

Registered number: 437119
Charity number: CHY 18262
CRN 20069742

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees	Alan Gilsenan, (Chairperson) Jennifer Caldwell Roddy Doyle Elaine Feeney (appointed 1 May 2024) Hazel Hogan Charlotte Holland (resigned 20 November 2024) David Howard Gordon Snell Tony Traynor
Company registered number	437119
Charity registered number	CHY 18262 CRN 20069742
Registered office	Behan Square 12-16 Russell Street Dublin 1 D01 WD53
Company secretary	Tony Traynor
Independent auditors	Moore Ireland Audit Partners Limited Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm Adelaide House 90 George's Street Upper Dun Laoghaire Co. Dublin A96 R8R9
Bankers	Bank of Ireland College Green Dublin 2
Solicitors	Mason Hayes & Curran South Bank House Barrow Street Dublin 4 D04 TR29

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2024. The Annual Report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a Directors' report under company law. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The purpose of the Company continues to be the provision of free creative writing tutoring and mentoring for students of all ages, focusing in particular on children and, young adults, with a particular emphasis on disadvantaged and marginalised groups.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

b. Strategies for achieving objectives

The Company relies on private sector donations from individuals and foundations and grant aid from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, the Department of Education and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, together with other grants from a wide range of Public Sector Bodies.

c. Activities undertaken to achieve objectives

Fighting Words offers a wide range of workshops and projects, all of which are designed to promote creativity and writing as fun and powerful means of self-expression. These programmes are developed by our staff and experienced practitioners in all forms of creative writing and are delivered by our staff team, professional facilitators and volunteer mentors, all trained in child protection and all Garda vetted.

The programmes are delivered in partnership with schools, youth projects, arts centres, libraries and other agencies. All workshops are free of charge and offered in locations all over Ireland.

Achievements and performance

a. Review of activities

The Directors are satisfied with the performance of the Company during the year. The Directors are not expecting to make any significant changes in the Company's business in the foreseeable future.

b. Factors relevant to achieve objectives

The recruitment of sufficient and capable staff and the continuing support of volunteers, coordinators and contributors are pivotal to the success of the organisation.

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing these financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

b. Reserves policy

The Company's available reserves at the year-end increased to €210,811 (2023: €167,869), due to the surplus of €42,942 in the year (2023: €42,994).

The charity is holding reserves for the following reasons:

- (i) The Board feels that it is advisable to maintain a reserve to meet between three and six months fixed costs comprising primarily staff costs, rent and other fixed costs for the continuation of the service in the event of funding unlikely to be available over that period, and;
- (ii) Given the Company's activities are run on a Non-Profit Basis, the Company must always have surplus reserves available to cover potential losses and to provide working capital pending annual grant renewals and payment of grant and/or earned income.

c. Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors are aware of the major risks to which the Company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Company and are satisfied that there are systems in place to mitigate exposure to major risk.

The Company does not rely on significant borrowings and has minimal exposure to interest rate risk.

The Company is in a strong liquidity position and does not foresee any cashflow risk in the near future. The Company's policy is to ensure that sufficient resources are available from cash balances and cashflows to ensure all obligations can be met when they fall due.

d. Principal funding

The main purpose of the Company is to provide workshops to children, young adults and children and adults from marginalised and disadvantaged groups to develop their writing skills free of charge. The delivery of this service is funded by a combination of private sector donations and grants from various Government Departments and other Public Sector Bodies.

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

Fighting Words Company Limited by Guarantee is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by the Company's constitution on 30 March 2007.

The principal objective of the Company is to be a creative writing centre providing free tutoring and mentoring for students of all ages, focusing in particular on children, young adults, and children and adults from marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The management of the Company is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Company's constitution.

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

Fighting Words is governed in accordance with the Company's Constitution.

Its Management Board comprises the 9 Directors who make decisions at board level regarding both future strategy and day-to-day operational requirements, in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer.

The Board of Management meet formally at least 4 times a year and additional meetings are held as required. An Annual General Meeting is also held.

The Company's registered office is in Behan Square, 12-16 Russell Street, Dublin 1, and this is also the Company's chief administrative office.

