

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023  
FOR  
LUTON IRISH FORUM**

Wags LLP t/a Wagstaffs  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
Richmond House  
Walkern Road  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG1 3QP

**LUTON IRISH FORUM**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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## LUTON IRISH FORUM

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

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#### TRUSTEES

T C Scanlon - Chair  
M Winter - Vice Chair  
M Curtis - Secretary  
L Kitching - Treasurer  
P Sylvester - Assistant Treasurer  
M J Maguire (resigned 25/5/22)  
G S Grant (resigned 3/5/23)  
N C Kellett (resigned 20/5/22)  
D Drennan  
S Rooney (appointed 25/6/22)  
E Rushby (resigned 20/9/22)  
D E Crean (appointed 25/6/22)  
T Chiweshe (resigned 2/5/23)

#### REGISTERED OFFICE

Kathleen Connolly House  
102 Hitchin Road  
Luton  
Bedfordshire  
LU2 0ES

#### REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER

05651900 (England and Wales)

#### REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

1113069

#### AUDITORS

Wags LLP t/a Wagstaffs  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
Richmond House  
Walkern Road  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG1 3QP

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Principal objectives**

The objects of the Charity, as stated in its memorandum of association, are to:-

- To relieve persons in need, poverty or distress, particularly, but not exclusively of Irish descent, through the provision of advice and information concerning health and benefits as well as other support;
- To advance the education of the public, particularly in Irish music, drama, arts, the Irish language and through the holding of an annual St Patrick's Day Festival;
- Other charitable purposes, particularly the provision of facilities for the benefit of the public, particularly but not exclusively for persons of Irish descent in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for those persons in need of such facilities.

**Strategies / Activities to further objects**

LIF is based at Kathleen Connolly House on Hitchin Road, Luton and is used also as a community centre which hosts a wide variety of community-based projects.

LIF's welfare team provides information, advice and advocacy relating to benefits, housing and health to all communities living locally. We are a vital agency within the local advice-giving sector and the only culturally specific organisation in the area working with AQS (Advice Quality Standard).

People of all ages, backgrounds and cultures enjoy our assorted social groups and activities, in a welcoming and safe environment. LIF's befriending service enables people who are unable or who don't go out much to have company and social interaction helping to reduce the effects of loneliness. Traditions such as Irish music, dancing and language are kept alive through our social groups and wider cultural activities. These activities appeal to people of all heritages, not just the generations of Irish living both locally and across the Irish Sea including our St Brigid's Day celebration and Luton St Patrick's Festival.

Our digital skills project provides practical support to people looking to get back into work. Jobseekers are supported to improve their online skills whilst receiving practical advice and support on the many aspects of finding, securing and maintaining paid employment.

We offer volunteering opportunities in different roles across almost all our services which enables people with a diversity of skills, knowledge and experience to be part of our volunteer team. Volunteers use their existing abilities, develop new skills, and build their confidence and self-worth while providing valuable help and support to local people from all communities. We are very proud to have been awarded the Queens Voluntary Award in 2020.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Aims**

From this, it is understood that the prime aims of the organisation are to improve welfare and promote culture of the Irish community in Luton, mainly but not specifically. Charitable activities include in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health, the promotion of social inclusion and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness. Kathleen Connolly House is the home of LIF, where all activities are co-ordinated, and many take place.

**Objectives and key activities 2022 - 2032**

**1. Improve welfare/quality of life for local vulnerable people**

- LIF will demonstrate a positive impact on the people accessing our welfare service.
- LIF will demonstrate a positive impact on the people accessing our cultural/social activities.
- Increase the capacity of the welfare service.

**2. Promote and retain Irish culture**

- Develop St Patrick's Festival
- Develop partnerships with Irish and other businesses and organisations to engage/engaging with 2nd and 3rd generation
- Engage with young 2nd and 3rd generation Irish

**3. Organisational Sustainability**

- Close the income gap
- Increase LIF's profile as a major local charity
- Develop a highly engaged staff and volunteer community
- Enhance the quality of LIF services
- Seek out efficiency and effectiveness in all areas
- Introduce enhanced governance
- Develop broader volunteer capacity and capability
- Increase the leadership capacity of the trustee group and SMT

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Public benefit**

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard for the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

The trustees believe that LIF's activities provide a public benefit as the charity promotes health and wellbeing, improves quality of life and increases social inclusion. Although originally set up to safeguard the needs of the Irish residents in Luton, LIF is now a truly representative community organisation whose services, activities and events are available to all.

