



The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited

Annual General Meeting

Notice and Information Pack

Monday, 30th September 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at
National Office, 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4
& Via Zoom

(Note: The AGM will be held online via Zoom. The AGM meeting will be recorded). To attend the AGM, members need to complete the registration form attached on page 64 and we will send the zoom link to you on receipt of your registration form.)

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Separate document circulated with the AGM Pack:

Proxy Form



THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
The MS Resource Centre

80 Northumberland Road

Dublin 4

Telephone (01) 678 1600

Fax (01) 678 1601

MS Helpline 1850 233 233

website: www.ms-society.ie

email: info@ms-society.ie

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

Notice is hereby given that the twenty fifth National Annual General Meeting of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited will take place in National Office, 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4 and via Zoom on Monday, 30th September 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

(Note The AGM will be recorded.) To attend the AGM virtually (via Zoom), members need to complete the registration form on page 64 and we will send the zoom link to you on receipt of your registration form.)

The AGM is being held 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 2023 together with the directors' report and the auditors' report thereon
2. To elect Mr Paddy Mulhall as Director
3. To elect Mr Niall Rooney as Director
4. To elect Mr Auke van der Werff as Director
5. To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors

By Order of the Board

Maurice O'Connor
Company Secretary
MS Ireland

26th August 2024

Patron Michael 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 nominal fee.
Registered Office: 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. Company Registration Number 296573; Registered Charity Number: 20007867; Charity Number: 5365.



THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND
The MS Resource Centre

80 Northumberland Road

Dublin 4

Telephone (01) 678 1600

Fax (01) 678 1601

MS Helpline 1850 233 233

website: www.ms-society.ie

email: info@ms-society.ie

Re: 25th National Annual General Meeting ("AGM") (since incorporation – the Society was founded in 1961) of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland Limited on Monday, 30th September 2024 at 7.00 p.m. in National Office, 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4 and via Zoom

Dear Member,

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

1. Election Information

The Nominating Committee are recommending the appointments of Mr Paddy Mulhall, Mr Niall Rooney and Mr. Auke van der Werff who are listed in your AGM Pack

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 at the AGM, you can fill in the attached Proxy Form to appoint the Chairperson, to 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 7.00 p.m. 28th September 2024.

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

Yours sincerely

Maurice O'Connor
Company Secretary, MS Ireland

Patron Michael D. Higgins, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

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Registered Office: 80 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4. Company Registration Number 296573; Registered Charity Number: 20007867; Charity Number: 5365.

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 2023
2. Election of Mr Paddy Mulhall as Director to the Board
3. Election of Mr Niall Rooney as Director to the Board
4. Election of Mr Auke van der Werff as Director to the Board
5. Authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors

Please note that the AGM will be recorded

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Minutes of the 63rd Annual General Meeting (24th Annual General Meeting since incorporation) of the Company held in the Radisson Hotel, Northgate Street, Athlone & Via Zoom on Saturday, 16th September 2023 at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr Maurice O'Connor (Chairperson)
Members & Delegates

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Ava Battles (Chief Executive)
Ms Alice McKeon (Staff - Minutes)

APOLOGIES: As per list available from MS Ireland

The Chairperson, Mr Maurice O'Connor, formally opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the 63rd Annual General Meeting of the Society and 24th since its incorporation.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Previous Minutes

Minutes of the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Saturday, 17th September 2022 having previously been circulated, were taken as read. The Minutes were approved by the Members.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairperson's Address

The Chairperson expressed thanks to pharmaceutical companies Roche and Novartis who supported us in holding the 2023 conference. Huge thanks to Aidan, Tina and Kevin from the Galway Office for planning this conference. He also expressed his thanks to Aoife Kirwan for her input who unfortunately was unable to attend. He thanked Jason Power who put a huge amount of work into the technical side. He thanked Alice McKeon for her assistance in governance matters throughout the year. He also thanked the hotel for hosting us.

The Chairperson said he would be stepping down as Chairperson of the Board and expressed huge thanks to his fellow board members, to Ava Battles and her team throughout the years. He expressed his thanks to Eugene Kearney who was on the Board for six years and Tom Cronin who was one of the Council elected representatives on the Board for 9 years. He also thanked the staff of MS Ireland who do so much for the Board. They are very committed to the organisation and are a wonderful group of people to work with. He thanked all who are here and the community for caring and supporting people with MS around the country. He informed the members that a case study is considered by the Board at each of their meetings which provides insight into the life of somebody with MS. This is incredibly enriching, rewarding and brings us back to focus on what we are about. He thanked all our speakers at the Conference who were incredibly informative.

The Chief Executive's Address

The Chairperson called on the Chief Executive, Ava Battles, to give an overview of 2022. CE stated that we put people with MS at the centre of what we do. We have 4 strategic goals with 8 objectives. Model of care, information webinars, conferences, health professional days, case work services, respite facility, exercise programme, wellness programmes and advocacy on behalf of people with MS are all services provided by MS Ireland. 2,353 people attended one to one case work and 59 people were newly diagnosed with MS. We provided emotional support and financial assistance. There were over 2,000 people in 233 programmes and 682 individual sessions. We are very appreciative of our branches who support these programmes. Other programmes include self management, coffee mornings, mediation, creative writing. The information line is the first port of call for people with MS and is open from 9.00 a.m – 5.00 p.m. Care Centre hosts 12 beds. A lot of people interact with us on social channels. The Art of MS took place on World MS Day. The PwMS showed through their art the symptoms of MS. The Chief Executive thanked people for participating in the survey –

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

Societal cost of MS. Surveys helps us to lobby on behalf of members. Two business cases were prepared – one is for the Care Centre which would ideally allow us to open for 360 days a year and the other business case is for the provision of physio. Fundraising included the Readathon, May 50K, raffles, sky dives and new challenges on line including the crunch challenge and swimming. The Chief Executive thanked the Board for all the work they did in 2022. Branches provide services, coffee mornings or support groups or being the person on the ground who connects with PwMS and she thanked them for their support.

The Chief Executive said she was proud of the service MS Ireland delivered in 2022. Unfortunately we had some challenges around staffing and 3 staff members left the Accounts Department to go and work in the corporate world. We were challenged with recruitment and illness within the Department. We have accounts to present to you today. We have accounts from the branches. The auditors are currently with us. We will be presenting accounts to you again by way of a reconvened AGM.

A Branch reported that the letter sent by MS Ireland to all the Branches to have their accounts in by 31st March 2023 or otherwise the Branch may be closed, caused stress to the Branch. CE explained that it was not our intention to cause stress to a Branch. We needed to lay down a general statement to branches who have not been as compliant. The Board has struggled with this issue where there is a continuous pattern in not getting accounts back on time. This year we had the best return from our branches. CE apologised if that email caused upset. holding the AGM – I think should be changed to holding the 2023 conference.

The Chairperson of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee, Mr Power, reported that we met with the auditors. They have 90% of the testing done so there will be no change in the figures we are presenting today. The net movement of funds was €205K and last year it was €450K so that is less than 5% of the income. We spent 95% of our income on services. We have costs in relation to regulation. There is €10M total fund available and €5M of these are in property and the other €5M is in cash. It is a healthy position for any charity and stands us in good stead going forward. Income is €50K up on last year. Expenditure is up €250K. Fundraising is down over all but we have done well in maintaining fundraising. Income is comprised of 50% of government grants, 32% fundraising and 13% community employment schemes. 86% of costs were in relation to community services and 14% on fundraising costs and he said this was a good result. Branch income increased by €120K with church gate collections coming back and flag days raised €27K up from nothing the previous year. That is a great achievement by Branches. Branch expenditure was spent primarily on services 74%, 14% on branch overheads and fundraising costs 6.0%. The Chairperson thanked Mr Power for stepping into the breach with the disruptions we had with resourcing in the Finance team and thanked the temporary person we took on recently and the other members of the Finance Team in getting the figures to this stage.

The Directors' Report for the year ended 31st September 2022 was taken as read.

We consulted with Deloitte Secretarial division as to what we should do in not having audited accounts and their advice was to continue on with the AGM, bring to your attention the draft Statements and reconvene the adjourned AGM.

We have 3 directors elected from Counsel. Tom Cronin retired and Tony Candon was elected to the Board. Ms Kelly, Ms Murray, Mr Power and Mr Warren gave a brief overview of their bios to members.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

MINUTES OF 2023 AGM

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 poll:

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

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

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

THAT Mr Warren had received a majority of the votes cast and that he was hereby elected as a Director to the Board.

THAT Mr Martin 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.

The Chairperson informed the members that we go out to tender every 5 years for our Auditors. He said we haven't been able to do this because of resource issues. We will retain Deloitte for next year.

CONCLUSION:

The Chairperson congratulated Ms Kelly, Ms Murray, Mr Power, Mr Warren and Mr Martin on being elected to the Board.

The Chairperson thanked the members for attending all of the events.

