



# 2015 Annual Report

The outdoors is yours - protect it.





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In 2015, the Leave No Trace Ireland programme grew on every level across the island of Ireland. Leave No Trace Ireland focused on building its organisational capacity as well as reaching into schools across the nation to better support and connect with each of you —partners, trainers, volunteers and communities throughout Ireland. As the organisation continues to grow, we thank you for the support you have extended towards promoting Leave No Trace programmes.

The programme continues to concentrate on three primary facets of Leave No Trace's Ireland's work: 1) Education; 2) Research and 3) Partnerships. The continued support from Leave No Trace partners has meant the organisation was able to reach an increased number of individuals in 2015.

A summary of 2015's key accomplishments include:

- Leave No Trace Ireland developed a new Strategic Plan
- Leave No Trace Ireland secured a new European Project - IMPRINT+
- Leave No Trace Ireland secured new research grants with academic partners at IT Tralee

The positive impact of Leave No Trace Ireland is paramount to the future health of the Irish countryside. It is our challenge to shape our programme to meet the critical needs of varying environments. It is because of your support and commitment to Leave No Trace Ireland's mission that we can begin to reverse the negative impacts on our countryside and prevent further damage.

**Mary Mulvey, Myles Kelly**

*Chairpersons, Leave No Trace Ireland*





**Leave No Trace Ireland** is a not-for-profit company made up of organisations with a shared interest in encouraging responsible enjoyment of Ireland's natural environment. Our mission is to promote and inspire responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnership throughout the island of Ireland.

Leave No Trace Ireland, a company limited by guarantee, was officially established in 2006 and was granted charitable status in 2013. Leave No Trace Ireland's office is located in Westport, Co. Mayo.

The Leave No Trace Education Programme strives to inspire those who enjoy outdoor recreation about their personal responsibility to minimise their impact on the environment. The programme up-skills people to do this, through awareness and by practising some simple techniques. The education programme is built around seven key principles. Leave No Trace Ireland training is delivered at various levels including Awareness Sessions, Trainer Courses and Advanced Trainer Courses.

**Leave No Trace Principles:**

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Be Considerate of Others
3. Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife
4. Travel and Camp on Durable Ground
5. Leave What You Find
6. Dispose of Waste Properly
7. Minimise the Effects of Fire

The Leave No Trace message has been adopted by many organisations including government departments, state agencies, national governing bodies of sport, education and training organisations and a range of tourism businesses. It is this broad adoption and promotion that gives the message its strength, together with the fact that the principles are all positive in nature and based on sound science.





1

new Strategic Plan

94

new trainers added to the register of trainers

5,245

youths completed Leave No Trace schools programme



242

completed awareness courses

€80k

Goodwill



1

new CPD event for Trainers

2

major events attended

152

joined or renewed as Leave No Trace partners

34%

increase in website visits in 2015

4

new educational publications

1

new research bursary

2

Partners meetings

1

new outdoor classroom



2,100

new Facebook followers

1,500

new Twitter followers

500,000

Estimated reach throughout the island of Ireland via partnerships



*"Fáilte Ireland is a strong supporter of Leave No Trace Ireland. It provides the whole tourism industry with much needed advice, education and training in outdoor ethics. The environment is our core asset for tourism and it needs to be managed in a careful way. Leave No Trace Ireland is a positive way in educating everybody who spends time outside."*

**Paddy Mathews**

FÁILTE IRELAND

*"We are delighted to be partners. It's fun, enjoyable and inspires responsibility. We have adopted, endorsed and fully support the Leave No Trace programme in Ireland."*

**John Carney**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



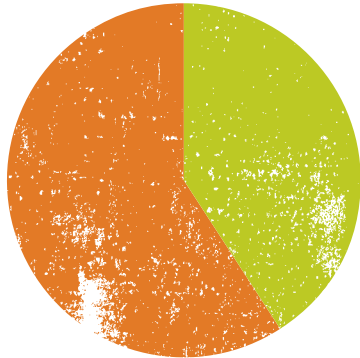




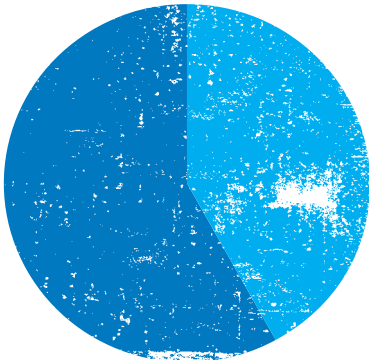
The annual accounts have been audited by O'Malley & Company, Chartered Accountants, Castlebar and have been lodged as required with the Companies Office. The Company is a not for profit organisation and successfully re-obtained Charitable Status in October 2016. The Charity Reference Number is CHY20657.

Leave No Trace Ireland is making steady progress towards our long-term financial goals, to support our mission in permanence which is aligned to our new Strategic Plan. The accompanying summary of financial information is derived from the audited financial statements. The complete audited financial statements are available on request.

**John Boyle**  
Leave No Trace Ireland, Treasurer



**Graph 1: Income**  
**Total Income:** €107,952  
● **Core Partners:** 41%  
● **Training/Grants:** 59%



**Graph 2: Expenditure**  
**Total:** €116,440  
● **Salaries & Fees:** 44%  
● **Programme Services:** 56%





## What has Leave No Trace Ireland achieved?

### Strategic Plan

We are delighted to announce Leave No Trace Ireland has completed its first Strategic Plan. The Board wish to thank all partners and volunteers for their support throughout the development process. The Strategic plan will direct the work of Leave No Trace Ireland for the next five years. The plan recognises the challenges facing all sporting, educational, tourism and charitable organisations at present.



