

Sport Ireland Annual Report 2023



- | Another year of work and growth
- | Discover our key figures and highlights
- | Explore how we develop sport in Ireland



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Who We Are

Established on October 1, 2015, Sport Ireland is the statutory authority tasked with leading, advocating for and providing directed funding for the development of sport in Ireland. This includes participation in sport, high performance sport, anti-doping, coaching and the development of the Sport Ireland Campus.

Sport Ireland is a body under the aegis of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Sport Ireland supports the delivery of the Government's National Sports Policy 2018–2027, which recognises the influence and importance of sport across society. Sport Ireland's 2023 budget allocation was €90.8m plus a capital budget of €15.1m.



Sport Ireland's
2023 budget
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capital budget
of **€15.1m**





Mission

Ireland is an active nation where people are encouraged to start, continue to participate, progress and achieve in sport

Vision

An active Ireland where everyone can enjoy the lifelong benefits of sport and physical activity



Values

Sport Ireland takes pride in its unique and leading role in Irish sport and strives to deliver value for money and excellence in everything it does.

Sport Ireland acts with integrity, upholding the highest ethical standards. We are honest, inclusive and transparent in all our partnership and funding relationships, decisions, and actions. These values will guide us in our delivery of a more active Ireland.

Sport Ireland's core values are:

Inclusion

Integrity

Respect

Excellence

Accountability

Chairperson's Statement



Sport Ireland has embarked on an exciting new chapter with our new five-year strategy. This strategy aims to build on the progress made during the previous strategic cycle and sets out ambitious plans for Sport Ireland and the sport sector to ensure we deliver best-in-class sporting experiences throughout the country.

As a Board we are committed to the vision of “an active Ireland where everyone can enjoy the benefits of sport and physical activity”.

Sport is central to the social, cultural and community life of Ireland, with it seeing a phenomenal period of achievement of late. As a country ranked 125th in the world in terms of population, Ireland has achieved - and continues to achieve - incredible levels of success in a variety of sports.

We have also recorded several wins on the governance front. For the first time, at year-end 2023, there is female representation on the board of every funded sporting organisation in the country. In 2023, the overall percentage of women on boards in the sport sector in Ireland stood at 44%. Considerable progress has been made since 2019, when females made up an average of only 24% of boards in the sector.

At Sport Ireland we are committed to the implementation of good governance, but for us that is not a destination – rather it is a continuous journey.

By embedding good governance, we can help ensure an organisation's well-being and long-term success, facilitating organisational performance, and achieving both agreed objectives and an overall mission.

We will continue to challenge those within the sector, not just to revise their governance structures and practices, but in some cases to address their fundamental philosophy and approach to the way that sport is run.

Sport Ireland has made significant strides in advancing our mission to develop sport in Ireland. The Board has focused on strengthening our governance practices and ensuring that our strategic initiatives align with the country's long-term needs. We have navigated a complex and changing landscape, reinforcing our commitment to transparency, accountability, and effective leadership.

Accountability will continue to be at the forefront of everything we do, and we will continue to communicate regularly and clearly, ensuring key stakeholders are informed about our work.

Sport Ireland remains committed to the long-term development of associated sporting facilities on the Sport Ireland Campus over the next 15–20 years. The individual building and infrastructure projects to be delivered represents a major investment in the highest quality of high-performance facilities.

Sport is central to the social, cultural and community life of Ireland, with it seeing a phenomenal period of achievement of late

The Sport Ireland Statement of Strategy 2023-2027 is ambitious, and we remain committed to improving on the already successful sport sector in this country. Already we can see green shoots of progress, but there is a way to go yet.

I and the Board of Sport Ireland thank Úna for her excellent work and we will continue to work with her to help the sport sector adapt to the challenges ahead. We know the course and will stick with it.

The Board also thanks Minister Catherine Martin TD and Minister Thomas Byrne TD and the officials in the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for their continuing support and funding which has allowed us to achieve so much.

Finally, the Board wishes good luck to all our athletes in 2024 who are participating in all forms of Olympic and Paralympic sports, World and European Championships, and our own national sports. Ádh mór oraibh go léir.

John Foley
Chairperson

CEO's Review



As the CEO of Sport Ireland, I am pleased to present this Annual Report, which highlights the progress and achievements of the organisation in 2023. It also outlines our efforts in monitoring the development, funding, and implementation of our programmes to promote sports, in compliance with government requirements and policies.

In 2023 there were tremendous Irish achievements in a range of sports. Our teams and individuals performed at an exceedingly high level and Irish athletes in many sports continue to do us proud. We are happy to play our part in supporting them.

Away from the high-performance spotlight, there were some other significant achievements. The 2023 Irish Sports Monitor report showed nearly two million adults in Ireland participate in sport every week - more than ever before.

Regular participation rates have grown from a low of 40% at the peak of the pandemic in 2021 to 47%, while the difference in sports participation rates between men and women in 2023 is the narrowest on record, at just under 3%.

This is largely due to women's sports participation increasing by 6% between 2022 and 2023 - it now stands at 46% compared to 49% for men. Outside of high - performance, participation levels and interest in sport in Ireland has soared.

In 2023, Sport Ireland embarked on the first year of our new strategy, which runs until 2027. Sport Ireland's Statement of Strategy 2023-2027 demonstrates our commitment to delivering high levels of participation, engagement, achievement and performance in all facets of sport in Ireland.

We have already made significant headway in creating a world-class sports sector - and our new strategy positions us to make further gains.

However, Sport Ireland faces a range of challenges, including resources, demand for funding, changing demographics, and governance issues within the sector. We also recognise the wider societal, structural, and systemic challenges faced by marginalised groups in Ireland today.

We shall embrace these challenges and continue to work to ensure that Ireland is an active nation where people are encouraged to start, continue to participate, progress, and achieve in sport.

Key to this is working closely with our partners to optimise the effectiveness and impact of the agencies, people, and places providing sporting opportunity.





Sport Ireland's Statement of Strategy 2023-2027 demonstrates our commitment to delivering high levels of participation, engagement, achievement and performance in all facets of sport in Ireland

We have a valued connection with the Government and a strong relationship with our partners, in particular National Governing Bodies (NGBs), Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs), other funded bodies and the wider sport sector including clubs, communities, coaches, officials, administrators, and volunteers.

These links underpin our commitment to increasing participation, the cornerstone of the National Sports Policy, through the delivery of more and better sporting opportunities to a wider range of people throughout Ireland.

We will increase levels of participation in sport (with a particular focus on diversity and inclusion), we will champion high performance sport – helping our teams, athletes, and support staff to achieve their potential on the world stage – and we will empower people to commit to their sport and take part for longer.

Coaches, officials, administrators, and volunteers who run and support sport are critical to our vision, and we will continue to develop the sector in these areas. Sport must be ethical, safe, and fair and we will deliver key support services such as safeguarding and anti-doping to that end. The Sport Ireland Campus will be developed and improved, as will sporting infrastructure across Ireland.

Sport Ireland is well positioned to deliver on its vision.

Firstly, at Sport Ireland not only are we all about sport but we believe in sport for all – we have an unparalleled commitment to all athletes, all sports, and all participants.

Secondly, our operational agility will allow us to adapt to new and emerging challenges in the coming years – to better support development of the sustainability and effectiveness of NGBs, LSPs and other partner bodies.

Next, our dedication to optimising our government investment will allow us to develop world-class systems and services.

And of course, at Sport Ireland, our biggest asset is our people – through their dedication, agility and innovation, we will continue to work towards an ever more active Ireland.

Dr Úna May
CEO

2023 Highlights

**5
YEAR**

Sport Ireland launched its five-year Statement of Strategy (2023-2027).

The strategy reflects Sport Ireland's commitment to fostering high levels of participation, engagement, achievement, and performance in all aspects of sport throughout the country.



Increase in sports participation from 2019 levels.

Almost half of the population (47%) taking part in sport during 2023, as recorded in the Irish Sports Monitor Report.



47%



€40m

€40m was invested in NGBs across nine investment programmes such as Core, Women in Sport, Dormant Accounts and Healthy Ireland.

Two additional phases of Energy Funding valued at €8m was provided to support local sport clubs, community-led sports facilities, national facilities, and major stadiums, to mitigate the impact of increased energy costs.



€16m

€16m was invested in Local Sports Partnerships to promote the development of sport at local level.

This includes Core, Women in Sport, Dormant Account, Healthy Ireland and Energy support grant funding.

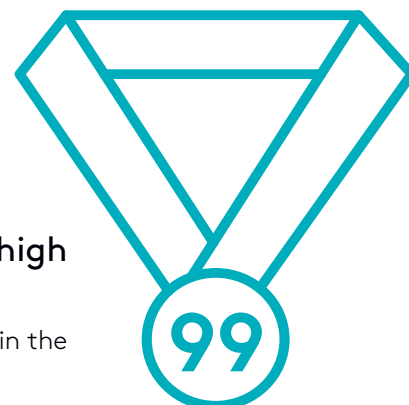
99 medals were won at major international competitions across senior and non-senior events.



€24m

Over €24m was invested in high performance sport in 2023.

This was a record level of investment in the Irish high performance system.



95%

95% of the sector self-declared compliance with the Governance Code for Sport.

3% increase in compliance by NGBs and LSPs compared to YE2022.



A Code of Conduct template was created with representatives from the Irish sports sector.

This initiative aims to foster a culture of respect, integrity, and fairness within the sporting community by addressing and eliminating abuse towards referees, officials, coaches, players, and all participants involved.

Sport Ireland launched Get Ireland Active: www.getirelandactive.ie

This a web-based resource detailing all sports facilities and places for people to be active in Ireland in one free, convenient, and comprehensive website.



400 delegates attended the inaugural **Sport Innovation & Technology Summit** hosted by Sport Ireland.

Delegates were from the enterprise, research, and sport sectors.

Sport Ireland published a revised Policy on Women in Sport.

The Her Moves campaign launched in March.

With an exciting and vibrant event providing promotional support to NGBs and LSPs delivering physical activity programmes for teenage girls.



The Women in Sport Leadership Snapshot highlights that at the end of 2023 the overall percentage of women on boards in the sport sector in Ireland stood at 44%.



The Sport Ireland Campus hosted four international events.

Men's EuroHockey Championship
Inaugural Under-23 European Swimming Championships
World Karate's International K1-Premier League penultimate contest
UCI Cyclo-cross World Cup 2023 event

Financial Review

The level of Government investment in sport has never been higher and it is positive to see funding levels moving decisively in the direction of achieving the €220m investment target by 2027, as per the commitment set out in the 2018-2027 National Sports Policy.

Reflecting on Sport Ireland's income and expenditure in 2023, the key movements in comparison to 2022 are as follows:

€129.9m

Overall income for the year was €129.9m compared to €150.7m in 2022, with the difference attributable to the reduction in energy grants and Covid-19 funding not being required in 2023.

€125m

Overall expenditure also reduced to €125m from €147.2m in 2022, aligned to the reductions in the energy resilience scheme and no requirement for the Covid-19 resilience scheme.

↑9%

Core Recurring Grants funding rose by €7.2m (9%) in the year to €90.8m in 2023 from €83.6m in 2022. These funds are used for pay, general administration, programme costs and grants to funded bodies such as National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships.

↑11%

Other programmes increased by €1m (11%) with material increases in anti-doping €311k (22%), institute development €567k (23%) mostly athlete services and professional fees €201k (136%).

Further detail is available within the Annual Financial Statements included in this Report.





Meet the Team

Sport Ireland

Sport Ireland is the authority tasked with the development of sport in Ireland. In 2023, we provided direct, regular, financial support for more than 100 national level sports organisations including core partners and other funded bodies as outlined below. These organisations are at the centre of Irish sport and are key delivery agencies for Sport Ireland in the achievement of our strategic and operational goals. We are committed to working in partnership with them and for them, supporting capability and capacity building.

Core Partners

The collective group of organisations funded by Sport Ireland include National Governing Bodies, Local Sports Partnerships and others such as the Olympic Federation of Ireland, Paralympics Ireland, the Federation of Irish Sport, Active Disability Ireland, Student Sport Ireland, and Age & Opportunity.



National Governing Bodies

The National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) are organisations recognised by Sport Ireland that govern and coordinate the development of a particular sport or sports, usually through constituent clubs and related structures:

American Football Ireland
Angling Council of Ireland
Archery Ireland
Athletics Ireland
Badminton Ireland
Basketball Ireland
Baton Twirling Sport Association of Ireland
Bol Chumann na hÉireann
Canoeing Ireland
Cricket Ireland
Croquet Association of Ireland
Cycling Ireland
Deaf Sports Ireland
Diving Ireland
Fencing Ireland
Football Association of Ireland
GAA Handball Ireland
Gaelic Athletic Association
Golf Ireland
Gymnastics Ireland
Hockey Ireland
Horse Sport Ireland
Horseshoe Pitchers Association of Ireland
Ice Skating Association of Ireland
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association
Irish Athletic Boxing Association
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association
Irish Ice Hockey Association
Irish Lawn Bowls
Irish Judo Association
Irish Martial Arts Commission
Irish Rugby Football Union
Irish Sailing Association

Irish Squash
Irish Surfing Association
Irish Tenpin Bowling Association
Irish Waterski and Wakeboard Federation
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport
Ladies Gaelic Football Association
Motorcycling Ireland
Motorsport Ireland
Mountaineering Ireland
National Aero Club of Ireland
National Community Games
Olympic Handball Ireland
ONAKAI
Orienteering Ireland
Pitch and Putt Ireland
Racquetball Association of Ireland
Rowing Ireland
Rugby League Ireland
Snooker & Billiards Ireland
Special Olympics Ireland
Speleological Union of Ireland
Swim Ireland
Table Tennis Ireland
Taekwondo Ireland
Tennis Ireland
The Camogie Association
Triathlon Ireland
Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland
Tug of War Ireland
Vision Sports Ireland
Volleyball Ireland
Weightlifting Ireland

65 National Governing Bodies



SEREN
molten

29 onei.
U

44 onei.
U Value
oneills

oneills
U Value
Insulation
Delivering Better Solutions
www.uvalue.ie
oneills





Local Sports Partnerships

The Local Sports Partnerships (LSP) network is made up of 29 LSPs which are passionate about getting Ireland physically active, involved in sport and ensuring everyone in the community has the chance to be included.

Working with trusted professionals and valued volunteers, the LSP network engages communities across the country to deliver inclusive, impactful, and sustainable opportunities tailored to local needs. It strives to get Ireland more physically active, involved in sport and improving the mental and physical health of the nation.

Carlow	Louth
Cavan	Longford
Clare	Mayo
Cork	Meath
Donegal	Monaghan
Dublin City	Offaly
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	Roscommon
Fingal	South Dublin County
Galway	Sligo
Kerry	Tipperary
Kildare	Waterford
Kilkenny	Westmeath
Laois	Wexford
Leitrim	Wicklow
Limerick	



The LSP network engages communities across the country to deliver inclusive, impactful, and sustainable opportunities tailored to local needs.

Our Gameplan

Strategic Priorities 2023-2027 and Impact

Sport Ireland believes that our vision of “an active Ireland where everyone can enjoy the lifelong benefits of sport and physical activity” will be realised through the clarity of our mission and values, supported by three core focus areas below and their underlying 12 enablers, building upon Sport Ireland’s work over the last strategy period.

2023 marked the first year of implementing Sport Ireland’s Statement of Strategy 2023-2027. The Strategy outlines 28 high-level strategic objectives and 55 key performance indicators (KPIs), which include a mix of qualitative and quantitative metrics reflecting the various approaches to sport development across the sport development framework.

Annual business planning forms the basis of Sport Ireland’s implementation of its Strategy, with the 2023 Plan outlining 47 specific actions with 80 KPIs, linked to the overarching Strategic Plan and supporting the delivery of the Government’s National Sports Policy 2018-2027. Performance against our planned business activity is measured periodically in the rolling 12-month period.

Overall progress against the 2023 Annual Business Plan averaged at 78%, with 39 KPIs complete/Green, 31 partially complete/Amber and 10 designated as minimal delivery/Red (i.e. <30% progress). For any actions and KPIs considered partially complete and/or with minimal delivery, these are prioritised within the 2024 Annual Business Plan as appropriate.

Additionally, progress against the overarching five-year objectives is also assessed on an annual basis, with Sport Ireland setting a minimum 20% target per annum to deliver on all 28 high-level objectives and 55 KPIs by 2027. Overall progress for 2023 averaged at 21%, trending slightly ahead (+1%) for the year.

Further details on strategic delivery are incorporated into the following sections and summarised in the appendix, with the key highlights included earlier.



VISION:

An active Ireland where everyone can enjoy the lifelong benefits of sport and physical activity

MISSION

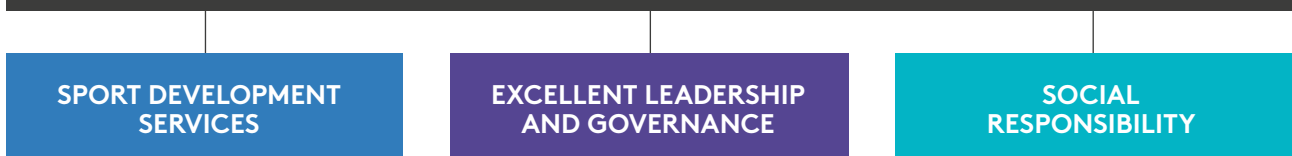
Ireland is an active nation where people are encouraged to start, continue to participate, progress and achieve in sport

VALUES

-  INCLUSION
-  INTEGRITY
-  RESPECT
-  EXCELLENCE
-  ACCOUNTABILITY



CORE FOCUS AREAS



CORE FOCUS AREAS



SPORT DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Delivering a thriving sport sector that provides opportunities for participation and performance.



EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Optimising capability and capacity.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Acting in the best interests of the sector and wider society.

CORE FOCUS AREA 1



Sport Development Services -

Delivering a thriving sport sector that provides opportunities for participation and performance.



The sports development framework is central to our mission of ensuring that more people are encouraged to start, continue to participate, progress, and achieve in sport and physical activity. This will be provided via a thriving, well organised, and supported sport sector.

Participation

We are dedicated to finding the best ways to meet Government National Sports Policy targets to ensure that a significantly higher proportion of children and adults from all sectors of society are regularly involved in all forms of active and social participation in sport.

To do this, Sport Ireland and partners must meaningfully and equitably address issues related to diversity, inclusion, disability, female participation, and socio- economic disadvantage.

Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs)

In 2023 over 542,000 people from communities across Ireland took part in sport and physical activity opportunities organised by Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs). These impactful opportunities make people's lives better, creating a positive legacy that can last a lifetime.


In 2023, Sport Ireland invested €16m in the LSP Network through Core, Dormant Accounts and other funding streams. Thanks to this funding, every LSP now has a minimum of six core staff (from five in 2022) including a coordinator, an administrator, a programme manager, a sports inclusion disability officer, a community sports development officer, and one additional officer, based on local needs.

Alongside this increase in staffing support, 2023 saw the introduction of two new pilot programmes across the LSP network.

