

The Big House (Ireland)

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100047

Details

Known as The Big House

Status Received

Registered 2015-01-19

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

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Activities

Purposes: The objects of the Company shall be for: (a) the advancement of the Christian Faith by Evangelism Discipleship and other means; (b) the advancement of education of young people and adults such as may improve the health and wellbeing of young people; (c) the relief of distress or mental illness and the enhancement of the wellbeing of young people by the provision of pastoral support and counselling; (d) the promotion of social inclusion of young people in groups and organisations, particularly but not exclusively those with a Christian ethos, through the provision of training, advice, support, and other resources; (e) the helping of young people, especially but not exclusively through leisure time activities, so as to develop their capabilities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society; (f) the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life of, particularly but not exclusively, young people living on the island of Ireland (the "area of benefit"); (g) the promotion of such other exclusively charitable purposes according to the law of Northern Ireland as may from time to time be determined by the Directors.

What the charity does: The prevention or relief of poverty, The advancement of education, The advancement of religion, Other charitable purposes

How the charity works: Advice/advocacy/information, Counselling/support, Education/training, Religious activities, Research/evaluation, Volunteer development, Youth development

Who the charity helps: Adult training,Children (5-13 year olds),Learning disabilities,Mental health,Parents,Physical disabilities,Volunteers,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£177,250	£163,255	£0	5

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Miss Judith Hill		
Mr Ashley Parks		
Mr David Dunlop		
Mr David Ferguson		
Mr Noel Lavery		
Mr Stephen Cave		
Mrs Kathryn Harte		
Mrs Kirsty Pugh		

The Big House (Ireland)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100047

Accounts

The Big House (Ireland)

**Statement of Financial Activities (Including Summary Income and Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 January 2025**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Total	Year Total
		2025	2025	2025	2024
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Charitable activities		46,578	42,639	89,217	81,965
Other income		-	-	-	-
Interest received		146	-	146	177
Donation income	3	64,091	23,796	87,887	92,867
Total income		<u>110,815</u>	<u>66,435</u>	<u>177,250</u>	<u>175,009</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	(126,555)	(36,700)	(163,255)	(190,608)
Total expenditure		<u>(126,555)</u>	<u>(36,700)</u>	<u>(163,255)</u>	<u>(190,608)</u>
Net income before transfers		<u>(15,740)</u>	<u>29,735</u>	<u>13,995</u>	<u>(15,599)</u>
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net incoming resources		<u>(15,740)</u>	<u>29,735</u>	<u>13,995</u>	<u>(15,599)</u>
Fund balances brought forward		37,785	340,244	378,029	393,628
Fund balances carried forward		<u>22,045</u>	<u>369,979</u>	<u>392,024</u>	<u>378,029</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

**Balance sheet
as at 31 January 2025**

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		544,177		547,966
Current assets					
Debtors	7	2,769		980	
Cash at bank and in hand		58,367		53,177	
		<u>61,136</u>		<u>54,157</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(955)</u>		<u>(955)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>60,181</u>		<u>53,202</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			604,358		601,168
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	9		<u>(212,334)</u>		<u>(223,139)</u>
Net assets			<u>392,024</u>		<u>378,029</u>
Capital and reserves					
Unrestricted funds			22,045		37,785
Restricted funds			369,979		340,244
General funds			<u>392,024</u>		<u>378,029</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

Balance sheet (continued)

for the year ended 31 January 2025

For the year ending 31 January 2025 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- (a) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- (b) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 7 July 2025 and signed on its behalf by

Director

Registration number NI067915

The notes on pages 10 to 15 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2025**

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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 published in October 2019".)

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Fixtures and fittings - 25% reducing balance

1.3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the directors for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2025**

..... continued

1.4. Resources

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donations are included as income when they are received. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

2. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
House-Fundraising	-	7,093	7,093	680
Other	46,578	-	46,578	47,675
The Listening Space	-	26,046	26,046	2,110
Women's World Day of Prayer	-	9,500	9,500	-
Halifax Trust	-	-	-	5,000
General - Trust Funding	-	-	-	26,500
	<u>46,578</u>	<u>42,639</u>	<u>89,217</u>	<u>81,965</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2025**

..... continued

3. Donation income	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
General - Gift Aid	10,900	-	10,900	13,065
General -Donations	7,644	5,000	12,644	44,843
House- Donations	-	18,796	18,796	19,625
Mountsandel Christian Fellowship	4,000	-	4,000	2,000
Joy of Generosity	26,672	-	26,672	13,334
Women's World Day of Prayer	5,000	-	5,000	-
Kilbride Presbyterian Church	1,000	-	1,000	-
First Ballymena Presbyterian	2,000	-	2,000	-
Hollywood Baptist Church	3,375	-	3,375	-
TBF & KL Thompson Trust	3,500	-	3,500	-
	<u>64,091</u>	<u>23,796</u>	<u>87,887</u>	<u>92,867</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2025**

..... continued

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
4. Total resources expended		
Costs directly allocated to charitable activities		
Staff costs	93,295	113,608
Programme costs	27,569	8,288
Insurance	2,829	3,400
Office and administration costs	16,293	10,395
Telephone	168	557
Travelling and training costs	1,758	4,607
Legal and professional fee	40	28,158
Independant examiner fee	1,116	780
Bank fees	78	84
Loan interest	14,679	13,940
Sundry expenses	1,641	1,738
Depreciation	3,789	5,053
	163,255	190,608
 Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	126,555	
Restricted funds	36,700	
	163,255	
 For the year ended 31 January 2024		
Unrestricted funds		164,400
Restricted funds		26,208
		190,608

5. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the year. The Company is a registered charity .

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2025**

..... continued

6. Tangible fixed assets	Freehold property £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 February 2024	532,808	31,041	563,849
At 31 January 2025	532,808	31,041	563,849
Depreciation			
At 1 February 2024	-	15,883	15,883
Charge for the year	-	3,789	3,789
At 31 January 2025	-	19,672	19,672
Net book values			
At 31 January 2025	532,808	11,369	544,177
At 31 January 2024	532,808	15,158	547,966
7. Debtors		2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors		1,789	-
Debtors and prepayments		980	980
		<u>2,769</u>	<u>980</u>
8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2025 £	2024 £
Accruals		955	955
		<u>955</u>	<u>955</u>
9. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		2025 £	2024 £
Mortgage		191,334	202,139
Interest free loans		21,000	21,000
		<u>212,334</u>	<u>223,139</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2025**

..... continued

10. Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	reserve fund	reserve fund	
	£	£	£
Fund Balances at 31 January 2025			-
represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	11,369	532,808	544,177
Current assets	11,631	49,505	61,136
Liabilities	(955)	(212,334)	(213,289)
Total net assets	<u>22,045</u>	<u>369,979</u>	<u>392,024</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100047

Accounts

The Big House (Ireland)

**Statement of Financial Activities (Including Summary Income and Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 January 2024**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Total	Year Total
		2024	2024	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Income from:	Notes				
Charitable activities		71,285	10,680	81,965	111,341
Other income		-	-	-	-
Interest received		177	-	177	124
Donation income	3	73,242	19,625	92,867	52,840
Total income		<u>144,704</u>	<u>30,305</u>	<u>175,009</u>	<u>164,305</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	(164,400)	(26,208)	(190,608)	(141,883)
Total expenditure		<u>(164,400)</u>	<u>(26,208)</u>	<u>(190,608)</u>	<u>(141,883)</u>
Net income before transfers		<u>(19,696)</u>	<u>4,097</u>	<u>(15,599)</u>	<u>22,422</u>
Transfer between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net incoming resources		<u>(19,696)</u>	<u>4,097</u>	<u>(15,599)</u>	<u>22,422</u>
Fund balances brought forward		57,481	336,147	393,628	371,206
Fund balances carried forward		<u>37,785</u>	<u>340,244</u>	<u>378,029</u>	<u>393,628</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

**Balance sheet
as at 31 January 2024**

		2024		2023	
Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		547,966		520,832
Current assets					
Debtors	7	980		805	
Cash at bank and in hand		53,177		106,947	
		54,157		107,752	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(955)		(955)	
Net current assets			53,202		106,797
Total assets less current liabilities			601,168		627,629
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	9		(223,139)		(234,001)
Net assets			378,029		393,628
Capital and reserves					
Unrestricted funds			37,785		57,481
Restricted funds			340,244		336,147
General funds			378,029		393,628

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

Balance sheet (continued)

for the year ended 31 January 2024

For the year ending 31 January 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- (a) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- (b) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 27 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Director

Registration number NI067915

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2024

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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 published in October 2019".)

