



The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited Annual General Meeting

Notice and Information Pack

Saturday, 22nd September 2018 at 3.45 p.m.
in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Northgate Street,
Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Contents

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited.....	3
Letter from the Company Secretary.....	4
Conference Agenda	5
AGM Agenda	6
Minutes of 2017 AGM.....	7
Reports and Consolidated Financial Statements for 2017.....	13
Candidates' Profiles.....	50
Attendance Form	52

Separate document circulated with the AGM Pack:

Proxy Form

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the nineteenth National Annual General Meeting of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited will take place in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Northgate St, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on Saturday, 22nd September 2018 at 3.45 p.m. for the following purposes:

The Chairman's Address and Report
The Chief Executive's Address and Report

Ordinary Resolutions

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolutions which will be proposed as ordinary resolutions:

1. To receive and consider the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2017 together with the directors' report and the auditors' report thereon
2. To re-elect Mr Rory Mulcahy as Director
3. To re-elect Mr Maurice O'Connor as Director
4. To elect Dr Edwina Dunne as Director
5. To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors

By Order of the Board



Ava Battles
Company Secretary
MS Ireland

24th August 2018

Patron: Micheal D. Higgins, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

A list of names and personal details of every Director of the Company is available for inspection to the public at the Company's Registered Office for a normal fee.
Charity Number 5365 Member of M.S.I.F and E.M.S.P. Registered office: 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. Company Registration Number 296573

Re: 19th National Annual General Meeting ("AGM") (since incorporation – the Society was founded in 1961) of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited on Saturday, 22nd September 2018 in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Northgate St, Athlone

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed information regarding the Annual General Meeting ("AGM"). Particular points to note are the following:

1. Election Information

Mr Rory Mulcahy and Mr Maurice O'Connor are both standing for re-election and the Nominating Committee support them.

The Nominating Committee are recommending the appointment of Dr. Edwina Dunne who is listed in your AGM Pack to the Board. A candidate must receive in excess of 50% of the votes cast to be elected.

2. Voting at the AGM

Members are entitled to vote on the resolutions being proposed in the enclosed Notice of AGM. Votes for the AGM may be registered in person at the AGM or by proxy, which means that if you are unable to attend or vote in person at the AGM, you can fill in the enclosed Proxy Form to appoint either the Chairperson or any other person as your proxy to attend, speak and vote on your behalf at the AGM. A proxy form that is not complete or does not meet the requirements of S.183 and S.184 of the Companies Act will not be counted.

To be valid this proxy form (and where applicable, any power of attorney under which it is signed) must reach the Company Secretary by post or by hand to 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4, D04 T856 not less than forty-eight hours before the time appointed for the AGM, i.e. by no later than 3.45 p.m. on Thursday, 20th September 2018.

3. Attendance Form

We would be grateful if you could please return your Attendance Form addressed to **AGM, MS Ireland, 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4** or confirm your attendance by e-mail to: alicemckeon@ms-society.ie by 20th September 2018.

If you have any queries regarding the AGM, please contact National Office on 01 678 1608.

Yours sincerely



Ava Battles
Company Secretary
MS Ireland

Patron: Micheal D. Higgins, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

A list of names and personal details of every Director of the Company is available for inspection to the public at the Company's Registered Office for a normal fee.
Charity Number 5365 Member of M.S.I.F and E.M.S.P. Registered office: 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. Company Registration Number 296573

Presentations, Workshops, and AGM 2018
Saturday, 22nd September 2018
in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Northgate St, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Agenda

MS Ireland invites people with MS, their family and friends to presentations and our AGM in Athlone. The presentations will cover an MS Overview and Quality of Life, The Importance of Neurorehabilitation in MS and Brain Health

The programme for the day is as follows:

9.00	Registration, Tea/Coffee on arrival
9.45	Welcome – Ava Battles, CE of MS Ireland
10.00	Professor Gavin Giovanonni, Professor of Neurology Centre, Barts and the London School of Dentistry MS Overview and Quality of Life
11.00	Dr. Jens Bansi, Exercise Scientist, Rehabilitationszentrum Valens, Switzerland The Importance of Neurorehabilitation in MS
12.00 – 12.15	Comfort Break
12.15 – 13.15	Parallel Workshops – Choose A or B A) Irish Hospice Foundation – Planning for the Future B) Genomics Ireland – Identifying specific patterns in genes in people with MS to develop new diagnostic tools, treatments and better our understanding of the progression of MS
13.15	Lunch
14.30	Dr. Sabina Brennan, Trinity Brain Health and ADAPT, Trinity College Dublin Healthy Brain
15.45	MS Ireland's Annual General Meeting

* There will be a €20 charge to attend the Conference day.
Please contact the Western Regional Office on 091 768630 to reserve your place.

Annual General Meeting Agenda

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the last Minutes

Matters arising

Chairman's address and report

Chief Executive's address and report

Ordinary Resolutions

1. Directors' Report, Auditors' Report and Financial Statements 2017
2. Re-Election of Mr Rory Mulcahy as Director to the Board
3. Re-Election of Mr Maurice O'Connor as Director to the Board
4. Election of Dr Edwina Dunne as Director to the Board
5. Authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting (18th Annual General Meeting since incorporation) of the Company held at the Radisson Blue Hotel, Rosses Point Road, Sligo on Saturday, 23rd September 2017 at 3.45 p.m.

PRESENT:	Mr Paddy Stronge Members & Delegates	(Chairman)
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms Ava Battles Ms Alice McKeon	(Chief Executive) (Staff - Minutes)
APOLOGIES	As per list available from MS Ireland	

The Chairman, Mr Paddy Stronge, formally opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the 57th Annual General Meeting of the Society and 18th since its incorporation.

The Chairman announced that Paul McGovern had won the MS Person of the Year award and that Marie Cronin-O'Donoghue & Paddy O'Donoghue had won the Volunteer of the Year award. He congratulated the winners of these awards. He informed the members that there was no award this year for Carer of the Year and encouraged members to submit applications for the awards in future.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr Kearney raised a point of order to the Chairperson with regard to the inadmissibility of two Motions that the Standing Orders Committee had not allowed. Other issues he raised were in relation to the notice for Board members, no mention of direct nominations to the Board in the advertisement, the application for Board membership not requiring that nominees should have a knowledge of MS, Board member standing for a fourth term whereas the constitution states 3 terms. He asked that an EGM be called to deal with these matters and that the AGM would cover the standard business today. He stated that the Society was being run more like a business with an overemphasis on fundraising.

The Chairperson called on Mr O'Connor, the Chairperson of the Governance Committee to respond to the issues raised by Mr Kearney.

Mr O'Connor stated that these points had been raised in writing to the Chairperson and that the Board will be responding to Mr. Kearney on these issues. He explained that the two Motions submitted weren't allowed by the Standing Orders Committee and that the Board was satisfied not to allow these Motions. He said that the Motions were in relation to resourcing operations and that members do not have the right to instruct the Board on how to act or what to do from an operational viewpoint.

With regard to not having an election, Mr O'Connor stated that it is not within the discretion of the Board not to have an election. He explained the requirement how one third of directors retire every year. He stated that there is no definition of the term of directors in the Constitution. However in the Bye-Laws it states that a board member can be on the Board for 3 consecutive terms of 3 years. Nobody can serve on the Board for more than 9 years. He confirmed that the Board are on solid ground in proceeding with the AGM.

The Agenda for the meeting having previously been circulated, was approved by the members present.

