

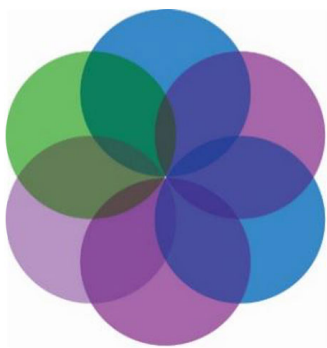


# Disability Federation of Ireland

# Annual Report 2018



# The different sections within DFI



Disability Research Hub



SOLA



Disability and the Community



FreedomTech



Advocacy & Policy

Front cover image:

Roísín Hackett, Niamh Ní Hoireabhaird and Laura Beston from the Trinity Disability Group outside a purple Trinity College, as part of our #PurpleLights campaign on Dec. 3rd.



# Annual Report 2018

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## A Letter from our Chairperson



2018 was a historic year for the disability community in Ireland. On the 7th March Ireland ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN CRPD, yet it was very disheartening that the State failed to ratify the Optional Protocol. This means that there is no legal mechanism for individuals to bring complaints in respect of any breaches by the State to the UN Committee. However, ratifying the UN CRPD means that the State has committed to achieving these rights within its laws, policies, and culture. This report shows how DFI is working at local, national and international level in support of this goal.

During this year we have shown decision makers at all levels how the UN CRPD can transform Irish society. We paid particular attention to supporting its implementation at a local level.

To better understand our members' experience of delivering services we consulted with 35 CEOs of our member organisations.





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We are building a team of community workers to support improved inclusion of people with disabilities in existing social inclusion programmes and initiatives around the country. Through this and other initiatives, we are doing our part to implement key health policies such as Transforming Lives and Sláintecare. Services promoting and effecting good health and well-being are vital resources to enable people to live full lives.

We are a small but diverse team working on every facet of disability in Ireland. The UN CRPD underpins all our work and will continue to do so in the coming years as we work to achieve its implementation.

I wish to acknowledge the work of our board members, company members, staff, members who served on committees, volunteers and our member organisations who have supported us throughout the year. I particularly acknowledge the growing participation of people with disabilities in all areas of our work over the year.

**Gary Lee**  
**Chairperson**



# Disability and Community

DFI has long campaigned for disability inclusion in all aspects of the community. Our team uses different structures to achieve greater participation by people with disabilities. These include;

Health Service Executive, HSE,  
Local Authorities,  
Public Participation Networks, PPNs,  
Local Partnerships and Family Resource Centres,  
Men's Sheds,  
Access Groups.

Working with our member organisations we continue to provide training and awareness programmes. This work supports the participation of people with disabilities on decision making structures in their own communities.

We have an ongoing relationship with Wicklow County Council to support its implementation of the UN CRPD and have a growing relationship with many other local authorities. During 2018 DFI worked with Dublin City Council, DCC, to support their review of the implementation of the Disability Act.



**DFI's Development Worker, Áine O' Sullivan, Padraig Healy, Cork Aspires Partnership Sports Inclusion Officer and Caroline Casey, Cork County Council Water and Road Safety Development Officer.**

During this year we have had success with a range of initiatives:

**#MakeWayDay** supports greater awareness of the public spaces we all share. It expanded to 18 local authorities in 2018, its second year. The Public Relations Institute of Ireland, PRII, awarded it 2018's best public awareness raising campaign.

[www.unlockingfreedom.wordpress.com](http://www.unlockingfreedom.wordpress.com) This Erasmus+ project supports better availability of adult education opportunities for people with disabilities across Europe.

**#Purplelights** drew the public's attention to International Day for People with Disabilities on the 3rd December.

**Universal Access Groups** – We supported their networking and development, there are now over 20 of these groups. They are bringing about greater monitoring of local access issues. We have worked with them to bring Beach Wheelchairs to Ireland.

**#FreedomTech** and **CHAT** support more widespread availability and use of assistive technology.



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**Gary Kearney, disability activist taking part in #MakeWayDay 2018.**



**2018 Make Way Day spokespeople from left to right, Maryam Madani, Saoirse Smith, Declan Meenagh, Sean O’Kelly, Pat McCabe and John O’Sullivan.**





# Influencing policy in key areas

A major obstacle to implementing the UN CRPD is a lack of information and understanding. Our policy and research team mobilised in 2018 to share their understanding and inspire actions based on the Convention.

We prepared training programmes for 15 local authorities on the Public Sector Duty and the UN CRPD. This is funded through the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, IHREC. As part of an education project funded through the EU Erasmus+ programme we are developing a curriculum on the UN CRPD. This work targets local authorities, service providers, disability organisations, and university students.

This year we focused attention on younger people with disabilities inappropriately living in nursing homes through research, media, and lobbying in the Oireachtas. We also advocated for work to be undertaken on the cost of living with a disability. We saw results when Budget 2019 included a commitment to commission research into the cost of living with a disability.