There are 12 employees, comprising the CEO of the Company, the Operations Manager, 6 other full-time employees and 4 part-time employees.

d. Policies adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

Fighting Words is committed to having governance arrangements that are sufficiently robust to ensure that the organisation is managed in accordance with the current legislation, as well as adopting procedures which are examples of good practice and which improve the effectiveness of the organisation.

The new Code of Governance for the Voluntary and Community Sector includes, as part of its principles, that 'Trustees should have the diverse range of skills, experience and knowledge needed to run an organisation effectively' and that "Trustees should ensure that they receive the necessary induction, training and ongoing support they need to discharge their duties".

The current Trustees have a strong mix of long and distinguished experience in the Arts and wide-ranging legal and commercial expertise in the Private Sector.

e. Related party relationships

None of our Trustees receive remuneration or other benefits from their work with the charity. Any connection between a trustee and a senior manager of the charity must be disclosed to the full board of trustees in the same way as any other contractual relationship with a related party.

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Structure, governance and management (continued)

f. Financial risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Company is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Company, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Plans for future periods

Fighting Words is expanding its availability and accessibility of service delivery through the development of registered programmes throughout Ireland. The Company is also working collaboratively with peer services in shared partnership clusters to extend the service delivery for key targeted areas of need. Work is also under way to adapt the Fighting Words programmes for children and young people from marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

The Company remains focused on sourcing charitable donations and fundraising from as wide a base as possible from both the Private and State Sectors.

Members' liability

The Members of the Company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding €1 to the assets of the Company in the event of a winding-up.

Political donations

The Company made no political donations during the year (2023: €Nil).

Accounting records

The measures taken by the Trustees (Directors for the purposes of company law) to ensure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act, 2014, with regard to the keeping of accounting records, include the provision of appropriate resources to maintain adequate accounting records throughout the company, including the appointment of personnel with appropriate qualifications, experience and expertise.

These books and accounting records are maintained at the Company's registered office at Behan Square, 12-16 Russell Street, Dublin 1.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- they have taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Auditors

The auditors, Moore Ireland Audit Partners Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The designated Trustees will propose a motion reappointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Alan Gilsenan
Trustee

Date: 5 September 2025



.....
Tony Traynor
Trustee

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and Accounting Standards (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Alan Gilsenan
Trustee
Date: 5 September 2025



.....
Tony Traynor
Trustee

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Fighting Words Company Limited by Guarantee (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable Irish law and Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the IAASA's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (CONTINUED)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (CONTINUED)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- 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.

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

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY
GUARANTEE (CONTINUED)**

Use of our report

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



.....
Shane O'Connell FCA
Moore Ireland Audit Partners Limited
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm
Dublin

5 September 2025

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Restricted funds 2024 €	Unrestricted funds 2024 €	Total funds 2024 €	Total funds 2023 €
Income from:					
Donations and grants	3	677,079	247,985	925,063	912,236
Total income		677,079	247,985	925,064	912,236
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		677,079	205,043	882,122	869,242
Total expenditure		677,079	205,043	882,122	869,242
Net movement in funds		-	42,942	42,942	42,994
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		97,029	70,840	167,869	124,875
Net movement in funds		-	42,942	42,942	42,994
Total funds carried forward		97,029	113,782	210,811	167,869

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 15 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 437119

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	116,819	113,297
		<u>116,819</u>	<u>113,297</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	10	19,653	18,178
Cash at bank and in hand		212,029	121,442
		<u>231,682</u>	<u>139,620</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(137,690)	(85,048)
Net current assets		<u>93,992</u>	<u>54,572</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>210,811</u>	<u>167,869</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>210,811</u>	<u>167,869</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>210,811</u></u>	<u><u>167,869</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds		97,029	97,029
Unrestricted funds		113,782	70,840
Total funds		<u><u>210,811</u></u>	<u><u>167,869</u></u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Alan Gilsenan
Trustee
Date: 5 September 2025



.....
Tony Traynor
Trustee

The notes on pages 15 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash generated by operating activities	15	99,669	9,826
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(9,083)	(9,080)
Net cash used in investing activities		(9,083)	(9,080)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net cash provided by financing activities		-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		90,586	746
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		121,442	120,696
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	16	212,028	121,442

The notes on pages 15 to 30 form part of these financial statements

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. General information

Fighting Words Company Limited by Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the Republic of Ireland having its registered office at Behan Square, 12-16 Russell Street, Dublin 1. The company's principal activity continued to be that of creative writing, providing free tutoring and mentoring for students of all ages, focusing in particular on children, young adults, and children and adults from marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2014.