Approval of the Previous Minutes

Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Saturday, 24th September 2016 having previously been circulated, were taken as read. The Minutes were approved by the Members.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Address

The Chairman reported that 2016 was a challenging year with continued constraints on our funding and resources. He said that with several high profile cases of poor governance in charities hitting the news, this has done serious damage to public confidence in the sector. Despite this, MS Ireland's dedicated team of staff and volunteers have continued to work hard on behalf of people affected by MS, and there are many successes and achievements to celebrate which included the following:

- 2016 saw the publication of the 100th issue of MS News, our biannual magazine which has been providing a forum for discussion on news and opinions relating to MS since 1980.
- The launch of three key publications in June 2016 relating to employment and MS. The employment resource booklets were launched by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation at a well-attended event at the Mansion House in Dublin.
- A number of policy submissions were made including a Pre-Budget Submission, a submission on Medical Cards and a contribution to a Department of Social Protection consultation on work and disability.
- We collaborated successfully with other organisations on various high profile campaigns including the Neurological Alliance of Ireland's 'We Need Our Heads Examined' campaign for neurorehabilitation services, a campaign calling for investment in home care services and the Disability Federation of Ireland's "Disable Inequality campaign".
- World MS Day 2016 was a great success, with our team using the theme of 'independence' to highlight issues such as employment and the importance of exercise. We also launched a new fundraising initiative on World MS Day, '9,000 Steps for MS', the number 9,000 representing the number of people with MS in Ireland.
- We used the 2016 General Election to highlight issues of importance for people affected by MS, with our 'Make Your Vote Count' leaflet proving very popular and successful.
- The second MS Research Explored evening in November, and our annual conference and Healthcare Professionals Day took place in September in Cork. The theme for both the conference and Healthcare Professionals Day was once again 'Living Well With MS', with a particular focus on brain health. We have made use of live streaming and recording at all our major conferences and events this year, so as to reach as wide an audience as possible.
- The MS Information Line, MS Care Centre and our regional services continue to be very busy, providing vital support, information and services to the MS community despite very limited resources.
- Research remains central to the organisation and we were delighted to launch a brand new bi-annual research eZine in 2016, as well as the publication of a Research Strategy for 2015-2019. Over 800 people took part in our My MS My Needs survey, a major piece of research which will inform our advocacy work and service development in the coming years. We were also delighted to be able to provide funding for a two-year project at NUI Galway investigating mindfulness and MS, thanks to the generosity of an individual donor.
- Our Fundraising team launched Kiss Goodbye to MS, a major new annual fundraising campaign, in February. This raised a fantastic €53,000 and we hope to build on this success in 2017 and beyond. Other fundraising activities included skydives, treks, the ever-popular Women's Mini Marathon, the Corporate Dinner at Leopardstown Racecourse and of course our biggest annual fundraiser, the MS Readathon, which is now in its 30th year of the campaign.

The Chief Executive's Address

The Chairman called on the Chief Executive, Ava Battles, to give an overview of 2016 and to focus on key achievements of the organisation.

The Chief Executive made her report under our 5 strategic priorities:

Achieving in Services – Highlights are:

- 412 people stayed at the Care Centre for respite care. They were predominantly people who were fully dependent and require a high level of care.
- 1,297 people contacted the Information Line in 2016 – mainly people contact the information line through phone and email. They were looking for general information, helpline support and information on treatments etc.
- Case Work – 2,422 people received a service and the issues they were seeking assistance with ranged from exercise, emotional support and well being/care.
- Getting the Balance Right exercise related activity is provided with the support of our branches.

Achieving in Advocacy – Highlights are:

- One of the videos "Practical Life#" proved very popular with 34,000 viewing the video on facebook.
- Publications for PwMS in relation to employment and access to medicines campaign.
- Campaigning on Sativex and we hope that it will become available.
- It is no longer a lottery that PwMS have access to hospital based medications.
- Home care campaigns with NAI campaigning for access to neurorehabilitation to ensure an increase in the number of neurologists and support staff.

Achieving in Research – Highlights are:

- Research Explored – 200 people attended this event with a further 70 watching it from all over the world. We are now livestreaming events and find that more people are listening in.
- Some branches have provided funds for research which is very positive.
- We have committed to try to get research information out to members. All members need to do now is to sign up to it.
- Numerous research studies which PwMS have contributed to.

Achieving in Organisational Capacity – Highlights are:

- Approximately 50% of our funds come from fundraised income.
- Care Centre is a 12 bedded unit which has HIQA approval. It is a very costly service to run and through the Friends of the Care Centre, funds are raised to help with the running costs e.g. funds from the Christmas cards campaign and calendar will be used to support the Care Centre. Corporate volunteers help with specific tasks that need to get done in the Care Centre.
- In 2016 Readathon fundraising was significantly down. We are giving it a large promotional push this year to see if we can turn things around in 2017.
- Kiss Goodbye to MS is run in the first half of the year and this has become a really positive campaign. It introduced the organisation to a younger cohort of people with a very positive message.
- Branches contribute to provide services in their local area. The organisation could not exist without its branch network.
- Board members have attended events around the Country including branch AGMs and Regional integrated meetings.

The Chairman called on Mr Martin Nolan, Chairman of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to give a financial overview of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016.

The Auditors Report on the Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2016 was taken as read. The Directors' Report for the same year was taken as read.

The Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016 were submitted to the meeting and considered.

In his presentation to members, Mr Nolan gave a brief overview of the accounts. Among the items he referred to were the following:

- It was likely as soon as it is deemed suitable in 2018 to sell Northumberland Road premises and to discharge the mortgage on the premises. This will have a positive impact on cashflow when this occurs.
- The layout of the accounts were prepared in the format which is a standard format to ensure that we fulfil our requirements under Statement of Recommended Practice SORP. Further to a query in relation to differences in the expenditure costs, Ms Chipere clarified that in 2016 the support costs had to be reported differently in the consolidated accounts which was due to a SORP requirement. The cost in 2015 included the cost of expenses incurring in National Office and the Branches whereas these costs are now separated out.
- The figures presented are fully compliant with the Companies Act 2014 and SORP and are highly transparent. The accounts were audited by our Auditors and they made a full report/presentation to the Finance Audit and Risk Committee.
- In relation to value for money Mr Nolan reported that there were no activities being run that were not assessed in relation to value for money, that all projects are carefully scrutinized.
- A query was raised in relation to the delay in lodging a cheque from the Louth Branch to National Office. Ms Chipere informed the members that the first cheque sent to National Office in March 2017 was never received and that a further cheque issued by the Branch was received in National Office on 4 July 2017 was promptly dealt with.
- Over half of €6.6M income was from state funding. Fundraising income and donations make up 40% of our income. He noted that there was no threat to state funds as long as we continue to deliver on our service level agreements whereas it is more challenging for us to deliver on the other 40% of our income. Expenditure amounted to €6.346M, 85% of this income is spent on the direct provision of services. €60K governance costs are in respect of audit costs and the Board's vouched expenses. Fundraising costs amounted to 12% of expenditure which is a low cost to deliver this level of income. He noted that the base costs for walks were high but that this is the nature of this type of event and that the revenue is essential to the organisation
- Mr Nolan stated that the Board is about providing services for members and ensuring at the same time that we are getting value for money. 38 Branches raised €1M which he noted was a huge amount of money to raise which showed the commitment of branch members. 85% of branch expenditure went directly to people who need support. Branch governance costs amounted to 3% of overall expenditure. Branches surplus income amounted to €57K. Branches transferred €177K to National Office to fund regional services.
- Mr Nolan stated that if any branch committee member was unhappy with the way the branch is run, they should notify the Chief Executive as it should be brought to our attention. Mr Nolan noted that reputational damage is one of our biggest risks under which the Society would suffer from significantly.
- Mr Nolan stated that in 2017 there will be a €203K deficit. In 2018 once Northumberland Road premises has been sold, that there would be a surplus in 2019 and 2020 bringing the organisation back to breakeven and this is what we are trying to achieve. The organisation has gone through restructuring this year which resulted in some redundancies. He said that by 2019/2020 the organisation should be in a good place once fundraising projects comes through so that we can continue to operate without restricting activities.

Ordinary Resolutions – these resolutions required over 50% of the votes cast to be passed

After careful consideration the following resolutions were **RESOLVED** by the Members on a show of hands:

THAT the Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016, as submitted to this meeting, be and are hereby received and adopted.

THAT Marcella Flood had received a majority of the votes cast and that she was hereby re-elected as a Director to the Board

THAT Paddy Stronge had received a majority of the votes cast and that he was hereby re-elected as a Director to the Board

THAT Jacinta Kelly had received a majority of the votes cast and that she was hereby elected as a Director to the Board

THAT Martin Power had received a majority of the votes cast and that he was hereby elected as a Director to the Board

THAT Eugene Kearney had received a majority of the votes cast and that he was hereby elected as a Director to the Board

THAT the Directors are hereby authorised to fix the remuneration of the Auditors, Deloitte & Touche.

Special Resolutions – these resolutions required 75% of the votes cast to be passed

THAT this meeting wishes to be advised of the number of people who have expressed an interest in joining the Board of Directors for 2015, 2016 and 2017

As the Board were happy to release this information, there was no need to have a show of hands on the motion. It was reported that 9 people had expressed an interest in joining the Board in 2015, 5 people in 2016 and 5 people in 2017

Mr O'Connor addressed the members in relation to Article 56. He explained that we need to retain the provisions in the Constitution as they stand. He said that if the Motion was adopted, the mechanism of ensuring the requisite level of skills and experience of Directors on the Board would be set aside. He said that it is a key function to look at the people who have expressed an interest in becoming a Board member and to make appropriate recommendations to members to elect these candidates on to the Board. Mr O'Connor stated that we need the existing 3 different ways to becoming a Board member retained and he recommended members to reject the Motion.