The business of the meeting was then declared to have been concluded and the meeting terminated at approximately 5.15 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

COMPANY SECRETARY

DATE

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

MINUTES OF 2023 RECONVENED AGM

Minutes of the 63rd Reconvened Annual General Meeting (24th Annual General Meeting since incorporation) of the Company held in the MS Care Centre, 65 Bushy Park Road, Dublin 6 Et Via Zoom on Thursday, 30th November 2023 at 8.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Ms Anne Restan (Chairperson)
Members Et Delegates

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Ava Battles (Chief Executive)
Ms Alice McKeon (Staff - Minutes)

APOLOGIES: As per list available from MS Ireland

The Chairperson, Ms Anne Restan, formally opened the meeting and welcomed all members to the Reconvened Annual General Meeting of the Society.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Presentation by CE

CE reported that at the AGM we presented unaudited accounts. At the reconvened AGM we are presenting audited accounts. It is an ordinary resolution to receive and consider audited accounts for 31 December 2022. CE apologised that we didn't have audited accounts at the September AGM. She thanked the branches for getting their branch accounts back to us but due to staff turnover and sick leave, we had difficulty in getting our accounts audited on time. She expressed her appreciation to staff who participated and made this happen for this evening. She introduced Mr Power, Chairperson of the Finance Audit Risk and Strategy Committee to members.

Presentation by Mr Power, Chairperson of the Finance Audit Risk and Strategy Committee

Mr Power informed the members that there was little change in the accounts to what members were presented with in September. The auditors had made minor corrections. The change was a rounding off difference by €1. The excess of income over expenditure was €205K for the year. Net income over expenses compared to €450K the previous year. The previous year was exceptional in that there were one or two large donations. There was no change in analysis of the income. About 60% of our income comes from the Government, fundraising is 32%, Care Centre is 3% and other income 2%. Expenses - 14% of the total costs is fundraising and the other 86% is spent on services and respite care. The branch income fundraising events are 45% of their total income which is €429K about €100K up mainly coming from an increase in church gate collections and donations are up slightly. 46% of all branch expenses are fundraising related and 74% are spent on services and there are some overheads and governance costs. Incorrect slides had been initially displayed and this was corrected by displaying audited account slides.

It was reported that overall the bank balances were pretty static between 2021 and 2022. Branches tend to spend the income they get in the year. We have currently 29 branches. We have had some closures in the past years as some of the branches were struggling.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

MINUTES OF 2023 RECONVENED AGM

Ordinary Resolution

To consider and, if thought fit to pass the following resolutions which was proposed as an ordinary resolution:

1. To receive and consider the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022 together with the directors' report and the auditors' report thereon.

96% of the members present voted in favour of the resolution so the resolution was carried.

The Chairperson thanked everybody for attending the meeting and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

The business of the meeting was then declared to have been concluded and the meeting terminated at approximately 5.15 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON

COMPANY SECRETARY

DATE

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Reports and
Financial Statements
for the financial year ended
31 December 2023

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Directors and Other Information

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Restan (Chairperson)
Aveen Murray (Deputy Chairperson)
Robin Bradley
Noelle Burke
Anthony Candon (appointed 16th of September 2023)
Carol Ellis Barton (resigned 7th December 2023)
Jacinta Kelly
Dr Rebecca Maguire
Sean Martin (appointed 16th of September 2023)
Rory Mulcahy
Maurice O'Connor (Company Secretary)
Martin Power
Mary Sheahan Lonergan
Leslie Warren (appointed 23rd of February 2023)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Ava Battles

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

William Lonergan
Allen O'Connor

FINANCE, AUDIT, RISK AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Martin Power (Chairperson)
Robin Bradley
Jacinta Kelly
Sean Martin (appointed 16th of September 2023)
Rory Mulcahy
Maurice O'Connor
Ava Battles (In Attendance)

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

REGISTERED OFFICE	80 Northumberland Road Dublin 4, D04 T856
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 Ireland LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm Deloitte & Touche House 29 Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2, D02 AY28 Ireland
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 financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

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 2023.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND MISSION, VISION, OBJECTIVES AND VALUES

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

MS Ireland has a vision of an 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 and
- To provide an identifiable focal point by developing an efficient, effective, and caring
- organisation to serve the needs of PwMS and to advocate on their behalf;

Values

MS Ireland is committed to being supportive, transparent, informative, and empowering. These core values are the fundamental beliefs of our organization.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Board

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

The Board is provided with regular financial and operational information. Detailed budgets are prepared in line with the current Strategic Plan and are reviewed by the Finance, Audit, Risk and Strategy 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 Charity Regulator Governance Code 2018, its Constitution, and its Bye Laws. These are available on our website www.ms-society.ie.

The Board continues to be committed to a high level of transparency and disclosure in relation to staff remuneration. As in previous years, Note 10 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 MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

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 29 voluntary Branches.

The Board is supported by Council, which is an elected consultative body representing the views of the Branches of the Society and its members. Council is made up of delegates from every Branch. Council meetings enable Branches to voice the concerns of their members while receiving updates from the C.E. and Chairperson of the Board on developments in MS Ireland. Council meetings are held bi-annually. There are three Council members on the Board. Each year the Council members elect one new member to serve on the Board for a term of three years.

The Board is responsible for the strategy, and it creates/appoints committees. The following committees are appointed by the Board to aid in the internal workings of MS Ireland:

1. Finance, Audit, Risk and Strategy Committee
2. Services, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee
3. Research, Information, Advocacy and Communications Committee
4. Nominations and Remuneration Committee
5. Governance Committee
6. Organisation and People Committee

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.

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 Constitution and Code of Conduct 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 or loyalty of Directors at meetings. We have a committed and strong Board, currently made up of 69% 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 2023 Board members expenses were €701 (2022: €623). No emoluments are paid to Board members. The list of Board members and biographies can be found on our website.
- MS Ireland is a registered charity and is in compliance with the requirements of Charities Governance Code and is listed on the [Register of the Charities Regulatory Authority](#). Our annual financial statements are audited by Deloitte Ireland LLP. 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 31st December 2023 will be available following the Annual General Meeting on Monday, 30th September 2024.
- We adhere to the [Guiding Principles for Fundraising](#). The principles set the standard for best practice in fundraising in Ireland.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Management

The Chief Executive, to whom day to day management of the charity is delegated, leads a team of 76 employees working throughout the National Office, the MS Care Centre and 10 regional offices, plus an additional 46 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 Information and Advocacy, Finance, Fundraising, IT, HR, and Communications. Regional offices provide services to PwMS, people affected by MS ("PaMS") and support to the network of Branches throughout the country. The Care Centre provides respite services. Service development and operations currently sit within the remit of the Chief Executive and the Services Manager. In 2023 we had a roster system in operation in MS Ireland National Office to ensure a presence in the office daily. The Care Centre was open with twelve beds available and our regional offices provided services both virtually and in person.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Activities for 2023 are reviewed under the headings of MS Ireland's Strategic Plan 2020–2024:

In 2023, MS Ireland worked towards achieving our strategic priorities, as set out in our Strategic Plan 2020–2024. The Board of MS Ireland is committed to building an organisation which is integrated, effective, outcome-driven, and accountable.

The key goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024 of MS Ireland are as follows: -

Goal: Service Delivery

Objective 1 Services Development and New Service Models

Objective 2 Research

Objective 3 Advocacy

Goal: Sustainable Finances

Objective 4 Grow Sustainable Income Base

Objective 5 Develop Partnerships

Goal: Innovation

Objective 6 Develop Digital Operations and Governance

Goal: People and Culture

Objective 7 Develop and Invest in our People

Objective 8 Grow Branch and Community Volunteer Base

Goal: Service Delivery

Objective 1: Services Development & New Service Models

During 2023 the company underwent the fourth year of its Strategic Plan. It continued to review and develop our suite of services provided by professionals and volunteers. The provision of online services continued. This was an exciting development resulting in many of our programmes being non location specific thus appealing to a potentially wider audience. This offered us an opportunity to capacity build our staff, volunteers, and MS community with digital literacy opportunities.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Regional Community Work

In 2023, MS Ireland ensured the provision of practical and emotional support through the casework services. Ten Service Level Arrangements (SLA) exist with the HSE in the NorthWest, NorthEast, Dublin (NA,ECA,SWA), SouthEast, Southern, Mid-West, West and Midlands areas. In 2023, 2,665 individuals received a 1:1 casework service nationally. The top presenting issues for PWMS included emotional support, financial welfare, accommodation, aids and appliances, home support, access to healthcare and respite. 237 new referrals were accepted into the casework service in 2023, 61 of those were newly diagnosed in 2023. All reviews were completed on the National Ability Supports System (NASS) database.

A scoping exercise for the Casework Salesforce Project commenced in 2023, to implement the recommendations from the Framework for Multiple Sclerosis Service ("FRAMES") report and the Quality Matters project.

Community Workers facilitated the delivery of community physiotherapy and other health promoting physical activity programmes (see Exercise Et Physical Activity), health promotion programmes, coping strategies and well-being services (see Wellness on page 21) to PwMS and their families.