We continue to advocate for a human-rights-based approach in the design and delivery of services and supports. Along with good health and personal social services, people must have opportunities for wider participation. We represent disability interest on over 120 committees, over 40 of which were HSE related. The key policy focus of this work is increased funding for supports towards community living.

In addition, the Policy and Research team:

Made 25 formal submissions on a wide range of issues including education, health, and transport.

Developed 31 Disability Profiles – one for each local authority area.

Held five platform meetings across the country to engage with our membership on their issues of concern.

Published a research report – ‘The situation of younger people with disabilities living in nursing homes in Ireland - phase 1’.

Were active members of two EU disability advocacy organisations.







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**Senator John Dolan, DFI, CEO, Minister of State for Disability Issues Finian McGrath T.D, Sophia Kilcullen, Maria Pierce, Mel Duffy, Gary Lee, Joan O'Connor and Michael McGealy.**



**Left to right; Peter Boyd, Rachel Creevy, Minister of State for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath T.D, and Minister for Health, Simon Harris T.D, at a press conference in DFI.**



# DFI 2018 in Numbers...



# 120

Committees where DFI represents the disability interest at local, national, and European levels.

# 31



Disability Profiles – one for each local authority area.



# 25

Formal submissions made on issues including education, health, transport.



# 22

Access Groups around the country supported to network.



# 3

Major policy breakthroughs; increase in medical disregard for people on DA; ratification of UN CRPD; commitment to research the extra cost of disability.

# 2

Active memberships on EU disability advocacy organisations.



# 2

Conferences held.  
1:Unlocking Freedom Through Adult Education and  
2:The SOLA symposium on quality and governance.

# 1



National award for raising public awareness on disability issues, Public Relations Institute of Ireland - Awards for Excellence in PR.



44



Participants in SOLA training courses on quality and governance.

40 **PQASSO**  
QUALITY MARK

Organisations supported on the PQASSO journey.

35



CEO's of member organisations consulted with.

14



Local Authorities and Public Participation Networks supported towards disability inclusion.

5 **HSE**

DFI Platforms held to engage with membership on our HSE representation.

5



Major initiatives to support Local Authorities on UN CRPD.

**RTE** 4 DFI backed stories on RTE News in 2018.

2



Media campaigns #MakeWayDay and #Purplelights.

2



Human Resource Management seminars held with Adare HR.



2

Freedomtech gatherings of the Community Hub for Assistive Technology CHAT.

1



Action research project using experimental methodologies examining poverty and disability.



1

Research report published – 'The situation of younger people with disabilities living in nursing homes in Ireland - phase 1'.



# Support to member organisations

During the year we focused on how we could better support our member organisations. One-to-one consultations were held with 35 CEO's of member organisations and their feedback informed DFI's Operational Plan 2019 - 2020.

We widened these consultations further through developing an online survey for members. We heard our members' experiences of delivering services and supports in an increasingly challenging environment. We informed ourselves of the mounting pressures organisations face in terms of increased regulatory requirements and compliance.

We provided guidance and support of members on the UN CRPD.



**Alison Ryan and Dermot O'Donnell of DFI with Gerry Grainey.**

Through SOLA and the University of Limerick we have provided courses to support organisations to improve their quality and standards. These courses open our membership to established quality tools such as "Lean Six Sigma".

Our SOLA symposium on quality and governance was held in November. It saw the launch of Improving Quality, I.Q., a new quality mechanism well suited for smaller organisations. DFI provided support to over 40 organisations to complete PQASSO, a detailed quality mechanism, with a growing number of them now going for full accreditation.



**Helen Martin, Charities Regulator Interim Chief Executive speaks about the recently launched 'Charities Governance Code'.**



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**Delegates at SOLA Symposium 2018.**



**Dermot O'Donnell, DFI, Helen Martin, Charities Regulator, and Prof. Eamonn Murphy, Emeritus UL, at SOLA Symposium 2018.**



**Prof. Eamonn Murphy, Emeritus UL.**



# Corporate Developments

## DFI Premises

In a one-off development we agreed to take additional space in Fumbally Court. We now have more space for DFI and our member organisations to hold meetings and we have greatly improved accessibility levels.



**DFI Staff and Board Members outside our Fumbally headquarters, Dublin, September 2018**

## HR / Staff Development

“Wholestory” helped us over the year to improve our ability to work as a team. As part of this all staff have had Belbin profiles completed. This is the biggest investment in staff development that DFI has made to date.

We recruited a new community worker during the year. We are also thankful to have had a number of interns and volunteers working with us.

## Communications and ICT

Our communications work continued to strengthen and our new website launched. This site sets out the range of work that we do in the community, in policy and representation, research, and in supporting our member organisations.

We placed a range of disability related stories in the mainstream media addressing issues such as employment, transport and housing.