1. The **Physical Activity for Health programme**, which is delivered in conjunction with the Department of Health through Sláintecare and the HSE, allows LSPs to support people with chronic health conditions to get active and stay active.
2. The **Sport4Empowerment Programme** enables LSPs to implement socially innovative programmes, using sport and physical activity, to foster social inclusion and enhance the wellbeing, education, and economic prospects of people at risk of social exclusion.

Also funded through Dormant Accounts in 2023 were a further five community sports hubs, continuing to ensure there is at least one community sports hub in every county. By the end of 2023, 81 hubs were established.

€16m invested by Sport Ireland in 2023 through Core, Dormant Accounts and other funding streams.



During the summer of 2023, Longford Sports Partnership launched a 'Sports Introduction' initiative, designed by our Diversity Inclusion Development Officer, Michael Reilly. We were looking to engage kids from diverse backgrounds - we had children from the Roma, Traveller, Ukrainian and African communities.

We wanted to create an inclusive, safe, and enjoyable space where kids could explore sports that maybe they wouldn't have had the chance to try before. Sport Ireland's support and funding was crucial in getting it off the ground.

The initiative was designed to address barriers faced by at-risk youth in the local community. Its aim was to promote physical activity, but we also wanted to emphasise social inclusion and the development of crucial life skills such as teamwork and communication.

It's been brilliant. We've already seen much better integration of young people and kids from minority and migrant communities into local sports clubs.



Donal Mulligan,
Coordinator, Longford Sports Partnership



Sport Ireland Outdoors

In 2023, Sport Ireland launched 'Get Ireland Active', Ireland's most comprehensive activity, sport and recreation website.

Get Ireland Active is the first project of its kind in Ireland and includes every type of activity and recreational and sporting facility. The database features countless trails, clubs, facilities, and public places across the country. This comprehensive resource will help guide future investment and planning decisions for sport and recreational facilities.

As part of Sport Ireland's remit in co-leading on the implementation on Embracing Ireland's Outdoors, National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027, the Outdoors unit received funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development to deliver on a pilot programme to introduce county outdoor recreation officers in six LSPs – Clare, Longford, Sligo, Waterford, Mayo, and Meath.

These outdoor recreation officers will provide expertise and guidance to the outdoor recreation sector in the county and will co-ordinate the development and the delivery of the county outdoor recreation plan in their county.

At the end of 2023, there were 1,072 trails on the National Trails Register (a 9% increase from 2022). This amounts to over 15,000km of waymarked trails across Ireland. During 2023, our panel of inspectors conducted over 350 inspections. We also had 52 trails, and 162 trail-management organisations listed on our national trails register public liability insurance policy.

1,072 trails on the National Trails Register at the end of 2023.

National Governing Bodies

Throughout 2023 the NGB Unit distributed more than €40m across nine investment programmes such as Core, Women in Sport, Dormant Accounts and Healthy Ireland. While this level of investment was reduced in comparison to 2022, the key variances are attributable to the reduced need for Covid-19 recovery funding and reduced needs from the sector across the Energy Support Scheme. This continued investment is crucial for NGBs to implement programmes and initiatives that foster the development and promotion of their sports at all levels, from grassroots to elite performance.

Notwithstanding the financial support, there is still a need to be mindful of the disproportionate number of challenges in the external environment with Covid-19, international conflict, and an energy crisis all placing a significant burden on the NGB sector. These challenges were compounded by domestic labour market shortages, decreased volunteer bases, and significant increases in standard operating costs.

To mitigate the impact of increased energy costs, two additional phases of Energy Funding valuing €8m were provided, supporting local sport clubs, community-led sports facilities, national facilities, and major stadiums.

Additional public investment has also resulted in increased levels of governance and public scrutiny for the sector which can lead to further administration requirements. To alleviate this burden, Sport Ireland began the roll-out of its online grants management system in 2023. This is a digital system implemented to streamline the management of grants provided to our core partners with benefits to the sector in reporting and to Sport Ireland in tracking and monitoring progress.





Special Olympics Ireland benefits hugely from Sport Ireland Core Funding. It makes a big difference to the grassroots programme.

Special Olympics Ireland has over 250 clubs. We offer 15 different sports across the 32 counties of Ireland.

What we are able to do with this funding is to ensure that the clubs are well governed and that the athletes can experience really good quality sport and training but also have the opportunity to participate in various competitions.

Core funding has increased significantly since 2018. However, so have costs, so this is vital funding for insurance, the cost of venue hires and the cost of retaining staff and everything else. Staff are so critical to national governing bodies by providing good administration and an environment where all athletes can have the very best experience of their sport.

Matt English,
CEO of Special Olympics, Ireland



High Performance

The Sport Ireland High Performance Strategy 2021–2032 informs Sport Ireland’s strategic direction in respect of high performance sport.

The vision of the High-Performance Strategy is that Ireland will consistently achieve podium success on the world stage, inspiring the nation and future generations.

2023 High Performance Investment

Sport Ireland invested over €24m in high performance (HP) sport in 2023. This was a record level of funding for the Irish HP system.

This included €10.8m in HP Programme Funding for 19 NGBs to support the delivery of their performance programmes in 2023.

A further €1m was allocated to the Olympic Federation of Ireland (€550,000) and Paralympics Ireland (€450,000) for operations and administration support.

A Head of HP Coaching was appointed last year. Through this appointment, Sport Ireland has sought to drive improvements in HP coaching. A total of €923,500 was invested in this area in 2023.

We introduced the Athlete Support Package (ASP) for targeted para-athletes seeking to qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games. We also adjusted the International Carding Scheme to provide equal funding at the maximum award levels to both a para-athlete and their pilot or guide.

High Performance at major international events

99

Total HP medals



46

Senior medals

17 gold, 11 silver, 18 bronze

Gender Breakdown



42

Female



38

Male



19

Mixed/Open



53

Non-senior medals

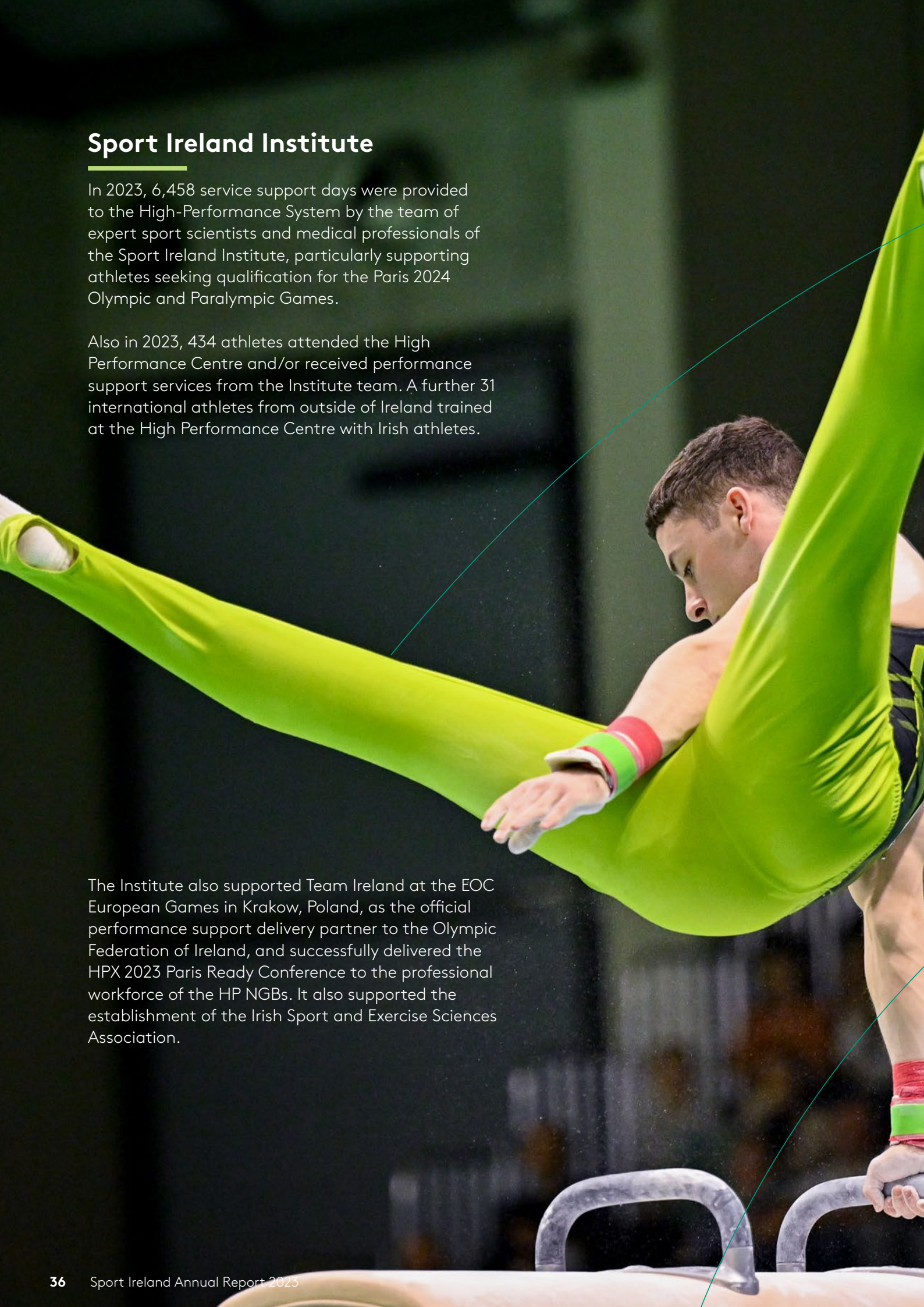
24 gold, 42 silver, 19 bronze

Sport Ireland Institute

In 2023, 6,458 service support days were provided to the High-Performance System by the team of expert sport scientists and medical professionals of the Sport Ireland Institute, particularly supporting athletes seeking qualification for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Also in 2023, 434 athletes attended the High Performance Centre and/or received performance support services from the Institute team. A further 31 international athletes from outside of Ireland trained at the High Performance Centre with Irish athletes.

The Institute also supported Team Ireland at the EOC European Games in Krakow, Poland, as the official performance support delivery partner to the Olympic Federation of Ireland, and successfully delivered the HPX 2023 Paris Ready Conference to the professional workforce of the HP NGBs. It also supported the establishment of the Irish Sport and Exercise Sciences Association.





465

athletes supported
(increasing annually
from 296 in 2017*)

6,458

service support days
(increased from
2,418 in 2017)

€4.2m

budget
(increase from
€2.1m in 2017)

74

on Sport Ireland
Institute team
(increase from
34 in 2017)

*2017 is used as the reference as it was the first full year with the HP Centre open (opened in April 2016).

Sport Ireland Campus

Campus Development

The Sport Ireland Campus Masterplan Vision proposes a vision and framework for the growth of the Sport Ireland Campus and the long-term development of associated sporting facilities over the next 15–20 years.

The masterplan captures the aspirations of Sport Ireland and identifies a proposed guide for the delivery of this vision. The Campus is already home to world-class sporting and support facilities and more will be added in the coming years.

In 2023 the redevelopment of the Long Barn office building was completed, and it now hosts offices for the Olympic Federation of Ireland and a dedicated athlete lounge.

Campus development also completed the design stage work for the National Velodrome and Badminton Centre. This new facility will be the first indoor velodrome track in Ireland, creating a permanent home for Cycling Ireland and Badminton Ireland, with the venue also available for multiple other sports.



Campus Operations – Sport Ireland Facilities DAC

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sport Ireland with its main responsibility being to operate and maintain the National Aquatic Centre and lands comprising its demesne and the lands, buildings and facilities that comprise the Sport Ireland Campus.

The Sport Ireland Facilities DAC Company Strategy outlines that the role of the company is “first and foremost to provide an inspirational, state-of-the-art performance environment and event location that supports the needs of the high performance sport community in Ireland whilst also enabling a range of participation and recreation activities to take place in parallel and make the campus the home of sport in Ireland”.

Overall academy numbers performed well in 2023 with occupancies up 16% on 2022’s total academy figure, with 156,282 individual classes attended. Swimming and gymnastics led this strong performance with 14% and 23% participation increases on 2023’s targets, respectively.

Summer camps continued to be popular, growing by 3% to 3,361, with seven different camp options available.

The company also continued to see strong growth in school tours, and the number of children attending in 2023 grew by 17% to 6,904 while the number of schools involved grew by 26% (from 120 to 152).

Sport Ireland Campus Fitness’ gym membership numbers finished out the year very strong (3,498) in comparison to 3,145 at year end 2022.

In line with increases in academy and gym membership numbers, visitor numbers for the year of 2023 across the National Aquatic Centre were (1.1m), National Indoor Arena (603k) and multi-sport pitches (150k) increased by 34% (1.8m) when comparing to 2022 (1.4m). Footfall is up 14% when comparing to 2019 (1.6m), the last full year not impacted by Covid-19.

Investment in participation facilities continued across the Campus with new additional outdoor installations of volleyball, futsal, basketball and calisthenics available for free usage in the community.

Awareness of the Sport Ireland Campus also increased from 41% of the population to 46% of the population, according to the ISM 2023 research, assisted by investment in brand awareness and the ‘Here We Go’ campaign.

3%

Growth in summer camp attendance

3,498

Gym members at end 2023 (3,145 in 2022)

Events on Campus

Hosting major sports events boosts the economy, highlights the positive benefits of sports and is a key chance to shine the national spotlight on specific venues or destinations.

In 2023, the Sport Ireland Campus hosted four international events: The Men's EuroHockey Championship II was won by Ireland, securing them a spot in the Olympic qualifier event.

The Sport Ireland National Aquatic Centre hosted 38 countries and over 500 athletes in the inaugural Under-23 European Swimming Championships. Ireland came out on top of the medal table, with Mona McSharry, Daniel Wiffen and Ellen Walshe winning a total of nine medals.

There were over 3,000 in attendance at the National Indoor Training Centre for World Karate's international K1-Premier League penultimate contest.

Meanwhile, the UCI Cyclo-cross World Cup 2023 event attracted up to 5,000 spectators.

The Sport Ireland National Aquatic Centre celebrated its 20th anniversary on the 10th of March 2023. The iconic venue has welcomed more than 15 million visitors through its doors since 2003 and hosted multiple international events over the two decades.

The 50-meter competition pool facilitates the athletes in the Swim Ireland high performance programme, who train daily alongside children learning and recreational swimmers of all ages and abilities. The gym and leisure pool continues to welcome thousands of community visitors every day.



Organisational Development & Change (ODC)

Sport Ireland's Organisational Development and Change (ODC) Unit is primarily focused on supporting organisations that receive funding from Sport Ireland. The Unit's work includes Capability Building, Organisational Development & Change Interventions and facilitating Sectoral Networks.

During 2023, following consultation with the sector, the ACCELERATE Management Development programme was redesigned to facilitate a more blended learning experience. Building capability in areas such as financial management, governance, project management, and conflict management was a key focus, serving to support the sector. 38 participants from 15 different organisations completed the programme. In addition, through the support of Dormant Accounts Funding, the ASPIRE Graduate Employment programme was delivered for the fifth year running to our largest cohort yet as graduates from 15 Sport Ireland funded organisations participated.

The Executive Coaching & Psychometric Testing offerings also continued to be sought throughout 2023, highlighting the value individuals place on their own personal development, awareness, and capability building. 96 hours of executive coaching was logged in addition to 71 psychometric reports and feedback sessions.

2023 also saw some new elements to the learning needs of the sector, with requests for courses on data insights, artificial intelligence (AI), coaching, and change management. These needs were met by Sport Ireland, in providing accredited CPD programmes to over 30 participants. Of course, the traditional requests also continued with courses in Business Report Writing, Conflict Management, and Performance Management, of which 165 participants from the sector availed.

Sport Ireland also facilitated a range of networking events to support peer learning, idea sharing, and networking between participants. There are currently eight such groups in operation, with an additional marketing, communications, and sponsorship network getting added to the programme in 2023.

Sport Ireland Coaching

Ensuring there are enough coaches and officials of the right quality, with the required knowledge, experience, and approach, is fundamental to providing a good introduction to sport and enhancing sporting opportunities.

In 2023, over 21,000 coaches were certified under the Coaching Development Programme for Ireland (CDPI) across 33 sports - a 90% increase on the number of coaches certified in 2022.

While there was no change in the number of female coaches certified in 2023 in comparison to 2022, the percentage of female coaches has increased by 9% over the last six years - from 33% in 2018 to 42% in 2023.

The biggest demand in 2023 was for the Coaching Teenage Girls workshops, with 28 workshops delivered. The Positive Parents series of workshops were piloted and delivered to support coaches, parents and clubs.

In previous years, Sport Ireland Coaching typically delivered two Coach Developer programmes per year. However, there has been an increased demand for the programme across NGBs since the programme was validated by QQI as a Level 7 Certificate in Sports Coach Development.

In 2023, Sport Ireland Coaching delivered five programmes to 106 learners across 18 different NGBs. However, there was some difficulty in recruiting trainers and support personnel to meet the demand for the programme.

In the same year 36 new coach developer assessors from 10 different NGBs were trained, in comparison to 25 coach developer assessors from 14 NGBs in 2022, a 44% increase. Coach developer assessors are experienced coach developers who facilitate the development of coach developers and assess coach developer competencies.

Having fully developed NGB coaching pathways from entry level to high performance is a key goal for Sport Ireland Coaching.

The importance of Physical Literacy

At the forefront of the work that Sport Ireland does is the All-Ireland Physical Literacy Consensus Statement - a document created by experts and community members to encourage people of all ages to enjoy being active.

The statement talks about basic skills like running, jumping, and throwing, and why it is important to feel confident and motivated to stay active throughout life. It suggests ways to help everyone, from children to adults, learn these skills and to incorporate these skills into their everyday activities by being more active.

To that end, Sport Ireland initiated the development of a Physical Literacy Plan in 2023 and roll out began with various stakeholders. Physical Literacy awareness training was delivered for Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland staff and several physical literacy briefings were conducted for sports organisations and personnel.



CORE FOCUS AREA 2



Excellent leadership and governance -
optimising capability and capacity.



Governance

Governance Code for Sport

The National Sports Policy 2018–2027 requires that all funded bodies adopt the Governance Code for Sport by December 31, 2021 (Action 31). At the end of 2023, 95 of the 100 organisations within the sport sector had self-declared their adoption of the code. Two of the remaining organisations were “Under Review” by Sport Ireland and three continue on their ‘adoption journey’, with Sport Ireland awaiting paperwork to be submitted from them in due course.

Sport Ireland continued to support organisations under the Gov-Enhance Governance Support Programme in 2023, delivering 16 events/offerings within the Programme, engaging over 480 participants (an increase of 37% vs. 2022 engagement).

The programme culminated with the delivery of the Sport Ireland Annual Governance Conference in November, which was attended by over 170 participants. The theme of the 2023 conference was “Embedding Good Governance: Sustainability. Working Effectively. Leadership.”

Research and Innovation

Underpinned by our mission to progress the national thinking on sport in Ireland, we are delivering on our research strategy to lead the generation and mobilisation of knowledge and insights for the sector.