Information Services

The Information Line is often the first port of call for a person with MS and/or a family member. This is a confidential service, and the main thrust is the provision of reliable and accurate information and support in a timely fashion. The information is given on an individual basis to people affected by MS ("PaMS") and health professionals through the MS Information Line – Telephone – 0818 233 233. In 2023 the Information Line received 900 calls, 750 emails, and made 250 social media responses. The information line also provides information to Regional Staff, and to other services and/or agencies as appropriate.

Exercise and Physical Activity Programmes

MS Ireland runs several different programmes as part of our exercise and physiotherapy services. Our focus is on exercise and physiotherapy programmes to enable people to live well at home, reduce disability and symptom severity and improve quality of life. We have a team of directly employed physiotherapists and also engage with independent physio, yoga and fitness contractors around the country to deliver this service.

Evidence gathered in 2023 continues to show that our programmes have a range of benefits including improvements in symptoms and quality of life, reductions in fatigue and mental health issues, reductions in falls and improved confidence to be physically active and reduced healthcare utilisation.

We had 822 individual clients in 509 programmes and offered 16,795 treatment episodes in our physiotherapy services in 2023.

Getting the Balance Right (GTBR)

GTBR physio, yoga and fitness instructor-led programmes ran across all 10 of our regions and are reliant on fundraised income and provided by contractors, 50% of those contractors are funded by branches. The service in the West is provided by our directly employed senior physiotherapist and a team of physiotherapy assistants.

There were 131 Getting the Balance Right physiotherapy programmes across the 10 regions in 2023 with 499 participants. In addition there were 85 yoga programmes with 764 participants.

New initiatives in 2023 included the increased use of the care centre gym for regional services.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Active Neuro

The Active Neuro programme ran in the West and Mid-West only in 2023 and was funded by the HSE. This extension of the Sláintecare Integration fund project in the Midwest provides physiotherapist led physical activity and symptom management programmes for people with MS and other neurological conditions and provides greater availability of and access to physio programmes for people with MS in those regions. Active Neuro had 27 programmes for 165 participants in 2023.

Move Smart MS

Move Smart MS programmes are tailored for ability and time since diagnosis and address specific symptoms using an exercise and education approach that enables peer learning and social support. Move Smart MS was funded by the Hospital Saturday fund and our branches in 2023. In 2023 there were 25 Move Smart MS programmes for 262 participants.

We ran programmes of High-Level Fitness, Dizziness and Balance, Better Balance for Falls prevention, Step it up to the Exercise Guideline, Newly diagnosed, Strength and Balance, Pilates and Seated Fitness.

Physio West

In Galway, Mayo and Roscommon we have a directly employed full time physiotherapist and 0.5 WTE physiotherapy assistant funded by the HSE. In addition, we have a team of physiotherapy assistants through the Community Employment scheme.

That team runs Getting the Balance Right in person and online classes, Active neuro in person and online classes, and individual assessments and treatments including the intensive, semi-supervised programme.

In 2023 in addition to programmes detailed above we provided 140 individual assessments and 527 individual Physio or Physio Assistant sessions.

The MS Care Centre

The MS Care Centre is a 12-bed respite facility. Following a reduction in beds during COVID the capacity was increased to 12 residents, with lengths of stay options of 5/7/12 nights in 2023. 368 individuals availed of respite in the Care Centre, with high dependency beds having the greatest demand. The Care Centre continued to operate under HSE advice in line with Covid Management recommendations.

The MS Care Centre is registered with the Health Information Quality Authority ("HIQA"). The Care Centre is monitored every three years by HIQA and was approved for re-registration in October 2020. The Care Centre had an announced inspection on the 16th November 2023. The Clinical Nurse Manager and the Quality Manager at the Care Centre ensure that the standards and regulations set by HIQA are maintained. The most recent HIQA report has been published and is available <https://www.hiqa.ie/system/files?file=inspectionreports/1940-multiple-sclerosis-society-of-ireland-ms-care-centre-16-november-2023.pdf>

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Wellness Programmes

MS Ireland offers programmes that aim to improve the overall well-being of people with MS. These programmes are facilitated by a combination of MS Ireland staff, external contractors, volunteers and partner organisations (such as the HSE and Education and Training Boards (ETB)). They aim to improve overall well-being by providing up to date information, encouraging peer engagement and support and providing opportunities to improve symptom management.

In 2023, the Community Worker team facilitated FACETS (Fatigue: Applying Cognitive behavioural and Energy effectiveness Techniques to lifestyle). It is a 6-week evidence-based group fatigue management programme run online or in-person specifically for PwMS. In 2023 staff facilitated 4 national programmes and one regional programme. Each programme is facilitated by 2 MS Ireland Regional Community Workers.

Adaptations to the programme were undertaken using a co-design methodology to better reflect the experience of people with MS that are wheelchair users. These adaptations will be piloted in a programme scheduled in early 2024.

Branches

In 2023 MS Ireland staff continue to support Branches to utilise various digital platforms and facilitate hybrid meetings due to the return of in person meetings and activities after the pandemic. Branch activities include support groups, social activities, therapies and in some instances, financial assistance. Capacity building opportunities and training were also facilitated for all Branches. The provision of branch level support to PwMS is made possible by voluntary local fundraising.

Community Employment Schemes

The provision of services and supports throughout the country relies on the quality contribution of our Community Employment Scheme Participants. They contribute hugely to the work of MS Ireland on a day-to-day basis.

There are 17 CE participants assisting in the work of the Care Centre, 13 CE participants assisting with the exercise training plans for PwMS in the Western region and 13 visiting PwMS in their homes, in the North West region. All regions have a number of CE participants that assist with data collection for the Health Research Board.

Website

In 2023 the website had a total of 274,377 pageviews, 223,349 unique pageviews (-3.1% 2022). There was an -12.5% decrease in downloads from the website. The biggest page visit increase was Donate +166.9%, News +29.4%, MS and Me +58.2%. The average page visit duration was 2 min 15s , +2.3% with 2.7 average interactions (0%). 13,107 unique outlinks (+33.6%).

The most viewed pages were 1. About MS (unique pageviews 30,118) 2. Homepage (unique pageviews 22,963) 3. MS and Me (unique pageviews 17,568) 4. News (unique pageviews 16,404) 5. What We Do (unique pageviews 15,345) 6. Donate (unique pageviews 15,097) 7. Research (unique pageviews 8,359) 8. Events (unique pageviews 4,808) 9. Our Services (unique pageviews 4,462) 10. Get Involved (unique pageviews 4,237).

The most popular means of accessing our website was from search engines 49.8% (54% in 2022) of people accessing our website from this source. Direct entry accounted for 24% (29% in 2022) followed by Social Networks at 22% (11% in 2022) and finally other websites was 3.7% (3% in 2022) and campaigns 0.5%

The smartphone is the most popular device used to access our website at 60.3% (54% in 2022), followed by Desktop at 33.3% (36% in 2022) and then Tablets at 3.3% (3% in 2022).

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

We have a team of volunteer bloggers who write about their own personal experiences of living with MS. We share these blogs on our website and promote them through social media to signpost our members to this resource. This continues to be an excellent way to drive traffic to our website.

Work was done on the Website to enhance user experience and navigation on the Community Work and Physiotherapy and Exercise pages.

Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) and Google ad words: We receive free ads from Google, and we received the equivalent of €6,000 in Google ads.

Social Media

In MS Ireland, we continued to develop our social media throughout 2023. 23,000 (+9.5%) people accessed our Facebook page, 9,654 (+2%) people accessed Twitter and 6,024 (+20%) followed us on Instagram and 1,820 (+20%) on LinkedIn.

The Facebook page reach was 1.5m (+12.4%) and pages visits 68,100 (+115%). Instagram reach was 1.2m (+93%) and profile visits were 20,400 (+229%).

We used social media to support our various online fundraisers in 2023. The Facebook/Instagram paid reach was 2.1m (+27%) and paid impressions were 11.7m (+21%) with a total spend of €36,577 compared to €35,000 in 2022.

We also post most days with organic posts on all our social channels.

Webinars

In continuation of our webinar series, throughout 2023 MS Ireland arranged several online information webinars which allowed people in the MS community to virtually attend expert led information sessions. We recorded the majority of these sessions and made them available on our website on our dedicated 'Online Video Catalogue section'. Providing the information in this format allows our community to access these videos on demand at a time that suits them.

MS Explored – The Podcast

In 2023 MS Ireland continued this popular series (supported by Novartis) and produced 3 podcasts. These focused on information for people newly diagnosed, dealing with fatigue and advancements in the management of MS. These aimed to highlight some of the key supports that exist to support people living with MS.

Information resources

During 2023 information resources were developed in the areas of fatigue management, financial resources and general information about MS Ireland's services.

Young persons' survey

Data elicited from the survey was used in the Young Persons Report. This report summarised the findings of the research and presented a series of recommendations to practice within MS Ireland services and elsewhere.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Objective 2: Research

Service design and development informed by research, international best practice and outcomes

Research

Sharing opportunities with our community to engage in and learn more about MS research is an important part of the work that MS Ireland does. Throughout 2023, we shared numerous opportunities with our community members. We shared research findings through our eNews, website and social media platforms. MS Ireland collaborated with the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF) on updates to the Atlas of MS and the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP).