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Fixtures and fittings - 25% reducing balance

1.3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the directors for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2024**

..... continued

1.4. Resources

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donations are included as income when they are received. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

2. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
House-Fundraising	-	680	680	1,622
House -Allchurches Trust Grants	-	-	-	20,000
Other	42,675	5,000	47,675	40,698
Strategic Development	-	-	-	7,579
The Listening Space	2,110	-	2,110	11,442
Halifax Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-
General - Trust Funding	26,500	-	26,500	30,000
	<u>71,285</u>	<u>10,680</u>	<u>81,965</u>	<u>111,341</u>

3. Donation income	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
General - Gift Aid	13,065	-	13,065	13,187
General -Group Donations	5,190	-	5,190	4,156
General -Individual Donations	5,706	-	5,706	5,665
House- Donations	-	19,625	19,625	24,232
Mountsandel Christian Fellowship	2,000	-	2,000	-
Joy of Generosity	47,281	-	47,281	5,600
	<u>73,242</u>	<u>19,625</u>	<u>92,867</u>	<u>52,840</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2024**

..... continued

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
4. Total resources expended				
Costs directly allocated to charitable activities				
Staff costs	113,607	-	113,607	91,690
Programme costs	6,248	2,040	8,288	2,715
Insurance	3,400	-	3,400	2,849
Office and administration costs	9,506	-	9,506	9,346
Advertising and promotional costs	890	-	890	1,109
Telephone	557	-	557	708
Travelling and training costs	4,607	-	4,607	5,474
Legal and professional fee	3,990	24,168	28,158	14,456
Independent examiner fee	780	-	780	955
Bank fees	84	-	84	79
Loan interest	13,940	-	13,940	9,579
Sundry expenses	1,738	-	1,738	-
Depreciation	5,053	-	5,053	2,923
	164,400	26,208	190,608	141,883

5. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the year. The Company is a registered charity .

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2024

..... continued

6. Tangible fixed assets	Freehold property £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 February 2023	512,063	19,599	531,662
Additions	20,745	11,442	32,187
At 31 January 2024	<u>532,808</u>	<u>31,041</u>	<u>563,849</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 February 2023	-	10,830	10,830
Charge for the year	-	5,053	5,053
At 31 January 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>15,883</u>	<u>15,883</u>
Net book values			
At 31 January 2024	<u>532,808</u>	<u>15,158</u>	<u>547,966</u>
At 31 January 2023	<u>512,063</u>	<u>8,769</u>	<u>520,832</u>
7. Debtors		2024	2023
		£	£
Debtors and prepayments		<u>980</u>	<u>805</u>
8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2024	2023
		£	£
Accruals		<u>955</u>	<u>955</u>
9. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		2024	2023
		£	£
Mortgage		202,139	213,001
Interest free loans		21,000	21,000
		<u>223,139</u>	<u>234,001</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2024

..... continued

10. Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted reserve fund £	Restricted reserve fund £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 January 2024			-
represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	35,903	512,063	547,966
Current assets	4,122	50,035	54,157
Liabilities	(2,240)	(221,854)	(224,094)
Total net assets	<u>37,785</u>	<u>340,244</u>	<u>378,029</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100047

Annual report

Registration number NI067915

**The Big House (Ireland)
Company limited by guarantee
Directors report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2024**

The Big House (Ireland)

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The Big House (Ireland)
Directors Report
for the year ended 31 January 2024

The Directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2024. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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 published in October 2019.

Structure, governance and management

The Big House (Ireland) is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland on 30th January 2008 and a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19th January 2015. Its governing documents are its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Directors of the Company are also the Charity Trustees and consist of the persons who are from time-to-time members of the Company. A Director must be someone who has confirmed their acceptance of the objects and ethos of the Company and their personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and belief in the Doctrines set out in article 3 of the Memorandum of Association.

The operation of the charity under the governance of the Board of Directors is the responsibility of the CEO (part-time, 15 hours per week). There is 1 full-time member of staff, Programme Worker (35 hours per week); 3 part-time members of staff responsible to the CEO: a House Chaplain (30 hours per week), House Manager (22.5 hours per week), Counsellor (15 hours per week), and two sessional workers. A sessional Counsellor (20 hours per week), and Grants Manager (8 hours per week).

The House Manager carries out administrative tasks associated with the running of the charity, Counselling service and co-ordinates programme and house bookings. The House Manager also ensures that the premises are fit for purpose. The House Chaplain has oversight of the prayer life and spiritual aspects of the charity and its' programme; supporting staff, volunteers, ministry leaders and young people. The House Chaplain also develops and delivers pastoral training to other organisations, leaders and volunteers and has oversight of the charity's Child Protection. The Programme Worker primarily visits youth groups & events; schools across Ireland and develops non-residential youth programmes at The Big House. The Counsellor provides counselling to young people through our Listening Space service and provides therapeutic input into training materials. The sessional Counsellor provides weekly counselling sessions for young people. The Grant Manager is responsible for the regular submission of grant applications to fund the charity's work.

The Big House benefits from additional volunteer help. This help has reduced post-Covid, but there is a current team of 18 volunteers who support and deliver programmes or maintenance in the House and grounds.

Directors

The directors who served during the year were as follows

Stephen Cave
David Dunlop (Chair)
David Ferguson
Kathryn Harte
Prof Dame Judith Hill
Noel Lavery
Ashley Parks
Dr David Rock (from October 2024)

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2024

Objectives and activities

The objects for which the company is established are:

The purposes of The Big House Ireland are:

- a) the advancement of the Christian Faith by Evangelism Discipleship and other means;
- b) the advancement of education of young people and adults such as may improve the health and wellbeing of young people;
- c) the relief of distress or mental illness and the enhancement of the wellbeing of young people by the provision of pastoral support and counselling;
- d) the promotion of social inclusion of young people in groups and organisations particularly, but not exclusively, those with a Christian ethos, through the provision of training, advice, support, and other resources;
- e) the helping of young people, especially but not exclusively through leisure time activities, so as to develop their capabilities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society;
- f) the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life of, particularly but not exclusively, young people living on the island of Ireland (the "area of benefit");
- g) the promotion of such other exclusively charitable purposes according to the law of Northern Ireland as may from time to time be determined by the Directors.

The current strategy of The Big House to deliver these purposes is through their value-led programmes, value-led place and value-led people. We want each young person who attends our programme, or place, to know that they are **MADE | KNOWN | LOVED | OF VALUE | WORTHY OF RESPECT** - no matter who they are or what they are facing in life. We find these values to have significant positive impact on a young person's adolescent journey and development of resilience and wellbeing in life.

There are five main areas of charitable focus:

Youth Sessions

At present we are unable to run residential programmes, so we run most of our value-led programmes during non-residential events at the House, when youth groups visit The Big House. We also take our programmes to local youth groups venues, schools and youth conferences/ events.

Training

The training delivered by The Big House is based on professional expertise, personal experience, and Biblical reflection. We aim to equip leaders, youth workers and parents to respond in caring, practical, and helpful ways when they encounter young people who are dealing with difficult issues or circumstances, also to understand the limitations of their role and know where to find further help. We seek to equip them with an understanding of the issues, provided directly and indirectly by experts in the field, with an insight into the young people's experience through personal stories, an understanding of how our Christian faith can shape our response, practical suggestions from those with experience of helping young people with the issue, and sources of further help and support. We deliver this training through our own events (in person and online) and at the invitation of churches, conferences, and other organisations to participate in their leader training programmes.

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2024

Youth Counselling and Listening Support

Through our engagement with young people, and much current research, we continue to be very aware that many young people would benefit significantly from counselling but are often unable to access such a service. Service provision is significantly under resources in health and educational settings, and the charitable sector is then turned to. We are also aware that some young people connected with churches and Christian youth organisations struggle to know how their faith fits with their current experience and value the opportunity to include their faith in counselling conversations. Our counselling service, The Listening Space, regularly receives referrals from young people, parents, youth workers and G.Ps. Our counsellors are qualified and experienced in working with young people, and all young people can avail of the service regardless of their faith or background. We also provide a 'Talking Space' which is a one-off opportunity for young people to talk to a counsellor at a camp or conference.

