

# Foyle Search and Rescue

Northern Ireland · Charity number 106685

## Details

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Known as	Foyle Search and Rescue Foyle Search FSR
Status	Received
Company number	<a href="#">640535</a>
Registered	2018-02-26
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register</a>

## Contact

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Email	<a href="mailto:office@foylesearch.com">office@foylesearch.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.foylesearchandrescue.com">www.foylesearchandrescue.com</a>

## Activities

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**Purposes:** The Company is established with the aim of preserving life in and around the River Foyle for the benefit of the public regardless of age, gender, religion, race or background by providing a suicide prevention and a water search & rescue service 24 hrs a day 365 days a year and by delivering effective education and establishing training programmes locally.

**What the charity does:** The advancement of education, The advancement of health or the saving of lives, Other charitable purposes

**How the charity works:** Education/training, General charitable purposes, Medical/health/sickness, Search and rescue, Volunteer development

**Who the charity helps:** Mental health, Voluntary and community sector, Volunteers

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£284,761	£392,298	£-29,802	3

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Garvin Kerr		
Mr Caolan Campbell		
Mr Cormac O'hare		
Mr Stephen Twells		
Mrs Kristina Mcdaid		

**Foyle Search and Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106685

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# Accounts

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Charity number: NIC106685  
Company number: NI640535 (Northern Ireland)

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Executive Committees' report and financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Charity number** NIC106685

**Company registration number** NI640535

**Business address** 20 Victoria Road  
Waterside  
Derry  
BT47 2AB

**Registered office** 20 Victoria Road  
Derry  
BT47 2AB

<b>Trustees /Company Directors</b>	Stephen Twells	Chairman
	Kristina McDauid	Coordinator Liaison
	Cormac O'Hare	Treasurer
	Steven Durrent	Appointed 11/09/2024 Vice Chairperson
	Caolan Campbell	Trustee/not director

<b>Co-Ordinators</b>	Mark Buckley	Shore Co-Ordinator
	Seamus Mc Closkey	Boat Co-Ordinator
	Neal Cooke	Pager Co- Ordinator
	Gerard O'Kane	Swiftwater Co-Ordinator
	Ryan Murphy	Drone Co-Ordinator
	Paul Lynch (Danielle Francis)	Sonar Co-Ordinator

<b>Deputies</b>	Rohan Chada	Shore
	Gavin McGurk	Boat
	Daryl Harrigan	Swiftwater

**Accountants** Paul Green Accountancy and Taxation Limited  
PO Box 167, Unit 1B Ground Floor,  
The Glassworks,Skeoge Business Park,  
11 Beraghmore Road,  
Derry  
BT48 8SE

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Bankers**

Danske Bank  
PO Box 183  
Donegall Square West  
Belfast  
BT1 6JS

**Solicitors**

Hasson and Company  
39-41 Clarendon Street  
Derry  
BT48 7ER

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)** **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees, who are also directors of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1 - 2 .This report constitutes the Directors' Report required under the Companies Act 2006. The Directors have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS102) effective 1 January 2015 -(Charities SORP(FRS102)) ,in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the company.

#### **Governing Document**

Foyle Search and Rescue is a private company limited by guarantee without a share capital . Foyle Serach and Rescue commenced operating as a company limited by guarantee without a share capital from 01 April 2017.The company was established under a memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under it Articles of Association The company was incorporated on 31 August 2016.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The work of Foyle Search and Rescue can mean the difference between life and death.

The Management Committee will do its utmost to ensure the continued provision of this vital service and during the reporting period decided the Charity should have sufficient general reserves of 2 years turnover or £250,000, whichever is the greater.

These General Reserves will be used for unforeseen events and to respond to emerging and changing needs.

These reserves will also provide cover for:

- Project failure
- Creditors and running costs
- Salary contingent for long term sick-leave or maternity leave
- Refurbishment costs

#### **Risk and Uncertainty**

The Financial Control and Procedures Manual identified a number of potential financial risks and how the Charity will mitigate against them. Namely,

- Reduced Income
- Overspend
- Fraud
- Procurement of Goods and Services
- Reputational
- Theft

These have been rated as “Low” given the mitigating measures in place.

#### *Investments*

The Charity did not hold any or undertake any financial investments during the reporting period . The Charity did have cash on deposit on current accounts and did receive some interest on this.

#### *Methods adopted for the appointment and recruitment of new trustees*

The committee of Foyle Serach and Rescue are charity trustees for the purpose of charity law .People can make an application to the committee to become a member. Every application for admission shall be considered by the committee at their first meeting after it was made, or as soon thereafter as is practical. There shall be no discrimination between persona by reference to politics, religion, race, sex, age, physical or mental disability.

# **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

## **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2025**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES**

The Preservation of life in and around the River Foyle. Death by drowning is minimised; People in crisis are signposted immediately to appropriate services; Body recoveries of missing people who have entered the River; Other agencies are supported to ensure that lifesaving equipment is well maintained; Public awareness of water safety around the river is improved through delivery of educational programmes and the issues of suicide and attempted suicides are highlighted to the appropriate statutory bodies. Our statistics identify how the benefits have been demonstrated. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. We are a unique Charity in what we do and we are not restricted to helping one group of people – we help everyone who needs us regardless of age, gender, religion, race or background. There are no private benefits flowing from any of the purposes.

#### *CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Stephen Twells)*

This year marks 31 years since the formation of our charity, which speaks volumes about the dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment of everyone involved in our mission-the preservation of life in and around the River Foyle.

Since 1993, FSR volunteers have stopped 6291 people who were in danger of, or considered taking their own life, in the river.

Over this past year, ending in March 2025, 17 rescues were carried out, while 209 people were stopped from entering the river, and tragically, we had the sad task of recovering 2 people who lost their lives in the river. The work that our volunteers carry out is never done in isolation. We could not deliver our services, or have the impact we do, without the help of the city centre CCTV team, Community Safety Wardens, PSNI, NIAS and NIFRS, who all provide vital support to us.

We are continually grateful to Derry City & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency and the Western Health & Social Care Trust for their continued funding, yet still, over 80% of all our annual income comes from public donations. We know there are many worthy causes in our city, deserving of peoples' appreciation, and financial support. To be there, when we are needed most, is the least we can do to repay that kindness and generosity.

Financially, the last 12 months have been very challenging for us. We expected to see a decline in income due to the ongoing wider economic climate we all find ourselves in, and sadly, income in the form of donations has declined substantially, which you will find more detail of within the Treasurer's Report.

We carried out a cost saving exercise to release some savings where we could, disposing of unnecessary fleet and/or assets to reduce running costs. We looked at how we could get better return on monies held in our accounts from better interest rates, transforming how we bank, which is proving beneficial, and something we will continue to develop, given the financial challenges we face.

We continued with our digital transformation programme, embedding our NFC reporting system into our operations, led by our Digital Lead Rossa Smallman, making for a smoother overall management of our assets and maintenance.

Having welcomed several batches of new volunteers to boost our numbers, we also introduced a new style of uniform as well as completing our rollout of standardised vehicle livery.

Long -term investment was made with the purchase of a drydock system at our base in Prehen, a new operational vehicle and the completion of our multi-purpose Command Vehicle.

We faced some operational challenges for most of the year, with major issues relating to one of our boats, Spirit of John, meaning that it had to be completely stripped and rebuilt, which unfortunately has taken much longer than both anticipated and planned, but we expect a successful resolution before the summer of 2025. However, we are taking the opportunity to remodel the boat to make it more multi-purpose for more of our disciplines.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

*CHAIRMAN'S REPORT(Continued)*

We passed our 3rd re-evaluation of our coveted "Investing in Volunteers" accreditation with flying colours, which recognises good practice within volunteer management: a testament to our board, management and operational co-ordinators. We continue to raise the profile of The Lighthouse Project which is offering signposting help, hope and advice to those who need it.

We were honoured to be recognised by our peers in the emergency services with the accolade of Voluntary Rescue Service of the Year, at the first ever NI Blue Lights Awards at the Culloden Hotel and look forward to going forward to the grand final in the UK-wide event.

Sadly, late in the year, we lost one of our own to suicide. Paddy Bowen was a popular, well liked volunteer, with an infectious laugh that could be heard all around the base, as well as keeping many of us awake during long duty nights. He will be honoured through the naming of a new vessel in his memory in late Spring: "The Bowen", a name chosen by our volunteers.

As always, we look forward positively to 2025/2026 in FSR. We will take delivery of our new sturdy vessel in Paddys name, as well as bringing our twin engine "Spirit of John" vessel back into operation.

The biggest challenge we may face this year will be with the introduction of an operational model being introduced by the Police that changes the way the emergency services respond to calls involving concerns about mental health. It is in the process of being rolled out across the UK as part of ongoing work between police, health providers and Government. It is aimed at making sure the right agency deals with the health related calls, instead of the police being the default first responder. It does not stop the police continuing to perform their key role of keeping people safe and where there is a real and immediate risk to life or serious harm.

We are waiting to be included in any consultations so that we can be sure we continue to deliver the best response that we can to any given situation while on patrol, or call out, while at the same time, having suitable support from the statutory emergency services.

We will drive operational improvements where needed, reduce costs where we can, secure suitable funding that may become available, and recruit more volunteers to boost our numbers to ensure we can deliver our commitment to the community, by having patrols out each weekend, backed up by a robust 24/7 emergency response team. We will continue to re-invigorate our management committee with new members so that they can steer the future of FSR in the right direction.

FSR volunteers have been providing support and encouragement to thousands of people since 1993, giving hope, strength and courage to a stranger to face another day. We are not just about searching for, and rescuing people; we are about compassion, empathy, and the unwavering belief that every life is worth saving. It's about being there in the darkest hours, offering solace and support to those who have lost their way.

Since our formation, the River Foyle has flowed, and the tides have turned, but our resolve to save lives has remained constant throughout any obstacles and challenges we faced.

Once again, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our volunteers, staff, supporters, partners, funders, past and present as well as the entire community. Together, we have all made Foyle Search and Rescue what it is today - a beacon of hope, a symbol of compassion, and a lifeline for those in need. Together we have saved lives. Together we have made a difference.

We are only the custodians for the next generation. As we look ahead to the future, we will continue to work together, to innovate and to grow, so that we may save even more lives in the years to come. Our city of ours, and is something we can all be very proud of. charity and all of our supporters are a shining example of everything that is wonderful about this great city of ours, and is something we can all be very proud of.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE (A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### *SONAR TEAM (Paul Lynch)*

Our Sonar team continues to carry out crucial underwater search operations using specialist equipment when someone goes under the surface and does not resurface.

The Sonar team now consists of 6 volunteers, each of whom dedicates significant time to both search operations and ongoing training throughout the year.

#### 2024 Highlights

2024 was a year of growth, innovation, and ongoing commitment for the Sonar team.

We conducted several training exercises (using a dive dummy and occasionally a diver - thanks Aodhan McDaid!). The team also attended two training sessions led by Norbit (the Sonar equipment vendor), helping to upskill the capabilities within the team.

We also performed some evaluations on the existing equipment in collaboration with Norbit (the equipment vendor). It was determined that FSR would benefit from an upgrade to the existing unit, which Norbit have agreed to do at no cost.

Unfortunately we lost our primary search vessel, as the Spirit of James had to be retired. For the majority of 2024 we operated off the smaller Steady vessel, which posed some challenges (particularly when it rained!). We look forward to the long-awaited return of the Spirit of John in the coming months, which is being refitted to better support Sonar operations. This will significantly improve our search efficiency, our response time and will provide better protection from the elements for our equipment.

We also continue to collaborate and share information with other Sonar / Search and Rescue experts, including Waterford SAR, Foyle Port (Chris McMenamin) and others.

#### 2024 Operations

2024 was unfortunately a busy year in terms of Sonar searches. We conducted 32 major multi-day searches in this reporting period.

The first major search was in June around the Foyle Bridge. The Sonar team conducted a total of 9 searches over a 12-day period.

The second major search was in September near the Foyle Bridge, with the Sonar team conducting 12 searches in 15 days.

During all searches, there was excellent collaboration between the Sonar team, the Police Search Advisor (POLSA), and the Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA).

#### Team and Thanks

We are grateful to our dedicated team: Paul, Anthony, Aodhán, Don, Frances, Gareth, Marc and Séamus. The Sonar team's commitment, technical skill, and adaptability are the backbone of our operations. Every deployment, training session, and new development is made possible by the time and energy these volunteers invest. We are proud of the professionalism and capability that the team brings to every mission.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### *SWIFT WATER/TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM Gerard O'Kane)*

Over the past 12 months the Technical Rescue Team has seen the team being rebranded from the previous "Swiftwater" team and has made great strides in further developing our operational capabilities through our CPD training programme which serves to continually maintain and upskill our volunteers abilities to respond to difficult and technical rescues in and around the river Foyle and further afield.

We currently have 7 Swiftwater Rescue Technicians and 3 Flood First Responders with other team members awaiting on renewal of their Flood First Responder certifications.

Over the past 12 months the team has assisted our Emergency Response Team on numerous pager activations and conducted water safety cover at the annual Hard As Oak event. The team will also be providing water safety cover alongside our shore and boat crews at this year's event and are eagerly looking forward to assisting all those participating at the event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the team who selflessly give up their time to help develop, grow and maintain our team and to all the staff, Co-ordinator's and Committee members who continue to assist, help and support our team at every opportunity, none of it would be possible without all of your efforts, thank you!

#### *SHORE TEAM ( Mark Buckley)*

##### Recruitment

Over the past year, the Shore team has played a central role in supporting Foyle Search and Rescue (FSR)'s recruitment efforts. Recognising the growing need to bolster our volunteer numbers, we coordinated and delivered three recruitment drives during this reporting period, strategically scheduled around our shore training syllabus.

Recruitment intakes occurred in:

- i) August 2024 - 9 successful recruits
- ii) November 2024 - 11 successful recruits
- iii) March 2025 - 17 successful recruits

In total, 37 new volunteers were trained and integrated into FSR within an eight-month period.

Each intake followed a structured process:

Prospective volunteers attended an open night, submitted an application, and completed a formal interview. Successful candidates then progressed to a comprehensive recruit training programme, which included:

- First Aid (Qualified certification)
- Communications training
- Client approach
- Equipment familiarisation and training (including thermal imaging)
- Throwline deployment
- FSR Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Scenario-based training - led by the Shore team with support from shore team leaders and boat crews
- "You See What I See" - perspective training offering recruits insight into the operational view of our boat teams

The reporting period was intensive, requiring significant coordination and effort. However, the outcome is a stronger, more capable volunteer base that enhances our operational readiness and community support capacity.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### Training Overview

2024 saw a strong focus on meeting recruitment goals and ensuring all volunteers completed required shore training, which includes:

- Online modules: JESSIP, FSR SOPs, and Manual Handling
- Practical sessions: Equipment handling and scenario-based training
- Focused development: Addressing key skill gaps

Team Leaders played a crucial role in delivering training and were provided with tailored sessions to support new and existing volunteers.

All volunteers took part in throwline training, led by the Technical Rescue Team (TRT), ensuring consistent and safe deployment across the service. TRT also delivered a 10-session water rescue trailer course, and volunteers received water-based first aid training.

Scenario exercises challenged teams to manage complex incidents, apply communication protocols, and respond to medical and rescue situations-ensuring readiness for real-life emergencies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for their professionalism demonstrated throughout the year. They have proved again that what they do matters and makes a difference every week.

Thank you to the staff and co-ordinators for their support throughout the past year. Finally, thank you to our deputy Shore Coordinator who I worked alongside over the past year. Their input and support over the past year was a huge part in the success of Shore within the last reporting period.

#### **BOAT TEAM ( Seamus McCloskey)**

The Boat Team continued to play a vital role in our operations throughout 2024, responding to incidents with professionalism and skill. This year, a strong emphasis was placed on ongoing training to maintain high standards in water safety, rescue techniques, and teamwork.

We extend a sincere thank you to the Training Team for their dedication and expertise in supporting our Boat Crew. From scenario-based exercises to joint sessions with the Technical Rescue Team, their commitment has ensured our crews remain confident, capable, and rescue-ready at all times.

#### Training

In 2024, we continued to deliver high-quality, mandatory training to ensure operational readiness across all teams.

- 6 volunteers successfully completed their Coxswain assessments
- 3 volunteers undertook PWC (Personal Watercraft) training
- Members also tested a rescue sled for potential future deployment in water rescues

Thank you to our dedicated Training Team for supporting the development and safety of all our volunteers through hands-on instruction and ongoing assessment.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### *BOAT TEAM (Continued)*

##### Operational Challenges

This year, we faced significant issues with the Spirit of John vessel, which is still out of service. This impacted some areas of volunteer development, as the charity had to prioritise protecting the AOD boat from potential damage during increased use.

Despite these setbacks, the commitment of our volunteers and support from the Training Team ensured that essential training and operations continued safely and effectively.

##### Leadership Changes

In February, we saw the resignation of both the Boat Co-ordinator and Deputy Co-ordinator. We would like to express our sincere thanks to them for their time, dedication, and contribution to the charity during their service.

Following their departure, a review of the roles was carried out, and key responsibilities have since been taken on by the Facilities Manager and Charity Manager. We are grateful to both for stepping up to ensure continuity and support for the Boat Team during this period of transition.

#### *UAV TEAM (Ryan Murphy)*

Over the past twelve months, the UAV team has continued to operate as an integral part of FSR's operational and emergency response, delivering consistent and reliable aerial support across a wide range of incidents. Drones have been deployed regularly in support of both duty nights and emergency callouts, assisting with live S1 search and rescue operations, wide-area search sweeps, and targeted searches for high-risk missing persons. The UAV team has provided valuable assistance across several major taskings this year, including sustained support during multi-day searches and collaborative multi-agency responses along the river corridor and surrounding terrain.

The DJI Matrice 30T and Matrice 300RTK platforms remain the backbone of our aerial capability, with both aircraft routinely deployed to gather live visual and thermal imagery to aid decision-making and direct ground resources during time-critical incidents. Their performance in a variety of challenging environmental conditions has continued to demonstrate their value as frontline tools for search and rescue.

The Mobile Incident Command Unit, introduced last year, is now fully embedded in operational use and has played a key role in several significant search operations over the past year. The ICU has enhanced our field coordination capability, particularly during protracted incidents requiring integrated comms, UAV coordination, and sustained presence on scene. It continues to act as a reliable mobile hub for incident commanders and drone pilots alike, allowing for rapid deployment of assets and informed tactical oversight.

Looking ahead, the UAV team remains committed to maintaining a resilient and capable flight crew. We continue to support ongoing training, currency, and upskilling of our pilots to ensure a high standard of operational readiness. As ever, recruitment and retention remain a key priority to support the sustainability of the team into the future.

I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the flight crew for their dedication and professionalism throughout the year, and to the staff and The Board of FSR for their continued support and trust in the UAV team's work.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### *VOLUNTEER MANAGER UPDATE( Dawn Grieve)*

As Volunteer Manager, I continue to review and update our policies and procedures to ensure they best support both our volunteers and the wider mission of the charity. A key achievement this year was successfully completing the Investing in Volunteers accreditation with Volunteer Now-a milestone we're incredibly proud of. This recognition confirms that we are following best practices to deliver the highest possible standard of volunteer experience.

#### Volunteer Numbers

We currently have 98 volunteers on our books, with 87 actively engaged operationally. This is a significant increase from 66 active volunteers at this time last year. Of our team, 7 support fundraising efforts, and 3 are non-operational volunteers who contribute by delivering educational talks. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every volunteer for your dedication and commitment. In a time when it's increasingly difficult for organisations to attract long-term volunteers, we are fortunate to have such a passionate and united team working toward a common goal: the prevention of life in and around the River Foyle and beyond.

#### Recruitment & Uniforms

Over the past year, we've completely revamped our recruitment and selection process. These improvements, trialled and refined over the past three intakes, are helping us bring in the right people for the roles. Our next recruitment drive will launch in mid-August and will help further strengthen coverage across all duty nights.

This year also marked the rollout of our new uniform. We've moved away from having separate formal and casual options-now all Foyle Search activities are covered under one streamlined uniform.

#### Health & Wellbeing

Volunteer wellbeing remains a top priority for me. Through our health and wellbeing programme, I aim to offer a variety of events and activities throughout the year-from social evenings and outdoor challenges to relaxing facials and shared meals at the base. I encourage everyone to take part-this base is your space to enjoy and unwind.

Given the nature of the work we do, it's vital to highlight the counselling service available through Rachel McMonagle Counselling. Many volunteers find peer conversations helpful, but sometimes speaking to someone outside the organisation can make all the difference. This service is confidential and available to support you through any life challenges-not just those related to Foyle Search activities. In October, we introduced a 4-week in-house fitness programme focused on yoga, breathing, and stretching. It was fantastic to see volunteers taking time to relax and decompress. Another fitness series is planned for this year.

We also hosted a health and wellbeing day offering beauty treatments and hot meals for both male and female volunteers. The men's session included health checks, and due to the positive impact, we plan to expand health checks to include female volunteers at future events. This initiative will now be held annually.

#### Celebrations & Socials

December brought a visit from the big man in red-Santa! He brought lots of laughs, sweets, and smiles, with entertainment provided by In Your Space and a delicious hot meal for the kids. Our Christmas party, held in January at The Embankment, was another highlight. With music from Jordan O'Keefe and Gary McMusic, it was a night of great food, drinks, and celebration. Other popular events throughout the year included self-defence training, a candle-making workshop, and a pottery painting evening-all well received by those who attended.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide feedback through our wellbeing survey. Your input has directly shaped this year's calendar of events. I encourage even more of you to get involved-these activities are not only fantastic for team building but also great fun!

There's plenty more in store for 2025/2026-stay tuned!

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)** **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### *INCIDENT OVERVIEW*

During the 2024/2025 financial year, Foyle Search and Rescue attended a total of 228 incidents, broken down as follows:

- 125 attended by our Duty Night Teams
- 94 responded to by our Emergency Response Pager Teams

From these incidents:

- 17 individuals were rescued from the river alive
- 105 distressed individuals were successfully brought back from the railings and bridges surrounding the river
- 104 people were identified as causes for concern
- 2 male individuals were recovered following search operations and returned to their loved ones

These statistics are a key indicator of the effectiveness and importance of our life- preservation services. While we directly assisted 226 individuals through our crisis intervention efforts, the true reach of our support is far greater.

#### **Financial review**

##### *General (Cormac O'Hare)*

In anticipation of rising challenges to secure statutory funding and increasing operating costs, the initial plan for 2024-25, was a more conservative investment plan, after the previous year marked the thirtieth anniversary of the charity's formation and witnessed the largest ever investment in the Charity.

Early in the reporting period, major technical issues were identified with one of our high speed response boats. This coupled with an unexpected fall in public donations, prompted an even more aggressive approach of focusing on operating essentials and pushing back the Phase II expansion of our Prehen Base.

##### *Income*

Income from April 2024 to March 2025 was £284k, 33% down on last year, 35% down on 2022-23 and 46% down on 2019-2020 the year leading up to the COVID Pandemic.

It was a challenging year in terms of income. Our traditional income streams of collection boxes, flag days and support from Statutory agencies, remained, but we witnessed a reduction across all other streams compared to previous years.

National Lottery funding was secured late in the reporting period to support the provision of a new boat.

##### *Expenditure/Investment (Financial Review Continued)*

Our initial spending budget was just over £480k. As a result of the unexpected structural issues with our fast response boat and the reduction in monthly income the budget was re-assessed, early in the reporting period, with the actual year end spend coming in at £296k (before deprec and fixed asset additions) in the period, 38% below the original budget.

The majority of the expenditure was, on normal operating costs as well as planned spending on new recruits, new defibrillators, completion of dry docks and hardware and software digital upgrades. In May 2024, significant structural issues were identified with the Spirit of John, one of our two rapid response boats. In addition, after the retirement of two previous obsolete FSR boats, a need was identified for a boat with a cab, to support in particular Sonar operations and resulted in an unplanned spend in excess of £40k, with a further spend of £40k required in the new financial period to complete the required upgrades. To balance this unplanned expense the Phase II extension of our base infrastructure was put on hold.

Great credit again must be given to all those involved in the charity, to relentlessly challenge all expenditures for justification and assurance that they are aligned with day-to-day operations and driving the charity forward.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2025**

#### *Financial Status 2024-25*

Our year end reserve account is £934k, which includes ~£402k invested in the Flagstone platform. This represents a 6.1% decrease based on the period ending 31st March 2024.

#### *Review of fundraising and Education (Christina Mc Keegan)*

2024: What an Action-Packed Year!

As we reflect on 2024, we want to begin by extending a massive thank you to all the local businesses who chose us as their Charity Partner of the Year. These partnerships not only raise vital funds through tireless dedication and creativity, but they also significantly increase awareness of both our services and other essential local resources.

A special shout-out goes to our incredible volunteers-your commitment to our internal events, both annual and monthly, has been outstanding. Rain, hail, snow, and on the rare occasion, sunshine, our Box Run Volunteers were out each month like clockwork, collecting across local shops. Thanks to your efforts, the box runs raised an incredible £32,000.

Our Winter and Summer Flag Days, held in the heart of the city, were another highlight. With your help, we raised an additional £8,500-funds that go directly toward vital training, equipment, and PPE for our volunteer teams. These events continue to be supported by the amazing people of our city, and we are grateful for every contribution.

We also want to thank the dedicated team of volunteers who come in every month to count the coins collected through box runs, flag days, and bucket appeals. Your behind-the-scenes work is essential and truly appreciated-it keeps our internal fundraisers running smoothly and efficiently.

As in previous years, the support we received from schools and higher education institutions was phenomenal. Your ongoing involvement plays a vital role in the prevention through education aspect of our work. In 2024/2025, we proudly:

- Delivered 24 educational talks to schools, workplaces, and community groups

- Participated in 6 water safety workshop days as part of the YES Project, reaching over 900 primary school children

- Reached an estimated 4,000+ individuals through our educational outreach

Our success is measured by the number of sessions delivered and the audiences we reach. This programme raises awareness of suicide prevention, promotes safe water use, and equips people of all ages with life-saving knowledge.

Looking ahead to 2025/2026, we are placing a strong focus on:

- Expanding our educational outreach

- Growing our education volunteer team to meet increasing demand

To the many local businesses who supported us throughout the year-your involvement has been nothing short of amazing. We are constantly humbled by the continued support from the same organisations and individuals year after year. Being chosen as your charity partner is a true honour, and the impact you help us make is remarkable. We look forward to strengthening these relationships in the years ahead.

Finally, we must highlight the success of The Light House Project-a collaboration between Foyle Search and Rescue and Danny Quigley. This initiative has introduced a central database of support services throughout the city and district. With NFC-enabled yellow stickers placed across locations-from the quay to bars, restaurants, pubs, and community centres-it has already reached 16,000 users. We're excited to expand this project further in 2025/2026.

To everyone who helped raise funds, raise awareness, and support our charity-thank you. And to our volunteers, staff, and their families and friends: we could not do this without you. Your time, energy, and dedication are what allow us to meet our core mission: "The Preservation of Life in and Around the River Foyle."

Here's to another year of life-saving work-together.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

*Acknowledgements 2025*

Volunteers & Staff  
General Public - North & South of the Border  
Public Health Agency  
Derry City & Strabane District Council  
Department of Justice  
Gilliland Family  
Emergency Services  
NISAR Rescue Organisations  
City Centre Initiative  
Inner City Trust  
Western Health and Social Care Trust  
Four Star Pizza Dominos  
Paolos Pizza  
Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum  
Diamond Corrugated  
The Rank Foundation  
Print Chameleon CCTV  
RYA

**Plans for future periods**

2025 -26 OUTLOOK

The challenge for the new year will be to continue to secure statutory and other agencies' funding while continuing to explore ways to maintain and enhance support from the public and other sources of income.

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102 );
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, comprising FRS102 , subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

**Small company provisions**

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

On behalf of the board

Stephen Twells  
**Director**

29 August 2025

Stephen Twells  
3/9/25

Cormac O'Hare  
**Treasurer**

C O'Hare  
29<sup>th</sup> AUG 25

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of**  
**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE.**

I report on the accounts of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the year ended 31 March 2025 set out on pages 3 to 26.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for purposes of company law) 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 65 of the Charities Act
- 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
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination includes 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Paul Green of Paul Green Accountancy and Taxation Limited**  
Chartered Accountant (Chartered Accountants Ireland))

**Independent examiner**

PO Box 167, Unit 1B Ground Floor,  
The Glassworks, Skeoge Business Park,  
11 Beraghmore Road  
Derry  
BT48 8SE  
29 August 2025

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)**

**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Charitable activities	2	38,838	79,496	118,334	162,107
Other trading activities	3	150,212	-	150,212	249,586
Investment income	4	16,215	-	16,215	14,979
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>205,265</u>	<u>79,496</u>	<u>284,761</u>	<u>426,672</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Expenditure on Charitable activities	5	310,789	79,496	390,285	443,505
Other Expenditure	6	2,013	-	2,013	2,051
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>312,802</u>	<u>79,496</u>	<u>392,298</u>	<u>445,556</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		(107,537)	-	(107,537)	(18,884)
Transfer between funds		<u>223,439</u>	<u>(223,439)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net movement in funds/Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		115,902	(223,439)	(107,537)	(18,884)
Opening Balance brought forward		<u>827,630</u>	<u>959,297</u>	<u>1,786,927</u>	<u>1,805,811</u>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>943,532</u>	<u>735,858</u>	<u>1,679,390</u>	<u>1,786,927</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2025**

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		955,715		1,035,225
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	29,373		25,540	
Cash at bank and in hand		958,194		1,014,301	
		<u>987,567</u>		<u>1,039,841</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(29,802)</u>		<u>(17,674)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>957,765</u>		<u>1,022,167</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			1,913,480		2,057,392
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	14		-		(19,620)
<b>Accruals and deferred income</b>	15		<u>(234,090)</u>		<u>(250,845)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>1,679,390</u>		<u>1,786,927</u>
<b>Funds</b>	16				
Restricted income funds			735,858		959,297
Unrestricted income funds			943,532		827,630
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>1,679,390</u>		<u>1,786,927</u>

The Balance Sheet continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet (continued)**

**Trustees statements required by the Companies Act 2006**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31 March 2025.

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the board on 29 August 2025 and signed on its behalf by

**Stephen Twells**  
**Director**

Stephen Twells  
3/9/25  
charles

**Cormac O'Hare**  
**Treasurer**

CPO'Hare  
29<sup>th</sup> AUG 25

The notes on pages 19 to 26 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**1. Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

**1.1. Basis of accounting**

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the 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 (FRS102 effective 1 January 2015) Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Foyle Search and Rescue meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The Financial Statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Taking account of the risk review undertaken by the trustees they do not consider there to be any risk to the going concern of the Charity.

**1.2. Cashflow**

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small company.

**1.3. Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants relating to revenue shall be recognised in income on a systematic basis over the periods in which the entity recognises the related costs for which the grant is intended to compensate

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are

Grants relating to assets shall be recognised in income on a systematic basis over the expected useful life of the asset.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**1.4. Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.

**1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated 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:

Property Renovations	-	Straight line over fifty years
Plant and machinery	-	15% Reducing Balance
Boats and equipment	-	15% Reducing Balance
Motor vehicles	-	15% Reducing Balance

**1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes**

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

**1.7. Capital Grants**

Capital grants received for specific capital assets are treated as deferred capital grants and released to income in line with the related depreciation charge of the asset acquired.

**2. Charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
HSC Public Health Agency	-	34,074	34,074	31,523
Rank Foundation	-	16,222	16,222	29,615
Derry City and Strabane District Council	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
Capital Grants Released	36,755	-	36,755	39,619
FSD	-	12,000	12,000	-
Insurance Claim - Thermals	2,083	-	2,083	-
NISAR Resources	-	-	-	14,000
CAF	-	-	-	32,350
Community Development and Health Network	-	2,200	2,200	-
	<u>38,838</u>	<u>79,496</u>	<u>118,334</u>	<u>162,107</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**3. Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Fundraising and Donations	150,212	150,212	249,586
	<u>150,212</u>	<u>150,212</u>	<u>249,586</u>

**4. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Bank Interest Received	16,215	16,215	14,979
	<u>16,215</u>	<u>16,215</u>	<u>14,979</u>

**5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Staff costs	53,586	50,296	103,882	100,414
Pension Costs	2,305	-	2,305	2,189
Volunteer and Fundraising Expenses	13,418	-	13,418	9,443
Accountancy fees	2,520	-	2,520	2,400
Insurance	22,211	12,000	34,211	35,058
Base Repairs and Maintenance	18,810	-	18,810	24,201
Light and Heat and Water	6,990	-	6,990	11,546
Staff Travel and subsistence	-	-	-	34,351
Printing, postage and stationery	4,737	-	4,737	4,667
Boats and Vehicle Operations	54,771	15,000	69,771	59,212
Telephone and Pagers	12,798	-	12,798	24,898
Training Costs	18,264	-	18,264	41,660
Depreciation and amortisation	96,363	-	96,363	108,545
General Expenses	2,667	2,200	4,867	5,539
Subscriptions and Donations	1,138	-	1,138	-
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets for the charity's own use	211	-	211	(20,618)
	<u>310,789</u>	<u>79,496</u>	<u>390,285</u>	<u>443,505</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**6. Other Expenditure**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>2025 Total £</b>	<b>2024 Total £</b>
Hire Purchase Interest	1,872	1,872	1,872
Bank Charges	141	141	179
	<u>2,013</u>	<u>2,013</u>	<u>2,051</u>

**7. Net outgoing resources for the year**

	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Net outgoing resources is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	96,363	108,545
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	211	(20,618)
	<u>96,574</u>	<u>87,927</u>

**8. Employees**

<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
Wages and salaries	99,759	96,821
Social security costs	4,123	3,593
Pension costs	2,305	2,189
	<u>106,187</u>	<u>102,603</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2024 : None).

**Number of employees**

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	<b>2025 Number</b>	<b>2024 Number</b>
Management and Admin	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**9. Pension costs**

The company operates a pension scheme as required by the pension auto enrolment provisions in respect of applicable employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and was as follows:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pension charge	2,305	2,189

**10. Taxation**

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

**11. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Boats and Equipment</b>	<b>Plant and Machinery</b>	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>					
Transfer from unincorporated	738,496	486,803	582,091	189,939	1,997,329
Additions	-	-	17,563	-	17,563
Disposals	-	(5,000)	-	-	(5,000)
At 31 March 2025	<u>738,496</u>	<u>481,803</u>	<u>599,654</u>	<u>189,939</u>	<u>2,009,892</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
Transfer from unincorporated	234,660	321,870	314,489	91,085	962,104
Charge for the year	14,770	23,990	42,775	14,828	96,363
On disposals	-	(4,289)	-	-	(4,289)
At 31 March 2025	<u>249,430</u>	<u>341,571</u>	<u>357,264</u>	<u>105,913</u>	<u>1,054,178</u>
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 March 2025	<u>489,066</u>	<u>140,232</u>	<u>242,390</u>	<u>84,026</u>	<u>955,714</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>503,836</u>	<u>164,933</u>	<u>267,602</u>	<u>98,854</u>	<u>1,035,225</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

Included above are assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts as follows:

Asset description	2025		2024	
	Net book value £	Depreciation charge £	Net book value £	Depreciation charge £
Motor vehicles	16,889	2,980	19,869	3,506

**12. Debtors**

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	8,395	7,814
Other debtors	20,978	17,726
	<u>29,373</u>	<u>25,540</u>

**13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank overdraft	1,119	1,215
Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	19,619	5,692
NICTS	-	1,756
Other taxes and social security	386	453
Accruals and deferred income	8,678	8,558
	<u>29,802</u>	<u>17,674</u>

**14. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	2025 £	2024 £
Net obligations under finance leases	-	19,620
	<u>-</u>	<u>19,620</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

<b>15. Accruals and deferred income</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Deferred Capital Grant</b>		
Transfer from unincorporated	(250,845)	(225,604)
Capital Grants received in period	(20,000)	(64,860)
	<u>(270,845)</u>	<u>(290,464)</u>
Released in year	36,755	39,619
At 31 March 2025	<u>(234,090)</u>	<u>(250,845)</u>

**16. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March 2025 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	702,007	-	702,007
Current assets	241,525	735,858	977,383
	<u>943,532</u>	<u>735,858</u>	<u>1,679,390</u>

**17. Unrestricted funds**

	At 1 April 2023 £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
General Unrestricted Fund	<u>827,630</u>	<u>(107,537)</u>	<u>223,439</u>	<u>943,532</u>

**Purposes of unrestricted funds**

For use in the administrative department.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

18. Restricted funds	At	Incoming resources	Transfers	At
	1 April 2023			31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Genral restricted Fund	853,344	-	(283,822)	569,522
Restricted Fund Prehen Extension	80,000	-	40,000	120,000
National Lottery	-	20,000	-	20,000
Restricted Fund Rank Foundation	24,953	383	-	25,336
Restricted Fund Joshy Simon	1,000	-	-	1,000
	<u>959,297</u>	<u>20,383</u>	<u>(243,822)</u>	<u>735,858</u>

**Purposes of restricted funds**

Redundancy ,running costs

Completion of phase 2

New Boat

Wages

Cold water /shock Education

**19. Controlling interest**

The company is a company limited by guarantee without a share capital. The trustees/Directors are collectively considered to be the charity's ultimate controlling party. There were no beneficial transactions on behalf of the trustees/directors during the period under review.