MS Ireland have continued to develop the 'Researchers profiles' section on our website. This involved having up to date Researchers Profiles and call outs on our website and ensuring this section was easy to navigate for people with MS and researchers alike.

MS Ireland has remained active within the research space throughout 2023 through collaboration with the All-Ireland MS Research Network (AIMSRN) as well as through Maynooth University and other research organisations. During the year preliminary work with Maynooth University took place regarding a research project focusing on the needs of people with MS regarding peer support and engagement. This research will support the direction of peer support engagement projects in the future.

The My MS, My Needs survey data collection was undertaken in 2023 with a total of 979 respondents. This is a repeat of the 2016 survey. The results of this will help MS Ireland to plan and possibly improve services and will inform ongoing advocacy work over the coming years. The report will be launched in 2024.

Objective 3: Advocacy

Business cases & Pre Budget Submissions 2023

During 2023 two substantial advocacy campaigns took place regarding business cases for two major funding deficits within the organisation. The Care Centre business case was launched seeking an increase of €627,000 in annual investment. Sustainable funding for MS Ireland's national physiotherapy programme was also sought to the amount of €800,000 per annum. Both of these business case submissions formed the basis of the MS Ireland pre budget submissions.

Micro-Advocacy

In 2023 engagement regarding micro-advocacy activities linked to issues raised by regional teams continued. Issues regarding the Primary Medical Certificate were escalated to the Department of Finance and issues regarding cessation of services for over 65s were escalated to the Disability Federation of Ireland.

Collaborative Advocacy – Organisations

MS Ireland believes in the power of working in partnership with other organisations. By doing this, we use our collective voice to be heard more clearly. In 2023, MS Ireland continued working with the Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) on some issues including a campaign to help highlight the severe shortages of specialist neurology nurses, including MS nurses, across Ireland.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

World MS Day

On May 30th, MS Ireland joined people living with MS and other MS organisations around the world to mark World MS Day. The theme for World MS Day 2023 was 'Connections'. MS Ireland's campaign in 2023 was about building community connection, self-connection, celebrating support networks, championing self-care and finding connections to quality care. The MS community was encouraged to use the hashtag #IaMSomeone on all social channels.

Some examples of activities held to mark WMSD in 2023 included: 'Face of MS' exhibition in Stephen's green shopping centre, light up of prominent public building across the country, Care Centre coffee morning, Leinster house AV room briefing, regional information and social events across the country. In addition to events a range of media coverage was facilitated in print media, local and national radio and TV coverage.'

AGM and Reconvened AGM

The 2023 AGM was held online via zoom on 16th September 2023 at 4.00pm. There were 28 members in attendance. The reconvened AGM was held online on 30th November 2023 at 8.00p.m. There were 29 member in attendance.

National Conference

In September 2023 MS Ireland hosted an in-person conference - its first in 3 years. This event took place over 2 days and brought a number of expert speakers to provide input for a healthcare professionals session (including regional Community Workers) and for a more general audience. The event also featured a gala dinner. Over 250 people from the MS community attended the event. The speakers covered a range of topics, fatigue, assistive technologies, physical activity and mental health. Feedback from the community was positive and provides a firm basis for the continuation of the conference for 2024.

Goal: Sustainable Finances

Objective 4: Grow Sustainable Income Base

Individually we saw a decline in income for online challenges with the move away from some popular social media platforms but as we held two additional challenges the income stayed static - we tested new platforms to diversify this area. This initiative aims to future-proof our online fundraising efforts.

We believe that online fundraising will remain an important source of income for MS Ireland and we decided to invest more funds in the May 50k to try and build this event for future years.

To enhance our database, we invested in cold corporate data for a Christmas direct mail appeal, which yielded results on target and contributed to our growth. This initiative aligns with our overarching goal of achieving sustainable finances.

Objective 5: Develop partnerships

We continue to invest time into building our corporate partnerships and we saw good results from work in this area in 2023.

At MS Ireland, we are privileged to be part of a dedicated community with whom we cultivate strong relationships and partnerships. Once again, our community has demonstrated their unwavering support by organising remarkable fundraisers and events, including an outstanding team for the Dublin Marathon, courageous skydivers, and numerous extraordinary community events across the country.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Goal: Innovation

Objective 6: Develop Digital Operations and Governance

Overall Aim: Develop Digital Operations and Governance structures and strategies to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness. Ensure the Organisation has a robust ICT (Information & Communication Technology) strategy roadmap and execution plan, including the financial, tactical, and strategic benefits of proposed major ICT initiatives.

- We planned and budgeted the rollout of salesforce across the organisation;
- Fatigue: Applying Cognitive Behavioural and Energy Effectiveness Techniques to Lifestyle (FACETS) : The FACETS salesforce project was completed in 2023.
- Casework: Enclude completed a technical scoping exercise based on the recommendations of the Quality Matters Report in 2023, with a schedule of work planned for 2024.
- Recruitment: We are no longer recruiting for the Digital Specialist role due to previous funding for the role being revoked.
- Website: Work was done to enhance user experience and navigation on the Community Work and Physiotherapy & Exercise pages.
- Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) & Google ad words: We engaged a digital agency on retainer to manage our google ad word accounts and a series of campaigns. The first two campaigns launched in early July.

Goal: People & Culture

Objective 7: Develop and Invest in Our People

Recruitment of staff presented challenges during 2023. This was a national issue. We implemented the Employee Self service module for managing annual leave and absence. Training was provided for employees and volunteers, including LGBTI+ Awareness Training and Personal Safety & Lone Worker Training. We continued to operate the remote working pattern in line with the Remote Working Bill and the Work Life Balance bill published in 2023. Pay restoration for Section 39 organisations was completed in 2023, salaries for the majority of MS Ireland employees were increased as a result.

Objective 8: Grow Branch and Community Volunteer Base

1. **Continuation of Virtual Meetings:** Branches continued to utilize Zoom for their meetings, with some adopting a hybrid approach that combines both in-person and virtual attendance.
2. **Annual General Meetings (AGMs):** A total of 24 Branch AGMs were conducted in 2023, primarily facilitated through the Branch Development Zoom account.
3. **Fundraising Efforts:** There was a gradual return to physical fundraising activities, complemented by ongoing digital fundraising efforts, with support from the National Fundraising Department.
4. **Training Programs:** Branches were provided with training in Compliance, Content Design and Creation, and Financial Assistance as part of the 2023 training program.
5. **Pilot Project Initiation:** A Pilot Branch project was initiated in Galway, with plans for further development in 2024.
6. **Council and National Meetings:** Two Council meetings and one National meeting were held, providing opportunities for branch members to receive national updates and share news and concerns.

2023 was a busy year for the branches, with good interaction and collaboration with both the Branch Development Office and the National Office.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

RISKS ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the major risks are identified, managed, and monitored. The major risks facing MS Ireland defined by the Board and the management are potential loss in income or significant increase in costs, potential loss of some services or breach of regulations, potential damage to MS Ireland's reputation or a significant loss of capital. These risks have been reviewed and their potential impact assessed. The Board ensures 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 must be accepted: it is not possible for MS Ireland to eliminate them. However, appropriate steps have been taken to mitigate them where possible.