After careful consideration, **IT WAS RESOLVED** by the Members on a show of hands to reject the following special resolution:

THAT this meeting determines that Article 56 of the Articles of Association be deleted and replaced by the following:

"Any member of the Society who seeks election to the Board of Directors, excluding those representing the Council must be nominated by ten members of the Society or by the Branch of which they are a member. Nominations shall be sought twelve weeks before the annual general meeting, with a closing date for nominations six weeks before the annual general meeting to allow information to be provided to the membership"

The Chairman thanked Mr Cronin, Mr O'Connor and Ms O'Kelly, all members of the Governance Committee who along with him worked on producing the new Constitution.

IT WAS NOTED THAT Mr Tom Cronin was elected as a Director as the new Council representative to the Board.

CONCLUSION:

The Chairperson thanked Mr Aidan Larkin, Ms Tina Lally and Mr Kevin Larkin for running the national conference.

The Chairperson was congratulated and thanked for the work he had undertaken as Chairperson over the past three years.

The business of the meeting was then declared to have been concluded and the meeting terminated at approximately 5.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

DATE

This page has been intentionally left blank

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland

Reports and Consolidated Financial Statements
for the Financial Year ended 31 December 2017

CONTENTS

PAGE

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION 15-16

DIRECTORS' REPORT 17-26

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT 27

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT 28-30

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 31

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET 32

COMPANY BALANCE SHEET 33

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT 34

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 35-49

Directors and Other Information

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marcella Flood (Chairperson)
Robin Bradley
Noelle Burke
Tom Cronin
Edwina Dunne
Eugene Kearney
Jacinta Kelly
Ian MacDougald
Maurice O'Connor (Deputy Chairperson)
Martin Power
Anne Restan
Mary Sheahan Lonergan
Rory Mulcahy
Patrick Stronge

CHIEF EXECUTIVE & COMPANY SECRETARY

Ava Battles

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Paul Hogan
William Lonergan
Allen O'Connor

FINANCE, AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Martin Nolan (Chairperson)
Robin Bradley
Marcella Flood
Rory Mulcahy
Sean Murphy
Martin Power
Patrick Stronge
Memory Chipere (in attendance)
Ava Battles (in attendance)

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

REGISTERED OFFICE	80 Northumberland Road Dublin 4
CHARITY NUMBER	CHY 5365
CHARITY REGULATORY AUTHORITY NUMBER	20007867
COMPANY NUMBER	296573
DATE OF INCORPORATION	19th November 1998
YEAR MS IRELAND WAS FOUNDED	1961
AUDITOR	Deloitte Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm Deloitte & Touche House Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2
PRINCIPAL BANKERS	Bank of Ireland College Green Dublin 2
SOLICITORS	Joynt & Crawford 8 Anglesea Street Dublin 2

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS ' REPORT

The Directors present their annual report and the audited consolidated financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2017.

In this report the Directors of The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland ("MS Ireland") present its activities, governance, achievements and finances for the financial year ended 31 December 2017.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

MS Ireland's mission is *"to enable and empower those affected by MS to live the life of their choice to their fullest potential"*.

MS Ireland has a vision of Irish society where all people affected by MS live positive and active lives in the community

Its principal objectives are:

- To enable and empower people with multiple sclerosis (hereinafter referred to as "PwMS") to live the life of their choice to their fullest potential;
- To provide support for the families and carers of PwMS;
- To co-operate with the medical, scientific, social and caring professions to promote scientific research into the causes of, cure for and management of MS, and the alleviation of medical and social symptoms;
- To exchange and disseminate information relating to MS;
- To provide an identifiable focal point by developing an efficient, effective and caring organisation to serve the needs of PwMS

Values

MS Ireland carried out a survey where respondents were asked the simple question *"Please list 5 words that describe the values that you would like to see associated with MS Ireland"*. After analysing the results and discussions amongst the SMT and the Board, we agreed that the 4 values MS Ireland going forward are:

- Supportive
- Transparent
- Informative
- Empowering

These core values are the fundamental beliefs of our organization.

Supportive

- we support individuals whether they are People with Multiple Sclerosis (PwMS), staff or volunteers so that we can work together to fulfil our mission

Transparent

- being open and honest in everything that we do

Informative

- communicate reliable, accurate and useful information

Empowering

- through the provision of information, advocacy and support services we enable people to make informed choices

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS ' REPORT (CONTINUED)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Board

MS Ireland is directed by a voluntary Board which comprises people with varied backgrounds, some with MS. Its function is to provide leadership, develop strategy, formulate effective policies and oversee their implementation, ensure good governance and financial control.

The Board is provided with regular financial and operational information. Detailed budgets are prepared in line with the Strategic Plan (2015–2019) and are reviewed by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and further reviewed and approved by the Board. Actual results and outcomes are compared against the budget to ensure alignment with the Plan and to maintain tight budgetary control and value for money.

Governance of MS Ireland is conducted in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which were adopted in November 1998 and amended up to and including 24 September 2016.

The Board continues to be committed to a high level of transparency and disclosure in relation to staff remuneration. As in previous years, Note 9 to the financial statements provides details on Staff Remuneration in line with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) as developed by the Financial Reporting Council.

The Branches, Council and Committees

MS Ireland's voluntary Branches are primarily run by people with MS and their families. They are governed by an elected committee to organise the activities of the Branch including all the services and fundraising activities. Voluntary Branches work very closely with the regional offices. MS Ireland has a network of 34 voluntary Branches.

The structure of the Council has changed in parallel with the introduction of the Regional Integrated Meetings. The Council is the consultative body that represents the views of the Branches around the country. The Council provides a direct link between members, Branches and the Board.

The Board is advised by a number of committees and is responsible for the overall control and strategic direction of the charity. The following committees are appointed by the Board to aid in the internal workings of MS Ireland:

1. Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
2. Governance Committee
3. Nominating Committee
4. Remuneration Committee
5. Research Committee
6. Services Monitoring and Evaluation Committee
7. Strategic Planning and Fundraising Committee

Governance

In light of the recent media stories on the charity sector we think it's important to give you a sense of our commitment to good governance. We want to reassure you that MS Ireland is transparent, ethical and has on-going and effective audit processes in place. We value every donation we receive and are always mindful that it is our duty to use the money to achieve the biggest possible impact for people living with MS.

Our diligence around governance makes recent news stories even more frustrating as they have the potential to negatively impact the work we do to enable and empower people affected by MS to live the life of their choice to their fullest potential.

Here are some facts for you about our governance:

- The Board hold meetings 6 times a year with the Chief Executive in attendance at those meetings. The Chief Executive reports to the Board but is not a member of the Board. MS Ireland's Code of Practice details the process on the selection and rotation of Board members, the roles and duties of the Chairperson and Chief Executive. We require formal disclosure of any potential conflict of interest of Directors at meetings.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

We have a committed and strong Board, currently made up of 80% people living with MS or family members. They give their time for free and receive no payments for their work. However, Board members are entitled to claim for travel and subsistence expenses in attending meetings. In 2017 Board members expenses were €8,755 (2016: €4,447). No emoluments are paid to Board members. The list of Board members can be found on our website.

- MS Ireland is a registered charity and is in compliance with the requirements of and is listed on the Register of the Charities Regulatory Authority.
- Our annual financial statements are audited by Deloitte. Accounts for the last number of years can be obtained from our website.
- MS Ireland's accounts adhere to the SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities) accounting standard. Accounts year ended December 31st 2017 will be available following the AGM on September 22nd, 2018.
- We adhere to the ICTR (Irish Charities Tax Research) Guiding Principles for Fundraising. The principles set the standard for best practice in fundraising in Ireland.
- MS Ireland holds one credit card. Credit card statements are independently reviewed and approved by the Chairperson on a bi-monthly basis.

Management

The Chief Executive, to whom day to day management of the charity is delegated, leads a team of 68 employees working throughout the National Office, the MS Care Centre and 10 regional offices, plus an additional 53 Community Employment workers employed with the support of the Department of Social Protection ("DSP").

The National Office is the base for the overall administrative and support services of MS Ireland, including Advocacy, Finance, IT, HR, Communications and the MS Information Line. Regional offices provide services to PwMS, PaMS and support to the network of Branches throughout the country. Service development and operations currently sit within the remit of the Chief Executive and Services Manager.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

In 2017 we were working towards the achievement of our strategic priorities as set out in our Strategic Plan 2015-2019. The Board of MS Ireland is committed to building a Society which is integrated, effective, outcome-driven and accountable.

The Plan follows a sequence from the general or fundamental objectives of the organisation to the specific (the programmes and activities to be implemented over the five years), covering the organisation's mission statement, vision, overall and specific aims and objectives along the way. Department/regional/individual plans have been prepared for the different divisions of the organisation, staff and volunteers.