The Directors have availed of the provisions in section 291(5) of the Companies Act, 2014 to use a format for the financial statements that better describes the activities of a not-for-profit entity. The main change is the replacement of the title "Profit and Loss Account" with the title "Income and Expenditure Account" and consequential changes in the descriptions of certain items to be consistent with the descriptions appropriate to the not-for-profit sector.

Fighting Words Company Limited by Guarantee meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Income

All income is recognised once the Company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

2.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the assets used.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Company's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Expenditure (continued)

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.4 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the Statement of Financial Activities upon the completion of the relevant performance-related conditions. Other grants that are not subject to performance-related conditions are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities as the grant proceeds are received. Grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria being satisfied are recognised as a liability.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All tangible fixed assets are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold property	-	50%
Fixtures and fittings	-	20%
Office equipment	-	33%

2.6 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Company anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

2.9 Financial instruments

The Company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.10 Pensions

The Company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Company to the fund in respect of the year.

2.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

3. Income from donations and grants

	Restricted funds 2024 €	Unrestricted funds 2024 €	Total funds 2024 €
Personal Donations	37,500	184,618	222,118
Government Bodies	332,101	41,810	373,911
Public Bodies	158,215	-	158,215
Private Bodies	149,263	21,557	170,820
	<u>677,079</u>	<u>247,985</u>	<u>925,064</u>

	<i>Restricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
Personal Donations	38,226	192,094	230,320
Government Bodies	444,420	8,815	453,235
Public Bodies	130,554	-	130,554
Private Bodies	77,098	21,029	98,127
	<u>690,298</u>	<u>221,938</u>	<u>912,236</u>

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4. Incoming resources

	Restricted funds 2024 €	Unrestricted funds 2024 €	Total funds 2024 €
Personal Donations	37,500	184,618	222,118
	37,500	184,618	222,118
Government Bodies			
Department of Education & Youth	150,000	-	150,000
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media	130,851	-	130,851
Dublin City Council	34,000	-	34,000
Other County Council	17,250	-	17,250
Revenue Commissioners - Donation Relief	-	41,810	41,810
	332,101	41,810	373,911
Public Bodies			
ReThink Ireland	56,589	-	56,589
Solas	23,736	-	23,736
Leargas	20,000	-	20,000
Arts Council	50,000	-	50,000
Foras na Gaeilge	5,000	-	5,000
Trinity College Dublin	2,890	-	2,890
	158,215	-	158,215
Private Bodies			
American Ireland Funds	-	21,557	21,557
Amazon Literary Partnership	20,000	-	20,000
JP McManus Foundation	10,000	-	10,000
IPUT	20,000	-	20,000
RDS	10,000	-	10,000
Basis Point	10,000	-	10,000
Rabobank	5,000	-	5,000
KPMG	10,000	-	10,000
Mason, Hayes & Curran	10,000	-	10,000
RIAI	3,000	-	3,000
World Vision	20,000	-	20,000
Community Foundation Ireland	27,004	-	27,004
Henderson Park	3,300	-	3,300

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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Tesco Community Funds	959	-	959
	149,263	21,557	170,820
	677,079	247,985	925,064