LIF has made the following improvements in peoples' lives across its projects.

**Welfare Service**

- Secure, safe and sustainable accommodation
- Reduced/managed personal debt
- Income maximisation
- Ability to meet basic needs
- Increased access to knowledge of rights
- Increased knowledge of rights/ self-efficacy
- Confirmed legal status
- Reduced dependency on GP and other support services
- Increased access to employment/ employment support
- Increased access to community care/social services.

**St Patrick's Festival**

- Celebrating, maintaining and strengthening the links between Ireland and the Global Irish
- Fostering a more vibrant sense of community and Irish identity
- Improving awareness and understanding of the emigrant and diaspora experience by supporting the development of new ways to communicate and connect with the increasingly diverse global Irish, including non-traditional diasporas

**Social Activities**

- Attendees and volunteers report increased physical and mental wellbeing.
- Attendees and volunteers form friendships.
- Volunteers learn new skills.
- Volunteers increase in confidence.
- Befriended and befrienders report that they feel less isolated and enjoy increased physical and mental well-being.
- Intergenerational Activities and Events
- Preserved connectivity and a sense of community in the adverse times of the pandemic.
- Preserved connections with Irishness and Ireland in the adverse times of the pandemic.
- Promoted essential good health and well-being through online participation and engagement.

**Other**

- Representing the needs of the Irish community in Luton, identifying and action policy gaps locally and nationally, learning from and sharing best practices.
- Increasing awareness of organisations' services, activities and events.
- Increased access to member discounts from local businesses.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The charity trustees have complied with their duty in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission. In making decisions on behalf of the charity, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, in particular those relevant to their principal objectives and activities. These have been set out in the above report.

**Public benefit**

**Welfare Service**

- Secure, safe and sustainable accommodation
- Reduced/managed personal debt
- Income maximisation
- Ability to meet basic needs
- Increased access to knowledge of rights
- Increased knowledge of rights/ self-efficacy
- Confirmed legal status
- Reduced dependency on GP and other support services
- Increased access to employment/ employment support
- Increased access to community care/social services.

**St Patrick's Festival**

- Celebrating, maintaining and strengthening the links between Ireland and the Global Irish
- Fostering a more vibrant sense of community and of Irish identity
  - Improving awareness and understanding of the emigrant and diaspora experience and by supporting the development of new ways to communicate and connect with the increasingly diverse global Irish, including non-traditional diasporas

**Social Activities**

- Attendees and volunteers report increased physical and mental wellbeing
- Attendees and volunteers form friendships
- Volunteers learn new skills
- Volunteers increase in confidence.
- Befriended and befrienders report that they feel less isolated and enjoy increased physical and mental wellbeing.

**Intergenerational Activities and Events**

- Preserved connectivity and sense of community in the adverse times of the pandemic.
- Preserved connections with Irishness and Ireland in the adverse times of the pandemic.
- Early intervention to address the potential loss of culture for younger generations due to Covid restrictions.
- Promoted essential good health and wellbeing through online participation and engagement.

**Other**

- Representing the needs of the Irish community in Luton, identify and action policy gap locally and nationally, learning from and sharing best practice.
- Increasing awareness of organisations services, activities and events.
- Increased access to member discounts from local businesses.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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**ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable activities**

The main achievements for the year:

**Contribution of Volunteers**

Our volunteers support LIF weekly in all our key operations such as reception, administration, finance, event management, gardening and caretaking. They enable us to offer social and cultural activities, enabling hundreds of people every week to interact with others in a safe and welcoming environment, thereby avoiding social isolation and offering an opportunity to gain information on further services to maintain or improve their health and well-being. They are essential in planning, promoting and running the annual Luton St Patrick's Festival. They also promote Irish culture to second and third generations. Irish people, helping young people gain a sense of identity and worth. Our volunteers' group was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2020.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

The main achievements for the year:

- 13,819 contacts were made including calls, social media enquiries and visits to our reception
- 9,428 people follow us across our social media platforms.
- 6,280 volunteering hours were contributed at a total value of £72,000
- 9,157 attendances to our social groups and events by 559 different people
- 1,470 positive welfare outcomes were recorded, including £1,010,028 in financial gains
- 702 befriending/well-being calls were made
- 782 individuals seeking welfare advice
- 344 people subscribed to the LIF membership
- 342 people were helped to secure their Irish passport
- 158 shopping trips were made
- 71 candidates enrolled in the Luton Digital Skills Project

**Fundraising activities**

LIF has and exceeded its ambitious business strategy and growth plan to increase income to £417k by 2032 and expand its staff structure to 12 staff, and 1 self-employed staff over this period.