**20. Company limited by guarantee**

Foyle Search and Rescue is a private company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member ,or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member for

- payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a member
- payment of the costs ,charges and expenses of winding up ,and
- adjustement of the rights of the contributors among themselves.

**Foyle Search and Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106685

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# Accounts

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Charity number: NIC106685  
Company number: NI640535 (Northern Ireland)

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Executive Committees' report and financial statements**

**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Charity number** NIC106685

**Company registration number** NI640535

**Business address** 20 Victoria Road  
Waterside  
Derry  
BT47 2AB

**Registered office** 20 Victoria Road  
Derry  
BT47 2AB

<b>Trustees /Company Directors</b>	Stephen Twells Sandra O Doherty Kristina McDaid Cormac O'Hare Brian Mullan Steven Durrent	Chairman Resigned 21/06/2023 Appointed 12/12/2023 Company Secretary Appointed 12/12/2023 Treasurer Resigned 21/06/2023 Appointed 11/09/2024
------------------------------------	--	--

<b>Co-Ordinators</b>	Mark Buckley Seamus Mc Closkey(Steven Durrent) Neal Cooke ( Paul McLaughlin) Gerard O'Kane Ryan Murphy Danielle Francis (Seamus McCloskey) Conor Hargan	Shore Co-Ordinator Boat Co-Ordinator Pager Co- Ordinator Swiftwater Co-Ordinator Drone Co-Ordinator Sonar Co-Ordinator FREC Co-Ordinator
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<b>Past Roles</b>	Brian Og Mullan Sandra O'Doherty Martin O'Neill	Vice- Chairman Health and Wellbeing Health and safety and Risk
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**Accountants** Paul Green Accountancy and Taxation Limited  
PO Box 167, Unit 1B Ground Floor,  
The Glassworks,Skeoge Business Park,  
11 Beraghmore Road,  
Derry  
BT48 8SE

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Bankers**

Danske Bank  
PO Box 183  
Donegall Square West  
Belfast  
BT1 6JS

**Solicitors**

Hasson and Company  
39-41 Clarendon Street  
Derry  
BT48 7ER

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)** **for the year ended 31 March 2024**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees, who are also directors of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1 - 2 .This report constitutes the Directors' Report required under the Companies Act 2006. The Directors have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS102) effective 1 January 2015 -(Charities SORP(FRS102)) ,in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the company.

#### **Governing Document**

Foyle Search and Rescue is a private company limited by guarantee without a share capital . Foyle Serach and Rescue commenced operating as a company limited by guarantee without a share capital from 01 April 2017.The company was established under a memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under it Articles of Association The company was incorporated on 31 August 2016.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The work of Foyle Search and Rescue can mean the difference between life and death.

The Management Committee will do its utmost to ensure the continued provision of this vital service and during the reporting period decided the Charity should have sufficient general reserves of 2 years turnover or £250,000, whichever is the greater.

These General Reserves will be used for unforeseen events and to respond to emerging and changing needs.

These reserves will also provide cover for:

- Project failure
- Creditors and running costs
- Salary contingent for long term sick-leave or maternity leave
- Refurbishment costs

#### **Risk and Uncertainty**

The Financial Control and Procedures Manual identified a number of potential financial risks and how the Charity will mitigate against them. Namely,

- Reduced Income
- Overspend
- Fraud
- Procurement of Goods and Services
- Reputational
- Theft

These have been rated as “Low” given the mitigating measures in place.

#### *Investments*

The Charity did not hold any or undertake any financial investments during the reporting period . The Charity did have cash on deposit on current accounts and did receive some interest on this.

#### *Methods adopted for the appointment and recruitment of new trustees*

The committee of Foyle Serach and Rescue are charity trustees for the purpose of charity law .People can make an application to the committee to become a memeber .Every application for admission shall be considered by the committee at their first meeting after it was made ,or as soon thereafter as is practicable.There shall be no discrimination between persona by reference to politics ,religion,race ,sex ,age ,physical or mental disability.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
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**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Objectives and activities**

**Charitable objectives**

The Preservation of life in and around the River Foyle. Death by drowning is minimised; People in crisis are signposted immediately to appropriate services; Body recoveries of missing people who have entered the River; Other agencies are supported to ensure that lifesaving equipment is well maintained; Public awareness of water safety around the river is improved through delivery of educational programmes and the issues of suicide and attempted suicides are highlighted to the appropriate statutory bodies. Our statistics identify how the benefits have been demonstrated. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. We are a unique Charity in what we do and we are not restricted to helping one group of people – we help everyone who needs us regardless of age, gender, religion, race or background. There are no private benefits flowing from any of the purposes.

*Chairman's Report (Stephen Twells)*

This year marks a truly special occasion as we come together to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our charity. It is an incredible milestone that speaks volumes about the dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment of everyone involved in our mission-the preservation of life in and around the River Foyle.

Since 1993, FSR volunteers have stopped 6,082 people who were in danger of, or considered taking their own life, in the river. However, sadly, the number dying by suicide in the river has remained almost constant over the last 30 years since the formation of FSR, with an average of 5 fatalities each year.

The year just ending in March 2024 was another busy year for us. 24 rescues were carried out, while 198 people were stopped from entering the river, but tragically, we had the sad task of recovering 4 people who lost their lives in the river.

The work that our volunteers carry out is never done in isolation. We could not deliver our services, nor make the difference we make, without the help of the city centre CCTV team, Community Safety Wardens, PSNI, NIAS and NIFRS, who all provide vital support to us.

We are extremely grateful to Derry City & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency and the Western Health & Social Care Trust for their continued funding to us again this year, yet still, over 80% of all our annual income comes from public donations. We know there are many worthy causes in our city, deserving of peoples' appreciation, and financial support. To be there, when we are needed most, is the least we can do to repay that kindness and generosity.

Most of our activities this year revolved around either commemorating our 30 years of service, or taking action to make our charity better placed to face the future, while maintaining our duty nights, 24/7 pager response, educational activity and intensive training programmes.

We celebrated our 30th year with many fundraising events, as well as being invited to the Mayors Parlour for a recognition evening with Mayor Sandra Duffy. We were honoured with another award when we, unexpectedly received the Best of Derry 999 Hero Award. We held a glamorous Gala Ball in September, and what for me was the highlight of the year, a very poignant and moving Remembrance event in October, laying lanterns on the river to remember all those who have died in the river over the years. We also supported our local hero Danny Quigley, who swam 110km to raise awareness of mental health, while remembering those who have both died by suicide and those struggling with mental health issues.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
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**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

Chairman's Report(Continued)

We began a journey of transformation on how we function, with a new digital programme, still in development, aimed at simplifying many of our activities. We invested heavily across our multi-disciplinary teams, with upgrades to drones, more equipment for our sonar and swift water teams, better Personal Protective Equipment for our boat crews, and 2 new duty night team vehicles. We refurbished our two largest, most used boats with new engines as well as a drydock to help with their maintenance. We began to develop a multi-disciplinary command vehicle and implement new livery branding across our fleet of vehicles.

We invested in 2 new additional staff roles, a Volunteer Manager and, a Digital Lead in conjunction with the Rank Foundation, aimed at supporting our volunteers and management committee.

Unfortunately, throughout the year we incurred damage and loss to vessels and equipment which we either repaired or are working through a plan to replace within the coming 12 months. We also undertook a cost savings exercise and sold, or are selling some of our older, or under- utilised vehicle and vessel assets. This programme will continue throughout 2024 to deliver savings where we can. 2024/2025 will again be another challenging and exciting year in the life of FSR. It will bring more improvements as we continue with our digital transformation, more recruitment of new volunteers, investment in new defibrillators, swift water equipment, training, and sourcing a suitable multi-purpose boat that will support both our normal operations as well as sonar searches.

We will be going through our 3rd re-evaluation of our coveted "Investing in Volunteers" accreditation, which recognises good practice within volunteer management, and we will re- invigorate our management committee with new members. We will also continue to work with the Danny Quigley Foundation to develop a symbolic "Lighthouse" which will be a beacon of light and a practical place to help and information around mental health.

The biggest project that we hope to complete will be seeing phase 2 of an extension to our base, after a prolonged delay due to the recent pandemic, which will bring much needed storage and workspace.

FSR volunteers have been providing support and encouragement to thousands of people since 1993, giving hope, strength and courage to a stranger, to face another day. We are not just about searching for, and rescuing people; we are about compassion, empathy, and the unwavering belief that every life is worth saving. It's about being there in the darkest hours, offering solace and support to those who have lost their way.

During the last 30 years, the River Foyle has flowed, and the tides have turned, but our resolve to save lives has remained constant throughout any obstacles and challenges we faced.

So many people have been involved in FSR over the years, and at this special milestone, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our volunteers, staff, supporters, partners, funders, past and present as well as the entire community. Together, we have made Foyle Search and Rescue what it is today - a beacon of hope, a symbol of compassion, and a lifeline for those in need. Together we have saved lives. Together we have made a difference.

We are only the custodians for the next generation. As we look ahead to the future, let us continue to work together, to innovate and to grow, so that we may save even more lives in the years to come. Our charity and all of our supporters are a shining example of everything that is wonderful about this great city of ours, and is something we can all be very proud of.

Thank you for being a part of our journey so far. Here's to the next 30 years of making a difference in the lives of those we serve, and may the light of hope continue to shine bright in our hearts, and along the Foyle River

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*Sonar Team (Paul Lynch)*

Our Sonar team carry out searches of the river using specialist equipment when someone goes under the surface and does not resurface.

The Sonar team consists of 10 volunteers, who put in a lot of time and effort particularly when a search happens, but also throughout the year.

2023 was a significant year for the team for many reasons.

In May 2023, we conducted a training session in collaboration with the Inishowen Sub-Aqua Club, who provided divers so that we could simulate a sonar search for a body. Many thanks to Aodhán McDaid and the Inishowen SAC crew for their support.

This was followed in June by a weekend's training with the Norbit support team.

In July, the team were tasked to perform a multi-day sonar search for a missing person in the Foyle. The individual was eventually found safe and well elsewhere.

In August, the team were again tasked to search for a missing person who was believed to have entered the river. This was again a multi-day search, and the team were able to eliminate several search areas before the individual was eventually located downriver.

In Oct 2023 we welcomed 3 new Team members, to further strengthen the team. They were soon called into action when in late October we performed a multi-week search of Westlake for a missing person. A SARDA dog had indicated the person had possibly entered the lake. This was a challenging search - access to the lake was difficult and the lake itself was not conducive to multi-beam scanning due to high levels of vegetation getting tangled in the sonar head. This gave us the opportunity to trial our new Garmin LiveScope side-scan unit, which is a small transducer suitable for use in difficult-to-access areas and in shallow waters. The Sonar team was able to completely scan the small lake and rule it out of the search, and ultimately the missing person was found elsewhere.

The team had a further training weekend in November, with the Norbit support team. We trialled a LiDAR unit from Norbit (which scans above the water line to add shoreline reference details to any sonar scan). This was conducted in Creggan Country Park.

In November we also welcomed our new Sonar Coordinator Danielle Francis, who took over the reins from Seamus McCloskey.

Feb 2024 saw the resumption of regular Sonar training - we conducted sessions for all members at base and in Creggan Country Park. We unfortunately lost our regular Sonar boat (Spirit of James), as it had to be retired from the fleet. For now, we are capable of operating Sonar from the Steady, and we are exploring further options for a replacement boat suitable for Sonar.

In March 2024 we participated in a multi-week, multi-agency search for a male who entered the river at Strabane. This was challenging as the search area was huge, and the river is uncharted and hazardously shallow in places. We therefore focused on using the Garmin LiveScope to conduct a side-scan sonar search, and used the Norbit Multibeam only on specific deeper areas of the river. The search times were very dependent on tides and limited daylight, nevertheless we managed to get teams out for a good number of searches.

A special thanks to all members of the sonar team; Danielle (Sonar Coordinator), Paul (Deputy Coordinator) Anthony, Aodhán, Don, Frances, Gareth, Marc, Paddy, Séamus. The team put in a great deal of time and effort into Sonar operations and we could not make the advances we are making without their level of commitment.

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*Swift Water( Gerard O'Kane)*

Over the past 12 months the Swiftwater team has made great strides in investing and further developing our operational capabilities by investing in new and upgraded PPE and through our new CPD training programme which serves to continually maintain and upskill our volunteers abilities to respond to difficult and technical rescues in and around the river Foyle and further afield.

We currently have 7 Swiftwater Rescue Technicians and 8 Flood First Responders on the team.

Over the past 12 months the team has responded to requests of assistance from the PSNI to localised flooding in Co. Tyrone and also conducted some water safety cover in both Co. Derry and Co. Donegal with the highlight of those being the annual Hard As Oak event. The team will also be providing water safety cover at this year's event and are eagerly looking forward to assisting all those participating at the event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the team who selflessly give up their time to help develop, grow and maintain our team and to all the staff, Co-ordinator's and Committee members who continue to assist, help and support our team at every opportunity, none of it would be possible without all of your efforts, thank you

*HEALTH & WELLBEING (Dawn Grieve)*

Volunteer wellbeing will always be of the highest importance for me as Volunteer Manager. So as part of the health and wellbeing programme I have run a variety of different events through the year. From evenings out, to relaxing facials and food at the base. I would encourage everyone to get involved. This is your base, to come & use it as you please.

August saw the amazing fun day to end Danny Quigleys Lifford to Kinnego Bay swim. I think I speak for all volunteers when I say that being part of this event was a highlight. The fun day was a great day for not only the public but our volunteers and their families.

In September we held our 30th Anniversary Gala Ball. This was an amazing evening with lots of laughs thanks to Tim McGarry. It was lovely to get glammed up and celebrate Foyle Search and Rescue. The room was set up beautifully thanks to our Charity Manager's vision and 3 people won great prizes in the form of holiday vouchers!

October saw the roll out of an 8 week fitness programme held at ProBox Gym. It was great to see volunteers have a laugh together and it allowed everyone to let off steam when they let loose on the pads. Another fitness programme will be rolled out later in the year.

A health and wellbeing event, which included a variety of beauty treatments and a hot meal, was held in November. This event was open to everyone and everyone left feeling fantastic! This event will definitely return in the near future for both male and females!

Of course December couldn't pass by without the big man in the red suit calling by! And what a visit it was, Santa did a great job, so much so that all the children were saying that he was the best Santa they have seen and that he was very funny! The kids enjoyed a hot meal and lots of sweets were consumed!

Our highly anticipated volunteer Christmas party was held in January in the Thirsty Goat. Its fair to say that this was a great night, the food was amazing, the music great, and the dancing was... well.

The volunteers who have attended these events have all provided great feedback. I would encourage more of you to get involved, it is great team building and also great craic. Lots more to come in 2024/2025

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Health and WellBeing (Continued)

Lastly, due to the nature of the tasks carried out by our volunteers I will always promote the counselling service provided by Lorraine Rogan at 'Peace by Piece'. Although many feel it is enough to discuss incidents with other volunteers to help process what you have witnessed and assisted in, sometimes it helps to speak to someone you don't know. This service is not limited to Foyle Search related situations, if a volunteer has something going on in their life that they need support with, please contact Lorraine.

*SHORE TEAM (Mark Buckley)*

**LEADERSHIP**

2023 saw the introduction of a new Shore Coordinator. This transition began in April and the role was fully taken over at the beginning of May. The New Shore Coordinator worked very closely with the Office staff and other Coordinators to identify the needs of Foyle Search and Rescue regarding operational and training needs. Additionally, two Deputy Shore Coordinators (Rohan Chada and Adrian McMenamin) were added to the leadership team to assist in all aspects of training and operations.

**SHORE TRAINING**

The training during this year covered many areas, both practical and theoretical. The diverse range of training provided received excellent feedback.

In November 2023 we conducted practical Shore duty-based training. This training incorporated key skills such as Client approach, throwline deployment and electronic communications. This was hugely beneficial and challenged the volunteers on their approach to people in distress using a wide range of techniques to deescalate highly challenging situations. This training encompassed both verbal and non-verbal communication along with strategies to approach people in distress. We also conducted electronic communication training and throwline deployment. This training was based on the "Crawl/Walk/Run" approach, where we build towards upcoming training to provide opportunities for our volunteers to be able to use the real application of these skills.

The online training provided to our volunteers in the first quarter of 2024 allowed all volunteers to learn about other aspects of Foyle Search and Rescue at their own pace. The online training covered various topics such as Foyle Search and Rescue SOPs, Jessip training and Manual handling, these were key training areas that all volunteers benefitted from. The training included refresher training on the organisations SOP's and also provided the volunteers with better situational awareness of our role in emergency multi-agency situations (Jessip).

In June 2023 We were very privileged to welcome ARC. We received training on dealing with distressed individuals who have addictions or who are recovering from addictions. This training received very positive feedback from volunteers who said that it gave them a greater understanding of these issues.

**TEAM LEADERS**

In 2024, our new Team Leadership training was successfully rolled out. This training was designed to give a volunteer the correct skills to lead teams on duty and have the knowledge and confidence to deal with highly challenging situations. This was implemented by classroom-based lectures covering all aspects of Team Leader responsibilities. We then covered all the practical aspects of duty from arriving at base/going out on duty/dealing with the public and signing off after duty. This training continued with a mentoring program where existing Team Leaders would assist the new Team Leader on duty nights until they reached a stage where they were confident to lead independently.

Throughout the year Foyle Search and Rescue held multiple Team Leader meetings which provided our Team Leaders with opportunities to assist with shore training, gain new skills and facilitate a knowledge/idea skill share environment.

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**UPCOMING TRAINING**

We are planning Shore training in July 2024. This training will see the "Walk" phase of our training plan. Shore volunteers can expect to be tested on Client approach/Medical/Communications/Throwline deployment/S1-Code 1 protocols and teamwork. This will allow the volunteers to experience a dynamic training scenario which requires decision making and situational awareness.

In September, we hope to roll out external leadership training with the opportunity for Team Leaders to gain leadership qualifications.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the Volunteers in Foyle Search and Rescue who have displayed the highest levels of professionalism and commitment during duty, training and Searches over the past twelve months. Your time given to the charity is very appreciated, extremely valued and makes an extraordinary difference to people lives. I would also like to thank the other Coordinators and Staff who have shown me a huge amount of support during the past year settling into the new role as Shore Coordinator.

**Boat Team( Seamus McCloskey)**

In September 2023, I was appointed as Boat Coordinator. Whilst I don't necessarily come from a boating background externally, I have been on boat for approximately 6 years within the charity. I also have 3 years previous experience of being a coordinator and have been involved with boat training for several years.

Upon taking the role, I moved to identify key areas where adjustments could be made to help bolster the general operations of boat. It will not come as a surprise that I have always been a firm believer in the importance of training. It improves safety, but it also improves morale and teamwork.

Early 2023 brought the introduction of a new boat training plan. It became mandatory for all crew joining boat to be trained to RYA Level 2, crew would then work towards getting sessions on the boat so they could progress onto Personal Water Craft and once this was achieved, they could continue adding sessions until they were eligible to go through the new Foyle Search and Rescue coxswain assessment. A lot of work went into designing this, with research being carried out with other search & rescue groups to see what they provide their crews.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, 11 new crew members joined boat. 2 volunteers joined boat crew with external certificates whilst 2 coxswains returned to the charity. Myself and Gareth also became RYA PWC instructors which allowed us to certify 11 more volunteers in PWC. 16 volunteers who did not have their RYA powerboat level 2 certificate were also certified and there was a VHF course delivered externally to 15 volunteers on boat. A further 2 volunteers became coxswains and in 2024 mandatory training was introduced again so that time could then be diverted into upskilling all our boat volunteers. This period of time saw the most training and progression we have ever had within the charity. There are over 40 volunteers now on Boat with over 20 qualified as coxswains and 30 of which are also PWC trained

Its fair to say it has been a very busy year for our boat training team. The boat training team is made up of a group of highly experienced boat volunteers who bring a wide range of skills. Myself, Gareth, Paul Mullan, Colm, Liam and Avril are the volunteers within the boat training team. In December this team was expanded as we welcomed 4 new members, Amy, Danielle, Ryan Murphy, and Conor all successfully joined the team to assist with training, its great to have their experience and skills to add to the team. They ensure that out volunteers are well trained and provide invaluable experience so that when any of the crews are out on the water, they will be able to face any challenges they may encounter. Between April 2023 and March 2024, the boat training team as a whole contributed a total of 505 Hours of training. Thankyou to the entire team for dedicating so much time to this.

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During this time, we also unfortunately retired 2 vessels, the Spirit of Adrian and Spirit of James. These vessels were involved in multiple shouts, duties and searches for many years within the charity and served the charity well during their lifespan. Plans are ongoing to replace these 2 boats with one multipurpose vessel.

The 2 main response boats, Spirit of John and AOD13 also got new twin 150HP engines fitted to improve response times and reliability. All of our maintenance is now outsourced to contractors who do a fantastic job ensuring our vessels are fit for purpose and operational. Thanks to Stevie, Stormtec and Jet products for the work they do.

On PPE and equipment, our volunteers moved to using crew saver lifejackets in August 2023. Again, research went into what other rescue groups used. In September we introduced new drydocks to help protect our vessels with funding secured for the project. These have proven to be very useful in preventing damage to boats during storms but also in reducing barnacle build up during warmer temperatures.

During the summer we were involved with a huge fundraising event organised by Danny Quigley where he swam from Lifford to Kinnego Bay. The boat team was involved in providing safety cover during this event as Danny swam day and night to achieve his goal. Thanks to all our boat volunteers who helped out during this, it was a great experience for all.

Boat team also participated in 3 searches during this time frame, 2 on the Foyle, and 1 upriver in Strabane. Some of the conditions were challenging but boat teams managed to attend these searches and help the families impacted by them. Another change I brought was the creation of a boat general maintenance team. This team is made up of Myself, Gavin, Don, Katherine, Mark Doherty, Cormac, Anthony Brady, Paddy Mullan and Paddy Bowen. Every month members of this team come in and give the vessels a good deep clean and also check all the inventory on board to make sure our boats are in good working order. A massive thanks to them also for all the time and effort they put in.

Going forward I intend on continuing to provide a high level of training so that our volunteers are highly skilled and able to deal with anything they may encounter. Training events will be planned with other groups and agencies also. There will be further investment into equipment and maintenance ensuring our boats are available and kitted with the correct equipment to assist us in our tasks. Its also important to acknowledge the work and support the staff do for boat operations, thankyou for that.

In closing I would like to express special thanks to all the men and women who crew our boats. Thank you for what you do. You have welcomed me as your boat coordinator, participated in training and adapted to changes that were brought in. Not every change maybe suited or was welcomed by everyone but they were always made with best intentions for the safety of you and the wider team. Sometimes the tasks we do are not pleasant, however many people have been rescued and are alive today because of the work that you do and the hours you sacrifice for training, searches, duties and other boat events throughout the year. Over the years many families received closure by getting their loved one's home because of the work and tasks you do, and this year was no exception so again thank you. None of that would be possible without you

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**

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### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2024**

#### *UAV TEAM (Ryan Murphy)*

Throughout the past twelve months, the UAV team have continued to demonstrate how they can play a significant supporting role during search and rescue taskings on the river Foyle and surrounding areas. The team have been involved in a wide variety of taskings ranging from live S1 aerial support to searches for high-risk missing persons, supporting both duty nights and emergency response team callouts on a regular basis. Furthermore, the team provided substantial support in the search for Jordan Gallagher, searching extensive areas of the river and riverbanks using a range of UAV technologies as part of the combined FSAR team and multi-agency effort to bring Jordan home as quickly as possible.

This year, the UAV team introduced a new UAV to the fleet; the DJI Matrice (M)30T, which has been integrated into the team supporting emergency response operations given its ability to be deployed rapidly, coupled with its advanced thermal and optical features similar to its big brother in the fleet, the DJI Matrice (M)300rtk.

In November 2023, Foyle Search & Rescue took delivery of its new Mobile Incident Command Unit which will serve as a command post and surveillance unit during emergency taskings. The project, lasting some 18 months from conception to completion, was managed by the UAV team and supported by the office team. Mechanical and electrical build was completed by Primo Coachworks in Co. Offaly and information and communication systems were installed and commissioned by Telent Technologies. The ICU provides new capabilities to the UAV team and wider organisation, providing vital field support to all disciplines in both search and rescue operations and enabling the latest in SAR technology to be deployed in support of our operations.

For the year ahead, the UAV Team will continue to enhance and develop the skills and competence of the full flight crew and seek opportunities to maintain a strong and resilient flight crew through recruitment and upskilling.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the flight crew for their continued efforts and commitment throughout the year. Furthermore, on behalf of the team, thank you to the staff and management committee of Foyle Search & Rescue for their continued support, hard work and efforts in the background throughout the year.

#### *FIRST AID (Conor Hargan)*

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for their time and commitment towards first aid as it can be a very tough experience at times. Year 23/24 saw a number of incidents where first aid was required, both on land and from water related incidents. Everyone involved in these incidents have excelled themselves and have shown professionalism, courage and have given hope to the persons involved. Lives have been saved by you.

Within the last year most of the charity was trained and/or recertified in RYA first aid, with additional skills in the use of medical gases to 28 volunteers bringing this to the largest amount of people in the history of the charity trained up to provide this service throughout all disciplines. We have delivered external training courses in partnership with City Centre Initiative to local businesses and organisations within the city, this has allowed us to generate a small income for the charity.

There were also opportunities for mental health first aid training which in the coming year I hope to expand and roll out to more volunteers.

This last year saw the standardisation of new medical kit bags, containing essential, life-saving equipment for both shore and boat to ensure easy access in time critical situations. We continually review our supplies to ensure that we can continue to deliver effective pre-hospital care.

As part of our 'show and tell' experiences delivered to PSNI, University of Ulster student paramedics and nurses they observed how we operate, were encouraged to ask questions and made aware of the charities first aid capabilities. Quality time is invested to build on our strong working relationships with the ambulance service so we can work effectively together.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way to support me in my role. I would encourage everyone to keep up the good work, which will build more confidence in your abilities, as well as reflecting positively on our charity as a whole.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**

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### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2024**

#### *VOLUNTEER MANAGER UPDATE (Dawn Grieve)*

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for warmly welcoming me back to the charity. This has made my transition from previously being a volunteer to now being staff, very easy. In my first 9 months (to the end of the financial year) I have overseen duty night attendance, managed time out, assisting volunteers to make decisions which suits their needs in that moment, monitored training commitment and assisted coordinators as and when required. I also introduced my first survey which allowed me to get a feel of the thoughts and feelings of our volunteers and began putting plans in place, where practical, to react to suggestions expressed.

In my role as Volunteer Manager I have been reviewing all policies and procedures and making amendments where needed, all of which have been communicated. This is in preparation for our Investing in Volunteers Certification renewal through Volunteer Now which will take place in the new financial year. Renewing this certification allows us to ensure that, as a charity, we are doing everything according to the guidelines to provide the best volunteer experience we possibly can.

I have recently completed the process of renewing volunteer uniforms which should be rolled out late summer. This by no means has been an easy process as I wanted to ensure that the best garments were sourced to suit the whole charities needs.

With regards to volunteer numbers, we currently have 97 volunteers on our books, 66 of these are operational, 23 of these are part of the fundraising team, 2 are non-operational volunteers who help with education talks or maintenance around the base and 2 are Professional Expertise Volunteers (PEV) both currently active in our UAV team. I want to thank all our volunteers for their commitment and dedication to the charity over the last year. It is becoming increasingly hard for all volunteer organisations to find people committed to giving up their time in the longer term, we so are lucky to have a great bunch of volunteers who are all here for the same reason 'The preservation of life in and around the River Foyle.'

Together with the committee, I am currently working on remoulding the entire recruitment and selection process. We anticipate that we will be in a position to open recruitment in July with an intake of new volunteers by the end of August.

#### *INCIDENT OVERVIEW*

In 2023/24 financial period, Foyle Search and Rescue attended 226 incidents, 131 of which were attended by our Duty Night Teams and 95 of which were Emergency Response Pager Team incidents.

24 individuals were rescued directly from the water alive, 81 distressed individuals were removed safely from the railings and bridges surrounding the river, we had 115 causes for concern and we sadly recovered 4 bodies in this financial reporting period. Emergency response team also dealt with 2 miscellaneous incidents.

A special thank you must go to all our operational volunteers on duty nights and pager for your dedication and persistence in the number of lives you have saved. These statistics are the main tool that we have in gauging how successful our service is and how many people we help. Although we helped 226 people directly in our life preservation crisis response capacity, the actual number of people we helped throughout the year is much greater than that. It is there to be seen by all, especially those who serve alongside you.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2024**

#### **Financial review**

##### *General (Cormac O'Hare)*

The 2023-24 Financial year plans, were to make the largest ever annual investment in the Charity. This would be across all aspects of the charity. Investment in full time staff, in new volunteer recruits, in PPE for our Boat, Sonar, Swift Water and Drone teams, in our support vehicles, in our watercraft and investment in our base infrastructure. We also planned to support a number of events to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the charity.

##### *Income*

Income from April 2023 to March 2024 exceeded last year and the last full year before the COVID Pandemic. Public support through personal and company donations, collection boxes, support of our Bucket Appeal, Flag Day, Sponsored Walk, Zipline and Danny Quigley's marathon swim of the complete length of the river Foyle, remained our greatest source of income.

Funding was received from The Rank Foundation, Derry & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency, Department of Justice, Developing Healthy Communities, SBS South Bank Square, and CAF which helps us continue to support our staff and volunteer development as well as some of larger capital investments

##### *Expenditure (Financial Review Continued)*

Our initial spending budget was just over £600k(including capital expenditure), with actual spend in the period 3% above budget.

The majority of the investments, were as planned, with the major additional expenditures being on accidental damages to our watercraft and the replacement of two additional engines on one of our fast response boats. Fuel and Insurance costs were also higher than expected.

These higher investments were balanced by delaying training of additional recruits, as volunteer levels were assessed as sufficient at the time and delaying the planned extension of our base infrastructure, which is now planned for financial year 2024-25.

Credit again must be given to all those involved in the charity, to relentlessly challenge all expenditures for justification and assurance that they are aligned with driving the charity forward.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

*Review of fundraising and Education (Christina Mc Keegan)*

What a year we had! It was a year of our 30 year celebrations and what an action packed year it was.

We would like to begin by saying a massive thank you to all the local businesses who choose us as their Charity Partner of the Year 2023.

These partnerships not only bring in amazing funds through all their hard work and dedication but the awareness around our services and other local services that are available.

The biggest shout out goes to all our volunteers for their dedication to our annual and monthly internal events. Like clockwork, the Box Run Volunteers were out each month in rain, hail, snow and with very little sunshine, to collect around all the local shops. Their dedication to the monthly box run is reflected in the amount that was brought in to the charity, £33k. Our annual bucket appeal brought in £11k. Both our winter and summer flag day were carried out within the city centre and we would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers and staff who came out in force to help which raised £6,500. These events are well supported by the amazing people of our city, and each and every penny goes toward training, equipment and PPE for our volunteers.

We could not go without saying a massive thank you to the team of volunteers who come in each month to help count all the coins collected through the monthly box runs, flag days and bucket appeals. Your dedication to this role works hand in hand with the collection team and is key to the charity continuing to carry out these internal fundraisers.

As this was our 30th Year we held a number of additional events to celebrate the occasion, kicking off the year with a sponsored walk, which saw over 100 people take to the pavements and was such a success we have decided to make this an annual event. The big event for the year was our Gala Ball where volunteers, family members, and supporters of the charity got glammed up, and had big belly laughs from the comedy legend Tim McGarry who hosted the evening and also gave a comedy performance. Everyone then danced the night away to the astounding Lee Roy Brown Band. We had great giggles in making the promotional video for the biggest raffle we have ever held in which the prizes were holiday vouchers and winners were announced live at the Gala Ball.

This year saw the return of the Zipline Across the Foyle, where we partnered with 3 other charities to bring a fun-filled weekend to the city, all supporting worthwhile causes.

As a self-funded charity, we wouldn't be able to carry out our role of 'The Preservation of Life' without the continued support from members of the public and their donations, local business choosing us as their charity partner or holding fundraising events, community groups and schools putting their all into raising funds. We would like to thank each and every one of you for donating, supporting and raising awareness for our charity. You are the reason that we continue to operate and we are forever grateful for this. It is hard to mention every donation, but we would like to highlight some of the events that happened throughout the year.

As with every other year, the support that we received from the schools and higher education institutes in 2023 was above and beyond. We are extremely grateful for your continued support over the years. In 2022/2023 we facilitated 15 talks to schools, community groups and workplaces. The majority of visits this year were more substantial than last year, with our education teams even carrying out talks addressing over 700+ students within a single session, conducted multiple times over a number of days. We found great benefit in attending the Yes project twice this year, which involved a range of schools from across all sections of the community and of various age groups.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

*Review of fundraising and Education Continued*

An estimated figure of 3,500+ people benefitted from our educational service. The success of our education visits is measured by the number of talks we carry out, the number of attendees at these talks. We feel that this prevention area of our work is invaluable in making both younger and older people aware of the issues of suicide within our city, as well as how to safely use the different types of waterways.

We also carried out partnership work with PSNI, where new police recruits who joined the force from 2020 have been visiting our base every 2nd week, in groups of 12/20 to tour the base, see the equipment we have, meet the team members and have a boat tour of the bridge & quay for "you see what we see" giving the officers a better understanding on what our teams see and hear when on the boat, which will help with future incidents. A total of approx. 250+ officers availed of this opportunity, which was also offered to NIAS.

We would like to mention as many local businesses who have supported us in the last year, it is truly amazing the many businesses within our city and some further afield that support our charity. Thank you to Hugh Keirney from Cooley Jewellers who dawned the Santa Suit again this year and donated £1,000.

The continued support that our charity receives each year from the same business and people is immense. We are always proud to be chosen as a charity partner as the hard work and awareness that is raised through this is always outstanding, well done to everyone involved. Thank you to Hard as Oak, Fairytale Wedding Cars, Ryan Dillon, The O'Donnell Family, Foyle Food Group, The Inner City Trust, and BSG Civil Engineering who continue to, each year, raise funds for our charity and raise great awareness around mental health and the services within our city. We are always overwhelmed with the continued support and extremely grateful, and we look forward to continuing to build on our future relationships.

Fundraising for 2023 was a great success, but I couldn't finish this report without highlighting and congratulating the machine that is Danny Quigley. What a week this was "The Celebration of Life". Danny swam 110KM from Lifford to Kinnego Bay to raising vital and valuable awareness and helping shatter the stigma of suicide. Each kilometre was in memory of a loved one.

He celebrated all those wonderful people who lost their lives to suicide. He remembered them for who they were, a person not a statistic. He remembered their music, their hobbies, favourite foods, their families, and he celebrated their lives. To end the event the legends of the city came out for a final celebration in which we held a funday with the support of local musicians, vendors, community groups for which we are truly humbled and thankful. This is only the beginning of of a wonderful partnership with Phase II of the event coming in 2024 titled the 'Lighthouse Project'.

Therefore, we would like to say a final big 'thank you' to everyone who got involved in raising funds, raising awareness and supporting Foyle Search and Rescue, and a final 'thank you' to all our volunteers, staff and their family and friends. Without you all, our charity would not be able to carry out the life saving work that we do. Giving up your time allows us to meet our aims and objectives of 'The Preservation of Life in and around the Rover Foyle'.