### European project - Imprint +

Leave No Trace has been awarded its first European Project called IMPRINT+. The project raises young people's awareness on their environmental impact while spending time outside. The three year international project entitled "Imprinting an ecological compensation reasoning on society by means of young citizens - IMPRINT+" is financed by the Erasmus+ programme, from the European Union for education, training, youth and sports. Portugal, Spain, Italy, Austria and Ireland are working in partnership to deliver the project over three years. Led by the University of Aveiro (UA) the project aims to examine the ecological footprint, targeting a philosophy of "leaving a positive footprint on the environment" (IMPRINT Plus). The educational aspect of the programme will be led by Leave No Trace Ireland.



### Research Bursary with IT Tralee

Leave No Trace Ireland was awarded the Masters Bursary in partnership with IT Tralee. The title of the current research project is "Enhancing Engagement with Leave No Trace in Ireland".





## 2015 Events Programme

Leave No Trace Ireland launched a new Partner events programme in 2015. The events programme offers partners a programme of free partner training for awareness and Trainer courses along with a list of Leave No Trace related events. The programme in 2015 was oversubscribed and has continued into a new events programme for 2016.

## Leave No Trace Ireland Builds Key Partnerships

Since 2006, Coillte, Fáilte Ireland, Sport Ireland, The National Trails Office, and The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government have been active partners in the Leave No Trace Ireland programme. In recent years, Waterways Ireland, Destination Groups, Local Authorities, media organisations, communities and educational bodies have joined the organisation. Leave No Trace Ireland now enjoys partnerships with over 150 organisations, businesses, non-profits and community groups across the island of Ireland.

## Educational Highlights

### Schools

In 2015, Leave No Trace Ireland was awarded Local Agenda 21 grant aid with seven Local Authorities. The grant enabled Leave No Trace Ireland to roll out training with primary schools to reach over 5,000 students in Ireland. The workshops for primary schools were aimed at 4th class and provided a fun and engaging way to learn about Ireland's natural environment and the Leave No Trace message. The workshops were all linked to An Taisce's Green Schools Programme and the school curriculum. At the end, all students received a "Leave No Trace champion" award.



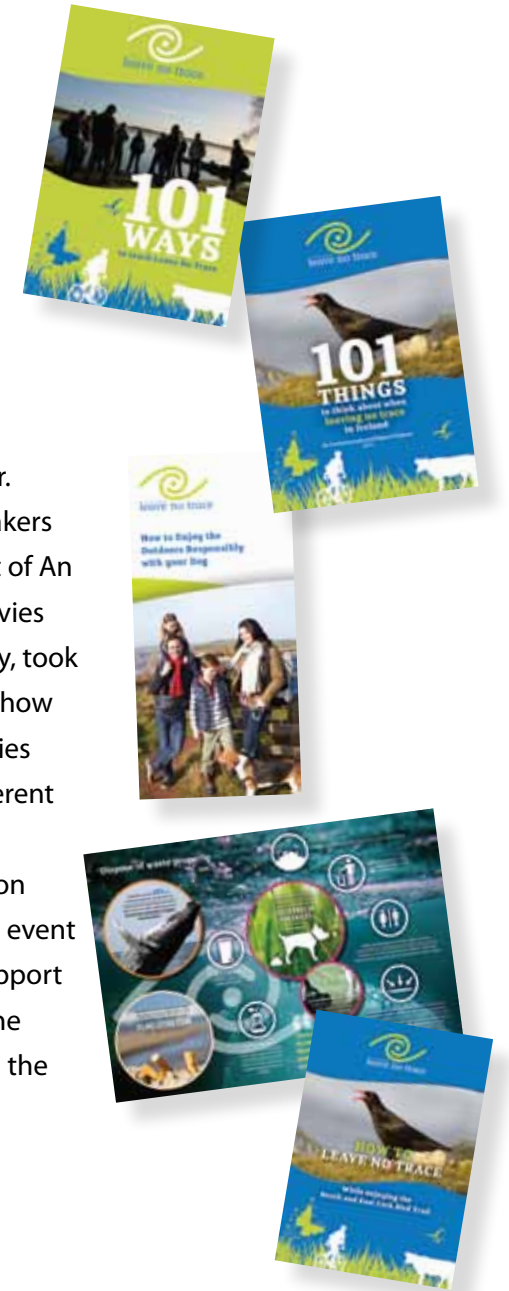
## New Educational Publications

Leave No Trace Ireland launched four new publications in 2015 which are outlined below:

- '101 Ways to Teach Leave No Trace'
- '101 Things to Think About Leave No Trace'
- 'The SECAD Bird Trail'
- 'Enjoying the Outdoors Responsibly With Your Dog'

## 'CPD' for trainers

Leave No Trace Ireland hosted a CPD day for trainers in November. The key theme was litter and behavioural change. The guest speakers included Anthony Purcell from the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce, Dr. Mary Jo Lavelle from Trinity College Dublin and Ian Davies from Pure, Wicklow. In the afternoon Jackie Hunt, of Aniar Ecology, took the group outside and treated trainers to some hands-on tips on how to apply the principals of Leave No Trace through ecological studies in a natural forest setting. The afternoon continued with two different group discussions including a refresher on delivering awareness courses as well as an additional workshop for Advanced Trainers on learnings about tailoring training to different audiences. The CPD event was a successful event and delivered ideas and techniques to support trainers who are delivering Leave No Trace training throughout the country. It was also an opportunity for trainers to reacquaint with the trainers network.







