

The Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations

Northern Ireland · Charity number 100199

Details

Known as	The Irish Association
Status	Received
Registered	2014-09-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	38 Drumconwell Road Armagh 38 Drumconwell Road County Armagh BT60 2at BT60 2AT
Phone	07843567951
Email	admin@theirishassociation.org
Website	www.theirishassociation.org

Activities

Purposes: (a) To foster through the initiative of its individual members more harmonious relations between those Irish people who differ from each other in particular in politics and religion. (b) To encourage respect for the convictions of others , to correct misrepresentation and to discourage intolerance and intimidation. (c) To stimulate business and commercial relations between people in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. (d) To work for fuller co-operation in matters of general economic and social interest. (e) To encourage a wider knowledge of the history, art, music and literature of Ireland. (f) To encourage meetings, lectures and conferences on subjects of common concern to people living in different parts of Ireland. (g) Generally to emphasise that any effort tending to eradicate misunderstanding, or to foster goodwill between Irish people is a definite contribution to domestic and international peace and security.

What the charity does: The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity

How the charity works: Cross-border/cross-community

Who the charity helps: General public

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£33,282	£32,571	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr C.D. McGimpsey		
Dr Shauna Fannin		
Mr Alan Burnside		
Mr Bob Collins		
Mr Conor O'malley		
Mr Daltun O'ceallaigh		
Mr Deaglán De Bréadún		
Mr Dermot O'doherty		
Mr Jim Hamilton		
Mr John Neill		
Mr Pat Hennessy		
Mr Philip McGarry		
Mr Stephen Douds		
Ms Anna Walsh		
Ms Evelyn Collins		
Ms Gillian Mary Travers		
Prof Brian Walker		
Prof Pauline Murphy		
Trevor Williams		

Accounts

**THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONS**

**CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Sterling	Euro equivalent
	£	€
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	18,153	21,731
Debtors	-	-
	<u>18,153</u>	<u>21,731</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accruals	Note 1 8,569	10,258
	<u>8,569</u>	<u>10,258</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>9,583</u>	<u>11,473</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at 31 March 2024 (per last accounts)	9,100	10,632
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	710	844
	<u>9,810</u>	<u>11,476</u>
Exchange rate movement	(228)	(3)
Balance at 31 March 2025	<u>9,583</u>	<u>11,473</u>

We approve these accounts and confirm we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

President: Prof. Brian M Walker
Acting Treasurer: Mr Dermot O'Doherty
Date: 15th November 2025

Brian M. Walker
Dermot P. O'Doherty

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Sterling	Euro equivalent
	£	€
INCOME		
Annual subscriptions	3,213	3,817
Shared Island Fund	25,140	29,866
Donations	118	140
Functions	4,791	5,692
Bank interest	20	24
	<u>33,282</u>	<u>39,539</u>
 EXPENDITURE		
Shared Island Fund	24,815	29,480
Functions	4,187	4,974
Bookeeping/Administration	1,700	2,020
Website	844	1,003
Accountancy	600	713
Bank fees	60	72
Sundry	365	434
	<u>32,571</u>	<u>38,695</u>
 SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>710</u>	<u>844</u>

Note 1

Accruals relates to expenditure relating to the year ended 31st March 2025 but physical payment has not been made until after the year-end. The £8,569 is split between Shared Island Fund expenditure (£7,707), Admin ED (£700), Events (£43) and Sundry (£119)

**THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

In accordance with the instructions given to us we have prepared the foregoing consolidated Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet on the accruals basis from the books and records presented to us.

We confirm that the accounts are in agreement with those books and records.

**FITZPATRICK & KEARNEY LTD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
NEWRY CO DOWN**

15th November 2025

Accounts

**THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONS**

**CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Sterling	Euro equivalent
	£	€
INCOME		
Annual subscriptions	2,285	2,637
Department of Foreign Affairs; Reconciliation Fund	-	-
Donations	1,024	1,182
Functions	3,613	4,171
Bank interest	2	2
	<u>6,924</u>	<u>7,992</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Department of Foreign Affairs; Reconciliation Fund	2,307	2,663
Functions	4,953	5,717
Bookeeping/Administration	6,246	7,210
Website	644	743
Accountancy	600	693
Bank fees/stamp duty	88	102
Sundry	256	296
	<u>15,094</u>	<u>17,423</u>
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u>(8,171)</u>	<u>(9,431)</u>