Thank You

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

*Acknowledgements 2024*

Volunteers & Staff

General Public - North & South of the Border/ The Mayor & Staff

Public Health Agency

Derry City & Strabane District Council / Department of Justice

Gilliland Family/ Emergency Services

NISAR Rescue Organisations/ City Centre Initiative

Inner City Trust

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Four Star Pizza/ Dominos /Paolos Pizza

Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum/ Diamond Corrugated

The Rank Foundation

Print Chameleon/ CCTV

CAF UK SAR Fund

SBS South Bank Square/ RYA

GoSafe

Storm-Tec Marine/ Jet Products

**Plans for future periods**

2024/2025 outlook

The anticipated trend for 2024-25 will be an increase in operating costs and a decrease in the availability of Statutory Agency funding.

In 2023-24 we successfully recruited a Volunteer Manager as the charity grows in complexity. In 2024-25, we plan to further enhance our Staff, by recruiting a Fundraising Coordinator and to reinvigorate the charity by inducting and training new volunteer recruits.

We plan to find capital support to design and build a watercraft vessel, capable of supporting fast response and our Sonar Team, after the retirement of two of our boats which proved to be uneconomic to remain operational.

We plan to complete ground works at the base, to provide a multi-purpose extension, provide additional vehicle and equipment storage and provide swifter access to our pontoon.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

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

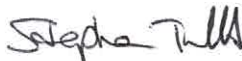
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102 );
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, comprising FRS102 , subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

**Small company provisions**

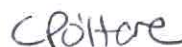
This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board



Stephen Twells

**Director**



Cormac O'Hare

**Treasurer**

23 October 2024

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE.**

I report on the accounts of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 3 to 29.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for purposes of company law) 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 65 of the Charities Act
- 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
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination includes 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Paul Green of Paul Green Accountancy and Taxation Limited**

Chartered Accountant (Chartered Accountants Ireland))

**Independent examiner**

PO Box 167, Unit 1B Ground Floor,  
The Glassworks, Skeoge Business Park,  
11 Beraghmore Road  
Derry  
BT48 8SE  
23 October 2024

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)**

**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Charitable activities	2	60,551	101,556	162,107	177,582
Other trading activities	3	242,586	7,000	249,586	229,532
Investment income	4	14,979	-	14,979	3,416
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>318,116</u>	<u>108,556</u>	<u>426,672</u>	<u>410,530</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Expenditure on Charitable activities	5	341,511	101,994	443,505	353,612
Other Expenditure	6	2,051	-	2,051	435
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>343,562</u>	<u>101,994</u>	<u>445,556</u>	<u>354,047</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>					
		(25,446)	6,562	(18,884)	56,483
Transfer between funds		(19,365)	19,365	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds/Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		<u>(44,811)</u>	<u>25,927</u>	<u>(18,884)</u>	<u>56,483</u>
Opening Balance brought forward		872,441	933,370	1,805,811	1,749,328
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>827,630</u>	<u>959,297</u>	<u>1,786,927</u>	<u>1,805,811</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 22 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2024**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		1,035,225		927,230
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	25,540		20,788	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,014,301		1,123,604	
		<u>1,039,841</u>		<u>1,144,392</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(17,674)</u>		<u>(14,895)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>1,022,167</u>		<u>1,129,497</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			2,057,392		2,056,727
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	14		(19,620)		(25,312)
<b>Accruals and deferred income</b>	15		<u>(250,845)</u>		<u>(225,604)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>1,786,927</u>		<u>1,805,811</u>
<b>Funds</b>	16				
Restricted income funds			959,297		933,370
Unrestricted income funds			827,630		872,441
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>1,786,927</u>		<u>1,805,811</u>

The Balance Sheet continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 22 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet (continued)**

**Trustees statements required by the Companies Act 2006**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31 March 2024.

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the board on 23 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by



**Stephen Twells**  
**Director**



**Cormac O'Hare**  
**Treasurer**

**The notes on pages 22 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.**

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**1. Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

**1.1. Basis of accounting**

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the 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 (FRS102 effective 1 January 2015) Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Foyle Search and Rescue meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The Financial Statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Taking account of the risk review undertaken by the trustees they do not consider there to be any risk to the going concern of the Charity.

**1.2. Cashflow**

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small company.

**1.3. Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants relating to revenue shall be recognised in income on a systematic basis over the periods in which the entity recognises the related costs for which the grant is intended to compensate

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are

Grants relating to assets shall be recognised in income on a systematic basis over the expected useful life of the asset.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**1.4. Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.

**1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated 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:

Property Renovations	-	Straight line over fifty years
Plant and machinery	-	15% Reducing Balance
Boats and equipment	-	15% Reducing Balance
Motor vehicles	-	15% Reducing Balance

**1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes**

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

**1.7. Capital Grants**

Capital grants received for specific capital assets are treated as deferred capital grants and released to income in line with the related depreciation charge of the asset acquired.

**2. Charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
HSC Public Health Agency	-	31,523	31,523	30,471
Rank Foundation	-	29,615	29,615	32,000
Derry City and Strabane District Council	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
Capital Grants Released	39,619	-	39,619	39,812
Clipper Coverage	-	-	-	11,100
NISAR Resources	-	14,000	14,000	14,000
Insurance receipt	-	-	-	21,374
CAF	20,932	11,418	32,350	13,825
	<u>60,551</u>	<u>101,556</u>	<u>162,107</u>	<u>177,582</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**3. Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Fundraising and Donations	242,586	7,000	249,586	229,532
	<u>242,586</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>249,586</u>	<u>229,532</u>

**4. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Bank Interest Received	14,979	14,979	3,416
	<u>14,979</u>	<u>14,979</u>	<u>3,416</u>

**5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Staff costs	45,838	54,576	100,414	72,441
Pension Costs	2,189	-	2,189	1,648
Volunteer and Fundraising Expenses	9,443	-	9,443	20,758
Accountancy fees	2,400	-	2,400	2,220
Insurance	21,058	14,000	35,058	24,683
Base Repairs and Maintenance	17,201	7,000	24,201	9,860
Light and Heat and Water	11,546	-	11,546	8,871
Staff Travel and subsistence	34,351	-	34,351	-
Printing, postage and stationery	4,667	-	4,667	1,165
Boats and Vehicle Operations	44,212	15,000	59,212	77,775
Telephone and Pagers	24,898	-	24,898	19,025
Training Costs	30,242	11,418	41,660	21,574
Depreciation and amortisation	108,545	-	108,545	92,408
General Expenses	5,539	-	5,539	1,184
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets for the charity's own use	(20,618)	-	(20,618)	-
	<u>341,511</u>	<u>101,994</u>	<u>443,505</u>	<u>353,612</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**6. Other Expenditure**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>2024 Total £</b>	<b>2023 Total £</b>
PAYE Interest and Penalty	-	-	81
Hire Purchase Interest	1,872	1,872	312
Bank Charges	179	179	42
	<u>2,051</u>	<u>2,051</u>	<u>435</u>

**7. Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	108,545	92,408
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	<u>(20,618)</u>	<u>-</u>

**8. Employees**

<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	96,821	70,795
Social security costs	3,593	1,646
Pension costs	2,189	1,648
	<u>102,603</u>	<u>74,089</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2023 : None).

**Number of employees**

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	<b>2024 Number</b>	<b>2023 Number</b>
Management and Admin	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**9. Pension costs**

The company operates a pension scheme as required by the pension auto enrolment provisions in respect of applicable employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pension charge	<u>2,189</u>	<u>1,648</u>

**10. Taxation**

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

**11. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Boats and Equipment</b>	<b>Plant and Machinery</b>	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>					
Transfer from unincorporated	703,156	446,098	511,647	166,356	1,827,257
Additions	35,340	70,705	70,444	48,583	225,072
Disposals	-	(30,000)	-	(25,000)	(55,000)
At 31 March 2024	<u>738,496</u>	<u>486,803</u>	<u>582,091</u>	<u>189,939</u>	<u>1,997,329</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
Transfer from unincorporated	219,890	317,744	267,265	95,128	900,027
Charge for the year	14,770	29,106	47,224	17,445	108,545
On disposals	-	(24,980)	-	(21,488)	(46,468)
At 31 March 2024	<u>234,660</u>	<u>321,870</u>	<u>314,489</u>	<u>91,085</u>	<u>962,104</u>
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 March 2024	<u>503,836</u>	<u>164,933</u>	<u>267,602</u>	<u>98,854</u>	<u>1,035,225</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>483,266</u>	<u>128,354</u>	<u>244,382</u>	<u>71,228</u>	<u>927,230</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

Included above are assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts as follows:

Asset description	2024		2023	
	Net book value £	Depreciation charge £	Net book value £	Depreciation charge £
Motor vehicles	19,869	3,506	23,375	4,125

**12. Debtors**

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	7,814	7,546
Other debtors	17,726	13,242
	<u>25,540</u>	<u>20,788</u>

**13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank overdraft	1,215	712
Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	5,692	5,692
NICTS	1,756	-
Other taxes and social security	453	47
Accruals and deferred income	8,558	8,444
	<u>17,674</u>	<u>14,895</u>

**14. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net obligations under finance leases	19,620	25,312
	<u>19,620</u>	<u>25,312</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

<b>15. Accruals and deferred income</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Deferred Capital Grant</b>		
Transfer from unincorporated	(225,604)	(265,416)
Capital Grants received in period	(64,860)	-
	<u>(290,464)</u>	<u>(265,416)</u>
Released in year	39,619	39,812
At 31 March 2024	<u>(250,845)</u>	<u>(225,604)</u>

**16. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	759,068	-	759,068
Current assets	68,562	959,297	1,027,859
	<u>827,630</u>	<u>959,297</u>	<u>1,786,927</u>

**17. Unrestricted funds**

	At 1 April 2023 £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General Unrestricted Fund	<u>872,441</u>	<u>(25,446)</u>	<u>(19,365)</u>	<u>827,630</u>

**Purposes of unrestricted funds**

For use in the administrative department.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

18. Restricted funds	At	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At
	1 April 2023				31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Genral restricted Fund	821,060	-	-	32,284	853,344
Restricted Fund Prehen Extension	57,720	-	-	22,280	80,000
Restricted Fund Drones Insurance	21,374	-	(21,374)	-	-
Restricted Fund Rank Foundation	18,391	6,562	-	-	24,953
Restricted Fund Joshy Simon	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Restricted Fund Charitable Aid Foundation	13,825	-	(13,825)	-	-
	<u>933,370</u>	<u>6,562</u>	<u>(35,199)</u>	<u>54,564</u>	<u>959,297</u>

**Purposes of restricted funds**

Redundancy ,running costs

Completion of phase 2

Wages

Cold water /shock Education

**19. Controlling interest**

The company is a company limited by guarantee without a share capital. The trustees/Directors are collectively considered to be the charity's ultimate controlling party. There were no beneficial transactions on behalf of the trustees/directors during the period under review.

**20. Company limited by guarantee**

Foyle Search and Rescue is a private company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member ,or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member for

- payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a member
- payment of the costs ,charges and expenses of winding up ,and
- adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves.

**Foyle Search and Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106685

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# Annual report

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EVERGLADES  
HOTEL



# FOYLE SEARCH & RESCUE

FOUNDED 1993

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

"THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE IN AND AROUND THE RIVER FOYLE"

# NO ONE MAKES IT THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT THE HELP OF OTHERS

LAST YEAR, OUR VOLUNTEERS ATTENDED

**226 INCIDENTS**

WE RESCUED

**24 PEOPLE**

FROM THE WATER

**198 PEOPLE**

WERE STOPPED FROM ENTERING THE WATER

Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, a band of very special men & women give up their time, to begin their work as volunteers of Foyle Search & Rescue, donning their now familiar orange jackets, to patrol the river, it's walkways, and bridges.

Since it's inception back in 1993, 30 years ago, Foyle Search & Rescue has been responsible for saving **544** people from the river and helping an additional **6082** people who may have entered the water, had we not been there for them.

# CHARITY STRUCTURE

01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024

## COMMITTEE

Chairman

Stephen Twells

Treasurer

Cormac O'Hare

Company Secretary

Kristina McDaid

Committee Member

Steven Durrent

## PAST ROLES

Vice-Chairman

Brian Óg Mullan

Health & Wellbeing

Sandra O'Doherty

Health Safety & Risk

Martin O'Neill

## STAFF

Charity Manager

Christina McKeegan

Facilities Manager

Anthony McMenamin

Volunteer Manager

Dawn Grieve

Digital Lead

Rossa Smallman

## CO-ORDINATORS

Shore Co-ordinator

Mark Buckley

Boat Co-ordinator

Seamus McCloskey (Steven Durrent)

Pager Co-ordinator

Neal Cooke (Paul McLaughlin)

Swiftwater Co-ordinator

Gerard O'Kane

Drone Co-ordinator

Ryan Murphy

Sonar Co-ordinator

Danielle Francis (Seamus McCloskey)

FREC Co-ordinator

Conor Hargan



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year marks a truly special occasion as we come together to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our charity. It is an incredible milestone that speaks volumes about the dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment of everyone involved in our mission-the preservation of life in and around the River Foyle.



Since 1993, FSR volunteers have stopped **6,082** people who were in danger of, or considered taking their own life, in the river. However, sadly, the number dying by suicide in the river has remained almost constant over the last 30 years since the formation of FSR, with an average of 5 fatalities each year.

The year just ending in March 2024 was another busy year for us. 24 rescues were carried out, while 198 people were stopped from entering the river, but tragically, we had the sad task of recovering 4 people who lost their lives in the river.

The work that our volunteers carry out is never done in isolation. We could not deliver our services, nor make the difference we make, without the help of the city centre CCTV team, Community Safety Wardens, PSNI, NIAS and NIFRS, who all provide vital support to us.

We are extremely grateful to Derry City & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency and the Western Health & Social Care Trust for their continued funding to us again this year, yet still, over 80% of all our annual income comes from public donations. We know there are many worthy causes in our city, deserving of peoples' appreciation, and financial support. To be there, when we are needed most, is the least we can do to repay that kindness and generosity.

Most of our activities this year revolved around either commemorating our 30 years of service, or taking action to make our charity better placed to face the future, while maintaining our duty nights, 24/7 pager response, educational activity and intensive training programmes.

We celebrated our 30th year with many fundraising events, as well as being invited to the Mayors Parlour for a recognition evening with Mayor Sandra Duffy. We were honoured with another award when we, unexpectedly received the Best of Derry 999 Hero Award. We held a glamorous Gala Ball in September, and what for me was the highlight of the year, a very poignant and moving Remembrance event in October, laying lanterns on the river to remember all those who have died in the river over the years. We also supported our local hero Danny Quigley, who swam 110km to raise awareness of mental health, while remembering those who have both died by suicide and those struggling with mental health issues.

We began a journey of transformation on how we function, with a new digital programme, still in development, aimed at simplifying many of our activities. We invested heavily across our multi-disciplinary teams, with upgrades to drones, more equipment for our sonar and swift water teams, better Personal Protective Equipment for our boat crews, and 2 new duty night team vehicles. We refurbished our two largest, most used boats with new engines as well as a drydock to help with their maintenance. We began to develop a multi-disciplinary command vehicle and implement new livery branding across our fleet of vehicles.

We invested in 2 new additional staff roles, a Volunteer Manager and, a Digital Lead in conjunction with the Rank Foundation, aimed at supporting our volunteers and management committee.

Unfortunately, throughout the year we incurred damage and loss to vessels and equipment which we either repaired or are working through a plan to replace within the coming 12 months. We also undertook a cost savings exercise and sold, or are selling some of our older, or under-utilised vehicle and vessel assets. This programme will continue throughout 2024 to deliver savings where we can. 2024/2025 will again be another challenging and exciting year in the life of FSR. It will bring more improvements as we continue with our digital transformation, more recruitment of new volunteers, investment in new defibrillators, swift water equipment, training, and sourcing a suitable multi-purpose boat that will support both our normal operations as well as sonar searches.

We will be going through our 3rd re-evaluation of our coveted "Investing in Volunteers" accreditation, which recognises good practice within volunteer management, and we will re-invigorate our management committee with new members.

We will also continue to work with the Danny Quigley Foundation to develop a symbolic “Lighthouse” which will be a beacon of light and a practical place to help and information around mental health.

The biggest project that we hope to complete will be seeing phase 2 of an extension to our base, after a prolonged delay due to the recent pandemic, which will bring much needed storage and workspace.

FSR volunteers have been providing support and encouragement to thousands of people since 1993, giving hope, strength and courage to a stranger, to face another day. We are not just about searching for, and rescuing people; we are about compassion, empathy, and the unwavering belief that every life is worth saving. It's about being there in the darkest hours, offering solace and support to those who have lost their way.

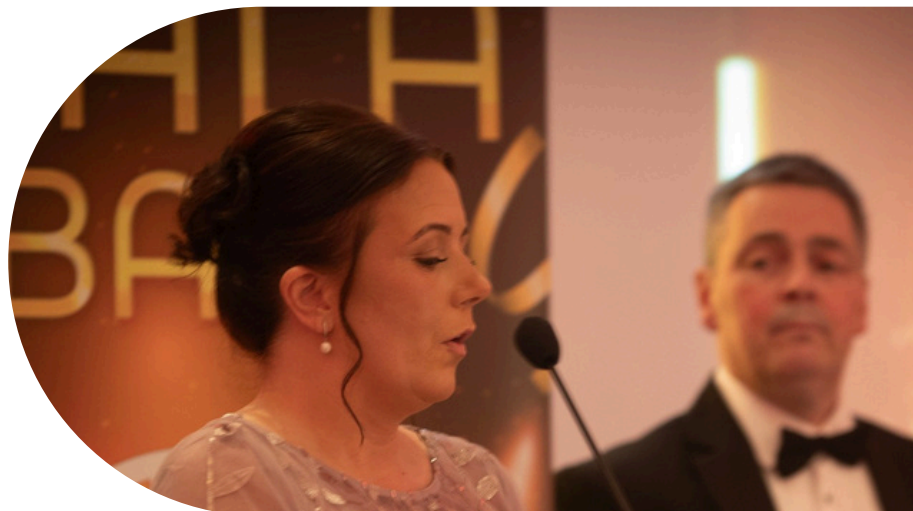
During the last 30 years, the River Foyle has flowed, and the tides have turned, but our resolve to save lives has remained constant throughout any obstacles and challenges we faced.

So many people have been involved in FSR over the years, and at this special milestone, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our volunteers, staff, supporters, partners, funders, past and present as well as the entire community. Together, we have made Foyle Search and Rescue what it is today - a beacon of hope, a symbol of compassion, and a lifeline for those in need. Together we have saved lives. Together we have made a difference.

We are only the custodians for the next generation. As we look ahead to the future, let us continue to work together, to innovate and to grow, so that we may save even more lives in the years to come. Our charity and all of our supporters are a shining example of everything that is wonderful about this great city of ours, and is something we can all be very proud of.

Thank you for being a part of our journey so far. Here's to the next 30 years of making a difference in the lives of those we serve, and may the light of hope continue to shine bright in our hearts, and along the Foyle River

**STEPHEN TWELLS**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**2014 - 2024**



## VOLUNTEER MANAGER UPDATE

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for warmly welcoming me back to the charity. This has made my transition from previously being a volunteer to now being staff, very easy. In my first 9 months (to the end of the financial year) I have overseen duty night attendance, managed time out, assisting volunteers to make decisions which suits their needs in that moment, monitored training commitment and assisted coordinators as and when required. I also introduced my first survey which allowed me to get a feel of the thoughts and feelings of our volunteers and began putting plans in place, where practical, to react to suggestions expressed.

In my role as Volunteer Manager I have been reviewing all policies and procedures and making amendments where needed, all of which have been communicated. This is in preparation for our Investing in Volunteers Certification renewal through Volunteer Now which will take place in the new financial year. Renewing this certification allows us to ensure that, as a charity, we are doing everything according to the guidelines to provide the best volunteer experience we possibly can.

I have recently completed the process of renewing volunteer uniforms which should be rolled out late summer. This by no means has been an easy process as I wanted to ensure that the best garments were sourced to suit the whole charities needs.

With regards to volunteer numbers, we currently have 97 volunteers on our books, 66 of these are operational, 23 of these are part of the fundraising team, 2 are non-operational volunteers who help with education talks or maintenance around the base and 2 are Professional Expertise Volunteers (PEV) both currently active in our UAV team. I want to thank all our volunteers for their commitment and dedication to the charity over the last year. It is becoming increasingly hard for all volunteer organisations to find people committed to giving up their time in the longer term, we so are lucky to have a great bunch of volunteers who are all here for the same reason 'The preservation of life in and around the River Foyle.'

Together with the committee, I am currently working on remoulding the entire recruitment and selection process. We anticipate that we will be in a position to open recruitment in July with an intake of new volunteers by the end of August.

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

Volunteer wellbeing will always be of the highest importance for me as Volunteer Manager. So as part of the health and wellbeing programme I have run a variety of different events through the year. From evenings out, to relaxing facials and food at the base. I would encourage everyone to get involved. This is your base, to come & use it as you please.

August saw the amazing fun day to end Danny Quigleys Lifford to Kinnego Bay swim. I think I speak for all volunteers when I say that being part of this event was a highlight. The fun day was a great day for not only the public but our volunteers and their families.

In September we held our 30th Anniversary Gala Ball. This was an amazing evening with lots of laughs thanks to Tim McGarry. It was lovely to get glammed up and celebrate Foyle Search and Rescue. The room was set up beautifully thanks to our Charity Manager's vision and 3 people won great prizes in the form of holiday vouchers!

October saw the roll out of an 8 week fitness programme held at ProBox Gym. It was great to see volunteers have a laugh together and it allowed everyone to let off steam when they let loose on the pads. Another fitness programme will be rolled out later in the year.

A health and wellbeing event, which included a variety of beauty treatments and a hot meal, was held in November. This event was open to everyone and everyone left feeling fantastic! This event will definitely return in the near future for both male and females!

Of course December couldn't pass by without the big man in the red suit calling by! And what a visit it was, Santa did a great job, so much so that all the children were saying that he was the best Santa they have seen and that he was very funny! The kids enjoyed a hot meal and lots of sweets were consumed!

Our highly anticipated volunteer Christmas party was held in January in the Thirsty Goat. Its fair to say that this was a great night, the food was amazing, the music great, and the dancing was... well.

The volunteers who have attended these events have all provided great feedback. I would encourage more of you to get involved, it is great team building and also great craic. Lots more to come in 2024/2025

Lastly, due to the nature of the tasks carried out by our volunteers I will always promote the counselling service provided by Lorraine Rogan at 'Peace by Piece'. Although many feel it is enough to discuss incidents with other volunteers to help process what you have witnessed and assisted in, sometimes it helps to speak to someone you don't know. This service is not limited to Foyle Search related situations, if a volunteer has something going on in their life that they need support with, please contact Lorraine.

**LORRAINE**  
**07594875016**

**CCIS - EXTERN**  
**028 7126 2300**

**DAWN GRIEVE**  
**VOLUNTEER MANAGER**



# FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2023-24 Financial year plans, were to make the largest ever annual investment in the Charity. This would be across all aspects of the charity. Investment in full time staff, in new volunteer recruits, in PPE for our Boat, Sonar, Swift Water and Drone teams, in our support vehicles, in our watercraft and investment in our base infrastructure. We also planned to support a number of events to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the charity.

## EXPENDITURE/INVESTMENT

Our initial spending budget was just over £600k, with actual spend in the period 3% above budget.

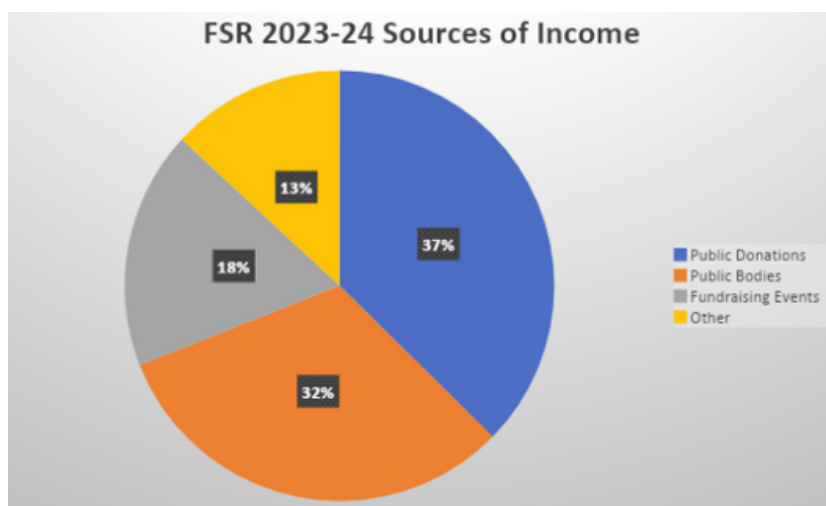
The majority of the investments, were as planned, with the major additional expenditures being on accidental damages to our watercraft and the replacement of two additional engines on one of our fast response boats. Fuel and Insurance costs were also higher than expected.

These higher investments were balanced by delaying training of additional recruits, as volunteer levels were assessed as sufficient at the time and delaying the planned extension of our base infrastructure, which is now planned for financial year 2024-25.

Credit again must be given to all those involved in the charity, to relentlessly challenge all expenditures for justification and assurance that they are aligned with driving the charity forward.

## INCOME 2023-24

Income from April 2023 to March 2024 exceeded last year and the last full year before the COVID Pandemic.



Public support through personal and company donations, collection boxes, support of our Bucket Appeal, Flag Day, Sponsored Walk, Zipline and Danny Quigley's marathon swim of the complete length of the river Foyle, remained our greatest source of income.

Funding was received from The Rank Foundation, Derry & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency, Department of Justice, Developing Healthy Communities, SBS South Bank Square, and CAF which helps us continue to support our staff and volunteer development as well as some of larger capital investments.

### **FINANCIAL STATUS 2023-24**

Our year end reserve account is now just under £1,000,000. This represents an anticipated 10% decrease based on the period ending 31st March 2023, due to our highest ever annual investment.

#### **Allocation of Funds**

Reserve Fund- £400,000,

Restricted Funds-£70,000

Unrestricted funds- £644,287.

### **2024 -25 OUTLOOK**

The anticipated trend for 2024-25 will be an increase in operating costs and a decrease in the availability of Statutory Agency funding.

In 2023-24 we successfully recruited a Volunteer Manager as the charity grows in complexity. In 2024-25, we plan to further enhance our Staff, by recruiting a Fundraising Coordinator and to reinvigorate the charity by inducting and training new volunteer recruits.

We plan to find capital support to design and build a watercraft vessel, capable of supporting fast response and our Sonar Team, after the retirement of two of our boats which proved to be uneconomic to remain operational.

We plan to complete ground works at the base, to provide a multi-purpose extension, provide additional vehicle and equipment storage and provide swifter access to our pontoon.

**CORMAC O'HARE**

**TREASURER**





## INCIDENT OVERVIEW

In 2023/24 financial period, Foyle Search and Rescue attended 226 incidents, 131 of which were attended by our Duty Night Teams and 95 of which were Emergency Response Pager Team incidents.

24 individuals were rescued directly from the water alive, 81 distressed individuals were removed safely from the railings and bridges surrounding the river, we had 115 causes for concern and we sadly recovered 4 bodies in this financial reporting period. Emergency response team also dealt with 2 miscellaneous incidents.

A special thank you must go to all our operational volunteers on duty nights and pager for your dedication and persistence in the number of lives you have saved. These statistics are the main tool that we have in gauging how successful our service is and how many people we help. Although we helped 226 people directly in our life preservation crisis response capacity, the actual number of people we helped throughout the year is much greater than that. It is there to be seen by all, especially those who serve alongside you.



## SHORE TEAM

### LEADERSHIP

2023 saw the introduction of a new Shore Coordinator. This transition began in April and the role was fully taken over at the beginning of May. The New Shore Coordinator worked very closely with the Office staff and other Coordinators to identify the needs of Foyle Search and Rescue regarding operational and training needs. Additionally, two Deputy Shore Coordinators (Rohan Chada and Adrian McMenamin) were added to the leadership team to assist in all aspects of training and operations.

### SHORE TRAINING

The training during this year covered many areas, both practical and theoretical. The diverse range of training provided received excellent feedback.

In November 2023 we conducted practical Shore duty-based training. This training incorporated key skills such as Client approach, throwline deployment and electronic communications. This was hugely beneficial and challenged the volunteers on their approach to people in distress using a wide range of techniques to deescalate highly challenging situations. This training encompassed both verbal and non-verbal communication along with strategies to approach people in distress. We also conducted electronic communication training and throwline deployment. This training was based on the "Crawl/Walk/Run" approach, where we build towards upcoming training to provide opportunities for our volunteers to be able to use the real application of these skills.

The online training provided to our volunteers in the first quarter of 2024 allowed all volunteers to learn about other aspects of Foyle Search and Rescue at their own pace. The online training covered various topics such as Foyle Search and Rescue SOPs, Jessip training and Manual handling, these were key training areas that all volunteers benefitted from. The training included refresher training on the organisations SOP's and also provided the volunteers with better situational awareness of our role in emergency multi-agency situations (Jessip).

In June 2023 We were very privileged to welcome ARC. We received training on dealing with distressed individuals who have addictions or who are recovering from addictions. This training received very positive feedback from volunteers who said that it gave them a greater understanding of these issues.

## TEAM LEADERS

In 2024, our new Team Leadership training was successfully rolled out. This training was designed to give a volunteer the correct skills to lead teams on duty and have the knowledge and confidence to deal with highly challenging situations. This was implemented by classroom-based lectures covering all aspects of Team Leader responsibilities. We then covered all the practical aspects of duty from arriving at base/going out on duty/dealing with the public and signing off after duty. This training continued with a mentoring program where existing Team Leaders would assist the new Team Leader on duty nights until they reached a stage where they were confident to lead independently.

Throughout the year Foyle Search and Rescue held multiple Team Leader meetings which provided our Team Leaders with opportunities to assist with shore training, gain new skills and facilitate a knowledge/idea skill share environment.

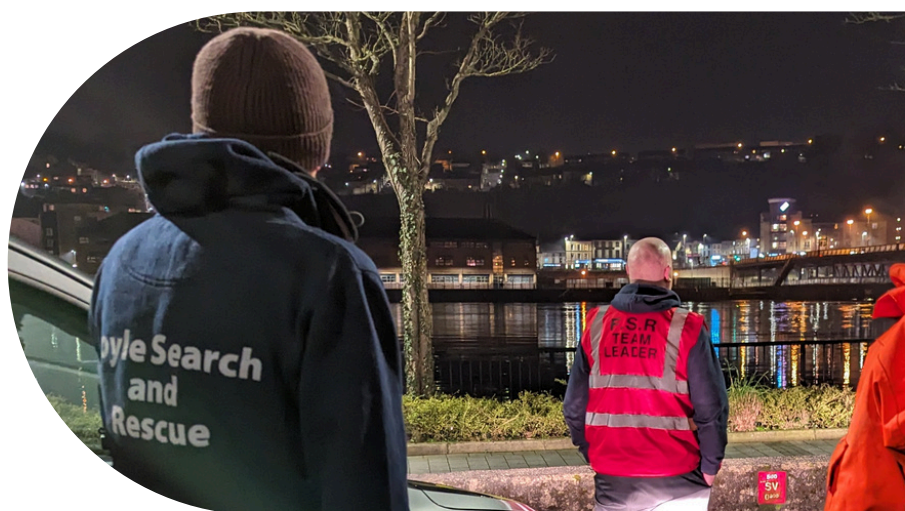
## UPCOMING TRAINING

We are planning Shore training in July 2024. This training will see the "Walk" phase of our training plan. Shore volunteers can expect to be tested on Client approach/Medical/Communications/Throwline deployment/S1-Code 1 protocols and teamwork. This will allow the volunteers to experience a dynamic training scenario which requires decision making and situational awareness.

In September, we hope to roll out external leadership training with the opportunity for Team Leaders to gain leadership qualifications.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the Volunteers in Foyle Search and Rescue who have displayed the highest levels of professionalism and commitment during duty, training and Searches over the past twelve months. Your time given to the charity is very appreciated, extremely valued and makes an extraordinary difference to people lives. I would also like to thank the other Coordinators and Staff who have shown me a huge amount of support during the past year settling into the new role as Shore Coordinator.

## MARK BUCKLEY SHORE COORDINATOR



## BOAT TEAM

In September 2023, I was appointed as Boat Coordinator. Whilst I don't necessarily come from a boating background externally, I have been on boat for approximately 6 years within the charity. I also have 3 years previous experience of being a coordinator and have been involved with boat training for several years.

Upon taking the role, I moved to identify key areas where adjustments could be made to help bolster the general operations of boat. It will not come as a surprise that I have always been a firm believer in the importance of training. It improves safety, but it also improves morale and teamwork.

Early 2023 brought the introduction of a new boat training plan. It became mandatory for all crew joining boat to be trained to RYA Level 2, crew would then work towards getting sessions on the boat so they could progress onto Personal Water Craft and once this was achieved, they could continue adding sessions until they were eligible to go through the new Foyle Search and Rescue coxswain assessment. A lot of work went into designing this, with research being carried out with other search & rescue groups to see what they provide their crews.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, 11 new crew members joined boat. 2 volunteers joined boat crew with external certificates whilst 2 coxswains returned to the charity. Myself and Gareth also became RYA PWC instructors which allowed us to certify 11 more volunteers in PWC. 16 volunteers who did not have their RYA powerboat level 2 certificate were also certified and there was a VHF course delivered externally to 15 volunteers on boat. A further 2 volunteers became coxswains and in 2024 mandatory training was introduced again so that time could then be diverted into upskilling all our boat volunteers. This period of time saw the most training and progression we have ever had within the charity. There are over 40 volunteers now on Boat with over 20 qualified as coxswains and 30 of which are also PWC trained.



Its fair to say it has been a very busy year for our boat training team. The boat training team is made up of a group of highly experienced boat volunteers who bring a wide range of skills. Myself, Gareth, Paul Mullan, Colm, Liam and Avril are the volunteers within the boat training team. In December this team was expanded as we welcomed 4 new members, Amy, Danielle, Ryan Murphy, and Conor all successfully joined the team to assist with training, its great to have their experience and skills to add to the team. They ensure that out volunteers are well trained and provide invaluable experience so that when any of the crews are out on the water, they will be able to face any challenges they may encounter. Between April 2023 and March 2024, the boat training team as a whole contributed a total of 505 Hours of training. Thankyou to the entire team for dedicating so much time to this.

During this time, we also unfortunately retired 2 vessels, the Spirit of Adrian and Spirit of James. These vessels were involved in multiple shouts, duties and searches for many years within the charity and served the charity well during their lifespan. Plans are ongoing to replace these 2 boats with one multipurpose vessel.

The 2 main response boats, Spirit of John and AOD13 also got new twin 150HP engines fitted to improve response times and reliability. All of our maintenance is now outsourced to contractors who do a fantastic job ensuring our vessels are fit for purpose and operational. Thanks to Stevie, Stormtec and Jet products for the work they do.

On PPE and equipment, our volunteers moved to using crew saver lifejackets in August 2023. Again, research went into what other rescue groups used. In September we introduced new drydocks to help protect our vessels with funding secured for the project. These have proven to be very useful in preventing damage to boats during storms but also in reducing barnacle build up during warmer temperatures.

During the summer we were involved with a huge fundraising event organised by Danny Quigley where he swam from Lifford to Kinnego Bay. The boat team was involved in providing safety cover during this event as Danny swam day and night to achieve his goal. Thanks to all our boat volunteers who helped out during this, it was a great experience for all.

Boat team also participated in 3 searches during this time frame, 2 on the Foyle, and 1 upriver in Strabane. Some of the conditions were challenging but boat teams managed to attend these searches and help the families impacted by them.

Another change I brought was the creation of a boat general maintenance team. This team is made up of Myself, Gavin, Don, Katherine, Mark Doherty, Cormac, Anthony Brady, Paddy Mullan and Paddy Bowen. Every month members of this team come in and give the vessels a good deep clean and also check all the inventory on board to make sure our boats are in good working order. A massive thanks to them also for all the time and effort they put in.



Going forward I intend on continuing to provide a high level of training so that our volunteers are highly skilled and able to deal with anything they may encounter. Training events will be planned with other groups and agencies also. There will be further investment into equipment and maintenance ensuring our boats are available and kitted with the correct equipment to assist us in our tasks. Its also important to acknowledge the work and support the staff do for boat operations, thankyou for that.