Youth Resources

We currently have two resources that are available to pastorally support young people, along with training and session guides for their leaders. Shaken is a resource that takes young people through 20 positive coping mechanisms with the hope that some of these will provide positive ways to deal with issues as they arise. Steady is a resource that takes young people deeper into the journey of faith and how body, mind and spirit are connected as they develop in life and faith. It also has training and a leader's guide available. The final part of the series Strong will be completed during 2024. A further resource, Refresh, is in early planning stages and will be written during 2024. This resource will be aimed at adolescent females. The hope is that these resources individually and together will support the work of youth leaders and churches in helping young people to develop strong resilient lives that are fuelled by their faith in God.

Retreats

As part of our commitment to the pastoral support of those working with young people, and a prayerful approach in youth ministry, we have begun hosting regular retreats for organisational staff teams, ministry leaders, and individuals. Retreats are also available to youth groups.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2024

Achievements and performance

This year has been a year of growth and change for The Big House.

Programme

In summary, we have provided:

- Approx 350 free counselling sessions for young people in The Listening Space
- Retreats at The Big House for 143 ministry leaders/clergy.
- Pastoral training and support for over 1000 youth and ministry leaders across Ireland.
- 140 youth sessions across Northern Ireland (youth groups / schools/ social work groups / CEF, YFC & SU groups).
- We have also provided Pastoral Support to SUNI's summer camps and missions programme, the Methodist Church in Ireland's Youth Weekend, Autumn Soul, and seminars at the Church of Ireland's Youth Festival, Summer Madness.

This has been achieved through the dedicated and skilled work of our staff team.

Our House Chaplain has developed a programme of retreats for church and youth leaders, which has steadily grown throughout the year. He has also been part of shaping a significant bespoke organisational pastoral support package for another charity during their summer youth programmes, SUNI. This has been a significant partnership to forge and will lay the groundwork for future collaboration.

Our House Manager has continued to provide significant administrative support to the organisation and is working to bring the House up to standard to become registered with the Tourism NI for overnight stays. This work will be completed later in 2024 and will assist with our finances.

Our programme worker has continued to deliver our Shaken programme to P7 pupils in schools and youth groups Ireland. He has also delivered youth sessions at denominational youth conferences and events. We have not been in a position to re-start our residential programme as our facility has not been able to accommodate enough people.

Our CEO has completed the writing of our third resource, Strong and this will move to design and publishing later in 2024. Additional versions of Shaken have also been explored, and conversations with Biblica as to overseas development have commenced.

Throughout 2023 The Listening Space has been full and often with a waiting list. Our student counsellor became a sessional worker in September 2024 and joins our employed counsellor in providing weekly counselling in Hollywood. During 2023 we moved the location of our counselling practice from Hollywood Baptist who had generously hosted us for several years, to Hollywood Family Trust to accommodate both counsellors to practice at the same time. This has been a very positive partnership to enter. Our employed counsellor also provides counselling at the House in Limavady.

The staff team have been involved in our own, and larger denominational training events, providing bespoke training for those involved in the pastoral care of young people. They have also supported the charitable programme work of Home for Good and Starfish Soul Care at regional events.

During 2023, we saw a shift in our staff team, with our Finance and Facilities Manager leaving the organisation. This necessitated a change in the current staff team and the previous administrator and Homemaker role becoming the House Manager. This took effect in September 2023.

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2024

House & Grounds

Work has continued in the House grounds, and the site is now a very attractive space which is ideally suited to large groups and leisure activities, as well as peaceful reflection.

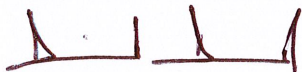
We were pleased to receive planning permission for our needed accommodation block, multi-purpose room and change of usage. We have not been successful in gaining grants towards this building project in 2023, so have not been able to commence building work.

We have installed a new 'working' kitchen which is where all the food preparation for our programmes takes place. This has all been installed to appropriate standards and relevant staff trained to use. It has helped us to achieve our purposes during 2023.

Finances

Financially, we have had a challenging year. Our regular support for which we are most grateful, continues to support the work and to mostly covers the cost of the loan repayments we have for the house. With a rise of interest rates on our mortgage and the cost-of-living crisis, we have found it a challenge to meet rising fuel and mortgage costs. We have also found it increasingly difficult to receive funding for core costs as financial strain is felt across the voluntary and charitable sector. We have been in receipt of some grants, fund-matching and one-off donations which has helped sustain our current operations.

This report was approved by the Board on 27 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by



Director

The Big House (Ireland)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100047

Annual return

**Independent examiner's report to the members of
The Big House (Ireland)**

I report on the accounts of the for the for the year ended 31 January 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



**Richard McClay FCA
For and on behalf of McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD**

**1 Lanyon Quay
Belfast
BT1 3LG**

27 May 2024

The Big House (Ireland)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100047

Accounts

Registration number NI067915

**The Big House (Ireland)
Company limited by guarantee
Directors report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

The Big House (Ireland)

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The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

The Directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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 published in October 2019".)

Structure, governance and management

The Big House (Ireland) is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland on 30th January 2008 and a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19th January 2015. Its governing documents are its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Directors of the Company are also the Charity Trustees and consist of the persons who are from time-to-time members of the Company. A Director must be someone who has confirmed their acceptance of the objects and ethos of the Company and their personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and belief in the Doctrines set out in article 3 of the Memorandum of Association.

The operation of the charity under the governance of the Board of Directors is the responsibility of the CEO (part-time, 16 hours per week). During 2022 we employed two further members of staff, a House Chaplain and a new Programme Worker. The Programme Worker, the first fulltime member of staff will primarily visit youth groups, schools and develop residential programmes and the teams which deliver them. The House Chaplain will promote prayer within and for The Big House including organising meetings and prayer cover for counselling sessions and producing bulletins for supporters. They will also organise retreats for young people and adults. Alongside these the other staff, the counsellor provides counselling to young people through our Listening Space service. The Home maker and Administrative Assistant carries out administrative tasks associated with the running of the charity, provides support for other staff, deals with counselling requests and referrals, and responds to enquiries and other communications. They will also provide hospitality to visitors and groups who will visit the house. The Strategic Development Director has had a name change to House and Finance Manager and seeks to develop the working of the organisation and to help fulfil the vision of the organisation including fundraising support and support to the CEO as the vision develops. This role was made fulltime in January 2023. The Big House relies on a team of over 40 volunteers to support, develop and deliver its programmes.

Directors

The directors who served during the year were as follows

S Cave
D Dunlop (Chair)
D Ferguson
K Harte
J Hill
N Lavery
A Parks

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

Objectives and activities

The objects for which the company is established are:

The purposes of The Big House Ireland are:

- (a) the advancement of education of young people and adults such as may improve the health and wellbeing of young people;
- (b) the relief of distress or mental illness and the enhancement of the wellbeing of young people by the provision of pastoral support and counselling;
- (c) the promotion of social inclusion of young people in groups and organisations, particularly but not exclusively those with a Christian ethos, through the provision of training, advice, support, and other resources;
- (d) the helping of young people, especially but not exclusively through leisure time activities, so as to develop their capabilities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society;
- (e) the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life of, particularly but not exclusively, young people living on the island of Ireland (the "area of benefit");
- (f) the advancement of the Christian Faith by Evangelism Discipleship and other means;
- (g) the promotion of such other exclusively charitable purposes according to the law of Northern Ireland as may from time to time be determined by the Directors.

The current strategy of The Big House to deliver these purposes has four main areas of activity:

Residential Camps and Weekends

Our camps and weekends are carefully planned and developed to help young people explore issues they may find difficult in a safe, caring and honest environment and as part of an enjoyable residential programme, delivered by a team of well-trained, experienced and highly motivated volunteer leaders. Youth leaders are invited to come on the camps and weekends with young people from their group for whom they feel it would be helpful. Each camp aims to be a resource which supports the ongoing relational youth work of churches and Christian youth organisations and aims to communicate positive responses to difficult issues shaped by expertise, experience and the Christian faith. Our Shine Camp also aims to provide an opportunity for young people with learning difficulties to experience being away on a youth camp, which is often not otherwise available to them.

Youth Leader Training

The training delivered by The Big House is based on professional expertise, personal experience and Biblical reflection. We aim to equip youth leaders to respond in caring, practical and helpful ways when they encounter young people who are dealing with difficult issues or circumstances, also to understand the limitations of their role and know where to find further help. We seek to equip them with an understanding of the issues, provided directly and indirectly by experts in the field, with an insight into the young people's experience through personal stories, an understanding of how our Christian faith can shape our response, practical suggestions from those with experience of helping young people with the issue, and sources of further help and support. We deliver this training through our own events and at the invitation of churches, conferences and other organisations to participate in their leader training programmes.