MS Ireland Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Risk description	Management
<p>Strategy risk</p> <p>MS Ireland's strategic objectives and activities are not properly or sufficiently focused in order for the charity to deliver its mission.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board and the Senior Management Team have a clear vision and strategy for the immediate future and longer term. • Our current Strategic Plan outlines the key objectives for the successful delivery of our strategy, with ongoing monitoring and review by the Board and Senior management team. • We prepare detailed budgets, operational plans and target outcomes as part of our annual planning cycle that are approved by the Board. • The Board scrutinises and approves any business case and funding requirements for all significant investments. • We ensure regular monitoring and reforecasting of financial performance throughout the year.
<p>Funding and fundraising income risk</p> <p>External factors and events have the potential to significantly reduce income or increase costs, impacting on our ability to deliver services and supports for people with MS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Ireland provides vital respite, community case work, physio, information, symptom management programmes, peer support information and advocacy services to people with MS. We continue to seek additional section 39 funding to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operate our Care Centre respite centre 52 weeks of the year (currently 40) and allow additional people with MS the chance to avail of a place. • provide a sustainable, national physiotherapy service provided by a team of specialist physiotherapists directly employed by MS Ireland, delivered at a regional level using a blend of 'online' and 'in-person' • keep pace with inflation and rising energy and operating costs. • Our active fundraising team manage a pipeline of fundraising campaigns and events throughout the year. We continually develop online platforms to support our fundraising activities. • Our Senior Management Team, Finance Audit Risk and Strategy Committee and the Board at regular intervals monitor financial performance throughout the year.
<p>Regulatory environment</p> <p>Changes in government policy, regulatory requirements and/ or charity sector guidance that could negatively impact on MS Ireland's strategy and activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We monitor public policy and the regulatory environment to ensure potential risks can be proactively managed. • We work to develop multi-level relationships across government and proactive advocacy campaigns and events to ensure our views are shared. • We participate and have representation at key events and forums to help shape the MS services agenda.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Risk description	Management
<p>Technology and cyber risk</p> <p>Operations impacted due to cyber-attack or a breach of MS Irelands' IT infrastructure or services results in loss of data or denial of service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work closely with our IT partners on security, firewall, proxy and anti-virus protection measures, with associated vulnerability scanning, monitoring and penetration testing. • We review and update the IT back-up and recovery plan. • We continue to develop training for staff on the importance of cybersecurity including prevention and detection of potential cyber-attacks. • We have robust business continuity plans in place, and we carry out disaster recovery and penetration testing on a systematic basis.
<p>GDPR risk</p> <p>Taking steps to ensure that data is handled legally, securely, efficiently and effectively in order to deliver the best possible care to our MS community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We work continuously to ensure full compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2014. • We have data protection and information security policies in place across the organisation. • We work closely with our IT partners to review and continuously improve our data management systems and workforce education and training programmes.
<p>Fraud prevention</p> <p>Evolving threat of fraudsters targeting charities and the requirement to continually adapt and enhance awareness across our organisation (amongst staff, volunteers and trustees) to prevent and detect fraud.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We engage closely with our IT partners and industry on the latest trends and scams being deployed by fraudsters and drive education and awareness across our organisation (e.g. what a phishing email might look like). • We regularly review and update our IT security solutions to make sure they are fit for purpose. • We implement robust procedures and strict authorisation protocols for controlling, inter alia, bank accounts, supplier accounts, invoice payments, expense claims, contract agreements and grant applications. • We implement regular monitoring, internal controls and auditing procedures. • We have a clear whistleblowing policy through which members of staff, volunteers and trustees can confidently report concerns.
<p>People risk</p> <p>Attracting, developing and retaining talented staff in a competitive employment market. Attracting and developing volunteers, trustees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continuously monitor trends and benchmark compensation and benefits within the charity sector. • We adapted to post-Covid, hybrid working practices. • We continue to strengthen our talent management, development and succession planning programmes. • We work to ensure a vibrant and supportive working environment and culture for our staff, volunteers, trustees and stakeholders.

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Risk description	Management
<p>Reputation risk</p> <p>Failure to appropriately manage our reputation and media attention could impact supporters' and donors' views of the charity and could ultimately result in a reduction in support, donations and income.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board ensures the charity meets its legal and regulatory obligations in the course of fulfilling its charitable purpose. • The board and senior leadership team regularly review the capabilities required to deliver on the strategy and address issues as they appear. • We work to ensure proactive detection, monitoring, reporting and whistleblowing arrangements to enable investigation of potential adverse events and incidents. • We carry out digital and traditional media monitoring. • The board sets and reviews the charity's strategy. They conduct regular reviews to consider changes in the external environment, social matters and the charity response.
<p>Health & Safety risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Ireland maintains a health and safety policy, with detailed minimum standards, and standard operating procedures which sets out requirements. • We work closely with HIQA in completing service audits and inspections and maintaining our quality service record. • We keep abreast of Health and Safety education and training programmes to ensure progress in Health and Safety for all our workforce. • Risk Registers are reviewed across services to ensure delivery of safe and effective services.
<p>Governance & Leadership risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board ensures a strong governance model including effective committee structures to support board oversight. • The board sets risk appetites, taking into account the expectations of stakeholders, and the macroeconomic context. • The board meets regularly to discuss strategic, financial, leadership and operational issues and plans throughout the year, with additional meetings convened as required to address emerging issues. • We conduct regular board skills audits and agree skills required/skills matrix in line with strategic objectives. • Our Nomination and Remuneration Committee review annually board evaluation and succession plan. • We provide induction for new board members. • We review board training needs and provide relevant training to board. • The Senior Management Team, led by the Chief Executive Officer, is responsible for executive decision-making. This includes implementing and ensuring compliance with the Society's risk management policy.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Risk description	Management
Stakeholder Management risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We engage with and understand the views of our different stakeholders and taking their views into consideration in strategy and policy development.• We review stakeholder communications plans, methods of engagement and distribution channels.• We conduct regular service satisfactions surveys, including our annual "My MS, My needs survey". We openly communicate survey results across our stakeholder groups.
Service delivery risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We conduct regular service user satisfaction surveys and monitor service user feedback.• Our respite centre completes regular service audits and inspections overseen by HIQA.• We monitor our systems and controls to promote consistent service delivery and standards.

Service updates

- Regional Coordinators/Regional workers continuing to provide a casework service as per Government/HSE guidelines;
- There are a range of Zoom classes in operation in the regions, these classes range from information sessions, FACETS (Fatigue Management), 1:1 physio to group physio classes;
- Regular Zoom meetings for all regional staff;
- Regional Integrated Meetings returned to in-person and were held on Zoom where preferable.

Care Centre Update

- The Care Centre continue to operate as per Government/HSE guidelines.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

In 2023, MS Ireland continued to campaign for the Physiotherapy Business Case and the Care Centre Business Case.

In addition, to the National Advocacy campaign, in 2023 the Community Worker Service submitted business cases in Sligo/Leitrim, the Midlands and the South East for additional funding to extend Community Worker services having identified the need. While there is currently no outcome for these business cases, the teams will continue to advocate locally with the HSE regarding these business cases in 2024.

In 2023, the Community Worker service completed a scoping exercise with Enclude regarding measurements and outcomes of casework. This project will progress into the next phase in 2024.

Create public awareness of MS and understanding of the needs of people with MS

In 2024, MS Ireland plan to use World MS Day as an opportunity to help raise awareness of MS and MS Ireland. We wish to share stories about MS through a letter writing initiative to highlight a range of experiences of living with MS. This will be achieved through a number of key activities which will include a public engagement activity in a central Dublin location, an online campaign inviting people to share their letters about MS using a unique and trackable hashtag. We will be hosting a briefing in Leinster House with members of the Oireachtas and hosting a public information event in Dublin city centre. In addition to this, buildings from across the country will be illuminated in MS Ireland's iconic red branding in a show of solidarity and celebration of the MS community. We are also planning to share facts about MS across a variety of platforms including local pharmacies and the HSE.

National FACETS programme:

The plans for 2024 are to continue to deliver the programme in regional and in national settings. Particular attention will be placed on national programmes being offered to specific groups, namely people with MS that are newly diagnosed and people with MS that are wheelchair users.

Webinars

MS Ireland will continue to work through our calendar of webinars for 2024 to ensure we continue to provide our community with access to expert information and the opportunity to ask the questions that matter to them. By making online events available nationally, we will ensure the maximum number of people possible are benefiting from our efforts. Recordings will continue to be added to the online catalogue. This will mean that people can access the information after the live event at a time that suits them and from anywhere, they wish.

MS Awareness in the Workplace

In 2024, MS Ireland plan to develop an 'MS Awareness in the Workplace' training initiative. This will see MS Ireland present to workplaces across the country, highlighting some of the issues, challenges people living with MS can face in the work place. It will have an experiential aspect which will allow employers and colleagues of people living with MS to see first hand what some of the symptoms of MS can feel like, to give them a greater understanding of how these may impact the experience of work life for those living with MS. This project is possible due to the support of Merck.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUED

Develop 'Young Persons' services group and online communications platform

In 2024 MS Ireland plan to create a young persons network. The aim of this network will be to:

- Strengthen the relationship between MS Ireland and young people living with MS.
- Ensure the inclusion of young people's views and preferences in MS Ireland's initiatives and resources.
- Provide young people with MS the opportunity to connect, share experiences, and offer support to one another.
- Actively support MS Ireland's activities, campaigns, and projects.

MS Ireland, with support from Merck Serano Ireland, in 2024 will launch the report of a comprehensive survey of needs of people with MS. The results of the survey will help us to plan our services and will inform our ongoing advocacy work. It will also help to inform us of where there are gaps currently in service provision and the information gathered will offer us an evidence-based platform to campaign on behalf of our community. This provided a vital opportunity for people with MS to have their voices heard and make their needs known.

MS Ireland facilitated a number of PPI activities with members of the MS community and researchers. The aim of this was to ensure that people living with MS were given the opportunity to be active partners in research which related to them.

As part of our World MS Day activities, MS Ireland will hold a research event which focused on the topics featured in our Research Ezine.

MS Ireland plan to continue engagement in these spaces in 2024.

MS Ireland will be engaging in a piece of research which aims to explore the motivations that attract volunteers to work at MS Ireland, and the factors that contribute to volunteers' sustained involvement with MS Ireland.

In 2024, MS Ireland will be facilitating an online survey which will be designed with the help of public and patient involvement from 9 PwMS and 3 MS caregivers, with responses collected in February-March, 2024. As well as questions relating to participants' preferences for and engagement with peer support, the survey included a number of questions which will ask people about their background, experiences of loneliness, social support and wellbeing

In 2024, MS Ireland will be seeking an academic researcher to partner with us for an application to the HRB Applied Partnerships Award (APA) 2024. The project aims to focus on mental health and will address the following provisional research questions:

- What are the key characteristics of effective mental health interventions for people living with MS in a community setting?
- What is the optimal evidence-based and theory-informed community mental health service for people with MS?