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	<i>Restricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
Personal Donations	38,226	192,094	230,320
	38,226	192,094	230,320
Government Bodies			
Department of Education & Youth	71,887	-	71,887
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media	253,206	-	253,206
Department of Children, Disability & Equality	75,000	-	75,000
Dublin City Council	38,000	-	38,000
Other County Councils	6,327	-	6,327
Revenue Commissioners - Donation Relief	-	8,815	8,815
	444,420	8,815	453,235
Public Bodies			
ReThink Ireland	48,554	-	48,554
Arts Council	57,000	-	57,000
Irish Youth Foundation	25,000	-	25,000
	130,554	-	130,554
Private Bodies			
American Ireland Funds	-	21,029	21,029
JP McManus Foundation	10,000	-	10,000
Rabobank	5,000	-	5,000
KPMG	10,000	-	10,000
Mason, Hayes & Curran	10,000	-	10,000
World Vision	10,000	-	10,000
Community Foundation Ireland	27,298	-	27,298
Henderson Park	3,300	-	3,300
Wild Atlantic Pictures	1,000	-	1,000
Creative Edenderry	500	-	500
	77,098	21,029	98,127
	690,298	221,938	912,236

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

5. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Charitable activities 2024 €	Management and administration 2024 €	Total funds 2024 €
Staff Costs	-	629,850	629,850
Depreciation	-	5,562	5,562
Income protection/life cover	-	8,554	8,554
Management charges	-	8,177	8,177
Office materials and supplies	-	16,805	16,805
Rent and rates	-	68,750	68,750
Light and heat	-	7,707	7,707
Insurances	-	2,038	2,038
Service contracts	-	11,673	11,673
Telephone	-	6,054	6,054
Professional facilitators	-	-	-
Travel and accommodation	-	11,730	11,730
Computer cost	-	4,956	4,956
Legal and professional	-	2,100	2,100
Staff training and subscriptions	-	-	-
Project costs and publication	72,964	-	72,964
Sundry	-	5,165	5,165
Cleaning and canteen	-	9,165	9,165
Bank charges	-	2,065	2,065
Volunteer expenses	2,637	-	2,637
Auditors' remuneration	-	6,170	6,170
	<u>75,601</u>	<u>806,521</u>	<u>882,122</u>

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	<i>Charitable activities 2023 €</i>	<i>Management and administration 2023 €</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
Staff Costs	-	584,268	584,268
Depreciation	-	3,275	3,275
Income protection/life cover	-	22,469	22,469
Management charges	-	7,602	7,602
Office materials and supplies	-	9,724	9,724
Rent and rates	-	38,000	38,000
Light and heat	-	13,140	13,140
Insurances	-	538	538
Service contracts	-	10,281	10,281
Telephone	-	7,910	7,910
Professional facilitators	24,984	-	24,984
Travel and accommodation	5,358	-	5,358
Computer cost	-	8,805	8,805
Legal and professional	-	3,186	3,186
Staff training and subscriptions	-	5,724	5,724
Project costs and publication	83,715	-	83,715
Sundry	-	21,479	21,479
Cleaning and canteen	-	7,522	7,522
Bank charges	185	-	185
Volunteer expenses	3,677	-	3,677
Auditor's remuneration	-	7,400	7,400
	<u>117,919</u>	<u>751,323</u>	<u>869,242</u>

6. Auditors' remuneration

	2024 €	2023 €
Fees payable to the Company's auditor for the audit of the Company's annual accounts	4,325	4,325
Fees payable to the Company's auditor in respect of: All non-audit services not included above	1,845	3,075

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

7. Staff costs

	2024	2023
	€	€
Wages and salaries	542,538	503,515
Social security costs	59,104	55,186
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	28,208	25,567
	629,850	584,268

The average number of persons employed by the Company during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Administration	12	12

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded €60,000 was:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
In the band €60,001 - €70,000	1	1
In the band €70,001 - €80,000	-	1
In the band €80,001 - €90,000	1	-

8. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - €NIL).

During the year ended 31 December 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - €NIL).