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

Youth Group Visits

At present only a relatively small number of young people experience Big House camps and not all youth leaders feel comfortable or equipped to address difficult issues with their group. We therefore take the opportunity to share much of what we have learned in developing our camps and training events with youth groups through providing interactive workshops. These workshops are tailored for each group in discussion with their leaders.

Counselling and Listening Support

Through engaging with young people experiencing difficulty and their youth leaders we have been very aware that many young people would benefit significantly from counselling but are either unable or unwilling to receive such a service. We are also aware that some young people connected with churches and Christian youth organisations struggle to know how their faith fits with their current experience and value the opportunity to include their faith in counselling conversations. Counselling has proven to be hugely helpful, especially before issues reach crisis level. However, education and capacity are needed to allow young people to access counselling before things reach this point. Through The Listening Space we want to encourage parents and leaders of young people and the young people themselves, to make referrals for counselling and to make it available to them from qualified and experienced counsellors, regardless of their faith or background. We also provide Listening support, a one-off opportunity for young people to talk to a counsellor at a camp or conference

Resources

We have resources that are available to help youth leaders as well. Shaken is a resource that takes young people through 20 positive coping mechanisms with the hope that some of these will provide positive ways to deal with issues as they arise. Steady is a resource that takes young people deeper into the journey of faith and how body, mind and spirit are connected as we journey with God. The final part of the series Strong will be completed during 2023. The hope is that these resources individually and together will support the work of youth leaders and churches in helping young people to develop strong resilient lives that are based on their faith in God.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake

Achievements and performance

This year has been a transformational year for The Big House. Having secured the property in April 2021 during the global pandemic and with significant changes in staff, time was taken to look at two major areas. What was the best way to use the house and what staff would be needed to capture the vision of The Big House?

After many discussions about the house between staff, board and particularly with David Ferguson, plans were put together with the architects, Arcus Architects, and submitted to the planning office. The plans included an extension to the side of the house, with significant internal work to the house to allow for more individual toilets and the addition of ensuite spaces to the downstairs bedroom as well as turning the utility space into a second kitchen which would become the main kitchen for food preparation for retreats and groups. The other major addition is an accommodation block which would have 16 rooms, 12 of which would be for accommodation as well as a laundry room, an activity space, a prayer room and a counselling room.

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

We also received 2 grants in 2022 to go towards the development of the grounds of the property. We have a 2.2 acre site and about an acre is a field at the back. Through the grants, totalling £18,500 we were able to turn the field into a garden, with a walkway and covered seating, along with a firepit area and other seating. We have a polytunnel to enable us to grow fruit and vegetables as well as raised beds with plants, flowers, herbs and other fruit. This will continue to be an ongoing project as no garden is ever complete.

The grant from Benefact Trust has allowed us to convert the huge garage into an activity hall which can be used for all sorts of sports, games and indoor activity. It has also allowed us to convert a space in the house into a counselling room and make the utility space a new kitchen which is almost complete.

In September 2021 a new administrator was appointed and as the pandemic began to subside, we began to receive enquiries about what we could offer and to look at areas of work that we would be able to run from the house. Our counselling service did not stop but rather adapted during this time and as face-to-face contact became more usual we began to see more young people coming to the house to receive support.

Our programme, Shaken in Schools, was launched as a pilot and run over 6 months in 6 different schools with almost 200 P7 children involved from schools in Limavady, Castlerock, Garvagh, Coleraine, Rasharkin and Ballymena. At the end of the programme all the schools were invited to a celebration event at the house where games were played, party food was eaten and goody bags including a certificate were presented to the children. The feedback from teachers, classroom assistants and the children themselves was that the programme was something they really enjoyed and learnt new skills through.

In July 2022 a new part-time appointment was made, House Chaplain. The role was filled by Paul Gallucci and his task was to develop the prayer life of the community at the house, to be involved in organising retreats and to help with training where appropriate. This role has been developing and Paul has added greatly to the team.

In September 2022, a new fulltime Programme Worker was appointed, the first fulltime appointment by the organisation and Chris Boucher was given the role. Over the first couple of months Chris has spent time developing links and connections with people in schools and GP practices in the Limavady area and using the connections he already has through over 20 years' experience as a youth worker in church life. This has led to several programmes with Shaken in schools and churches including schools in Limavady, Garvagh, Larne and church groups across NI and also in Donegal and Sligo. He has also attended various events including the Home for Good Roadshows and Presbyterian Church events, where he, Paul and Jenny have led seminars and workshops.

Chris and Paul have also worked together on evenings for youth groups with prayer spaces, teaching around the story of Christmas, and singing and fun outside around the firepit with hot chocolate and smores. These have proved very useful in connecting groups with the place and many have asked about when they can come and stay.

Throughout 2022 our counselling service, The Listening Space, has been full and often with a waiting list, sometimes with only a few but more often a reasonable number of young people waiting. We started the year with our main counsellor, Jenny, working in Limavady and Holywood and being supported by Caroline with online clients. During the year, Katie, a student counsellor, has joined the team and works in Holywood and does some online counselling also. Our hope as we move into 2023 is that we will be able to consolidate the work we are doing and have clearer areas of working with the counsellors we have.

Our camps have not been able to resume yet, but during 2023 our hope is to build towards these being resumed in 2024 when we hope to have the accommodation ready for use. There is much fundraising and other work to be done to get to that point, but we await the initial step of planning permission to get the ball rolling. (At the time of writing (April 2023) we have just received that permission).

The Big House (Ireland)

**Directors Report
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

Financially, we have had a good year. Our regular support for which we are most grateful, continues to support the work and to cover the cost of the loan repayments we have for the house. The grant from Benefact Trust, £60,000 has allowed for much of the work that didn't need planning permission to be completed and has allowed the development of the facilities to a point where we have a very useful space including a new activity hall (the old garage), a new counselling room in the house and a number of adaptations to the property to make it more useful for guests to stay. The second part of the grant, £30,000, has allowed for the staff developments that mean the work can be developed and built upon. Other smaller grants have helped with the provision of the free counselling service.

This report was approved by the Board on 10 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Director



J. E. HILL

**Independent examiner's report to the members of
The Big House (Ireland)**

I report on the accounts of the for the for the year ended 31 January 2023, which are set out on pages 7 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



**Richard McClay FCA
For and on behalf of McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD**

**1 Lanyon Quay
Belfast
BT1 3LG**

10 May 2023

The Big House (Ireland)

**Statement of Financial Activities (Including Summary Income and Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Total	Year Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Charitable activities		89,719	21,622	111,341	163,586
Other income		-	-	-	5,258
Interest received		124	-	124	59
Donation income	3	28,608	24,232	52,840	66,320
Total income		<u>118,451</u>	<u>45,854</u>	<u>164,305</u>	<u>235,223</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	(127,427)	(14,456)	(141,883)	(100,205)
Total expenditure		<u>(127,427)</u>	<u>(14,456)</u>	<u>(141,883)</u>	<u>(100,205)</u>
Net income before transfers		<u>(8,976)</u>	<u>31,398</u>	<u>22,422</u>	<u>135,018</u>
Transfer between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net incoming resources		<u>(8,976)</u>	<u>31,398</u>	<u>22,422</u>	<u>135,018</u>
Fund balances brought forward		66,456	304,749	371,205	236,187
Fund balances carried forward		<u>57,480</u>	<u>336,147</u>	<u>393,627</u>	<u>371,205</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

**Balance sheet
as at 31 January 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		520,832		474,098
Current assets					
Debtors	7	805		795	
Cash at bank and in hand		106,946		149,833	
		<u>107,751</u>		<u>150,628</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(955)</u>		<u>(955)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>106,796</u>		<u>149,673</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			627,628		623,771
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	9		<u>(234,001)</u>		<u>(252,566)</u>
Net assets			<u>393,627</u>		<u>371,205</u>
Capital and reserves					
Unrestricted funds			57,480		66,456
Restricted funds			336,147		304,749
General funds			<u>393,627</u>		<u>371,205</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

Balance sheet (continued)

for the year ended 31 January 2023

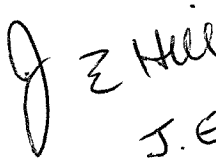
For the year ending 31 January 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- (a) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- (b) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 10 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Director


J. E. HILL

Registration number NI067915

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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 published in October 2019".)