To support this growth LIF will establish a Friends Group to oversee the fundraising activities including other members as needed, for example, to access the networks and contacts of Board members and promote LIF and its work to potential individual and corporate donors.

To further the mission of the charity LIF has established a set of fundraising goals:

- To establish a culture of fundraising that involves board, staff, and volunteers;
- To increase annual fundraising revenue to £417,000 by 2032;
- To diversify the donor base, to find larger donors and obtain multi-year grants donors resulting in £400,000 in revenue;
- Engage with corporate donors to raise an additional £10,000 per annum post Covid;
- Retain all current funders.

The fundraising strategy is set out in the business plan.



**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Financial position**

The financial position of LIF is shown throughout the financial statements and information within Objectives and Activities (above) detail the making of such financial position.

**Reserves policy**

It is the policy of LIF to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the organisation, at a level to cover management, administration and support costs and to respond to emergency applications for grants which arise from time to time. The Trustees have transferred to a designated fund reserves to cover approximately six months expenditure together with other provisions for contingencies. The Trustees will meet to review this provision on a monthly basis.

**Fixed assets**

Changes in fixed assets during the year are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

LIF's plan is to grow and expand in relation to the new opportunities and changes that are taking place socially, economically and politically which LIF is facing.

LIF faces major challenges in its project financing, and is developing a range of projects and income sources to:

- a) spread the sources of income and increase the income levels, and through this minimises any risk to LIF;
- b) utilise market opportunities, and build on strengths to develop projects which will generate income;
- c) meet the aims and objectives of LIF.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

Luton Irish Forum (LIF) is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee, which is governed by a memorandum and articles of association.

**Responsibilities of the trustees**

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the charity for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the policies adopted are in accordance with the Charities SORP, and that applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures, disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue its activities.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the relevant law. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

Suitable nominees, according to the regulations covered by the memorandum and articles, are introduced to the work of the organisation. S/he meets with a staff member, and/or Board Member and Secretary prior to submission for consideration by the Board. The organisation aims, as far as possible, to include a wide range of skills and representation from the local community which it serves.

New Board Members are encouraged to take part in events and networking meetings in order to ensure an understanding of the issues relating to the organisations work. All receive Charity Commission guidelines on their legal role and copies of LIF's policies over time. A joint strategy day is held annually to which staff and trustees are invited. LIF allows the attendance of non-voting co-opted members and observers on the Board to relevant partner organisations.

**Organisational structure**

The Chief Executive Officer of LIF reports to the board of trustees on a regular basis. This role is supported by various staff members and a large team of volunteers.

A detailed organisational map is available, on request, from the registered office address as detailed in the reference and administrative details on page 1.

**Decision making**

The trustees of the company who served during the year are listed with the legal and administrative details. Policy and Strategy are decided by the Board following consultation with staff, volunteers, student placements, users and members. Decisions regarding daily delivery of services in line with Board decisions are delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and senior staff. Trustees expect staff to keep them informed of potential opportunities and challenges which may lead to new developments.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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**WIDER RELATIONS**

Partnerships:

Our welfare service is one of the key agencies in the local advice sector. We have a partnership called Luton Access through which we work alongside Citizens Advice Luton, Luton Law Centre and Luton Rights with Luton Borough Council to ensure the continued development of the local advice-giving sector. We are the only culturally specific agency in the local area working to the Advice Quality Standard quality mark and one of only two Irish organisations to hold the quality mark outside of London.

LIF is a key player in the following strategic partnerships:

- Luton Access - together with Citizens Advice Luton, Luton Law Centre and Luton Rights with Luton Borough Council we ensure the continued development of the local advice-giving sector.
- Luton's Fairness Taskforce - a Luton Borough Council-led network developing ways to make the changes we need to achieve fairness and social justice together across all sectors of the Town.
- Luton 2040 Poverty Focus Group - striving for Luton to be a healthy, fair and sustainable Town.

We also have membership of:

- National Council for Voluntary Organisations (Trusted Charity Mark)
- The Advice Services Alliance (Advice Quality Service)
- Advice UK
- Child Poverty Action Group

During this period, we worked with the following local agencies.