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

Fundraising

It's an exciting time for MS Ireland fundraising with the redesign of our flagship campaign, the MS Readathon, and the launch of a brand new major fundraising drive in 2024. The refreshed Readathon will feature updated visuals, prizes, and reading rewards, with a focus on educational incentives such as books, book vouchers, science and art sets, and LEGO. A significant PR campaign will accompany these changes to enhance the program's impact.

Additionally, MS Ireland will soon introduce ReNewMSIreland, a major fundraising drive aimed at supporting the refurbishment and renovation of the MS Care Centre and the MS Resource Centre in Limerick. A new website will be created to allow supporters to gift or pledge capital items to our cause.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The detailed consolidated results for the financial year are set out on page 38. The net excess of Expenditure over Income for the year after tax before exceptional items was €207,811 (2022: €205,047, Profit).

Income

Income totals €6,504,380 which represents an increase of €348,855 (6%) over 2022. Donations and fundraising income increased by €133,689 (6.8% more than 2022).

Expenditure

During the financial year €6,712,191 (2022: €5,950,477) was spent on the provision of charitable activities/ services to PwMS, reflecting an increase of €761,713 (12.8%) over 2022.

Financial position at the end of the financial year

Detailed analysis in Balance Sheet Page 39.

The fund balances total **€10,147,896** (2022: €10,368,008) as at 31 December. These funds are represented by the following (including Branch Assets mainly of Cash Balance of €1,313,294)

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	€	€
Tangible Fixed Assets	3,983,554	4,211,830
Investment properties	1,380,000	1,380,000
Net Current Assets	4,784,342	4,776,178
Total	10,147,896	10,368,008

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)

FINANCIAL REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Reserves

The Board has the responsibility for establishing an appropriate reserves practice. It is the practice of the Board of MS Ireland to retain sufficient reserves to safeguard the continuity of its operations, while at the same time committing the maximum possible resources to its current services.

The total reserves as at 31 December 2023 of €10,147,896 fall into two categories, Restricted and Unrestricted funds:

Restricted funds of €2,623,479 represent income received that can only be used for particular purposes which arise because of restrictions on their use imposed by the donor at time of receipt or because the funds were collected in a public appeal to raise money for a particular purpose. Such purposes are within the overall aims of the Society. It is the practice of MS Ireland to fully apply such funds for the purposes for which they were donated as quickly as possible.

Unrestricted funds of €7,524,417 are funds that have no specific restrictions attached to them but are categorised as follows:

Designated funds of €6,024,417 which represent amounts that MS Ireland has, at its discretion, set aside for specific purposes, which would otherwise form part of its general unrestricted funds. At the end of 2023, funds had been designated for specific purposes as follows:

- The carrying value of tangible fixed assets for use by MS Ireland less associated capital grants. €3,983,554 which is not available for distribution.
- The net assets of the Society's branches €1,342,473 which are retained for the furtherance of services and supports to PwMS in the future.
- Funds set aside to cover the planned budgeted deficit on unrestricted funds in 2023 of €250,000.
- Funds set aside to ensure continuity of regional support of €334,732.

General unrestricted funds of €1,500,000 represent funds which are available for the general purposes of the Society.

It is also the practice of the Society to hold sufficient reserves to fund its activities and maintain the quality of its services for a minimum period of three months. This threshold has been set following an assessment of the following factors: the need to provide short term protection against unforeseen downward fluctuations in annual income; and the need to provide a financial cushion in the event of extreme circumstances affecting the Society's ability to operate.

We aim to maintain general unrestricted reserves within a policy range of a lower limit of three months. At the 31 December 2023, general unrestricted funds held were €1,500,000 (2022: €1,022,423), equating to three months' reserves.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

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

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 issued by the Financial Reporting Council ("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 Company 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 applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors 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 profit or loss 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 AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Report on the audit of the financial statements

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2023 and of the result 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 Statement of Financial Activities;
- the Balance Sheet;
- the Cash Flow Statement; and
- the related notes 1 to 31, 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' issued by the Financial Reporting Council ("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 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Reports and Financial Statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the Reports and Financial Statements. 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.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

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 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 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on IAASA's website at: <https://iaasa.ie/publications/description-of-the-auditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-financial-statements>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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 financial statements are 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 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.

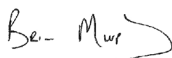
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Use of our report

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.



Brian Murphy
For and on behalf of Deloitte Ireland LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Deloitte & Touche House, 29 Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

19 August 2024

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €	Restricted Funds 2023 €	Total Funds 2023 €	Total Funds 2022 €
INCOME FROM:					
Charitable activities					
Grants and service contract income	3,5				
- Community services		-	2,359,232	2,359,232	2,280,954
- Respite care services		272,995	1,245,573	1,518,568	1,420,006
- Governance		4,017	515,822	519,839	481,512
Voluntary Income					
- Fundraising -National Office	3,6	1,126,495	390,483	1,516,978	1,543,793
- Fundraising -Branch	3,6	589,763	-	589,763	429,260
Total income		1,993,270	4,511,110	6,504,380	6,155,525
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activity costs					
- Community services	8	85,625	2,676,407	2,762,032	2,548,322
- Respite care services		123,895	1,855,876	1,979,771	1,637,185
- Governance costs		151,031	773,512	924,543	777,824
- Branch services		408,595	-	408,595	382,169
Voluntary income costs					
- Fundraising -National Office	3	586,364	-	586,364	574,700
- Fundraising -Branch	3	50,886	-	50,886	30,278
		1,406,396	5,305,795	6,712,191	5,950,478
Net (expenditure)/ income for the year		586,874	(794,685)	(207,811)	205,047
Transfer between funds		(935,516)	935,516	-	-
Net Movement in funds		(348,642)	140,831	(207,811)	205,047
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Total funds brought forward		6,944,651	3,411,056	10,355,707	10,150,660
Prior year adjustment restricted funds	11	928,408	(928,408)	-	-
Total funds brought forward		7,524,417	2,623,479	10,147,896	10,355,707

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed assets	12	3,983,554	4,199,849
Investment Properties	13	1,380,000	1,380,000
		<u>5,363,554</u>	<u>5,579,849</u>
Current Assets			
Stocks	15	14,531	8,788
Debtors	15	1,100,798	655,442
Cash at bank and in hand	16	4,427,885	5,159,955
		<u>5,543,214</u>	<u>5,824,185</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(758,872)</u>	<u>(756,993)</u>
Net current assets		<u>4,784,342</u>	<u>5,067,192</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		10,147,896	10,647,041
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	-	(291,334)
NET ASSETS		<u>10,147,896</u>	<u>10,355,707</u>
FUNDED BY:			
Unrestricted funds:			
Designated		6,024,417	5,934,529
General		1,500,000	1,010,122
		<u>7,524,417</u>	<u>6,944,651</u>
Restricted funds:			
Endowment		1,380,000	1,380,000
General		1,243,479	2,031,056
		<u>2,623,479</u>	<u>3,411,056</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>10,147,896</u>	<u>10,355,707</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 19th August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Jacinta Kelly
Director

Aveen Murray
Director

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

		Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	Notes	€	€
Net cash flows from operating activities	20	(436,745)	(55,848)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest received	20	982	122
Interest paid	20	(41,221)	(44,792)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	12	(16,015)	(35,836)
Net cash flows from investing activities		(56,254)	(80,506)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Repayments of borrowings	18	(239,071)	(240,890)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(732,070)	(377,244)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		5,159,955	5,537,199
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		4,427,885	5,159,955

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") and voluntarily in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, as applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, "the Charities SORP") and in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

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").

Going Concern

Based on the results for the year, the year-end financial position and the approved budgets 2023 and 2024 the Board of Directors believe 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.

Income

Income is accounted for when the Company 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.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Income (continued)

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 Company. Gifts for fundraising purposes are accounted for when realised.

Legacy income is accounted for when the Company has entitlement, the receipt is probable, and the amount is measurable.

Legacies are recognised when all the three criteria below are met:

- a. Establish entitlement – in practice this would be estate accounts being finalised or cash received or where there is agreement on an interim distribution.
- b. Where receipt is probable – receipt is probable when there has been grant of probate, executors have established that there are sufficient assets after settling any liabilities to pay the legacy and any conditions attached to the legacy are either within the control of the charity or have been met. There will normally be sufficient certainty of receipt when notice of intention to pay the legacy is received from the personal representatives of the estate.
- c. The amount is measurable – in practice this could come from estate accounts, cash received or correspondence from executors/solicitors confirming an amount to be distributed. Measurability will also be met where a reasonably accurate assessment can be made of the value.

Where legacies have been notified to the Company or the Company is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Rental income is recognised on accruals basis.

Deferred Income and Expenditure

Funds received and expenditure incurred by the Company 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.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed assets are recorded at historical 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	20% straight line
Computer Equipment	33% straight line
Furniture and Fittings	20% straight line
Motor Vehicles	20% straight line
Branches' Motor Vehicles/Mobile Homes	20% straight line

Investment Properties

Investment properties, arising from legacies, are initially recorded at open market value based on an independent professional valuation. The market values are assessed at each year end reporting date.