In 2023, Sport Ireland launched the 2022 Irish Sport Monitor (ISM) and 2022 Children’s Sport Participation and Physical Activity Study (CSPPA) at the Sport Ireland Campus.

The ISM survey showed that participation in sport had increased by 3 percentage points since 2021, with 43% of the adult population participating regularly in sport in 2022. However, the CSPPA also showed a significant drop in girls’ participation in school sports at the post-primary level.

Insights such as these into changing sport and physical activity behaviours through the Covid-19 pandemic period were used to inform national policy and Covid-19 recovery strategies.

Sport Ireland’s Research and Evaluation Grant Scheme supported 13 evaluation projects and 14 research projects across the sport sector in collaboration with 11 universities providing the opportunity to deliver research initiatives and evaluations which capture evidence of programme outputs and impact. In 2023 the programmes focused on issues such as inclusion, coach education, and the advancement of elite training methods.

In 2023, Sport Ireland hosted the inaugural Sport Innovation & Technology Summit, attracting over 400 delegates from the enterprise, research, and sport sectors across the island of Ireland. The event in the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena helped to promote the growing role of innovation and technology in sport and developed connectivity across the entire Irish sport sector with technology developers and providers.

In conjunction with Skillnet Innovation Exchange, Sport Ireland launched a new partnership project, the Digital for Sport programme, at the event. It will deliver targeted digital transformation projects in the Irish sports sector in 2024.

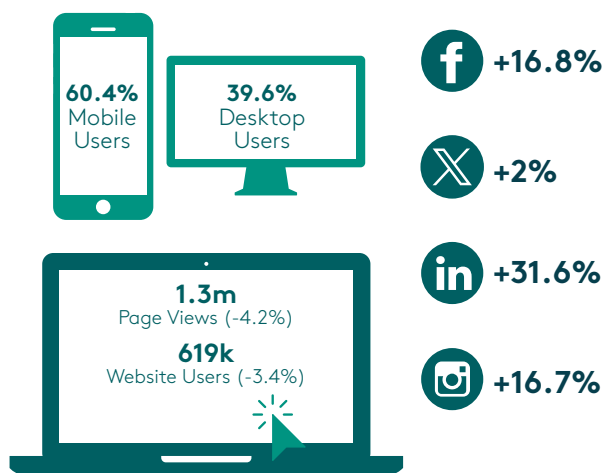
Communications and Marketing

A new role, Director of Corporate Affairs, Communications and Marketing, was created in 2023.

Through this appointment, Sport Ireland has created KPIs aligned to the organisation's Statement of Strategy 2023 – 2027 to drive organisation and sector capabilities in communications, public affairs and marketing.

A Marketing and Communications Network was set up at the end of 2023 to offer support and as a mechanism to share expertise across the sector in marketing, communications, sponsorship, partnerships, and public affairs.

2023 DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS



Human Resources

In 2023, Sport Ireland experienced significant challenges from a labour perspective. With the country experiencing near full employment, the competition for top talent intensified significantly.

While there were challenges there were also valuable opportunities for growth. We are proud of the achievements and milestones reached by our team and remain committed to developing a workplace that supports their continued success and development.

In 2023, the HR unit successfully implemented a comprehensive Human Resource Information System (HRIS). This system integrates all HR functions into a single, cohesive platform, streamlining processes and enhancing our operational efficiency.

Additionally, for a second consecutive year, we achieved the Great Place to Work accreditation. We are confident that our efforts will continue to ensure Sport Ireland is an exceptional place to work, driving success and satisfaction for our employees and the organisation.



CORE FOCUS AREA 3



Social Responsibility -
*acting in the best interests of
the sport sector and wider society.*



Anti-Doping and Safeguarding

Anti-Doping

Sport Ireland operates the Irish sport anti-doping programme, which is part of an international system of testing.

The Sport Ireland 2023 Anti-Doping Annual Report highlighted that a total of 1,826 samples were collected by Sport Ireland in 2023, a record number.

There were also several other noteworthy milestones, including the introduction of dried blood spot testing, the introduction of an app designed to replace paper sample collection forms, and the launch of the Sport Ireland Medcheck website (replacing the previous medication checker), which had over 16,000 searches in 2023.

There were also 48 sample collection personnel reaccredited, with seven of those completing the International Testing Agency's international doping control officer accreditation.

Education remains a key priority for Sport Ireland, with 21 face-to-face or online clean sport sessions delivered to over 800 stakeholders in 2023. Through Sport Ireland's clean sport e-learning programme 1,600 new users were certified, and 900 re-certified.

The unit operates at the highest standard, as evidenced by the maintenance of ISO certification following an audit in November 2023.

Sport Ireland also continued to contribute to the Council of Europe's Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention and its advisory groups on education and science.

Safeguarding

Sport Ireland works hard to promote awareness of Children First compliance requirements and child protection across the sports sector.

Safeguarding workshops are delivered through the national network of 29 LSPs and through a number of NGBs. More than 8,000 participants attended workshops in 2023.

Our Safeguarding Campaign was showcased on the Sport Ireland website and social media platforms through digital posts and concluded with a networking event at the Sport Ireland Campus Conference Centre.

The Sport Ireland Club Self-Assessment was completed in 2023 with Sport Ireland receiving a final report that outlined an overview of Child Safeguarding within the sports sector. With over 6,500 clubs completing the process, we have now broken down the report into key action areas which will become a focus for 2024 implementation.

8,000+
Participants attended
workshops in 2023

6,500+
Clubs completed the
Sport Ireland Club
Self-Assessment

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The year 2023 marked the second year of the delivery of the Sport Ireland Policy on Diversity and Inclusion in Sport. The Advisory Group on Diversity and Inclusion in Sport, established by Sport Ireland, provided guidance and advice to Sport Ireland on its work around diversity and inclusion in sport.

To support the implementation of the objectives in the policy, Sport Ireland identified 53 actions. Many of these actions will be ongoing for the life cycle of the policy while others are specific, time-bound actions. At the end of 2023, 44 actions were commenced and ongoing, two fully complete and seven not yet started.

In 2023, for the first time, the Sport Ireland Ethics Unit brought together diversity and inclusion leads from the NGB sector for a networking and information-sharing event. This provided those involved in leading on diversity and inclusion initiatives within their organisations with an opportunity to share best practice examples and connect with their counterparts.

The Ethics Unit consulted extensively with key stakeholders as part of its work to develop Guidance for Transgender and Non-Binary Inclusion in Sport.

In building on its campaign to support the LGBTI+ community through its partnership with Sporting Pride, the Ethics Unit held an in-person event in October 2023. Members of the LGBTI+ community and those involved in the delivery of sport and physical activity were invited to attend panel discussions which focused on the importance of LGBTI+ inclusion in sport.

Sport4Empowerment

€11m was secured from the EU European Social Fund+ (ESF+) for the delivery of Sport Ireland's new 'Sport 4 Empowerment' (S4E) programme launched in October. It aims to deliver innovative sport and development initiatives to marginalised communities and disadvantaged groups.

A new position of ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport Officer was created in the LSP network. The aim of the programme is to have an ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport Officer in 18 LSPs by the end of 2024, and in all 29 LSPs by the end of 2025.

At the end of 2023, four LSPs - Laois, Limerick, Clare, and Roscommon – had recruited for the new roles.

Sport Ireland's vision for women in sport is one where women have an equal opportunity to achieve their full potential, while enjoying a lifelong involvement in sport

Women in Sport

Sport Ireland's vision for women in sport is one where women have an equal opportunity to achieve their full potential, while enjoying a lifelong involvement in sport.

Following a review of the current policy and consultation with the sport sector, the Sport Ireland Policy on Women in Sport was relaunched in November 2023. While maintaining the key focus areas (Active Participation; Leadership & Governance; Coaching & Officiating; and Visibility), the policy saw the introduction of additional actions for Sport Ireland's work under Women in Sport.

In 2023, the Her Moves campaign launched bringing together programme providers, supporting them in how they design initiatives for teenage girls, and wrapping a vibrant communication and visibility campaign around all activity.

For International Day of the Girl Child (October 11th) Sport Ireland partnered with The Shona Project to bring sport to The Shine Festival, a teenage girls festival attracting over 2,000 students. Sport Ireland and the Her Moves campaign also featured in The Shona Project handbooks, which were distributed to 30,000 teenage girls in schools across Ireland.

We also published the Women in Officiating Research Report. The research aimed to address the information gap around the officiating experience of women in Ireland and the impact this has on their involvement in sports officiating.

Sport Ireland Women in Sport investment totalling €2.7m was provided to NGBs in 2023.

Her Outdoors Week took place in August, with over 8,000 females participating in over 500 outdoor events across Ireland.

The 2023 Women in Sport Leadership Snapshot outlined that the overall percentage of women on boards across the sports sector had finally surpassed 40% and for the first time, every organisation had female representation on their board.

€2.7m
total Women in Sport
investment to NGBs in 2023.

8,000+
females participated in
500+ outdoor events during
Her Outdoors Week





Disability

In 2023, Sport Ireland continued its support of disability inclusion in sport and physical activity through investment and by working with our key stakeholders.

Core funding of almost €2m was invested in disability-focused NGBs in 2023. Of the €6.4m allocated to NGBs through Dormant Accounts Funding in 2023, €2.2m was invested in a 'Sport for All' Disability Supports Club Fund for the first time. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Fund of €1.7m also targeted specific disability initiatives in addition to broader EDI initiatives.

At the Sport Ireland Networking and Information Sharing event for NGB D&I Officers, Active Disability Ireland highlighted the importance of disability inclusion initiatives to the Group and shared information about Sport Ireland supported initiatives, programmes and education.

At the end of 2023, Sport Ireland started a review of its Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities, which was published in 2017.

Sustainability

Sustainability is one of five core values that underpin the Campus Masterplan and its design philosophy. Sustainability is also a key enabler within the Sport Ireland Statement of Strategy 2023–2027. Campus design development will incorporate a wide range of low carbon technologies.

Where relevant, Sport Ireland is striving for the highest levels of sustainability certification on development projects demonstrating environmental, economic, and social benefits. Our aim is to demonstrate how a biodiverse landscape is valued, conserved, restored, and sustainably used.

Infrastructure will be developed to support improvements in public transport, to facilitate electric vehicles and to provide opportunities for cycling and walking across campus. In these ways, the Campus will realise a major opportunity to raise awareness about environmental sustainability through outstanding initiatives that benefit all users.

Below is a summary of Sport Ireland sustainability activities in 2023:

- Sport Ireland has integrated sustainability into all elements of its campus development, supported by the hiring of a dedicated Sustainability Manager.
- Incorporating the potential for a wide range of lower carbon technologies including solar PV, heat pumps and the potential utilisation of a proposed district heat network into our Campus development.
- LED lighting retrofits commenced across Campus.
- Measures to reduce waste and increase recycling.
- Increasing sustainable, active modes of travel on Campus
- Raising awareness on sustainability across the organisation. Sustainability was a theme and the topic for one of the panel

discussions at the 2023 Sport Ireland Annual Governance Conference

- Membership of the Irish Green Building Council
- Along with a consortium of partners, Sport Ireland was awarded funding for an EU project titled “Enhance Sustainable Measures in Sports Facilities”

In May 2023, the Government approved guidance for public sector bodies to update their climate action roadmaps in line with the updated public sector climate action mandate, which was included in the Climate Action Plan 2023. Sport Ireland is making good progress to align with the requirements, and the development of Climate Action Roadmaps has assisted in highlighting some key areas to prioritise.

As we increase our focus on sustainability and work towards climate goals, these areas will be key.

We are undertaking several exercises to improve our understanding of the impact our organisation has on the environment, and how we can change to ensure we operate and grow sustainably.

In 2023 we developed actions and targets aligned to our six sustainability pillars: Energy, Water, Materials, Mobility, Biodiversity and Governance, covering some of the goals set by CAP23 and SEAI.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions 2023 v Baseline

		GHG Baseline (2016-2018)	GHG 2022	GHG 2023
Thermal		3,570,384	4,216,109	3,624,738
Transport		7,144	29,972	22,267
Electricity	[kgCO2]	2,288,489	1,908,195	2,185,961
Total		5,866,017	6,154,276	5,832,966



How We Line Up

Sport Ireland
Operational Areas



High Performance

Sport Ireland supports the development of systemic and sustainable programmes that yield exceptional performances by athletes and teams at the European, World, Olympic, and Paralympic levels. Our remit focuses on investment, governance, and strategic actions that lead to positive system outcomes. At Sport Ireland, we oversee the provision of investment to individual athletes, teams, and performance programmes. This cohesive funding model is underpinned by the Sport Ireland High Performance Strategy 2021–2032.

Sport Ireland Institute

The Sport Ireland Institute is set up to support talented Irish athletes to achieve sustained levels of excellence in elite sport. By working with a network of highly experienced, quality-assured service providers, Sport Ireland Institute ensures that athletes have access to the sports science and sports medicine they need to achieve sustained levels of excellence in elite international sport.

Campus Development

Sport Ireland is responsible for the development of the Sport Ireland Campus. This includes the implementation of the Campus Masterplan: overseeing the development of individual facilities on the campus; developing strategies and proposals for future facility development and use; and promoting the use of the campus at all levels from high performance to participation by members of the public. Responsibility for the day-to-day operation of campus facilities rests with a wholly owned subsidiary of Sport Ireland.

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC

The Company is a subsidiary of Sport Ireland and is responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the Sport Ireland Campus facilities, including the Sport Ireland National Indoor Arena, the National Aquatic Centre, the National Horse Sport Arena, the National Diving Training Centre, the NSC synthetic and turf pitch facilities, the Campus Conference Centre, and the Modern Pentathlon Centre. The Company is also responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of office accommodation for sports bodies based on the Campus.

Anti-doping

Sport Ireland operates the national anti-doping organisation. Its functions include the implementation of guidelines, codes of practice, standards of good conduct, fair play, and the elimination of doping in sport, as well as planning, implementing, and evaluating education and information programmes.

Coaching

Sport Ireland has the lead role for sports coaching in Ireland on an all-island basis. Working in partnership with the NGBs and the wider sporting sector, we lead the development of sports coaching in Ireland through the implementation of a quality coach and tutor-education support programme.

Ethics & Safeguarding

Sport Ireland's safeguarding remit is to develop and disseminate guidelines and codes of practice promoting best practices for the protection of children in sport consistent with child protection guidance and legislation. To advance this function Sport Ireland engages with over 60 autonomous National Governing Bodies of Sport to raise awareness of and promote behaviours to uphold good practice and fair play in all sport.

National Governing Bodies

The work of NGBs feeds into and complements the strategic priorities identified in both the National Sports Policy 2018–2027 and the Sport Ireland strategy. Sport Ireland works in partnership with the NGBs to make them more effective in developing their sport and servicing the needs of their members, and one of our main priorities is to strengthen and develop their capabilities.

Participation

Sport Ireland works to increase participation in sport nationwide in line with the National Sports Policy. The objective is pursued through our work with our network of Local Sports Partnerships, our Women in Sport Policy, our work in Outdoors and through the encouragement of Cross Collaboration between the sports sectors.

Organisational Development and Change

Organisational development and change offer support to organisations that receive funding from Sport Ireland, including NGBs and LSPs, is delivered by our Organisational Development and Change Unit. There are several aspects to this unit's work, which include capability building, organisational development and change interventions and networks.

Governance and Strategy

Sport Ireland focuses on managing and coordinating various governance activities, initiatives and strategic programmes through its Governance and Strategy Unit, in accordance with the government's National Sports Policy 2018–2027 and Sport Ireland's strategy.

Research and Innovation

Sport Ireland works in the areas of research, evaluation and innovation to develop insights and to support the generation of solutions in the areas of participation, performance, and high-performance sport.

Corporate Affairs, Communications and Marketing

Finance & IT

Sport Ireland's Corporate Governance and Compliance

As a statutory agency operating under the Sport Ireland Act (2015), Sport Ireland is subject to a range of statutory obligations and corporate governance obligations under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Sport Ireland confirms that the necessary obligations, including those for risk management, internal audit, and the Public Spending Code, are complied with. Section 8.4 of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies requires Government Departments to ensure that they have written oversight agreements with State bodies under their aegis which clearly define the terms of the State body's relationship with the relevant Minister/parent Department.

The oversight agreement is a written statement between the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Sport Ireland defining the respective roles and responsibilities of the Department and Sport Ireland and the terms of their relationship.

An oversight agreement was in place with the Department for 2023.

The Official Language Acts

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

Cliona O'Leary, Director of Corporate Affairs, Communications and Marketing, has been appointed to oversee performance and report on Sport Ireland obligations under the Official Languages Acts (2003 & 2021).

The following actions were taken by Sport Ireland during the year 2023 to ensure compliance with the Act:

- **Staff training** – Irish language classes were made available to all staff. Six members of staff completed a term of online classes facilitated by Sport Ireland.
- **Signage audit** – an annual audit of signage across the Sport Ireland Campus was carried out. All signage is bilingual in accordance with the regulations.
- **Stationery audit** – an annual audit of stationery was carried out across all units. All stationery is bilingual.
- A **review of complaints** received was undertaken to reduce the likelihood of recurrence.
- During 2023 the **new obligations under section 10A**. Advertising by Public Bodies requiring a minimum of 20% of all advertising undertaken to be in the Irish language was met. Sport Ireland also met the obligation of 5% of annual advertising spend on Irish language media as also prescribed under section 10A. (1) (b).



Board Members

John Foley (Chairperson)

John has extensive experience in senior leadership roles across a number of industries and has significant experience in leading and developing sporting organisations as CEO and Board member. John is a former CEO of Waterford Crystal and now operates as a business consultant. Since 2009, he has held the position of CEO/Interim CEO with a number of sporting organisations, namely Athletics Ireland, Cycling Ireland and Tennis Ireland.

Lynne Cantwell

Lynne Cantwell is Ireland's most capped woman in Irish rugby and a former vice-captain & captain for Ireland's 15s & 7s team. She has represented Ireland 86 times over a 13-year period and jointly led Ireland to their first ever Six Nations Triple Crown, Grand Slam title and victory over World Champions, New Zealand in 2013/14. Since retiring she has continued to represent and help progress the game. Lynne is the Women's High-Performance Manager with South Africa Rugby.

Páraic Duffy

Páraic has lifelong experience of active involvement in sport, as both administrator and participant. From 2008 to 2018 he was Director-General of the GAA. As Director-General he provided a strategic and analytical perspective and developed policies on a wide range of issues for the Association.

His current roles in Irish sport include President of Ulster Schools GAA, Chairperson of Monaghan GAA Football Development Committee, and member of the Disputes Resolution Authority. He is also Chairperson of the Finance Committee in his local GAA club, Scotstown. Páraic has extensive board and corporate experience.

He is currently Chairperson of the Board of Soothing Solutions Ltd. and is a director of Enterprising Monaghan and Chairperson of its Strategy Committee. He is also a Board Director of Sport Ireland Facilities DAC. Páraic was appointed as Chairperson to the Audit and Risk Committee in April 2023.