Bangladeshi Youth League	Gerry Taylor Butcher and Grocer	Luton Women's Network
Bedford HMP	GP's	Noah Enterprise
Bedfordshire Police	Housing Associations	The Safer Luton Partnership
BT Events	Icap	Safe Home Ireland
NHS Trust	Irish County Associations	Shri Guru Ravidass Sangat
Cardinal Newman	Irish Dancing Schools	St Joseph's School
Comhaltas	Irish Network Stevenage	University of Hertfordshire
Crosscare	Job Centre Plus	UK Centre for Carnival Arts
Curating Luton	Littlehey HMP	University of Bedfordshire
Event Production Live	Luton Borough Council teams	
Food First Campaign	Luton Culture	
Gaelic Athletic Association clubs	Luton Foodbank	
	Luton Mall	

**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 Charity and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks. These procedures are periodically reviewed.

**STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

**LUTON IRISH FORUM**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 13 JUNE 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
T C Scanlon - Trustee

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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The trustees (who are also the directors of Luton Irish Forum for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF LUTON IRISH FORUM

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### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Luton Irish Forum (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2023 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 United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) 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 the UK, including the FRC'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.

### **Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether 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 Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; 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 Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, 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.

**Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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 (UK) 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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and the sector in which they operate. We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.
- We obtained an understanding of how the charity is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making inquiries to the management. We corroborated our inquiries through our review of board minutes and papers provided by those charged with governance.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team include:
  - identifying and assessing the design effectiveness of controls management has in place to prevent and detect fraud;
  - understanding how those charged with governance considered and addressed the potential for override of controls or other inappropriate influence over the financial reporting process;
  - challenging assumptions and judgments made by management in its significant accounting estimates;
  - identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations; and
  - assessing the extent of compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.
- We have reviewed the financial statements and considered whether they are consistent with our understanding of the entity or indicate a previously unrecognised risk of material misstatement that could be due to fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.



**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
LUTON IRISH FORUM**

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**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. 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 the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



for and on behalf of Wags LLP t/a Wagstaffs  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006  
Richmond House  
Walkern Road  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire  
SG1 3QP

Date: .....23rd June 2023.....

LUTON IRISH FORUM

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	7,318	-	7,318	6,284
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Grants received	6	56,401	269,542	325,943	355,533
Other trading activities	4	80,797	-	80,797	50,639
Investment income	5	2,569	-	2,569	1,039
Other income	7	16,768	-	16,768	38,694
<b>Total</b>		<b>163,853</b>	<b>269,542</b>	<b>433,395</b>	<b>452,189</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Direct charitable expenditure	8	205,490	278,255	483,745	413,811
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(41,637)</b>	<b>(8,713)</b>	<b>(50,350)</b>	<b>38,378</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		268,937	337,067	606,004	567,626
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>227,300</b>	<b>328,354</b>	<b>555,654</b>	<b>606,004</b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**31ST MARCH 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	<b>2023 Total funds £</b>	2022 Total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	15	<b>3,456</b>	<b>328,354</b>	<b>331,810</b>	341,676
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	16	<b>8,007</b>	-	<b>8,007</b>	3,431
Cash at bank		<b>268,362</b>	-	<b>268,362</b>	306,072
		<b>276,369</b>	-	<b>276,369</b>	309,503
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	<b>(52,525)</b>	-	<b>(52,525)</b>	(45,175)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>223,844</b>	-	<b>223,844</b>	264,328
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>227,300</b>	<b>328,354</b>	<b>555,654</b>	606,004
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>227,300</b>	<b>328,354</b>	<b>555,654</b>	606,004
<b>FUNDS</b>	18				
Unrestricted funds				<b>227,300</b>	268,937
Restricted funds				<b>328,354</b>	337,067
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<b>555,654</b>	606,004

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The members have not deposited notice, pursuant to Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requiring an audit of these financial statements.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.


The notes form part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - continued  
31ST MARCH 2023

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 13th June 2023..... and were signed on its behalf by:



.....  
T C Scanlon - Trustee



.....  
L Kitching - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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**1. STATUTORY INFORMATION**

Luton Irish Forum is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, as well as being a registered charity within the same jurisdiction. The charity's registrations number and registered office address can be found within the reference and administration details.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Revenue**

Revenue is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the items of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Revenue from government and other grants, whether capital or revenue grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Revenue received from charitable activities is recognised as of when earned.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Long leasehold	- 50 years straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 33% on cost and 25% on reducing balance

