

The Press Council of Ireland CLG
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**Directors' report and
financial statements**

for the year ended 31 December 2016

The Press Council of Ireland CLG
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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The Press Council of Ireland CLG

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Directors and other information

Directors

Brendan Butler
Norah Casey
Seán Donlon (appointed 1 September 2016)
Patricia O'Donovan (appointed 1 September 2016)
Ruth Barrington (appointed 1 September 2016)
Patricia Sisk Taormina
Denis Doherty
Denise Charlton
Ken Davis (appointed 1 September 2016)
Deaglán de Bréadún
Patrick Smyth
Kevan Furbank
Ann Marion Carroll (resigned 1 September 2016)
Michael Brophy (resigned 1 January 2016)
Dáithí O'Ceallaigh (resigned 1 September 2016)
Áine Hyland (resigned 1 September 2016)
Dave O'Connell (resigned 1 September 2016)
John Lynch (appointed 1 December 2016)
Michael Denieffe (appointed 1 January 2016) (resigned 31 October 2016)

Company secretary

Patricia Sisk Taormina

Registered number

448565

Registered office

3 Westland Square
Pearse Street
Dublin 2

Independent auditors

LHM Casey McGrath Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Audit Firm
6 Northbrook Road
Dublin 6

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
College Green
Dublin 2

Solicitors

AMOSS Solicitors
Warrington House
Mount Street Crescent
Dublin 2

Date of incorporation

6 November 2007

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Directors' Report

for the year ended 31 December 2016

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company during the year was to provide a forum for the handling and mediation of complaints for the public in relation to the press media in Ireland on a not for profit basis.

Review of Activities

Both the level of activity and the year end financial position were in accordance with directors' expectations and the directors expect that the present level of activity will be sustained for the foreseeable future.

Results for the year

The surplus for the year, after taxation, amounted to €46,072 (2015 - €NIL).

The surplus for the year includes once-off additional members contributions of €60,000 in respect of 2016.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The directors have responsibility for, and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of The Press Council of Ireland. They are confident that adequate systems of control provide reasonable assurance against such risks. The internal control systems aim to ensure compliance with laws and policies, ensure efficient and effective use of company's resources, safeguard company's assets, and maintain the integrity of financial information produced.

Economic Risks

Financial information is subject to detailed and regular review at director level allowing for continuous monitoring of the company's operations and financial status. The directors continuously monitor and plan for the financial stability of the organisation taking into account the external funding environment.

Market Risks

In addition to the application of internal procedures the company is subject to statutory external audit. The company has developed procedures and practices throughout the organisation to ensure the company has adequate internal controls. The company will continue to improve these systems to ensure it maintains the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

Financial Risks

In addition to the application of internal procedures the company is subject to statutory external audit. The company has developed procedures and practices throughout the organisation to ensure the company has adequate internal controls. The company will continue to improve these systems to ensure it maintains the highest standards of transparency and accountability.

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Directors' Report (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2016

Directors

The directors who served during the year were:

Brendan Butler
Norah Casey
Séan Donlon (appointed 1 September 2016)
Patricia O'Donovan (appointed 1 September 2016)
Ruth Barrington (appointed 1 September 2016)
Patricia Sisk Taormina
Denis Doherty
Denise Charlton
Ken Davis (appointed 1 September 2016)
Deaglán de Bréadún
Patrick Smyth
Kevan Furbank
Ann Marion Carroll (resigned 1 September 2016)
Michael Brophy (resigned 1 January 2016)
Dáithí O'Ceallaigh (resigned 1 September 2016)
Áine Hyland (resigned 1 September 2016)
Dave O'Connell (resigned 1 September 2016)
John Lynch (appointed 1 December 2016)
Michael Denieffe (appointed 1 January 2016) (resigned 31 October 2016)

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of the same being wound up while he/she is a member or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, for payment of the debt and liabilities of the company contracted before he/she ceases to be a member, and of the cost, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of contributions among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding €1.00.

Political contributions

The company made no political donations during the year, as defined by the Electoral Act 1997.

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Directors' Report (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2016

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare the financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland.

Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date, of the surplus or deficit of the company for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

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

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

The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

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

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at Clyde Lodge, 15 Clyde Road, Dublin 4.