Thank you to our partners who drive Leave No Trace programmes and initiatives across Ireland. Below is a list of Leave No Trace Ireland's partners in 2015.

**CORE Partners 2015**

- Coillte
- Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
- Fáilte Ireland
- Sport Ireland (National Trails Office)
- Waterways Ireland

**Other Partners 2015**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 12 O Clock Hills Project</li><li>• Angling Council of Ireland</li><li>• Basecamp Retail Ltd</li><li>• Black stairs Eco Trails</li><li>• Boyne Valley Activities</li><li>• Castlecomer Discovery Park</li><li>• Catholic Guides of Ireland</li><li>• Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust</li><li>• Cycling Ireland</li><li>• Dublin Mountains Partnership</li><li>• Duke of Edinburgh</li><li>• Earths Edge</li><li>• Eco Endeavours</li><li>• Eco Tourism Ireland</li><li>• Environ Conference</li><li>• Far and Wild</li><li>• Green Sod Ireland</li><li>• Hikersblog.co.uk</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hillwalk tours</li><li>• If Not Why Not Adventure Festival</li><li>• IMMA</li><li>• Inland Fisheries Ireland</li><li>• INVAS</li><li>• Irish Girl Guides</li><li>• Irish Orienteering Association</li><li>• Irish Uplands Forum</li><li>• IT Tralee</li><li>• Laois County Council</li><li>• Mayo County Council</li><li>• Mountain Meitheal</li><li>• Mountain Trails</li><li>• Mourne Heritage Trust</li><li>• Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland</li><li>• Outsider Magazine</li><li>• Park Run Ireland</li><li>• Pathfinders Camper Conservation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pure Magic</li><li>• Rock farm Slane</li><li>• RTÉ</li><li>• Scouting Ireland</li><li>• Sea Synergy</li><li>• Sea Trails Ltd</li><li>• SECAD</li><li>• Slieve Aughty Centre</li><li>• South West Walks</li><li>• Sport Northern Ireland</li><li>• Sustainable Tourism Ireland</li><li>• The Burren Geopark Network</li><li>• The Kerry Ultra Way</li><li>• Tollymore National Outdoor Centre</li><li>• Trekker Operator</li><li>• Wexford County Council</li><li>• Wicklow Uplands Council</li><li>• Wilderness Ireland</li></ul> |
|--|---|---|





- John Boyle, Waterways Ireland
- Annmarie Cross, HSE
- Ciaran Fallon, Coillte
- Lorraine Fitzgerald, Business in the Community Ireland
- Myles Kelly, Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Lawrence McBride, Far and Wild
- Conor McKeon, Scouting Ireland
- Mary Mulvey, Eco Tourism Ireland
- William O'Halloran, SECAD
- Darach O'Murchú, Mountaineering Ireland
- Dr. Richard Thorn, Irish Sports Council





## LEAVE NO TRACE SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

*'Helping you care for nature  
and each other'*

Visit  
[www.leavenotraseschools.org](http://www.leavenotraseschools.org)  
for more details





**Business Address:**

Leave No Trace Ireland,  
c/o Sport Ireland,  
Top Floor, Block A Westend Office Park,  
Blanchardstown,  
Dublin 15

**Westport Office:**

Leave No Trace  
c/o Mayo County Council  
Altamont Street  
Westport, County Mayo  
Tel: **01 9059009**  
Email: [info@leavenotraceireland.org](mailto:info@leavenotraceireland.org)

**Contact:**

Maura Lyons, Programme Manager  
Tel: **087 9005683**



Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin – The President's Award  
Ratra House  
North Road  
Phoenix Park  
Dublin

(A Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital)

Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015



**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin – The President's Award.**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital)**

**Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

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**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin – The President's Award.**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital)**

**Council and Other Information**

<b>Council Members (at 31/12/15)</b>	* J Concannon (Chairman)
	* A Madden
	* C McCamley
	* M O'Rourke
	* D Óg Cusack
	* A Sammin
	* N Smurfit
	* E O'Malley-Dunlop
	S Finnegan
	C Nic Airt
	J McAleese

All directors were initially appointed in 2012 with the exceptions of E O'Malley-Dunlop who was appointed on 19/11/2013, S Finnegan who was appointed on 01/07/2015, C Nic Airt who was appointed on 09/11/2015, and J McAleese who was appointed on 09/11/2015.

Directors marked with \* above were reappointed on 02/03/2015. Directors M Killeen, A Lambert, R McKiernan, B Collinge and M Broderick retired 01/03/2015.

<b>Secretary</b>	Yvonne McKenna (appointed 04/09/2014)
<b>Executive (at 31/12/15)</b>	Yvonne McKenna (Chief Executive since 19/08/2014)
<b>Company Number</b>	251020
<b>Charity Number</b>	CHY8482
<b>Registered Office</b>	Ratra House North Road Phoenix Park Dublin
<b>Auditors</b>	Gerard P. McCarthy & Co. Certified Public Accountants & Statutory Auditors Merton House, 180 Rathgar Road Dublin 6
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2
<b>Solicitors</b>	A&L Goodbody North Wall Quay Dublin 1



**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin – The President's Award.**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital)**  
**Council's Report**  
**For the year ended 31st December 2015**

The Council submits its report and accounts for the year ended **31/12/15** for consideration at the Annual General Meeting.