Note: John Foley was publicly announced as the new Sport Ireland Chairperson on April 4, 2023, with the appointment officially registered as May 29, 2023. Deirdre Mongan and Kevin Hoy were both appointed on April 13, 2023. Lynne Cantwell and Páraic Duffy were both reappointed on October 1, 2023.

Kieran Mulvey completed his term of appointment as Chairperson on March 31, 2023 and Mary Dorgan completed her term of appointment on September 30, 2023. The Board of Sport Ireland would like to thank Kieran and Mary for their leadership, commitment and contributions across their tenure.

Jerry Grant

Jerry Grant has a background in civil engineering and is an experienced director and executive advisor in the utilities and construction sectors with 25 years at director level including roles as director of MC O'Sullivan Consulting Engineers (MCOS), and 10 years as Managing Director of RPS in Ireland. Jerry has held the roles of specialist advisor, head of asset management, and managing director with Irish Water from 2012 to 2018. He is currently Managing Director of Jerry Grant & Associates and external member of the governing body of the Technological University Dublin.

Jerry is a member of the Institute of Arbitrators and is qualified in law and arbitration as well as being a Chartered Fellow of Engineers Ireland. Jerry was appointed as Chairman of Dublin Port Company in December 2020 and has been a board member of Project Woodland since March 2021.

Kevin Hoy

Kevin is a solicitor and a consultant with Mason, Hayes & Curran LL.P. He did his primary law degree in UCD (BCL, 1984). Kevin was a partner in MHC for more than 20 years and Chairperson of the firm. He established the Financial Services Department and then was Head of the Real Estate Department. Since 2020, Kevin concentrates on learning and development, in particular executive coaching. He has a diploma and an advanced diploma in Business & Executive Coaching from UCD Smurfit School. Kevin has been involved with sport in a voluntary capacity for many years. Currently he is Complaints, Objections and Disciplinary Officer for Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football Association and Chairperson of Clontarf GAA Club in Dublin. Kevin is also active in the wider voluntary sector.

Olive Loughnane

Olive competed as a high-performance athlete from 2000 – 2013. She represented Ireland at four consecutive Olympic Games and became World Athletics Champion in 2009. She is the current Chairperson of Sport Ireland's High Performance Committee and represents Sport Ireland on the FAI Nominations Committee. Olive holds a B. Comm from University of Galway and a Masters in Leadership and Strategy. The research element of her MA focussed on the delivery of organisational change and implementation of governance reform in the aftermath of an organisational crisis. She works as Director of Transformation with the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority.

Deirdre Mongan

Deirdre is an experienced Paralympic athlete with extensive international and high performance experience. She represented Ireland at the 2016 Rio Paralympics and has achieved medal success in European and World Championships. Deirdre is a research officer with the Health Research Board and is involved in leadership roles in disability sport as well as being a player and coach at grassroots level.

Miriam O'Callaghan

Miriam O'Callaghan has over 30 years' experience in the health services at senior operational level and across HR, services management and Project Management (construction & special projects). She is a qualified Personal & Executive Coach and holds a diploma in Mediation & Conflict Resolution from NUIM. She is currently engaged in the area of Health professional regulation.

She has been a member of a number of state boards – Employment Equality Agency, Broadcasting Complaints Commission, National Sports Campus Authority of Ireland - She was a member of the Board of Offaly Sports Partnership and served as it's Chairperson from 2010 to 2020.

Miriam has had significant involvement in sport as a camogie player, coach, All- Ireland referee and administrator culminating in election as National President of the Camogie Association from 2003 – 2006. She played a central role in the development of national strategic plans for the association and she is currently a coach and team selector with Tullamore Camogie club.

Miriam served as the chair of the GAA's National IT Committee 2012-15 and has been an active Club planning facilitator and officer training tutor for many years. She is currently a member of the GAA's National Training and Development Committee.

Roger O'Connor

Roger is a highly qualified sports business leader, having attained a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and a Master's of Business Administration, both from UCD. He has been a full member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants since 1997. He has extensive experience working in elite professional sport, holding the positions of managing director and head of finance and regulations at ERC, the organiser and rights holder of the Heineken Cup rugby tournament and as CFO of the newly redeveloped Curragh Racecourse Ltd.

Roger's current position is Director of Commercial Affairs with ICON plc. He is Chairperson of Sport Ireland's subsidiary (Sport Ireland Facilities DAC), Chairperson of the Anti-Doping Committee and is a member of Sport Ireland's Audit and Risk Committee.

Iognáid Ó Muircheartaigh

Iognáid's career has been in the fields of administration, research, academia and management. He is a former president of NUI Galway. During his term of office, he led the University to a period of unprecedented growth in student numbers, capital developments, research income and philanthropic fundraising. He served as chair and board member of the Irish Universities Quality Board (IUQB). His research has been published in international journals and he has served as a visiting professor at Stanford University, the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey California, the University of Connecticut, and Glasgow University. He has also served on many boards in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

He has been involved in athletics as a competitor at national and international level and was selected as captain of the first (united) Irish team since 1937 to compete internationally in the European Cup, which was held in Santry in 1967. He also coached athletics and served on the board of Athletics Ireland. He plays golf and served as a Board member of the Golfing Union of Ireland, which he helped guide through the process of combining with the Irish Ladies Golfing Union leading to the establishment of Golf Ireland, a single body to promote the game of golf in Ireland.

Deirdre Ryan

Deirdre is Director of Sustainability and Quality Assurance in Bord Bia where she is responsible for the management and development of Ireland's national quality assurance and sustainability programmes for the agri-food sector. As a member of Bord Bia's Senior Leadership Team, she contributes to the wider Bord Bia strategy delivery, ongoing corporate governance and budgetary management of the organisation. Prior to 2020 she was Head of Corporate Social Responsibility with Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland and Interim Head of Communications. Deirdre was an international high-jumper with 13 years' experience competing on the senior international stage of sport. She was an Irish Olympian at London 2012 and has competed at multiple European and World Championships, culminating in a 5th place position at the 2011 World Championship in Daegu. Deirdre holds an MSc in Business Sustainability and an MBS in International Business from UCD Smurfit Graduate School, and a Commerce International from University College Dublin. She has completed executive education programmes at Stanford University and INSEAD university in recent years.



Michelle Tanner

Michelle works as the Director of Sport and Physical Activity in Trinity College Dublin where her work includes strategic development, management, staffing, resourcing and promotion of sport, infrastructural projects, representation, stakeholder engagement and planning, with a portfolio of 67 acres of outdoor sports and 13,000sqm of indoor sports facilities.

She is an active board and committee member, holding officer positions within Student Sport Ireland and a strategy advisor to Volleyball Ireland.

She is a member of the World University Sports Federation (FISU) Gender Equality Working Group, and she was the first Irish and first female President of the European Network of Academic Sports Services. She has been a member of three European Union (EU) expert groups, executing the EU Work Plan for Sport, and has moderated panel sessions at the EU Sport Forums and other related events. She has a recent post graduate qualification in Governance and an MBA in sports management. Michelle is a former Irish international volleyball player, and is a current youth club coach, manager and national coach developer.



Statement on How the Board of Sport Ireland Operates

The Board is collectively responsible for leading and directing Sport Ireland's activities. While the Board may delegate functions to management or committees, the exercise of the power of delegation does not absolve the Board from the duty to supervise the discharge of the delegated functions.

The Board fulfils key functions, including reviewing and guiding strategic direction and major plans of action, risk management policies and procedures, annual budgets and business plans, setting performance objectives, monitoring implementation of Sport Ireland's performance and culture, overseeing major capital expenditure and investment decisions and preparing the annual report and financial statements.

The Board conducts its business through a culture of integrity and ethical behaviour and in accordance with Sport Ireland's 'Code of Governance and Business Conduct' and any procedures referenced therein.

The primary role of the Board in plenary session is to decide matters of policy, strategy, finance and procedure, to analyse and review the various activities of Sport Ireland and its Staff, to consider recommendations from Committees or other delegated authorities concerning the criteria for awarding financial assistance, and to consider applications for financial assistance.

The Board at all times complies with the principle of the collective responsibility and authority of Sport Ireland as a body corporate. The Board takes appropriate steps to ensure that it is supplied in a timely fashion with such information as is necessary or desirable to enable Members to discharge their duties satisfactorily. The Board ensures that decisions on major items of expenditure, are aligned with medium and long-term strategies so as to ensure that such expenditure is focused on clearly defined objectives and outcomes.

The Board has adopted a statement of strategy for a period of five years 2023-2027. Implementation of the strategy by Sport Ireland is supported through an annual planning and budgeting cycle. The Board has completed a review of actual performance of the 2023 annual plan as updated within the Strategy section.

The Board, through the Chairperson, annually consults with the Minister to:

- define the expectations that the Minister has of Sport Ireland (and Sport Ireland's own expectations);
- clarify Sport Ireland's role in relation to policy development in the area of sport; and
- define the parameters surrounding Sport Ireland's resources/income. Consistent with governance best practice and the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) the Board undertakes an annual evaluation of its performance.

Board Decision Making & Functions

The Board of Sport Ireland determines from time to time a formal schedule of matters specifically reserved to it for decision to ensure that leadership, direction, and control of the organisation is firmly in the hands of the Board.

The functions reserved to the Board include (save to the extent otherwise determined by the Board) the following matters:

- establishing the processes whereby it recruits a Chief Executive (including succession planning), sets his/her job description, determines the terms of his/her contract (having regard to applicable Government guidelines) and reviews his/her performance.
- delegation of authority to the Chief Executive to perform the functions and assessment of his/her performance.
- receiving and considering regular reports from the Chief Executive on all major elements of Sport Ireland's activities.
- approval of expenditure where such expenditure in any one year is expected to be more than:
 - €10,000 in the case of an individual grantee, or
 - €100,000 in the case of an NGB or other organisation in receipt of a grant or
 - €50,000 on the purchase of goods or equipment from, or in respect of the provision of professional services by, any single supplier.

- approval of all capital projects, Schedule of Frameworks and Contracts, and expenditures above a threshold of €100,000 including professional fees (e.g. project management, design fees), both in terms of selection of the provider and the budget, to be assigned to the provider, in accordance with Sport Ireland's Gated Approval Process.

Note: Capital Projects and expenditures above €25,000 but below €100,000, and for which total expenditure can be met from within the current year's capital budget, will require the approval of the Sport Ireland Campus Committee only (with the Board notified of the decision). All projects above this €100,000 threshold, and all projects which will lead to multi-annual contractual commitments, will require full Board approval.

- approval of strategic priorities and the terms of the strategy, business and implementation plans prepared by staff and designed to deliver such priorities, including criteria for evaluating performance.
- adoption of an annual budget and corporate plan on notification of the actual level of available income, setting guidelines for budget variance and monitoring expenditure on a quarterly basis.
- adoption of audit and risk management policies and monitoring and reporting as required on their implementation.
- approval of Annual Reports, Financial Statements, Statements on Internal Control and Assurance Frameworks prepared by Sport Ireland's staff.
- approval of all major contracts, leases, and arrangements in excess of the limits set out in Sport Ireland's financial procedures.

- approval of significant amendments to the pension benefits of the CEO and staff.
- establishing a policy on senior management remuneration in line with Government guidelines, to include the pension benefits of the Chief Executive and other staff (which may require Ministerial approval) and monitoring the implementation of that policy.
- approval of assurances of compliance with statutory and administrative requirements in relation to the approval of the appointment, number, grading, and conditions of all staff, including remuneration and superannuation.
- determining the procedures to be followed at the Board's meetings (and exceptionally when decisions are required between Board meetings) in the form of standing orders. Such standing orders will be reviewed from time to time, but in all events not less than once every three years, and when adopted shall be deemed to form part of the Code.
- approval of significant acquisitions, disposals, and retirement of assets of Sport Ireland and its subsidiaries above a threshold of €25,000.
- appointing and directing as many committees or working groups as necessary to assist in the performance of its functions and approving/amending the terms of reference of such committees or working groups as required.
- approval of a decision to suspend, withhold, or restore funding to a NGB or other organisation in receipt of a grant.
- approval or rejection of an application for recognition of a NGB.
- setting and monitoring Sport Ireland's culture, in terms of the values and behaviours which deliver the strategy and obtaining assurance that Sport Ireland's operations are aligned with its culture.
- reviewing, on an annual basis, the implementation of arrangements set out in the Code of Governance and Business Conduct and proposing and approving, if appropriate, any changes to the Code.
- approval of the Code of Governance and Business Conduct and ensuring that it is updated regularly in response to evolving governance obligations or circumstances.
- approval of Sport Ireland's financial policies and procedures and ensuring that they reflect good governance practice and expected norms and put in place a process to keep these regularly updated and formally reviewed.
- in the absence of the Chairperson at a meeting of the Board, the appointment of an acting Chairperson from the Members presents at the meeting.
- approval of certain matters relating to Sport Ireland Facilities DAC.
- approval of the establishment of new subsidiaries of Sport Ireland.

Board & Committee Evaluation

The Department agreed to defer the requirement to complete an external review of Board effectiveness until late 2023 to allow for the on-boarding of a new Chairperson. The external Board Effectiveness Review commenced in Q4 of 2023 and was completed in December 2023. There were a number of recommendations within the review, accepted by the Board that are being implemented in 2024.

Promoting Diversity & Inclusion

There are a number of areas of Sport Ireland's work that promote diversity and inclusion, and these are detailed in the relevant sections of this Report including Sport Ireland's Policy on Participation in Sport by people with Disabilities, Women in Sport and Diversity and Inclusion policy.

Gender Balance in the Board membership

As of December 31, 2023, the Board had 6 (50%) male and 6 (50%) female members with one vacancy. The Board therefore met the Government target of a minimum of 40% representation of each gender in the membership of State Boards. The following measures are planned to maintain and support gender balance on this Board:

- The appointment process to the Board of Sport Ireland is a matter for the Minister in accordance with the Sport Ireland Act 2015.
- Sport Ireland will continue to advise the Minister in relation to current vacancies as to the need to promote better gender balance in Board membership.
- Ensuring gender balance is a key consideration in the composition of Sport Ireland Committees.

Risk and Opportunity Management

The Board has identified and carried out an appropriate assessment of the principal risks facing Sport Ireland. These include those that may cause Sport Ireland to suffer loss, damage or disadvantage, or not benefit from opportunities available, or not achieve its objectives due to unwanted or uncertain internal or external events or actions.

Key risks are categorised into one of the following four categories:

1. **Strategic Risks:** the inability to achieve Sport Ireland's strategic objectives as set out in the Strategic Plan and also, not availing of opportunities when they arise.
2. **Operational Risks:** the inability to achieve Sport Ireland's operational objectives including the inability to prevent a loss resulting from inadequate internal processes and systems.
3. **Financial Risks:** exposure to financial losses arising as a result of inadequate controls or the need to improve the management of Sport Ireland's financial assets.
4. **Reputational and Compliance Risks:** exposure to losses arising as a result of adverse publicity, negative public image, and the need to improve stakeholder relationship management. Compliance risk is the threat posed to Sport Ireland's organisational or reputational standing resulting from violations of laws, regulations, codes of conduct, or organisational standards of practice.

Sport Ireland’s Risk Appetite Statement specifies the amount of risk the organisation is willing to seek or accept in the pursuit of its long-term objectives. It depicts the areas where the organisation has low tolerance for risk (Health & Safety, Ethics (i.e. no appetite for breaches of, or deviations from, best practice standards in the areas of Child Protection and Anti-Doping)) and the areas where the Board of Sport Ireland recognise the need to be innovative and accept a degree of risk (High Performance, Women in Sport, Research). Business units within Sport Ireland maintain Risk Registers that capture the risks relevant to their operations and associated mitigation measures. Risks are measured using two dimensions i.e. the probability of the event occurring (likelihood) and the effect on Sport Ireland should the risk materialise (impact), using the process outlined in Sport Ireland’s Risk Management Policy.

Risk Management is a Standing Item at each regular Board and Audit & Risk Committee meeting. In 2023 the principal risks and challenges affecting Sport Ireland were:

- The risk that the staff resources required to deliver on, oversee, and control Sport Ireland’s broad functions, strategic priorities, and National Sports Policy deliverables are not provided (Strategic Risk).
- The Sport Ireland Campus Capital funding model, including:
 - The risk of incurring significant design and planning costs in the absence of clear commitment from Government for the realisation of Masterplan projects.
 - The degree of uncertainty on capital funding to underpin and enable the delivery of major capital projects and

renewal of key assets at the Sport Ireland Campus (Operational Risk).

- Risk of fraud including Cyber threats or misuse of financial resources within Sport Ireland or its operational subsidiary Sport Ireland Facilities DAC. (Financial Risk)
- Sport sector’s adoption of best practice Governance (including gender balance on Boards) (Reputational & Compliance Risk)

Emergent opportunities were also discussed at Board level, and these included:

- The launch of an ambitious new Sport Ireland Statement of Strategy for the period 2023-2027.
- The development of an updated Women in Sport Policy, building on its commitment to promote gender equality and empower women in the sports sector.
- The development of a new Volunteering in Sport Policy.

Some of the key actions taken in 2023 which underpin Sport Ireland’s Risk Management approaches are included below:

- During 2023, the Board considered the Corporate Risk Register at its April and December meetings.
- The Board discussed key strategic challenges in collaboration with the sector at its Board Away Day in September including the target of 60% active participation by 2027, the resources required to activate the sedentary older adult cohort excluding recreational walking, and a need for greater levels of partnerships and multi-agency collaboration, across health, education and local government sectors to achieve this.

- The Audit & Risk Committee formally reviewed Corporate Risks at its meetings in March, September and November 2023.
- The Audit & Risk Committee also reviewed the following Unit Level Risk Registers during 2023:
 - Anti-Doping & Ethics Risk Register (March 2023)
 - Sport Ireland Institute Risk Register (March 2023)
 - Sport Ireland Campus Development Risk Register (June 2023)
 - Sport Ireland Facilities DAC Risk Register (June 2023)
 - Sport Ireland Coaching Risk Register (Sept 2023)
 - Sport Ireland Organisational Development and Change (ODC) Risk Register (Sept 2023)
 - Sport Ireland HR Risk Register (Nov 2023)

Internal Audit

As part of Sport Ireland’s Internal Audit plan for 2023, several Business Units of Sport Ireland, Sport Ireland’s subsidiary company (Sport Ireland Facilities DAC), National Governing Bodies, and Local Sports Partnerships were selected for audit.

The Audit & Risk Committee of the Board of Sport Ireland continue to monitor the status of all audits to ensure recommendations are implemented promptly. With specific regard to the audits of National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships, the Executive continues to monitor progress on the implementation of required recommendations and has scheduled liaison meetings where appropriate.

Freedom of Information

During 2023 Sport Ireland received 47 Freedom of Information requests, an increase of 21% in comparison to the previous year. In 2023, two requests were appealed under internal review and subsequently the internal review decision was appealed to the Office of the Information Commissioner. The breakdown of these requests and comparison against 2022 is outlined in the table below.