The key priorities of MS Ireland are as follows:

1. To provide quality services nationally to ensure everyone with Multiple Sclerosis and their families have full access to services and supports when needed.
2. To be the voice for PwMS driving an advocacy agenda that includes areas of greatest concern to PwMS.
3. To develop a research strategy that will focus on supporting and participating in research that is in line with members' expectations on local, national and international stages.
4. To build and strengthen MS Ireland's organizational capacity to ensure delivery of our strategic plan.
5. To continue to strengthen the governance and regulation of MS Ireland ensuring compliance with relevant regulatory bodies.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS ' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Activities for 2017 are reviewed under the headings of MS Ireland's Strategic Plan: Services, Advocacy, Research, Organisational Capacity and Governance and Regulation.

Strategic Priority 1: Services

Overall Aim: To provide quality services nationally to ensure that everyone with Multiple Sclerosis and their families have full access to services and supports when needed

- The provision of support, community rehabilitation (including physio and physical exercise), health promotion, coping strategies and well being services to PwMS and their families on a regional basis through a development programme (community development work) and individual and family support work (casework and counselling). 101 people who were newly diagnosed with MS contacted the regions for support. There were 2,073 one to one case work meetings conducted by community workers for PwMS.
- The provision of information and support, individually and in groups to PwMS & health professionals through regional outlets, the website and the MS Information Line Telephone 1850 233 233. 1,357 people contacted the Information Line – 891 of these contacts were via telephone.
- The MS Care Centre is a Designated Centre under the 2007 Health Act, as such it must be registered by the Health Information Quality Authority ("HIQA") in order to operate. The Care Centre was first registered in 2015. Registration is reviewed on a three yearly basis by HIQA. If however there was an adverse incident or a complaint to the Authority by a member of the public this could trigger an announced or unannounced visit to the Centre. We are at all times working to ensure that we meet HIQA standards so as to ensure our continued registration with HIQA. The work in relation to HIQA is directed and managed by the Clinical Nurse Manager and the Quality Manager at the Care Centre.
- The provision of respite care, MS Nurse specialism and therapy services in the 12 bed MS Care Centre. 407 people stayed at the Centre with 250 of these residents from the Dublin/Eastern region.
- The Department of Social Protection Community Employment Programme ("CEP") participants contribute hugely to the work of MS Ireland by assisting in the work of the Care Centre, assisting with the exercise training plans for PwMS in the Western region; visiting PwMS in their homes and carrying out maintenance work for people with MS in the North West region. They also input data on our behalf into the Physical Sensory and Disability Database.
- Branch services include support groups, social activities, therapies and financial assistance supported by voluntary fundraising locally. The provision of financial assistance services is through the Branches.
- In terms of our case management work with individuals we use a Solution Focused approach. In this approach we work with the client to identify and work towards a solution for a particular issue or problem they are having at a particular time. This approach acknowledges the strengths of the individual and utilises them in finding a solution to the presenting problem.
- Over the last number of years there has been some developments in terms of the access to counselling services. There has been the development of low cost counselling in some communities and GP access to counselling. We now, where possible, refer our clients to those services. We now only provide counselling to a small number of clients and only where our branches will fund this.

Strategic Priority 2: Advocacy

Overall Aim: MS Ireland will be the voice for PwMS driving an advocacy agenda that includes areas of greatest concern to PwMS

- Issues/concerns affecting PwMS and their carers individually and collectively are presented on an on-going basis as part of submissions to Government/State agencies and in public awareness campaigns
- World MS Day's theme in 2017 was "Life with MS" – How is "Life with MS" positively impacted for people living with MS? Life with MS can be difficult. Each day brings new challenges, which need new solutions.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS ' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

- We held a very successful briefing in the AV Room in Leinster House on World MS Day, attended by over 50 political representatives
- Among the events organised around the country on World MS Day was a request to supporters to walk, run or dance or move 9,000 steps to represent the 9,000 people in Ireland living with MS and raise funds for vital services.
- An Information Day for Health Care Professionals, the AGM and National Meeting Day were held in the Radisson Blue Hotel in Sligo in September. For the National Meeting Day there were talks and workshops arranged. The theme for the Day was 'Quality of Life'.
- We held our first ever neurologist Advisory Board and also convened a working group of occupational therapists with a specialist interest in MS
- We launched the 'Time to Act report', which highlighted the importance of early diagnosis and treatment for MS and made detailed clinical and policy recommendations on improving MS treatment services. This was accompanied by 'MS Treatment Decisions', a guide for people with MS on factors to consider when choosing an MS treatment
- We engaged in a number of collaborative advocacy campaigns with other organisations, including Neurological Alliance of Ireland's 'We Need Our Heads Examined' campaign for neurorehabilitation services, and the 'Invest in Home Care' campaign.
- We actively participated in the round table discussions organized by the Medical Research Charities Group and IPPOSI on access to medicines and contributed a case study to the first 'Drug Iceberg' report.
- We made our first ever Patient Group Submission to the National Centre for Pharmaco-economics, for a new disease modifying therapy
- We published the 'My MS My Needs' report, the results of a comprehensive survey of the needs of people with MS.
- We launched MS Ireland's Advocacy Strategy.
- We produced Briefing Documents and Position Papers on treatment and care decisions in advanced MS, and MS patient registries.
- We made a number of policy submissions to political representatives and government agencies on topics including home care, Sativex, employment, medicinal cannabis, Personalised Budgets and the Health Information Policy Framework

Strategic Priority 3: Research

Overall Aim: MS Ireland will develop a research strategy that will focus on supporting and participating in research that is in line with member expectations on local, national and international stages.

- We published two more issues of our bi-annual research eZine, MS Research. This was circulated to approximately 5,000 subscribers.
- We held a networking event for Irish researchers interested in MS, to discuss how we can make Ireland a better place to do MS research. 19 researchers attended from all around Ireland, including Northern Ireland.
- We conducted a research prioritisation survey, to establish which areas of MS research are considered the most important by the MS community in Ireland. This was completed by over 400 people.
- We awarded a third Dean Medal Travel Bursary in 2017
- MS Ireland Branches contributed a total of €9,273 to the International Progressive MS Alliance

Strategic Priority 4: Organisational Capacity

Overall Aim: Build and Strengthen MS Ireland's organisational capacity to ensure delivery of our strategic plan

- In 2017, we conducted a survey with our service users and the public through social media to determine the values of the organisation. Our values are: supportive, transparent, informative and empowering.
- Continuation of the roll out of the Regional Integrated Model which involved National Office, the Regional Offices and Branches working in a coordinated way.
- MS Ireland actively participate in European and International MS fora.
- MS Ireland participate at a national level on the Board of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland. Its advocacy work

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND DIRECTORS ' REPORT (CONTINUED)

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

focused on the development of neurorehabilitation services. MS Ireland has a seat on the Board of the Medical Research Charities Group.

- **Social media**
In 2017 MS Ireland developed its work in social media and had 14,296 people access our Facebook page and 7,668 people accessing Twitter. We have a team of bloggers who write about their own personal experiences of living with MS. We had 156,891 visitors to the website and 28,887 to YouTube. We have over 4,200 subscribers to eNews.
- Our social media channels continued to grow throughout 2017. Our 'Tuesday MS Questions' and 'Friday MS Quotes' on Facebook continue to be popular and are great for stimulating discussions. A lot of live tweeting from events was completed, and both Facebook and Twitter have become increasingly popular as ways of contacting us with information and support queries (includes infographic).
- **Fundraising**
Major fundraising activities included the MS ReadAthon, the MS raffle and a trek in Croatia. New projects this year included an abseil in Croke Park which proved very popular. We were also delighted to be chosen for several high profile corporate partnerships including Irish Life, DAA, PWC and SAP.
- We sent two issues of MS News to over 10,000 subscribers

Strategic Priority 5: Governance and Regulation

Overall Aim: Continue to strengthen the governance and regulation of MS Ireland ensuring compliance with relevant regulatory bodies

- On 28th January 2017 the Board certified its compliance with the Governance Code with two exceptions:
2.1(b) The CE is appointed as Company Secretary. MS Ireland has a dedicated Governance Committee of the Board which meets regularly and are satisfied that this ensures governance processes and controls are appropriate and the necessary checks and balances are in place.
2.2(e) MS Ireland does not have an internal audit function. Given the size of the organisation, we have sufficient controls in place and oversight of the controls. These controls include the requirement that the annual accounts of each branch are subject to an independent audit.
The Principles of the Code are: Leading our organisation, Exercising control over our organisation, Being transparent and accountable, Working effectively and Behaving with integrity.
- MS Ireland adopted and follows the Irish Charities Tax Research ("ICTR") Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

A more detailed review of MS Ireland's activities is included in the 2017 Annual Report which is available on our website.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS ' REPORT (CONTINUED)