Asset held for resale

Assets held with the intention of resale are included at open market value.

Leased Assets

All leases entered into by the Company 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 Company are funded by contributions from the Company and the employees. Payments are made to pension trusts which are financially separate from the Company. 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 COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fund Accounting and Reserves Policy

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds:

General

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 Company.

Endowment

A gift of endowment arises where there is no power to convert capital into income i.e., must be retained intact.

Unrestricted funds:

General funds

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

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.

Designated funds

Designated funds represent amounts that the Company has, at its discretion, set aside for specific purposes, which would otherwise form part of its general unrestricted funds.

Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Company 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.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the Company'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 COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

3. INCOMING / EXPENDITURE	Restricted 2023 €	Unrestricted 2023 €	Total 2023 €	Total 2022 €
Community services	-	2,359,232	2,359,232	2,280,954
Respite Care services	272,995	1,245,573	1,518,568	1,420,005
Governance	4,017	515,822	519,839	481,513
Fundraising - National and regions	1,126,495	286,191	1,412,686	1,543,793
Fundraising - Branches	589,763	-	589,763	429,260
Legacies		104,292	104,292	-
Total Income	1,993,270	4,511,110	6,504,380	6,155,525

EXPENDITURE:

Community services	85,625	2,676,407	2,762,032	2,548,322
Respite care services	123,895	1,855,867	1,979,771	1,637,185
Governance	151,031	773,512	924,543	777,824
Branch services	408,595	-	408,595	382,169
Fundraising - National and regions	586,364	-	586,364	574,700
Fundraising Branches	50,886	-	50,886	30,278
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,406,396	5,305,795	6,712,191	5,950,478
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR	586,874	(794,685)	(207,811)	205,047

4. PHARMACEUTICAL INCOME

	Total 2023 €	Total 2022 €
Perrigo	40,085	40,000
Novartis	14,000	18,873
Merck Serono Ireland Ltd	10,000	15,000
Roche Pharma holding B.V	5,000	660
Alkermes Pharma Ireland Limited	20,000	20,000
	89,085	94,533

All pharmaceutical donations in 2023 were restricted.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5.	GRANTS AND OTHER SERVICE CONTRACT INCOME	2023	2022
	Note	€	€
	HSE Statutory Community	1,535,319	1,739,444
	HSE Statutory Respite	967,999	1,208,115
	HSE Statutory Governance	515,822	481,152
	HSE-National Lottery Funding	52,010	36,522
	HSE-Other Grants	97,385	104,285
	Pobal	91,000	90,500
	Other Grants-Non HSE	75,220	64,285
	Community Employment Schemes	28 785,876	769,903
		<u>4,120,631</u>	<u>4,494,566</u>
	Respite services	272,991	168,898
	Members fees	4,017	520
		<u>4,397,639</u>	<u>4,663,984</u>
6.	OTHER INCOME CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	2023	2022
		€	€
	Fundraising National office	1,516,979	1,543,793
	Fundraising Branch	589,763	429,260
		<u>2,106,742</u>	<u>1,973,053</u>
7.	NET OUTGOING RESOURCES	2023	2022
		€	€
	The net outgoing resources for the year are stated after charging:		
	Depreciation	232,993	245,084
	Interest payable and similar charges	-	44,792
	Auditor's remuneration - Company	76,760	40,235
	- Branches	27,524	23,557
	- CEP Schemes	4,722	4,340
	Operating lease rentals	14,778	26,728
		<u>(982)</u>	<u>(122)</u>
	and after crediting: Interest received		

Board member's travel and subsistence expenses in attending meetings in 2023 were €701 (2022: €623).
No emoluments are paid to Board members.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Direct Salary Costs	Other Direct Costs	Support Costs (Note 9)	Total 2023	Total 2022
	€	€	€	€	€
Community Services	2,205,690	49,361	299,660	2,554,711	2,402,934
Respite Care Services	1,275,176	21,208	481,666	1,778,050	1,550,627
Governance	505,623	35,375	383,545	924,543	777,825
Fundraising	230,627	544,943	219,836	995,406	836,924
Branch Services	-	385,400	74,081	459,481	382,168
	4,217,116	1,036,287	1,458,788	6,712,191	5,950,478

9. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	2023	2022
	€	€
Staff and related costs	138,470	117,666
Administration	317,056	217,847
Property maintenance	610,120	463,568
Depreciation	232,993	233,256
Audit and other costs	110,337	34,653
Governance	49,812	3,578
	1,458,788	1,070,568
Audit and other costs		
after charging	76,760	42,449
Auditor's remuneration	27,524	23,557
- Company		
- Branches	4,722	4,340
- CEP schemes	630	570
Annual Report	701	527
Board of Directors Expenditure	-	10,867
Other Administration costs	110,337	82,310

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

The average number of persons employed by the Group in the financial year was 122 (2022:117), analysed into the following categories:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Regional and National services	29	28
Care	30	25
Administration	12	13
Fundraising activities	5	5
CEP	46	46
	<u>122</u>	<u>117</u>

The numbers shown above are inclusive of 46 (2022: 46) persons employed under the Department of Social Protection Scheme and exclusive of persons contracted on a consultancy basis to provide counselling and fundraising services.

	2023	2022
	€	€
Total staff costs comprised of the following:		
Wages and salaries	3,881,270	3,309,029
Employer social welfare costs	276,102	287,438
Employer pension contributions	150,735	92,962
Annual Leave Accrued	55,673	43,403
	<u>4,363,780</u>	<u>3,732,832</u>

The Group also receives significant support from voluntary workers.

The number of employees whose emoluments, excluding employer pension contributions, were greater than €60,000 is set out below:

	2023	2022
	Number	Number
€60,000 - €70,000	2	2
€70,000 - €80,000	2	1
€80,000 - €90,000	1	-
€90,000 - €110,000	-	1
€110,000 - €120,000	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

Key Management Personnel are the Board, the Chief Executive, Services Manager, National Services Development Manager, Fundraising Manager, HR Manager and Financial Controller. Total emoluments (including benefits and Pension) paid to key management personnel was € 433,947 (2022: €487,743).

11. Prior year adjustment	2023	2022
	€	€
Capital Grant	715,124	-
Proceeds of property for sale	48,098	-
Other item previously restricted	165,186	-
Opening balance adjustment	<u>928,408</u>	<u>-</u>

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Premises €	Office Equipment €	Computer Equipment €	Furniture & Fittings €	Motor Vehicles €	Branch Equipment, Motor Vehicles & Mobile Homes €	Total €
Cost:							
At 1 January 2023	7,192,143	294,532	262,578	568,068	134,594	191,379	8,643,294
Additions	-	3,718	10,118	2,179	-	-	16,015
Disposals	-	(168,546)	(87,800)	(417,875)	(40,000)	-	(714,221)
At 31 December 2023	7,192,143	129,704	184,896	152,372	94,594	191,379	7,945,088
Depreciation:							
At 1 January 2023	3,172,826	246,257	220,595	511,852	116,084	175,831	4,443,445
Charge for the year	143,844	16,362	29,965	25,049	12,338	5,435	232,993
Disposals	-	(168,546)	(87,800)	(417,875)	(40,000)	-	(714,221)
At 31 December 2023	3,316,670	94,073	162,760	119,026	88,422	181,266	3,961,534
Net Book Value:							
At 31 December 2023	3,875,473	35,631	22,135	33,346	6,172	10,796	3,983,554
At 31 December 2022	4,019,317	48,275	41,983	56,216	18,510	15,548	4,199,849

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

13.	INVESTMENT PROPERTIES	2023	2022
		€	€
	Market Value	<u>1,380,000</u>	<u>1,380,000</u>

The properties were valued on an open market value basis in January 2021 by an independent valuer.

14. **Assets held for resale**

The National office has been sale agreed in March 2024 and is expected to be completed later in the year.

15.	DEBTORS AND STOCK	2023	2022
		€	€
15.1	Amounts due from fundraising activities	87,445	66,517
	Prepayments	84,986	121,866
	Community Employment Schemes	29,504	46,626
	HSE grants	751,368	341,086
	Residents' fees and other debtors	147,495	79,347
		<u>1,100,798</u>	<u>655,442</u>
15.2	Stocks	<u>14,531</u>	<u>8,788</u>

16.	CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	2023	2022
		€	€
	National and Regional services	3,129,845	3,878,304
	Branches	1,298,040	1,281,651
		<u>4,427,885</u>	<u>5,159,955</u>

Of the €3,129,845 (2022: €3,873,177) of National and Regional Services cash at bank and in hand a total of €1,629,845 (2022; €2,730,813) is unrestricted cash.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

17. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	2023	2022
	€	€
Trade creditors	138,524	213,755
Accruals	176,406	127,832
Deferred income	3,981	1,355
Bank term loan	289,435	237,172
PAYE/PRSI	75,632	74,703
Community Employment Scheme	74,894	102,177
	<u>758,872</u>	<u>756,993</u>

18. CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due after more than one year)	2023	2022
	€	€

Bank term loan	-	291,334
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These loans were all cleared and paid in full on 30 April 2024.