Programme Areas	Total Number of Requests	Granted	Part Granted	Refused	Withdrawn	Handled Outside of FOI
National Governing Bodies	35	3	23	3	0	6
Anti-Doping	2	0	2	0	0	0
High Performance	2	0	2	0	0	0
Corporate Governance	6	0	3	1	0	2
Participation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outdoors	2	0	1	0	0	1
Total 2023	47	3	31	4	0	9
Vs. Total 2022	39	1	30	3	3	2

Protected disclosures

In accordance with section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 Sport Ireland received one report under protected disclosure in the reporting period up to 31 December 2023. Upon initial assessment it was not deemed as a Protected Disclosure and no further action under the Act was required.

Public-sector duty

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 places a statutory obligation on public bodies to eliminate discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to protect the human rights of the people to whom they provide services and to their staff when carrying out their daily work. Sport Ireland has a suite of policy documents that align and support some of the government's national plans and strategies. These include the Women in Sport Policy, the Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities, and Sport Ireland Customer Service Charter. Sport Ireland also has a key role to play in the Migrant Integration Strategy and the LGBTI+ Strategy. The associated activity in 2023 within these areas are detailed within the relevant section of this report.

Furthermore, Sport Ireland notes the three-step approach to implementing the public-sector equality and human rights duty recommended by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission to assess, address and report. Sport Ireland adopts a similar approach in identifying gradients that exist in sports participation, designing and supporting programmes that address those gradients and reporting on our progress through our annual report. Action 6 of the National Sports Policy 2018–2027 tasks Sport Ireland with addressing the participation gradients that exist in sport. The duty is a permanent and ongoing obligation, and Sport Ireland will continue to monitor and report on its activities in this regard.

As part of Sport Ireland's Great Place to Work certification, a staff engagement survey was conducted. Staff were questioned under the "Diversity & Inclusion" category regarding fair treatment in areas such as sexual orientation, race, gender, and age. The results were either in line with or, in some cases, exceeded best practices. These findings helped to reaffirm our commitment to upholding Public Sector Equality and Human Rights obligations.



Financial Statements

For the year 1 January 2023
to 31 December 2023

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Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Governance

The Board of Sport Ireland was established on a statutory basis on the 1st October 2015 pursuant to the Sport Ireland Act 2015. The functions and accountability of the Board are set out in the Sport Ireland Code of Governance and Business Conduct and the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The Board is accountable to the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets, and by taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of Sport Ireland are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the senior management team.

The CEO and the senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board and must ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The CEO, who is the Accountable Officer, acts as a direct liaison between the Board and the management of Sport Ireland.

Board Responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the Sport Ireland Code of Governance and Business Conduct, which also contains details of the matters specifically reserved for Board decision.

Key items considered by the Board include:

- disclosure of interests,
- reports from committees,
- risk management,
- financial reports/management accounts,
- performance reports, and
- reserved functions.

Section 16 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015 requires the Board of Sport Ireland to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure National Development Plan Delivery and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received, expended and all property, assets and liabilities including an income and expenditure account and a balance sheet and in particular, shall keep such special accounts (if any) as the Minister may from time to time direct.

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

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

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with section 16 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on Sport Ireland's website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of Sport Ireland by reference to the annual plan and budget is carried out by the Board on an ongoing basis with a formal budgetary review being completed at the September 2023 Board meeting. The Board is also responsible for safeguarding its assets, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Board considers that the financial statements of Sport Ireland give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of Sport Ireland at 31 December 2023.

Board Structure

The Board consists of a chairperson and 12 ordinary members, all of whom are appointed by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for terms of between three to five years. As of year-end 2023, there is one vacancy to be filled.

Board Member	Role	Date Appointed	Date Reappointed* Date Expired#
Kieran Mulvey	Chairperson (Previous)	01-Oct-15	31-March-23#
John Foley	Chairperson (Current)	29-May-23	
Mary Dorgan	Ordinary Member	01-Oct-15	30-Sept-23#
Olive Loughnane	Ordinary Member	10-Aug-18	
Roger O'Connor	Ordinary Member	10 Aug-18	
Lynne Cantwell	Ordinary Member	19-Oct-18	01-Oct-23*
lognaid O Muircheartaigh	Ordinary Member	21-Oct-20	
Jerry Grant	Ordinary Member	21-Oct-20	
Miriam O Callaghan	Ordinary Member	26-Jul-21	
Paraic Duffy	Ordinary Member	26-Jul-21	01-Oct-23*
Michelle Tanner	Ordinary Member	26-Jul-21	
Deirdre Ryan	Ordinary Member	26-Jul-21	
Deirdre Mongan	Ordinary Member	13-April-23	
Kevin Hoy	Ordinary Member	13-April-23	

The Board has established 10 Committees which are as follows:

1. Audit and Risk Committee:

As of year-end, this Committee comprises three Board members and four independent members. The role of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular, the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARC reports to the Board periodically as required and formally in writing annually. The Audit & Risk Committee consists of Paraic Duffy (Chairperson), Roger O'Connor, Miriam O'Callaghan, Padraic Moran, Bernard Allen, Walter Johnston, Sinead O'Connor. Mary Dorgan (previous Chairperson) also served on the Committee in 2023. There were six meetings of the ARC in 2023.

2. Anti-Doping Committee:

As of year-end, this Committee comprises two Board members and five independent members. The role of this Committee is to assist and advise Sport Ireland in relation to the performance of its functions under section 8 (1) (d) to (g) of the Sport Ireland Act 2015, including:

- to provide assistance and advice to Sport Ireland on policy formulation relating to the three strands of testing, education and research as required under the terms of the Council of Europe Anti Doping Convention, 1989 and UNESCO's International Convention against Doping in Sport and the World Anti-Doping Code.
- to provide assistance and advice to Sport Ireland's staff on policy execution.

The members of this Committee are Roger O'Connor (Chairperson), Paraic Duffy, Brendan Buckley, Elaine Breslin, David Gillick, Dr. Elizabeth Keane and Ian Weir. There were two meetings of this Committee in 2023.

3. High-Performance Committee:

As of year-end, this Committee comprises of three Board members and six independent members. The role of the High Performance Committee is to assist and advise Sport Ireland in relation to the performance of its functions under Section 8(1) of the Sport Ireland Act 2015, relevant to the achievement of excellence in competitive sport. The members of this Committee are Olive Loughnane (Chairperson), Lynne Cantwell, Deirdre Ryan, Peter Sherrard, Mike Heskin, Richard Archibald, Dr. Brian Moore, Stephen McNamera and Natalya Coyle. Roy Dooney also served on the Committee for a period during 2023. There were four meetings of this Committee in 2023.

4. Coaching Committee:

As of year-end, this Committee comprises one Board member and Five independent members. The purpose of the Coaching Committee is to assist and advise Sport Ireland in relation to its functions under Section 8(1) of the Sport Ireland Act 2015, relating to the development of coaching and coaches. The members of this Committee are Iggy Ó Muircheartaigh (Chair), Catherine Flanagan, Colin McEntee, Padraic Moran, Fiona Chambers and Henry Shefflin. Cliona O'Leary, Mary O'Connor and Alan Curran also served on the Committee for a period during 2023. There were three meetings of this Committee in 2023.

5. Sport Ireland Campus Committee:

As of year-end, this Committee comprises of four Board members and six independent members. The purpose of the Sport Ireland Campus Committee is to assist and advise Sport Ireland on its functions relating to the development of a Sport Ireland Campus on the site, in accordance with paragraph 6(4)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015. The members of this Committee are Jerry Grant (Chairperson), Michelle Tanner, Miriam O'Callaghan, Kevin Hoy, John Maughan, Roy Dooney, Leah Kenny, Jackie Dunne, John Gibney and Ciaran McGivern. Sean Benton also served for a period during 2023. There were five meetings of this Committee in 2023.

6. Eligibility and Grants Committee:

This Committee was formed in November 2023 via the merging of two previous stand-alone Committees (i.e. Eligibility Committee and Grants Committee). The role of this Committee is to make recommendations to the Board as to whether organisation's applying for grants satisfy eligibility criteria and to consider and recommend National Governing Body and Local Sports Partnership grants (including Women in Sport grants) on an annual basis. This Committee comprises of all Board members, Deirdre Ryan (Chairperson), Olive Loughnane, Jerry Grant, and Deirdre Mongan. There was one meeting of this Committee in 2023.

Prior to the merger, the Grants Committee had met on one occasion and its membership included Mary Dorgan (Chairperson), Olive Loughnane, Jerry Grant and Bernard Allen. The Eligibility Committee did not have cause to meet in 2023.

7. Research & Participation Committee: As of year-end, this Committee comprises of three Board members and three independent members. A key role of this Committee is to oversee Sport Ireland's research programme and to report to the Board on matters relating to the programme. Additionally, the participation function provides advice and guidance to the Sport Ireland Board and Executive regarding the development and monitoring of the Participation Plan for sport and physical activity, under the Sport Ireland Strategy. The members of this Committee are Miriam O'Callaghan (Chairperson), lognaid ó Muircheartaigh, Michelle Tanner, John Hart, Sinead Heraty and Dr. Aoife Lane. There were five meetings of this Committee in 2023.

8. Women in Sport Steering Committee: As of year-end, this Committee comprises two Board members and five independent members. The role of this group is to support the implementation of the Women in Sport Policy, and to support and guide the work of the Women in Sport Lead. The members of this Steering Committee are Lynne Cantwell (Chairperson), Deirdre Ryan, John Fulham, John Sweeney, Jenny Egan, Alan Milton and Lisa Fallon. Mary Dorgan and Joanne Cantwell also served on the Committee for a period during 2023. There were three meetings of this Committee in 2023.

9. Education & Training Council:

As of year-end, this Committee comprises of one Board member, one independent member and eight executive members. The Education & Training Council was established in September 2019 as part of Sport Ireland's application to Quality & Qualifications Ireland as a Higher Education Provider. The Committee oversees the implementation of quality assurance in the education & training programmes offered by Sport Ireland. The members of the Council are lognaid ó Muircheartaigh (Chairperson), Michael McGeehin, Fiona Larkin, Ciara Munnely, Benny Cullen, Hayley Harrison, Paul O'Donovan, Tony Wright, Alan O'Hare and Dr. Mary Beades. Siobhan Leonard also served on the Committee for a period during 2023. There were four meetings of the Education & Training Council in 2023.

10. Succession Planning Committee:

As of year-end, this Committee comprises of two Board members. The role of this Committee is to assist Sport Ireland on succession planning for Board and Committee members. The members of this Committee are John Foley (Chairperson) and Olive Loughnane. Mary Dorgan also served on the Committee for a period during 2023. There was one meeting of this Committee in 2023.

Note: Sport Ireland wholly owns a subsidiary Company (Sport Ireland Facilities DAC). The primary role of the subsidiary Company is to manage, operate and maintain facilities at the Sport Ireland Campus. As of year-end, the Directors of the subsidiary Company are Roger O'Connor (Chairperson), Jerry Grant, Paraic Duffy, Michelle Tanner, and Susan Grady. Patrick O'Connor and Caroline Murphy also served on the board in 2023. There were six meetings of the Board of Sport Ireland Facilities DAC in 2023.

Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

There were 11 Sport Ireland Board meetings during 2023. A schedule of attendance at the Board and Committee meetings for 2023 is set out below including the fees and expenses received by each member:

Board Members	Board Meetings	Audit & Risk	Anti-Doping	High Performance	Coaching	Sport Ireland Campus	Grants & Eligibility	Research & Participation	Women in Sport Steering	Education & Training Council	Succession Planning	Board Members Emoluments	Vouched Expenses
												€	€
Kieran Mulvey	2											2,993	
John Foley	9							1			1	8,977	3,274
Mary Dorgan	6	5					1		2		1	5,771	2,907
Lynne Cantwell	8			3					3			7,695	
Olive Loughnane	9			4			2						
Roger O'Connor	9	5	2									7,695	654
Iognaid ó Muircheartaigh	10				3			4		4		7,695	4,557
Jerry Grant	9					5	2					7,695	
Paraic Duffy	11	6	2									7,695	4,502
Miriam O'Callaghan	10	5				5		5				7,695	4,699
Michelle Tanner	11					3		5					399
Deirdre Ryan	10			4			1		1				
Deirdre Mongan	8						1						1,175
Kevin Hoy	8												
Total												63,911	22,167

Under the One Person One Salary (OPOS) principle Olive Loughnane, Michelle Tanner, Deirdre Ryan and Deirdre Mongan did not receive a Board fee in 2023. Kevin Hoy waived his fee in 2023.

Key Personnel Changes

Mary Dorgan completed her term of appointment on 30 September 2023 and Kieran Mulvey completed his term of appointment as Chairperson on 31 March 2023.

John Foley (Chairperson) was publicly announced by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media, Catherine Martin TD, and the Minister of State for Sport & Physical Education, Thomas Byrne TD as the new Sport Ireland Chairperson on 4 April 2023 with the appointment officially registered as 29 May 2023 following endorsement by the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport & Media. Deirdre Mongan and Kevin Hoy were both appointed on 13 April 2023. Lynne Cantwell and Paraic Duffy were both appointed on 1 October 2023.

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

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

Employee Short-Term Benefits Breakdown

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

Annual Salary Bands at the end of the year

	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
60,000-69,999	8	1
70,000-79,999	3	5
80,000-89,999	4	2
90,000-99,999	3	3
100,000-109,999	2	4
110,000-119,999	2	
120,000-129,999		
130,000-139,999		
140,000-149,999		1
150,000-159,999		
160,000- 169,999	1	
170,000- 179,999		

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

Consultancy Costs

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

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Legal Advice	279,329	161,673
Technical advice	4,428,617	4,816,409
Financial/Actuarial advice	202,155	215,945
Human Resources	12,894	11,509
Business improvement	42,220	143,816
Other	1,732,437	1,096,489
Total Consultancy Cost	6,697,652	6,445,841
Consultancy Costs Capitalised	4,428,617	4,816,409
Consultancy Costs charged to the Income & Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves		
Other	2,269,035	1,629,432
Total Consultancy Cost	6,697,652	6,445,841

Legal Costs and Settlements

The table below provides a breakdown of amounts recognised as expenditure in the year in relation to legal costs, settlements, conciliation and arbitration proceedings relating to contracts with third parties. This does not include expenditure incurred in relation to general legal advice received by Sport Ireland which is disclosed in Consultancy costs above.

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Legal Fees - Legal Proceedings		
Conciliation and Arbitration Payments	560,049	
Settlements		5,500
Total Legal Cost	560,049	5,500

The 2023 legal fees represents the final contractor payment in relation to the construction costs of the Sport Ireland Courtyard offices following a conciliation process.

Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Domestic		
Board	33,235	22,649
Employees	131,360	86,784
International		
Board	4,374	2,448
Employees **	73,183	55,610
Total Travel Cost	242,152	167,491

**International for Employees include CEO international

Hospitality Expenditure

The Income and Expenditure Account includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Staff hospitality	5,027	6,004
Client hospitality		158
Total Hospitality	5,027	6,162

Statement of Compliance

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Code. Sport Ireland was in full compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for the year ended 2023.



John Foley, Chairperson

Date: 28 November 2024



Una May, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 28 November 2024

Statement on Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

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

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure National Development Plan Delivery, has been in place in Sport Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2023 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

Sport Ireland has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprising of three Board members (as of year end) and four external members, with financial and audit expertise, one of whom is the Chair. The ARC met six times in 2023.

Sport Ireland has also established an internal audit function, currently outsourced, which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC.

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

Risk and Control Framework

Sport Ireland has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place, which identifies the key risks facing Sport Ireland, and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The Unit and Corporate Risk Registers are reviewed by the ARC on an ongoing basis.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks in Sport Ireland. The risk register also assigns responsibility to specific staff for the operation of controls. I confirm that a controlled environment containing the following elements is in place:

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

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC Oversight function

As part of the ongoing oversight of Sport Ireland Facilities DAC, which is the subsidiary company to Sport Ireland, the Chief Operations Officer regularly reports to the Board of Sport Ireland concerning the performance of the campus facilities and any other material issues. Campus facilities activity reports are also examined at every Sport Ireland Facilities DAC Board meeting. Sport Ireland has also agreed to inter company charges through a service level agreement arrangement with Sport Ireland Facilities DAC. In addition, a Performance Service Delivery and Oversight Agreement has been in place since 2020 with the subsidiary company.

The draft annual financial statements of the subsidiary are also reviewed by the Sport Ireland Audit & Risk Committee prior to submission to the Sport Ireland Board for approval each year.

The Soorts Enerov Suooort Scheme (SESS):

Following the approval of the 2022 financial statements, the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, confirmed in April 2024, that any underspend on the SESS grant was fully recoverable if not utilised.

This has resulted in a non-utilisation provision of approximately €984k in the DAC, which will be refunded to the Department in 2024 and is being funded through an additional grant allocation from Sport Ireland.

An internal audit review of the SESS Scheme in the DAC made a number of recommendations which have been actioned as follows:

- The SESS refund position has been confirmed at €983,698.
- A prior year adjustment note has been included in the 2023 DAC Annual Financial Statements to reflect the refund position.
- A formal grant application process for the DAC was introduced in 2024, as part of the annual Sport Ireland budgeting process. Sport Ireland secured additional funding for the DAC of €1.2m from 2025, on this basis.

- A formal communication process to the DAC in relation to Board decisions, grant award confirmations, terms and conditions of grant funding etc. has been actioned and included in the Sport Ireland policies and procedures.
- A Financial Controller has been appointed in the DAC. The processes in relation to forecasting, budgeting, management accounts and statutory reporting have been reviewed and strengthened, with the approval of the DAC Board.
- The DAC Financial Controller now has a direct reporting line to the Sport Ireland Finance Director.
- With the addition of a DAC Financial Controller a more robust budget process has been introduced to avoid unplanned deficits and prevent unexpected subvention needs.
- Relevant information about the Public Benefit Entity (PBE) nature of the DAC will be adequately captured in the DAC annual report and financial statements moving forward and be subject to oversight by Sport Ireland.
- Sport Ireland and the DAC will ensure there is management alignment across both organisations ensuring that both organisations operate as effectively, efficiently, and economically as possible.

The Board of Sport Ireland has also taken a decision that both the SESS refund and negative reserve position in the DAC will be funded during 2024. The DAC will commence 2025 with a clean reserve position on this basis.

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes. Control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Board in a timely manner. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place.

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

Procurement

I confirm that Sport Ireland has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that during 2023 Sport Ireland complied with those procedures.