MAJOR RISKS FACING MS IRELAND

The Board are responsible for ensuring that the major risks facing MS Ireland are appropriately managed. This is a continuous process reflecting the changing priorities and circumstances facing MS Ireland. During the financial year the major risks facing MS Ireland as defined by the Board and the management team have been reviewed and their potential impact assessed. The Board specifically focused on the long term sustainability of the Society. In particular, cost reducing measures were applied across all areas of expenditure as part of an organisation review to reflect the decrease in state funding and the uncertainty of fundraising income. Strategies and controls aimed at managing risks appropriately have been agreed, many of which are already in place and effective; others are being developed further especially with regard to uncertainty around income. In many cases the control processes are subject to continuous improvement. Given the objectives of MS Ireland, and the nature of the activities by which it furthers them, some of the risks have to be accepted: it is not possible for MS Ireland to eliminate them. However, appropriate steps have been taken to mitigate them where possible.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

In 2018 we will continue to work on our strategic priorities as listed below:

Services: To provide quality services nationally to ensure that everyone with Multiple Sclerosis and their families have full access to services and supports when needed

- Review and develop our suite of services provided by professionals and volunteers.
- Continue with regional community activities/programmes and services.
- Continue to provide high quality respite care for people with MS.
- Continue to work with the University of Limerick around exercise/activity based interventions for PwMS.
- Have a new team of bloggers as part of the MS and Me blog refresh

Advocacy: MS Ireland will be the voice for PwMS driving an advocacy agenda that includes areas of greatest concern to PwMS

- Increase the promotion of the work of MS Ireland. Advocate and highlight the needs of PwMS through representations, communication and P.R.
- Develop MS Ireland's proactive position in the neurological pathway.
- Produce a report on the perspectives of Irish people with MS on disease modifying therapies (DMTs)
- Produce two MS News magazines.
- Produce a range of information and self-advocacy resources (subject to obtaining funding) on topics of interest including treatment decisions in MS, Medical Cards and progressive MS.
- Continue to advocate for timely access to new and innovative MS treatments

Research: MS Ireland will develop a research strategy that will focus on supporting and participating in research that is in line with member expectations on local, national and international stages.

- Theme for World MS Day in 2018 is research
- Produce two MS Research eZines
- Hold a second networking event for researchers interested in MS and publish a report on the MS research landscape in Ireland.

Organisational Capacity: Build and Strengthen MS Ireland's organisational capacity to ensure delivery of our strategic plan

- Continue to roll out the Strategic Priorities as set out in our Strategic Plan.
- Review and increase our fundraising efforts. Continue to roll out the "Kiss Goodbye to MS" fundraising campaign
- Redevelop our current website.

Governance and Regulation: Continue to strengthen the governance and regulation of MS Ireland ensuring compliance with relevant regulatory bodies

- Introduce new revised Bye-Laws

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS ' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The consolidated results for the financial year are set out on page 31. The net incoming resources for the year before exceptional items was €397,448 (2016: €293,532).

Incoming resources

Income totalled €6,720,464 which represents an increase of €80,247 (1.2%) on 2016.

Resources expended – Before Exceptional items

During the financial year €6,323,016 (2016: €6,346,685) was spent on the provision of services to PwMS, reflecting a small decrease of €23,669 (0.4%) on 2016.

Exceptional items

An organizational review was carried out by the Board to help ensure the future sustainability of the Society. This resulted in some staff redundancies. During the financial year €198,157 was incurred on redundancy payments and an impairment of €854,400 was applied to the National Office building following a review of its carrying value.

The net outgoing resources for the year after exceptional items was €655,109 (2016: incoming resources of €296,532).

Financial position at the end of the financial year

The fund balances totalled €7,361,459 (2016: €8,016,568) at the end of the financial year. These funds are represented by the following:

	National Office & CEP	Branches	Total
	€	€	€
Tangible Fixed Assets	4,831,564	70,504	4,902,068
Net Current Assets (excl. Bank loan)	2,749,171	1,368,018	4,117,189
Bank Term Loan	(1,657,798)	-	(1,657,798)
Total	5,922,937	1,438,522	7,361,459

The tangible fixed assets of the National Office are comprised mainly of the premises at Northumberland Road and Bushy Park Road, Dublin.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

DIRECTORS AND SECRETARY

The current directors are set out on page 15. The directors, who served at any time during the financial year were as follows:

Directors:

Patrick Stronge (Chairperson until 23 September 2017)
Noelle Burke
Robin Anthony Bradley
Tom Cronin
Marcella Flood (Appointed Chairperson on 23 September 2017; was Deputy Chairperson)
Eugene Kearney (Appointed 23 September 2017)
Jacinta Kelly (Appointed 23 September 2017)
Ian MacDougald
Rory Mulcahy
Maurice O'Connor (Appointed Deputy Chairperson on 23 September 2017)
Martin Power (Appointed 23 September 2017)
Anne Restan
Mary Sheahan Lonergan
Dr Kilian Smith (Resigned 30 March 2017)

Secretary:

Ava Battles

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

None of the directors had any interests in any contracts entered into by the Society during the year.

SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS

The information required by Section 327 of the Companies Act 2014 is included in note 12 to the financial statements.

ACCOUNTING RECORDS

The measures that the directors have taken to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANT AUDIT INFORMATION

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time the Directors' Report and Financial Statements are approved:

- (a) As far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- (b) Each director has taken all steps appropriate to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There have been no significant matters affecting the company post the financial year.

GOING CONCERN

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual financial statements.

AUDITOR

The auditor, Deloitte, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm, continue in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

Marcella Flood
Director

Martin Power
Director

26 May 2018

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and applicable regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("relevant financial reporting framework"). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

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

- select suitable accounting policies for the parent company and the group financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and result of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors' report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements of The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland (the 'company')

In our opinion the group and parent company financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the group and parent company as at 31 December 2017 and of the net outgoing resources of the group for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

The financial statements we have audited comprise:

the group financial statements:

- the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities;
- the Consolidated Balance Sheet;
- the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement; and
- the related notes 1 to 27, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in note 1.

the parent company financial statements:

- the Company Balance Sheet;
- the related notes 1 to 27, including a summary of significant accounting policies as set out in note 1.

The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("the relevant financial reporting framework").

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the "*Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements*" section of our report.

We are independent of the group and parent company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

/Continued from previous page

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Reports and Consolidated Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2017, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- 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 our 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.
- 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 group and parent company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group and parent company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity (or where relevant, the group) to cease to continue as a going concern.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

/Continued from previous page

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Continued)

- 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.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the business activities within the group to express an opinion on the (consolidated) financial statements. The group auditor is responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. The group auditor remains solely responsible for the audit opinion.

We 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 the auditor identifies during the audit.

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

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

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

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The parent company balance sheet is in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements and the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the provisions in the Companies Act 2014 which require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by law are not made.

Sinéad McHugh
For and on behalf of Deloitte
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Deloitte Et Touche House, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

31 May 2018

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017
including income and expenditure account and recognised gains and losses

	Unrestricted Funds 2017	Restricted Funds 2017	Total Funds 2017	Unrestricted Funds 2016	Restricted Funds 2016	Total Funds 2016
Notes	€	€	€	€	€	€
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:						
Income from generated funds:						
Voluntary Income						
- Donations and fundraising	2,388,490	54,404	2,442,894	2,251,646	157,299	2,408,945
- Legacies	113,368	62,013	175,381	89,401	3,000	92,401
- Pharmaceutical	4 26,350	112,050	138,400	58,331	85,395	143,726
- Research	-	47,930	47,930	-	6,117	6,117
- Subscriptions	3,280	-	3,280	2,840	-	2,840
Income from charitable activities						
- Fees received	213,553	-	213,553	220,853	-	220,853
- Grants and other service contract income	5 -	2,695,672	2,695,672	-	2,739,964	2,739,964
- Government schemes	-	796,662	796,662	-	808,161	808,161
- Other income	112,744	93,948	206,692	116,563	100,647	217,210
TOTAL INCOME	3 2,857,785	3,862,679	6,720,464	2,739,634	3,900,583	6,640,217
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Costs of generating funds:						
Costs of generating voluntary income						
- Fundraising	727,430	44,927	772,357	718,671	35,181	753,852
Charitable activities						
- Community services	235,333	2,332,776	2,568,109	323,273	2,319,056	2,642,329
- Respite care services	551,813	1,410,012	1,961,825	468,989	1,446,979	1,915,968
- Research	5,056	99,620	104,676	18,951	112,365	131,316
- Local MS services	792,110	55,049	847,159	764,050	70,595	834,645
- Governance costs	61,159	7,731	68,890	61,845	6,730	68,575
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3 2,372,901	3,950,115	6,323,016	2,355,779	3,990,906	6,346,685
Taxation	19 -	-	-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources for the year before exceptional items	18 484,884	(87,436)	397,448	383,855	(90,323)	293,532
Exceptional items	10 (1,052,557)	-	(1,052,557)	-	-	-
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year	(567,673)	(87,436)	(655,109)	383,855	(90,323)	293,532
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:						
Total funds brought forward	18 6,353,165	1,663,403	8,016,568	5,969,310	1,753,726	7,723,036
Total funds carried forward	5,785,492	1,575,967	7,361,459	6,353,165	1,663,403	8,016,568