Note 1

Deferred Income represents membership paid prior to 31st March 2024 but which relates to 24/25 year.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Sterling	Euro equivalent
	£	€
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	9,340	10,912
Debtors	-	-
	<u>9,340</u>	<u>10,912</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Deferred Income	Note 1 240	280
	<u>240</u>	<u>280</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>9,100</u>	<u>10,632</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at 31 March 2023 (per last accounts)	18,149	20,591
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	<u>(8,171)</u>	<u>(9,431)</u>
	9,978	11,160
Exchange rate movement	<u>(879)</u>	<u>(528)</u>
Balance at 31 March 2024	<u>9,100</u>	<u>10,632</u>

We approve these accounts and confirm we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

President: Prof. Brian M Walker
 Acting Treasurer: Mr Dermot O'Doherty
 Date: 15th June 2024

Dermot P. O'Doherty

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Sterling	Euro equivalent
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CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	9,340	10,912
Debtors	-	-
	<u>9,340</u>	<u>10,912</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Deferred Income	<i>Note 1</i> 240	280
	<u>240</u>	<u>280</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>9,100</u>	<u>10,632</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
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	9,978	11,160
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President: Prof. Brian M Walker
Acting Treasurer: Mr Dermot O'Doherty
Date: 15th June 2024

**THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

In accordance with the instructions given to us we have prepared the foregoing consolidated Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet on the accruals basis from the books and records presented to us.

We confirm that the accounts are in agreement with those books and records.

**FITZPATRICK & KEARNEY LTD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
NEWRY CO DOWN**

15th June 2024

The Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100199

Annual report

President's address to AGM of the Irish Association 18 January 2025

I am pleased to report a successful and eventful year. The council of the association met on 5 occasions. We held 5 well attended lunches in Belfast and Dublin. Our application for financial support from the Shared Ireland Civic Society proved successful. This meant that we were able to run the first two sessions of our four part programme to look at the working of Strand Two of the Belfast Good Friday Agreement which sought to develop north south co-operation in a number of areas.

On 27 January we held our AGM meeting and lunch at Wynn's Hotel in Dublin. Afterwards we heard from Anna Walsh, former Director of the all-island Theatre Forum and now Director of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co. Monaghan. Our St Patrick's Day lunch was held on 16 March at the Clayton Hotel, Belfast. The speaker was Professor Pol. O'Dochartaigh, vice president of Galway University and chair of a recent Universities Ireland report on student mobility which recommended changes to enable students from Northern Ireland to access university education in the south. At present, compared to thirty years ago, only a small number of northern students attend southern universities, a matter of concern to many association members. The main problems are the late timing of CAO offers and the unfavourable conversion of A levels to CAO points.

On 7 June an association lunch was held at Wynn's Hotel. The speaker was Lord Reg Empey, a former leader of the Ulster Unionist party. He was also a member of the unionist team at the negotiations leading to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and we valued hearing about these eventful days. On 2 November another lunch was held at Wynn's Hotel. Afterwards we heard from Evelyn Collins, chair of the Northern Ireland Parades Commission. She spoke about the work of the Commission and of her previous work as CEO of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. Our final lunch was held on 3 Dec. in the Ulster Reform Club, Belfast. I spoke on the subject of 'The decade of centenaries; personal experiences and observations'. My own comments were followed by reminiscences of other association members about of this eventful decade.

In March we were pleased to learn that our proposal to the Shared Island Civic Society Fund for support had been approved. This was for a programme of events under the title 'A vision for the future of North-South co-operation? Strand 2 of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement-a generation on'. Our first symposium on the subject, was held on 9 September at Queen's University Belfast, attended by a large audience of association members and others. We looked at the work of the North-South Ministerial Council, the body responsible for implementing Strand 2 and overseeing 6 implementation bodies and 6 areas of co-operation. The opening joint keynote address was given by

Bertie Ahern and Lord Reg Empey. We then heard from the two joint secretaries of the NSMC, Richard Hill and Hilary Reilly. There followed two panels of speakers, one of ‘practitioners’ who had worked with the NSMC and the second of analysts and commentators.

Our second symposium, another well attended event, was held in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, on 25 November. Here we looked at the impact of the economic elements of the north-south implementation bodies and areas of co-operation, established under Strand 2. We considered how things had worked in the past, at present and into the future. Attention focused on Inter-Trade Ireland, Waterways Ireland and the Loughs Agency. The areas of co-operation examined were agriculture, transport and tourism. The opening keynote joint address was given by Angela McGowan, Director of the CBI, Northern Ireland, and Danny McCoy, CEO of IBEC. We then heard from the CEOs of the three implementation bodies mentioned above. Our first panel of speakers covered the relevant areas of co-operation. A second panel of commentators and analysts discussed the issues raised earlier and looked to pointers/opportunities for economic co-operation on the island of Ireland.