**1. Activities**

The main objective for which the company was established was to provide for the administration of a personal development programme and associated non-competitive awards programme for young people, particularly those most in need of opportunity.

The charity number is CHY8482.

**2. Results and Dividends**

The results are set out on the following pages. There was a surplus of €164,875 in 2015, of which €130,000 is being set aside for projects still to be completed in 2016. The payment of a dividend is not applicable as the entity is a company limited by guarantee not having a Share Capital.

Gaisce's core grant funding from Government remained at 2014 levels. Sponsorship and fundraising income remained largely static also. Reflecting its commitment to broadening its income base, Gaisce is in the process of recruiting a Business Development and Fundraising Manager. Income from registration fees increased significantly (by ca. €131K or 52%). This is due to the introduction in late 2014 of improved and more efficient credit management systems, the impact of which was felt in 2015 and disproportionately affected fees income in the year.

The surplus achieved by Gaisce in 2015 represents a reversal of fortunes, being the first year in three that the organisation has not incurred a deficit. The scale of the surplus is due to two significant factors: delayed recruitment of three key members of staff to the organisation in 2015 and the introduction of improved systems. The combined effect represents a peak in Gaisce's income that is unlikely to occur again, and allows the organisation to begin replenishing an operational reserve depleted in recent years.

**3. Council's Responsibilities**

Company Law requires the Council to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. The Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company to enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act **2014**. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps to prevent fraud and other irregularities.

**4. Council's Declaration**

The Council approves these financial statements and confirms that it is responsible for them. It selects the appropriate accounting policies, applies them and the judgement underlying them, on consistent and prudent bases. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Council confirms that it has made available, to Gerard P. McCarthy & Co. the company's accounting records. It has provided all the information necessary for the compilation of the financial



statements. The Council confirms that to the best of its knowledge and belief, the accounting records reflect all the transactions of the company for the above year.

#### **5. Main Activities for the Year (2015)**

In 2015, Gaisce – The President's Award celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To coincide with Gaisce's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Gaisce published new research on the impact of participation in the Gaisce programme for young people.

The research, carried out by Dr Niamh Clarke McMahon and Dr Gary O'Reilly of the UCD School of Psychology, highlighted the positive impact participation in Gaisce has on young people with respect to a variety of competencies and psychological attributes. The research was launched on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 by Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, James Reilly.

2015 was a record year for Gaisce – The President's Award. Over 22,941 young people registered to take part in Gaisce in 2015, an increase of 2% on 2014 levels.

Those who applied to take part in Gaisce chose the following Award levels: Bronze 92%, Silver 7% and Gold 1%. This mirrors 2014 patterns of participation.

19,895 young people accessed the Gaisce programme through their school (in the case of 2,296, the school was designated DEIS) and 3,046 accessed the programme through a variety of organisations across Ireland that work with and support young people.

14,068 young people completed the Gaisce programme in 2015, an increase of 1,168 on 2014 levels. This represents a completion rate of 61%, increased from 58% in 2014.

Gaisce continued its close working relationship with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Northern Ireland. Since 2000, the organisations have worked together formally under a Joint Award Initiative Agreement. This Agreement represents a unique approach to working across boundaries and enables any young person who meets the conditions of the Award, at any of its three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold, to have a choice of certification: a Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a Gaisce - The President's Award, or the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award certificate. The Joint Award is administered by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Northern Ireland.

The Joint Award Initiative is administered by a Joint Award Committee comprising the Director and three nominees from the Duke of Edinburgh Northern Ireland, the CEO of Gaisce, and three Council members (John Concannon, Dónal Óg Cusack and Caroline McCamley). 224 young people from Northern Ireland were awarded a Gaisce Award in 2015 (108 at Bronze level, 112 at Silver and 4 Gold). Gaisce was delighted to secure a special grant of €25,000 from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs to support the Joint Award Initiative.

In 2015 Gaisce held four Award ceremonies to recognise and celebrate the achievements and contributions of Gaisce Awardees. Over 300 Silver Awardees were recognised at Leinster and Munster Silver Award ceremonies. Over 100 young people received their Gaisce Gold Award from the Patron of Gaisce, President Michael D Higgins, at two Gold Award ceremonies in Dublin.

Gaisce trained 478 people to be President's Award Leaders in 2015. Of those trained, 56% were working in second-level education and 44% work or volunteer in youth work and related settings.

Gaisce continues to maintain and develop partnership relationships with a variety of educational and community and voluntary organisations that includes the following:

Catholic Guides of Ireland, Coder Dojo, Community Training Centres, Cope Foundation, Cork Life Centre, Crosscare, Dyspraxia Association, Enable Ireland, Educational Training Boards, Exchange House, Family Resource Centres, Foróige, GAA, Garda Youth Diversion Projects, Home Again, Irish



Defence Forces, Irish Girl Guides, Irish National Sailing School, Irish Prison Service, Irish Red Cross, Irish Water Safety, Irish Youth Sailing Club, Irish Youth Music Awards, job centres, KARE, Lakeview, Le Chéile, Local Development Companies, Macra na Feirme, Matt Talbot Community Trust, Merchants Quay Ireland, National Learning Network, Oak Lodge, Order of Malta, parish groups, Pathways Project, RACE, Rathmore Social Action Group, Rehab, Schools Completion Programme, second-level education, Scouting Ireland, Special Olympics, special schools, St. Aidan's Services, St. Andrew's Resource Centre, St. Cronan's Association, St. John of God's, St. Joseph's Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul, Sunbeam House, The Bridge Project, third-level education, WALK, Women's Community Projects, youth cafés, youth clubs, youth groups, youth projects, youth services, Youth Work Ireland and Youthreach.