All gains and losses arose from continuing activities and are included in the Statement of Financial Activities for the current and prior financial year.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

		2017	2016
	<i>Notes</i>	€	€
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	11	<u>4,902,068</u>	<u>5,937,216</u>
Current Assets			
Stocks		9,274	7,821
Debtors	13	597,290	350,936
Investments	14	15,381	15,381
Cash at bank and in hand	15	<u>4,054,013</u>	<u>4,008,413</u>
		4,675,958	4,382,551
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(776,318)</u>	<u>(645,705)</u>
Net current assets		<u>3,899,640</u>	<u>3,736,846</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		8,801,708	9,674,062
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	<u>(1,440,249)</u>	<u>(1,657,494)</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>7,361,459</u>	<u>8,016,568</u>
FUNDED BY:			
Restricted funds	18	1,575,967	1,663,403
Unrestricted funds	18	5,785,492	6,353,165
FUNDS		<u>7,361,459</u>	<u>8,016,568</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 26 May 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Marcella Flood
Director

Martin Power
Director

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
COMPANY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

		2017	2016
	<i>Notes</i>	€	€
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	11	4,902,068	5,937,216
Investment in subsidiary undertaking	12	1	1
		<u>4,902,069</u>	<u>5,937,217</u>
Current Assets			
Stocks		9,274	7,821
Debtors	13	582,870	344,109
Investments	14	15,381	15,381
Cash at bank and in hand	15	4,012,837	3,980,610
		<u>4,620,362</u>	<u>4,347,921</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(720,723)</u>	<u>(611,076)</u>
Net current assets		<u>3,899,639</u>	<u>3,736,845</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		8,801,708	9,674,062
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	<u>(1,440,249)</u>	<u>(1,657,494)</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>7,361,459</u>	<u>8,016,568</u>
FUNDED BY:			
Restricted funds	18	1,575,967	1,663,403
Unrestricted funds	18	5,785,492	6,353,165
FUNDS		<u>7,361,459</u>	<u>8,016,568</u>

The net outgoing resources dealt within the financial statements of the company were €705,109 (2016: net incoming resources of €293,532).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 26 May 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

Marcella Flood
Director

Martin Power
Director

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds 2017	Total funds 2016
	Notes	€	€	€	€
Net cash flows from operating activities	<i>19(i)</i>	<u>322,066</u>	<u>38,543</u>	<u>360,609</u>	<u>402,774</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Interest received		1,824	-	1,824	5,407
Interest paid		(71,134)	-	(71,134)	(76,169)
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		355	-	355	15,000
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(20,002)</u>	<u>(23,029)</u>	<u>(43,031)</u>	<u>(97,273)</u>
Net cash flows from investing activities		<u>(88,957)</u>	<u>(23,029)</u>	<u>(111,986)</u>	<u>(153,035)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Repayments of borrowings	<i>17</i>	<u>(203,023)</u>	-	<u>(203,023)</u>	<u>(196,729)</u>
Net cash flows from financing activities		<u>(203,023)</u>	-	<u>(203,023)</u>	<u>(196,729)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	<i>19(ii)</i>	<u>30,086</u>	<u>15,514</u>	<u>45,600</u>	<u>53,010</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>3,362,419</u>	<u>645,994</u>	<u>4,008,413</u>	<u>3,955,403</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<i>19(iii)</i>	<u><u>3,392,505</u></u>	<u><u>661,508</u></u>	<u><u>4,054,013</u></u>	<u><u>4,008,413</u></u>

**THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) FRS 102 (Revised 2015) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015)" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015; and the Companies Act 2014. Financial reporting in line with SORP is considered best practice for charities in Ireland.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland ("the Society") is constituted under Irish company law as a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity with registration number 296573. The address of the registered office is 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. In prior years, company law scoped out companies not trading for gain for the members from the requirements with regard to formats and content of financial statements which applied to for profit companies, thus permitting the adoption of a format appropriate to a charity. Accordingly, the Society adopted and reported its performance in accordance with the format provided for in the Charities SORP and in particular reports its performance for the financial year in the format of the SORP's Statement of Financial Activities ("SOFA").

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland (the parent undertaking) and its subsidiary undertaking, The Multiple Sclerosis C.E.P. Company Limited. Transactions between the national office, Branches and MS care centre (including The Multiple Sclerosis C.E.P. Company Limited) have been eliminated.

Income

Income is accounted for when the Society has entitlement, there is certainty of receipt and the amount is measurable.

Grants from statutory bodies are credited to income in the financial year to which they relate. Where the grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors. Capital grants are accounted for as income as soon as they are receivable.

Member subscriptions are taken to revenue in the financial year in which they are received.

Gifts of assets are included in income at a reasonable estimate of their value, at the date received. These assets are treated as either tangible fixed assets or current assets depending on whether the gift is to be disposed of or retained for use by the Group. Gifts for fundraising purposes are accounted for when realised.

**THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Deferred Income and Expenditure

Funds received and expenditure incurred by the Group for fundraising events to be held in the future are treated as deferred income and expenditure.

Stocks

Stocks, which comprise fundraising materials, are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives. The rates and methods of depreciation are as follows:-

Freehold Premises	2% straight line
Office Equipment	10% straight line
Computer Equipment	33% straight line
Furniture and Fittings	20% straight line
Motor Vehicles	20% straight line
Branches' Motor Vehicles/Mobile Homes	10% straight line

Leased Assets

All leases entered into by the Group are operating leases. Operating lease costs are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Retirement Benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Retirement benefits to employees of the Group are funded by contributions from the Group and the employees. Payments are made to pension trusts which are financially separate from the Group. These payments, which are made in accordance with periodic calculations by consulting actuaries, are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they become payable.

Research

Expenditure on research projects is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Accounting and Reserves Policy

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds:

Restricted funds represent grants, donations and legacies which can only be used for the particular purposes specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the Group.

Unrestricted funds:

General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the Board, in furtherance of the objectives of the Group.

MS Ireland defines its reserves as its total unrestricted funds. In planning and budgeting for its activities, the company considers the level of unrestricted reserves to maintain a balance between the need to safeguard the continuity and development of its services and the need for prudent management of its activities as well as providing for contingencies. The Board aims to maintain its total unrestricted reserves level at three months operating costs.

Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Society becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for any financial assets classified as at fair value through the SOFA, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs). Trade and other receivables, trade and other payables and interest bearing borrowings are subsequently stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the balance sheet when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the company intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the Group's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The directors do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation uncertainty except for those set out in the accounting policies in Note 1.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

3. ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME FROM:	Restricted 2017 €	Unrestricted 2017 €	Total 2017 €	Total 2016 €
Community Services-National and Regional	2,061,244	19,736	2,080,980	2,088,293
Fundraising Et Donations -National office and Regional	43,749	1,704,722	1,748,471	1,650,479
Local MS Services-Branches	86,537	919,370	1,005,907	1,003,099
Respite Care Services	874,487	213,957	1,088,444	1,090,185
Government Schemes	796,662	-	796,662	808,161
TOTAL INCOME	3,862,679	2,857,785	6,720,464	6,640,217
EXPENDITURE ON:	Restricted 2017 €	Unrestricted 2017 €	Total 2017 €	Total 2016 €
Community Services-National and Regional	2,236,703	515,241	2,751,944	2,877,246
Fundraising-National Office and Regional	-	658,208	658,208	605,163
Local MS Services-Branches	(16,368)	799,610	783,242	768,748
Respite Care Services	933,118	383,452	1,316,570	1,276,650
Government Schemes	796,662	16,390	813,052	818,878
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,950,115	2,372,901	6,323,016	6,346,685
NET INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR BEFORE EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS	(87,436)	484,884	397,448	293,532

4. ANALYSIS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Restricted 2017 €	Unrestricted 2017 €	Total 2017 €	Total 2016 €
Perrigo Company plc	40,000	1,127	41,127	40,000
Sanofi	7,000	3,642	10,642	22,395
Novartis Ireland	20,000	8,000	28,000	20,500
Merck Serono (Ireland) Ltd	10,000	2,805	12,805	18,000
Biogen IDEC	20,000	-	20,000	15,000
Roche Pharmholding B.V	15,050	10,521	25,571	10,000
Teva Pharmaceutical Ltd	-	-	-	9,030
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Plc	-	-	-	5,000
Grunenthal Pharma Ltd	-	-	-	2,740
Alkermes Pharma Ireland Limited	-	255	255	561
Bemis Healthcare	-	-	-	500
	112,050	26,350	138,400	143,726