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**3. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	£
Donations	<b>7,318</b>	6,284
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	£
Sales of goods	<b>15,483</b>	7,583
Room hire	<b>19,180</b>	17,263
Festival income	<b>25,170</b>	11,562
Sundry receipts	<b>12,246</b>	8,229
Membership subscriptions	<b>1,804</b>	1,688
Raffle	<b>6,914</b>	4,314
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<b>80,797</b>	50,639
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**5. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	£
Bank interest received	<b>2,569</b>	1,039
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**6. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	Grants received	Total activities
	£	£
Grants	<b>325,943</b>	<b>355,533</b>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme	<b>162,285</b>	131,500
Luton Borough Council	<b>20,000</b>	19,000
London Luton Airport	<b>26,111</b>	27,237
Heritage Lottery Trust	-	8,400
Bedford and Luton Community Foundation	<b>19,750</b>	15,700
Irish Youth Foundation	<b>6,000</b>	6,000
The Wixamtree Trust	<b>5,000</b>	10,000
Ireland Fund of Great Britain	<b>8,000</b>	-
Reaching Communities	-	79,255
The Harpur Trust	<b>10,200</b>	4,800
JP McManus	<b>3,000</b>	3,000
Access to Justice Foundation	<b>12,196</b>	2,181
European Social Fund	<b>53,401</b>	44,433
The Department of Work and Pensions	-	4,027
	<b>325,943</b>	<b>355,533</b>

**7. OTHER INCOME**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	£	£
Other income	<b>16,768</b>	<b>38,694</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**8. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	Direct Costs (see note 9) £	Support costs (see note 10) £	Totals £
Direct charitable expenditure	<b>480,115</b>	<b>3,630</b>	<b>483,745</b>

**9. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2023</b> £	2022 £
Staff costs	<b>300,338</b>	268,446
Office costs	<b>45,506</b>	41,490
Project costs	<b>79,410</b>	59,394
Training costs	<b>830</b>	-
Transport costs	<b>5,683</b>	1,787
Premises costs	<b>48,348</b>	39,394
	<b>480,115</b>	410,511

**10. SUPPORT COSTS**

	Governance costs £
Direct charitable expenditure	<b>3,630</b>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	<b>2023</b> Direct charitable expenditure £	2022 Total activities £
Auditors' remuneration	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,100</b>
Accountancy and legal fees	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,200</b>
	<b>3,630</b>	<b>3,300</b>



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**11. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	£
Auditors' remuneration	<b>2,100</b>	2,100
Depreciation - owned assets	<b>9,866</b>	9,663
	<u><u>          </u></u>	<u><u>          </u></u>

**12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2023 nor for the year ended 31st March 2022.

**Trustees' expenses**

Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2023 were £97.20 (2022: £nil). Such expenditure was incurred in respect of support costs of the charity.

**13. STAFF COSTS**

<b>Staff costs</b>	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	£
Wages and salaries	<b>300,338</b>	268,446
	<u><u>          </u></u>	<u><u>          </u></u>

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

	<b>2023</b>	2022
Total employees	<b>11</b>	10
	<u><u>          </u></u>	<u><u>          </u></u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**14. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	6,284	-	6,284
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Grants received	60,641	294,892	355,533
Other trading activities	50,639	-	50,639
Investment income	1,039	-	1,039
Other income	38,694	-	38,694
<b>Total</b>	<u>157,297</u>	<u>294,892</u>	<u>452,189</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Direct charitable expenditure	<u>80,168</u>	<u>333,643</u>	<u>413,811</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	77,129	(38,751)	38,378
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	191,808	375,818	567,626
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>268,937</u></u>	<u><u>337,067</u></u>	<u><u>606,004</u></u>

**LUTON IRISH FORUM**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Long leasehold £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023	<b>419,500</b>	<b>60,234</b>	<b>479,734</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1st April 2022	<b>82,433</b>	<b>55,625</b>	<b>138,058</b>
Charge for year	<b>8,713</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>9,866</b>
At 31st March 2023	<b>91,146</b>	<b>56,778</b>	<b>147,924</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31st March 2023	<b>328,354</b>	<b>3,456</b>	<b>331,810</b>
At 31st March 2022	<b>337,067</b>	<b>4,609</b>	<b>341,676</b>

Luton Irish Forum has a leasehold interest in the building. The Kathleen & Michael Connolly Foundation previously advanced £120,000 for the purpose of funding the development of the property as a forum. In the event that the building is not used for this purpose these monies are refundable.

**16. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	<b>8,007</b>	<b>3,431</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2023</b>	2022
	<b>£</b>	£
Social security and other taxes	<b>5,254</b>	6,991
Other creditors	<b>1,035</b>	1,208
Deferred income	<b>42,886</b>	33,626
Accrued expenses	<b>3,350</b>	3,350
	<u><b>52,525</b></u>	<u>45,175</u>

The deferred income liability has arisen in order to recognise grant income in the appropriate financial period.