Finally, I want to thank members of the council for their valuable input at our meetings. Our secretary, Conor O’Malley, our vice president and acting treasurer, Dermot O’Doherty, deserve a special mention for all their dedicated work. These two, along with Stephen

Dowds, Chris McGimpsey, and Ruth Taillon have served as members of a steering committee, chaired by myself, which has dedicated much time and thought to the organization of our ongoing series of events to examine the operation of Strand 2 of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. For their input we are very grateful. Especially, I want to pay a strong tribute to our administrator Eimear Donnelly. Over the last year she has continued to give great assistance to myself and the other officers. She has played a critical part in the running of our current programme of events.

Professor Emeritus Brian M. Walker

President of the Irish Association

The Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100199

Annual return

**THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONS**

**CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Sterling	Euro equivalent
	£	€
INCOME		
Annual subscriptions	2,285	2,637
Department of Foreign Affairs; Reconciliation Fund	-	-
Donations	1,024	1,182
Functions	3,613	4,171
Bank interest	2	2
	<u>6,924</u>	<u>7,992</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Department of Foreign Affairs; Reconciliation Fund	2,307	2,663
Functions	4,953	5,717
Bookeeping/Administration	6,246	7,210
Website	644	743
Accountancy	600	693
Bank fees/stamp duty	88	102
Sundry	256	296
	<u>15,094</u>	<u>17,423</u>
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	<u><u>(8,171)</u></u>	<u><u>(9,431)</u></u>

Note 1

Deferred Income represents membership paid prior to 31st March 2024 but which relates to 24/25 year.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Sterling	Euro equivalent
	£	€
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	9,340	10,912
Debtors	-	-
	<u>9,340</u>	<u>10,912</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Deferred Income	<i>Note 1</i> 240	280
	<u>240</u>	<u>280</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>9,100</u>	<u>10,632</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at 31 March 2023 (per last accounts)	18,149	20,591
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	<u>(8,171)</u>	<u>(9,431)</u>
	9,978	11,160
Exchange rate movement	<u>(879)</u>	<u>(528)</u>
Balance at 31 March 2024	<u>9,100</u>	<u>10,632</u>

We approve these accounts and confirm we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

President: Prof. Brian M Walker
Acting Treasurer: Mr Dermot O'Doherty
Date: 15th June 2024

**THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

In accordance with the instructions given to us we have prepared the foregoing consolidated Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet on the accruals basis from the books and records presented to us.

We confirm that the accounts are in agreement with those books and records.

**FITZPATRICK & KEARNEY LTD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
NEWRY CO DOWN**

15th June 2024

Accounts

**THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONS**

**CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Sterling	Euro equivalent
		£	€
INCOME			
Annual subscriptions		2,150	2,508
Department of Foreign Affairs; Reconciliation Fund	<i>Note 1</i>	14,935	18,000
Donations		-	-
Functions		3,336	3,892
Bank interest		8	9
		<u>20,429</u>	<u>24,409</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Department of Foreign Affairs; Reconciliation Fund	<i>Note 1</i>	13,244	15,450
Functions		5,495	6,411
Sponsorship		500	583
Linen Hall Library Subscription		190	222
Accountancy		570	665
Bank fees/stamp duty		83	97
Sundry		88	103
		<u>20,171</u>	<u>23,531</u>
SURPLUS/DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		<u>258</u>	<u>878</u>

Note 1

Grant of £14,934.76 (€18,000) received from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs: Reconciliation Fund has been shown in full in the 'Income' section.

The corresponding expenditure has been shown separately in the 'Expenditure' section. This represents expenditure up to the year ended 31st March 2023. There were further payments made in April 2024 of £2,307 bringing the total programme expenditure to £15,551.

Note 2

Debtors is made up of;	£
- Membership subs owed at the year end	215
- Cancelled accommodation owed back	115
	<u>330</u>

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Sterling	Euro equivalent
	£	€
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	17,819	20,216
Debtors <i>Note 2</i>	330	374
	<u>18,149</u>	<u>20,591</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Deferred Income	-	-
Nation Heritage Memorial Fund	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>18,149</u>	<u>20,591</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at 31 March 2022 (per last accounts)	17,276	20,385
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	258	878
	<u>17,534</u>	<u>21,263</u>
Exchange rate movement	615	(673)
Balance at 31 March 2023	<u>18,149</u>	<u>20,591</u>

We approve these accounts and confirm we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.

President: Prof. Brian M Walker
Hon Treasurer: Mr Dermot O'Doherty
Date: 20th January 2023

Brian M. Walker

Dermot O'Doherty

**THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

In accordance with the instructions given to us we have prepared the foregoing consolidated Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet on the accruals basis from the books and records presented to us.

We confirm that the accounts are in agreement with those books and records.