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

5.	GRANTS AND OTHER SERVICE CONTRACT INCOME	2017	2016
		€	€
	HSE-Statutory Funding	2,540,797	2,535,771
	HSE-National Lottery Funding	64,037	113,350
	HSE-Other Grants	10,795	16,000
	Pobal Funding-Craga Grant	71,719	65,172
	Other Grants-Non HSE	8,324	9,671
		<u>2,695,672</u>	<u>2,739,964</u>
6.	NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR	2017	2016
		€	€
	The net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the financial year is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Depreciation	222,713	217,150
	Interest payable and similar charges	71,134	76,169
	Auditor's remuneration - Group	24,354	24,354
	- Branches	22,748	24,499
	- Government/CEP Schemes	3,690	3,383
	- Other	798	798
	Directors' remuneration	-	-
	Operating lease rentals	29,139	29,367
	Loss/(profit) on retirements and disposals of tangible fixed assets	711	(6,411)
	and after crediting:		
	Interest received	<u>(1,824)</u>	<u>(5,407)</u>

Board members' travel and subsistence expenses incurred in attending meetings in 2017 were €8,755 (2016: €4,447). The reason for the increase arises from the change in the geographical composition of the board and increased level of activities. No emoluments are paid to Board members.

Governance costs of €68,889 (2016: 68,575) are comprised of auditor's remuneration, board costs, branch AGM costs and support costs (Note 7).

7. EXPENDITURE ON FUNDRAISING AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Direct Salary Costs	Other Direct Costs	Support Costs (Note 8)	Total 2017	Total 2016
	€	€	€	€	€
Fundraising	230,500	433,638	101,780	765,918	753,852
Community Services	1,687,768	540,979	341,558	2,570,305	2,642,329
Respite Care Services	882,118	819,007	260,700	1,961,825	1,915,968
Local MS Services	21,723	712,860	112,576	847,159	834,645
Research	8,173	86,273	14,474	108,920	131,316
Governance (Note 6)	-	59,735	9,154	68,889	68,575
	<u>2,830,282</u>	<u>2,652,492</u>	<u>840,242</u>	<u>6,323,016</u>	<u>6,346,685</u>

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

8. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS	2017	2016
	€	€
Charitable activities:		
Staff and related costs	522,615	456,607
Other costs	234,180	296,247
Depreciation	83,447	83,790
Total	840,242	836,644

Support costs are allocated on the basis of the percentage expenditure incurred for each charitable activity.

9. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

The average number of persons employed by the Group in the financial year was 68 (2016: 72), analysed into the following categories:

	2017	2016
	No.	No.
Regional and National services	25	29
Care	24	24
Administration	13	13
Fundraising activities	6	6
	68	72

The numbers shown above are exclusive of 53 (2016: 52) persons contracted to provide counselling and therapy services and persons employed under the DSP Community Employment Schemes.

	2017	2016
	€	€
Total staff costs comprised of the following:		
Wages and salaries	2,491,345	2,566,366
Employer social welfare costs	260,186	266,728
Employer retirement benefit contributions	99,340	96,615
Redundancy	198,157	-
	3,049,028	2,929,709

The Group also receives significant support from voluntary workers.

The number of employees whose emoluments, excluding employer pension contributions, were greater than €70,000 is set out below:

	2017	2016
	Number	Number
€70,000 - €80,000	1	1
€80,000 - €90,000	-	-
€90,000 - €100,000	1	1

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are the Board, the Chief Executive, Services Manager, National Services Development Manager, Corporate Services Manager and Financial Accountant. Total emoluments (including benefits and pension) paid to key management personnel was €399,272 (2016: €431,950). The decrease in emoluments was principally due to non-replacement of a post arising from an organization restructuring.

Board members receive no remuneration.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
 NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

10. EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS	2017	2016
	€	€
Impairment of buildings	854,400	-
Redundancy costs	198,157	-
	<u>1,052,557</u>	<u>-</u>

During the year an impairment review was carried out in respect of the National Office building and this gave rise to the impairment charge of €854,400. An organisation review was carried out in 2017 which led to a total redundancy cost of €198,157.

The above items are considered to be exceptional by virtue of size and incidence, notwithstanding that they fall within the ordinary activities of the company.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
 NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

GROUP AND COMPANY

	Freehold Premises	Office Equipment	Computer Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Branches' Motor Vehicles	Branches' Mobile Homes/	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cost:								
At 1 January 2017	8,046,543	198,110	113,309	412,091	32,907	241,715	9,044,675	
Additions	-	14,747	19,851	5,785	-	2,648	43,031	
Disposals/retirals	-	-	-	-	-	(1,218)	(1,218)	
Impairment	(854,400)	-	-	-	-	-	(854,400)	
At 31 December 2017	7,192,143	212,857	133,160	417,876	32,907	243,145	8,232,088	
Depreciation:								
At 1 January 2017	2,292,684	171,827	97,596	354,365	32,907	158,080	3,107,459	
Charge for the financial year	160,930	9,811	14,907	22,352	-	14,713	222,713	
Disposals/retirals	-	-	-	-	-	(152)	(152)	
At 31 December 2017	2,453,614	181,638	112,503	376,717	32,907	172,641	3,330,020	
Net Book Value:								
At 31 December 2017	4,738,529	31,219	20,657	41,159	-	70,504	4,902,068	

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

12.	INVESTMENT IN SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKING	2017	2016
		€	€
	COMPANY		
	Cost:		
	Balance at beginning and end of financial year	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland through its wholly owned subsidiary undertaking, The Multiple Sclerosis C.E.P. Company Limited, operates a Community Employment Scheme at 65 Bushy Park Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6. The registered office of the subsidiary is 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4.

13.	DEBTORS	2017	2016
		€	€
	GROUP		
	Amounts due from fundraising activities	370,025	141,729
	Prepayments	83,416	64,299
	Community Employment Schemes	45,966	29,384
	HSE grants	39,115	66,587
	Residents fees and other debtors	49,155	39,460
	Deferred fundraising expenditure	9,613	9,477
		<u>597,290</u>	<u>350,936</u>
	COMPANY		
	Amounts due from fundraising activities	370,025	141,729
	Prepayments	83,416	64,299
	HSE grants	39,115	66,587
	Community Employment Schemes	11,164	22,205
	Residents fees and other debtors	49,155	39,460
	Amount due from subsidiary	20,382	353
	Deferred fundraising expenditure	9,613	9,476
		<u>582,870</u>	<u>344,109</u>

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

14. INVESTMENTS	2017	2016
GROUP AND COMPANY	€	€
At 1 January and 31 December (principally prize bonds)	15,381	15,381
	<u>15,381</u>	<u>15,381</u>
15. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2017	2016
GROUP	€	€
National and Regional services	2,619,689	2,681,123
Branches	1,393,148	1,299,487
C.E.P Company	41,176	27,803
	<u>4,054,013</u>	<u>4,008,413</u>
COMPANY		
National and Regional services	2,619,689	2,681,123
Branches	1,393,148	1,299,487
	<u>4,012,837</u>	<u>3,980,610</u>
Of the €2,619,689 of National and Regional Services cash at bank and in hand a total of €1,985,952 is unrestricted.		
16. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	2017	2016
	€	€
GROUP		
Trade creditors	205,190	149,164
Accruals	117,437	121,240
Bank term loan (note 17)	217,549	203,327
Deferred income	71,101	42,104
Community Employment Schemes	102,410	63,876
PAYE/PRSI	62,631	65,994
	<u>776,318</u>	<u>645,705</u>
COMPANY		
Trade creditors	205,190	149,164
Accruals	117,437	121,240
Bank term loan (note 17)	217,549	203,327
Deferred income	71,101	42,104
Community Employment Schemes	46,815	31,365
PAYE/PRSI	62,631	63,876
	<u>720,723</u>	<u>611,076</u>

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

17.	CREDITORS: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2017	2016
		€	€
	GROUP AND COMPANY		
	Bank term loan	<u>1,440,249</u>	<u>1,657,494</u>

The loan is repayable by monthly instalments of €21,633 of which €16,597 represents capital repayments. As at 31 December 2017 the balance remaining on the loan was €1,657,798, of which an amount of €555,506 was fixed for 10 years at an interest rate of 3.740%, €553,370 was fixed for 10 years at an interest rate of 3.220% and €548,922 was fixed for 7 years at an interest rate of 2.57%. The loans are secured by a fixed charge on the premises at 65 Bushy Park Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6.