The impact of Covid 19 on the control environment

Sport Ireland notes that it had no Covid 19 expenditure in 2023, however, Sport Ireland took immediate steps at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the risks in relation to remote working and specifically the lack of a staff presence on-site at Sport Ireland HQ. The risk register was reviewed by the ARC and the Board to ensure COVID-related risks were reflected and ranked accordingly. The modified control environment included a revision of all the processes in relation to grant and supplier payments to reflect the new remote working environment. Actions taken by Sport Ireland, which continued during 2023 include:

- Initiate a Covid 19 Business Continuity Plan.
- Transition the Board of Sport Ireland to a remote environment for the purpose of making business decisions.
- Make necessary adaptations to the Sport Ireland physical office environment in line with published guidance and expert assessment.
- Ongoing Covid 19 risk assessment for staff and stakeholders.
- Continual assessment of significant risks pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic and the agility of Sport Ireland to respond effectively.
- Ensuring robust segregation of duties remains and the adequate cover is in place should specifically approving authorities be unavailable..
- Ensuring all existing data protection and records management policies and procedures continue to apply as normal.
- Assess the potential for weaknesses in internal controls resulting from Covid19 and took measures to monitor and update internal controls where necessary.

Sport Ireland continued to implement a hybrid working model for staff throughout 2023. Senior management will continue to monitor this arrangement.

Payments to FAI under Sport Ireland COVID-19 Resilience & Recovery Fund (COVID-19 Grants Scheme)

The sports sector in Ireland faced an existential threat between 2020 and early 2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Significant levels of decreased income to the sector brought a threat of insolvency, job losses, loss of investment and the upkeep of sporting infrastructure.

The objective of the COVID-19 Grant Scheme was to protect the sports sector from permanent financial and strategic harm arising from income disruption due to the public health crisis, including preventing any viable sports organisations from becoming insolvent. Just over €177M was provided to sports organisations between 2020 - 2022.

Sporting bodies could only apply for funding under the Scheme on the basis of verifiable COVID-related losses. Pre-existing debt or deficits were not permitted to be added into the construction of the claim at point of application. However, once successful in its application, sporting

bodies were permitted to utilise the grant funds to meet scheduled financial obligations and commitments as they fell due, in order to remain solvent. This approach was entirely in line with the primary objective of the COVID-19 Grant Scheme.

Sport Ireland acknowledges that this distinction merited greater clarity in the written funding guidelines. However, the FAI's application for funding and utilisation of the COVID-19 grant was in line with the Grant Scheme Assessment Criteria.

Sport Ireland is satisfied that all monies (€33.7M) received by the FAI were in correct accordance with the COVID-19 funding scheme and were correctly used to support the operational costs of the organisation, including debt falling due for repayment (a total of €1M). The payments made by the FAI during this period were consistent with the usual schedules, mirrored pre-covid repayment arrangements and ultimately mitigated any solvency risk arising from income disruption during the COVID-19 emergency. This was in accordance with the primary objective of the scheme.

Sport Ireland Internal Audit audited both the 2020 and 2021 COVID-19 allocations to the FAI and provided high assurance ratings in relation to same, i.e. the FAI's consumption of COVID-19 grant funds was in line with the objective of the scheme.

Review of Effectiveness

I confirm that Sport Ireland has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. Sport Ireland's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors with the last review occurring in 01 2024. The Audit and Risk Committee oversees their work, and the senior management within Sport Ireland is responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls in line with the requirements of the code.

Internal Control Issues

In 2023 an email containing sensitive personal data was sent to an incorrect recipient due to human error. Sport Ireland reported this as a data breach to the Data Protection Commission. No other weaknesses in internal control were identified in relation to 2023 that require disclosure in the financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of Sport Ireland:



John Foley, Chairperson

Date: 28 November 2024

Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas Sport Ireland

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Sport Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2023 as required under the provisions of section 16 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015. The financial statements comprise

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

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of Sport Ireland at 31 December 2023 and of its income and expenditure for 2023 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 – The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Basis of opinion

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

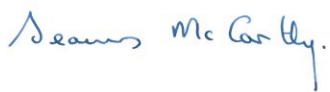
I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

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

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

Sports Energy Support Scheme

Note 2 to the financial statements discloses the outcome of Sport Ireland's targeted grant scheme for energy cost increases incurred by sporting bodies, funded by €35 million received from Vote 33 Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in 2022. Funding of €20.6 million was utilised by eligible sporting bodies. €6 million of the funding that was unused was refunded to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in 2023. A further €8.4 million advanced to the sporting bodies was recouped, and refunded to the Department before the end of 2024.



Seamus McCarthy

Comptroller and Auditor General

12 December 2024

Responsibilities of Board members

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

- the preparation of annual financial statements in the form prescribed under section 16 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 16 of the Sport Ireland Act 2015 to audit the financial statements of Sport Ireland and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

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

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

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.

- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Sport Ireland's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause Sport Ireland to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I report by exception if, in my opinion,

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

Information other than the financial statements

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

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

Reporting on other matters

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

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

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

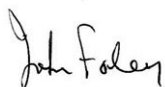
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Income			
Oireachtas Grants	2	115,208,170	136,097,581
Dormant Account Grants	3	11,950,658	12,009,782
Own Resources	10c	1,337,749	1,114,298
Net Deferred Pension Funding	4	1,044,326	1,035,441
Other Income	1	401,730	444,675
Total Income		129,942,633	150,701,777
Expenditure			
Current Grants Payable	Sa	84,378,606	109,602,548
Dormant Account Grants	Sb	11,950,658	12,009,782
Healthy Ireland Grants	Sc	1,277,293	1,426,315
Other Programmes	6	10,469,746	9,436,281
Administration	7	1,344,139	1,094,514
Staff Costs	8	7,241,356	6,152,380
Retirement benefit costs	10a	1,092,000	1,240,000
Depreciation	11	7,278,192	6,264,783
Total Expenditure		125,031,990	147,226,604
Surplus for the year before transfer from Capital Reserve		4,910,643	3,475,173
Transfer from the Capital Reserve	9	(4,767,127)	(6,618,625)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year after transfer from Capital Reserve		143,516	(3,143,452)
Balance Brought Forward at 1 January		5,169,241	8,312,693
Balance Carried Forward at 31 December		5,312,757	5,169,241

All income and expenditure for the year relate to continuing activities at the Statement of Financial Position date.


The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of Sport Ireland:



John Foley, Chairperson

Date: 28 November 2024



Una May, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 28 November 2024

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2023

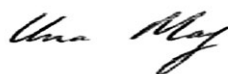
	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year after transfer from Capital Reserve		143,516	(3,143,452)
Experience (loss) on retirement benefit obligations	10b	(381,000)	(722,000)
Change in assumptions underlying the present value of 10b retirement benefit obligations	10b	(17,000)	7,327,000
Total actuarial (loss)/gain in the year		(398,000)	6,605,000
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefits funding		398,000	(6,605,000)
Other Comprehensive Income for the year		143,516	(3,143,452)

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements. On behalf of the Board of Sport Ireland:



John Foley, Chairperson

Date: 28 November 2024



Una May, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 28 November 2024

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Fixed Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	12	157,720,759	152,953,632
Financial Assets	13	1	1
Total Fixed Assets		157,720,760	152,953,633
Current Assets			
Receivables	14	1,147,437	629,224.00
Cash and cash equivalents		15,989,195	30,753,033.00
		17,136,632	31,382,257
Current Liabilities (amounts falling due within one year)			
Payables	15	(11,823,876)	(26,213,017)
Net Current Assets		5,312,756	5,169,240
Retirement Benefits			
Retirement benefit obligations	10d	(17,542,000)	(16,100,000)
Deferred retirement benefit funding asset	10b	17,542,000	16,100,000
Total Net Assets		163,033,516	158,122,873
Representing			
Capital Account	9	157,720,759	152,953,632
Retained revenue reserves		5,312,757	5,169,241
Equity		163,033,516	158,122,873

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements. On behalf of the Board of Sport Ireland:



John Foley, Chairperson

Date: 28 November 2024



Una May, Chief Executive Officer

Date: 28 November 2024

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Reconciliation of Net Operating Surplus			
Surplus for the year after transfer from Capital Reserve		143,516	(3,143,452)
Loss/(Gain) on Disposal of Tangible Fixed Assets			
Depreciation	11	7,278,192	6,264,783
Transfer (from) Capital Reserve	9	(7,278,192)	(6,264,783)
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	14	(518,213)	19
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	15	(14,389,141)	16,205,487
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities		(14,763,838)	13,062,054
Cash Flow Statement			
Net Cash Inflows from Operating Activities		(14,763,838)	13,062,054
Capital Expenditure			
Payments to acquire Fixed assets		(12,045,319)	(12,883,408)
Receipts from disposal of Fixed Assets			
Net Cash Flows from Capital Expenditure		(12,045,319)	(12,883,408)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Capital Grants		12,045,319	12,883,408
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		12,045,319	12,883,408
(Decrease)/Increase in Cash		(14,763,838)	13,062,054
Movement in net funds for the year			
Cash at Bank 1 January		30,753,033	17,690,980
Cash at Bank 31 December		15,989,195	30,753,033

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

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

a) General Information

Sport Ireland's primary objectives as set out in Part II of the Sport Ireland Act 2015 are as follows:

- To encourage the promotion, development and co-ordination of competitive sport and the achievement of excellence in competitive sport.
- To develop strategies for increasing participation in recreational sport and to co-ordinate their implementation by all bodies (including public authorities and publicly funded bodies) involved in promoting recreational sport and providing recreational facilities.
- To take such action as is considered appropriate, including testing, to combat doping in sport.
- Where the Board considered it appropriate to do so, to initiate and encourage research concerning either or both competitive sport and recreational sport.
- Where the Board considered it appropriate to do so, to facilitate research and disseminate information concerning either or both competitive sport and recreational sport.
- To develop, promote, operate and maintain Sport Ireland Campus.

Sport Ireland is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

b) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of Sport Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2023 have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice including FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

c) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared Under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities that are measured at fair values as explained in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media with the concurrence of the Minister for Public Expenditure National Development Plan Delivery and Reform under the Sport Ireland Act 2015.

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items, which are considered material in relation to Sport Ireland's financial statements.

d) Consolidated Financial Statements

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC is wholly owned by Sport Ireland and operates and maintains the facilities on the Sport Ireland Campus.

Sport Ireland is exempt from the requirement to present the annual financial statements as consolidated with the subsidiary. Under Section 9 (g) of FRS102, this is not required under the statutory framework or as part of the format agreed with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The financial statements of Sport Ireland Facilities DAC are presented separately. Further information in respect of the subsidiary is given in Note 13 to the financial statements.

e) Revenue

Oireachtas Grants

Oireachtas grants are generally recognised on a cash basis with the exception of unspent capital grants and ring-fenced grants provided for specific purposes, which are deferred and recognised in the year the expenditure is incurred.

Refunds of grants paid

Grants paid become refundable in certain circumstances, such as liquidation/dissolution of the recipient company, or if the conditions of the grant are not met. Grant refunds are recognised when it is probable that the money will be received by Sport Ireland and the amount can be estimated reliably; therefore, they are accounted for on an accruals basis. There were no Grant refunds in 2023.

Interest income

Interest income is recognised on an accruals basis.

Other Revenue

Other revenue is recognised on an accruals basis.

f) Grants Payable

Sport Ireland charges all Grant payments to the Income and Expenditure Account on an accruals basis. Grants become payable when the term and conditions are met to grantee organisations based on the Sport Ireland funding application process, which commences in Quarter 3 each year. Grantee organisations have been made aware of the reporting requirements under circular 13/2014, Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds and Sport Ireland reviews all grantee bodies financial statements to ensure compliance in this regard.

g) Property, Plant and Equipment

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

NAC & Campus Facilities	2%	per annum
Campus Facilities (30 Years lifecycle)	3.33%	per annum
Campus Facilities (10 Years lifecycle)	10%	per annum
Campus Facilities (5 Years lifecycle)	20%	per annum
Infrastructure, Master Planning & Design	15%	per annum
Campus Capital Projects Strategy	100%	per annum
Land & Buildings (50 Years lifecycle)	2%	per annum
Carparks (40 Years lifecycle)	2.5%	per annum
Buildings (30 Years lifecycle)	3.33%	per annum
Office Fit out /Fixtures & Fittings	20%	per annum
Computers & IT Equipment	33.33%	per annum
Motor Vehicles	20%	per annum
Leasehold Improvements	10%	per annum

Land on the Sport Ireland Campus, Abbotstown House, historic infrastructure and any assets that are under construction are not depreciated. Once projects under construction are completed, relevant depreciation rates are applied.

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

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

h) Financial assets

Other Financial Assets

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC is wholly owned by Sport Ireland and its share capital represents one ordinary share of one Euro par value. Sport Ireland Facilities DAC operates and maintains the facilities on the Sport Ireland Campus.

i) Receivables

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

j) Payables

Payables are initially recognised at fair value. Payables are classified as current if payable within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

k) Employee Benefits

Short-term Benefits

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

Retirement Benefits

Sport Ireland operates a defined benefit pension scheme, funded annually on a pay-as-you-go basis from monies provided by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and from contributions deducted from staff and members' salaries. Sport Ireland also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. Single scheme employee contributions are transferred to the Department of Public Expenditure National Development Plan Delivery and Reform. All other employee pension contributions are transferred to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

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

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

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

I) Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

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

Impairment of Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Provisions

Sport Ireland makes provisions for legal and constructive obligations, which it knows to be outstanding at the year-end date. These provisions are generally made based on historical or other pertinent information, adjusted for recent trends where relevant. However, they are estimates of the financial costs of events that may not occur for some years. As a result of this and the level of uncertainty attaching to the final outcomes, the actual out-turn may differ significantly from that estimated.

Depreciation and Residual Values

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

Retirement Benefit Obligation

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

The assumptions can be affected by:

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

2. Oireachtas Grants

As outlined in Accounting Policy Note 1(e) Oireachtas grants are recognised as income on the basis of the amount of cash received. The Oireachtas Grants received by Sport Ireland from Vote 33 Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as shown in the financial statements consist of:

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Recurrent Grant	90,794,000	83,585,935
Covid Grant		15,000,000
Energy Grant	8,034,170	20,971,175
Less Refundable Employee Pension Deductions	(180,000)	(164,000)
Total Recurrent Grant	98,648,170	119,393,110
Department of Health - Healthy Ireland Fund	1,460,000	1,656,255
Capital Funding	15,100,000	15,048,216
Total Oireachtas Grants	115,208,170	136,097,581
Dormant Account Grants: Current	10,222,903	10,314,487
Dormant Account Grants: Capital	1,727,755	1,695,295
Total Dormant Account Grants	11,950,658	12,009,782

Recurrent Grants:

Sport Ireland charges Grant payments to the Income and Expenditure Account when grants become payable, plus term and conditions are met.

Grants become payable to grantee organisations based on the Sport Ireland funding application process, which commences in Quarter 3 each year to accommodate grant payments the following year. Grantee organisations have been made aware of the reporting requirements under circular 13/2014, Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds and Sport Ireland reviews all grantee bodies financial statements to ensure compliance in this regard.

This grant is used for paying, general administration, programme costs and grants to National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships. The amount of recurrent grant received in 2023 was €90,794,000 and in 2022 was €83,585,935, representing an increase of €8m. The Department ringfenced €4m for High Performance, with €1m specifically for HP Coaching and €4m discretionary funding to progress the National Sports Plan through increasing core grants. The Board has adhered to the terms of the Performance Delivery Agreement with the Department. And the Board has adequate financial control systems in place to manage grants received from the Department.

DPER Sports Energy Support Scheme:

In 2022, Sport Ireland received an additional €35,000,000 from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media as a Sport Energy Support Scheme (SESS) to provide additional financial support for the sport sector. A Sports Energy Support Scheme was run by Sport Ireland during 2022 in relation to this additional funding and grant allocations were paid to the sector before year-end in line with Board approval totalling €20,971,175. The remaining balance of €14,028,825 was expected to be disbursed by Sport Ireland under a similar scheme in 2023 and was deferred on this basis in line with the change in accounting policy for ring-fenced grants as detailed in Note e) Revenue. A Sports Energy Support Scheme was run by Sport Ireland during 2023 and grant allocations were paid to the sector before the year-end in line with Board approval totalling €8,034,170. The unallocated balance of €5,994,655 was refunded to the Department in December 2023.

Following an exercise carried out in 2024 to identify any unused Sport Energy Support Scheme balances, a final refund of SESS grant funding of approximately €8.4m will be made to the Department before year end 2024.

Capital Grants:

A Capital grant of €15,100,000 was also received from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in 2023 to maintain and enhance the facilities on the Sport Ireland Campus.

Dormant Account Grants:

The Dormant Account Grant received from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media was €11,950,658 for projects including Community Sports Hub, Sports Disability Training, Volunteer Support and Youth Leadership Training.

Healthy Ireland Grants:

The Healthy Ireland Grant received from the Department of Health was €1,460,000 for projects including Get Ireland Swimming, Walking, Cycling and Running and the 2023 Let's Get Back Campaign.

3. Own Resources

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Rental Income	511,161	446,019
Rent from Sports HQ*	154,879	149,343
Anti-Doping Testing Income	153,109	106,020
Player Athlete Services	289,701	218,244
Sport Ireland Institute	86,439	64,980
Sport Ireland Outdoors	86,750	63,113
Sport Ireland Coaching	55,710	66,579
Total Own Resources	1,337,749	1,114,298

* This represents contributions to running costs, which are shown under "Sports HQ" see Note 6.

4. Other Income

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Income from EU: Coaching ELESAs Project	228,966	93,574
European Week of Sport: Erasmus & EWOS	160,000	291,272
Other Income: Research income CSPPA study	12,764	59,829
Total Other Income	401,730	444,675

* This represents contributions to running costs, which are shown under "Sports HQ" see Note 6.

5. Grants Payable

a) Current Grants

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
National Governing Bodies of Sport*	17,976,500	15,070,265.00
Covid Resilience Scheme****		15,000,000.00
International Carding Scheme*	4,119,375	3,379,500.00
Local Sports Partnerships*	10,364,502	9,946,313.00
Youth Field Sports*	10,440,496	10,440,496.00
Aviva Stadium Grant***		2,544,600.00
High Performance Grants*	14,852,169	13,190,643.30
Womens Participation in Sport*	2,862,950	2,344,100.00
DPER Energy Resilience Scheme****	8,034,170	20,971,175.00
Irish Open	1,850,000	3,785,000.00
Team Ireland Golf Trust	325,000	300,000.00
Student Sport Ireland	70,000	60,000.00
Morton Stadium Grant	150,000	153,732.00
Olympic Federation of Ireland	550,000	600,000.00
Paralympic Council	450,000	480,000.00
Irish Special Schools Sport		25,000.00
Federation of Irish Sport	125,000	171,000.00
Operation Transformation	18,000	
Sport Ireland Facilities Capital Grant**	2,866,720	2,492,663.00
Sport Ireland Facilities Operational Grant**	2,700,000	2,095,000.00
Older People and Sport	620,000	607,605.00
University of Limerick- 50 Metre Pool	300,000	300,000.00
Sport Ireland Institute PEP Grants		3,665.00
GAA - Inter County Players Support Scheme	5,641,791	5,641,791.00
ESF LSP Grants	61,933	
Total Grants Payable	84,378,606	109,602,548

* Analysis of Grants figures are set out in the Appendices to Annual Report.