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Fixtures and fittings - 25% reducing balance

1.3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the directors for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023

..... continued

1.4. Resources

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donations are included as income when they are received. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

2. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
House-Fundraising	-	1,622	1,622	2,161
House -Allchurches Trust Grants	-	20,000	20,000	60,000
Other	40,698	-	40,698	43,105
Strategic Development	7,579	-	7,579	17,860
The Listening Space	11,442	-	11,442	5,460
General - Grant	-	-	-	4,000
General - AllchurchesTrust Funding	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
The Black Santa	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>89,719</u>	<u>21,622</u>	<u>111,341</u>	<u>163,586</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023

..... continued

3. Donation income	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
General - Gift Aid	13,187	-	13,187	-
General -Group Donations	4,156	-	4,156	3,133
General -Individual Donations	5,665	-	5,665	3,631
House- Donations	-	24,232	24,232	51,817
House- Gift Aid	-	-	-	7,739
Joy of Generosity	5,600	-	5,600	-
	<u>28,608</u>	<u>24,232</u>	<u>52,840</u>	<u>66,320</u>

4. Total resources expended	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Costs directly allocated to charitable activities				
Staff costs	91,690	-	91,690	69,675
Programme costs	2,715	-	2,715	942
Rent	-	-	-	374
Insurance	2,849	-	2,849	2,885
Office and administration costs	9,346	-	9,346	6,298
Advertising and promotional costs	1,109	-	1,109	823
Telephone	708	-	708	342
Travelling and training costs	5,474	-	5,474	2,678
Legal and professional fee	-	14,456	14,456	7,630
Independant examiner fee	955	-	955	720
Bank fees	79	-	79	102
Loan interest	9,579	-	9,579	6,371
Depreciation	2,923	-	2,923	1,365
	<u>127,427</u>	<u>14,456</u>	<u>141,883</u>	<u>100,205</u>

5. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the year. The Company is a registered charity .

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023

..... continued

6. Tangible fixed assets	Freehold property £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 February 2022	470,000	12,005	482,005
Additions	42,063	7,594	49,657
At 31 January 2023	<u>512,063</u>	<u>19,599</u>	<u>531,662</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 February 2022	-	7,907	7,907
Charge for the year	-	2,923	2,923
At 31 January 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>10,830</u>	<u>10,830</u>
Net book values			
At 31 January 2023	<u>512,063</u>	<u>8,769</u>	<u>520,832</u>
At 31 January 2022	<u>470,000</u>	<u>4,098</u>	<u>474,098</u>
7. Debtors		2023	2022
		£	£
Debtors and prepayments		<u>805</u>	<u>795</u>
8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2023	2022
		£	£
Accruals		<u>955</u>	<u>955</u>
9. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		2023	2022
		£	£
Mortgage		213,001	224,566
Interest free loans		21,000	28,000
		<u>234,001</u>	<u>252,566</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023

..... continued

10. Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted reserve fund £	Restricted reserve fund £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 January 2023		-	
represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	8,769	512,063	520,832
Current assets	49,666	58,085	107,751
Liabilities	(955)	(234,001)	(234,956)
Total net assets	<u>57,480</u>	<u>336,147</u>	<u>393,627</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100047

Annual report

Registration number NI067915

**The Big House (Ireland)
Company limited by guarantee
Directors report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

The Big House (Ireland)

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The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

The Directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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 published in October 2019".)

Structure, governance and management

The Big House (Ireland) is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland on 30th January 2008 and a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19th January 2015. Its governing documents are its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Directors of the Company are also the Charity Trustees and consist of the persons who are from time-to-time members of the Company. A Director must be someone who has confirmed their acceptance of the objects and ethos of the Company and their personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and belief in the Doctrines set out in article 3 of the Memorandum of Association.

The operation of the charity under the governance of the Board of Directors is the responsibility of the CEO (part-time, 16 hours per week). During 2022 we employed two further members of staff, a House Chaplain and a new Programme Worker. The Programme Worker, the first fulltime member of staff will primarily visit youth groups, schools and develop residential programmes and the teams which deliver them. The House Chaplain will promote prayer within and for The Big House including organising meetings and prayer cover for counselling sessions and producing bulletins for supporters. They will also organise retreats for young people and adults. Alongside these the other staff, the counsellor provides counselling to young people through our Listening Space service. The Home maker and Administrative Assistant carries out administrative tasks associated with the running of the charity, provides support for other staff, deals with counselling requests and referrals, and responds to enquiries and other communications. They will also provide hospitality to visitors and groups who will visit the house. The Strategic Development Director has had a name change to House and Finance Manager and seeks to develop the working of the organisation and to help fulfil the vision of the organisation including fundraising support and support to the CEO as the vision develops. This role was made fulltime in January 2023. The Big House relies on a team of over 40 volunteers to support, develop and deliver its programmes.

Directors

The directors who served during the year were as follows

S Cave
D Dunlop (Chair)
D Ferguson
K Harte
J Hill
N Lavery
A Parks

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

Objectives and activities

The objects for which the company is established are:

The purposes of The Big House Ireland are:

- (a) the advancement of the Christian Faith by Evangelism Discipleship and other means;
- (b) the advancement of education of young people and adults such as may improve the health and wellbeing of young people;
- (c) the relief of distress or mental illness and the enhancement of the wellbeing of young people by the provision of pastoral support and counselling;
- (d) the promotion of social inclusion of young people in groups and organisations, particularly but not exclusively those with a Christian ethos, through the provision of training, advice, support, and other resources;
- (e) the helping of young people, especially but not exclusively through leisure time activities, so as to develop their capabilities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society;
- (f) the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life of, particularly but not exclusively, young people living on the island of Ireland (the "area of benefit");
- (g) the promotion of such other exclusively charitable purposes according to the law of Northern Ireland as may from time to time be determined by the Directors.

The current strategy of The Big House to deliver these purposes has four main areas of activity:

Residential Camps and Weekends

Our camps and weekends are carefully planned and developed to help young people explore issues they may find difficult in a safe, caring and honest environment and as part of an enjoyable residential programme, delivered by a team of well-trained, experienced and highly motivated volunteer leaders. Youth leaders are invited to come on the camps and weekends with young people from their group for whom they feel it would be helpful. Each camp aims to be a resource which supports the ongoing relational youth work of churches and Christian youth organisations and aims to communicate positive responses to difficult issues shaped by expertise, experience and the Christian faith. Our Shine Camp also aims to provide an opportunity for young people with learning difficulties to experience being away on a youth camp, which is often not otherwise available to them.

Youth Leader Training

The training delivered by The Big House is based on professional expertise, personal experience and Biblical reflection. We aim to equip youth leaders to respond in caring, practical and helpful ways when they encounter young people who are dealing with difficult issues or circumstances, also to understand the limitations of their role and know where to find further help. We seek to equip them with an understanding of the issues, provided directly and indirectly by experts in the field, with an insight into the young people's experience through personal stories, an understanding of how our Christian faith can shape our response, practical suggestions from those with experience of helping young people with the issue, and sources of further help and support. We deliver this training through our own events and at the invitation of churches, conferences and other organisations to participate in their leader training programmes.

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

Youth Group Visits

At present only a relatively small number of young people experience Big House camps and not all youth leaders feel comfortable or equipped to address difficult issues with their group. We therefore take the opportunity to share much of what we have learned in developing our camps and training events with youth groups through providing interactive workshops. These workshops are tailored for each group in discussion with their leaders.

Counselling and Listening Support

Through engaging with young people experiencing difficulty and their youth leaders we have been very aware that many young people would benefit significantly from counselling but are either unable or unwilling to receive such a service. We are also aware that some young people connected with churches and Christian youth organisations struggle to know how their faith fits with their current experience and value the opportunity to include their faith in counselling conversations. Counselling has proven to be hugely helpful, especially before issues reach crisis level. However, education and capacity are needed to allow young people to access counselling before things reach this point. Through The Listening Space we want to encourage parents and leaders of young people and the young people themselves, to make referrals for counselling and to make it available to them from qualified and experienced counsellors, regardless of their faith or background. We also provide Listening support, a one-off opportunity for young people to talk to a counsellor at a camp or conference

Resources

We have resources that are available to help youth leaders as well. Shaken is a resource that takes young people through 20 positive coping mechanisms with the hope that some of these will provide positive ways to deal with issues as they arise. Steady is a resource that takes young people deeper into the journey of faith and how body, mind and spirit are connected as we journey with God. The final part of the series Strong will be completed during 2023. The hope is that these resources individually and together will support the work of youth leaders and churches in helping young people to develop strong resilient lives that are based on their faith in God.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake

Achievements and performance

This year has been a transformational year for The Big House. Having secured the property in April 2021 during the global pandemic and with significant changes in staff, time was taken to look at two major areas. What was the best way to use the house and what staff would be needed to capture the vision of The Big House?