The maturity analysis of the bank loan at 31 December is as set out below:

	2017	2016
	€	€
Within one year (Note 16)	217,549	203,327
Within two to five years	909,550	880,869
After more than five years	530,699	776,625
	<u>1,657,798</u>	<u>1,860,821</u>

18. FUNDS

GROUP AND COMPANY	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
	€	€	€
Funds at beginning of financial year	1,663,403	6,353,165	8,016,568
Movement during financial year	(87,436)	(567,673)	(655,109)
Funds at end of financial year	<u>1,575,967</u>	<u>5,785,492</u>	<u>7,361,459</u>

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

18. FUNDS (CONTINUED)

The movement in restricted funds in the financial year was as follows:

Restricted fund	Fund balance at beginning of financial year	Income/Expenditure during financial year	Fund balance at end of financial year
	€	€	€
Capital grants	875,450	(26,721)	848,729
Other (a)	579,559	53,788	633,347
J. P. McManus (b)	23,613	2,039	25,652
Bequests (c)	131,173	(87,472)	43,701
Research (d)	53,608	(29,070)	24,538
Total	<u>1,663,403</u>	<u>(87,436)</u>	<u>1,575,967</u>

The restricted funds are represented by fixed assets of €848,729 (2016: €875,450) and net current assets of €727,238 (2016: €789,253).

- (a) The other restricted funds include funds received from the National Lottery, funds received for the Care Centre and funds received for Getting the Balance Right Programmes and events.
- (b) The J.P. McManus Fund is restricted to expenditure in the Mid-West region.
- (c) Bequests are restricted to expenditure in Wexford, Cork and the Care Centre.
- (d) The research fund is restricted to research expenditure.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

19. NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(i) RECONCILIATION OF CHANGES IN RESOURCES TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2017 €	2016 €
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	(655,109)	293,532
Interest received	(1,824)	(5,407)
Interest payable	71,134	76,169
Depreciation	222,713	217,151
Impairment of building	854,400	-
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(1,453)	3,806
Increase in debtors	(246,354)	(55,454)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	116,391	(120,612)
Loss/(profit) on retirals/disposals of tangible fixed assets	711	(6,411)
	<u>360,609</u>	<u>402,774</u>

(ii) RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENT IN NET CASH

	2017 €	2016 €
Increase in cash in financial year	45,600	53,010
Cash flow from debt financing	203,023	196,729
	<u>248,623</u>	<u>249,739</u>
Change in net cash	248,623	249,739
Net cash at beginning of financial year	2,147,592	1,897,853
	<u>2,396,215</u>	<u>2,147,592</u>

(iii) ANALYSIS OF NET CASH

	2016 €	Cash Flow	2017 €
Cash at bank and in hand	4,008,413	45,600	4,054,013
Debt due within one year	(203,327)	(14,222)	(217,549)
Debt due after one year	(1,657,494)	217,245	(1,440,249)
	<u>2,147,592</u>	<u>248,623</u>	<u>2,396,215</u>

TAXATION

20. The company has been granted charitable status, and accordingly no charge to corporation tax arises by virtue of Section 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

21. GIFTS IN KIND

The Group receives financial support through the provision of services at reduced costs, from its advertisers, architects, printers, solicitors and other suppliers. The value of this support was approximately €3,668 in 2017 (2016: €3,815).

22. RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The Group operates a defined contribution insured pension scheme for employees. The employer retirement benefit cost for the financial year was €99,340 (2016: €96,615) and the balance outstanding which is included in accruals at the end of the financial year was €39,513 (2016: €36,280).

23. FUNDRAISING

The Group has a fundraising department. Commissions are not paid for any fundraising activities.

24. LEASE COMMITMENTS

Operating Leases:

Premises

Total lease commitments at 31 December 2017 amounted to €29,139 (2016: €29,367) and fall due as follows:

	2017	2016
	€	€
- Within one year	<u>29,139</u>	<u>29,367</u>

25. OTHER COMMITMENTS

In certain circumstances grants received could become repayable by the Group. Additionally there is a Fixed charge held over the care centre which expires in 2021.

There were no significant capital commitments contracted for by the Group as at 31 December 2017.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

26. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The carrying values of the group's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

	2017	2016
	€	€
Financial assets		
<i>Measured at amortised cost</i>		
GROUP		
• Amounts due from fundraising activities	370,025	141,729
• Community Employment Schemes	45,966	29,384
• HSE grants	39,115	66,587
• Residents fees and other debtors	<u>49,155</u>	<u>39,460</u>
COMPANY		
• Amounts due from fundraising activities	370,025	141,729
• HSE grants	39,115	66,587
• Community Employment Schemes	11,164	22,205
• Residents fees and other debtors	49,155	39,460
• Amount due from subsidiary	<u>20,382</u>	<u>353</u>
	2017	2016
	€	€
Financial liabilities		
<i>Measured at amortised cost</i>		
GROUP		
• Trade creditors	205,190	149,164
• Bank term loan (note 16 and 17)	1,657,798	1,860,821
• Community Employment Schemes	<u>102,410</u>	<u>63,876</u>
COMPANY		
• Trade creditors	205,190	149,164
• Bank term loan (note 16 and 17)	1,657,798	1,860,821
• Community Employment Schemes	<u>46,815</u>	<u>31,365</u>

27. LEGAL STATUS

By virtue of Section 1180 of the Companies Act 2014 the company is exempt from including the word "limited" in its name. The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The amount of the guarantee is limited to €1.27 per member.

As permitted by Section 304(2) of the Companies Act 2014, the Statement of Financial Activities of the parent undertaking is not presented as part of these financial statements. The net outgoing resources dealt within the financial statements of the company were €705,109 (2016: net incoming resources of €293,532).

Candidates Profiles

Candidates listed in alphabetical order

Dr Edwina Dunne

Edwina has over 37 years national and international experience in health and social care services, across the public and private sector. She is driven by her passion to enable people deliver quality services and provide assurance on the level of compliance with standards regulations and policy. Edwina's qualifications include OT, MSC Healthcare Management and a Doctorate in Business Administration DBA.

Key recent posts: Edwina was the first head of Quality and Risk in the HSE, established and managed the national Healthcare audit service similar to (Internal audit) for clinical and social care services. Edwina retired from the HSE 2016, and now works as an 'Empowering consultant' (building capacity) with organisations in supporting compliance with HIQA regulations including a member of the national Ambulance Service, national Quality and Safety Committee.

Edwina was co-opted to the Board in 2018 and is Chairperson of the Services Monitoring and Evaluation Committee.

Edwina has one daughter who has twins and three sons, Edwina enjoys living in Wexford.



Rory Mulcahy

Rory Mulcahy is a Senior Counsel, dealing mainly with commercial, construction and planning disputes, and public law cases. He has also acted frequently for regulatory authorities, such as the Medical Council and the Nursing Board, in fitness to practise inquiries.

He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, before taking the Barrister-at-Law degree at the King's Inns. He also holds an LLM in Human Rights and Discrimination Law from Queen's University, Belfast, and a Diploma in Arbitration from University College, Dublin. He was called to the Bar in 1998 and was made a Senior Counsel in 2014.

Rory was elected on to the Board of MS Ireland in 2015 and is a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

He lives in Dublin, and is married with three children.



Candidates Profiles

Candidates listed in alphabetical order

Maurice O'Connor

Maurice has twice experienced MS in his immediate and extended family. His brother Kieran (RIP 2008) was diagnosed with MS in the early 1990's and as a child his family often visited a cousin of his father's who also had MS.

Since taking voluntary severance from a senior management position in ESB in 2012, Maurice has worked as a volunteer with MS Ireland in its South East Regional Office in Kilkenny before joining MS Ireland's Governance Committee and being elected to the Board in 2015. Maurice is also a Board member of Ossory Youth and is a presenter and Board member of Community Radio Kilkenny City, in addition to being a member of the Secretariat of the Kilkenny County Public Participation Network (PPN). Maurice is also a volunteer with Victim Support at Court.

While in ESB, Maurice, a Civil Engineer by training, held down a wide variety of roles such as IT project management, commercial and property portfolio management, health and safety management and procurement strategy. Maurice also trained and practiced as a business coach in ESB.

Maurice is Deputy Chairperson of MS Ireland. He is also Chairperson of the Governance Committee and the Strategic Planning and Fundraising Committee.



ATTENDANCE FORM



I will be attending the A.G.M. on Saturday, 22nd September 2018 –
Please tick one of the boxes

or

YES

NO

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO

AGM (Attendance)
The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited
80 Northumberland Road
Dublin 4

Or

e-mail confirmation of your attendance to Alice McKeon
(E-mail address is: alicem@ms-society.ie)

By the 20th September 2018

Name

.....

Address

.....

.....

Branch (if applicable)

.....