Statement on relevant audit information

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

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

Post balance sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year end.

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Directors' Report (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2016

Auditors

The auditors, LHM Casey McGrath Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

This report was approved by the board on 25 May 2017 and signed on its behalf.



Brendan Butler
Director



Patricia Sisk Taormina
Director

The Press Council of Ireland CLG

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Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Press Council of Ireland CLG

We have audited the financial statements of The Press Council of Ireland CLG for the year ended 31 December 2016, which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows, the Statement of Changes in Members Funds and the related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council (Generally Accepted Practice in Ireland).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

As explained more fully in the Directors Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express our opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Directors' Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2016 and of its result for the year ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with relevant financial reporting framework and in particular with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

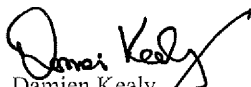
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Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Press Council of Ireland CLG (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligations under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.


Damien Kealy
Statutory Auditor

for and on behalf of
LHM Casey McGrath Limited

Chartered Certified Accountants
Statutory Audit Firm
6 Northbrook Road
Dublin 6

25 May 2017

The Press Council of Ireland CLG
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Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Note	2016 €	2015 €
Income	2	522,135	457,039
Administration Expenses		(476,063)	(457,039)
Operating surplus	3	<u>46,072</u>	-
Surplus for the year		<u>46,072</u>	-
Other comprehensive income for the year			
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>46,072</u>	-

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2016 or 2015 other than those included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Signed on behalf of the board on 25 May 2017.



Brendan Butler
Director



Patricia Sisk Taormina
Director


The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.


The Press Council of Ireland CLG
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Statement of Financial Position
as at 31 December 2016

	Note	2016 €	2015 €
Current assets			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	9	126,517	15,305
Cash at bank and in hand	10	33,637	69,976
		<u>160,154</u>	<u>85,281</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(114,082)	(85,281)
Net current assets		46,072	-
Net assets		46,072	-
Capital and reserves			
Members' funds		46,072	-
Total funds		46,072	-

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board on 25 May 2017.


Brendan Butler
Director


Patricia Sisk Taormina
Director

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

The Press Council of Ireland CLG
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Statement of Changes in Members Funds
for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Members' funds	Total funds
	€	€
At 1 January 2016	-	-
Comprehensive income for the year		
Surplus for the year	46,072	46,072
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>46,072</u>	<u>46,072</u>
At 31 December 2016	<u>46,072</u>	<u>46,072</u>

Statement of Changes in Members Funds
for the year ended 31 December 2015

	Members' funds	Total funds
	€	€
At 1 January 2015	-	-
Comprehensive income for the year		
Surplus for the year	-	-
At 31 December 2015	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

The Press Council of Ireland CLG
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Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 31 December 2016

	2016	2015
	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus for the financial year	46,072	-
Adjustments for:		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(111,212)	59,724
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	28,801	(24,454)
Net cash generated from operating activities	<u>(36,339)</u>	<u>35,270</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(36,339)</u>	<u>35,270</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	69,976	34,706
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year	<u><u>33,637</u></u>	<u><u>69,976</u></u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of year comprise:		
Cash at bank and in hand	33,637	69,976
	<u><u>33,637</u></u>	<u><u>69,976</u></u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements *for the year ended 31 December 2016*

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention and comply with the financial reporting standards of the Financial Reporting Council and Companies Act 2014.

1.2 Income

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the company and the income can be reliably measured. Income is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes. The following criteria must also be met before income is recognised:

Rendering of services

Income from a contract to provide services is recognised in the period in which the services are provided in accordance with the stage of completion of the contract when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the amount of income can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the company will receive the consideration due under the contract;
- the stage of completion of the contract at the end of the reporting period can be measured reliably; and
- the costs incurred and the costs to complete the contract can be measured reliably.

1.3 Members' contributions

Members' contributions are accounted for as income in the year to which they relate.

1.4 Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

1.5 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.6 Financial instruments

The company only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in non-puttable ordinary shares.