Gaisce – The President's Award would not be possible without the commitment of over 700 Gaisce Operating Bodies that deliver the Gaisce programme and, within which, the 1,500 dedicated President's Award Leaders (PALs) that guide and support young people to take part in the Gaisce programme work or volunteer. The Gaisce Council would like to record its appreciation of the indispensable contributions of both Gaisce Operating Bodies and PALs. Gaisce is committed to actively growing the number of Operating Bodies and PALs in the coming years as we work towards increasing access to and awareness of Gaisce – The President's Award.

#### **6. Principal Risks & Uncertainties**

The company faces increasing administrative costs, increasing regulation compliance costs, and reducing sponsorship income. The level of Government grant has remained even. Whilst the surplus achieved in 2015 represents an anomaly, the directors are confident that Gaisce has introduced appropriate improvements to ensure the organisation is on a firmer financial footing.

#### **7. Future Developments**

Uachtarán na hÉireann is the patron of Gaisce. Gaisce's future is dependent on the agreement of An tUachtarán to continue with the Gradam an Uachtaráin scheme. In addition, the Government provides a grant, through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, towards the cost of operating Gaisce's activities. That financial support has been a major source of funding for Gaisce since it was founded.

Council looks to the future with the encouragement and support that it receives from An tUachtarán, Government, PALs, organisations that operate the Award schemes and sponsors.

Gaisce has completed the first year and continues to deliver on its strategic plan for the period 2015-2018. It continues the process of updating its award schemes, services and organisation to the highest international standards. It plans, in particular, to continue increasing participation amongst those most in need of opportunity and inspiration. The strategic plan identifies four key priorities for the organisation:

1. Provide an innovative and challenging Gaisce programme.
2. Make Gaisce accessible to all young people and programme delivery effective and sustainable.
3. Raise awareness and recognition of Gaisce and its contribution throughout Irish society.
4. Ensure Gaisce's sustainability to deliver its schemes.

#### **8. Council Members**

The present Council's membership is listed on the "Council and other information" page.

Gaisce has progressed compliance for the Governance Code for Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations and expects to become fully compliant in 2016.

#### **9. Government Grants**



Gaisce is in receipt of grants from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

The independently calculated and imputed value of voluntary effort on the part of PALs and Council members is in the region of €9million.

#### **10. Auditors**

The auditors Gerard P. McCarthy & Co. have expressed their willingness to continue in office.

#### **11. Books of Account**

The directors have taken measures in relation to keeping proper books of accounts. It has implemented policies & procedures for, recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The books of account of the Company are maintained at the Registered Office. The Council has put in place a Governance and Finance Committee.

#### **12. Employees**

Representing the organisation's commitment to growing awareness of and improving access to the Gaisce programme, and to growing Gaisce's capacity to deliver, two new key appointments were made in the latter part of 2015: Communications Manager and Volunteer and Awardee Programme Development Officer. This brought to 10 the number of employees in the organisation. A third key appointment, that of Business Development and Fundraising Manager, will be finalised early in 2016.

In line with its commitment to quality, Gaisce continues to implement internal organisational improvements towards increased output and impact. This commitment is reflected in Gaisce's increased investment in training and development for staff, and training and support of PALs and volunteers.

Council acknowledges the diligence of the CEO in carrying out her duties, and thanks all team members for the contribution they make to the organisation and the commitment and dedication that they show.

#### **13. Subsequent Events**

There have been no significant events since the year end.

Director: John Concannon

Director: Aonghus Sammin

**REGISTERED OFFICE**  
**Ratra House, North Road,**  
**Phoenix Park, Dublin.**



**INDEPENDENT REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
**GAISCE - GRADAM an UACHTARÁIN - THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE, NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)**

We have audited the financial statements which have been prepared under the accounting policies.

This report is made solely to the members as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters that we are required to state to them in the audit 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 members as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors**

The company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities promulgated by the Auditing Practices Board in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the company; and whether the information in the Council's Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition we state we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the company's balance sheet and its Income & Expenditure are in agreement with the books of account and returns.

We report to the Members if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and director's transactions is not given and, where practicable, include any such information in our report.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises only the Council's Report. We consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information



### Basis of Opinion

We have conducted our audit in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

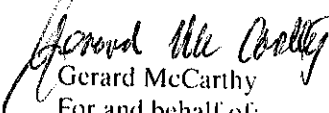
We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from the material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we have also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

### Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at **31st December 2015** and of its **surplus / (deficit)** for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act **2014**, as applicable to companies limited by guarantee, not having a share capital.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion proper books have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion the information given in the Council's report is consistent with the financial statements.

  
Gerard McCarthy

For and behalf of:

Gerard P. McCarthy & Co.