** Transactions with Sport Ireland Facilities DAC.

*** In recognition of the importance of the continued operation of the Aviva Stadium; in April 2020 the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport agreed to provide a recoupable grant to the FAI for the total sum of €7,633,800, to cover the license fee payable by the FAI to New Stadium DAC over the three-year period 2020-2022.

This grant was payable by Sport Ireland in three equal instalments over the same period 2020-2022 and was to be recoupable by Sport Ireland from the FAI, over an eight-year period from 2024, as agreed by the Department and FAI.

**** Covid Resilience Scheme and DPER Energy Scheme. Please see Note 2.

b) Dormant Account Grants

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Community Sport Hub *	1,693,400	1,856,600
Youth Leadership *	203,000	556,350
Campaigns & Promotions	-	816,720
Sports Disability Training	3,035,075	2,907,378
Volunteer Support	1,132,731	443,428
Evaluation	281,186	174,899
Administration	457,684	450,000
Get Ireland Cycling	162,500	247,500
Get Ireland Walking	137,500	225,000
Get Ireland Swimming	147,500	127,500
Get Ireland Running	147,500	127,500
Innovation Programmes	608,720	917,530
NGB Participation Funding	1,349,950	1,108,050
Various Programmes	2,593,912	2,051,327
Total Dormant Account Grants	11,950,658	12,009,782

*Analysis of Grants figures are set out in the Appendices to Annual Report,

c) Healthy Ireland Grants

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
LSP Grants	316,996	308,069
NGB Grants	130,900	80,971
National Fitness Day	7,000	13,500
Age & Opportunity	-	1,500
Get Ireland Swimming	127,000	120,000
Get Ireland Walking	127,000	130,000
Get Ireland Cycling	127,000	115,000
Get Ireland Running	127,000	120,000
Campaigns & Promotions	79,761	356,577
Operation Transformation	10,000	
Special Olympics	18,000	9,000
GAA Healthy Clubs	7,000	9,000
Outdoors National Digital Database	179,636	142,698
Administration Fee	20,000	20,000
	1,277,293	1,426,315

6. Other Programmes

*These represent running costs. Income which is directly linked to these costs is shown under "Own Resources" see Note 3.

	Anti Doping	NGB	Communications	Participation	High Performance	Institute of Sport	Coaching Ireland	Outdoors	Campus	Total 31 Dec 2023	Total 31 Dec 2022
Anti-Doping Testing	1,730,067									1,730,067	1,418,580
Research Projects		251,179		552,913				245		804,337	620,626
NGB Development		188,079								188,079	252,131
Programme Development		10,000		602,547	58,978		26,817	138,703		837,045	1,023,708
EU European Week of Sport				234,055						234,055	291,784
SI Outdoors Inspections								293,314		293,314	222,599
SI Outdoors Grants								12,000		12,000	75,000
Institute Development						3,070,204				3,070,204	2,503,274
Sports HQ		239,288								239,288	210,973
Contractors/ Outsourced Services						253,305	3,779	70,066		327,150	334,445
Tutor Training							50,932			50,932	54,367
Campus Maintenance									238,150	238,150	204,470
Staff and Training	250	821	877	2,483	40	15,642	3,098	82	2,195	25,488	27,230
Office Administration Costs	35,256	27,980	7,219	31,650	20,520	302,501	127,767	36,637	217,315	806,845	688,745
Travel, Subsistence & Meetings	23,954	23,365	1,715	156,205	28,859	12,848	53,874	32,151	10,210	343,181	161,023
Professional Fees	187,688	26,215			126,137		8,964	1,534		350,538	148,609
Computer Software & Support	155,925	46,840	37,758	5,377	41,662	94,194	72,752	1,442	1,453	457,403	540,346
PR, Printing and Stationery	2,153		442,097	3,366	964	4,021	2,706	1,107		456,414	652,381
Postage and Courier	2,610	20	116	492	65	1,686	172	85	10	5,256	5,990
Total Other Programmes	2,137,903	813,787	489,782	1,589,088	277,225	3,754,401	350,861	587,366	469,333	10,469,746	9,436,281

7. Administration

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Staff Expenses and Training	205,611	156,349.00
Rent and Property	35,073	32,285.00
Maintenance and Repairs	10,214	11,776.00
Insurance	49,299	28,591.00
Telephone	4,791	8,278.00
Light and Heat	15,914	6,756.00
Board Members Fees	63,911	77,378.00
Travel, Subsistence and Meetings	184,993	94,992.00
Audit Fees	135,462	170,735.00
OC&AG Audit Fee	35,200	35,200.00
Professional Fees	217,815	93,353.00
Computer Software and Support	338,229	255,719.00
Printing and Stationery	24,640	22,308.00
Postage and Courier	5,820	8,476.00
Bank Interest & Charges	2,226	55,614.00
Sundry	726	
Minor Value Assets Purchases	14,215	36,704.00
Total Administration	1,344,139	1,094,514

8. Remuneration

(a) Aggregate Employee Benefits

The total staff complement approved by the Minister at 31 December 2023 was 67 permanent. The average number of employees excluding the agency was 55. The aggregate employee and related costs were as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Salaries	3,341,992	3,041,743
Employers PRSI contributions	356,848	325,004
Staff Holiday Pay Accrual	49,199	14,902
Campus and Agency Staff	3,493,317	2,770,731
Total Staff Numbers	7,241,356	6,152,380
Dormant Account Salaries/PRSI Allocation	232,515	224,040
Dormant Account Operational Support Allocation	272,058	271,760
	504,573	495,800
	7,745,929	6,648,180

Staff Costs by Unit

	Salaries	ER PRSI Contributions	Staff Holiday Pay SAccrual	Agency Staff	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Administration	746,853	78,431	49,199	914,796	1,789,279	1,528,540
Anti Doping	375,728	40,651		170,391	586,770	489,605
NGB	384,053	41,811		172,629	598,493	468,220
PR	163,436	17,810		79,185	260,431	192,325
Participation	382,888	41,492		530,119	954,499	831,844
High Performance	460,650	49,295		173,578	683,523	640,008
Institute	4,564	504		614,142	619,210	573,589
Coaching Ireland	798,696	84,120		193,707	1,076,523	1,005,661
DA/HI	210,026	22,489		272,058	504,573	495,800
Campus	25,124	2,734		644,770	672,628	422,588
Total	3,552,018	379,337	49,199	3,765,375	7,745,929	6,648,180

The Dormant Account and Healthy Ireland salaries, Employers PRSI and Agency figure of €504,573 represent staff costs allocated against both grant schemes as approved by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Department of Health respectively.

(b) Short Term Benefits

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Basic Pay	3,931,355	3,590,787
Overtime		
Allowances		
Total Short Term Benefits	3,931,355	3,590,787

(c) Termination Benefits

There were no termination benefits paid in 2023.

(d) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel in Sport Ireland consists of the Chief Executive Officer and Sport Ireland Board members. The total value of employee benefits for key management personnel is set out below.

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Key Management Personnel	225,155	218,230
Total Key Management Personnel	225,155	218,230

The CEO is the only member of the Sport Ireland pension scheme included in Key Management and her entitlements in that regard do not extend beyond the terms of the model public service pension scheme.

(e) Chief Executive Officer Salary and Benefits

The CEO remuneration package for the year was as follows:

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Basic Pay	161,244	140,853
Total Salary	161,244	140,853

The CEO is a member of the Sport Ireland pension scheme. The value of retirement benefits earned in the year is not included above.

The CEO received recoupment of travel and subsistence expenses of €10,726 in the 12 months ended 31 December 2023 (€7,019 in the 12 months ended 31 December 2022)

9. Capital Account

LEAD SCHEDULE: Capital Account

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
At 1 January	152,953,632	146,335,007
Transfer from Income and Expenditure account:		
Amortisation in line with fixed asset depreciation	(7,278,192)	(6,264,783)
Funds Allocated to acquire Fixed Assets	12,045,319	12,883,408
Net Movement for the year	4,767,127	6,618,625
Amount Released on Disposal of Fixed Assets		
Net Amount of Transfer for the year	4,767,127	6,618,625
Total Net Transfer for the year	4,767,127	6,618,625
At 31 December	157,720,759	152,953,632

10. Retirement Benefit Costs

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

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Current service cost	689,000	1,082,000
Interest on retirement benefit scheme liabilities	583,000	322,000
Employee Contributions	(180,000)	(164,000)
Total Retirement Benefit Cost	1,092,000	1,240,000

10. (b) Net Retirement Benefit Obligation

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Net retirement benefit obligation at 1 January	16,100,000	21,671,000
Interest cost	689,000	1,082,000
Experience loss	583,000	322,000
Loss/(Gain) arising from change in assumptions	381,000	722,000
Pensions paid in the year	17,000	(7,327,000)
Net retirement benefit obligation at 31 December	17,542,000	16,100,000

Financial Assumptions

Discount Rate

The discount rate is the rate of interest used to discount post-employment benefit obligations and is determined by reference to market yields on high quality corporate bonds. The yields available on AA and AAA corporate bonds of appropriate duration were used at the date of valuation to determine the discount rate of 3.3% per annum (3.65% at 31 December 2022).

Inflation

The assumed rate of price inflation is 2.30% at the valuation date, this is consistent with the European Central Bank's long-term target for inflation, adjusted to reflect current implied inflation based on market yields and swap yields (2.65% at 31 December 2022).

Salary Increase

Salaries are assumed to increase at 1.15% above inflation at 3.45% per annum (3.80% at 31 December 2022).

Pension Increase

Pensions in payment are assumed to increase in line with general salary increases i.e., 2.95% fixed per annum (3.30% at 31 December 2022).

10. (c) Deferred funding for retirement benefits

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

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

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Funding recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	1,272,000	1,404,000
Pensions paid in the year	(227,674)	(368,559)
Funding Recoverable	1,044,326	1,035,441

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31 December 2023 amounts to €17,542,000.

10. (d) History of Defined Benefit Obligations

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Defined Benefit Obligations	17,542	16,100
Experience losses on defined benefit scheme liabilities	381	722

10. (e) General description of the scheme

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

Sport Ireland also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. All single scheme employee contributions are transferred to the Department of Public Expenditure National Development Plan Delivery and Reform and all current retirement benefit costs are recoverable from the Department of Transport, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media through the pay allocation grant.

This membership rule prevails regardless of the form of the employment contract. Both full-time and part-time staff and permanent and temporary staff join the Single Scheme if their employment commences from 2013 onwards.

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation performed on 26 January 2024, by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2023.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	3.45%	3.80%
Rate of increase in retirement benefits in payment	2.95%	3.30%
Discount rate	3.30%	3.65%
Inflation rate	2.30%	2.65%

Mortality

58% of PNMLOO for males with improvements (see below). 62% of PNFLOO for females with improvements (see below).

The mortality basis explicitly allows for improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age (age 65). The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2023 and 2043.

Year of attaining age 65	2023	2022
Life expectancy- Male Life expectancy- Female	22.1 years	24.3 years
Rate of increase in retirement benefits in payment	24.4 years	26.4 years

11. Depreciation of Fixed Assets

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Depreciation of Property, Plant and Equipment	7,278,192	6,264,783
Total Depreciation	7,278,192	6,264,783

12(a). Property, Plant & Equipment 2023

	National Aquatic Centre	Infra-structure & Design	Campus Facilities	Land & Buildings	Office Equip/ Computers/ Fixtures & Fittings Furnitures/ Med Equipment	Motor Vehicle	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cost							
At beginning 2023	74,053,414	17,549,958	91,781,556	28,675,517	2,513,282	22,286	214,596,013
Additions		10,896,093	8,349	617,932	522,945		12,045,319
Capitalised items Reclassified*		(11,397,824)	2,682,843	8,534,446	180,535		
Disposals							
At 31 Dec 2023	74,053,414	17,048,227	94,472,748	37,827,895	3,216,762	22,286	226,641,332
Depreciation							
At beginning 2023	29,531,840	11,550,301	11,908,114	6,593,474	2,036,366	22,286	61,642,381
Charge for the year	1,481,068	2,367,377	2,424,190	804,823	200,734		7,278,192
Disposals							
At 31 Dec 2023	31,012,908	13,917,678	14,332,304	7,398,297	2,237,100	22,286	68,920,573
Net Book Value							
At 1 January 2023	44,521,574	5,999,657	79,873,442	22,082,043	476,916		152,953,632
Net Movement	(1,481,068)	(2,869,108)	267,002	8,347,555	502,746		4,767,127
At 31 Dec 2023	3,040,506	3,130,549	80,140,444	30,429,598	979,662		157,720,759

*Capitalised items reclassified: Capital Work in Progress (WIP) is initially capitalised under Infrastructure & Design. On completion, this WIP is reclassified under its appropriate asset classification

12 (b). Property, Plant & Equipment 2022

	National Aquatic Centre	Infra-structure & Design	Campus Facilities	Land & Buildings	Office Equip/ Computers/ Fixtures & Fittings/ Furnitures/ Med Equipment	Motor Vehicle	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cost							
At beginning 2022	74,053,414	13,320,030	85,216,217	26,965,565	2,135,093	-	201,712,605
Additions	-	9,538,006	2,233,965	733,249	378,189	-	12,883,408
Capitalised items Reclassified*	-	(5,308,078)	4,331,374	976,703	-	-	-
Disposals							
At 31 Dec 2022	74,053,414	17,549,958	91,781,556	28,675,517	2,513,282	22,286	214,596,013
Depreciation							
At beginning 2022	28,050,772	9,858,147	9,586,974	5,928,037	1,931,382	22,286	55,377,598
Charge for the year	1,481,068	1,692,154	2,321,140	665,437	104,984	-	6,264,783
Disposals							
At 31 Dec 2022	29,531,840	11,550,301	11,908,114	6,593,474	2,036,366	22,286	61,642,381
Net Book Value							
At 1 January 2022	46,002,642	3,461,883	75,629,243	21,037,528	203,711	-	146,335,007
Net Movement	(1,481,068)	2,537,774	4,244,199	1,044,515	273,205	-	6,618,625
At 31 Dec 2022	44,521,574	5,999,657	79,873,442	22,082,043	476,916		152,953,632

13. Financial Assets

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Sport Ireland Facilities DAC	-	-
Ordinary Share Value	1	1
Total Financial Assets	1	1

Name	Registered Office	Number	Ownership	Capital
Sport Ireland Facilities DAC	IIS Building Sport Ireland Campus Blanchardstown Dublin 15	41932	1	One Ordinary Share of one Euro Par Value

A summary of the subsidiary's results are set out below.

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(148,134)	(1,726,333)
Retained Reserves at end of year	(1,512,809)	(1,364,675)

14. Receivables

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Debtors	379,759	385,082
Accrued Income	395,912	-
Deposits	10,997	11,670
Prepayments	360,769	232,472
Total Receivables	1,147,437	629,224

15. Payables

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Creditors	5,602,529	3,774,991
Other Accruals	3,625,931	5,847,718
Deferred Income	1,859,573	15,839,056
PAYE/PRSI	146,663	134,787
Value Added Tax	272,987	250,970
Credit Cards	7,877	8,552
Relevant Contract Tax	12,980	7,048
Professional Services Withholding Tax	295,337	349,895
Total Payables	11,823,876	26,213,017

16. Lease Commitments

As at the 31 December 2023 Sport Ireland had a eight year and four-month lease commitment remaining with Shannon Commercial Properties. The ten-year lease agreement was entered into by Sport Ireland on the 1 May 2022 to provide office accommodation for Sport Ireland Coaching.

	Year ended 31 December 2023 €	Year ended 31 December 2022 €
Payable within one year	54,105	54,105
Payable within two to five years	216,420	216,420
Payable after five years	180,350	234,455
Total Lease Commitments	450,875	504,980

17. Related Party Disclosures

Please refer to Note 8(e) for a breakdown of the remuneration and benefits paid to key management personnel.

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

In cases of potential conflict of interest, Board members do not receive Board documentation or otherwise participate in or attend discussions regarding these transactions. A register is maintained and available on request of all such instances.

In the normal course of business, the Board may approve grant payments to undertakings in which Board members are employed or may otherwise have an interest. The Board adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure National Development Plan Delivery and Reform in relation to the disclosure of interests by Board members and these procedures have been adhered to during the year.

The following Board members disclosed an interest in organisations to which grants were approved in 2023:

- Michelle Tanner is an employee of Trinity College Dublin. She declared a conflict with regard to discussions on funding for research and evaluation projects involving with Trinity College Dublin.
- Lynne Cantwell is Women's High Performance Manager with South Africa Rugby. She declared a conflict with regard to a discussion on High Performance funding to the Irish Rugby Football Union.
- John Foley was interim Chief Executive of Tennis Ireland for a period during 2022. He declared a potential perceived conflict with regard to a discussion on Women in Sport grant funding to Tennis Ireland.
- Kevin Hoy is Chairperson of Clontarf GAA Club. He declared a potential conflict with regard to a discussion on Sports Energy Support Scheme funding to the Gaelic Athletic Association/Camogie Association and their affiliated clubs.
- Paraic Duffy was previously Ard Stiurthóir of the GAA. He declared a potential perceived conflict with regard to discussions on funding to the GAA.
- Deirdre Mongan is a member of the National Sports Executive Committee of the Irish Wheelchair Association. She declared a conflict with regard to funding to the Irish Wheelchair Association of Sport.
- Sport Ireland Facilities DAC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Sport Ireland and received €2,866,720 of Capital Grant and €2,700,000 of Operational Grant in 2023. The subsidiary also received a European Week of Sport Grant of €100,000 and Dormant Account Volunteer Grant of €27,000.
- Sport Ireland has availed of the exemption afforded by paragraph 33.1A from the provisions of FRS 102 'Related Party Transactions' from disclosing transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries.

18. Contingent Liabilities

Sport Ireland is involved in a small number of legal proceedings as follows:

Section 34(2) of the Sport Ireland Act 2015 provided that legal proceedings relating to the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA now dissolved) would be continued, with the substitution in the proceedings of Sport Ireland, in so far as they so relate, for the Authority. Accordingly, Sport Ireland has commitments and contingent liabilities in relation to legal costs and potential exposure in relation to claims as follows:

In 2010, in its ruling on the legal proceedings concerning the non-payment of a VAT invoice issued by the former Campus Stadium Ireland Development Company on the creation of the lease on the National Aquatic Centre, the Supreme Court awarded costs in the matter against NSCDA. In June 2013, Dublin Waterworld Limited (DWW) then initiated legal proceedings in the Commercial Court against NSCDA seeking damages pursuant to the VAT proceedings referred to above (i.e., on foot of the actions taken by Campus Stadium Ireland Development/NSCDA to recover VAT on the lease of the NAC).

Sport Ireland made a full provision for its expected legal costs in relation to this case but did not provide for the claim for damages as the outcome of the case was uncertain at the time and the costs could not be reliably estimated. In 2017, the High Court ruled in favour of NSCDA (now Sport Ireland) in this case taken by Dublin Waterworld Limited (DWW), in which that company had sought damages pursuant to the VAT proceedings referred to above.