After many discussions about the house between staff, board and particularly with David Ferguson, plans were put together with the architects, Arcus Architects, and submitted to the planning office. The plans included an extension to the side of the house, with significant internal work to the house to allow for more individual toilets and the addition of ensuite spaces to the downstairs bedroom as well as turning the utility space into a second kitchen which would become the main kitchen for food preparation for retreats and groups. The other major addition is an accommodation block which would have 16 rooms, 12 of which would be for accommodation as well as a laundry room, an activity space, a prayer room and a counselling room.

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

We also received 2 grants in 2022 to go towards the development of the grounds of the property. We have a 2.2 acre site and about an acre is a field at the back. Through the grants, totalling £18,500 we were able to turn the field into a garden, with a walkway and covered seating, along with a firepit area and other seating. We have a polytunnel to enable us to grow fruit and vegetables as well as raised beds with plants, flowers, herbs and other fruit. This will continue to be an ongoing project as no garden is ever complete.

The grant from Benefact Trust has allowed us to convert the huge garage into an activity hall which can be used for all sorts of sports, games and indoor activity. It has also allowed us to convert a space in the house into a counselling room and make the utility space a new kitchen which is almost complete.

In September 2021 a new administrator was appointed and as the pandemic began to subside, we began to receive enquiries about what we could offer and to look at areas of work that we would be able to run from the house. Our counselling service did not stop but rather adapted during this time and as face-to-face contact became more usual we began to see more young people coming to the house to receive support.

Our programme, Shaken in Schools, was launched as a pilot and run over 6 months in 6 different schools with almost 200 P7 children involved from schools in Limavady, Castlerock, Garvagh, Coleraine, Rasharkin and Ballymena. At the end of the programme all the schools were invited to a celebration event at the house where games were played, party food was eaten and goody bags including a certificate were presented to the children. The feedback from teachers, classroom assistants and the children themselves was that the programme was something they really enjoyed and learnt new skills through.

In July 2022 a new part-time appointment was made, House Chaplain. The role was filled by Paul Gallucci and his task was to develop the prayer life of the community at the house, to be involved in organising retreats and to help with training where appropriate. This role has been developing and Paul has added greatly to the team.

In September 2022, a new fulltime Programme Worker was appointed, the first fulltime appointment by the organisation and Chris Boucher was given the role. Over the first couple of months Chris has spent time developing links and connections with people in schools and GP practices in the Limavady area and using the connections he already has through over 20 years' experience as a youth worker in church life. This has led to several programmes with Shaken in schools and churches including schools in Limavady, Garvagh, Larne and church groups across NI and also in Donegal and Sligo. He has also attended various events including the Home for Good Roadshows and Presbyterian Church events, where he, Paul and Jenny have led seminars and workshops.

Chris and Paul have also worked together on evenings for youth groups with prayer spaces, teaching around the story of Christmas, and singing and fun outside around the firepit with hot chocolate and smores. These have proved very useful in connecting groups with the place and many have asked about when they can come and stay.

Throughout 2022 our counselling service, The Listening Space, has been full and often with a waiting list, sometimes with only a few but more often a reasonable number of young people waiting. We started the year with our main counsellor, Jenny, working in Limavady and Holywood and being supported by Caroline with online clients. During the year, Katie, a student counsellor, has joined the team and works in Holywood and does some online counselling also. Our hope as we move into 2023 is that we will be able to consolidate the work we are doing and have clearer areas of working with the counsellors we have.

Our camps have not been able to resume yet, but during 2023 our hope is to build towards these being resumed in 2024 when we hope to have the accommodation ready for use. There is much fundraising and other work to be done to get to that point, but we await the initial step of planning permission to get the ball rolling. (At the time of writing (April 2023) we have just received that permission).

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

Financially, we have had a good year. Our regular support for which we are most grateful, continues to support the work and to cover the cost of the loan repayments we have for the house. The grant from Benefact Trust, £60,000 has allowed for much of the work that didn't need planning permission to be completed and has allowed the development of the facilities to a point where we have a very useful space including a new activity hall (the old garage), a new counselling room in the house and a number of adaptations to the property to make it more useful for guests to stay. The second part of the grant, £30,000, has allowed for the staff developments that mean the work can be developed and built upon. Other smaller grants have helped with the provision of the free counselling service.

This report was approved by the Board on 10 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Director

**Independent examiner's report to the members of
The Big House (Ireland)**

I report on the accounts of the for the for the year ended 31 January 2023, which are set out on pages 7 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

**Richard McClay FCA
For and on behalf of McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD**

**1 Lanyon Quay
Belfast
BT1 3LG**

10 May 2023

The Big House (Ireland)

**Statement of Financial Activities (Including Summary Income and Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Total	Year Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022
Income from:	Notes	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities		89,719	21,622	111,341	163,586
Other income		-	-	-	5,258
Interest received		124	-	124	59
Donation income	3	28,608	24,232	52,840	66,320
Total income		<u>118,451</u>	<u>45,854</u>	<u>164,305</u>	<u>235,223</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	(127,427)	(14,456)	(141,883)	(100,205)
Total expenditure		<u>(127,427)</u>	<u>(14,456)</u>	<u>(141,883)</u>	<u>(100,205)</u>
Net income before transfers		<u>(8,976)</u>	<u>31,398</u>	<u>22,422</u>	<u>135,018</u>
Transfer between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net incoming resources		<u>(8,976)</u>	<u>31,398</u>	<u>22,422</u>	<u>135,018</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>66,456</u>	<u>304,749</u>	<u>371,205</u>	<u>236,187</u>
Fund balances carried forward		<u>57,480</u>	<u>336,147</u>	<u>393,627</u>	<u>371,205</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

**Balance sheet
as at 31 January 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		520,832		474,098
Current assets					
Debtors	7	805		795	
Cash at bank and in hand		106,946		149,833	
		<u>107,751</u>		<u>150,628</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(955)</u>		<u>(955)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>106,796</u>		<u>149,673</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			627,628		623,771
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	9		<u>(234,001)</u>		<u>(252,566)</u>
Net assets			<u>393,627</u>		<u>371,205</u>
Capital and reserves					
Unrestricted funds			57,480		66,456
Restricted funds			<u>336,147</u>		<u>304,749</u>
General funds			<u>393,627</u>		<u>371,205</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

Balance sheet (continued)

for the year ended 31 January 2023

For the year ending 31 January 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- (a) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- (b) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 10 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by

Director

Registration number NI067915

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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 published in October 2019".)

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Fixtures and fittings - 25% reducing balance

1.3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the directors for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023

..... continued

1.4. Resources

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donations are included as income when they are received. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

2. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
House-Fundraising	-	1,622	1,622	2,161
House -Allchurches Trust Grants	-	20,000	20,000	60,000
Other	40,698	-	40,698	43,105
Strategic Development	7,579	-	7,579	17,860
The Listening Space	11,442	-	11,442	5,460
General - Grant	-	-	-	4,000
General - AllchurchesTrust Funding	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
The Black Santa	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>89,719</u>	<u>21,622</u>	<u>111,341</u>	<u>163,586</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

..... continued

3. Donation income	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
General - Gift Aid	13,187	-	13,187	-
General -Group Donations	4,156	-	4,156	3,133
General -Individual Donations	5,665	-	5,665	3,631
House- Donations	-	24,232	24,232	51,817
House- Gift Aid	-	-	-	7,739
Joy of Generosity	5,600	-	5,600	-
	<u>28,608</u>	<u>24,232</u>	<u>52,840</u>	<u>66,320</u>

4. Total resources expended	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Costs directly allocated to charitable activities				
Staff costs	91,690	-	91,690	69,675
Programme costs	2,715	-	2,715	942
Rent	-	-	-	374
Insurance	2,849	-	2,849	2,885
Office and administration costs	9,346	-	9,346	6,298
Advertising and promotional costs	1,109	-	1,109	823
Telephone	708	-	708	342
Travelling and training costs	5,474	-	5,474	2,678
Legal and professional fee	-	14,456	14,456	7,630
Independant examiner fee	955	-	955	720
Bank fees	79	-	79	102
Loan interest	9,579	-	9,579	6,371
Depreciation	2,923	-	2,923	1,365
	<u>127,427</u>	<u>14,456</u>	<u>141,883</u>	<u>100,205</u>

5. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the year. The Company is a registered charity .