Debt instruments (other than those wholly repayable or receivable within one year), including loans and other accounts receivable and payable, are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade debtors and creditors, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received. However, if the arrangements of a short-term instrument constitute a financing transaction, like the payment of a trade debt deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate or in case of an out-right short-term loan not at market rate, the financial asset or liability is measured, initially, at the present value of the future cash flow discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument and subsequently at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. If a financial asset has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract.

For financial assets measured at cost less impairment, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and best estimate of the recoverable amount, which is an approximation of the amount that the company would receive for the asset if it were to be sold at the reporting date.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Statement of Financial Position when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1.7 Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.8 Operating leases: the company as lessee

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

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Notes to the Financial Statements *for the year ended 31 December 2016*

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Retirement benefits

Defined contribution pension plan

The company operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the company has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position. The assets of the plan are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

1.10 Critical judgements and estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that effect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the reporting date and the amounts reported for income and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates.

1.11 Holiday pay accrual

A liability is recognised to the extent of any unused holiday pay entitlement which is accrued at the Statement of Financial Position date and carried forward to future periods. This is measured at the undiscounted salary cost of the future holiday entitlement so accrued at the Statement of Financial Position date.

1.12 Provisions for liabilities

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the company a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefit, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year that the company becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the Statement of Financial Position date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Statement of Financial Position.

2. Income

The whole of the company's income is attributable to members contributions.

All income arose in Ireland.

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Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2016

3. Surplus on operating activities

The operating surplus is stated after charging:

	2016	2015
	€	€
Defined contribution pension cost	6,132	6,099

4. Auditors' remuneration

	2016	2015
	€	€
Fees payable to the company's auditor and its associates for the audit of the company's annual accounts	3,650	4,000

5. Employees

Staff costs, including directors' remuneration, were as follows:

	2016	2015
	€	€
Wages and salaries	279,971	280,842
Social insurance costs	14,881	22,456
Retirement benefit costs	6,132	6,099
	300,984	309,397

Capitalised employee costs during the year amounted to €NIL (2015 - €NIL).

The average monthly number of employees, including the directors, during the year was as follows:

	2016	2015
	No.	No.
Administration	3	3

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Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2016

6. Directors' remuneration

	2016 €	2015 €
Directors' emoluments	60,000	65,000
	<u>60,000</u>	<u>65,000</u>

7. Key management

Key management includes the directors of the company, all members of the company management and the company secretary. The compensation paid or payable to key management for employee services is shown below:

	2016 €	2015 €
Salaries and other short-term employee benefits	60,000	65,000
	<u>60,000</u>	<u>65,000</u>

8. Retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Pension charged in the Statement of Comprehensive Income amounted to €6,132 (2015: €6,099). The assets of the scheme are held in an independently administered pension scheme.

9. Debtors

	2016 €	2015 €
Trade debtors	52,122	2,310
Other debtors	-	2,976
Prepayments and accrued income	74,395	10,019
	<u>126,517</u>	<u>15,305</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2016

10. Cash and cash equivalents

	2016 €	2015 €
Cash at bank and in hand	33,637	69,976
	<u>33,637</u>	<u>69,976</u>

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2016 €	2015 €
Trade creditors	4,490	7,346
Taxation and social insurance	45,667	24,580
Other creditors	1,022	-
Accruals	62,903	9,037
Deferred income	-	44,318
	<u>114,082</u>	<u>85,281</u>

Some trade creditors has reserved title to goods supplied to the company. Since the extent to which such creditors are effectively secured depends on a number of factors and conditions, some of which are not readily determinable, it is not possible to indicate how much of the above amount is secured under reservation of title.

	2016 €	2015 €
Other taxation and social insurance		
PAYE/PRSI	21,135	24,580
VAT	24,532	-
	<u>45,667</u>	<u>24,580</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2016

12. Financial instruments

	2016	2015
	€	€
Financial assets		
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	52,122	5,286
	<u>52,122</u>	<u>5,286</u>
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	67,393	16,383
	<u>67,393</u>	<u>16,383</u>

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other debtors.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade creditors and accruals

13. Company status

The company is limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding €1 towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

14. Related party transactions

There were no transactions with related parties such as are required to be disclosed under Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 33.

15. Controlling party

The company is controlled by the board of directors acting in concert.

16. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 25 May 2017