In closing I would like to express special thanks to all the men and women who crew our boats. Thank you for what you do. You have welcomed me as your boat coordinator, participated in training and adapted to changes that were brought in. Not every change maybe suited or was welcomed by everyone but they were always made with best intentions for the safety of you and the wider team. Sometimes the tasks we do are not pleasant, however many people have been rescued and are alive today because of the work that you do and the hours you sacrifice for training, searches, duties and other boat events throughout the year. Over the years many families received closure by getting their loved one's home because of the work and tasks you do, and this year was no exception so again thank you. None of that would be possible without you.

**SEAMUS MCCLOSKEY**

**BOAT CO-ORDINATOR**

## SONAR TEAM

Our Sonar team carry out searches of the river using specialist equipment when someone goes under the surface and does not resurface.

The Sonar team consists of 10 volunteers, who put in a lot of time and effort particularly when a search happens, but also throughout the year.

2023 was a significant year for the team for many reasons.

In May 2023, we conducted a training session in collaboration with the Inishowen Sub-Aqua Club, who provided divers so that we could simulate a sonar search for a body. Many thanks to Aodhán McDaid and the Inishowen SAC crew for their support.

This was followed in June by a weekend's training with the Norbit support team.

In July, the team were tasked to perform a multi-day sonar search for a missing person in the Foyle. The individual was eventually found safe and well elsewhere.

In August, the team were again tasked to search for a missing person who was believed to have entered the river. This was again a multi-day search, and the team were able to eliminate several search areas before the individual was eventually located downriver.

In Oct 2023 we welcomed 3 new Team members, to further strengthen the team. They were soon called into action when in late October we performed a multi-week search of Westlake for a missing person. A SARDA dog had indicated the person had possibly entered the lake. This was a challenging search – access to the lake was difficult and the lake itself was not conducive to multi-beam scanning due to high levels of vegetation getting tangled in the sonar head. This gave us the opportunity to trial our new Garmin LiveScope side-scan unit, which is a small transducer suitable for use in difficult-to-access areas and in shallow waters. The Sonar team was able to completely scan the small lake and rule it out of the search, and ultimately the missing person was found elsewhere.

The team had a further training weekend in November, with the Norbit support team. We trialled a LiDAR unit from Norbit (which scans above the water line to add shoreline reference details to any sonar scan). This was conducted in Creggan Country Park.

In November we also welcomed our new Sonar Coordinator Danielle Francis, who took over the reins from Seamus McCloskey.

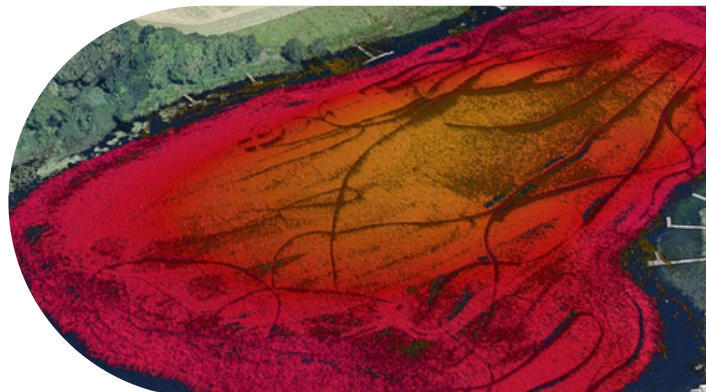
Feb 2024 saw the resumption of regular Sonar training – we conducted sessions for all members at base and in Creggan Country Park. We unfortunately lost our regular Sonar boat (Spirit of James), as it had to be retired from the fleet. For now, we are capable of operating Sonar from the Steady, and we are exploring further options for a replacement boat suitable for Sonar.

In March 2024 we participated in a multi-week, multi-agency search for a male who entered the river at Strabane. This was challenging as the search area was huge, and the river is uncharted and hazardously shallow in places. We therefore focused on using the Garmin LiveScope to conduct a side-scan sonar search, and used the Norbit Multibeam only on specific deeper areas of the river. The search times were very dependent on tides and limited daylight, nevertheless we managed to get teams out for a good number of searches.

A special thanks to all members of the sonar team; Danielle (Sonar Coordinator), Paul (Deputy Coordinator) Anthony, Aodhán, Don, Frances, Gareth, Marc, Paddy, Séamus. The team put in a great deal of time and effort into Sonar operations and we could not make the advances we are making without their level of commitment.

## PAUL LYNCH

### DEPUTY SONAR CO-ORDINATOR



## SWIFTWATER TEAM

Over the past 12 months the Swiftwater team has made great strides in investing and further developing our operational capabilities by investing in new and upgraded PPE and through our new CPD training programme which serves to continually maintain and upskill our volunteers abilities to respond to difficult and technical rescues in and around the river Foyle and further afield.

We currently have 7 Swiftwater Rescue Technicians and 8 Flood First Responders on the team.

Over the past 12 months the team has responded to requests of assistance from the PSNI to localised flooding in Co. Tyrone and also conducted some water safety cover in both Co. Derry and Co. Donegal with the highlight of those being

the annual Hard As Oak event. The team will also be providing water safety cover at this year's event and are eagerly looking forward to assisting all those participating at the event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the team who selflessly give up their time to help develop, grow and maintain our team and to all the staff, Co-ordinator's and Committee members who continue to assist, help and support our team at every opportunity, none of it would be possible without all of your efforts, thank you!

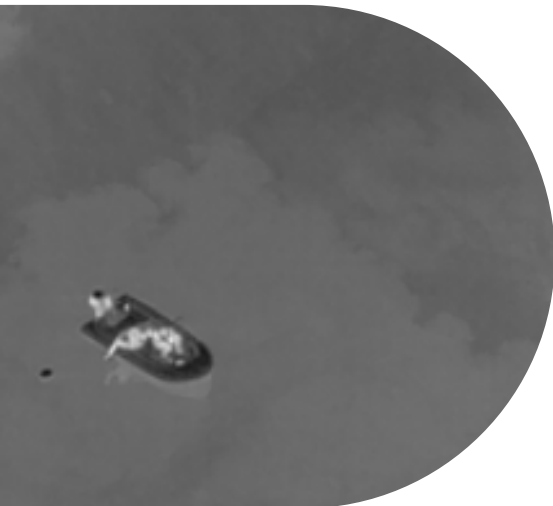
## GERARD O'KANE SWIFTWATER COORDINATOR



## UAV TEAM

Throughout the past twelve months, the UAV team have continued to demonstrate how they can play a significant supporting role during search and rescue taskings on the river Foyle and surrounding areas. The team have been involved in a wide variety of taskings ranging from live S1 aerial support to searches for high-risk missing persons, supporting both duty nights and emergency response team callouts on a regular basis. Furthermore, the team provided substantial support in the search for Jordan Gallagher, searching extensive areas of the river and riverbanks using a range of UAV technologies as part of the combined FSAR team and multi-agency effort to bring Jordan home as quickly as possible.

This year, the UAV team introduced a new UAV to the fleet; the DJI Matrice (M)30T, which has been integrated into the team supporting emergency response operations given its ability to be deployed rapidly, coupled with its advanced thermal and optical features similar to its big brother in the fleet, the DJI Matrice (M)300rtk.



In November 2023, Foyle Search & Rescue took delivery of its new Mobile Incident Command Unit which will serve as a command post and surveillance unit during emergency taskings. The project, lasting some 18 months from conception to completion, was managed by the UAV team and supported by the office team. Mechanical and electrical build was completed by Primo Coachworks in Co. Offaly and information and communication systems were installed and commissioned by Telent Technologies. The ICU provides new capabilities to the UAV team and wider organisation, providing vital field support to all disciplines in both search and rescue operations and enabling the latest in SAR technology to be deployed in support of our operations.



For the year ahead, the UAV Team will continue to enhance and develop the skills and competence of the full flight crew and seek opportunities to maintain a strong and resilient flight crew through recruitment and upskilling.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the flight crew for their continued efforts and commitment throughout the year. Furthermore, on behalf of the team, thank you to the staff and management committee of Foyle Search & Rescue for their continued support, hard work and efforts in the background throughout the year.

**RYAN MURPHY**  
**DRONE CO-ORDINATOR**



## FIRST AID

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for their time and commitment towards first aid as it can be a very tough experience at times. Year 23/24 saw a number of incidents where first aid was required, both on land and from water related incidents. Everyone involved in these incidents have excelled themselves and have shown professionalism, courage and have given hope to the persons involved. Lives have been saved by you.

Within the last year most of the charity was trained and/or recertified in RYA first aid, with additional skills in the use of medical gases to 28 volunteers bringing this to the largest amount of people in the history of the charity trained up to provide this service throughout all disciplines. We have delivered external training courses in partnership with City Centre Initiative to local businesses and organisations within the city, this has allowed us to generate a small income for the charity.

There were also opportunities for mental health first aid training which in the coming year I hope to expand and roll out to more volunteers.

This last year saw the standardisation of new medical kit bags, containing essential, life-saving equipment for both shore and boat to ensure easy access in time critical situations. We continually review our supplies to ensure that we can continue to deliver effective pre-hospital care.

As part of our 'show and tell' experiences delivered to PSNI, University of Ulster student paramedics and nurses they observed how we operate, were encouraged to ask questions and made aware of the charities first aid capabilities. Quality time is invested to build on our strong working relationships with the ambulance service so we can work effectively together.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way to support me in my role. I would encourage everyone to keep up the good work, which will build more confidence in your abilities, as well as reflecting positively on our charity as a whole.

## CONOR HARGAN FIRST AID CO-ORDINATOR



## FUNDRAISING & EDUCATION

What a year we had! It was a year of our 30 year celebrations and what an action packed year it was.

We would like to begin by saying a massive thank you to all the local businesses who choose us as their Charity Partner of the Year 2023.



These partnerships not only bring in amazing funds through all their hard work and dedication but the awareness around our services and other local services that are available.

The biggest shout out goes to all our volunteers for their dedication to our annual and monthly internal events. Like clockwork, the Box Run Volunteers were out each month in rain, hail, snow and with very little sunshine, to collect around all the local shops. Their dedication to the monthly box run is reflected in the amount that was brought in to the charity, £33k. Our annual bucket appeal brought in £11k. Both our winter and summer flag day were carried out within the city centre and we would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers and staff who came out in force to help which raised £6,500. These events are well supported by the amazing people of our city, and each and every penny goes toward training, equipment and PPE for our volunteers.

We could not go without saying a massive thank you to the team of volunteers who come in each month to help count all the coins collected through the monthly box runs, flag days and bucket appeals. Your dedication to this role works hand in hand with the collection team and is key to the charity continuing to carry out these internal fundraisers.

As this was our 30th Year we held a number of additional events to celebrate the occasion, kicking off the year with a sponsored walk, which saw over 100 people take to the pavements and was such a success we have decided to make this an annual event. The big event for the year was our Gala Ball where volunteers, family members, and supporters of the charity got glammed up, and had big belly laughs from the comedy legend Tim McGarry who hosted the evening and also gave a comedy performance. Everyone then danced the night away to the astounding Lee Roy Brown Band.

We had great giggles in making the promotional video for the biggest raffle we have ever held in which the prizes were holiday vouchers and winners were announced live at the Gala Ball.

This year saw the return of the Zipline Across the Foyle, where we partnered with 3 other charities to bring a fun-filled weekend to the city, all supporting worthwhile causes.

As a self-funded charity, we wouldn't be able to carry out our role of 'The Preservation of Life' without the continued support from members of the public and their donations, local business choosing us as their charity partner or holding fundraising events, community groups and schools putting their all into raising funds. We would like to thank each and every one of you for donating, supporting and raising awareness for our charity. You are the reason that we continue to operate and we are forever grateful for this. It is hard to mention every donation, but we would like to highlight some of the events that happened throughout the year.

As with every other year, the support that we received from the schools and higher education institutes in 2023 was above and beyond. We are extremely grateful for your continued support over the years. In 2022/2023 we facilitated 15 talks to schools, community groups and workplaces. The majority of visits this year were more substantial than last year, with our education teams even carrying out talks addressing over 700+ students within a single session, conducted multiple times over a number of days. We found great benefit in attending the Yes project twice this year, which involved a range of schools from across all sections of the community and of various age groups.

An estimated figure of 3,500+ people benefitted from our educational service. The success of our education visits is measured by the number of talks we carry out, the number of attendees at these talks. We feel that this prevention area of our work is invaluable in making both younger and older people aware of the issues of suicide within our city, as well as how to safely use the different types of waterways.

We also carried out partnership work with PSNI, where new police recruits who joined the force from 2020 have been visiting our base every 2nd week, in groups of 12/20 to tour the base, see the equipment we have, meet the team members and have a boat tour of the bridge & quay for "you see what we see" giving the officers a better understanding on what our teams see and hear when on the boat, which will help with future incidents. A total of approx. 250+ officers availed of this opportunity, which was also offered to NIAS.

We would like to mention as many local businesses who have supported us in the last year, it is truly amazing the many businesses within our city and some further afield that support our charity. Thank you to Hugh Keirney from Cooley Jewellers who dawned the Santa Suit again this year and donated £1,000.

The continued support that our charity receives each year from the same business and people is immense. We are always proud to be chosen as a charity partner as the hard work and awareness that is raised through this is always outstanding, well done to everyone involved. Thank you to Hard as Oak, Fairytale Wedding Cars, Ryan Dillon, The O'Donnell Family, Foyle Food Group, The Inner City Trust, and BSG Civil Engineering who continue to, each year, raise funds for our charity and raise great awareness around mental health and the services within our city. We are always overwhelmed with the continued support and extremely grateful, and we look forward to continuing to build on our future relationships.

Fundraising for 2023 was a great success, but I couldn't finish this report without highlighting and congratulating the machine that is Danny Quigley. What a week this was "The Celebration of Life". Danny swam 110KM from Lifford to Kinnego Bay to raising vital and valuable awareness and helping shatter the stigma of suicide. Each kilometre was in memory of a loved one.

He celebrated all those wonderful people who lost their lives to suicide. He remembered them for who they were, a person not a statistic. He remembered their music, their hobbies, favourite foods, their families, and he celebrated their lives. To end the event the legends of the city came out for a final celebration in which we held a funday with the support of local musicians, vendors, community groups for which we are truly humbled and thankful. This is only the beginning of of a wonderful partnership with Phase II of the event coming in 2024 titled the 'Lighthouse Project'.

Therefore, we would like to say a final big 'thank you' to everyone who got involved in raising funds, raising awareness and supporting Foyle Search and Rescue, and a final 'thank you' to all our volunteers, staff and their family and friends. Without you all, our charity would not be able to carry out the life saving work that we do. Giving up your time allows us to meet our aims and objectives of 'The Preservation of Life in and around the Rover Foyle'.

Thank You

**CHRISTINA MCKEEGAN**

**CHARITY MANAGER**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 2024

Volunteers & Staff

General Public - North & South of the Border

The Mayor & Staff

Public Health Agency

Derry City & Strabane District Council

Department of Justice

Gilliland Family

Emergency Services

NISAR Rescue Organisations

City Centre Initiative

Inner City Trust

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Storm-Tec Marine

Four Star Pizza

Dominos

Paolos Pizza

Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum

Diamond Corrugated

The Rank Foundation

Print Chameleon

CCTV

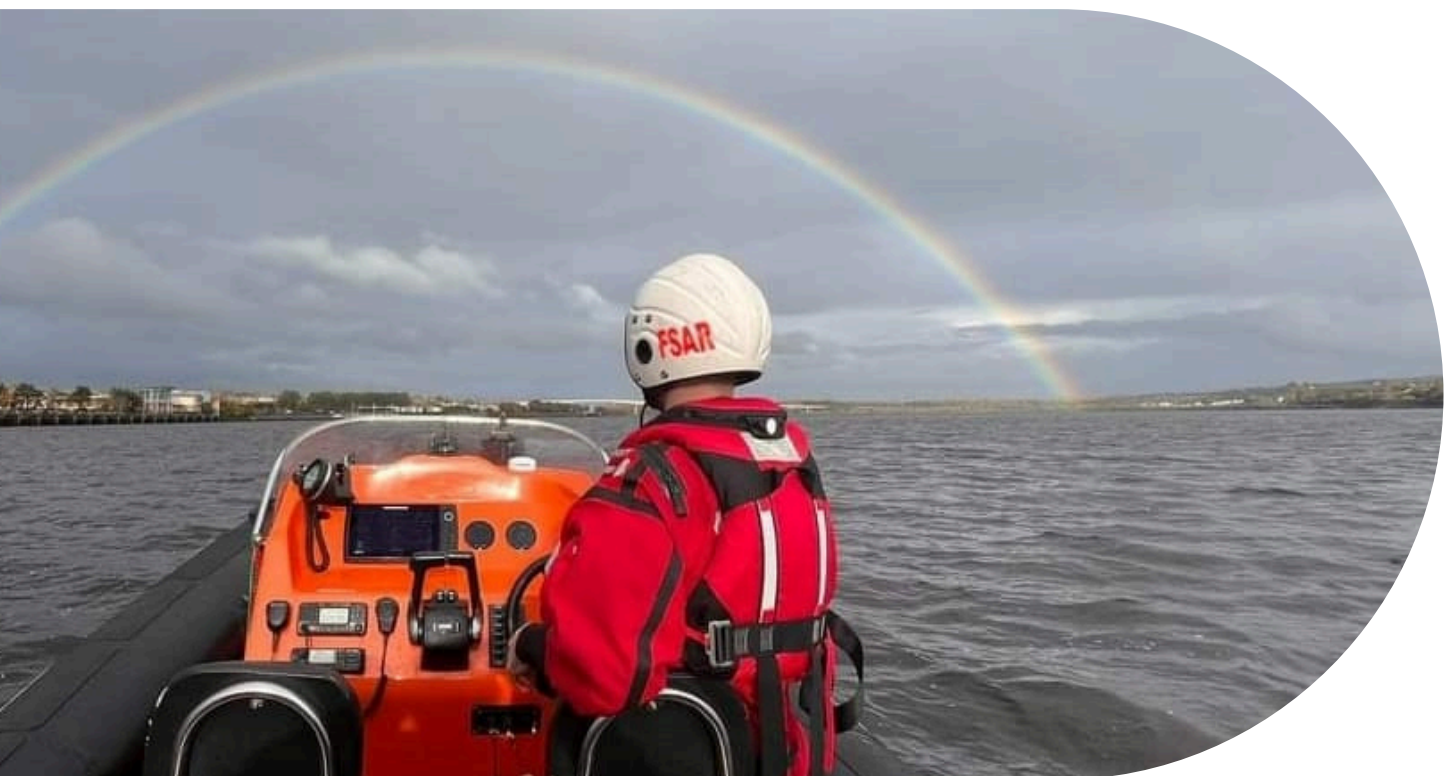
CAF UK SAR Fund

SBS South Bank Square

RYA

GoSafe

Jet Products



# YOU ARE NOT ALONE

CCIS	028 7126 2300
LIFELINE	0808 808 8000
SAMARITANS	116 123
HURT	02871 369 696
AWARE	02871 260 602
CHILDLINE	0800 11 11
ME4MENTAL	02871 413 050

## FOYLE SEARCH & RESCUE

028 7131 3800    [Office@foylesearch.com](mailto:Office@foylesearch.com)

**Foyle Search and Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106685

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# Annual return

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Charity number: NIC106685  
Company number: NI640535 (Northern Ireland)

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Executive Committees' report and financial statements**

**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Charity number** NIC106685

**Company registration number** NI640535

**Business address** 20 Victoria Road  
Waterside  
Derry  
BT47 2AB

**Registered office** 20 Victoria Road  
Derry  
BT47 2AB

<b>Trustees /Company Directors</b>	Stephen Twells Sandra O Doherty Kristina McDaid Cormac O'Hare Brian Mullan Steven Durrent	Chairman Resigned 21/06/2023 Appointed 12/12/2023 Company Secretary Appointed 12/12/2023 Treasurer Resigned 21/06/2023 Appointed 11/09/2024
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<b>Co-Ordinators</b>	Mark Buckley Seamus Mc Closkey(Steven Durrent) Neal Cooke ( Paul McLaughlin) Gerard O'Kane Ryan Murphy Danielle Francis (Seamus McCloskey) Conor Hargan	Shore Co-Ordinator Boat Co-Ordinator Pager Co- Ordinator Swiftwater Co-Ordinator Drone Co-Ordinator Sonar Co-Ordinator FREC Co-Ordinator
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<b>Past Roles</b>	Brian Og Mullan Sandra O'Doherty Martin O'Neill	Vice- Chairman Health and Wellbeing Health and safety and Risk
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**Accountants** Paul Green Accountancy and Taxation Limited  
PO Box 167, Unit 1B Ground Floor,  
The Glassworks,Skeoge Business Park,  
11 Beraghmore Road,  
Derry  
BT48 8SE

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Bankers**

Danske Bank  
PO Box 183  
Donegall Square West  
Belfast  
BT1 6JS

**Solicitors**

Hasson and Company  
39-41 Clarendon Street  
Derry  
BT48 7ER

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)** **for the year ended 31 March 2024**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees, who are also directors of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1 - 2 .This report constitutes the Directors' Report required under the Companies Act 2006. The Directors have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS102) effective 1 January 2015 -(Charities SORP(FRS102)) ,in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the company.

#### **Governing Document**

Foyle Search and Rescue is a private company limited by guarantee without a share capital . Foyle Serach and Rescue commenced operating as a company limited by guarantee without a share capital from 01 April 2017.The company was established under a memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under it Articles of Association The company was incorporated on 31 August 2016.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The work of Foyle Search and Rescue can mean the difference between life and death.

The Management Committee will do its utmost to ensure the continued provision of this vital service and during the reporting period decided the Charity should have sufficient general reserves of 2 years turnover or £250,000, whichever is the greater.

These General Reserves will be used for unforeseen events and to respond to emerging and changing needs.

These reserves will also provide cover for:

- Project failure
- Creditors and running costs
- Salary contingent for long term sick-leave or maternity leave
- Refurbishment costs

#### **Risk and Uncertainty**

The Financial Control and Procedures Manual identified a number of potential financial risks and how the Charity will mitigate against them. Namely,

- Reduced Income
- Overspend
- Fraud
- Procurement of Goods and Services
- Reputational
- Theft

These have been rated as “Low” given the mitigating measures in place.

#### *Investments*

The Charity did not hold any or undertake any financial investments during the reporting period . The Charity did have cash on deposit on current accounts and did receive some interest on this.

#### *Methods adopted for the appointment and recruitment of new trustees*

The committee of Foyle Serach and Rescue are charity trustees for the purpose of charity law .People can make an application to the committee to become a memeber .Every application for admission shall be considered by the committee at their first meeting after it was made ,or as soon thereafter as is practicable.There shall be no discrimination between persona by reference to politics ,religion,race ,sex ,age ,physical or mental disability.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Objectives and activities**

**Charitable objectives**

The Preservation of life in and around the River Foyle. Death by drowning is minimised; People in crisis are signposted immediately to appropriate services; Body recoveries of missing people who have entered the River; Other agencies are supported to ensure that lifesaving equipment is well maintained; Public awareness of water safety around the river is improved through delivery of educational programmes and the issues of suicide and attempted suicides are highlighted to the appropriate statutory bodies. Our statistics identify how the benefits have been demonstrated. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. We are a unique Charity in what we do and we are not restricted to helping one group of people – we help everyone who needs us regardless of age, gender, religion, race or background. There are no private benefits flowing from any of the purposes.

*Chairman's Report (Stephen Twells)*

This year marks a truly special occasion as we come together to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our charity. It is an incredible milestone that speaks volumes about the dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment of everyone involved in our mission-the preservation of life in and around the River Foyle.

Since 1993, FSR volunteers have stopped 6,082 people who were in danger of, or considered taking their own life, in the river. However, sadly, the number dying by suicide in the river has remained almost constant over the last 30 years since the formation of FSR, with an average of 5 fatalities each year.

The year just ending in March 2024 was another busy year for us. 24 rescues were carried out, while 198 people were stopped from entering the river, but tragically, we had the sad task of recovering 4 people who lost their lives in the river.

The work that our volunteers carry out is never done in isolation. We could not deliver our services, nor make the difference we make, without the help of the city centre CCTV team, Community Safety Wardens, PSNI, NIAS and NIFRS, who all provide vital support to us.

We are extremely grateful to Derry City & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency and the Western Health & Social Care Trust for their continued funding to us again this year, yet still, over 80% of all our annual income comes from public donations. We know there are many worthy causes in our city, deserving of peoples' appreciation, and financial support. To be there, when we are needed most, is the least we can do to repay that kindness and generosity.

Most of our activities this year revolved around either commemorating our 30 years of service, or taking action to make our charity better placed to face the future, while maintaining our duty nights, 24/7 pager response, educational activity and intensive training programmes.

We celebrated our 30th year with many fundraising events, as well as being invited to the Mayors Parlour for a recognition evening with Mayor Sandra Duffy. We were honoured with another award when we, unexpectedly received the Best of Derry 999 Hero Award. We held a glamorous Gala Ball in September, and what for me was the highlight of the year, a very poignant and moving Remembrance event in October, laying lanterns on the river to remember all those who have died in the river over the years. We also supported our local hero Danny Quigley, who swam 110km to raise awareness of mental health, while remembering those who have both died by suicide and those struggling with mental health issues.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

Chairman's Report(Continued)

We began a journey of transformation on how we function, with a new digital programme, still in development, aimed at simplifying many of our activities. We invested heavily across our multi-disciplinary teams, with upgrades to drones, more equipment for our sonar and swift water teams, better Personal Protective Equipment for our boat crews, and 2 new duty night team vehicles. We refurbished our two largest, most used boats with new engines as well as a drydock to help with their maintenance. We began to develop a multi-disciplinary command vehicle and implement new livery branding across our fleet of vehicles.

We invested in 2 new additional staff roles, a Volunteer Manager and, a Digital Lead in conjunction with the Rank Foundation, aimed at supporting our volunteers and management committee.

Unfortunately, throughout the year we incurred damage and loss to vessels and equipment which we either repaired or are working through a plan to replace within the coming 12 months. We also undertook a cost savings exercise and sold, or are selling some of our older, or under- utilised vehicle and vessel assets. This programme will continue throughout 2024 to deliver savings where we can. 2024/2025 will again be another challenging and exciting year in the life of FSR. It will bring more improvements as we continue with our digital transformation, more recruitment of new volunteers, investment in new defibrillators, swift water equipment, training, and sourcing a suitable multi-purpose boat that will support both our normal operations as well as sonar searches.

We will be going through our 3rd re-evaluation of our coveted "Investing in Volunteers" accreditation, which recognises good practice within volunteer management, and we will re- invigorate our management committee with new members. We will also continue to work with the Danny Quigley Foundation to develop a symbolic "Lighthouse" which will be a beacon of light and a practical place to help and information around mental health.

The biggest project that we hope to complete will be seeing phase 2 of an extension to our base, after a prolonged delay due to the recent pandemic, which will bring much needed storage and workspace.

FSR volunteers have been providing support and encouragement to thousands of people since 1993, giving hope, strength and courage to a stranger, to face another day. We are not just about searching for, and rescuing people; we are about compassion, empathy, and the unwavering belief that every life is worth saving. It's about being there in the darkest hours, offering solace and support to those who have lost their way.

During the last 30 years, the River Foyle has flowed, and the tides have turned, but our resolve to save lives has remained constant throughout any obstacles and challenges we faced.

So many people have been involved in FSR over the years, and at this special milestone, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our volunteers, staff, supporters, partners, funders, past and present as well as the entire community. Together, we have made Foyle Search and Rescue what it is today - a beacon of hope, a symbol of compassion, and a lifeline for those in need. Together we have saved lives. Together we have made a difference.

We are only the custodians for the next generation. As we look ahead to the future, let us continue to work together, to innovate and to grow, so that we may save even more lives in the years to come. Our charity and all of our supporters are a shining example of everything that is wonderful about this great city of ours, and is something we can all be very proud of.

Thank you for being a part of our journey so far. Here's to the next 30 years of making a difference in the lives of those we serve, and may the light of hope continue to shine bright in our hearts, and along the Foyle River

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

*Sonar Team (Paul Lynch)*

Our Sonar team carry out searches of the river using specialist equipment when someone goes under the surface and does not resurface.

The Sonar team consists of 10 volunteers, who put in a lot of time and effort particularly when a search happens, but also throughout the year.

2023 was a significant year for the team for many reasons.

In May 2023, we conducted a training session in collaboration with the Inishowen Sub-Aqua Club, who provided divers so that we could simulate a sonar search for a body. Many thanks to Aodhán McDaid and the Inishowen SAC crew for their support.

This was followed in June by a weekend's training with the Norbit support team.

In July, the team were tasked to perform a multi-day sonar search for a missing person in the Foyle. The individual was eventually found safe and well elsewhere.

In August, the team were again tasked to search for a missing person who was believed to have entered the river. This was again a multi-day search, and the team were able to eliminate several search areas before the individual was eventually located downriver.

In Oct 2023 we welcomed 3 new Team members, to further strengthen the team. They were soon called into action when in late October we performed a multi-week search of Westlake for a missing person. A SARDA dog had indicated the person had possibly entered the lake. This was a challenging search - access to the lake was difficult and the lake itself was not conducive to multi-beam scanning due to high levels of vegetation getting tangled in the sonar head. This gave us the opportunity to trial our new Garmin LiveScope side-scan unit, which is a small transducer suitable for use in difficult-to-access areas and in shallow waters. The Sonar team was able to completely scan the small lake and rule it out of the search, and ultimately the missing person was found elsewhere.

The team had a further training weekend in November, with the Norbit support team. We trialled a LiDAR unit from Norbit (which scans above the water line to add shoreline reference details to any sonar scan). This was conducted in Creggan Country Park.

In November we also welcomed our new Sonar Coordinator Danielle Francis, who took over the reins from Seamus McCloskey.

Feb 2024 saw the resumption of regular Sonar training - we conducted sessions for all members at base and in Creggan Country Park. We unfortunately lost our regular Sonar boat (Spirit of James), as it had to be retired from the fleet. For now, we are capable of operating Sonar from the Steady, and we are exploring further options for a replacement boat suitable for Sonar.

In March 2024 we participated in a multi-week, multi-agency search for a male who entered the river at Strabane. This was challenging as the search area was huge, and the river is uncharted and hazardously shallow in places. We therefore focused on using the Garmin LiveScope to conduct a side-scan sonar search, and used the Norbit Multibeam only on specific deeper areas of the river. The search times were very dependent on tides and limited daylight, nevertheless we managed to get teams out for a good number of searches.

A special thanks to all members of the sonar team; Danielle (Sonar Coordinator), Paul (Deputy Coordinator) Anthony, Aodhán, Don, Frances, Gareth, Marc, Paddy, Séamus. The team put in a great deal of time and effort into Sonar operations and we could not make the advances we are making without their level of commitment.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

*Swift Water( Gerard O'Kane)*

Over the past 12 months the Swiftwater team has made great strides in investing and further developing our operational capabilities by investing in new and upgraded PPE and through our new CPD training programme which serves to continually maintain and upskill our volunteers abilities to respond to difficult and technical rescues in and around the river Foyle and further afield.

We currently have 7 Swiftwater Rescue Technicians and 8 Flood First Responders on the team.

Over the past 12 months the team has responded to requests of assistance from the PSNI to localised flooding in Co. Tyrone and also conducted some water safety cover in both Co. Derry and Co. Donegal with the highlight of those being the annual Hard As Oak event. The team will also be providing water safety cover at this year's event and are eagerly looking forward to assisting all those participating at the event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the team who selflessly give up their time to help develop, grow and maintain our team and to all the staff, Co-ordinator's and Committee members who continue to assist, help and support our team at every opportunity, none of it would be possible without all of your efforts, thank you

*HEALTH & WELLBEING (Dawn Grieve)*

Volunteer wellbeing will always be of the highest importance for me as Volunteer Manager. So as part of the health and wellbeing programme I have run a variety of different events through the year. From evenings out, to relaxing facials and food at the base. I would encourage everyone to get involved. This is your base, to come & use it as you please.

August saw the amazing fun day to end Danny Quigleys Lifford to Kinnego Bay swim. I think I speak for all volunteers when I say that being part of this event was a highlight. The fun day was a great day for not only the public but our volunteers and their families.

In September we held our 30th Anniversary Gala Ball. This was an amazing evening with lots of laughs thanks to Tim McGarry. It was lovely to get glammed up and celebrate Foyle Search and Rescue. The room was set up beautifully thanks to our Charity Manager's vision and 3 people won great prizes in the form of holiday vouchers!

October saw the roll out of an 8 week fitness programme held at ProBox Gym. It was great to see volunteers have a laugh together and it allowed everyone to let off steam when they let loose on the pads. Another fitness programme will be rolled out later in the year.

A health and wellbeing event, which included a variety of beauty treatments and a hot meal, was held in November. This event was open to everyone and everyone left feeling fantastic! This event will definitely return in the near future for both male and females!

Of course December couldn't pass by without the big man in the red suit calling by! And what a visit it was, Santa did a great job, so much so that all the children were saying that he was the best Santa they have seen and that he was very funny! The kids enjoyed a hot meal and lots of sweets were consumed!

Our highly anticipated volunteer Christmas party was held in January in the Thirsty Goat. Its fair to say that this was a great night, the food was amazing, the music great, and the dancing was... well.

The volunteers who have attended these events have all provided great feedback. I would encourage more of you to get involved, it is great team building and also great craic. Lots more to come in 2024/2025

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
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Health and WellBeing (Continued)

Lastly, due to the nature of the tasks carried out by our volunteers I will always promote the counselling service provided by Lorraine Rogan at 'Peace by Piece'. Although many feel it is enough to discuss incidents with other volunteers to help process what you have witnessed and assisted in, sometimes it helps to speak to someone you don't know. This service is not limited to Foyle Search related situations, if a volunteer has something going on in their life that they need support with, please contact Lorraine.

*SHORE TEAM (Mark Buckley)*

**LEADERSHIP**

2023 saw the introduction of a new Shore Coordinator. This transition began in April and the role was fully taken over at the beginning of May. The New Shore Coordinator worked very closely with the Office staff and other Coordinators to identify the needs of Foyle Search and Rescue regarding operational and training needs. Additionally, two Deputy Shore Coordinators (Rohan Chada and Adrian McMenamin) were added to the leadership team to assist in all aspects of training and operations.

**SHORE TRAINING**

The training during this year covered many areas, both practical and theoretical. The diverse range of training provided received excellent feedback.

In November 2023 we conducted practical Shore duty-based training. This training incorporated key skills such as Client approach, throwline deployment and electronic communications. This was hugely beneficial and challenged the volunteers on their approach to people in distress using a wide range of techniques to deescalate highly challenging situations. This training encompassed both verbal and non-verbal communication along with strategies to approach people in distress. We also conducted electronic communication training and throwline deployment. This training was based on the "Crawl/Walk/Run" approach, where we build towards upcoming training to provide opportunities for our volunteers to be able to use the real application of these skills.

The online training provided to our volunteers in the first quarter of 2024 allowed all volunteers to learn about other aspects of Foyle Search and Rescue at their own pace. The online training covered various topics such as Foyle Search and Rescue SOPs, Jessip training and Manual handling, these were key training areas that all volunteers benefitted from. The training included refresher training on the organisations SOP's and also provided the volunteers with better situational awareness of our role in emergency multi-agency situations (Jessip).

In June 2023 We were very privileged to welcome ARC. We received training on dealing with distressed individuals who have addictions or who are recovering from addictions. This training received very positive feedback from volunteers who said that it gave them a greater understanding of these issues.

**TEAM LEADERS**

In 2024, our new Team Leadership training was successfully rolled out. This training was designed to give a volunteer the correct skills to lead teams on duty and have the knowledge and confidence to deal with highly challenging situations. This was implemented by classroom-based lectures covering all aspects of Team Leader responsibilities. We then covered all the practical aspects of duty from arriving at base/going out on duty/dealing with the public and signing off after duty. This training continued with a mentoring program where existing Team Leaders would assist the new Team Leader on duty nights until they reached a stage where they were confident to lead independently.

Throughout the year Foyle Search and Rescue held multiple Team Leader meetings which provided our Team Leaders with opportunities to assist with shore training, gain new skills and facilitate a knowledge/idea skill share environment.

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**UPCOMING TRAINING**

We are planning Shore training in July 2024. This training will see the "Walk" phase of our training plan. Shore volunteers can expect to be tested on Client approach/Medical/Communications/Throwline deployment/S1-Code 1 protocols and teamwork. This will allow the volunteers to experience a dynamic training scenario which requires decision making and situational awareness.

