059	53,459
Amortisation in line with asset depreciation	(364,260)	(342,954)
Loss on disposal of Fixed Assets	-	(15,164)
	(169,201)	(304,659)
At 31 December (Note 11)	337,955	507,156

11. Property, Plant and Equipment

	IT Equipment €	Equipment €	Furniture & Fittings €	Exhibitions Operating or in course of construction €	Total €
Cost					
At 1 January	990,751	1,005,275	809,500	1,496,015	4,301,541
Additions	-	182,222	12,837	-	195,059
Disposals	-	(23,985)	-	-	(23,985)
At 31 December	990,751	1,163,512	822,337	1,496,015	4,472,615
Depreciation					
At 1 January	933,586	898,570	738,217	1,224,012	3,794,385
Disposals	-	(23,985)	-	-	(23,985)
Charge for the year	23,108	55,430	13,719	272,003	364,260
At 31 December	956,694	930,015	751,936	1,496,015	4,134,660
Net Book Value					
At 1 January	57,165	106,705	71,283	272,003	507,156
Net movement for the year	(23,108)	126,792	(882)	(272,003)	(169,201)
At 31 December	34,057	233,497	70,401	-	337,955

(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 €182,222 includes €91,296 which 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 of December 2023 relates to the National Library's exhibition Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again that launched on 4th July 2018. This is a collaborative project between the NLI, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media 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 2025, following approval received in 2023 to extend the exhibition from December 2023 to December 2025. The expected book value of these items will be €nil at the conclusion of the exhibition. The exhibition has a finite life and related assets are depreciated over their estimated useful lives or over the useful life of the exhibition, whichever is shorter.

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 Library.

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

(b) Nature and Scale of the Collection

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

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

- Special Collections
- Published Collections
- Digital Collections

Special Collections

Special Collections comprises rare and unique material such as manuscripts, photographs, prints, drawings, ephemera, 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 National Library as a result of the digitisation of material from Special Collections and Published Collections (new assets) as well as the items described as "Born Digital", such as websites that have never existed except in digital format.

(c) Acquisition

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

Legal Deposit

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

Donation

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

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

Purchase

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

(d) Preservation and Conservation

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

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

(e) Disposal

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

(f) Analysis of Acquisitions

As outlined in the Accounting Policies (Note 1, (h)), the National Library recognises all Heritage Assets (with an individual value of more than €5,000) purchased or acquired since 2005. Such assets are carried at cost with adjustment for impairment where required. The transactions in relation to 2023 and the previous four accounting periods are set out below.

	Manuscripts	Digital	Visual	Printed	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
Cost or Valuation:					
At 1 January	20,235,976	3,377,069	3,079,844	1,764,363	28,457,252
Purchases	433,219	41,637	2,352,187	38,725	2,865,768
Donation Materials	227,050	-	-	7,000	234,050
At 31 December	20,896,245	3,418,706	5,432,031	1,810,088	31,557,070

(g) Five Year Financial Summary of Heritage Asset Transactions

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
	€	€	€	€	€
Additions					
Manuscripts	660,269	167,671	872,793	696,949	1,156,576
Digital	41,637	75,834	80,026	94,631	91,484
Visual	2,352,187	61,680	88,300	-	-
Printed	45,725	30,057	10,565	30,482	6,086
	3,099,818	335,242	1,051,684	822,062	1,254,146

13. Receivables

	2023	2022
	€	€
Prepayments	151,016	144,579
Accrued Income (Note 2)	7,050	29,792
Debtors	237,650	243,472
	395,716	417,843

14. Payables

	2023	2022
	€	€
Accruals	284,927	367,518
Deferred Revenue	105,756	-
Taxation and Social Welfare	168,007	171,244
Trade Creditors	154,022	199,606
	712,712	738,368

15. Related Party Disclosures

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

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

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

The Trust prepares annual financial statements which are audited by a firm of commercial auditors. The latest available audited financial statements are for the year ended 30 April 2023 which record expenditure of €4,433 (2022: €5,295); income of €nil (2022: €nil); and year end retained revenue reserves/net assets of €460,461 (2022: €464,894). There were no transactions between the Trust and the National Library during 2023.

16. Comparatives

Certain comparative figures have been regrouped and reclassified on the same basis as the current year.

17. Contingent Liabilities

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

18. Events After Reporting Period

The NLI's application for registration as a charity with the Charities Regulator was completed and the Public Register of Charties was updated on 19th January 2024. The Registered Charity Number of the NLI is 20206624.

On 10th May 2024, the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD, appointed Michael Diviney, Dr Brian Lang and Genevieve Wyeth as members of the National Library Board. The appointments were made in accordance with the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and are for a term of 5 years.

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.

19. Approval of the financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of the National Library of Ireland on the 29th August 2024.

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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