Certified Public Accountants & Statutory Auditors

Merton House

180 Rathgar Road

Dublin 6

Date:

27/1/2016



**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

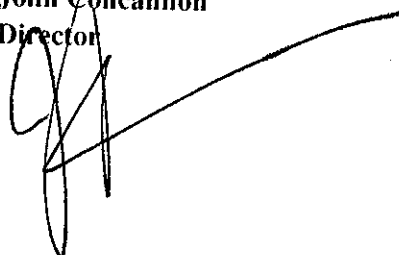
**Income and expenditure account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

		<b>Continuing operations</b>	
		<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	
		<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
		1,112,970	1,120,053
Administrative expenses		(948,166)	(1,127,045)
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>164,804</b>	<b>(6,992)</b>
Other interest receivable and similar income		1	
		71	2,555
<b>Surplus / (deficit) on ordinary activities before taxation</b>		<b>164,875</b>	<b>(4,437)</b>
Tax on ordinary activities		-	-
<b>Surplus / (deficit) on ordinary activities after taxation</b>		<b>164,875</b>	<b>(4,437)</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>164,875</b>	<b>(4,437)</b>
Movement of 2014 HRI/Special Project Fund Deferred Income to Special Reserve		53,336	
Retained Surplus / (deficit) brought forward		86,911	91,348
<b>Retained Surplus / (deficit) carried forward</b>		<b>305,123</b>	<b>86,911</b>

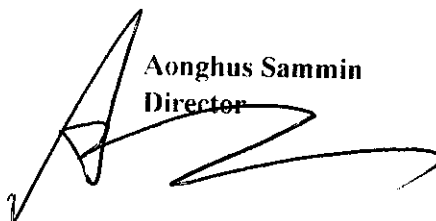
There are no recognised gains or losses other than the profit or loss for the above two financial years.

The financial statements were approved by the board on 20.06.16 and signed on its behalf by

**John Concannon**  
**Director**



**Aonghus Sammin**  
**Director**





**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 December 2015**

	Notes	2015		2014	
		€	€	€	€
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	6		10,559		8,107
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks		42,405		49,720	
Debtors	7	64,289		15,283	
Cash at bank and in hand	8	389,352		278,493	
		496,046		343,496	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	9	(201,482)		(169,004)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			294,564		174,492
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			305,123		182,599
<b>Accruals and deferred income</b>	11		-		(95,688)
<b>Net assets</b>			305,123		86,911
<b>Capital and reserves</b>					
Other reserves	12		267,000		-
Reserves	12		38,123		86,911
<b>Members' funds</b>	13		305,123		86,911

The financial statements were approved by the board on 20.06.16 and signed on its behalf by

**John Concannon**  
**Director**

**Aonghus Sammin**  
**Director**

**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin – The President's Award**  
**Ratra House**  
**North Road**  
**Phoenix Park**  
**Dublin**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital)**

**Cash Flow Statement for the period ended 31/12/2015**

	<b>2015</b>
	<b>€</b>
Net cash Inflow / (Outflow) from Operating Activities	68611
Returns on Investments & Servicing of finance	71
Taxation	0
Capital Expenditure & Financial Investments	(11159)
Acquisitions & Disposals	0
Equity Dividend Paid	0
Management & Liquid Resources	0
Movement of 2014 HRI/Special Project Fund Deferred Income to Special Reserve	53336
Net Cash Before Financing	<u>110859</u>
Financing	0
Increase / (Decrease) in cash & cash Equivalents	<u>110859</u>



**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin – The President's Award**  
**Ratra House**  
**North Road**  
**Phoenix Park**  
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**(A Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital)**

**Notes to the Cash Flow Statement**  
**for the period ended 31/12/2015**

	<b><u>2015</u></b>
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	164805
Depreciation	8708
(Increase) / Decrease in Debtors	(49006)
(Increase) / Decrease in Stock	7315
Increase / (Decrease) in Creditors	<u>(63211)</u>
<b>Net Cash Inflow / (Outflow) from Operating Activities</b>	<b><u>68611</u></b>

**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

**1. Statement of 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**

The audited financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and comply with the Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Entities issued by the Auditing Practices Board, as promulgated by the Institute of certified Public Accountants in Ireland.

**1.2. Constitution**

Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award was incorporated on 26th June 1996, under the Companies Acts 2014 as a company limited by guarantee and not having share capital. In accordance with the company's Articles of Association, the Council of the company also comprises the members of the company. The liability of the members is limited. Every member of Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, and costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributions among themselves, such amount as may be required, but not exceeding €2. The number of members during the year was 11.

**1.3. Going Concern Basis**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. Council relies on the assumption that the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, at the Department of Children and Youth Affairs will continue to provide funding which, together with voluntary effort and private sponsorship, will enable Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award to continue its operations for the foreseeable future.

**1.4. Leased assets**

Rentals in respect of operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account as incurred.

**1.5. Taxation**

As the company is established for charitable purposes only, the Revenue Commissioners have granted it exemption from corporation tax.

**1.6. Other income including donation income**

Participants' fees and all other income is recognised on a receipts basis. Council took the decision in late 2014 that it would be more appropriate to receive Sponsorship income on an accruals basis and this has been introduced for the 2015 accounts.



**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

**1.7. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost less residual value, of each asset systematically over its expected useful life, as follows:

Software Development	-	20% Straight Line
Office equipment	-	20% Straight Line
Website Development	-	33% Straight Line

The company has not adopted a policy of revaluing tangible fixed assets.

**1.8. Stock**

Stocks are stated at cost. Cost comprises the cost of purchase with the addition of charges such as freight or duty where appropriate.

**1.9. Pensions**

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the company during the year.

The pension obligations of the company are met by payments to one pension plan. The annual contributions are dealt with in the accounting year to which they relate.