**18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1/4/22	Net movement in funds	At
	£	£	31/3/23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	<b>198,937</b>	<b>(41,637)</b>	<b>157,300</b>
Designated fund	<b>70,000</b>	-	<b>70,000</b>
	<u><b>268,937</b></u>	<u><b>(41,637)</b></u>	<u><b>227,300</b></u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Building	<b>337,067</b>	<b>(8,713)</b>	<b>328,354</b>
	<u><b>606,004</b></u>	<u><b>(50,350)</b></u>	<u><b>555,654</b></u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	<b>163,853</b>	<b>(205,490)</b>	<b>(41,637)</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Building	-	<b>(8,713)</b>	<b>(8,713)</b>
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme	<b>162,285</b>	<b>(162,285)</b>	-
London Luton Airport	<b>26,111</b>	<b>(26,111)</b>	-
Luton Borough Council	<b>20,000</b>	<b>(20,000)</b>	-
Bedford and Luton Community Foundation	<b>19,750</b>	<b>(19,750)</b>	-
Irish Youth Foundation	<b>6,000</b>	<b>(6,000)</b>	-
The Wixamtree Trust	<b>5,000</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	-
Ireland Fund of Great Britain	<b>8,000</b>	<b>(8,000)</b>	-
The Harpur Trust	<b>10,200</b>	<b>(10,200)</b>	-
Access to Justice Foundation	<b>12,196</b>	<b>(12,196)</b>	-
	<b>269,542</b>	<b>(278,255)</b>	<b>(8,713)</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>433,395</b>	<b>(483,745)</b>	<b>(50,350)</b>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued****Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1/4/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/22 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	121,808	77,129	198,937
Designated fund	70,000	-	70,000
	<u>191,808</u>	<u>77,129</u>	<u>268,937</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Building	345,193	(8,126)	337,067
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme	30,625	(30,625)	-
	<u>375,818</u>	<u>(38,751)</u>	<u>337,067</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>567,626</u>	<u>38,378</u>	<u>606,004</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	157,297	(80,168)	77,129
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Building	30,625	(38,751)	(8,126)
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme	103,875	(134,500)	(30,625)
London Luton Airport	27,237	(27,237)	-
Luton Borough Council	19,000	(19,000)	-
Heritage Lottery Trust	8,400	(8,400)	-
Bedford and Luton Community Foundation	15,700	(15,700)	-
Irish Youth Foundation	6,000	(6,000)	-
Reaching Communities	79,255	(79,255)	-
The Harpur Trust	4,800	(4,800)	-
	<u>294,892</u>	<u>(333,643)</u>	<u>(38,751)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>452,189</u>	<u>(413,811)</u>	<u>38,378</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

**18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Unrestricted funds have previously been designated for the payment of the employment costs of the chief executive officer of the charity. This is released on an annual basis, by way of funds transfer, to cover the employment costs in that year of the chief executive officer.

<b>Project / post</b>	<b>Funder</b>	<b>Cost centre</b>
Chief Executive Officer	<b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme</b>	Salary, NIC and Project Costs
Welfare Service	<b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme</b>	Salary, NIC and Project Costs
	<b>Luton Airport Ltd</b>	Salary, NIC and Project Costs
	<b>Access to Justice Community Fund</b>	Salary, NIC and Project Costs
	<b>Bedford and Luton Community Foundation - Recovery and Collaboration Fund</b>	Salary, NIC and Project Costs
	<b>Wixamtree Trust</b>	Salary, NIC and Project Costs
	<b>Ireland Fund of Great Britain</b>	Project costs
Social Activities	<b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme</b>	Salary, NIC and Project Costs
Festival	<b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme</b>	Project Costs
	<b>Luton Airport Limited</b>	Project Costs
	<b>Luton Bid</b>	Project Costs
	<b>Various sponsors</b>	Project Costs
Intergenerational	<b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme</b>	Salary, NIC and Project Costs
	<b>Irish Youth Foundation</b>	Project costs
Luton Digital Skills Project	<b>European Social Fund</b>	Salary, NIC and Project costs
Traveller Support	<b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Emigrant Support Programme</b>	Salary, NIC and Project Costs
	<b>The Harpur Trust</b>	Project Costs
	<b>Luton Borough Council</b>	Project Costs
	<b>Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants</b>	Project Costs

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023**

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**19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st March 2023 (2022: None).