In September, we hope to roll out external leadership training with the opportunity for Team Leaders to gain leadership qualifications.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the Volunteers in Foyle Search and Rescue who have displayed the highest levels of professionalism and commitment during duty, training and Searches over the past twelve months. Your time given to the charity is very appreciated, extremely valued and makes an extraordinary difference to people lives. I would also like to thank the other Coordinators and Staff who have shown me a huge amount of support during the past year settling into the new role as Shore Coordinator.

**Boat Team( Seamus McCloskey)**

In September 2023, I was appointed as Boat Coordinator. Whilst I don't necessarily come from a boating background externally, I have been on boat for approximately 6 years within the charity. I also have 3 years previous experience of being a coordinator and have been involved with boat training for several years.

Upon taking the role, I moved to identify key areas where adjustments could be made to help bolster the general operations of boat. It will not come as a surprise that I have always been a firm believer in the importance of training. It improves safety, but it also improves morale and teamwork.

Early 2023 brought the introduction of a new boat training plan. It became mandatory for all crew joining boat to be trained to RYA Level 2, crew would then work towards getting sessions on the boat so they could progress onto Personal Water Craft and once this was achieved, they could continue adding sessions until they were eligible to go through the new Foyle Search and Rescue coxswain assessment. A lot of work went into designing this, with research being carried out with other search & rescue groups to see what they provide their crews.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, 11 new crew members joined boat. 2 volunteers joined boat crew with external certificates whilst 2 coxswains returned to the charity. Myself and Gareth also became RYA PWC instructors which allowed us to certify 11 more volunteers in PWC. 16 volunteers who did not have their RYA powerboat level 2 certificate were also certified and there was a VHF course delivered externally to 15 volunteers on boat. A further 2 volunteers became coxswains and in 2024 mandatory training was introduced again so that time could then be diverted into upskilling all our boat volunteers. This period of time saw the most training and progression we have ever had within the charity. There are over 40 volunteers now on Boat with over 20 qualified as coxswains and 30 of which are also PWC trained

Its fair to say it has been a very busy year for our boat training team. The boat training team is made up of a group of highly experienced boat volunteers who bring a wide range of skills. Myself, Gareth, Paul Mullan, Colm, Liam and Avril are the volunteers within the boat training team. In December this team was expanded as we welcomed 4 new members, Amy, Danielle, Ryan Murphy, and Conor all successfully joined the team to assist with training, its great to have their experience and skills to add to the team. They ensure that out volunteers are well trained and provide invaluable experience so that when any of the crews are out on the water, they will be able to face any challenges they may encounter. Between April 2023 and March 2024, the boat training team as a whole contributed a total of 505 Hours of training. Thankyou to the entire team for dedicating so much time to this.

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During this time, we also unfortunately retired 2 vessels, the Spirit of Adrian and Spirit of James. These vessels were involved in multiple shouts, duties and searches for many years within the charity and served the charity well during their lifespan. Plans are ongoing to replace these 2 boats with one multipurpose vessel.

The 2 main response boats, Spirit of John and AOD13 also got new twin 150HP engines fitted to improve response times and reliability. All of our maintenance is now outsourced to contractors who do a fantastic job ensuring our vessels are fit for purpose and operational. Thanks to Stevie, Stormtec and Jet products for the work they do.

On PPE and equipment, our volunteers moved to using crew saver lifejackets in August 2023. Again, research went into what other rescue groups used. In September we introduced new drydocks to help protect our vessels with funding secured for the project. These have proven to be very useful in preventing damage to boats during storms but also in reducing barnacle build up during warmer temperatures.

During the summer we were involved with a huge fundraising event organised by Danny Quigley where he swam from Lifford to Kinnego Bay. The boat team was involved in providing safety cover during this event as Danny swam day and night to achieve his goal. Thanks to all our boat volunteers who helped out during this, it was a great experience for all.

Boat team also participated in 3 searches during this time frame, 2 on the Foyle, and 1 upriver in Strabane. Some of the conditions were challenging but boat teams managed to attend these searches and help the families impacted by them.

Another change I brought was the creation of a boat general maintenance team. This team is made up of Myself, Gavin, Don, Katherine, Mark Doherty, Cormac, Anthony Brady, Paddy Mullan and Paddy Bowen. Every month members of this team come in and give the vessels a good deep clean and also check all the inventory on board to make sure our boats are in good working order. A massive thanks to them also for all the time and effort they put in.

Going forward I intend on continuing to provide a high level of training so that our volunteers are highly skilled and able to deal with anything they may encounter. Training events will be planned with other groups and agencies also. There will be further investment into equipment and maintenance ensuring our boats are available and kitted with the correct equipment to assist us in our tasks. Its also important to acknowledge the work and support the staff do for boat operations, thankyou for that.

In closing I would like to express special thanks to all the men and women who crew our boats. Thank you for what you do. You have welcomed me as your boat coordinator, participated in training and adapted to changes that were brought in. Not every change maybe suited or was welcomed by everyone but they were always made with best intentions for the safety of you and the wider team. Sometimes the tasks we do are not pleasant, however many people have been rescued and are alive today because of the work that you do and the hours you sacrifice for training, searches, duties and other boat events throughout the year. Over the years many families received closure by getting their loved one's home because of the work and tasks you do, and this year was no exception so again thank you. None of that would be possible without you

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**

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### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2024**

#### *UAV TEAM (Ryan Murphy)*

Throughout the past twelve months, the UAV team have continued to demonstrate how they can play a significant supporting role during search and rescue taskings on the river Foyle and surrounding areas. The team have been involved in a wide variety of taskings ranging from live S1 aerial support to searches for high-risk missing persons, supporting both duty nights and emergency response team callouts on a regular basis. Furthermore, the team provided substantial support in the search for Jordan Gallagher, searching extensive areas of the river and riverbanks using a range of UAV technologies as part of the combined FSAR team and multi-agency effort to bring Jordan home as quickly as possible.

This year, the UAV team introduced a new UAV to the fleet; the DJI Matrice (M)30T, which has been integrated into the team supporting emergency response operations given its ability to be deployed rapidly, coupled with its advanced thermal and optical features similar to its big brother in the fleet, the DJI Matrice (M)300rtk.

In November 2023, Foyle Search & Rescue took delivery of its new Mobile Incident Command Unit which will serve as a command post and surveillance unit during emergency taskings. The project, lasting some 18 months from conception to completion, was managed by the UAV team and supported by the office team. Mechanical and electrical build was completed by Primo Coachworks in Co. Offaly and information and communication systems were installed and commissioned by Telent Technologies. The ICU provides new capabilities to the UAV team and wider organisation, providing vital field support to all disciplines in both search and rescue operations and enabling the latest in SAR technology to be deployed in support of our operations.

For the year ahead, the UAV Team will continue to enhance and develop the skills and competence of the full flight crew and seek opportunities to maintain a strong and resilient flight crew through recruitment and upskilling.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the flight crew for their continued efforts and commitment throughout the year. Furthermore, on behalf of the team, thank you to the staff and management committee of Foyle Search & Rescue for their continued support, hard work and efforts in the background throughout the year.

#### *FIRST AID (Conor Hargan)*

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for their time and commitment towards first aid as it can be a very tough experience at times. Year 23/24 saw a number of incidents where first aid was required, both on land and from water related incidents. Everyone involved in these incidents have excelled themselves and have shown professionalism, courage and have given hope to the persons involved. Lives have been saved by you.

Within the last year most of the charity was trained and/or recertified in RYA first aid, with additional skills in the use of medical gases to 28 volunteers bringing this to the largest amount of people in the history of the charity trained up to provide this service throughout all disciplines. We have delivered external training courses in partnership with City Centre Initiative to local businesses and organisations within the city, this has allowed us to generate a small income for the charity.

There were also opportunities for mental health first aid training which in the coming year I hope to expand and roll out to more volunteers.

This last year saw the standardisation of new medical kit bags, containing essential, life-saving equipment for both shore and boat to ensure easy access in time critical situations. We continually review our supplies to ensure that we can continue to deliver effective pre-hospital care.

As part of our 'show and tell' experiences delivered to PSNI, University of Ulster student paramedics and nurses they observed how we operate, were encouraged to ask questions and made aware of the charities first aid capabilities. Quality time is invested to build on our strong working relationships with the ambulance service so we can work effectively together.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way to support me in my role. I would encourage everyone to keep up the good work, which will build more confidence in your abilities, as well as reflecting positively on our charity as a whole.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**

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### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2024**

#### *VOLUNTEER MANAGER UPDATE (Dawn Grieve)*

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for warmly welcoming me back to the charity. This has made my transition from previously being a volunteer to now being staff, very easy. In my first 9 months (to the end of the financial year) I have overseen duty night attendance, managed time out, assisting volunteers to make decisions which suits their needs in that moment, monitored training commitment and assisted coordinators as and when required. I also introduced my first survey which allowed me to get a feel of the thoughts and feelings of our volunteers and began putting plans in place, where practical, to react to suggestions expressed.

In my role as Volunteer Manager I have been reviewing all policies and procedures and making amendments where needed, all of which have been communicated. This is in preparation for our Investing in Volunteers Certification renewal through Volunteer Now which will take place in the new financial year. Renewing this certification allows us to ensure that, as a charity, we are doing everything according to the guidelines to provide the best volunteer experience we possibly can.

I have recently completed the process of renewing volunteer uniforms which should be rolled out late summer. This by no means has been an easy process as I wanted to ensure that the best garments were sourced to suit the whole charities needs.

With regards to volunteer numbers, we currently have 97 volunteers on our books, 66 of these are operational, 23 of these are part of the fundraising team, 2 are non-operational volunteers who help with education talks or maintenance around the base and 2 are Professional Expertise Volunteers (PEV) both currently active in our UAV team. I want to thank all our volunteers for their commitment and dedication to the charity over the last year. It is becoming increasingly hard for all volunteer organisations to find people committed to giving up their time in the longer term, we so are lucky to have a great bunch of volunteers who are all here for the same reason 'The preservation of life in and around the River Foyle.'

Together with the committee, I am currently working on remoulding the entire recruitment and selection process. We anticipate that we will be in a position to open recruitment in July with an intake of new volunteers by the end of August.

#### *INCIDENT OVERVIEW*

In 2023/24 financial period, Foyle Search and Rescue attended 226 incidents, 131 of which were attended by our Duty Night Teams and 95 of which were Emergency Response Pager Team incidents.

24 individuals were rescued directly from the water alive, 81 distressed individuals were removed safely from the railings and bridges surrounding the river, we had 115 causes for concern and we sadly recovered 4 bodies in this financial reporting period. Emergency response team also dealt with 2 miscellaneous incidents.

A special thank you must go to all our operational volunteers on duty nights and pager for your dedication and persistence in the number of lives you have saved. These statistics are the main tool that we have in gauging how successful our service is and how many people we help. Although we helped 226 people directly in our life preservation crisis response capacity, the actual number of people we helped throughout the year is much greater than that. It is there to be seen by all, especially those who serve alongside you.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2024**

#### **Financial review**

##### *General (Cormac O'Hare)*

The 2023-24 Financial year plans, were to make the largest ever annual investment in the Charity. This would be across all aspects of the charity. Investment in full time staff, in new volunteer recruits, in PPE for our Boat, Sonar, Swift Water and Drone teams, in our support vehicles, in our watercraft and investment in our base infrastructure. We also planned to support a number of events to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the charity.

##### *Income*

Income from April 2023 to March 2024 exceeded last year and the last full year before the COVID Pandemic. Public support through personal and company donations, collection boxes, support of our Bucket Appeal, Flag Day, Sponsored Walk, Zipline and Danny Quigley's marathon swim of the complete length of the river Foyle, remained our greatest source of income.

Funding was received from The Rank Foundation, Derry & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency, Department of Justice, Developing Healthy Communities, SBS South Bank Square, and CAF which helps us continue to support our staff and volunteer development as well as some of larger capital investments

##### *Expenditure (Financial Review Continued)*

Our initial spending budget was just over £600k(including capital expenditure), with actual spend in the period 3% above budget.

The majority of the investments, were as planned, with the major additional expenditures being on accidental damages to our watercraft and the replacement of two additional engines on one of our fast response boats. Fuel and Insurance costs were also higher than expected.

These higher investments were balanced by delaying training of additional recruits, as volunteer levels were assessed as sufficient at the time and delaying the planned extension of our base infrastructure, which is now planned for financial year 2024-25.

Credit again must be given to all those involved in the charity, to relentlessly challenge all expenditures for justification and assurance that they are aligned with driving the charity forward.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
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**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

*Review of fundraising and Education (Christina Mc Keegan)*

What a year we had! It was a year of our 30 year celebrations and what an action packed year it was.

We would like to begin by saying a massive thank you to all the local businesses who choose us as their Charity Partner of the Year 2023.

These partnerships not only bring in amazing funds through all their hard work and dedication but the awareness around our services and other local services that are available.

The biggest shout out goes to all our volunteers for their dedication to our annual and monthly internal events. Like clockwork, the Box Run Volunteers were out each month in rain, hail, snow and with very little sunshine, to collect around all the local shops. Their dedication to the monthly box run is reflected in the amount that was brought in to the charity, £33k. Our annual bucket appeal brought in £11k. Both our winter and summer flag day were carried out within the city centre and we would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers and staff who came out in force to help which raised £6,500. These events are well supported by the amazing people of our city, and each and every penny goes toward training, equipment and PPE for our volunteers.

We could not go without saying a massive thank you to the team of volunteers who come in each month to help count all the coins collected through the monthly box runs, flag days and bucket appeals. Your dedication to this role works hand in hand with the collection team and is key to the charity continuing to carry out these internal fundraisers.

As this was our 30th Year we held a number of additional events to celebrate the occasion, kicking off the year with a sponsored walk, which saw over 100 people take to the pavements and was such a success we have decided to make this an annual event. The big event for the year was our Gala Ball where volunteers, family members, and supporters of the charity got glammed up, and had big belly laughs from the comedy legend Tim McGarry who hosted the evening and also gave a comedy performance. Everyone then danced the night away to the astounding Lee Roy Brown Band. We had great giggles in making the promotional video for the biggest raffle we have ever held in which the prizes were holiday vouchers and winners were announced live at the Gala Ball.

This year saw the return of the Zipline Across the Foyle, where we partnered with 3 other charities to bring a fun-filled weekend to the city, all supporting worthwhile causes.

As a self-funded charity, we wouldn't be able to carry out our role of 'The Preservation of Life' without the continued support from members of the public and their donations, local business choosing us as their charity partner or holding fundraising events, community groups and schools putting their all into raising funds. We would like to thank each and every one of you for donating, supporting and raising awareness for our charity. You are the reason that we continue to operate and we are forever grateful for this. It is hard to mention every donation, but we would like to highlight some of the events that happened throughout the year.

As with every other year, the support that we received from the schools and higher education institutes in 2023 was above and beyond. We are extremely grateful for your continued support over the years. In 2022/2023 we facilitated 15 talks to schools, community groups and workplaces. The majority of visits this year were more substantial than last year, with our education teams even carrying out talks addressing over 700+ students within a single session, conducted multiple times over a number of days. We found great benefit in attending the Yes project twice this year, which involved a range of schools from across all sections of the community and of various age groups.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
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**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

*Review of fundraising and Education Continued*

An estimated figure of 3,500+ people benefitted from our educational service. The success of our education visits is measured by the number of talks we carry out, the number of attendees at these talks. We feel that this prevention area of our work is invaluable in making both younger and older people aware of the issues of suicide within our city, as well as how to safely use the different types of waterways.

We also carried out partnership work with PSNI, where new police recruits who joined the force from 2020 have been visiting our base every 2nd week, in groups of 12/20 to tour the base, see the equipment we have, meet the team members and have a boat tour of the bridge & quay for "you see what we see" giving the officers a better understanding on what our teams see and hear when on the boat, which will help with future incidents. A total of approx. 250+ officers availed of this opportunity, which was also offered to NIAS.

We would like to mention as many local businesses who have supported us in the last year, it is truly amazing the many businesses within our city and some further afield that support our charity. Thank you to Hugh Keirney from Cooley Jewellers who dawned the Santa Suit again this year and donated £1,000.

The continued support that our charity receives each year from the same business and people is immense. We are always proud to be chosen as a charity partner as the hard work and awareness that is raised through this is always outstanding, well done to everyone involved. Thank you to Hard as Oak, Fairytale Wedding Cars, Ryan Dillon, The O'Donnell Family, Foyle Food Group, The Inner City Trust, and BSG Civil Engineering who continue to, each year, raise funds for our charity and raise great awareness around mental health and the services within our city. We are always overwhelmed with the continued support and extremely grateful, and we look forward to continuing to build on our future relationships.

Fundraising for 2023 was a great success, but I couldn't finish this report without highlighting and congratulating the machine that is Danny Quigley. What a week this was "The Celebration of Life". Danny swam 110KM from Lifford to Kinnego Bay to raising vital and valuable awareness and helping shatter the stigma of suicide. Each kilometre was in memory of a loved one.

He celebrated all those wonderful people who lost their lives to suicide. He remembered them for who they were, a person not a statistic. He remembered their music, their hobbies, favourite foods, their families, and he celebrated their lives. To end the event the legends of the city came out for a final celebration in which we held a funday with the support of local musicians, vendors, community groups for which we are truly humbled and thankful. This is only the beginning of of a wonderful partnership with Phase II of the event coming in 2024 titled the 'Lighthouse Project'.

Therefore, we would like to say a final big 'thank you' to everyone who got involved in raising funds, raising awareness and supporting Foyle Search and Rescue, and a final 'thank you' to all our volunteers, staff and their family and friends. Without you all, our charity would not be able to carry out the life saving work that we do. Giving up your time allows us to meet our aims and objectives of 'The Preservation of Life in and around the Rover Foyle'.

Thank You

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
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**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

*Acknowledgements 2024*

Volunteers & Staff

General Public - North & South of the Border/ The Mayor & Staff

Public Health Agency

Derry City & Strabane District Council / Department of Justice

Gilliland Family/ Emergency Services

NISAR Rescue Organisations/ City Centre Initiative

Inner City Trust

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Four Star Pizza/ Dominos /Paolos Pizza

Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum/ Diamond Corrugated

The Rank Foundation

Print Chameleon/ CCTV

CAF UK SAR Fund

SBS South Bank Square/ RYA

GoSafe

Storm-Tec Marine/ Jet Products

**Plans for future periods**

2024/2025 outlook

The anticipated trend for 2024-25 will be an increase in operating costs and a decrease in the availability of Statutory Agency funding.

In 2023-24 we successfully recruited a Volunteer Manager as the charity grows in complexity. In 2024-25, we plan to further enhance our Staff, by recruiting a Fundraising Coordinator and to reinvigorate the charity by inducting and training new volunteer recruits.

We plan to find capital support to design and build a watercraft vessel, capable of supporting fast response and our Sonar Team, after the retirement of two of our boats which proved to be uneconomic to remain operational.

We plan to complete ground works at the base, to provide a multi-purpose extension, provide additional vehicle and equipment storage and provide swifter access to our pontoon.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
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**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

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

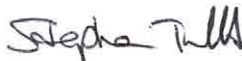
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102 );
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, comprising FRS102 , subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

**Small company provisions**

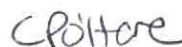
This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board



Stephen Twells

**Director**



Cormac O'Hare

**Treasurer**

23 October 2024

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
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**Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of  
FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE.**

I report on the accounts of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 3 to 29.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for purposes of company law) 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 65 of the Charities Act
- 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
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination includes 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Paul Green of Paul Green Accountancy and Taxation Limited**

Chartered Accountant (Chartered Accountants Ireland))

**Independent examiner**

PO Box 167, Unit 1B Ground Floor,  
The Glassworks, Skeoge Business Park,  
11 Beraghmore Road  
Derry  
BT48 8SE  
23 October 2024

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)**

**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Charitable activities	2	60,551	101,556	162,107	177,582
Other trading activities	3	242,586	7,000	249,586	229,532
Investment income	4	14,979	-	14,979	3,416
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>318,116</u>	<u>108,556</u>	<u>426,672</u>	<u>410,530</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Expenditure on Charitable activities	5	341,511	101,994	443,505	353,612
Other Expenditure	6	2,051	-	2,051	435
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>343,562</u>	<u>101,994</u>	<u>445,556</u>	<u>354,047</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>					
		(25,446)	6,562	(18,884)	56,483
Transfer between funds		(19,365)	19,365	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds/Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		<u>(44,811)</u>	<u>25,927</u>	<u>(18,884)</u>	<u>56,483</u>
Opening Balance brought forward		872,441	933,370	1,805,811	1,749,328
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>827,630</u>	<u>959,297</u>	<u>1,786,927</u>	<u>1,805,811</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 22 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2024**

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		1,035,225		927,230
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	12	25,540		20,788	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,014,301		1,123,604	
		<u>1,039,841</u>		<u>1,144,392</u>	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(17,674)</u>		<u>(14,895)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>1,022,167</u>		<u>1,129,497</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			2,057,392		2,056,727
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	14		(19,620)		(25,312)
<b>Accruals and deferred income</b>	15		(250,845)		(225,604)
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>1,786,927</u>		<u>1,805,811</u>
<b>Funds</b>	16				
Restricted income funds			959,297		933,370
Unrestricted income funds			827,630		872,441
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>1,786,927</u>		<u>1,805,811</u>

The Balance Sheet continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 22 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet (continued)**

**Trustees statements required by the Companies Act 2006**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2024**

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31 March 2024.

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:

(1) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the board on 23 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by



**Stephen Twells**  
**Director**



**Cormac O'Hare**  
**Treasurer**

**The notes on pages 22 to 29 form an integral part of these financial statements.**

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**1. Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

**1.1. Basis of accounting**

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the 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 (FRS102 effective 1 January 2015) Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Foyle Search and Rescue meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The Financial Statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Taking account of the risk review undertaken by the trustees they do not consider there to be any risk to the going concern of the Charity.

**1.2. Cashflow**

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small company.

**1.3. Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants relating to revenue shall be recognised in income on a systematic basis over the periods in which the entity recognises the related costs for which the grant is intended to compensate

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are

Grants relating to assets shall be recognised in income on a systematic basis over the expected useful life of the asset.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**1.4. Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.

**1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated 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:

Property Renovations	-	Straight line over fifty years
Plant and machinery	-	15% Reducing Balance
Boats and equipment	-	15% Reducing Balance
Motor vehicles	-	15% Reducing Balance

**1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes**

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

**1.7. Capital Grants**

Capital grants received for specific capital assets are treated as deferred capital grants and released to income in line with the related depreciation charge of the asset acquired.

**2. Charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
HSC Public Health Agency	-	31,523	31,523	30,471
Rank Foundation	-	29,615	29,615	32,000
Derry City and Strabane District Council	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
Capital Grants Released	39,619	-	39,619	39,812
Clipper Coverage	-	-	-	11,100
NISAR Resources	-	14,000	14,000	14,000
Insurance receipt	-	-	-	21,374
CAF	20,932	11,418	32,350	13,825
	<u>60,551</u>	<u>101,556</u>	<u>162,107</u>	<u>177,582</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**3. Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Fundraising and Donations	242,586	7,000	249,586	229,532
	<u>242,586</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>249,586</u>	<u>229,532</u>

**4. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Bank Interest Received	14,979	14,979	3,416
	<u>14,979</u>	<u>14,979</u>	<u>3,416</u>

**5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Staff costs	45,838	54,576	100,414	72,441
Pension Costs	2,189	-	2,189	1,648
Volunteer and Fundraising Expenses	9,443	-	9,443	20,758
Accountancy fees	2,400	-	2,400	2,220
Insurance	21,058	14,000	35,058	24,683
Base Repairs and Maintenance	17,201	7,000	24,201	9,860
Light and Heat and Water	11,546	-	11,546	8,871
Staff Travel and subsistence	34,351	-	34,351	-
Printing, postage and stationery	4,667	-	4,667	1,165
Boats and Vehicle Operations	44,212	15,000	59,212	77,775
Telephone and Pagers	24,898	-	24,898	19,025
Training Costs	30,242	11,418	41,660	21,574
Depreciation and amortisation	108,545	-	108,545	92,408
General Expenses	5,539	-	5,539	1,184
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets for the charity's own use	(20,618)	-	(20,618)	-
	<u>341,511</u>	<u>101,994</u>	<u>443,505</u>	<u>353,612</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**6. Other Expenditure**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>2024 Total £</b>	<b>2023 Total £</b>
PAYE Interest and Penalty	-	-	81
Hire Purchase Interest	1,872	1,872	312
Bank Charges	179	179	42
	<u>2,051</u>	<u>2,051</u>	<u>435</u>

**7. Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	108,545	92,408
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	<u>(20,618)</u>	<u>-</u>

**8. Employees**

<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Wages and salaries	96,821	70,795
Social security costs	3,593	1,646
Pension costs	2,189	1,648
	<u>102,603</u>	<u>74,089</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2023 : None).

**Number of employees**

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	<b>2024 Number</b>	<b>2023 Number</b>
Management and Admin	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**9. Pension costs**

The company operates a pension scheme as required by the pension auto enrolment provisions in respect of applicable employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and was as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pension charge	<u>2,189</u>	<u>1,648</u>

**10. Taxation**

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

**11. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Boats and Equipment</b>	<b>Plant and Machinery</b>	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>					
Transfer from unincorporated	703,156	446,098	511,647	166,356	1,827,257
Additions	35,340	70,705	70,444	48,583	225,072
Disposals	-	(30,000)	-	(25,000)	(55,000)
At 31 March 2024	<u>738,496</u>	<u>486,803</u>	<u>582,091</u>	<u>189,939</u>	<u>1,997,329</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
Transfer from unincorporated	219,890	317,744	267,265	95,128	900,027
Charge for the year	14,770	29,106	47,224	17,445	108,545
On disposals	-	(24,980)	-	(21,488)	(46,468)
At 31 March 2024	<u>234,660</u>	<u>321,870</u>	<u>314,489</u>	<u>91,085</u>	<u>962,104</u>
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 March 2024	<u>503,836</u>	<u>164,933</u>	<u>267,602</u>	<u>98,854</u>	<u>1,035,225</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>483,266</u>	<u>128,354</u>	<u>244,382</u>	<u>71,228</u>	<u>927,230</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

Included above are assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts as follows:

Asset description	2024		2023	
	Net book value £	Depreciation charge £	Net book value £	Depreciation charge £
Motor vehicles	19,869	3,506	23,375	4,125
<b>12. Debtors</b>			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
			£	£
Trade debtors			7,814	7,546
Other debtors			17,726	13,242
			<u>25,540</u>	<u>20,788</u>
<b>13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
			£	£
Bank overdraft			1,215	712
Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts			5,692	5,692
NICTS			1,756	-
Other taxes and social security			453	47
Accruals and deferred income			8,558	8,444
			<u>17,674</u>	<u>14,895</u>
<b>14. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>			<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
			£	£
Net obligations under finance leases			19,620	25,312
			<u>19,620</u>	<u>25,312</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

<b>15. Accruals and deferred income</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Deferred Capital Grant</b>		
Transfer from unincorporated	(225,604)	(265,416)
Capital Grants received in period	(64,860)	-
	<u>(290,464)</u>	<u>(265,416)</u>
Released in year	39,619	39,812
At 31 March 2024	<u>(250,845)</u>	<u>(225,604)</u>

**16. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances at 31 March 2024 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	759,068	-	759,068
Current assets	68,562	959,297	1,027,859
	<u>827,630</u>	<u>959,297</u>	<u>1,786,927</u>

**17. Unrestricted funds**

	At 1 April 2023 £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
General Unrestricted Fund	<u>872,441</u>	<u>(25,446)</u>	<u>(19,365)</u>	<u>827,630</u>

**Purposes of unrestricted funds**

For use in the administrative department.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

18. Restricted funds	At	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At
	1 April 2023				31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Genral restricted Fund	821,060	-	-	32,284	853,344
Restricted Fund Prehen Extension	57,720	-	-	22,280	80,000
Restricted Fund Drones Insurance	21,374	-	(21,374)	-	-
Restricted Fund Rank Foundation	18,391	6,562	-	-	24,953
Restricted Fund Joshy Simon	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Restricted Fund Charitable Aid Foundation	13,825	-	(13,825)	-	-
	<u>933,370</u>	<u>6,562</u>	<u>(35,199)</u>	<u>54,564</u>	<u>959,297</u>

**Purposes of restricted funds**

Redundancy ,running costs

Completion of phase 2

Wages

Cold water /shock Education

**19. Controlling interest**

The company is a company limited by guarantee without a share capital. The trustees/Directors are collectively considered to be the charity's ultimate controlling party. There were no beneficial transactions on behalf of the trustees/directors during the period under review.

**20. Company limited by guarantee**

Foyle Search and Rescue is a private company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member ,or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member for

- payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a member
- payment of the costs ,charges and expenses of winding up ,and
- adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves.

**Foyle Search and Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106685

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# Accounts

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Charity number: NIC106685  
Company number: NI640535 (Northern Ireland)

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Executive Committees' report and financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Charity number** NIC106685

**Company registration number** NI640535

**Business address** 20 Victoria Road  
Waterside  
Derry  
BT47 2AB

**Registered office** 20 Victoria Road  
Derry  
BT47 2AB

<b>Trustees /Company Directors</b>	Stephen Twells	
	Sandra O Doherty	Resigned 21/06/2023
	Olive Mc Eleney	Resigned 08/06/2022
	Brian Mullan	Resigned 21/06/2023
	Seamus Mc Closkey	Resigned 03/11/2022
	Danielle Francis	Resigned 03/11/2022

<b>Non Director Committee member</b>	Cormac O'Hare	Treasurer
	Kristina McDaid	Company Secretary
	Martin O'Neill	Committee Member
	Steven Durrent	Committee Member
	Brian Og Mullan	Vice-Chairman
	Sandra O'Doherty	Health and Wellbeing Officer

**Accountants** Paul Green Accountancy and Taxation Limited  
PO Box 167, Unit 1B Ground Floor,  
The Glassworks,Skeoge Business Park,  
11 Beraghmore Road,  
Derry  
BT48 8SE

**Bankers** Danske Bank  
PO Box 183  
Donegall Square West  
Belfast  
BT1 6JS

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Solicitors**

Hasson and Company  
39-41 Clarendon Street  
Derry  
BT48 7ER

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)** **for the year ended 31 March 2023**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees, who are also directors of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1 - 2 .This report constitutes the Directors' Report required under the Companies Act 2006. The Directors have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS102) effective 1 January 2015 -(Charities SORP(FRS102)) ,in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the company.

#### **Governing Document**

Foyle Search and Rescue is a private company limited by guarantee without a share capital . Foyle Serach and Rescue commenced operating as a company limited by guarantee without a share capital from 01 April 2017.The company was established under a memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under it Articles of Association The company was incorporated on 31 August 2016.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The work of Foyle Search and Rescue can mean the difference between life and death.

The Management Committee will do its utmost to ensure the continued provision of this vital service and during the reporting period decided the Charity should have sufficient general reserves of 2 years turnover or £250,000, whichever is the greater.

These General Reserves will be used for unforeseen events and to respond to emerging and changing needs.

These reserves will also provide cover for:

- Project failure
- Creditors and running costs
- Salary contingent for long term sick-leave or maternity leave
- Refurbishment costs

#### **Risk and Uncertainty**

The Financial Control and Procedures Manual identified a number of potential financial risks and how the Charity will mitigate against them. Namely,

- Reduced Income
- Overspend
- Fraud
- Procurement of Goods and Services
- Reputational
- Theft

These have been rated as "Low" given the mitigating measures in place.

#### *Investments*

The Charity did not hold any or undertake any financial investments during the reporting period . The Charity did have cash on deposit on current accounts and did receive some interst on this.

#### *Methods adopted for the appointment and recruitment of new trustees*

The committee of Foyle Serach and Rescue are charity trustees for the purpose of charity law .People can make an application to the committee to become a memeber .Every application for admission shall be considered by the committee at their first meeting after it was made ,or as soon thereafter as is practicable.There shall be no discrimination between persona by reference to politics ,religion,race ,sex ,age ,physical or mental disability.

# **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

## **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2023**

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **Charitable objectives**

The Preservation of life in and around the River Foyle. Death by drowning is minimised; People in crisis are signposted immediately to appropriate services; Body recoveries of missing people who have entered the River; Other agencies are supported to ensure that lifesaving equipment is well maintained; Public awareness of water safety around the river is improved through delivery of educational programmes and the issues of suicide and attempted suicides are highlighted to the appropriate statutory bodies. Our statistics identify how the benefits have been demonstrated. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. We are a unique Charity in what we do and we are not restricted to helping one group of people – we help everyone who needs us regardless of age, gender, religion, race or background. There are no private benefits flowing from any of the purposes.

#### *Chairman's Report (Stephen Twells)*

This has been our 29th year in operation, providing a valuable service to this city. As you can see since 1993, hundreds of rescues (540) have saved hundreds of lives, with thousands more stopped from entering the water over those 30 years (5,320). Sadly though (128) did die during that time by entering the river.

Each and every one of those lives lost represents someone's son, daughter, partner, relative, friend or colleague. Every death has been an individual tragedy as well as life-changing for those affected by that loss.

The year just ending in March 2023 has been no exception. 46 rescues were carried out, saving lives, while 259 people were stopped from entering the river, but tragically, we had the sad task of recovering 5 people who lost their lives in the river. We are able to commemorate still being here almost 30 years after Billy Garnon came up with the idea of Foyle Search & Rescue, through his own family tragedy, having had tremendous support and collaboration from some of the most exemplary organisations on this island.

The work that our volunteers carry out is never usually done in isolation. We could not deliver our services, nor make the difference we make, without the help of many others, and we are honoured to be able to work alongside the City Centre CCTV Team, Community Wardens, the PSNI, NIFRS and NIAS, who all provide vital support to us.

We are very grateful to Derry City & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency and the Western Health & Social Care Trust for their unwavering funding to us over many years.

You will hear more about our financial situation within our Treasurer Report, but it cannot be highlighted enough how much we are supported by families and friends of those affected by suicide in one way or another, as well as businesses and the general public. Around 60% (PY 76%) of all our annual income comes from public donations. That is outstanding, and humbling to us, as we know there are many worthy causes in our city, deserving of peoples' appreciation, and financial support. To be there, when we are needed most, is the least we can do to repay that kindness and generosity. Financially, we ended the year strongly, given the shocking rise in running costs such as heat, fuel and electricity, not to mention other cost of living increases we have had to absorb. During the last year we saw some much needed and worthwhile investment: some funded externally, some internal such as a new state-of-the-art multi- beam system to replace our decade old sonar, as well as upgrading our thermal imaging sights.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Chairman's Report(Continued)

Operational highlights included providing safety cover for the Maritime Festival and Halloween celebrations, as well as receiving a Gold Award from Families First NI, for our contribution to the community. We were also very excited, and somewhat relieved, to be able to return to our normal activities of duty nights and training after the pandemic.

When I see it in black and white, It always amazes me how many hours our volunteers give up on average each year doing duty nights, pager cover, fundraising, collections and counting, searches, meetings and training-between 17,000 and 20,000, all unpaid!

I am very proud to say that in June this year we are commemorating 30 years in operation, serving the people of this community, and wider afield.

Since 1993, FSR volunteers have stopped 5,320 people who were in danger of, or considered taking their own life, in the river.

However, statistically, the number dying by suicide in the river has remained almost constant over the last 30 years since the formation of FSR, with an average of 5 fatalities each year. We continue to see an increase in the number of incidents that we have to deal with each year, and unfortunately we do not see that trend slowing down, or reversing, any time soon due to both a non-sitting NI Executive and cuts in government department budgets. This is affecting the ability to fully implement the NI Protect Life Strategy as well as vital services such as early intervention counselling in schools being stopped. This could have longer term impact on our young people in the years to come.

With the right help, people can get through a suicidal crisis and recover. The majority of people that FSR volunteers intervene with do not go on to take their own lives. This is testament to the fact that our prevention does work, yet services where they can make the biggest difference are being affected.

Looking towards our 30th year we have some great milestones and goals ahead. We will be supporting the Danny Quigley Foundation as Danny undertakes a challenging fundraiser in August.

We have a glitzy Gala Ball in September and a Remembrance event for those who have lost their lives in the river, in October.

Operationally, we will be driving ahead with a digital transform programme, aimed at simplifying many of our activities, investing in more technology for our drone, sonar and swift water teams as well as new duty team vehicles, a multi-disciplinary command vehicle and new livery branding throughout our fleet. We will look ahead to re applying for our coveted "Investing in Volunteers" status as we continue to invest in our volunteers with training and personal protective equipment.