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

..... continued

6. Tangible fixed assets	Freehold property £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 February 2022	470,000	12,005	482,005
Additions	42,063	7,594	49,657
At 31 January 2023	<u>512,063</u>	<u>19,599</u>	<u>531,662</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 February 2022	-	7,907	7,907
Charge for the year	-	2,923	2,923
At 31 January 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>10,830</u>	<u>10,830</u>
Net book values			
At 31 January 2023	<u>512,063</u>	<u>8,769</u>	<u>520,832</u>
At 31 January 2022	<u>470,000</u>	<u>4,098</u>	<u>474,098</u>
7. Debtors		2023	2022
		£	£
Debtors and prepayments		<u>805</u>	<u>795</u>
8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2023	2022
		£	£
Accruals		<u>955</u>	<u>955</u>
9. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		2023	2022
		£	£
Mortgage		213,001	224,566
Interest free loans		21,000	28,000
		<u>234,001</u>	<u>252,566</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

..... continued

10. Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted reserve fund £	Restricted reserve fund £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 January 2023			-
represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	8,769	512,063	520,832
Current assets	49,666	58,085	107,751
Liabilities	(955)	(234,001)	(234,956)
Total net assets	<u>57,480</u>	<u>336,147</u>	<u>393,627</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100047

Annual return

Registration number NI067915

**The Big House (Ireland)
Company limited by guarantee
Directors report and financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

The Big House (Ireland)

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The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

The Directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "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)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

Structure, governance and management

The Big House (Ireland) is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Northern Ireland on 30th January 2008 and a charity registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland on 19th January 2015. Its governing documents are its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Directors of the Company are also the Charity Trustees and consist of the persons who are from time-to-time members of the Company. A Director must be someone who has confirmed their acceptance of the objects and ethos of the Company and their personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and belief in the Doctrines set out in article 3 of the Memorandum of Association.

The operation of the charity under the governance of the Board of Directors is the responsibility of the CEO (part-time, 16 hours per week). Due to Covid and the purchase of a new home for the organisation staff changed significantly during 2021. The six part-time members of staff responsible to the CEO became 2 then 3: a Counsellor (15 hours per week), and the Strategic Development Director (28 hours). During the year a Homemaker and Administrative Assistant was appointed (15 hours). Due to Covid and the limited interaction we were able to continue, time was taken to carefully consider the restructuring of the organisation and subsequent staffing requirements. During 2022 it is hoped to employ two further members of staff, a House Chaplain and a new Programme Worker. The Programme Worker will primarily visit youth groups and develops residential programmes and the teams which deliver them. The Counsellor provides counselling to young people through our Listening Space service. The Home maker and Administrative Assistant carries out administrative tasks associated with the running of the charity, provides support for other staff, deals with counselling requests and referrals, and responds to enquiries and other communications. They will also provide hospitality to visitors and groups who will visit the house. The House Chaplain will promote prayer within and for The Big House including organising meetings and prayer cover for counselling sessions and producing bulletins for supporters. They will also organise retreats for young people and adults. The Strategic Development Director seeks to develop the working of the organisation and to help fulfil the vision of the organisation including fundraising support and support to the CEO as the vision develops. The Big House relies on a large team of over 50 volunteers to support, develop and deliver its programmes.

Directors

The directors who served during the year were as follows

S Cave
D Dunlop (Chair)
D Ferguson
K Harte
J Hill
N Lavery
A Parks

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

Objectives and activities

The objects for which the company is established are:

The purposes of The Big House Ireland are:

- (a) the advancement of the Christian Faith by Evangelism Discipleship and other means;
- (b) the advancement of education of young people and adults such as may improve the health and wellbeing of young people;
- (c) the relief of distress or mental illness and the enhancement of the wellbeing of young people by the provision of pastoral support and counselling;
- (d) the promotion of social inclusion of young people in groups and organisations, particularly but not exclusively those with a Christian ethos, through the provision of training, advice, support, and other resources;
- (e) the helping of young people, especially but not exclusively through leisure time activities, so as to develop their capabilities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society;
- (f) the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life of, particularly but not exclusively, young people living on the island of Ireland (the "area of benefit");
- (g) the promotion of such other exclusively charitable purposes according to the law of Northern Ireland as may from time to time be determined by the Directors.

The current strategy of The Big House to deliver these purposes has four main areas of activity:

Residential Camps and Weekends

Our camps and weekends are carefully planned and developed to help young people explore issues they may find difficult in a safe, caring and honest environment and as part of an enjoyable residential programme, delivered by a team of well-trained, experienced and highly motivated volunteer leaders. Youth leaders are invited to come on the camps and weekends with young people from their group for whom they feel it would be helpful. Each camp aims to be a resource which supports the ongoing relational youth work of churches and Christian youth organisations and also aims to communicate positive responses to difficult issues shaped by expertise, experience and the Christian faith. Our Shine Camp also aims to provide an opportunity for young people with learning difficulties to experience being away on a youth camp, which is often not otherwise available to them

Youth Leader Training

The training delivered by The Big House is based on professional expertise, personal experience and Biblical reflection. We aim to equip youth leaders to respond in caring, practical and helpful ways when they encounter young people who are dealing with difficult issues or circumstances, also to understand the limitations of their role and know where to find further help. We seek to equip them with an understanding of the issues, provided directly and indirectly by experts in the field, with an insight into the young people's experience through personal stories, an understanding of how our Christian faith can shape our response, practical suggestions from those with experience of helping young people with the issue, and sources of further help and support. We deliver this training through our own events and at the invitation of churches, conferences and other organisations to participate in their leader training programmes.

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

Youth Group Visits

At present only a relatively small number of young people experience Big House camps and not all youth leaders feel comfortable or equipped to address difficult issues with their group. We therefore take the opportunity to share much of what we have learned in developing our camps and training events with youth groups through providing interactive workshops. These workshops are tailored for each group in discussion with their leaders.

Counselling and Listening Support

Through engaging with young people experiencing difficulty and their youth leaders we have been very aware that many young people would benefit significantly from counselling but are either unable or unwilling to receive such a service. We are also aware that some young people connected with churches and Christian youth organisations struggle to know how their faith fits with their current experience and value the opportunity to include their faith in counselling conversations. Counselling has proven to be hugely helpful, especially before issues reach crisis level. However, education and capacity are needed to allow young people to access counselling before things reach this point. Through The Listening Space we want to encourage parents and leaders of young people and the young people themselves, to make referrals for counselling and to make it available to them from qualified and experienced counsellors, regardless of their faith or background. We also provide Listening support, a one-off opportunity for young people to talk to a counsellor at a camp or conference.

Resources

During 2019 a new resource, Shaken, was compiled and trialled with some young people from the Connor Diocese of the Church of Ireland. Shaken was launched to the wider church and community sector in May 2020. The expectation is that in 2021 second resource, Steady will be put together and in 2022 a third in the series Strong. The hope is that these resources individually and together will support the work of youth leaders and churches in helping young people to develop strong resilient lives that are based on their faith in God.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake

Achievements and performance

2021 was another year which was disrupted by Covid. Despite this on April 1st we received the keys for The Big House at 142 Drumsurn Road, Limavady, the fulfilment of the vision of having a place out of which to work. This was the culmination of 12 years as an organisation and 25 years of vision. The property will prove to be an incredible asset for the work out of which we will be able to operate. We are amazed at the support we have received from individuals, trusts and churches who have made this possible. We asked for one-off gifts and regular support to allow us to get to the 50% target (£235,000) of the purchase price which was £470,000. This was achieved on 16th December 2020 with an amazing gift of £75,000 which allowed the Board later that morning to agree to the purchase. Many regular donations are being given over the next 5 years and probably longer, alongside one-off gifts, to allow us to repay the 15-year loan given by Stewardship for the other £235,000. The Board plans to apply for planning permission to develop the house with the addition of an extension to house a meeting space and also change of use to be able to have small groups of people stay. In the meantime, plans are being explored to develop the grounds, dependent on grants received. We give thanks to God for the generosity and support of people for our work with young people.

The Big House (Ireland)

Directors Report for the year ended 31 January 2023

The Listening Space (Counselling)

The Listening Space continued to be at full capacity during 2021 with a waiting list of young people wanting to use the service at points during the year. Due to the restrictions of Covid our service was online for parts of the year. Some young people found this difficult and decided to wait until they could see a counsellor face to face. Our second hub in Holywood continued to cater for young people in the greater Belfast area.