**FITZPATRICK & KEARNEY LTD
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
NEWRY CO DOWN**

20th January 2023

The Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100199

Annual report

President's address to AGM of the Irish Association, 27 January 2023.

Welcome to the AGM of the Irish Association. I am honored to have taken over the position as president from Stephen. We are grateful for his leadership. I have to mention the death of two leading members of our Association, Brian Garrett and Stephen MacWhite. Brian was a leading Belfast solicitor, who played an important role in labour politics in Northern Ireland. He was president of our Association, 1986-8. Stephen worked for the Department of Foreign Affairs. He came from a family of distinguished diplomats, including a grandfather who had served in the League of Nations.

I can report an eventful year. On 28 March 2023 we held a well-attended symposium in the Royal Irish Academy. It was on the subject-‘Exploring Britishness and Irishness: a new look at identities in Ireland, North and South’. It was our last event to receive financial support from the Reconciliation Fund of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Speakers were Professor Pete Shirlow from the University of Liverpool, Professor John Coakley from University College Dublin and Dr Etain Tannam from Trinity College Dublin.

On 27 May we ran a lunch for members at Wynn's Hotel in Dublin. After the meal we listened to a fascinating talk by Rev. Chris Hudson. Chris is a former trade unionist, a key member of the Dublin/ Belfast Peace Train in the 1990s and now a non-subscribing presbyterian minister in Belfast.

On 23 July I attended the annual conference of the John Hewitt Summer School in Armagh. We sponsored an event which I chaired. A paper was given by leading trade unionist Owen Reidy entitled ‘Why Northern Ireland would benefit from proper social dialogue’.

On 18 September I attended in Dublin the launch by the Economic and Social Research Institute of a report on student mobility in Ireland. This highlighted the fact that compared to some decades ago there is now very little movement of students coming from Northern Ireland to study at southern universities. This is due to a number of factors such as the unfair equivalence of northern A levels and southern leaving certificates, and the difference between when results are given in the north and the south. Subsequently I wrote to the *Irish Times* to deplore this lack of mobility. I am glad to be able to report that new arrangements will soon be in place to make southern universities more open to northern students.

On 25 October I went to a Shared Island Dialogue Event in the Abbey Theatre. This was on the subject of 'Accommodating national identities'. The event was first addressed by Micheál Martin and then by an interesting, wide range of speakers.

On 22 November the Association held a very well-attended conference in the Ulster Reform Club in Belfast. The subject was 'The decade of centenaries-an appraisal and the lessons learned'. We had an impressive list of speakers. First we heard from the heads of the northern and southern of the government appointed bodies established to oversee these events, Lord Paul Bew and Professor Maurice Manning. Secondly, we were addressed by two individuals who had a responsibility for giving funding for many of these events, Dr Paul Mullan and Fearghal O'Coighligh. Thirdly, we heard from two leading historians who have been involved in some of these commemorations, Carol Walker and Dr Margaret Ward.

Finally, on 12 December we held our Christmas event in the Ulster Reform Club in Belfast. We were addressed by the renowned archivist, Dr Catriona

Crowe. She spoke on the subject, 'Dramatic national conversations: how theatre has dealt with the Anglo-Irish Treaty Debates and the Good Friday Agreement'.

During the year council considered plans for the future. Much attention was devoted to a proposed project to look at north-south co-operation, especially as it related to Strand Two of the Belfast/ Good Friday Agreement, an idea raised first by Ruth Taillon. In the summer we applied to the Reconciliation Fund of the Department of the Foreign Affairs for funding for this project but were unsuccessful.

We revised the proposal and submitted it to the Shared Island Civic Society Fund. Its purpose is to examine north/south cross border co-operation since 1998 , looking at the north-south ministerial council and the 6 implementation bodies as well as those engaged in 6 other areas of co-operation. We propose to run 4 sessions, the first looking at the North-South Ministerial Council and then areas of economic, social and cultural matters. We await a verdict on our proposal.

Finally, I want to thank members of the council for their invaluable work on behalf of the Association, involving a considerable number of council and committee meetings. Especially, I would like to pay tribute to Dermot O'Doherty who has now stepped down from his role as secretary, after serving for some 11 years. Gladly, he is now vice-president and acting treasurer. I also wish to thank former treasurer Phil Killeen and former vice -president Ruth Taillon for their contributions. I want to welcome Conor O'Malley as our new secretary. A special word of thanks must go to our administrator Eimear Donnelly for all her work during the year.

Professor Emeritus Brian M. Walker, President of the Irish Association

The Irish Association for Cultural, Economic and Social Relations

Northern Ireland - Charity number 100199

Annual return

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURAL, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RELATIONS
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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FITZPATRICK & KEARNEY LTD

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

NEWRY CO DOWN

20th January 2023