These actions will all be crucial in supporting our front-line duty night and pager teams. All of this will be underpinned by investing in a new staffing structure, which will see us increasing our staffing team from 3 to 5 colleagues, under the guidance of our new Chairman, Brian Óg Mullan, who will take over from me in October.

FSR volunteers have been providing support and encouragement to thousands of people since 1993, making someone's day worthwhile, giving hope, strength and courage to face another day, because they have simply cared enough to give the most precious resource in their lives, and the most treasured commodity in the world: time!

I would like to thank every volunteer, and every family member of every volunteer, that has ever given up their time to volunteer with us in the last 30 years. You have all made a difference to many people's lives, even in some small way.

I am eagerly looking forward to the next few years as we embed all of the above, confident that we will continue to drive the success of FSR, as it continues to be fit for the future, because our charity as a whole as well as our supporters are a shining example of all that is wonderful about this great city of ours, and is something we can all be very proud of.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2023**

#### *Sonar Team (Seamus McCloskey)*

Our Sonar team carry out searches of the river using specialist equipment when someone goes under the surface and does not resurface.

The Sonar team consists of 8 volunteers, who put in a lot of time and effort particularly when a search happens, but throughout the year.

2022 was a significant year for the team for many reasons.

In April 2022, we saw the arrival of the new, DEARA funded, multibeam system from NORBIT, a company that specialises in multibeam sonar equipment. This was a significant milestone for the team and for the charity as this was a major advance in technology and would greatly improve our search capabilities.

The team spent multiple weekends in April learning how the new system operated, working both with NORBIT, who came onsite to conduct the training and working independently, after NORBIT had gone to familiarise themselves with the equipment.

In May 2022, the team travelled to Donegal to assist the Irish Coast Guard offshore with a search for a missing person. Unfortunately, this person was not found and sadly is still missing.

Over the summer, the team spent a great deal of time working on improving the sonar set up, with the charity investing in additional equipment including extra monitors for the boat and battery chargers and inverters. A special thanks to Ryan Murphy who helped install some of this equipment.

The team also designed and configured a system to use the new sonar from the steady so that the system could be used in other smaller waterways where the larger boat could not access. This would shortly prove invaluable. MIM engineering have proudly supported the team creating custom stainless-steel brackets for our boats to mount the sonar system with no charge. Their support is greatly appreciated!

"AS YOU GROW OLDER, YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT YOU HAVE TWO HANDS - ONE FOR HELPING YOURSELF, THE OTHER FOR HELPING OTHERS." - AUDREY HEPBURN

August 2022 was a busy month for the team with training and 2 searches. The first of the searches was in Dungannon where the team were asked to assist the PSNI with a search where partial remains had been found and a follow up search was requested in an effort to rule out if there was anything else of interest.

Sadly, the second of the searches in August was also in Enagh Lough. All 8 members of the sonar team responded to this incident, and using the newly customised set up for the steady were able to quickly locate the person underwater. Members of the team proceeded to assist the divers with the body recovery. It goes without saying that all help and assistance at any incident is greatly appreciated but the team played a crucial part in assisting other Emergency Services in tragic circumstances and we were extremely grateful that the entire team turned out.

In November 2022, the team were tasked to a search in Lough Erne, County Fermanagh to look for a person believed to have fallen off a boat. Due to work commitments, the logistics and travel, the team had limited availability however, that said, the team spent 3 full days in Lough Erne across 2 weeks and the presence of the team was very much appreciated by the POLSA and the family. The male was found washed up on shore in the second week.

In January 2023, the team had their first search of the River Foyle since upgrading the system, where a person went missing after entering the water from the Craigavon bridge. The team carried out sonar searches throughout the night and members of the team went on to recover the body in the early hours of the first morning of the search.

In recent months, the team has been sharing advice with Waterford Marine who have now followed the FSAR example and invested in multibeam technology. The team have also been liaising with Lancashire fire service who are looking at sonar systems for their operations. As well as this, the team has been working hard to implement robust operating procedures with a full review of their SOPS.

A special thanks to all members of the sonar team; Seamus (Sonar Co-Ordinator), Gareth, Danielle, Frances, Rohan, Marc, Paul and Paddy.

The team put in a great deal of time and effort into Sonar operations and we could not make the advances we are making without their level of commitment.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

*Swift Water( Gerard O'Kane)*

Over the past year, the Swiftwater team has made great strides in investing in our continuous operational and professional development and capabilities through training and undertaking and obtaining the relevant qualifications in our field.

We have recently completed the construction and fit-out of our new dedicated Swiftwater trailer which will be used to store all the Swiftwater team equipment that is needed in an emergency response and which will also act as a command centre/RV point at any incident. The new trailer has been completed with fully stand alone electrics, dry wash area for team members to use on a callout and a mobile repeater system to boost communications within ourselves and other emergency services in all areas.

**2023/2024 OUTLOOK(Swift Water)**

We will welcome 8 new members to the team this calendar year to leave us with 16 Swiftwater operatives in total on the team. 4 of the team will be recertifying their Rescue 3 Europe SFR and SRT courses with 8 new team members also undertaking these courses alongside their fellow volunteers.

We hope to have this training completed by end of May. Once complete the team will have 16 fully operational and certified operatives made up of Flood First responders and Swiftwater rescue technicians.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the team who selflessly give up their time to help develop, grow and maintain our team and to all the staff, Co-ordinator's and Committee members who continue to assist, help and support our team at every opportunity, none of it would be possible without all of your efforts, thank you!

*HEALTH & WELLBEING ( Sandra O'Doherty)*

Health and Wellbeing within the charity has grown over the years within Foyle Search and Rescue. Whilst continuing to oversee duty night attendance, involvement with open nights and interview process during the last two recruitment drives and the management of volunteer timeouts, also organising the monthly volunteer draw as well as wellbeing events.

Recruitment kicked off last year with two intakes of volunteers. We had 6 new recruits who started in February 2022 with a further 13 who joined us in October 2022, all now have completed training and are doing their duty nights, plus helping with fundraising. Welcome to all of you. Thank you to all who helped with interviews, open nights and training.

Last June, both myself and Christina met with the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum with the view to partner up with them on some events, especially the Danny Quigley swim, which is coming up shortly. At that meeting we were offered to avail of trauma training and a follow up supervisory training. This was something that we have been trying to do for a number of years for the volunteers and staff alike. The feedback from that was quite positive although some thought the 1-hour follow up wasn't enough time to really get people to open up. I believe that this was down to some groups larger than we would have liked. We hope that this training will continue and volunteers will benefit from it.

The first of the wellbeing events started off in June of last year after the bucket appeal. To show our appreciation a night was arranged for a Banquet and Bowls, for those that attended it was a good night's craic.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of August we held our annual Summer Family fun Day. This is a great way to not only say thank our volunteers but also to our volunteers' families who give up their family time. There were loads of games, bouncy castles, rides and a barbeque plus a boat trip. The Dolphins even came out to play Children and Adults alike had a really good time. I myself enjoyed the Dolphins so much that I had several trips on the boat just to see them.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2023**

#### Health and WellBeing (Continued)

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Halloween fun day due to lack of numbers, but for those that did have their kid's names down a goodie bag was given instead.

On the 10th of September we had a team building day at Jungle N.I. We took part in Laser tag and had bite to eat. A really good fun day.

On the 11th of December we had a visit from the big man himself. All the children met with Santa had a photo taken and received a selection box. The children enjoyed some arts and crafts, had a party and was given a meal.

Last but not least we had our Christmas night out in the Waterfoot Hotel. We went back in time to the 1920s and the theme was casino night, I have to say everyone really made an effort with the costumes. We had a drinks reception a sit-down meal, after which we hit the casino tables and a few prizes were given out to winners and losers alike. The music was good that even the chairman hit the dance floor. A great fun filled night was had by all who attended.

This year we have been focusing on our 30-year celebrations which will take place on Saturday the 30th of September at the Everglades Hotel. Some really good ideas have been put forward for these events leading up to the night. We have decided to do a raffle for holidays vouchers and asked all volunteers to sell at least 2 books each, for each book sold by a volunteer their name will be entered into a draw for a £500 holiday voucher, good luck all.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our volunteers who help out with events, and to everyone for their commitment to Foyle Search and Rescue and for the support you give to one another, committee and the charity as a whole.

#### *DRONE TEAM (Ryan Murphy)*

Throughout the past twelve months, the UAV team have continued to build upon the foundations laid in previous years by consistently supporting the emergency response team during emergency taskings in the river Foyle, as well as supporting partners in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service locally with support during searches for high-risk missing persons and aerial support at major incidents.

We also supported City of Derry Airport with their annual multi-agency emergency response exercise with aerial support and we continue to prove that UAS technology now plays a pivotal role in search and rescue emergency response.

Throughout this year, we have focussed on rebuilding our operational procedures and internal training processes to align with best industry practice and to keep abreast of frequent changes to UAS regulations in the United Kingdom as we diverge from EU UAS regulations following our departure from the European Union.

We've continued to train and qualify remote pilots with new and enhanced skills and qualifications, taking the GVC licence count to three within the team, and we'll continue to build upon this during the year ahead.

We developed and published a technical specification for a dedicated Mobile Incident Command Unit, secured management approval and completed a tender process to appoint a supplier to complete the build which is currently under way with delivery expected in early summer 2023.

For the year ahead, we intend to re-enforce to team further with an additional emergency response UAV, boasting the combined attributes of the current fleet. We will take delivery of our new Mobile Incident Command Unit which will serve as a command post and surveillance unit during emergency taskings, and we will seek to integrate smart software and connectivity solutions to enable our flight crew to provide and assess as much information as possible at the scene of an incident.

We will continue to enhance and develop and skills and competence of the full flight crew and seek opportunities to maintain a strong and resilient flight crew through recruitment and upskilling. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the flight crew for their continued efforts and commitment throughout the year.

Furthermore, on behalf of the team, thank you to the staff of Foyle Search & Rescue for their hard work and efforts in the background, helping us to maintain operational status throughout the year.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Boat Team( Steven Durrent)**

Over the past 12 months the boat team has increased in size beyond that of any other year in numbers. We covered safety for multiple events the biggest being the Clipper festival.

**TRAINING**

We had the biggest expression of interest ever received for crew, which the training team are working there way through the list. Seamus and Gareth both passed their RYA powerboat instructor course. This now means they can run and assess up to level 2 powerboat within a RYA training centre.

**UP COMING EVENTS/TRAINING**

As said previously the team are working through the list to get everyone trained that has put their name in for training. We have once again arranged training with PGM training to provide VHF and Sea survival courses these will be advertised shortly.

*BOAT UPDATE*

At the moment we have 3 duty/operational boats, 1 sonar cabin boat, 1 steady 400, 4 skis, seapro and all associated trailers. We are now using a new company for the repairs and servicing who have managed to get us a quick turnaround where needed.

We have put in place for 2023 to upgrade the Spirit of John with 2 brand new 150 hp Selva engines.

*KIT UPDATE*

Under the guidance of Rossa the NFC system has been implemented now giving us a digital record of damages and notified as soon as a damage happens. This will continue to be developed throughout 2023

*PPE SUPPLIER*

We have spent alot of time researching and testing other PPE providers.

Due to ongoing long turnaround times for drysuit repairs and faults appearing in drysuits we are going to be moving away from our current supplier.

We are now developing a SAR drysuit with Otter to try and get a multidisciplinary suit rather than an off the shelf suit.

**WITH THANKS**

As you are all aware after 9 years I have decided to step down as Boat Coordinator. I wish to personally thank all of those who have given their time, energy and patience to help me in the role and wish everyone the best in years to come. I also wish the incoming coordinator the best of luck and hope all give the person the support you have given me.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)** **for the year ended 31 March 2023**

#### *INCIDENT OVERVIEW*

Lockdown had a dramatic impact on the number of incidents we dealt with in the previous 2 years, where we seen huge decrease. Unfortunately, our incidents in this reporting period saw these come back on par with 2019.

In 2022/23 period Foyle Search and Rescue attended 319 incidents, 150 of which were attended by our Duty Night Teams and 169 of which were Emergency Response Pager Team incidents.

46 individuals were taken directly from the water alive, 134 distressed individuals were taken away from the railings and bridges surrounding the river, we had 129 causes for concern and we recovered 5 bodies in this financial reporting period. Emergency response team also dealt with 5 misc incidents, broken down boats, flooding etc

A special thank you must go to all our operational volunteers on duty nights and pager for your dedication and persistence in the number of lives you have saved. These statistics are the main tool that we have in gauging how successful our service is and how many people we help. Although we helped 319 people directly in our life preservation crisis response capacity the actual number of people we helped throughout the year is much greater than that. It is there to be seen by all, especially those who serve alongside you.

#### **Financial review**

##### *General (Cormac O'Hare)*

This time last year, we predicted that 2022-23 would be characterised by rising expenditure and falling income.

##### *Income*

For the year from April 2022 to March 2023, our total generated income was £407,745). Taking out extraordinary income associated with an insurance pay-out to repair damage to one of our drones (£21,374), this gives us a year end income of £386,371.

We continued to receive funding from statutory agencies': The Rank Foundation, Derry & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency, Department of Justice and Developing Healthy Communities. These funds were for staff and running costs, some equipment, and volunteer development.

Once again excellent support from the public through our collection boxes, bucket appeal and flag day, raising funds of £36,688, £11,744 and £6,223 respectively with safety cover over the Maritime Festival raising a further £11,100.

Donations from 177 named individuals and local businesses, schools, youth clubs, running clubs, GAA, families, children, and donations in lieu of loved ones who had passed away, remained strong, amounted to £186,502.

Special thanks to Christina for the success in managing relationships with our charity partners as well as organising our collection runs and Flag Day, with special thanks to the volunteers doing these.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

*Expenditure (Financial Review Continued)*

Our initial spending budget had been set at £354,450. Actual spend in the period was £354,047.

Below budget performance was achieved despite costs up, Insurances up, Fuel up and Investments made in Telephone services, Pager, Drone/Van Mobile Control Centre, Jet Ski Maintenance, Sonar Equipment and Base CCTV.

Credit must be given to all involved in the charity, to constantly challenge all expenditures to ensure they are justified and aligned with driving the charity forward, for us to come in under budget.

*Review of fundraising and Education (Christina Mc Keegan)*

With Covid restrictions lifted it wasn't until the second quarter of the year that we seen a real return to fundraising events.

We would like to begin by saying a massive thank you to all the local businesses who choose our charity as their Charity Partner of the Year 2022.

These partnerships not only bring in amazing funds through all their hard work and dedication but the awareness around our services and other local services that are available. Thank you to Pieta House and Darkness Into Light Derry for choosing to support our charity through the event in 2022, It wa great to get everyone back together and walking into the sunrise. January 2022, saw us launch our partnership with New Look Ltd with them diving into fundraising events across all 26 stores in Northern Ireland, and what a year they had with various events each month in all their stores and with a big finale in Dec with their very own Debbie doing a sky dive. Thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of your events, it takes a lot of hard work and this hard work shows with the donations you all have made and it was a pleasure getting to meet and work alongside you all.

The biggest shout out goes to all our Box Run volunteers, like clockwork they are out each month pounding the streets in rain, hail, snow and with very little sunshine, come out to collect around all the local shops. Their dedication to the monthly box run is reflected in the amount that was brought in to the charity, £36,688. We were happy to see the return of our annual bucket appeal which brought in £11744. Both our winter and summer flag day were carried out within the town and we would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers and staff who came out in force to help and raised £6223. These events are well supported by the amazing people of our city, and each and every penny goes toward training, equipment and PPE for our volunteers.

We could not go without saying a massive thank you to the team of volunteers who come in each month to help count all the coins collected through the monthly box runs, flag days and bucket appeals. Your dedication to this role works hand in hand with the collection team and is key to the charity continuing to carry out these internal fundraisers.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

*Review of fundraising and Education Continued*

As a self-funded charity, we wouldn't be able to carry out our role of 'The Preservation of Life' without the continued support of the members of the public and their donations, local business choosing us as their charity partner or holding fundraising events, community groups and schools putting their all into raising funds. We would like to thank each and every one of you for donating, supporting, raising awareness for our charity, you are the reason that we continue to operate and we are forever grateful this. It is hard to mention every donation, but we would like to highlight some of the events that happened throughout the year.

As every other year, the support that we received from the schools and higher education institutes in 2022 was above and beyond, we are extremely grateful for your continued support over the years. In 2022/2023 we facilitated 28 talks to schools, community groups and workplaces which has increased from our figures over the last number of years due to covid. The majority of these visit this year were more substantial in which our teams carried out talks over a number of days in same location addressing 600 + students in one session. We found great benefit in attending the Yes project twice this year it involved a range of schools from across all sections of the community and of various age groups. An estimate figure of 3000+ people benefited from our educational service. The success of our education visits is measured by the number of talks we carry out, the number of attendees at these talks. We feel that this prevention area of our work is invaluable in making both young and older people aware of the issues of suicide within our city and how to safely use the different types of waterways.

We would like to mention as many local businesses who have supported us in the last year, it is truly amazing the many businesses within our city and some further afield that support our charity. Thank you to Hugh Keirney from Cooley Jewellers who dawned the Santa Suit again this year and donated £1500.

The continued support that our charity receives each year from the same business and people is immense. We would like to say a big thank you to Jennifer at Miss Shining Light and all those who were involved in the pageant for 2022, they put their all into their fundraising. We are always proud to be chosen as their charity partner as the hard work and awareness that is raised through this pageant is outstanding, well done to everyone involved. Thank you to Jay Doherty Photography, Fairytale Wedding Cars, Ferry Clever, The O'Donnell Family, Foyle Food Group, The Inner City Trust, Danske Bank, Jake & Co, and BSG Civil Engineering who continue to, each year, raise funds for our charity and raise great awareness around mental health and the services within our city. We are always overwhelmed with the continued support and extremely grateful, and we look forward to continuing to build on our future relationships.

Fundraising for 2022 was a great success, but I couldn't finish this report without highlighting and congratulating the machines that are Ryan Dillon Stephen Quigley and Seamus McCrossan. Stephen and Seamus completed a half marathon everyday in September to raise funds for ourselves and the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum. Well that was the plan but the last week they increased this to do a marathon each day. The support they received from the city and people taking part was outstanding.

But not to forget that at the same time Ryan Dillon was running 10k a day in Sep in memory of his brother Emmett. The support he also received from the city and the legendary Carl Frampton was unbelievable. But the support that they all showed each other during that month was very humbling. Therefore, we would like to say a final big thank you to everyone who got involved in raising funds, raising awareness and supporting Foyle Search and Rescue, and a final thank you to all our volunteers, staff and their family and friends. Without you all our charity would not be able to carry out the life saving work that we do, giving up your time allows us to meet our aims and objectives of 'The Preservation of Life in and around the Rover Foyle'. We look forward to building on all these relationships in 2023 as we celebrate our 30th Year.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

*Acknowledgements 2022-23*

Volunteers & Staff  
General Public - North & South of the Border  
The Mayor & Staff  
Public Health Agency  
Derry City & Strabane District Council  
Department of Justice  
Gilliland Family  
Emergency Services  
NISAR Rescue Organisations  
City Centre Initiative  
Inner City Trust  
Western Health and Social Care Trust  
Four Star Pizza  
Dominos  
Anita Delivery  
Diamond Corrugated  
Pieta House  
Print Chameleon  
CCTV  
RYA

**Plans for future periods**

2023/2024 outlook

We estimate that the coming year will be challenging, similar to the year just passed, with Income potentially falling if we maintain the status quo and expenditure rising.

To counter this trend, we plan to transform our fundraising through investing in a new role of Fundraising Manager. Also as the charity grows both in numbers of volunteers and complexity, we plan to add an additional staff role of Volunteer Manager. It is hoped to have both roles staffed by the end of 2023.

The challenge for 2023-2024 will be to develop new income streams, while sustaining our traditional streams of collection boxes, bucket appeal and flag days. However these are only sustainable with continued commitment from volunteers. We have also planned a number of events associated with our 30 year anniversary, culminating in a Gala Ball at the end of September 2023.

We plan to complete ground works at the base, build a dry dock, replace two of the four main boat engines, invest in the very latest drone equipment.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102 );
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, comprising FRS102 , subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

**Small company provisions**

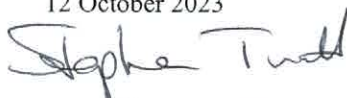
This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

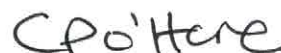
On behalf of the board

Stephen Twells  
**Director**

Cormac O'Hare  
**Treasurer**

12 October 2023

  
Stephen Twells  
Director

  
Cormac O'Hare

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE.**

I report on the accounts of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the year ended 31 March 2023 set out on pages 3 to 27.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for purposes of company law) 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 65 of the Charities Act
- 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
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

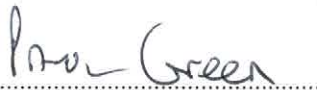
**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination includes 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Paul Green of Paul Green Accountancy and Taxation Limited**  
Chartered Accountant (Chartered Accountants Ireland))

**Independent examiner**

PO Box 167, Unit 1B Ground Floor,  
The Glassworks, Skeoge Business Park,  
11 Beraghmore Road  
Derry  
BT48 8SE  
12 October 2023

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Charitable activities	2	50,912	112,845	163,757	90,961
Other trading activities	3	218,332	25,025	243,357	290,993
Investment income	4	3,416	-	3,416	155
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>272,660</u>	<u>137,870</u>	<u>410,530</u>	<u>382,109</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Expenditure on Charitable activities	5	270,332	83,280	353,612	278,546
Other Expenditure	6	435	-	435	561
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>270,767</u>	<u>83,280</u>	<u>354,047</u>	<u>279,107</u>
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>					
		1,893	54,590	56,483	103,002
Transfer between funds		(56,842)	56,842	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds/Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		<u>(54,949)</u>	<u>111,432</u>	<u>56,483</u>	<u>103,002</u>
Opening Balance brought forward		927,390	821,938	1,749,328	1,646,326
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>872,441</u>	<u>933,370</u>	<u>1,805,811</u>	<u>1,749,328</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2023**

	Notes	£	2023	£	2022	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>						
Tangible assets	11		927,230		951,520	
<b>Current assets</b>						
Debtors	12	20,788		34,147		
Cash at bank and in hand		1,123,604		1,046,136		
		1,144,392		1,080,283		
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(14,895)		(17,059)		
<b>Net current assets</b>			1,129,497		1,063,224	
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			2,056,727		2,014,744	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	14		(25,312)		-	
<b>Accruals and deferred income</b>	15		(225,604)		(265,416)	
<b>Net assets</b>			1,805,811		1,749,328	
<b>Funds</b>	16					
Restricted income funds			933,370		821,938	
Unrestricted income funds			872,441		927,390	
<b>Total funds</b>			1,805,811		1,749,328	

The Balance Sheet continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet (continued)**

**Trustees statements required by the Companies Act 2006**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31 March 2023.

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:


(1) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the board on 12 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by

**Stephen Twells**  
**Director**

  
Stephen Twells  
Director

**Cormac O'Hare**  
**Treasurer**

  
C O'Hare

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE

## (A company limited by guarantee)

### Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

#### 1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

##### 1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the 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 (FRS102 effective 1 January 2015) Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Foyle Search and Rescue meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The Financial Statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Taking account of the risk review undertaken by the trustees they do not consider there to be any risk to the going concern of the Charity.

##### 1.2. Cashflow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small company.

##### 1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants relating to revenue shall be recognised in income on a systematic basis over the periods in which the entity recognises the related costs for which the grant is intended to compensate

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are

Grants relating to assets shall be recognised in income on a systematic basis over the expected useful life of the asset.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**1.4. Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.

**1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated 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:

Property Renovations	-	Straight line over fifty years
Plant and machinery	-	15% Reducing Balance
Boats and equipment	-	15% Reducing Balance
Motor vehicles	-	15% Reducing Balance

**1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes**

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

**1.7. Capital Grants**

Capital grants received for specific capital assets are treated as deferred capital grants and released to income in line with the related depreciation charge of the asset acquired.

**2. Charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
HSC Public Health Agency	-	30,471	30,471	29,123
Rank Foundation	-	32,000	32,000	-
Derry City and Strabane District Council	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
Capital Grants Released	39,812	-	39,812	46,838
Clipper Coverage	11,100	-	11,100	-
NISAR Resources	-	14,000	14,000	-
Insurance receipt	-	21,374	21,374	-
	<u>50,912</u>	<u>112,845</u>	<u>163,757</u>	<u>90,961</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**3. Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Fundraising and Donations	218,332	25,025	243,357	290,993
	<u>218,332</u>	<u>25,025</u>	<u>243,357</u>	<u>290,993</u>

**4. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Bank Interest Received	3,416	3,416	155
	<u>3,416</u>	<u>3,416</u>	<u>155</u>

**5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Staff costs	28,361	44,080	72,441	58,139
Pension Costs	1,648	-	1,648	1,171
Volunteer and Fundraising Expenses	19,758	1,000	20,758	9,822
Accountancy fees	2,220	-	2,220	2,160
Bad Debt	-	-	-	1,700
Insurance	-	24,683	24,683	22,449
Base Repairs and Maintenance	9,860	-	9,860	9,129
Light and Heat and Water	8,871	-	8,871	7,152
Printing, postage and stationery	1,165	-	1,165	2,012
Boats and Vehicle Operations	64,258	13,517	77,775	36,265
Telephone and Pagers	19,025	-	19,025	7,422
Training Costs	21,574	-	21,574	20,893
Depreciation and amortisation	92,408	-	92,408	94,214
General Expenses	1,184	-	1,184	4,201
Subscriptions and Donations	-	-	-	1,817
	<u>270,332</u>	<u>83,280</u>	<u>353,612</u>	<u>278,546</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**6. Other Expenditure**

	Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
PAYE Interest and Penalty	81	81	-
Lease Finance Charges	312	312	-
Bank Charges	42	42	561
	<u>435</u>	<u>435</u>	<u>561</u>

**7. Net incoming resources for the year**

	2023 £	2022 £
Net incoming resources is stated after charging: Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	<u>92,408</u>	<u>94,214</u>

**8. Employees**

<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2023</b> £	<b>2022</b> £
Wages and salaries	70,795	57,758
Social security costs	1,646	381
Pension costs	1,648	1,171
	<u>74,089</u>	<u>59,310</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2022 : None).

**Number of employees**

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Management and Admin	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**9. Pension costs**

The company operates a pension scheme as required by the pension auto enrolment provisions in respect of applicable employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and was as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pension charge	1,648	1,171

**10. Taxation**

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

**11. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Boats and Equipment</b>	<b>Plant and Machinery</b>	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>					
Transfer from unincorporated	703,156	440,893	487,492	127,598	1,759,139
Additions	-	5,205	24,155	38,758	68,118
At 31 March 2023	<u>703,156</u>	<u>446,098</u>	<u>511,647</u>	<u>166,356</u>	<u>1,827,257</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
Transfer from unincorporated	205,827	295,094	224,139	82,559	807,619
Charge for the year	14,063	22,650	43,126	12,569	92,408
At 31 March 2023	<u>219,890</u>	<u>317,744</u>	<u>267,265</u>	<u>95,128</u>	<u>900,027</u>
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 March 2023	<u>483,266</u>	<u>128,354</u>	<u>244,382</u>	<u>71,228</u>	<u>927,230</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>497,329</u>	<u>145,799</u>	<u>263,353</u>	<u>45,039</u>	<u>951,520</u>

Included above are assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts as follows:

<b>Asset description</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>	
	<b>Net book value</b>	<b>Depreciation charge</b>	<b>Net book value</b>	<b>Depreciation charge</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Motor vehicles	<u>23,375</u>	<u>4,125</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**12. Debtors**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	7,546	30,182
Other debtors	13,242	3,965
	<u>20,788</u>	<u>34,147</u>

**13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank overdraft	712	207
Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	5,692	-
NICTS	-	7,545
Other taxes and social security	47	830
Other creditors	-	33
Accruals and deferred income	8,444	8,444
	<u>14,895</u>	<u>17,059</u>

**14. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net obligations under finance leases	25,312	-
	<u>25,312</u>	<u>-</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**20. Company limited by guarantee**

Foyle Search and Rescue is a private company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member ,or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member for

- a) payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a member
- b) payment of the costs ,charges and expenses of winding up ,and
- c) adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

<b>18. Restricted funds</b>	<b>At</b>			<b>At</b>
	<b>1 April</b>	<b>Incoming</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>31 March</b>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>resources</b>		<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Genral restricted Fund	764,218	-	56,842	821,060
Restricted Fund Prehen Extension	57,720	-	-	57,720
Restricted Fund Drones Insurance	-	21,374	-	21,374
Restricted Fund Rank Foundation	-	18,391	-	18,391
Restricted Fund Joshy Simon	-	1,000	-	1,000
Restricted Fund Charitable Aid Foundation	-	13,825	-	13,825
	<u>821,938</u>	<u>54,590</u>	<u>56,842</u>	<u>933,370</u>

**Purposes of restricted funds**

Redundancy ,running costs

Completion of phase 2

Reinvestment in lost drones

Wages

Cold water /shock Education

Training Courses

**19. Controlling interest**

The company is an unincorporated charity governed by its constitution. The members of the charity elect a committee of trustees to run the affairs of the charity. The trustees are collectively considered to be the charity's ultimate controlling party. There were no beneficial transactions on behalf of the trustees during the period under review.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

<b>15. Accruals and deferred income</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Deferred Capital Grant</b>		
Transfer from unincorporated Capital Grants received in period	(265,416)	(137,935)
	-	(174,319)
	(265,416)	(312,254)
Released in year	39,812	46,838
At 31 March 2023	<u>(225,604)</u>	<u>(265,416)</u>

**16. Analysis of net assets between funds**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	670,619	-	670,619
Current assets	201,822	933,370	1,135,192
	<u>872,441</u>	<u>933,370</u>	<u>1,805,811</u>

**17. Unrestricted funds**

	At 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
General Unrestricted Fund	927,390	1,893	(56,842)	872,441
	<u>927,390</u>	<u>1,893</u>	<u>(56,842)</u>	<u>872,441</u>

**Purposes of unrestricted funds**

For use in the administrative department.

**Foyle Search and Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106685

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# Annual report

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# FOYLE SEARCH & RESCUE

FOUNDED 1993

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022

### YOU ARE NOT ALONE

"THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE IN AND AROUND THE RIVER FOYLE"

# NO ONE MAKES IT THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT THE HELP OF OTHERS

LAST YEAR, OUR VOLUNTEERS ATTENDED

**319 INCIDENTS**

WE RESCUED

**46 PEOPLE**

FROM THE WATER

**259 PEOPLE**

WERE STOPPED FROM ENTERING THE WATER

Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night, a band of very special men & women give up their time, to begin their work as volunteers of Foyle Search & Rescue, donning their now familiar orange jackets, to patrol the river, it's walkways, and bridges.

Since it's inception back in 1993, 29 years ago, Foyle Search & Rescue has been responsible for saving 540 people from the river and helping an additional 5,320 people who may have entered the water, had we not been there for them.

# CHARITY STRUCTURE

01/04/2022 - 31/03/2023

## COMMITTEE

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Treasurer

Company Secretary

Health & Wellbeing Officer

Committee Member

Committee Member

Stephen Twells

Brian Óg Mullan

Cormac O'Hare (Martin O'Neill)

Kristina McDaid (Rohan Chada)

Sandra O'Doherty

Steven Durrent

Martin O'Neill

## PAST ROLES

Communications Officer

Training Officer

Committee Member

Danielle Francis

Seamus McCloskey

John Ferguson

## STAFF

Charity Manager

Facilities Manager

Digital Lead

Christina McKeegan

Anthony McMenamin

Rossa Smallman

## CO-ORDINATORS

Shore Co-ordinator

Boat Co-ordinator

Pager Co-ordinator

Swiftwater Co-ordinator

Drone Co-ordinator

Sonar Co-ordinator

FREC Co-ordinator

Mark Buckley (Ian Connor)

Steven Durrent

Neal Cooke (John Ferguson)

Gerard O'Kane

Ryan Murphy

Seamus McCloskey

Conor Hargan



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This has been our 29th year in operation, providing a valuable service to this city. As you can see from the inside cover of this booklet, since 1993, hundreds of rescues (540) have saved hundreds of lives, with thousands more stopped from entering the water over those 30 years (5,320). Sadly though (128) did die during that time by entering the river.

Each and every one of those lives lost represents someone's son, daughter, partner, relative, friend or colleague. Every death has been an individual tragedy as well as life-changing for those affected by that loss.

The year just ending in March 2023 has been no exception. 46 rescues were carried out, saving lives, while 259 people were stopped from entering the river, but tragically, we had the sad task of recovering 5 people who lost their lives in the river. We are able to commemorate still being here almost 30 years after Billy Garnon came up with the idea of Foyle Search & Rescue, through his own family tragedy, having had tremendous support and collaboration from some of the most exemplary organisations on this island.

The work that our volunteers carry out is never usually done in isolation. We could not deliver our services, nor make the difference we make, without the help of many others, and we are honoured to be able to work alongside the City Centre CCTV Team, Community Wardens, the PSNI, NIFRS and NIAS, who all provide vital support to us.

We are very grateful to Derry City & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency and the Western Health & Social Care Trust for their unwavering funding to us over many years.

You will hear more about our financial situation within our Treasurer Report, but it cannot be highlighted enough how much we are supported by families and friends of those affected by suicide in one way or another, as well as businesses and the general public. Over 80% of all our annual income comes from public donations. That is outstanding, and humbling to us, as we know there are many worthy causes in our city, deserving of peoples' appreciation, and financial support. To be there, when we are needed most, is the least we can do to repay that kindness and generosity.



Financially, we ended the year strongly, given the shocking rise in running costs such as heat, fuel and electricity, not to mention other cost of living increases we have had to absorb. During the last year we saw some much needed and worthwhile investment: some funded externally, some internal such as a new state-of-the-art multi-beam system to replace our decade old sonar, as well as upgrading our thermal imaging sights.

Operational highlights included providing safety cover for the Maritime Festival and Halloween celebrations, as well as receiving a Gold Award from Families First NI, for our contribution to the community. We were also very excited, and somewhat relieved, to be able to return to our normal activities of duty nights and training after the pandemic.

When I see it in black and white, It always amazes me how many hours our volunteers give up on average each year doing duty nights, pager cover, fundraising, collections and counting, searches, meetings and training-between 17,000 and 20,000, all unpaid!

I am very proud to say that in June this year we are commemorating 30 years in operation, serving the people of this community, and wider afield.

Since 1993, FSR volunteers have stopped 5,320 people who were in danger of, or considered taking their own life, in the river.

However, statistically, the number dying by suicide in the river has remained almost constant over the last 30 years since the formation of FSR, with an average of 5 fatalities each year. We continue to see an increase in the number of incidents that we have to deal with each year, and unfortunately we do not see that trend slowing down, or reversing, any time soon due to both a non-sitting NI Executive and cuts in government department budgets. This is affecting the ability to fully implement the NI Protect Life Strategy as well as vital services such as early intervention counselling in schools being stopped. This could have longer term impact on our young people in the years to come.

With the right help, people can get through a suicidal crisis and recover. The majority of people that FSR volunteers intervene with do not go on to take their own lives. This is testament to the fact that our prevention does work, yet services where they can make the biggest difference are being affected.



Looking towards our 30th year we have some great milestones and goals ahead. We will be supporting the Danny Quigley Foundation as Danny undertakes a challenging fundraiser in August.

We have a glitzy Gala Ball in September and a Remembrance event for those who have lost their lives in the river, in October.

Operationally, we will be driving ahead with a digital transform programme, aimed at simplifying many of our activities, investing in more technology for our drone, sonar and swift water teams as well as new duty team vehicles, a multi-disciplinary command vehicle and new livery branding throughout our fleet. We will look ahead to re applying for our coveted "Investing in Volunteers" status as we continue to invest in our volunteers with training and personal protective equipment.

These actions will all be crucial in supporting our front-line duty night and pager teams. All of this will be underpinned by investing in a new staffing structure, which will see us increasing our staffing team from 3 to 5 colleagues, under the guidance of our new Chairman, Brian Óg Mullan, who will take over from me in October.

FSR volunteers have been providing support and encouragement to thousands of people since 1993, making someone's day worthwhile, giving hope, strength and courage to face another day, because they have simply cared enough to give the most precious resource in their lives, and the most treasured commodity in the world: time!