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property €	Fixtures and fittings €	Office equipment €	Total €
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2024	106,234	284,144	42,168	432,546
Additions	-	-	9,083	9,083
At 31 December 2024	106,234	284,144	51,251	441,629
Depreciation				
At 1 January 2024	-	278,033	41,215	319,248
Charge for the year	-	2,110	3,452	5,562
At 31 December 2024	-	280,143	44,667	324,810
Net book value				
At 31 December 2024	106,234	4,001	6,584	116,819
At 31 December 2023	106,234	6,111	952	113,297

10. Debtors

	2024 €	2023 €
Due within one year		
Other debtors	9,501	9,502
Prepayments and accrued income	10,152	8,676
	19,653	18,178

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	€	€
Bank overdrafts	836	386
Other taxation and social security	15,254	14,401
Other creditors	2,289	-
Accruals and deferred income	119,311	70,261
	<u>137,690</u>	<u>85,048</u>

Other taxation and social security

	2024	2023
	€	€
PAYE/PRSI	15,254	14,401
	<u>15,254</u>	<u>14,401</u>

12. Financial instruments

	2024	2023
	€	€
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	<u>212,029</u>	<u>121,442</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise of cash at bank and in hand.

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

13. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2024 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Balance at 31 December 2024 €
General funds	70,840	247,985	(205,043)	113,782
Restricted funds	97,029	677,079	(677,079)	97,029
	<u>167,869</u>	<u>925,064</u>	<u>(882,122)</u>	<u>210,811</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Balance at 31 December 2023 €
General funds	27,846	221,938	(178,944)	70,840
Restricted funds	97,029	690,298	(690,298)	97,029
	<u>124,875</u>	<u>912,236</u>	<u>(869,242)</u>	<u>167,869</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Restricted funds 2024 €	Unrestricted funds 2024 €	Total funds 2024 €
Tangible fixed assets	-	116,819	116,819
Current assets	97,029	134,653	231,682
Creditors due within one year	-	(137,690)	(137,690)
Total	<u>97,029</u>	<u>113,782</u>	<u>210,811</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

14. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Restricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 €</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 €</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	113,297	113,297
Current assets	97,029	42,591	139,620
Creditors due within one year	-	(85,048)	(85,048)
Total	97,029	70,840	167,869

15. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 €	2023 €
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	42,942	42,994
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	5,562	3,275
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,476)	12,491
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	52,641	(48,934)
Net cash provided by operating activities	99,669	9,826

16. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 €	2023 €
Cash in hand	212,028	121,442
Total cash and cash equivalents	212,028	121,442

FIGHTING WORDS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

17. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2024 €	Cash flows €	At 31 December 2024 €
Cash at bank and in hand	121,442	90,587	212,029
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	(386)	(450)	(836)
	<u>121,056</u>	<u>90,137</u>	<u>211,193</u>

18. Pension commitments

The company operate a defined contribution pension scheme that covers substantially all the employees of the company. The assets of the scheme are vested in independent trustees for the sole benefit of those employees. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to €28,208 (2023: €25,567).

19. Operating lease commitments

The Company has a 25-year lease in respect of the property it rents which expires on 30 November 2033. Annual rent is €68,750 and is subject to 5 yearly reviews. Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
Not later than 1 year	68,750	38,000
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	275,000	152,000
Later than 5 years	343,750	186,833
	<u>687,500</u>	<u>376,833</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

20. Related party transactions

Jennifer Caldwell, a director of the Company, made a voluntary donation of €1,000 during the year (2023: €1,000).

Roddy Doyle, a director of the Company, made a voluntary donation of €25,000 during the year (2023: €1,500).

Gordon Snell, a director of the Company, made a voluntary donation of €25,000 during the year (2023: €25,000).

Tony Traynor, a director of the Company, made a voluntary donation of €20,000 during the year (2023: €40,000).

Andrea Martin, a former director of the Company, made a voluntary donation of €Nil during the year (2023: €250).

During the year, €46,975 (2023: €57,508) was received on behalf of Fighting Words Northern Ireland and the full amount was transferred to Fighting Words Northern Ireland by the end of the financial year.

During the year, €5,000 (2023: €NIL) was received on behalf of Graffiti Theatre Company and the full amount was transferred to Graffiti by the end of the financial year.

During the year, €5,000 (2023: €NIL) was received on behalf of Waterford Youth Arts and the full amount was transferred to Waterford Youth Arts by the end of the financial year.

21. Approval of the financial statements

The Trustees approved these financial statements for issue on 5 September 2025.