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

	2023	2022
	€	€
Within one year	289,435	237,172
Within two to five years	-	291,334
	<u>289,435</u>	<u>528,506</u>

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

19.1 TOTAL FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total Funds €
Funds at beginning of financial year	6,944,651	3,411,056	10,355,707
Movement during year	(348,642)	140,831	(207,811)
Prior year adjustment	928,408	(928,408)	-
Funds at end of year	<u>7,524,417</u>	<u>2,623,479</u>	<u>10,147,896</u>

19.3 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Funds at the beginning of the year €	Net movement €	Funds at the end of the year €
General fund	1,022,423	477,577	1,500,000
Designated funds			
Fixed assets	3,890,382	541,562	4,431,944
Branch net assets	1,292,739	49,734	1,342,473
Planned budget deficit	739,107	(489,107)	250,000
Total Designated funds	<u>5,922,228</u>	<u>102,189</u>	<u>6,024,417</u>
Funds at end of year	<u>6,944,651</u>	<u>579,766</u>	<u>7,524,417</u>

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

19.2

FUNDS INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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

Restricted funds	Fund balance at the start of year €	Prior year adjustment €	Movement	Transfer From Unrestricted €	Fund balance at the end of year €
HSE Statutory Funding Community	-	-	(184,008)	184,008	-
HSE Statutory Funding -Respite	-	-	(401,245)	401,245	-
HSE Statutory Funding -Governance	-	-	(257,691)	257,691	-
CEP community	-	-	15,637	39,620	55,257
CEP respite	-	-	(7,337)	22,762	15,425
HSE Lottery Funding	30,744	-	29,636	-	60,380
HSE Other Grants	-	-	24,466	-	24,466
Pobal Funding	-	-	(30,189)	30,189	-
Other Government Grants	-	-	34,605	-	34,605
Research	69,223	24,080	500	-	93,803
Bequest	63,472	-	104,292	-	167,764
J.P. MacManus	5,642	15,846	(765)	-	20,723
Other	1,098,753	(205,112)	(122,585)	-	771,055
Capital grants	715,124	(715,124)	-	-	-
Proceeds of Property Held for Resale	48,098	(48,098)	-	-	-
Total	2,031,056	(928,408)	(794,684)	935,515	1,243,479
Endowment	1,380,000	-	-	-	1,380,000
	3,411,056	(928,408)	(794,685)	935,516	2,623,479

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

**NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

19.3 Analysis of Other Restricted funds

The other restricted funds include funds received for the following:

	Fund balance at the start of year €	Prior year adjustment €	Movement €	Fund balance at the end of year €
Regional Offices	384,864	-	(50,132)	334,732
Pharmaceutical Companies	241,323	-	37,648	278,971
Care Centre	202,297	-	(93,882)	108,415
Getting the Balance Right Programmes	21,466	-	(16,029)	5,437
T J Ennis	26,190	-	(190)	26,000
Community Foundation (948)	4,000	-	-	4,000
Movesmart	13,500	-	-	13,500
Other	205,113	(205,112)	-	-
	<u>1,098,753</u>	<u>(205,112)</u>	<u>(122,585)</u>	<u>771,055</u>

19.4 The Capital Grant relates to a lien on the Care Centre that was removed in 2021.

19.5 The proceeds of the property in Clare were return to the Branch in 2022.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

20. NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(i) RECONCILIATION OF CHANGES IN RESOURCES TO NET CASH INFLOW

FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	€	€
Net incoming resource	(207,811)	205,047
Interest received	(982)	(122)
Interest & Charges payable	41,221	44,792
Depreciation	240,167	245,084
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(4,815)	904
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(454,141)	(245,001)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(50,384)	(316,804)
Sale of investments	-	10,252
Net cash inflow from operating activities	<u>(436,745)</u>	<u>(55,848)</u>

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

	2023	2022
	€	€
Increase/(Decrease) in cash in year	(732,070)	(377,244)
Cash flow from debt financing	239,071	240,890
Change in net cash	<u>(492,999)</u>	<u>(136,355)</u>
Net cash at beginning of year	4,631,449	4,767,804
Net cash at end of year	<u>4,138,450</u>	<u>4,631,449</u>

(iii) ANALYSIS OF NET CASH

	2023	Cash	2022
	€	Flow	€
Cash at bank and in hand	4,427,885	(732,070)	5,159,955
Debt due within one year	(289,435)	(52,263)	(237,172)
Debt due after one year	-	291,334	(291,334)
	<u>4,138,450</u>	<u>(492,999)</u>	<u>4,631,449</u>

21. TAXATION

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 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

22. 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 €16,000 (2022: €12,500).

23. PENSIONS

The Company operates a defined contribution insured pension scheme for employees. The employer pension cost for the year was € 97,330 (2022: €92,962) there was balance outstanding at the end of the year €18,439 (2022: €17,149).

24. FUNDRAISING

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

25. LEASE COMMITMENTS

Operating Leases:

Premises

Annual lease commitments at 31 December 2023 amount to € 14,778 (2022: €26,728) and relate to leases which expire.

	2023 €	2022 €
- Within one year	14,778	26,728
	<u>14,778</u>	<u>26,728</u>

26. OTHER COMMITMENTS

In certain circumstances grants received could become repayable by the Company.

There was no significant capital commitments contracted for by the Company as at 31 December 2023.

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

27. CEP GRANTS

MS Ireland operates three Community Employment Schemes supported by the Department of Social Protection.

The provision of services and supports throughout the country relies on the contribution of our Community Employment Scheme Participants.

CEP Grants are credited to income in the financial year in which they relate. Where the grant is received in advance its recognition is deferred and included in creditors.

	2023 € €'000	2022 € €'000
INCOME		
Care Centre CEP Scheme	277,574	286,841
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	253,388	260,845
Western Region CEP Scheme	254,914	222,217
Total	785,876	769,903
EXPENDITURE		
Care Centre CEP Scheme	276,706	286,769
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	250,711	263,397
Western Region CEP Scheme	241,976	223,076
Total	769,393	773,242
DEBTORS		
Care Centre CEP Scheme	5,975	11,143
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	11,105	30,451
Western Region CEP Scheme	12,424	5,032
Total	29,504	46,626
CREDITORS		
National Office	-	20,000
Care Centre CEP Scheme	24,124	24,251
Northwest Region CEP Scheme	19,784	32,694
Western Region CEP Scheme	30,987	25,232
Total	74,894	102,177

THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NOTES TO THE COMPANY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

28. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

	2023	2022
	€	€
	€'000	€'000
Financial assets		
• Amounts due from fundraising activities	87,445	66,518
• Community Employment Schemes	29,504	46,626
• HSE grants	751,368	341,086
• Residents fees and other debtors	147,495	79,347
Financial liabilities		
• Trade creditors	138,524	213,755
• Bank term loan (see note 18)	289,435	528,506
• Community Employment Schemes	74,894	102,177

29. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

The comparative figures, where necessary, have been restated on a consistent basis with the current year.

30. 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.

31. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

Since the Balance Sheet Date there have been a few major developments primarily relating to our properties:

National Office

MS Ireland have entered into a binding legal contract to sell the National Office in Northumberland Road, Dublin 4.

The anticipated completion and moving date is Quarter 1, 2025.

To accommodate this move of the National Office, it is planned that our Premises in Bushy Park Rd. Rathgar, Dublin 6 will be extended and renovated and become the new National Office of MS Ireland.

Limerick Office

The Limerick property since year end MS Ireland have agreed to sell the current Regional Office and to purchase a new larger purpose-built Office.

Candidates Profiles

Candidates listed in alphabetical order

Paddy Mulhall

Paddy Mulhall is a chartered accountant working as Head of Internal Audit for Primark; a multinational fashion retailer. He has over 15 years' experience in governance, risk, compliance, and internal audit roles across professional services, manufacturing, and retail. He lives in Dublin with his wife and son.



Niall Rooney

Niall Rooney works in the corporate governance department of a large national disability services organisation. Niall's background is in law and compliance, and he is a qualified solicitor. As well as broad experience in private sector roles, he has also worked in various roles in charities in the international development, social care and disability sectors.

Niall lives in Kildare and was diagnosed with MS in 2024.



Mr Auke van der Werff

Auke has been a volunteer with MS Ireland since December 2023.

Recently retired from over forty years of senior business management in Ireland, mainly in property development and hospitality.

He has over twenty years experience of being a company director and still holds two directorships in small investment companies.

A native of the Netherlands, he is married with two grown children and lives in Dublin.



REGISTRATION FORM – YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM TO RECEIVE THE LINK TO ATTEND THE MEETING VIRTUALLY



I will attend the A.G.M. on Monday, 30th September 2024 at 7.00 p.m.
Please tick one of the boxes

or

Yes, I will attend
virtually

No, I will not
attend

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

By the 27th September 2024

Name

.....

Address

.....

.....

Phone/Mobile No.

E-mail address

(Note: We must have your email address to send you the link to the meeting if you are attending virtually)

Branch (if applicable)

.....

Please note that the AGM will be recorded.