I would like to thank every volunteer, and every family member of every volunteer, that has ever given up their time to volunteer with us in the last 30 years. You have all made a difference to many people's lives, even in some small way.

I am eagerly looking forward to the next few years as we embed all of the above, confident that we will continue to drive the success of FSR, as it continues to be fit for the future, because our charity as a whole as well as our supporters are a shining example of all that is wonderful about this great city of ours, and is something we can all be very proud of.

**STEPHEN TWELLS**

**CHAIRMAN**

**2014 - 2023**

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

Health and Wellbeing within the charity has grown over the years within Foyle Search and Rescue. Whilst continuing to oversee duty night attendance, involvement with open nights and interview process during the last two recruitment drives and the management of volunteer timeouts, also organising the monthly volunteer draw as well as wellbeing events.



Recruitment kicked off last year with two intakes of volunteers. We had 6 new recruits who started in February 2022 with a further 13 who joined us in October 2022, all now have completed training and are doing their duty nights, plus helping with fundraising. Welcome to all of you. Thank you to all who helped with interviews, open nights and training.

Last June, both myself and Christina met with the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum with the view to partner up with them on some events, especially the Danny Quigley swim, which is coming up shortly. At that meeting we were offered to avail of trauma training and a follow up supervisory training. This was something that we have been trying to do for a number of years for the volunteers and staff alike. The feedback from that was quite positive although some thought the 1-hour follow up wasn't enough time to really get people to open up. I believe that this was down to some groups larger than we would have liked. We hope that this training will continue and volunteers will benefit from it.

The first of the wellbeing events started off in June of last year after the bucket appeal. To show our appreciation a night was arranged for a Banquet and Bowls, for those that attended it was a good night's craic.

On the 21st of August we held our annual Summer Family fun Day. This is a great way to not only say thank our volunteers but also to our volunteers' families who give up their family time. There were loads of games, bouncy castles, rides and a barbeque plus a boat trip. The Dolphins even came out to play Children and Adults alike had a really good time. I myself enjoyed the Dolphins so much that I had several trips on the boat just to see them.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Halloween fun day due to lack of numbers, but for those that did have their kid's names down a goodie bag was given instead.

On the 10th of September we had a team building day at Jungle N.I. We took part in Laser tag and had bite to eat. A really good fun day.

On the 11th of December we had a visit from the big man himself. All the children met with Santa had a photo taken and received a selection box. The children enjoyed some arts and crafts, had a party and was given a meal.

Last but not least we had our Christmas night out in the Waterfoot Hotel. We went back in time to the 1920s and the theme was casino night, I have to say everyone really made an effort with the costumes. We had a drinks reception a sit-down meal, after which we hit the casino tables and a few prizes were given out to winners and losers alike. The music was good that even the chairman hit the dance floor. A great fun filled night was had by all who attended.

This year we have been focusing on our 30-year celebrations which will take place on Saturday the 30th of September at the Everglades Hotel. Some really good ideas have been put forward for these events leading up to the night. We have decided to do a raffle for holidays vouchers and asked all volunteers to sell at least 2 books each, for each book sold by a volunteer their name will be entered into a draw for a £500 holiday voucher, good luck all.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our volunteers who help out with events, and to everyone for their commitment to Foyle Search and Rescue and for the support you give to one another, committee and the charity as a whole.

**SANDRA O'DOHERTY**

**HEALTH & WELLBEING OFFICER**



## FINANCIAL REPORT

This time last year, we predicted that 2022-23 would be characterised by rising expenditure and falling income. This has proved to be the case with average monthly income falling by 16% (£37,947 to £32,037) compared to the last year not impacted by covid (2019-20) and the average monthly expenditure rising by 31% compared to the same period (£21,841 to £28,522). (These numbers exclude the Sonar investment from DEARA spent on the Norbit multi-beam system.)

### EXPENDITURE

Our initial spending budget had been set at £354,450. Actual spend in the period was £532,175. Taking out the extraordinary costs associated with the sonar equipment, (£213,823), as well as boat damage (£6,575), this gives us a year end spend of £311,777 which is 12% below budget.

The majority of these saving versus budget came from the following: Training down £7k, Business Case/3 Year Plan-£20k, Equipment/PPE/Uniform-£7k, Dry Dock -£19K, Mini-bus -£15k, Digital Transformation -£5k.

Below budget performance was achieved despite costs up, Insurances up by 49%, Fuel up by 26% and Investments made in Telephone services, Pager, Drone/Van Mobile Control Centre, Jet Ski Maintenance, Sonar Equipment and Base CCTV.

Credit must be given to all involved in the charity, to constantly challenge all expenditures to ensure they are justified and aligned with driving the charity forward, for us to come in under budget.





## INCOME

For the year from April 2022 to March 2023, our total generated income was £791,045. Taking out extraordinary income associated with the new sonar equipment from Norbit (£191,436) and an insurance pay-out to repair damage to one of our drones (£21,374), this gives us a year end income of £578,235 which is below original forecast and 16% below the actual income received in the year April 2019 to March 2020.

We continued to receive funding from statutory agencies': The Rank Foundation, Derry & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency, Department of Justice and Developing Healthy Communities. These funds were for staff and running costs, some equipment, and volunteer development.

Once again excellent support from the public through our collection boxes, bucket appeal and flag day, raising funds of £40,065, £11,744 and £6,223 respectively with safety cover over the Maritime Festival raising a further £13,400.

Donations from 177 named individuals and local businesses, schools, youth clubs, running clubs, GAA, families, children, and donations in lieu of loved ones who had passed away, remained strong, amounted to £384,581.

Special thanks to Christina for the success in managing relationships with our charity partners as well as organising our collection runs and Flag Day, with special thanks to the volunteers doing these.

## FINANCIAL STATUS

Our year end bank balance is £1,107,578. This represents an increase of £66,609 (6.4%) on period ending 31st March 2022.

Allocation of Funds Reserve Fund- £250,000, Restricted Funds-£51,000 Designated Funds-£12,000, Unrestricted funds- £794,578.

## 2023/2024 OUTLOOK

We estimate that the coming year will be challenging, similar to the year just passed, with Income potentially falling if we maintain the status quo and expenditure rising.

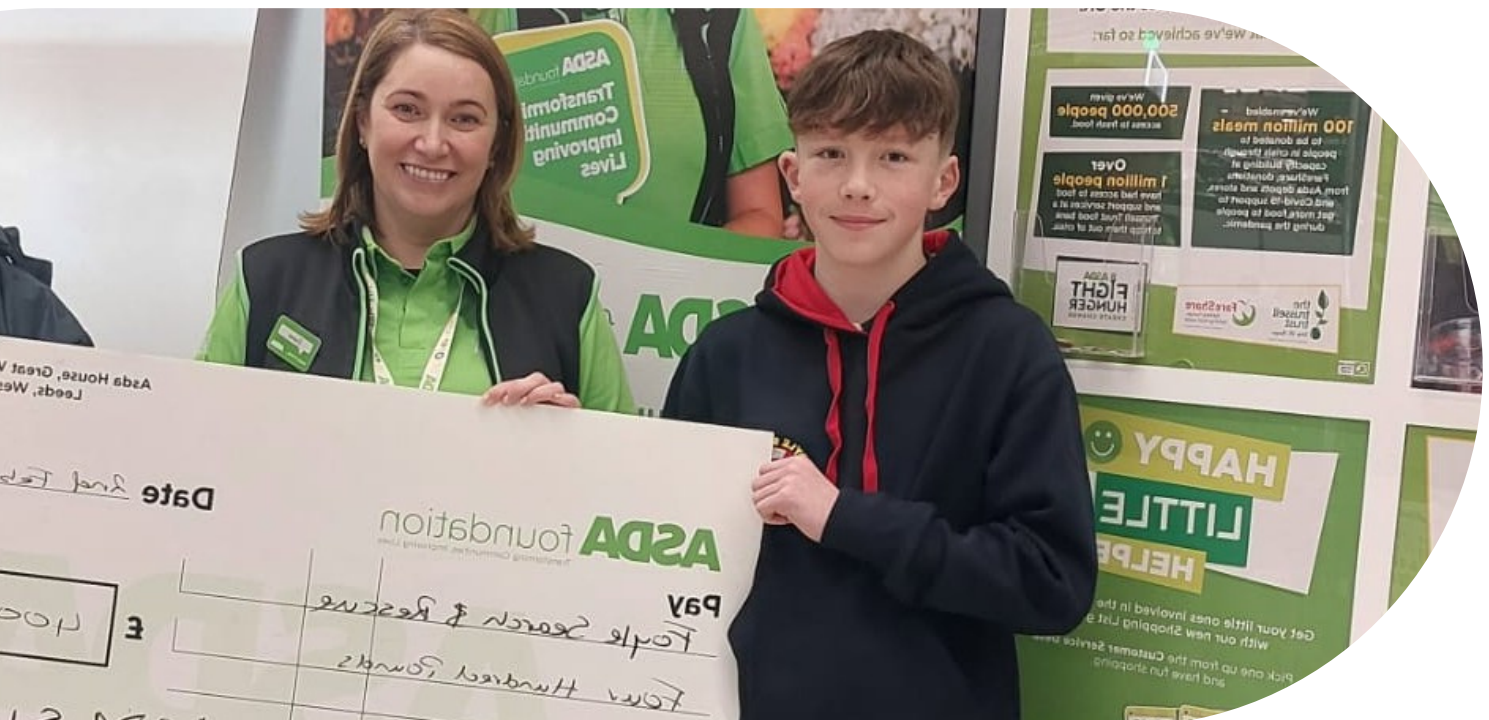
To counter this trend, we plan to transform our fundraising through investing in a new role of Fundraising Manager. Also as the charity grows both in numbers of volunteers and complexity, we plan to add an additional staff role of Volunteer Manager. It is hoped to have both roles staffed by the end of 2023.

The challenge for 2023-2024 will be to develop new income streams, while sustaining our traditional streams of collection boxes, bucket appeal and flag days. However these are only sustainable with continued commitment from volunteers. We have also planned a number of events associated with our 30 year anniversary, culminating in a Gala Ball at the end of September 2023.

We plan to complete ground works at the base, build a dry dock, replace two of the four main boat engines, invest in the very latest drone equipment.

## CORMAC O'HARE

### TREASURER







HA LONG BAY

FSAR

DARE TO LEAD

## INCIDENT OVERVIEW

Lockdown had a dramatic impact on the number of incidents we dealt with in the previous 2 years, where we seen huge decrease. Unfortunately, our incidents in this reporting period saw these come back on par with 2019.

In 2022/23 period Foyle Search and Rescue attended 319 incidents, 150 of which were attended by our Duty Night Teams and 169 of which were Emergency Response Pager Team incidents.

46 individuals were taken directly from the water alive, 134 distressed individuals were taken away from the railings and bridges surrounding the river, we had 129 causes for concern and we recovered 5 bodies in this financial reporting period. Emergency response team also dealt with 5 misc incidents, broken down boats, flooding etc

A special thank you must go to all our operational volunteers on duty nights and pager for your dedication and persistence in the number of lives you have saved. These statistics are the main tool that we have in gauging how successful our service is and how many people we help. Although we helped 319 people directly in our life preservation crisis response capacity the actual number of people we helped throughout the year is much greater than that. It is there to be seen by all, especially those who serve alongside you.



## BOAT TEAM

Over the past 12 months the boat team has increased in size beyond that of any other year in numbers.

We covered safety for multiple events the biggest being the Clipper festival.

## TRAINING

We had the biggest expression of interest ever received for crew, which the training team are working their way through the list.

Seamus and Gareth both passed their RYA powerboat instructor course. This now means they can run and assess up to level 2 powerboat within a RYA training centre.

## UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

As said previously the team are working through the list to get everyone trained that has put their name in for training. We have once again arranged training with PGM training to provide VHF and Sea survival courses these will be advertised shortly.

## BOAT UPDATE

At the moment we have 3 duty/operational boats, 1 sonar cabin boat, 1 steady 400, 4 skis, seapro and all associated trailers. We are now using a new company for the repairs and servicing who have managed to get us a quick turnaround where needed.

We have put in place for 2023 to upgrade the Spirit of John with 2 brand new 150 hp Selva engines.

## KIT UPDATE

Under the guidance of Rossa the NFC system has been implemented now giving us a digital record of damages and notified as soon as a damage happens. This will continue to be developed throughout 2023.



## PPE SUPPLIER

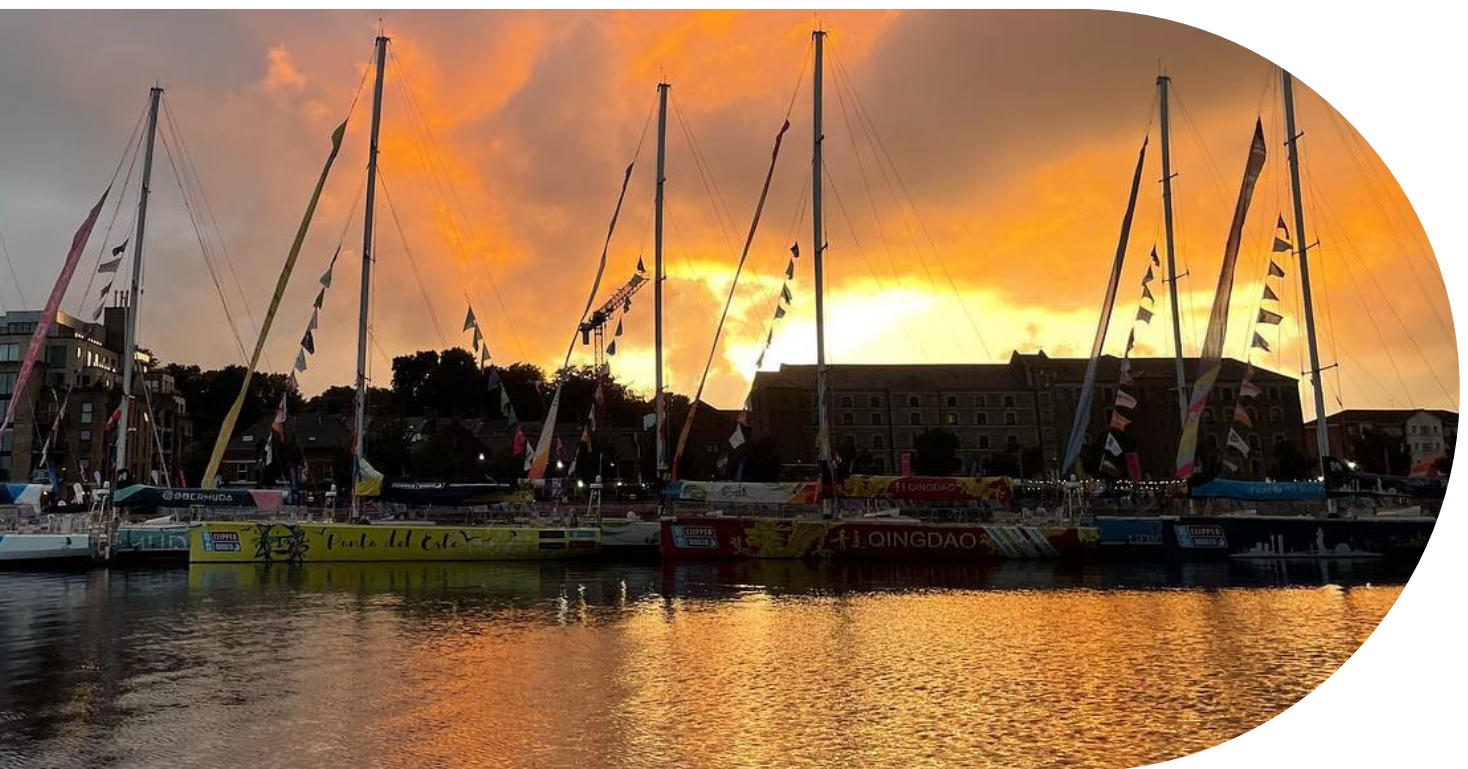
We have spent a lot of time researching and testing other PPE providers. Due to ongoing long turnaround times for drysuit repairs and faults appearing in drysuits we are going to be moving away from our current supplier.

We are now developing a SAR drysuit with Otter to try and get a multidisciplinary suit rather than an off the shelf suit.

## WITH THANKS

As you are all aware after 9 years I have decided to step down as Boat Coordinator. I wish to personally thank all of those who have given their time, energy and patience to help me in the role and wish everyone the best in years to come. I also wish the incoming coordinator the best of luck and hope all give the person the support you have given me.

## STEVEN DURRENT BOAT CO-ORDINATOR



## SONAR TEAM

Our Sonar team carry out searches of the river using specialist equipment when someone goes under the surface and does not resurface.

The Sonar team consists of 8 volunteers, who put in a lot of time and effort particularly when a search happens, but throughout the year.

2022 was a significant year for the team for many reasons.



In April 2022, we saw the arrival of the new, DEARA funded, multibeam system from NORBIT, a company that specialises in multibeam sonar equipment. This was a significant milestone for the team and for the charity as this was a major advance in technology and would greatly improve our search capabilities.

The team spent multiple weekends in April learning how the new system operated, working both with NORBIT, who came onsite to conduct the training and working independently, after NORBIT had gone to familiarise themselves with the equipment.

In May 2022, the team travelled to Donegal to assist the Irish Coast Guard offshore with a search for a missing person. Unfortunately, this person was not found and sadly is still missing.

Over the summer, the team spent a great deal of time working on improving the sonar set up, with the charity investing in additional equipment including extra monitors for the boat and battery chargers and inverters. A special thanks to Ryan Murphy who helped install some of this equipment.

The team also designed and configured a system to use the new sonar from the steady so that the system could be used in other smaller waterways where the larger boat could not access. This would shortly prove invaluable. MIM engineering have proudly supported the team creating custom stainless-steel brackets for our boats to mount the sonar system with no charge. Their support is greatly appreciated!

August 2022 was a busy month for the team with training and 2 searches. The first of the searches was in Dungannon where the team were asked to assist the PSNI with a search where partial remains had been found and a follow up search was requested in an effort to rule out if there was anything else of interest.

Sadly, the second of the searches in August was also in Enagh Lough. All 8 members of the sonar team responded to this incident, and using the newly customised set up for the steady were able to quickly locate the person underwater. Members of the team proceeded to assist the divers with the body recovery. It goes without saying that all help and assistance at any incident is greatly appreciated but the team played a crucial part in assisting other Emergency Services in tragic circumstances and we were extremely grateful that the entire team turned out.

In November 2022, the team were tasked to a search in Lough Erne, County Fermanagh to look for a person believed to have fallen off a boat. Due to work commitments, the logistics and travel, the team had limited availability however, that said, the team spent 3 full days in Lough Erne across 2 weeks and the presence of the team was very much appreciated by the POLSA and the family. The male was found washed up on shore in the second week.

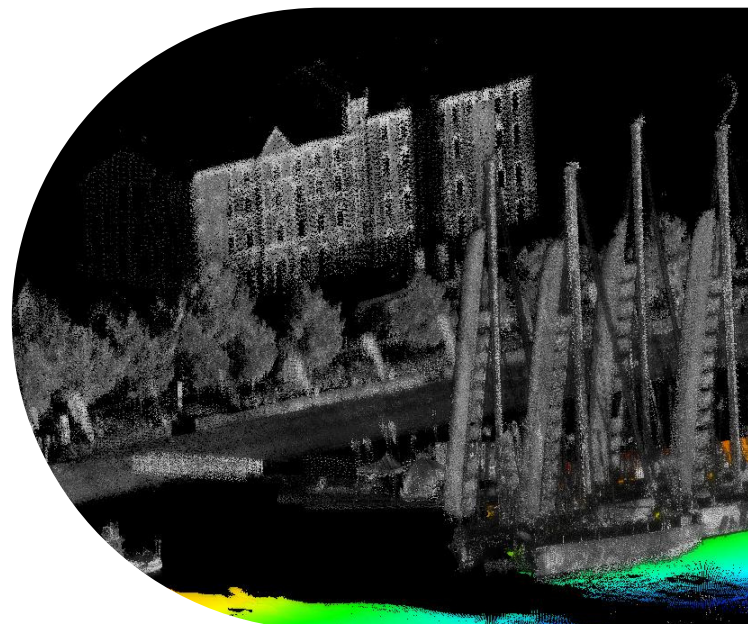
In January 2023, the team had their first search of the River Foyle since upgrading the system, where a person went missing after entering the water from the Craigavon bridge. The team carried out sonar searches throughout the night and members of the team went on to recover the body in the early hours of the first morning of the search.

In recent months, the team has been sharing advice with Waterford Marine who have now followed the FSAR example and invested in multibeam technology. The team have also been liaising with Lancashire fire service who are looking at sonar systems for their operations. As well as this, the team has been working hard to implement robust operating procedures with a full review of their SOPS.

A special thanks to all members of the sonar team; Seamus (Sonar Co-Ordinator), Gareth, Danielle, Frances, Rohan, Marc, Paul and Paddy.

The team put in a great deal of time and effort into Sonar operations and we could not make the advances we are making without their level of commitment.

**SEAMUS MCCLOSKEY**  
**SONAR CO-ORDINATOR**



## SWIFTWATER TEAM

Over the past year, the Swiftwater team has made great strides in investing in our continuous operational and professional development and capabilities through training and undertaking and obtaining the relevant qualifications in our field.

We have recently completed the construction and fit-out of our new dedicated Swiftwater trailer which will be used to store all the Swiftwater team equipment that is needed in an emergency response and which will also act as a command centre/RV point at any incident. The new trailer has been completed with fully stand alone electrics, dry wash area for team members to use on a callout and a mobile repeater system to boost communications within ourselves and other emergency services in all areas.

## 2023/2024 OUTLOOK

We will welcome 8 new members to the team this calendar year to leave us with 16 Swiftwater operatives in total on the team. 4 of the team will be recertifying their Rescue 3 Europe SFR and SRT courses with 8 new team members also undertaking these courses alongside their fellow volunteers.

We hope to have this training completed by end of May. Once complete the team will have 16 fully operational and certified operatives made up of Flood First responders and Swiftwater rescue technicians.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the team who selflessly give up their time to help develop, grow and maintain our team and to all the staff, Co-ordinator's and Committee members who continue to assist, help and support our team at every opportunity, none of it would be possible without all of your efforts, thank you!

## GERARD O'KANE SWIFTWATER CO-ORDINATOR



## DRONE TEAM

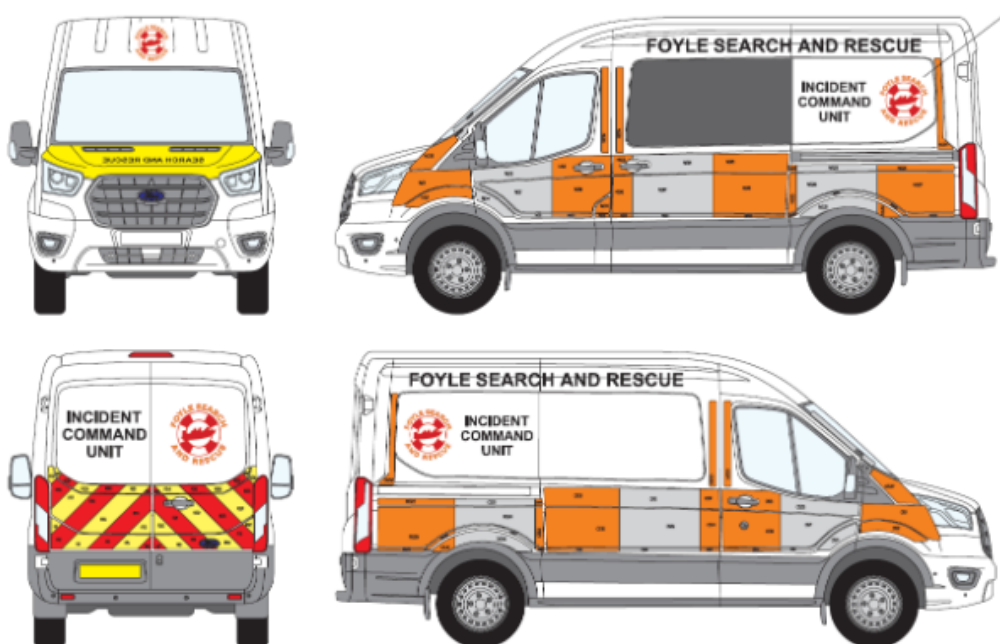
Throughout the past twelve months, the UAV team have continued to build upon the foundations laid in previous years by consistently supporting the emergency response team during emergency taskings in the river Foyle, as well as supporting partners in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service locally with support during searches for high-risk missing persons and aerial support at major incidents.

We also supported City of Derry Airport with their annual multi-agency emergency response exercise with aerial support and we continue to prove that UAS technology now plays a pivotal role in search and rescue emergency response.

Throughout this year, we have focussed on rebuilding our operational procedures and internal training processes to align with best industry practice and to keep abreast of frequent changes to UAS regulations in the United Kingdom as we diverge from EU UAS regulations following our departure from the European Union.

We've continued to train and qualify remote pilots with new and enhanced skills and qualifications, taking the GVC licence count to three within the team, and we'll continue to build upon this during the year ahead.

We developed and published a technical specification for a dedicated Mobile Incident Command Unit, secured management approval and completed a tender process to appoint a supplier to complete the build which is currently under way with delivery expected in early summer 2023.



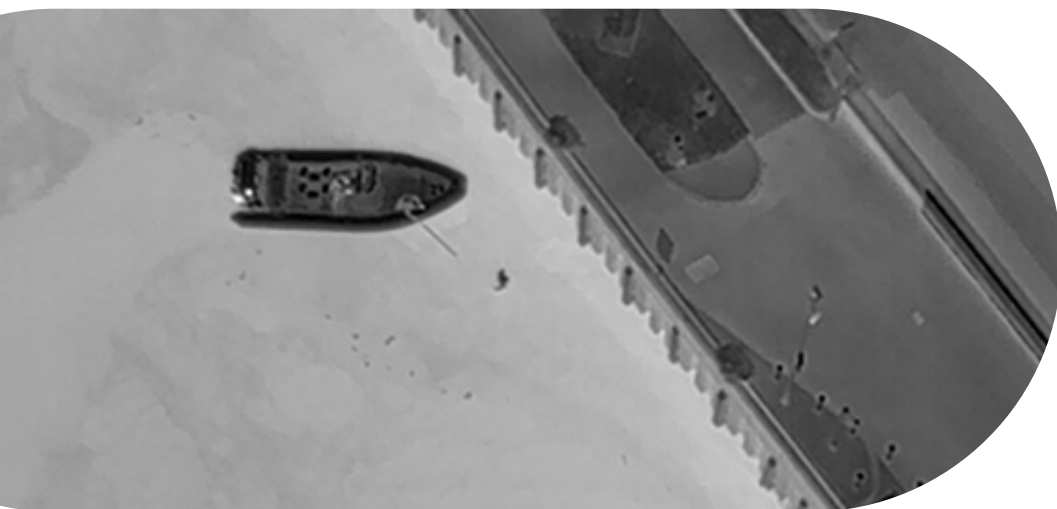
For the year ahead, we intend to re-enforce to team further with an additional emergency response UAV, boasting the combined attributes of the current fleet. We will take delivery of our new Mobile Incident Command Unit which will serve as a command post and surveillance unit during emergency taskings, and we will seek to integrate smart software and connectivity solutions to enable our flight crew to provide and assess as much information as possible at the scene of an incident.

We will continue to enhance and develop and skills and competence of the full flight crew and seek opportunities to maintain a strong and resilient flight crew through recruitment and upskilling. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the flight crew for their continued efforts and commitment throughout the year.

Furthermore, on behalf of the team, thank you to the staff of Foyle Search & Rescue for their hard work and efforts in the background, helping us to maintain operational status throughout the year.

## **RYAN MURPHY**

### **DRONE CO-ORDINATOR**



## FUNDRAISING & EDUCATION

With Covid restrictions lifted it wasn't until the second quarter of the year that we seen a real return to fundraising events.

We would like to begin by saying a massive thank you to all the local businesses who choose our charity as their Charity Partner of the Year 2022.



These partnerships not only bring in amazing funds through all their hard work and dedication but the awareness around our services and other local services that are available. Thank you to Pieta House and Darkness Into Light Derry for choosing to support our charity through the event in 2022, It wa great to get everyone back together and walking into the sunrise. January 2022, saw us launch our partnership with New Look Ltd with them diving into fundraising events across all 26 stores in Northern Ireland, and what a year they had with various events each month in all their stores and with a big finally in Dec with their very own Debbie doing a sky dive. Thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of your events, it takes a lot of hard work and this hard work shows with the donations you all have made and it was a pleasure getting to meet and work alongside you all.

The biggest shout out goes to all our Box Run volunteers, like clockwork they are out each month pounding the streets in rain, hail, snow and with very little sunshine, come out to collect around all the local shops. Their dedication to the monthly box run is reflected in the amount that was brought in to the charity, £40,064. We were happy to see the return of our annual bucket appeal which brought in £11744. Both our winter and summer flag day were carried out within the town and we would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers and staff who came out in force to help and raised £6223. These events are well supported by the amazing people of our city, and each and every penny goes toward training, equipment and PPE for our volunteers.

We could not go without saying a massive thank you to the team of volunteers who come in each month to help count all the coins collected through the monthly box runs, flag days and bucket appeals. Your dedication to this role works hand in hand with the collection team and is key to the charity continuing to carry out these internal fundraisers.

As a self-funded charity, we wouldn't be able to carry out our role of 'The Preservation of Life' without the continued support of the members of the public and their donations, local business choosing us as their charity partner or holding fundraising events, community groups and schools putting their all into raising funds. We would like to thank each and every one of you for donating, supporting, raising awareness for our charity, you are the reason that we continue to operate and we are forever grateful this. It is hard to mention every donation, but we would like to highlight some of the events that happened throughout the year.

As every other year, the support that we received from the schools and higher education institutes in 2022 was above and beyond, we are extremely grateful for your continued support over the years. In 2022/2023 we facilitated 28 talks to schools, community groups and workplaces which has increased from our figures over the last number of years due to covid. The majority of these visit this year were more substantial in which our teams carried out talks over a number of days in same location addressing 600 + students in one session. We found great benefit in attending the Yes project twice this year it involved a range of schools from across all sections of the community and of various age groups. An estimate figure of 3000 + people benefited from our educational service. The success of our education visits is measured by the number of talks we carry out, the number of attendees at these talks. We feel that this prevention area of our work is invaluable in making both young and older people aware of the issues of suicide within our city and how to safely use the different types of waterways.

We would like to mention as many local businesses who have supported us in the last year, it is truly amazing the many businesses within our city and some further afield that support our charity. Thank you to Hugh Keirney from Cooley Jewellers who dawned the Santa Suit again this year and donated £1500.



The continued support that our charity receives each year from the same business and people is immense. We would like to say a big thank you to Jennifer at Miss Shining Light and all those who were involved in the pageant for 2022, they put their all into their fundraising. We are always proud to be chosen as their charity partner as the hard work and awareness that is raised through this pageant is outstanding, well done to everyone involved. Thank you to Jay Doherty Photography, Fairytale Wedding Cars, Ferry Clever, The O'Donnell Family, Foyle Food Group, The Inner City Trust, Danske Bank, Jake & Co, and BSG Civil Engineering who continue to, each year, raise funds for our charity and raise great awareness around mental health and the services within our city. We are always overwhelmed with the continued support and extremely grateful, and we look forward to continuing to build on our future relationships.

Fundraising for 2022 was a great success, but I couldn't finish this report without highlighting and congratulating the machines that are Ryan Dillon Stephen Quigley and Seamus McCrossan. Stephen and Seamus completed a half marathon everyday in Sep to raise funds for ourselves and the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum. Well that was the plan but the last week they increased this to do a marathon each day. The support they received from the city and people taking part was outstanding.

But not to forget that at the same time Ryan Dillion was running 10k a day in Sep in memory of his brother Emmett. The support he also received from the city and the legendary Carl Frampton was unbelievable. But the support that they all showed each other during that month was very humbling. Therefore, we would like to say a final big thank you to everyone who got involved in raising funds, raising awareness and supporting Foyle Search and Rescue, and a final thank you to all our volunteers, staff and their family and friends. Without you all our charity would not be able to carry out the life saving work that we do, giving up your time allows us to meet our aims and objectives of 'The Preservation of Life in and around the Rover Foyle'. We look forward to building on all these relationships in 2023 as we celebrate our 30th Year.

Thank You

**CHRISTINA MCKEEGAN**  
**CHARITY MANAGER**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 2022

Volunteers & Staff

General Public - North & South of the Border

The Mayor & Staff

Public Health Agency

Derry City & Strabane District Council

Department of Justice

Gilliland Family

Emergency Services

NISAR Rescue Organisations

City Centre Initiative

Inner City Trust

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Four Star Pizza

Dominos

Anita Delivery

Diamond Corrugated

Pieta House

Print Chameleon

CCTV

RYA



# YOU ARE NOT ALONE

CCIS	028 7126 2300
LIFELINE	0808 808 8000
SAMARITANS	116 123
HURT	02871 369 696
AWARE	02871 260 602
CHILDLINE	0800 11 11
ME4MENTAL	02871 413 050

## FOYLE SEARCH & RESCUE

028 7131 3800    [Office@foylesearch.com](mailto:Office@foylesearch.com)

**Foyle Search and Rescue**

Northern Ireland - Charity number 106685

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# Annual return

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Charity number: NIC106685  
Company number: NI640535 (Northern Ireland)

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Executive Committees' report and financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Charity number** NIC106685

**Company registration number** NI640535

**Business address** 20 Victoria Road  
Waterside  
Derry  
BT47 2AB

**Registered office** 20 Victoria Road  
Derry  
BT47 2AB

<b>Trustees /Company Directors</b>	Stephen Twells	
	Sandra O Doherty	Resigned 21/06/2023
	Olive Mc Eleney	Resigned 08/06/2022
	Brian Mullan	Resigned 21/06/2023
	Seamus Mc Closkey	Resigned 03/11/2022
	Danielle Francis	Resigned 03/11/2022

<b>Non Director Committee member</b>	Cormac O'Hare	Treasurer
	Kristina McDaid	Company Secretary
	Martin O'Neill	Committee Member
	Steven Durrent	Committee Member
	Brian Og Mullan	Vice-Chairman
	Sandra O'Doherty	Health and Wellbeing Officer

**Accountants** Paul Green Accountancy and Taxation Limited  
PO Box 167, Unit 1B Ground Floor,  
The Glassworks,Skeoge Business Park,  
11 Beraghmore Road,  
Derry  
BT48 8SE

**Bankers** Danske Bank  
PO Box 183  
Donegall Square West  
Belfast  
BT1 6JS

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Legal and administrative information**

**Solicitors**

Hasson and Company  
39-41 Clarendon Street  
Derry  
BT48 7ER

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)** **for the year ended 31 March 2023**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees, who are also directors of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1 - 2 .This report constitutes the Directors' Report required under the Companies Act 2006. The Directors have adopted the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 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 (FRS102) effective 1 January 2015 -(Charities SORP(FRS102)) ,in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the company.

#### **Governing Document**

Foyle Search and Rescue is a private company limited by guarantee without a share capital . Foyle Serach and Rescue commenced operating as a company limited by guarantee without a share capital from 01 April 2017.The company was established under a memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under it Articles of Association The company was incorporated on 31 August 2016.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The work of Foyle Search and Rescue can mean the difference between life and death.

The Management Committee will do its utmost to ensure the continued provision of this vital service and during the reporting period decided the Charity should have sufficient general reserves of 2 years turnover or £250,000, whichever is the greater.

These General Reserves will be used for unforeseen events and to respond to emerging and changing needs.

These reserves will also provide cover for:

- Project failure
- Creditors and running costs
- Salary contingent for long term sick-leave or maternity leave
- Refurbishment costs

#### **Risk and Uncertainty**

The Financial Control and Procedures Manual identified a number of potential financial risks and how the Charity will mitigate against them. Namely,

- Reduced Income
- Overspend
- Fraud
- Procurement of Goods and Services
- Reputational
- Theft

These have been rated as "Low" given the mitigating measures in place.

#### *Investments*

The Charity did not hold any or undertake any financial investments during the reporting period . The Charity did have cash on deposit on current accounts and did receive some interst on this.