Training

There were several opportunities for online training this year which has allowed those youth groups and churches who had purchased Shaken to be trained in different ways of using the resource. At meetings with the Department of Education and the Education Authority The resource Shaken was warmly received and welcomed and we were encouraged to take it into Primary schools especially for the P7 transition year. We plan to work with local primary schools in the Limavady area as well as ones where contacts are already established to offer a pilot scheme that we hope will help young people gain the skills of being able to use positive coping mechanisms when life becomes a little more difficult. Again, due to restrictions it has been almost impossible to be involved in many face-to-face training sessions, although some opportunities were beginning to open as Covid eased.

Camps

Due to Covid restrictions our camps have not occurred this year again. We have tried single day camps which has worked to a degree but are not the same. We hope in 2022 to be able to have something but we are dependent on how Covid has been contained as to whether it will be possible or not.

Financial review

Income

2021 has been another unusual year as work has still been restricted due to Covid. The main changes in income relate to a major grant which we obtained from All Churches Trust of £170,000 over three years with the first part of that being £90,000 with £60,000 of this to go towards building work and £30,000 towards general development costs of the charity. Further amounts of £50,000 and £30,000 will follow in successive years. Our giving by donors has increased significantly in relation to the house purchase and repayment of the loan taken out to secure the property. Two major donations of £75,000 and £25,000 helped by other one off and regular donations and some interest free loans allowed the Board to get to the 50% target on the purchase price of £470,000. The loan for the other 50% of £235,000 will be paid off over 15 years and sooner if possible. All this support and regular giving have given major stability to the organisation for the next period and our thanks go to all our supporters for their generosity.

Our regular income for the support of ongoing work continued at the same rates with small reductions in one area compensated by an increase in other areas.

The Big House (Ireland)
Directors Report
for the year ended 31 January 2023

Expenditure

Our expenditure increased mainly around property costs having completed the purchase of the house in Limavady. This was offset to a degree by no longer having to pay rent. There was also an increase in professional fees as the organisation began to look at the development of the site and house. Salary costs were down slightly as changes in the staffing structure occurred with changes in roles.

We continue to be encouraged by the regular giving from individual donors, the significant investment by grant-making bodies and expansion of programme work especially through our new resource, Shaken. The charity ended the year with net assets totalling £371,205 of which £474,098 was represented by fixed assets. In setting our objectives and planning our activities for the year the trustees have considered the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to the beneficiaries.

This report was approved by the Board on and signed on its behalf by

Director

**Independent examiner's report to the members of
The Big House (Ireland)**

I report on the accounts of the for the for the year ended 31 January 2023, which are set out on pages 6 to 13.

Respective responsibilities of and examiner

As the charity trustees (and also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act. The examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the 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
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

**Richard McClay FCA
For and on behalf of McCreery Turkington Stockman LTD**

**1 Lanyon Quay
Belfast
BT1 3LG**

The Big House (Ireland)

**Statement of Financial Activities (Including Summary Income and Expenditure Account)
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Year Total	Year Total
		2023	2023	2023	2022
Income from:	Notes	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities		89,719	21,622	111,341	163,586
Other income		-	-	-	5,258
Interest received		124	-	124	59
Donation income	3	28,608	24,232	52,840	66,320
Total income		<u>118,451</u>	<u>45,854</u>	<u>164,305</u>	<u>235,223</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	(127,427)	(14,456)	(141,883)	(100,205)
Total expenditure		<u>(127,427)</u>	<u>(14,456)</u>	<u>(141,883)</u>	<u>(100,205)</u>
Net income before transfers		<u>(8,976)</u>	<u>31,398</u>	<u>22,422</u>	<u>135,018</u>
Transfer between funds		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net incoming resources		<u>(8,976)</u>	<u>31,398</u>	<u>22,422</u>	<u>135,018</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>66,456</u>	<u>304,749</u>	<u>371,205</u>	<u>236,187</u>
Fund balances carried forward		<u>57,480</u>	<u>336,147</u>	<u>393,627</u>	<u>371,205</u>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

**Balance sheet
as at 31 January 2023**

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		520,832		474,098
Current assets					
Debtors	7	805		795	
Cash at bank and in hand		106,946		149,833	
		<u>107,751</u>		<u>150,628</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>(955)</u>		<u>(955)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>106,796</u>		<u>149,673</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			627,628		623,771
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	9		<u>(234,001)</u>		<u>(252,566)</u>
Net assets			<u>393,627</u>		<u>371,205</u>
Capital and reserves					
Unrestricted funds			57,480		66,456
Restricted funds			<u>336,147</u>		<u>304,749</u>
General funds			<u>393,627</u>		<u>371,205</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

Balance sheet (continued)

for the year ended 31 January 2023

For the year ending 31 January 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- (a) The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- (b) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

Director

Registration number NI067915

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1. Basis of preparation

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice:

Accounting and reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014 and Financial reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Fixtures and fittings - 25% reducing balance

1.3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the directors for particular purposes.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal

The Big House (Ireland)

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2023

..... continued

1.4. Resources

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Donations are included as income when they are received. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Resources expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

2. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
House-Fundraising	-	1,622	1,622	2,161
House -Allchurches Trust Grants	-	20,000	20,000	60,000
Other	40,698	-	40,698	43,105
Strategic Development	7,579	-	7,579	17,860
The Listening Space	11,442	-	11,442	5,460
General - Grant	-	-	-	4,000
General - AllchurchesTrust Funding	30,000	-	30,000	30,000
The Black Santa	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>89,719</u>	<u>21,622</u>	<u>111,341</u>	<u>163,586</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

..... continued

3. Donation income	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
General - Gift Aid	13,187	-	13,187	-
General -Group Donations	4,156	-	4,156	3,133
General -Individual Donations	5,665	-	5,665	3,631
House- Donations	-	24,232	24,232	51,817
House- Gift Aid	-	-	-	7,739
Joy of Generosity	5,600	-	5,600	-
	<u>28,608</u>	<u>24,232</u>	<u>52,840</u>	<u>66,320</u>

4. Total resources expended	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Costs directly allocated to charitable activities				
Staff costs	91,690	-	91,690	69,675
Programme costs	2,715	-	2,715	942
Rent	-	-	-	374
Insurance	2,849	-	2,849	2,885
Office and administration costs	9,346	-	9,346	6,298
Advertising and promotional costs	1,109	-	1,109	823
Telephone	708	-	708	342
Travelling and training costs	5,474	-	5,474	2,678
Legal and professional fee	-	14,456	14,456	7,630
Independant examiner fee	955	-	955	720
Bank fees	79	-	79	102
Loan interest	9,579	-	9,579	6,371
Depreciation	2,923	-	2,923	1,365
	<u>127,427</u>	<u>14,456</u>	<u>141,883</u>	<u>100,205</u>

5. Taxation

No liability to UK corporation tax arises on ordinary activities for the year. The Company is a registered charity .

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

..... continued

6. Tangible fixed assets	Freehold property £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 February 2022	470,000	12,005	482,005
Additions	42,063	7,594	49,657
At 31 January 2023	<u>512,063</u>	<u>19,599</u>	<u>531,662</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 February 2022	-	7,907	7,907
Charge for the year	-	2,923	2,923
At 31 January 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>10,830</u>	<u>10,830</u>
Net book values			
At 31 January 2023	<u>512,063</u>	<u>8,769</u>	<u>520,832</u>
At 31 January 2022	<u>470,000</u>	<u>4,098</u>	<u>474,098</u>
7. Debtors		2023	2022
		£	£
Debtors and prepayments		<u>805</u>	<u>795</u>
8. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		2023	2022
		£	£
Accruals		<u>955</u>	<u>955</u>
9. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year		2023	2022
		£	£
Mortgage		213,001	224,566
Interest free loans		21,000	28,000
		<u>234,001</u>	<u>252,566</u>

The Big House (Ireland)

**Notes to the financial statements
for the year ended 31 January 2023**

..... continued

10. Analysis of net assets between funds	Unrestricted reserve fund £	Restricted reserve fund £	Total £
Fund Balances at 31 January 2023		-	
represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	8,769	512,063	520,832
Current assets	49,666	58,085	107,751
Liabilities	(955)	(234,001)	(234,956)
Total net assets	<u>57,480</u>	<u>336,147</u>	<u>393,627</u>