**1.10. Government grants**

Government grants relating to the annual activities of the company are recognised in the income and expenditure account when received from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

**2. Operating surplus / (deficit)**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Operating surplus / (deficit) is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	8,708	42,205
Auditors' remuneration	5,076	4,939
	<u>13,784</u>	<u>47,144</u>
and after crediting:		
Government grants (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)	654,987	707,836
	<u>654,987</u>	<u>707,836</u>
<b>and after crediting: Other Income</b>		
Income: Sponsorship, Fundraising and Donations	35,413	75,930
Income: Participants Fees	383,520	252,298
Income: Other	300	-
Deferred Income	-	83,989
Sponsorship Income in Advance	38,750	-
	<u>457,983</u>	<u>412,217</u>

Due to Council's decision to introduce the practice of receiving Sponsorship income on an accruals rather than receipts basis in 2015, Sponsorship income for 2015 includes amounts received under 'Income: Sponsorship, Fundraising and Donations' and 'Sponsorship Income in Advance'. Therefore, total Sponsorship income for 2015 is €74,163.

**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaraí - The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

**3. Employees**

**Number of employees**

The average monthly numbers of employees during the year were:

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Employees	11	9

**Employment costs**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Wages and salaries	447,319	496,353
Other staff costs	-	166,393
Social welfare costs	45,090	49,345
Other pension costs	38,466	49,348
	<u>530,875</u>	<u>761,439</u>

**4. Directors of the Company**

The present membership of the board is listed on the 'Directors and other information' page.

**5. Pension costs**

The company operated a defined contribution pension scheme during the year for employees who started prior to 1 July 2012. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions and fees payable by the company to the fund and amounted to €38,466 (2014 €49,348). Revenue approval has been obtained for the New Ireland scheme. IFG group acts as Trustees of the scheme.



**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

6.	Tangible fixed assets	Software	Office	Website	Total
		Development	equipment	Development	
		€	€	€	€
	<b>Cost</b>				
	At 1 January 2015	12,300	94,151	49,327	155,778
	Additions	-	11,159	-	11,159
	At 31 December 2015	12,300	105,310	49,327	166,937
	<b>Depreciation</b>				
	At 1 January 2015	12,300	86,044	49,327	147,671
	Charge for the year	-	8,708	-	8,708
	At 31 December 2015	12,300	94,752	49,327	156,379
	<b>Net book values</b>				
	At 31 December 2015	-	10,559	-	10,559
	At 31 December 2014	-	8,107	-	8,107
7.	<b>Debtors</b>			<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
				€	€
	Trade debtors			5,064	12,500
	Prepayments and accrued income			59,225	2,783
				<u>64,289</u>	<u>15,283</u>
8.	<b>Cash at bank and in hand</b>			<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
				€	€
	Current accounts			172,488	121,721
	Cash on deposit			216,864	156,772
				<u>389,352</u>	<u>278,493</u>

**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

<b>9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
<i>Loans &amp; other borrowings</i>		
Bank overdraft	193	-
<i>Other creditors</i>		
Trade creditors	39,117	-
Other creditors	49,317	-
Accruals	8,127	79,982
<i>Payroll creditors</i>		
PAYE/PRSI (see note 10 below)	104,728	89,022
	<u>201,482</u>	<u>169,004</u>

**10. Pay Related Deduction**

Included in the PAYE/PRSI figure of €104,728 is the amount of €91,177 that relates to pay related deduction. This has been deducted under the FEMPI Acts since the 1st of July 2012 and is held pending the outcome of a staff appeal.

<b>11. Deferred income</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
At 1 January 2015	95,688	137,325
Increase in year	45,586	42,352
	<u>141,274</u>	<u>179,677</u>
Released in year :		
Deferred income		(83,989)
Sponsorship: Income in advance	(38,750)	
Movement of 2014 HRI/Special Project Fund	(53,336)	
'Sponsorship: Income in advance' moved to current liabilities	(49,188)	
	<u>-</u>	<u>95,688</u>
At 31 December 2015		



**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

12. Equity Reserves	Profit and loss account €	Special reserve €	Total €
<b>At 1 January 2015</b>	86,911		86,911
Transfer of realised profit	(213,663)	213,663	-
Movement of 2014 HRI/Special Project Fund		53,336	53,336
Deferred Income to Special Reserve			
Retained profit/(loss) for the year	164,875		164,875
<b>At 31 December 2015</b>	<u>38,123</u>	<u>267,000</u>	<u>305,123</u>

13. Reconciliation of movements in members' funds	2015 €	2014 €
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	164,875	(4,437)
Movement of 2014 HRI/Special Project Fund	53,336	-
Deferred Income to Special Reserve	-	-
	<u>218,212</u>	<u>(4,437)</u>
Opening members' funds	86,911	91,348
Closing members' funds	305,123	86,911

**14. Gross cash flows**

	2015 €	2014 €
<b>Returns on investments and servicing of finance</b>		
Interest received	71	2,555
<b>Capital expenditure</b>		
Payments to acquire tangible assets	(11,159)	(9,358)

	Opening balance €	Cash flows €	Closing balance €
Cash at bank and in hand	278,493	110,859	389,352
Overdrafts	-	(193)	(193)
	<u>278,493</u>	<u>110,666</u>	<u>389,159</u>

**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

**16. Company Limited by Guarantee**

The company is one limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The liability of each member, in the event of the company being wound up is €2.