#### *Methods adopted for the appointment and recruitment of new trustees*

The committee of Foyle Serach and Rescue are charity trustees for the purpose of charity law .People can make an application to the committee to become a memeber .Every application for admission shall be considered by the committee at their first meeting after it was made ,or as soon thereafter as is practicable.There shall be no discrimination between persona by reference to politics ,religion,race ,sex ,age ,physical or mental disability.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Objectives and activities**

**Charitable objectives**

The Preservation of life in and around the River Foyle. Death by drowning is minimised; People in crisis are signposted immediately to appropriate services; Body recoveries of missing people who have entered the River; Other agencies are supported to ensure that lifesaving equipment is well maintained; Public awareness of water safety around the river is improved through delivery of educational programmes and the issues of suicide and attempted suicides are highlighted to the appropriate statutory bodies. Our statistics identify how the benefits have been demonstrated. There is no harm arising from any of the purposes. We are a unique Charity in what we do and we are not restricted to helping one group of people – we help everyone who needs us regardless of age, gender, religion, race or background. There are no private benefits flowing from any of the purposes.

*Chairman's Report (Stephen Twells)*

This has been our 29th year in operation, providing a valuable service to this city. As you can see since 1993, hundreds of rescues (540) have saved hundreds of lives, with thousands more stopped from entering the water over those 30 years (5,320). Sadly though (128) did die during that time by entering the river.

Each and every one of those lives lost represents someone's son, daughter, partner, relative, friend or colleague. Every death has been an individual tragedy as well as life-changing for those affected by that loss.

The year just ending in March 2023 has been no exception. 46 rescues were carried out, saving lives, while 259 people were stopped from entering the river, but tragically, we had the sad task of recovering 5 people who lost their lives in the river. We are able to commemorate still being here almost 30 years after Billy Garnon came up with the idea of Foyle Search & Rescue, through his own family tragedy, having had tremendous support and collaboration from some of the most exemplary organisations on this island.

The work that our volunteers carry out is never usually done in isolation. We could not deliver our services, nor make the difference we make, without the help of many others, and we are honoured to be able to work alongside the City Centre CCTV Team, Community Wardens, the PSNI, NIFRS and NIAS, who all provide vital support to us.

We are very grateful to Derry City & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency and the Western Health & Social Care Trust for their unwavering funding to us over many years.

You will hear more about our financial situation within our Treasurer Report, but it cannot be highlighted enough how much we are supported by families and friends of those affected by suicide in one way or another, as well as businesses and the general public. Around 60% (PY 76%) of all our annual income comes from public donations. That is outstanding, and humbling to us, as we know there are many worthy causes in our city, deserving of peoples' appreciation, and financial support. To be there, when we are needed most, is the least we can do to repay that kindness and generosity. Financially, we ended the year strongly, given the shocking rise in running costs such as heat, fuel and electricity, not to mention other cost of living increases we have had to absorb. During the last year we saw some much needed and worthwhile investment: some funded externally, some internal such as a new state-of-the-art multi- beam system to replace our decade old sonar, as well as upgrading our thermal imaging sights.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2023**

#### Chairman's Report(Continued)

Operational highlights included providing safety cover for the Maritime Festival and Halloween celebrations, as well as receiving a Gold Award from Families First NI, for our contribution to the community. We were also very excited, and somewhat relieved, to be able to return to our normal activities of duty nights and training after the pandemic.

When I see it in black and white, It always amazes me how many hours our volunteers give up on average each year doing duty nights, pager cover, fundraising, collections and counting, searches, meetings and training-between 17,000 and 20,000, all unpaid!

I am very proud to say that in June this year we are commemorating 30 years in operation, serving the people of this community, and wider afield.

Since 1993, FSR volunteers have stopped 5,320 people who were in danger of, or considered taking their own life, in the river.

However, statistically, the number dying by suicide in the river has remained almost constant over the last 30 years since the formation of FSR, with an average of 5 fatalities each year. We continue to see an increase in the number of incidents that we have to deal with each year, and unfortunately we do not see that trend slowing down, or reversing, any time soon due to both a non-sitting NI Executive and cuts in government department budgets. This is affecting the ability to fully implement the NI Protect Life Strategy as well as vital services such as early intervention counselling in schools being stopped. This could have longer term impact on our young people in the years to come.

With the right help, people can get through a suicidal crisis and recover. The majority of people that FSR volunteers intervene with do not go on to take their own lives. This is testament to the fact that our prevention does work, yet services where they can make the biggest difference are being affected.

Looking towards our 30th year we have some great milestones and goals ahead. We will be supporting the Danny Quigley Foundation as Danny undertakes a challenging fundraiser in August.

We have a glitzy Gala Ball in September and a Remembrance event for those who have lost their lives in the river, in October.

Operationally, we will be driving ahead with a digital transform programme, aimed at simplifying many of our activities, investing in more technology for our drone, sonar and swift water teams as well as new duty team vehicles, a multi-disciplinary command vehicle and new livery branding throughout our fleet. We will look ahead to re applying for our coveted "Investing in Volunteers" status as we continue to invest in our volunteers with training and personal protective equipment.

These actions will all be crucial in supporting our front-line duty night and pager teams. All of this will be underpinned by investing in a new staffing structure, which will see us increasing our staffing team from 3 to 5 colleagues, under the guidance of our new Chairman, Brian Óg Mullan, who will take over from me in October.

FSR volunteers have been providing support and encouragement to thousands of people since 1993, making someone's day worthwhile, giving hope, strength and courage to face another day, because they have simply cared enough to give the most precious resource in their lives, and the most treasured commodity in the world: time!

I would like to thank every volunteer, and every family member of every volunteer, that has ever given up their time to volunteer with us in the last 30 years. You have all made a difference to many people's lives, even in some small way.

I am eagerly looking forward to the next few years as we embed all of the above, confident that we will continue to drive the success of FSR, as it continues to be fit for the future, because our charity as a whole as well as our supporters are a shining example of all that is wonderful about this great city of ours, and is something we can all be very proud of.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2023**

#### *Sonar Team (Seamus McCloskey)*

Our Sonar team carry out searches of the river using specialist equipment when someone goes under the surface and does not resurface.

The Sonar team consists of 8 volunteers, who put in a lot of time and effort particularly when a search happens, but throughout the year.

2022 was a significant year for the team for many reasons.

In April 2022, we saw the arrival of the new, DEARA funded, multibeam system from NORBIT, a company that specialises in multibeam sonar equipment. This was a significant milestone for the team and for the charity as this was a major advance in technology and would greatly improve our search capabilities.

The team spent multiple weekends in April learning how the new system operated, working both with NORBIT, who came onsite to conduct the training and working independently, after NORBIT had gone to familiarise themselves with the equipment.

In May 2022, the team travelled to Donegal to assist the Irish Coast Guard offshore with a search for a missing person. Unfortunately, this person was not found and sadly is still missing.

Over the summer, the team spent a great deal of time working on improving the sonar set up, with the charity investing in additional equipment including extra monitors for the boat and battery chargers and inverters. A special thanks to Ryan Murphy who helped install some of this equipment.

The team also designed and configured a system to use the new sonar from the steady so that the system could be used in other smaller waterways where the larger boat could not access. This would shortly prove invaluable. MIM engineering have proudly supported the team creating custom stainless-steel brackets for our boats to mount the sonar system with no charge. Their support is greatly appreciated!

"AS YOU GROW OLDER, YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT YOU HAVE TWO HANDS - ONE FOR HELPING YOURSELF, THE OTHER FOR HELPING OTHERS." - AUDREY HEPBURN

August 2022 was a busy month for the team with training and 2 searches. The first of the searches was in Dungannon where the team were asked to assist the PSNI with a search where partial remains had been found and a follow up search was requested in an effort to rule out if there was anything else of interest.

Sadly, the second of the searches in August was also in Enagh Lough. All 8 members of the sonar team responded to this incident, and using the newly customised set up for the steady were able to quickly locate the person underwater. Members of the team proceeded to assist the divers with the body recovery. It goes without saying that all help and assistance at any incident is greatly appreciated but the team played a crucial part in assisting other Emergency Services in tragic circumstances and we were extremely grateful that the entire team turned out.

In November 2022, the team were tasked to a search in Lough Erne, County Fermanagh to look for a person believed to have fallen off a boat. Due to work commitments, the logistics and travel, the team had limited availability however, that said, the team spent 3 full days in Lough Erne across 2 weeks and the presence of the team was very much appreciated by the POLSA and the family. The male was found washed up on shore in the second week.

In January 2023, the team had their first search of the River Foyle since upgrading the system, where a person went missing after entering the water from the Craigavon bridge. The team carried out sonar searches throughout the night and members of the team went on to recover the body in the early hours of the first morning of the search.

In recent months, the team has been sharing advice with Waterford Marine who have now followed the FSAR example and invested in multibeam technology. The team have also been liaising with Lancashire fire service who are looking at sonar systems for their operations. As well as this, the team has been working hard to implement robust operating procedures with a full review of their SOPS.

A special thanks to all members of the sonar team; Seamus (Sonar Co-Ordinator), Gareth, Danielle, Frances, Rohan, Marc, Paul and Paddy.

The team put in a great deal of time and effort into Sonar operations and we could not make the advances we are making without their level of commitment.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

*Swift Water( Gerard O'Kane)*

Over the past year, the Swiftwater team has made great strides in investing in our continuous operational and professional development and capabilities through training and undertaking and obtaining the relevant qualifications in our field.

We have recently completed the construction and fit-out of our new dedicated Swiftwater trailer which will be used to store all the Swiftwater team equipment that is needed in an emergency response and which will also act as a command centre/RV point at any incident. The new trailer has been completed with fully stand alone electrics, dry wash area for team members to use on a callout and a mobile repeater system to boost communications within ourselves and other emergency services in all areas.

**2023/2024 OUTLOOK(Swift Water)**

We will welcome 8 new members to the team this calendar year to leave us with 16 Swiftwater operatives in total on the team. 4 of the team will be recertifying their Rescue 3 Europe SFR and SRT courses with 8 new team members also undertaking these courses alongside their fellow volunteers.

We hope to have this training completed by end of May. Once complete the team will have 16 fully operational and certified operatives made up of Flood First responders and Swiftwater rescue technicians.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers in the team who selflessly give up their time to help develop, grow and maintain our team and to all the staff, Co-ordinator's and Committee members who continue to assist, help and support our team at every opportunity, none of it would be possible without all of your efforts, thank you!

*HEALTH & WELLBEING ( Sandra O'Doherty)*

Health and Wellbeing within the charity has grown over the years within Foyle Search and Rescue. Whilst continuing to oversee duty night attendance, involvement with open nights and interview process during the last two recruitment drives and the management of volunteer timeouts, also organising the monthly volunteer draw as well as wellbeing events.

Recruitment kicked off last year with two intakes of volunteers. We had 6 new recruits who started in February 2022 with a further 13 who joined us in October 2022, all now have completed training and are doing their duty nights, plus helping with fundraising. Welcome to all of you. Thank you to all who helped with interviews, open nights and training.

Last June, both myself and Christina met with the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum with the view to partner up with them on some events, especially the Danny Quigley swim, which is coming up shortly. At that meeting we were offered to avail of trauma training and a follow up supervisory training. This was something that we have been trying to do for a number of years for the volunteers and staff alike. The feedback from that was quite positive although some thought the 1-hour follow up wasn't enough time to really get people to open up. I believe that this was down to some groups larger than we would have liked. We hope that this training will continue and volunteers will benefit from it.

The first of the wellbeing events started off in June of last year after the bucket appeal. To show our appreciation a night was arranged for a Banquet and Bowls, for those that attended it was a good night's craic.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of August we held our annual Summer Family fun Day. This is a great way to not only say thank our volunteers but also to our volunteers' families who give up their family time. There were loads of games, bouncy castles, rides and a barbeque plus a boat trip. The Dolphins even came out to play Children and Adults alike had a really good time. I myself enjoyed the Dolphins so much that I had several trips on the boat just to see them.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report) for the year ended 31 March 2023**

#### Health and WellBeing (Continued)

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Halloween fun day due to lack of numbers, but for those that did have their kid's names down a goodie bag was given instead.

On the 10th of September we had a team building day at Jungle N.I. We took part in Laser tag and had bite to eat. A really good fun day.

On the 11th of December we had a visit from the big man himself. All the children met with Santa had a photo taken and received a selection box. The children enjoyed some arts and crafts, had a party and was given a meal.

Last but not least we had our Christmas night out in the Waterfoot Hotel. We went back in time to the 1920s and the theme was casino night, I have to say everyone really made an effort with the costumes. We had a drinks reception a sit-down meal, after which we hit the casino tables and a few prizes were given out to winners and losers alike. The music was good that even the chairman hit the dance floor. A great fun filled night was had by all who attended.

This year we have been focusing on our 30-year celebrations which will take place on Saturday the 30th of September at the Everglades Hotel. Some really good ideas have been put forward for these events leading up to the night. We have decided to do a raffle for holidays vouchers and asked all volunteers to sell at least 2 books each, for each book sold by a volunteer their name will be entered into a draw for a £500 holiday voucher, good luck all.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our volunteers who help out with events, and to everyone for their commitment to Foyle Search and Rescue and for the support you give to one another, committee and the charity as a whole.

#### *DRONE TEAM (Ryan Murphy)*

Throughout the past twelve months, the UAV team have continued to build upon the foundations laid in previous years by consistently supporting the emergency response team during emergency taskings in the river Foyle, as well as supporting partners in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service locally with support during searches for high-risk missing persons and aerial support at major incidents.

We also supported City of Derry Airport with their annual multi-agency emergency response exercise with aerial support and we continue to prove that UAS technology now plays a pivotal role in search and rescue emergency response.

Throughout this year, we have focussed on rebuilding our operational procedures and internal training processes to align with best industry practice and to keep abreast of frequent changes to UAS regulations in the United Kingdom as we diverge from EU UAS regulations following our departure from the European Union.

We've continued to train and qualify remote pilots with new and enhanced skills and qualifications, taking the GVC licence count to three within the team, and we'll continue to build upon this during the year ahead.

We developed and published a technical specification for a dedicated Mobile Incident Command Unit, secured management approval and completed a tender process to appoint a supplier to complete the build which is currently under way with delivery expected in early summer 2023.

For the year ahead, we intend to re-enforce to team further with an additional emergency response UAV, boasting the combined attributes of the current fleet. We will take delivery of our new Mobile Incident Command Unit which will serve as a command post and surveillance unit during emergency taskings, and we will seek to integrate smart software and connectivity solutions to enable our flight crew to provide and assess as much information as possible at the scene of an incident.

We will continue to enhance and develop and skills and competence of the full flight crew and seek opportunities to maintain a strong and resilient flight crew through recruitment and upskilling. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the flight crew for their continued efforts and commitment throughout the year.

Furthermore, on behalf of the team, thank you to the staff of Foyle Search & Rescue for their hard work and efforts in the background, helping us to maintain operational status throughout the year.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
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**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Boat Team( Steven Durrent)**

Over the past 12 months the boat team has increased in size beyond that of any other year in numbers. We covered safety for multiple events the biggest being the Clipper festival.

**TRAINING**

We had the biggest expression of interest ever received for crew, which the training team are working there way through the list. Seamus and Gareth both passed their RYA powerboat instructor course. This now means they can run and assess up to level 2 powerboat within a RYA training centre.

**UP COMING EVENTS/TRAINING**

As said previously the team are working through the list to get everyone trained that has put their name in for training. We have once again arranged training with PGM training to provide VHF and Sea survival courses these will be advertised shortly.

*BOAT UPDATE*

At the moment we have 3 duty/operational boats, 1 sonar cabin boat, 1 steady 400, 4 skis, seapro and all associated trailers. We are now using a new company for the repairs and servicing who have managed to get us a quick turnaround where needed.

We have put in place for 2023 to upgrade the Spirit of John with 2 brand new 150 hp Selva engines.

*KIT UPDATE*

Under the guidance of Rossa the NFC system has been implemented now giving us a digital record of damages and notified as soon as a damage happens. This will continue to be developed throughout 2023

*PPE SUPPLIER*

We have spent alot of time researching and testing other PPE providers.

Due to ongoing long turnaround times for drysuit repairs and faults appearing in drysuits we are going to be moving away from our current supplier.

We are now developing a SAR drysuit with Otter to try and get a multidisciplinary suit rather than an off the shelf suit.

**WITH THANKS**

As you are all aware after 9 years I have decided to step down as Boat Coordinator. I wish to personally thank all of those who have given their time, energy and patience to help me in the role and wish everyone the best in years to come. I also wish the incoming coordinator the best of luck and hope all give the person the support you have given me.

## **FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE** **(A company limited by guarantee)**

### **Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)** **for the year ended 31 March 2023**

#### *INCIDENT OVERVIEW*

Lockdown had a dramatic impact on the number of incidents we dealt with in the previous 2 years, where we seen huge decrease. Unfortunately, our incidents in this reporting period saw these come back on par with 2019.

In 2022/23 period Foyle Search and Rescue attended 319 incidents, 150 of which were attended by our Duty Night Teams and 169 of which were Emergency Response Pager Team incidents.

46 individuals were taken directly from the water alive, 134 distressed individuals were taken away from the railings and bridges surrounding the river, we had 129 causes for concern and we recovered 5 bodies in this financial reporting period. Emergency response team also dealt with 5 misc incidents, broken down boats, flooding etc

A special thank you must go to all our operational volunteers on duty nights and pager for your dedication and persistence in the number of lives you have saved. These statistics are the main tool that we have in gauging how successful our service is and how many people we help. Although we helped 319 people directly in our life preservation crisis response capacity the actual number of people we helped throughout the year is much greater than that. It is there to be seen by all, especially those who serve alongside you.

#### **Financial review**

##### *General (Cormac O'Hare)*

This time last year, we predicted that 2022-23 would be characterised by rising expenditure and falling income.

##### *Income*

For the year from April 2022 to March 2023, our total generated income was £407,745). Taking out extraordinary income associated with an insurance pay-out to repair damage to one of our drones (£21,374), this gives us a year end income of £386,371.

We continued to receive funding from statutory agencies': The Rank Foundation, Derry & Strabane District Council, the Public Health Agency, Department of Justice and Developing Healthy Communities. These funds were for staff and running costs, some equipment, and volunteer development.

Once again excellent support from the public through our collection boxes, bucket appeal and flag day, raising funds of £36,688, £11,744 and £6,223 respectively with safety cover over the Maritime Festival raising a further £11,100.

Donations from 177 named individuals and local businesses, schools, youth clubs, running clubs, GAA, families, children, and donations in lieu of loved ones who had passed away, remained strong, amounted to £186,502.

Special thanks to Christina for the success in managing relationships with our charity partners as well as organising our collection runs and Flag Day, with special thanks to the volunteers doing these.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

*Expenditure (Financial Review Continued)*

Our initial spending budget had been set at £354,450. Actual spend in the period was £354,047.

Below budget performance was achieved despite costs up, Insurances up, Fuel up and Investments made in Telephone services, Pager, Drone/Van Mobile Control Centre, Jet Ski Maintenance, Sonar Equipment and Base CCTV.

Credit must be given to all involved in the charity, to constantly challenge all expenditures to ensure they are justified and aligned with driving the charity forward, for us to come in under budget.

*Review of fundraising and Education (Christina Mc Keegan)*

With Covid restrictions lifted it wasn't until the second quarter of the year that we seen a real return to fundraising events.

We would like to begin by saying a massive thank you to all the local businesses who choose our charity as their Charity Partner of the Year 2022.

These partnerships not only bring in amazing funds through all their hard work and dedication but the awareness around our services and other local services that are available. Thank you to Pieta House and Darkness Into Light Derry for choosing to support our charity through the event in 2022, It wa great to get everyone back together and walking into the sunrise. January 2022, saw us launch our partnership with New Look Ltd with them diving into fundraising events across all 26 stores in Northern Ireland, and what a year they had with various events each month in all their stores and with a big finale in Dec with their very own Debbie doing a sky dive. Thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of your events, it takes a lot of hard work and this hard work shows with the donations you all have made and it was a pleasure getting to meet and work alongside you all.

The biggest shout out goes to all our Box Run volunteers, like clockwork they are out each month pounding the streets in rain, hail, snow and with very little sunshine, come out to collect around all the local shops. Their dedication to the monthly box run is reflected in the amount that was brought in to the charity, £36,688. We were happy to see the return of our annual bucket appeal which brought in £11744. Both our winter and summer flag day were carried out within the town and we would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers and staff who came out in force to help and raised £6223. These events are well supported by the amazing people of our city, and each and every penny goes toward training, equipment and PPE for our volunteers.

We could not go without saying a massive thank you to the team of volunteers who come in each month to help count all the coins collected through the monthly box runs, flag days and bucket appeals. Your dedication to this role works hand in hand with the collection team and is key to the charity continuing to carry out these internal fundraisers.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
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**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

*Review of fundraising and Education Continued*

As a self-funded charity, we wouldn't be able to carry out our role of 'The Preservation of Life' without the continued support of the members of the public and their donations, local business choosing us as their charity partner or holding fundraising events, community groups and schools putting their all into raising funds. We would like to thank each and every one of you for donating, supporting, raising awareness for our charity, you are the reason that we continue to operate and we are forever grateful this. It is hard to mention every donation, but we would like to highlight some of the events that happened throughout the year.

As every other year, the support that we received from the schools and higher education institutes in 2022 was above and beyond, we are extremely grateful for your continued support over the years. In 2022/2023 we facilitated 28 talks to schools, community groups and workplaces which has increased from our figures over the last number of years due to covid. The majority of these visit this year were more substantial in which our teams carried out talks over a number of days in same location addressing 600 + students in one session. We found great benefit in attending the Yes project twice this year it involved a range of schools from across all sections of the community and of various age groups. An estimate figure of 3000+ people benefited from our educational service. The success of our education visits is measured by the number of talks we carry out, the number of attendees at these talks. We feel that this prevention area of our work is invaluable in making both young and older people aware of the issues of suicide within our city and how to safely use the different types of waterways.

We would like to mention as many local businesses who have supported us in the last year, it is truly amazing the many businesses within our city and some further afield that support our charity. Thank you to Hugh Keirney from Cooley Jewellers who dawned the Santa Suit again this year and donated £1500.

The continued support that our charity receives each year from the same business and people is immense. We would like to say a big thank you to Jennifer at Miss Shining Light and all those who were involved in the pageant for 2022, they put their all into their fundraising. We are always proud to be chosen as their charity partner as the hard work and awareness that is raised through this pageant is outstanding, well done to everyone involved. Thank you to Jay Doherty Photography, Fairytale Wedding Cars, Ferry Clever, The O'Donnell Family, Foyle Food Group, The Inner City Trust, Danske Bank, Jake & Co, and BSG Civil Engineering who continue to, each year, raise funds for our charity and raise great awareness around mental health and the services within our city. We are always overwhelmed with the continued support and extremely grateful, and we look forward to continuing to build on our future relationships.

Fundraising for 2022 was a great success, but I couldn't finish this report without highlighting and congratulating the machines that are Ryan Dillon Stephen Quigley and Seamus McCrossan. Stephen and Seamus completed a half marathon everyday in September to raise funds for ourselves and the Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum. Well that was the plan but the last week they increased this to do a marathon each day. The support they received from the city and people taking part was outstanding.

But not to forget that at the same time Ryan Dillon was running 10k a day in Sep in memory of his brother Emmett. The support he also received from the city and the legendary Carl Frampton was unbelievable. But the support that they all showed each other during that month was very humbling. Therefore, we would like to say a final big thank you to everyone who got involved in raising funds, raising awareness and supporting Foyle Search and Rescue, and a final thank you to all our volunteers, staff and their family and friends. Without you all our charity would not be able to carry out the life saving work that we do, giving up your time allows us to meet our aims and objectives of 'The Preservation of Life in and around the Rover Foyle'. We look forward to building on all these relationships in 2023 as we celebrate our 30th Year.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

*Acknowledgements 2022-23*

Volunteers & Staff  
General Public - North & South of the Border  
The Mayor & Staff  
Public Health Agency  
Derry City & Strabane District Council  
Department of Justice  
Gilliland Family  
Emergency Services  
NISAR Rescue Organisations  
City Centre Initiative  
Inner City Trust  
Western Health and Social Care Trust  
Four Star Pizza  
Dominos  
Anita Delivery  
Diamond Corrugated  
Pieta House  
Print Chameleon  
CCTV  
RYA

**Plans for future periods**

2023/2024 outlook

We estimate that the coming year will be challenging, similar to the year just passed, with Income potentially falling if we maintain the status quo and expenditure rising.

To counter this trend, we plan to transform our fundraising through investing in a new role of Fundraising Manager. Also as the charity grows both in numbers of volunteers and complexity, we plan to add an additional staff role of Volunteer Manager. It is hoped to have both roles staffed by the end of 2023.

The challenge for 2023-2024 will be to develop new income streams, while sustaining our traditional streams of collection boxes, bucket appeal and flag days. However these are only sustainable with continued commitment from volunteers. We have also planned a number of events associated with our 30 year anniversary, culminating in a Gala Ball at the end of September 2023.

We plan to complete ground works at the base, build a dry dock, replace two of the four main boat engines, invest in the very latest drone equipment.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Report of the trustees (incorporating the directors' report)**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2023**

**Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also directors of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102 );
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, comprising FRS102 , subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

**Small company provisions**

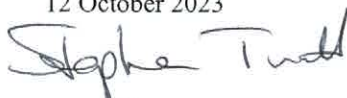
This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

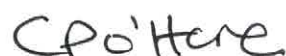
On behalf of the board

Stephen Twells  
**Director**

Cormac O'Hare  
**Treasurer**

12 October 2023

  
Stephen Twells  
Director

  
Cormac O'Hare

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE.**

I report on the accounts of FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE for the year ended 31 March 2023 set out on pages 3 to 27.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner**

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors of the company for purposes of company law) 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 65 of the Charities Act
- 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
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

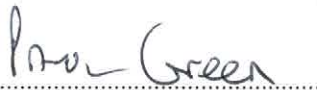
**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination includes 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 trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep proper accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



**Paul Green of Paul Green Accountancy and Taxation Limited**  
Chartered Accountant (Chartered Accountants Ireland))

**Independent examiner**

PO Box 167, Unit 1B Ground Floor,  
The Glassworks, Skeoge Business Park,  
11 Beraghmore Road  
Derry  
BT48 8SE  
12 October 2023

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Incoming resources from generating funds:					
Charitable activities	2	50,912	112,845	163,757	90,961
Other trading activities	3	218,332	25,025	243,357	290,993
Investment income	4	3,416	-	3,416	155
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>272,660</u>	<u>137,870</u>	<u>410,530</u>	<u>382,109</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>					
Expenditure on Charitable activities	5	270,332	83,280	353,612	278,546
Other Expenditure	6	435	-	435	561
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>270,767</u>	<u>83,280</u>	<u>354,047</u>	<u>279,107</u>
<b>Net incoming resources before transfers</b>					
		1,893	54,590	56,483	103,002
Transfer between funds		(56,842)	56,842	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds/Net income/(expenditure) for the year</b>		<u>(54,949)</u>	<u>111,432</u>	<u>56,483</u>	<u>103,002</u>
Opening Balance brought forward		927,390	821,938	1,749,328	1,646,326
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u>872,441</u>	<u>933,370</u>	<u>1,805,811</u>	<u>1,749,328</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2023**

	Notes	£	2023	£	2022	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>						
Tangible assets	11		927,230		951,520	
<b>Current assets</b>						
Debtors	12	20,788		34,147		
Cash at bank and in hand		1,123,604		1,046,136		
		1,144,392		1,080,283		
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	(14,895)		(17,059)		
<b>Net current assets</b>			1,129,497		1,063,224	
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			2,056,727		2,014,744	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	14		(25,312)		-	
<b>Accruals and deferred income</b>	15		(225,604)		(265,416)	
<b>Net assets</b>			1,805,811		1,749,328	
<b>Funds</b>	16					
Restricted income funds			933,370		821,938	
Unrestricted income funds			872,441		927,390	
<b>Total funds</b>			1,805,811		1,749,328	

The Balance Sheet continues on the following page.

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Balance sheet (continued)**

**Trustees statements required by the Companies Act 2006  
for the year ended 31 March 2023**

In approving these financial statements as trustees of the company we hereby confirm:

(a) that for the year stated above the company was entitled to the exemption conferred by section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ;

(b) that no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the company pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31 March 2023.

(c) that we acknowledge our responsibilities for:


(1) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, and

(2) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the board on 12 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by

**Stephen Twells**  
**Director**

  
Stephen Twells  
Director

**Cormac O'Hare**  
**Treasurer**

  
C O'Hare

The notes on pages 19 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE

## (A company limited by guarantee)

### Notes to financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

#### 1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

##### 1.1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the 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 (FRS102 effective 1 January 2015) Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Foyle Search and Rescue meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The Financial Statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Taking account of the risk review undertaken by the trustees they do not consider there to be any risk to the going concern of the Charity.

##### 1.2. Cashflow

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small company.

##### 1.3. Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the statement of financial activities when receivable. Grants relating to revenue shall be recognised in income on a systematic basis over the periods in which the entity recognises the related costs for which the grant is intended to compensate

Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Gifts donated for resale are included as incoming resources within activities for generating funds when they are

Grants relating to assets shall be recognised in income on a systematic basis over the expected useful life of the asset.

Income from investments is included in the year in which it is receivable.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**1.4. Resources expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income. Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management.

**1.5. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated 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:

Property Renovations	-	Straight line over fifty years
Plant and machinery	-	15% Reducing Balance
Boats and equipment	-	15% Reducing Balance
Motor vehicles	-	15% Reducing Balance

**1.6. Defined contribution pension schemes**

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

**1.7. Capital Grants**

Capital grants received for specific capital assets are treated as deferred capital grants and released to income in line with the related depreciation charge of the asset acquired.

**2. Charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
HSC Public Health Agency	-	30,471	30,471	29,123
Rank Foundation	-	32,000	32,000	-
Derry City and Strabane District Council	-	15,000	15,000	15,000
Capital Grants Released	39,812	-	39,812	46,838
Clipper Coverage	11,100	-	11,100	-
NISAR Resources	-	14,000	14,000	-
Insurance receipt	-	21,374	21,374	-
	<u>50,912</u>	<u>112,845</u>	<u>163,757</u>	<u>90,961</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**3. Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Fundraising and Donations	218,332	25,025	243,357	290,993
	<u>218,332</u>	<u>25,025</u>	<u>243,357</u>	<u>290,993</u>

**4. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Bank Interest Received	3,416	3,416	155
	<u>3,416</u>	<u>3,416</u>	<u>155</u>

**5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Staff costs	28,361	44,080	72,441	58,139
Pension Costs	1,648	-	1,648	1,171
Volunteer and Fundraising Expenses	19,758	1,000	20,758	9,822
Accountancy fees	2,220	-	2,220	2,160
Bad Debt	-	-	-	1,700
Insurance	-	24,683	24,683	22,449
Base Repairs and Maintenance	9,860	-	9,860	9,129
Light and Heat and Water	8,871	-	8,871	7,152
Printing, postage and stationery	1,165	-	1,165	2,012
Boats and Vehicle Operations	64,258	13,517	77,775	36,265
Telephone and Pagers	19,025	-	19,025	7,422
Training Costs	21,574	-	21,574	20,893
Depreciation and amortisation	92,408	-	92,408	94,214
General Expenses	1,184	-	1,184	4,201
Subscriptions and Donations	-	-	-	1,817
	<u>270,332</u>	<u>83,280</u>	<u>353,612</u>	<u>278,546</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**6. Other Expenditure**

	Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
PAYE Interest and Penalty	81	81	-
Lease Finance Charges	312	312	-
Bank Charges	42	42	561
	<u>435</u>	<u>435</u>	<u>561</u>

**7. Net incoming resources for the year**

	2023 £	2022 £
Net incoming resources is stated after charging: Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible fixed assets	<u>92,408</u>	<u>94,214</u>

**8. Employees**

<b>Employment costs</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Wages and salaries	70,795	57,758
Social security costs	1,646	381
Pension costs	1,648	1,171
	<u>74,089</u>	<u>59,310</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 (2022 : None).

**Number of employees**

The average monthly numbers of employees (including the trustees) during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Management and Admin	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**9. Pension costs**

The company operates a pension scheme as required by the pension auto enrolment provisions in respect of applicable employees. The scheme and its assets are held by independent managers. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and was as follows:

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pension charge	1,648	1,171

**10. Taxation**

The charity's activities fall within the exemptions afforded by the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. Accordingly, there is no taxation charge in these accounts.

**11. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Land and Buildings</b>	<b>Boats and Equipment</b>	<b>Plant and Machinery</b>	<b>Motor vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost</b>					
Transfer from unincorporated	703,156	440,893	487,492	127,598	1,759,139
Additions	-	5,205	24,155	38,758	68,118
At 31 March 2023	<u>703,156</u>	<u>446,098</u>	<u>511,647</u>	<u>166,356</u>	<u>1,827,257</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>					
Transfer from unincorporated	205,827	295,094	224,139	82,559	807,619
Charge for the year	14,063	22,650	43,126	12,569	92,408
At 31 March 2023	<u>219,890</u>	<u>317,744</u>	<u>267,265</u>	<u>95,128</u>	<u>900,027</u>
<b>Net book values</b>					
At 31 March 2023	<u>483,266</u>	<u>128,354</u>	<u>244,382</u>	<u>71,228</u>	<u>927,230</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>497,329</u>	<u>145,799</u>	<u>263,353</u>	<u>45,039</u>	<u>951,520</u>

Included above are assets held under finance leases or hire purchase contracts as follows:

<b>Asset description</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>2022</b>	
	<b>Net book value</b>	<b>Depreciation charge</b>	<b>Net book value</b>	<b>Depreciation charge</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Motor vehicles	<u>23,375</u>	<u>4,125</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**12. Debtors**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	7,546	30,182
Other debtors	13,242	3,965
	<u>20,788</u>	<u>34,147</u>

**13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank overdraft	712	207
Net obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts	5,692	-
NICTS	-	7,545
Other taxes and social security	47	830
Other creditors	-	33
Accruals and deferred income	8,444	8,444
	<u>14,895</u>	<u>17,059</u>

**14. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Net obligations under finance leases	25,312	-
	<u>25,312</u>	<u>-</u>

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

**20. Company limited by guarantee**

Foyle Search and Rescue is a private company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member ,or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member for

- a) payment of the company's debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a member
- b) payment of the costs ,charges and expenses of winding up ,and
- c) adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

<b>18. Restricted funds</b>	<b>At 1 April 2019 £</b>	<b>Incoming resources £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>At 31 March 2020 £</b>
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Genral restricted Fund	764,218	-	56,842	821,060
Restricted Fund Prehen Extension	57,720	-	-	57,720
Restricted Fund Drones Insurance	-	21,374	-	21,374
Restricted Fund Rank Foundation	-	18,391	-	18,391
Restricted Fund Joshy Simon	-	1,000	-	1,000
Restricted Fund Charitable Aid Foundation	-	13,825	-	13,825
	<u>821,938</u>	<u>54,590</u>	<u>56,842</u>	<u>933,370</u>

**Purposes of restricted funds**

Redundancy ,running costs

Completion of phase 2

Reinvestment in lost drones

Wages

Cold water /shock Education

Training Courses

**19. Controlling interest**

The company is an unincorporated charity governed by its constitution. The members of the charity elect a committee of trustees to run the affairs of the charity. The trustees are collectively considered to be the charity's ultimate controlling party. There were no beneficial transactions on behalf of the trustees during the period under review.

**FOYLE SEARCH AND RESCUE**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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

<b>15. Accruals and deferred income</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Deferred Capital Grant</b>		
Transfer from unincorporated Capital Grants received in period	(265,416)	(137,935)
	-	(174,319)
	(265,416)	(312,254)
Released in year	39,812	46,838
At 31 March 2023	<u>(225,604)</u>	<u>(265,416)</u>

<b>16. Analysis of net assets between funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Total funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fund balances at 31 March 2023 as represented by:			
Tangible fixed assets	670,619	-	670,619
Current assets	201,822	933,370	1,135,192
	<u>872,441</u>	<u>933,370</u>	<u>1,805,811</u>

<b>17. Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>At</b>			<b>At</b>
	<b>1 April</b>	<b>Incoming</b>		<b>31 March</b>
	<b>2019</b>	<b>resources</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
General Unrestricted Fund	927,390	1,893	(56,842)	872,441
	<u>927,390</u>	<u>1,893</u>	<u>(56,842)</u>	<u>872,441</u>

**Purposes of unrestricted funds**

For use in the administrative department.