In 2019 the Plaintiff initiated an appeal process disputing the 2017 High Court ruling. Following this, in July 2019 Ms Justice Irvine gave judgment on behalf of the three-member Court of Appeal upholding the essential part of the 2017 decision of the High Court, in that it found that the Board of CSID was justified in issuing the proceedings it did to seek to recover VAT from DWW. The Court of Appeal subsequently awarded NSCDA/Sport Ireland the costs of the appeal and Sport Ireland continues to consult with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in relation to the award of costs issue and the pursuance of same from the plaintiff. On this basis, no provision for any further costs in relation to this matter has been made by Sport Ireland as currently, no contingent liability exists.

Note: 'CSID' refers to Campus Stadium Ireland Development Ltd, the legal precursor to the National Sports Campus Development Authority (NSCDA).

In 2023, Sport Ireland has been notified of the commencement of a legal action by an athlete against a National Governing Body of sport, where the Plaintiff has named Sport Ireland as a Defendant in the proceedings. Sport Ireland's position is that it should not be a party to the case.

Sport Ireland Facilities DAC, a subsidiary of Sport Ireland is also involved in a number of legal cases taken by customers in relation to incidents, which occurred in the facilities as operated by the company. The estimated list of claims outstanding at year end as provided by the insurance providers of Sport Ireland Facilities DAC amounted to €294,894. This amount has been fully provided for in the 2023 financial statements of Sport Ireland Facilities DAC.

19. Commitments

Under a Sports Partnership Strategy for the development of the field-sport elements of the Campus Master Plan, Sport Ireland has entered into separate agreements with the GAA, FAI, Hockey Ireland and IRFU whereby Sport Ireland, subject to certain conditions, is committed to granting 99 year leases on certain of its lands (as identified in the Master Plan), at peppercorn rents, to the bodies concerned. The agreements also commit to the provision of matching funding up to €500,000 for the development by each of the bodies of these facilities, totalling €2 million, of which €1,450,000 was paid to the sports bodies up to 31 December 2023.

Capital Commitments:

An amount of €1,320,691 has arisen as a result of contractual commitments for construction works on the Sport Ireland Campus in 2023.

20. Events After the Reporting Date

No other significant events were noted since the year end.

21. Approval of the financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Sport Ireland on the 28th November 2024.

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Appendix 1




YE2023 Strategic Plan Implementation Review

Sport Ireland’s vision is of “An active Ireland where everyone can enjoy the lifelong benefits of sport and physical activity”.

Delivery of the 2023-2027 five-year strategy is based on three core focus areas: 1) sport development services; 2) excellent leadership and governance and 3) social responsibility, underpinned by twelve specific enablers highlighted below. The Strategy details 28 high level strategic objectives and 55 key performance indicators (KPIs), which include a mix of qualitative and quantitative metrics.

2023-2027 Strategic Objectives – YE2023 Status Update




A summary of the status of the 55 KPIs at the end of 2023 (Year 1), as linked to the delivery of the 28 Strategic Objectives is presented below on the % progress by strategic enabler. As highlighted below, 1 KPI is complete, 36 are on track, 18 require further attention, with some of these not targeted for implementation during this first year. The average % progress for YE2023 (21%) highlighted in green, is trending slightly ahead (+1%) of expectation for end of Year 1 (i.e., 20%).

Core Focus Area	Enabler	Objectives	KPIs	Complete	On Track	Further Attention	% Progress
Sport Development Services 	1. Structures, programmes and project development	4	12	0	10	2	26%
	2. Volunteer and professional workforce development	3	5	0	5	0	14%
	3. Coaching and officiating	2	5	0	2	3	21%
	4. Innovation and digital transformation	2	5	0	4	1	22%
	5. Delivery of major events	1	2	0	1	1	15%
Excellent Leadership and Governance 	6. Sport Ireland leadership and resources	3	5	0	5	0	16%
	7. Good Governance	2	4	0	2	2	18%
	8. Communication and Marketing	3	5	0	0	5	16%
	9. Research, insights and evidence-based practice	2	2	0	2	0	20%
Social Responsibility 	7. Good Governance	2	3	1	2	0	47%
	8. Communication and Marketing	2	4	0	3	1	20%
	9. Research, insights and evidence-based practice	2	3	0	0	3	7%
TOTALS		28	55	1	36	18	21%

Note – Enabler 10, Integrity and Ethical Sport includes three KPIs, with one fully completed in 2023 (code of conduct), therefore the average % progress is higher than within other enablers.

2023 Key Achievements by Core Focus Area

A selection of some of the key achievements that have been completed at the end of 2023 and/or are contributing to the “on-track” status of KPIs within the five-year strategy are detailed below:

Core Focus Area	Key Achievements
<p>Sport Development Services</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The return of sports participation targets to 2019 levels with 46% of the population taking part in sport during the first half of 2023. • Investment support and programmes including over €40m distributed by the NGB team, €16m in the LSP Network and over €24m in high performance funding aimed at providing benefit pre-Paris 2024. • The achievement of 99 medals at major international competitions. • Opening of the Long Barn, providing a permanent home for the Olympic Federation of Ireland on the Sport Ireland Campus and a dedicated athlete preparation and recovery area in the lead-up to Paris 2024. • Development of Sport Ireland’s Policy on Volunteering in Sport. • The certification of over 21k coaches under CDPI across 33 sports. • Development of “Get Ireland Active”, the national digital database of sport and recreation amenities. • The Sport Ireland Campus played host to four major international level events.
<p>Excellent Leadership and Governance</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication and launch of the Sport Ireland Statement of Strategy 2023-27. • Accreditation of Sport Ireland as a “Great Place to Work”. • The creation of a new directorate of Corporate Affair, Communications and Marketing. • Hosting of the inaugural Sport Innovation & Technology Summit, attracting over 400 delegates from the enterprise, research, and sport sectors. • The 2023 Gov-Enhance Programme delivered across multiple events, engaging over 480 participants focused on embedding practices within the Code across the Sport Sector. • Launch of the 2022 Irish Sports Monitor (ISM) and the 2022 Children’s Sports Participation and Physical Activity Study (CISPA) reports.
<p>Social Responsibility</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and roll-out of a national Code of Conduct template across Irish sport, incorporating respect for, and the elimination of abuse towards referees, officials, coaches and players. • Launch of Sport Ireland’s Policy on Women in Sport v2 and launch and activation of the “Her Moves” campaign. • Submission and approval of the Climate Action Roadmap.

Appendix 2

NGB 2023 Core Grant Investment Allocations

Grantee Organisation/Funding	Amount €
Special Olympics Ireland	€1,500,000
Athletics Ireland	€1,150,000
Swim Ireland	€1,100,000
Horse Sport Ireland	€ 1,000,000
Basketball Ireland	€840,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	€525,000
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	€525,000
Cricket Ireland	€525,000
Tennis Ireland	€475,000
The Camogie Association	€475,000
Irish Sailing Association	€475,000
Badminton Ireland	€445,000
Cycling Ireland	€440,000
Gymnastics Ireland	€395,000
Hockey Ireland	€383,000
Rowing Ireland	€368,000
Golf Ireland	€368,000
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	€330,000
Canoeing Ireland	€325,000
National Community Games	€299,000
Triathlon Ireland	€278,000
Mountaineering Ireland	€247,000
Squash Ireland	€242,000
Volleyball Ireland	€242,000
Motorsport Ireland	€210,000
Table Tennis Ireland	€160,000
Irish Judo Association	€155,000
Irish Surfing Association	€130,000
GAA Handball Ireland	€120,000
Diving Ireland	€116,000
Pitch and Putt Ireland	€100,000
Snooker & Billiards Ireland	€85,000
Orienteering Ireland	€80,000

Grantee Organisation/Funding	Amount €
Irish Martial Arts Commission	€78,000
Vision Sports Ireland	€75,000
Deaf Sports Ireland	€68,000
Fencing Ireland	€ 68,000
Olympic Handball Ireland	€65,000
Tug of War Ireland	€57,000
Weightlifting Ireland	€57,000
Motorcycling Ireland	€55,000
Irish Lawn Bowls	€55,000
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association	€50,000
Irish Tenpin Bowling Association	€47,000
American Football Ireland	€50,000
Irish Waterski & Wakeboard Federation	€42,000
Twirl Ireland	€42,000
Racquetball Association of Ireland	€42,000
Bol Chumann na hÉireann	€37,000
Irish Taekwondo Union	€37,000
Rugby League Ireland	€37,000
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association	€32,000
Speleological Union of Ireland	€32,000
Angling Council of Ireland	€32,000
Archery Ireland	€32,000
Croquet Association of Ireland	€28,000
Irish Ice Hockey Association	€28,000
ONAKAI	€28,000
Special Projects & Programmes	€488,000
Performance Programme Transition	€230,000
Federation of Irish Sport	€125,000
Student Sport Ireland	€70,000
Sub Total	€16,000,000

Appendix 3

LSP 2023 Core Grant Investment Allocations

LSP	Amount €
Carlow	€257,446
Cavan	€280,467
Clare	€395,297
Cork	€613,391
Donegal	€380,972
Dublin City	€421,474
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	€271,437
Fingal	€294,653
Galway	€332,958
Kerry	€198,820
Kildare	€301,946
Kilkenny	€293,464
Laois	€351,420
Leitrim	€234,134
Limerick	€483,147
Longford	€269,996
Louth	€334,412
Mayo	€368,159
Meath	€417,878
Monaghan	€244,403
Offaly	€306,055
Roscommon	€302,922
Sligo	€394,898
South Dublin	€318,280
Tipperary	€338,871
Waterford	€380,537
Westmeath	€261,679
Wexford	€340,172
Wicklow	€310,713
Sub Total	€9,700,000

Appendix 4

2023 High Performance Investment

	2023
HP Programme Funding	€10,886,669
Direct Athlete Support	€4,487,125
HP Additional Funding	€3,079,000
HP Coaching	€713,500
Sport Ireland Institute	€3,918,600
HP Operations & Admin Funding (Olympic Federation of Ireland & Paralympic Ireland)	€1,000,000
Total: National Governing Bodies	€24,084,894

High Performance Direct Athlete Support	2023
International Carding Scheme (Includes Athlete Career Transition)	€3,862,125
Hockey Player Funding Scheme (Women's Hockey)	€300,000
Golf Ireland Professional Scheme	€325,000
Total: National Governing Bodies	€4,487,125

Appendix 5

2023 Energy Scheme Grants

Organisation	Phase 2	Phase 3	2023 Total
Gaelic Athletic Association	€1,253,500		€1,253,500
Irish Rugby Football Union	€159,100	€50,000	€209,100
Irish Sailing	€90,400	€35,000	€125,400
Football Association of Ireland	€81,000	€19,500	€100,500
Athletics Ireland	€59,000	€40,000	€99,000
Rowing Ireland	€49,500	€31,000	€80,500
Gymnastics Ireland	€41,700	€10,000	€51,700
Snooker & Billiards Ireland	€36,000		€36,000
Camogie Association	€26,000		€26,000
GAA Handball	€25,000		€25,000
Squash Ireland	€23,000	€22,000	€45,000
Canoeing Ireland	€21,950	€3,200	€25,150
Swim Ireland	€20,000	€11,000	€31,000
Pitch & Putt Ireland	€19,500	€9,000	€28,500
Basketball Ireland	€11,150	€4,680	€15,830
Weightlifting Ireland	€9,000	€2,000	€11,000
Diving Ireland	€7,300		€7,300
Cricket Ireland	€6,800		€6,800
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	€6,350	€1,800	€8,150
Badminton Ireland	€5,350		€5,350
Irish Lawn Bowls	€1,950		€1,950
Racquetball Association of Ireland	€700		€700
Irish Martial Arts Commission		€15,000	€15,000
Tennis Ireland	€75	€215,000	€215,000
Total: National Governing Bodies	€1,954,250	€469,180	€2,423,430
Cork Local Sports Partnership	€100,000		€100,000
Carlow Local Sports Partnership	€90,000		€90,000
Galway Local Sports Partnership	€50,000		€50,000
Meath Local Sports Partnership	€47,000		€47,000
Sligo Local Sports Partnership	€40,000		€40,000
Clare Local Sports Partnership	€35,000		€35,000
Limerick Local Sports Partnership	€35,000		€35,000
Carlow Local Sports Partnership	€90,000		€90,000
Galway Local Sports Partnership	€50,000		€50,000
Meath Local Sports Partnership	€47,000		€47,000
Sligo Local Sports Partnership	€40,000		€40,000
Clare Local Sports Partnership	€35,000		€35,000
Limerick Local Sports Partnership	€35,000		€35,000
Total: Local Sports Partnerships	€566,000		€566,000
Limerick Local Sports Partnership	€18,240		€18,240
Total	€2,520,250	€487,420	€3,007,670

Appendix 6

Women in Sport Funding 2023

Grantee Organisation/Funding	Amount €
Swim Ireland	€90,000
Athletics Ireland	€80,000
Basketball Ireland	€75,000
Gymnastics Ireland	€75,000
Hockey Ireland	€75,000
Golf Ireland	€70,000
Rowing Ireland	€70,000
Triathlon Ireland	€70,000
Tennis Ireland	€65,000
Canoeing Ireland	€60,000
Cricket Ireland	€60,000
Cycling Ireland	€60,000
Badminton Ireland	€50,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	€50,000
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	€50,000
Mountaineering Ireland	€45,000
Irish Sailing Association	€40,000
Volleyball Ireland	€40,000
Federation of Irish Sport	€30,000
Community Games	€25,000
Irish Judo Association	€25,000
ONAKAI	€25,000
Irish Squash	€20,000
Irish Squash	€20,000
Diving Ireland	€18,000
Table Tennis Ireland	€18,000
Snooker and Billiards Ireland	€17,000
Fencing Ireland	€15,000
Irish Waterski and Wakeboard Federations	€15,000
Irish Olympic Handball	€15,000
Special Olympics Ireland	€15,000
Tug of War Ireland	€15,000
Vision Sports Ireland	€15,000

Grantee Organisation/Funding	Amount €
Irish Surfing Association	€14,000
Irish Martial Arts Commission	€12,000
Weightlifting Ireland	€12,000
Bowling League of Ireland	€10,000
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association	€10,000
Motorcycling Ireland	€10,000
Orienteering Ireland	€10,000
Rugby League Ireland	€10,000
Archery Ireland	€9,000
Irish Ice Hockey Association	€8,000
Bol Chumann na Eireann	€5,000
Croquet Association of Ireland	€5,000
Deaf Sports Ireland	€5,000
Pitch and Putt Ireland	€5,000
Racquetball Ireland	€5,000
NGB Total	€ 1,523,000
Large Field Sports	
IRFU	€300,000
FAI	€560,000
Gaelic Games	€200,000
Special Projects	
Her Outdoors Week	€50,000
Canoeing Ireland	€20,000
Sport Ireland Coaching	€5,000
WIS Special Projects	42,000.00
Total Budget	2,700,000.00

Appendix 7

Dormant Accounts Funding to NGBs

National Governing Body / Funded Body	Total
Gaelic Games	€625,000
Athletics Ireland	€374,500
Swim Ireland	€330,000
Irish Sailing	€323,000
Cricket Ireland	€307,500
Special Olympics Ireland	€300,000
Football Association of Ireland	€280,000
Basketball Ireland	€275,000
Tennis Ireland	€265,000
Vision Sports Ireland	€247,000
Irish Rugby Football Union	€245,000
Mountaineering Ireland	€242,500
Badminton Ireland	€242,000
Cycling Ireland	€230,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	€215,000
Canoeing Ireland	€190,000
Rowing Ireland	€156,000
Golf Ireland	€148,500
Gymnastics Ireland	€145,000
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	€145,000
Volleyball Ireland	€142,000
Hockey Ireland	€136,600
Pitch and Putt Ireland	€120,500
Olympic Handball Ireland	€115,000
Tug of War Ireland	€74,000
Weightlifting Ireland	€60,000
Squash Ireland	€56,500
Orienteering Ireland	€54,600
ONAKAI	€50,800
National Community Games	€50,000
Angling Council of Ireland	€46,500
Archery Ireland	€39,000
Triathlon Ireland	€38,500
Table Tennis Ireland	€33,000
Snooker & Billiards Ireland	€30,000
Sport Ireland Campus	€30,000
Irish Surfing	€24,000
Motorsport Ireland	€14,000
Deaf Sports Ireland	€13,000
Racquetball Association of Ireland	€2,500
Total	€6,416,500

Appendix 8

Dormant Accounts Funding to LSPs

Funded Body	Community Sports Hub	Youth Leadership	Volunteer Support	Sport Inclusion Disability Projects	Active Cities	Urban Outdoor	Her Moves	Total
Carlow LSP	€71,500	€14,500	€15,000	€40,000			€12,500	€153,500
Cavan LSP	€32,500		€15,000	€30,400			€26,000	€103,900
Clare LSP	€40,000		€15,000			€50,000	€14,000	€119,000
Cork LSP	€51,500	€15,000	€15,000	€40,000	€140,500		€16,000	€278,000
Donegal LSP	€90,000	€7,500	€15,000					€112,500
Dublin City LSP	€52,500	€3,000		€40,000	€126,500		€9,000	€231,000
Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown LSP			€15,000	€25,000	€116,500		€15,000	€171,500
Fingal LSP	€32,500	€4,500	€9,000		€118,000		€5,000	€169,000
Galway LSP	€84,000				€40,000			€124,000
Kerry LSP	€20,000		€15,000	€37,000		€13,180	€7,500	€92,680
Kildare LSP	€90,000	€15,000	€15,000	€32,500		€55,000	€14,500	€222,000
Kilkenny LSP	€32,500							€32,500
Laois LSP	€122,500	€15,000	€15,000	€30,500		€25,000	€14,000	€222,000
Leitrim LSP	€122,500					€51,320	€14,500	€188,320
Limerick LSP	€52,500	€15,000	€15,000	€13,700	€220,500		€11,600	€328,300
Longford LSP	€71,500	€9,000	€14,000	€35,100		€42,500	€11,800	€183,900
Mayo LSP	€71,500		€15,000	€23,000			€13,500	€123,000
Meath LSP	€32,500	€15,000	€15,000	€40,000			€16,500	€119,000
Monaghan LSP	€52,500	€11,000	€8,000	€27,000			€9,000	€107,500
Offaly LSP	€141,500	€14,500	€5,000			€48,000		€209,000
Roscommon LSP	€51,500	€14,000		€14,500				€80,000
Sligo LSP	€71,500		€15,000.00	€40,000		€55,000	€15,500	€197,000
South Dublin LSP		€9,000		€35,000	€121,500		€8,500	€174,000
Tipperary LSP	€20,000		€6,000	€40,000			€11,500	€77,500
Waterford LSP					€116,500		€8,500	€125,000
Westmeath LSP	€20,000	€5,000	€15,000	€15,800		€45,000	€13,300	€114,100
Wexford Sport	€51,500	€6,000	€15,000				€12,300	€84,800
Wicklow LSP	€71,500	€15,000	€15,000	€24,500		€55,000	€16,000	€197,000
Total	€1,570,000	€203,000	€297,000	€600,000	€1,000,000	€440,000	€300,000	€4,410,000



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