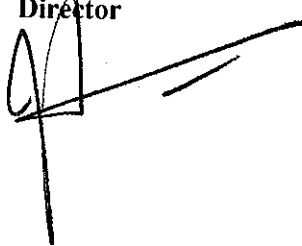
**17. Accounting Periods**

The current accounts are for a full year. The comparative accounts are for a full year.

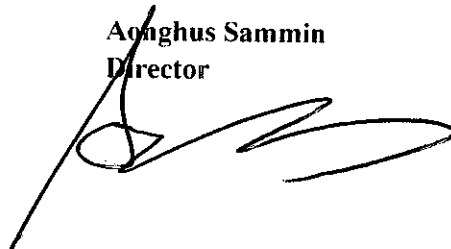
**18. Approval of financial statements**

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 20.06.16 and signed on its behalf by

**John Concannon**  
**Director**



**Aonghus Sammin**  
**Director**



**Gaisce- Gradam an Uachtaráin- The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

**Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015**

**Schedule 1- Income**

	Note	2015 €	2014 €
Grant- Dept. Of Children & Youth Affairs		629,987	630,520
Sponsorship, Fundraising and Donations		35,413	75,930
Participant Fees		383,520	252,298
Bank Interest		71	2,555
Deferred Income Released	11	-	83,989
Sponsorship Income in Advance	11	38,750	-
Other Grants		25,300	77,316
		<u>1,113,041</u>	<u>1,122,608</u>



Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin – The President's Award  
Ratra House  
North Road  
Phoenix Park  
Dublin

(A Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital)

Supplementary Information Not For

- a. Statutory Recipients
  - Company Registration Office

Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin – The President's Award  
Ratra House  
North Road  
Phoenix Park  
Dublin

(A Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital)

Supplementary Information (Not Covered By Report of the Auditors)

**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin – The President's Award**  
**Ratra House**  
**North Road**  
**Phoenix Park**  
**Dublin**

**(A Company Limited by Guarantee not having a Share Capital)**

**Report on Detailed Income and Expenditure Account**  
**For The Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

The following detailed income and expenditure account has been prepared from the books and records of the company to provide additional information and is above the requirements of the Companies Acts **2014**.

Signed on Behalf of the Board:

Director: John Concannon

Director: Aonghus Sammin



**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

**Detailed Income and Expenditure account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

	2015		2014	
	€	€	€	€
<b>Income</b>				
Income: Sponsors		35,413		51,250
Income: Participants Fees		383,520		252,298
Income: Other		300		-
Fundraising		-		24,680
Deferred Income: HRI		-		83,597
Deferred Income: Mobile Apps		-		392
Sponsorship Income in Advance		38,750		-
		<u>457,983</u>		<u>412,217</u>
<b>Direct Costs</b>				
Opening stock	49,720		97,094	
Certificates	368		641	
Medals	65,060		11,544	
	<u>115,148</u>		<u>109,279</u>	
Closing stock	(42,405)		(49,720)	
		<u>(72,743)</u>		<u>(59,559)</u>
	84%	385,240	86%	352,658
<b>Administrative expenses</b>				
Wages and salaries	447,319		496,353	
Redundancy costs	-		166,393	
Employer's PRSI/NI contributions	45,090		49,345	
Pension: Employer's element	38,466		49,348	
Staff Training & Development	12,022		594	
PAL/Volunteer training, support and expenses	15,353		6,772	
Staff Recruitment costs	540		5,816	
Insurance	27,302		25,772	
Printing, postage and stationery	-		19,606	
Postage/Courier	14,401		-	
Office Supplies/Catering	9,060		-	
PR, Advertising & Marketing	27,441		43,116	
Sponsorship costs	5,000		-	
Fundraising Events	-		10,633	
Telephone, Internet & Communications	10,143		5,138	
Telephone Mobile	-		7,588	
Computer costs	-		22,465	
CRM/Online System	55,362		-	
IT Support	4,551		-	
Computer Hard/Software	1,873		-	
Website (development and hosting)	9,893		-	
Staff Travel & Subsistence	44,947		52,638	

**Gaisce - Gradam an Uachtaráin - The President's Award**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having a Share Capital)**

**Detailed Income and Expenditure account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

	2015		2014	
	€	€	€	€
Council Expenses	4,465		10,678	
Research & Development	517		-	
Legal/Professional fees	16,510		-	
Consultancy fees	-		6,565	
Financial services (bookkeeping)	4,602		-	
Audit	5,076		4,939	
Bank / Payment process charges	1,149		774	
Canteen	-		299	
Catering - HO	-		198	
Ratna Related / Rent & Rates	11,042		10,751	
General expenses	97		2	
General expenses - Small - NI	-		306	
Gold Award Ceremony	-		23,141	
Silver Award Ceremony	-		1,638	
International Awards Association	2,675		-	
Joint Award/NI	25,076		-	
Award Ceremonies	20,661		-	
Subscriptions & Membership Fees	6,082		4,413	
Depreciation	8,708		-	
Depreciation on Software Development	-		7,380	
Depreciation on FF & Equipment	-		6,870	
Depreciation on Website Development	-		27,955	
		875,423		1,067,486
<b>Other operating income</b>				
Govt. grants (Dept. of Children & Youth Affairs)	629,987		630,520	
Other grants	25,000		77,316	
		654,987		707,836
<b>Operating surplus / (deficit)</b>	36%	164,804	2%	(6,992)
<b>Other income and expenses</b>				
<b>Interest receivable</b>				
Bank deposit interest	71		2,555	
		71		2,555
<b>Net surplus / (deficit) for the year</b>		164,875		(4,437)