## Planning

Eustace Patterson Limited met with staff, board members and strategic general members over the year to assist with the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2017-2020. Progress reports were submitted every four months by the Board, to the strategic general members as part of Operational Plan 2017-2018 implementation.

## PQASSO

We have fully met five of the twelve PQASSO’s Quality Areas. The remainder, are currently under consideration.

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**Left to right: DFI's Communications Manager, Clare Cronin and Community Development Worker, Laura English, accepting the Public Relations Institute of Ireland PRII, award for 2018's best public awareness raising campaign, #MakeWayDay.**

# DFI Affiliate and Associate Organisations 2018

## Affiliates with Nominating Body Status

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland
Alzheimer Society of Ireland
Arthritis Ireland
ASPIRE – Asperger Syndrome Association
Ataxia Ireland
AWARE
BRÍ – Acquired Brain Injury Association
CASA, Caring and Sharing Association
Central Remedial Clinic
Centre for Independent Living Blanchardstown
Centre for Independent Living Mayo
Centre for Independent Living Tipperary
Centre for Independent Living Carmichael House
Cheeverstown House Ltd
COPE Foundation
County Roscommon Support Group for People with Disabilities
Cystic Fibrosis Association of Ireland
CHIME (formally DeafHear)
D.E.B.R.A. Ireland
Disabled Drivers Association
Doorway to Life Ltd
Down Syndrome Ireland
Dyslexia Association of Ireland
Enable Ireland
Epilepsy Ireland (formerly Brainwave)
Fighting Blindness
Genetic and Rare Disorders Organisation
HAIL, Housing Association for Integrated Living
Headway Ireland

Huntington's Disease Association of Ireland
Irish Deaf Society
Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind
Irish Haemophilia Society
Irish Kidney Association
Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association
Irish Society for Autism
Irish Wheelchair Association
KARE
Leitrim Association of People with Disabilities
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland
Muscular Dystrophy Ireland
National Council for the Blind of Ireland
National Federation of Arch Clubs
Neurofibromatosis Association of Ireland
North West MS Therapy Centre
Parkinson's Association of Ireland
Polio Survivors Ireland (formerly Post Polio Support Group)
Reach Ireland
Rehab Group
Royal Hospital Donnybrook
Sophia Housing Association Ltd
Special Olympics Ireland
Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland
Spinal Injuries Ireland
St Catherine's Association
St Gabriel's School and Centre
St Michael's House
Vantastic Ltd
WALK (formerly Walkinstown Association)
Western Care Association



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## Affiliates

Ability West
ACTS (Accessible Community Transport Southside)
AHEAD
Áiseanna Tacaíochta
Anne Sullivan Centre
Arklow Disability Action Group
Arts & Disability Ireland
Athlone Access Awareness
Autism Spectrum Disorder Initiatives (ASDI)
Bluestack Special Needs Foundation
Catholic Institute for Deaf People (CIDP)
Care Alliance Ireland
Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups
Centre for Independent Living Carlow
Centre for Independent Living Cork
Centre for Independent Living Donegal
Centre for Independent Living Galway
Centre for Independent Living Greater Dublin
Centre for Independent Living Kilkenny
Centre for Independent Living Longford
Centre for Independent Living Offaly
Centre for Independent Living Sligo
Centre for Independent Living Waterford
Centre for Independent Living West Limerick
Centre for Independent Living Wexford
Children in Hospital Ireland
Childvision (formerly St Joseph's Centre for the Visually Impaired)
Co-Action West Cork
Cork Deaf Association

Crosscare Cedar Programme
Diabetes Federation of Ireland Southern Region
Dyspraxia Association of Ireland
Family Carers Ireland
Féach
Fibromyalgia Support Group (Midlands)
F.I.C.T.A. - Federation of Irish Complementary Therapy Associations
Galway Autism Partnership
GROW
Heart Children Ireland
ICARE (Inishowen Children's Autism Related Education)
Irish Electromagnetic Radiation Victims Network
Lakers Social and Recreation Club
Lucan Disability Action Group
Mary's Centre (Telford) Ltd.
Mental Health Reform
Mid West Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association
Migraine Association of Ireland
Move4Parkinson's
Neurological Alliance of Ireland
North Tipperary Disability Support Service Limited
North West Parents & Friends Association
Out and About Association
Peachaven Trust
Prader Willi Syndrome Association Ireland (PWSAI)
Peachaven Trust
S.T.E.E.R.
Saint Hilda's Services
Sharing the Journey

## Associates

Alcohol Forum
Bloomfield Health Services
Fionnathan Productions Limited
Homefelt Private Nursing Services
Livability Ireland
Plan Ireland
Positive Futures: Achieving Dreams. Transforming Lives
Respond!
Voluntary Service International

## DFI Board 2018

Gary Lee – Chairperson	-
Fran Brennan – Vice Chairperson	(re-elected VC 12/07/2018)
Alison McCallion	(elected VC 12/07/2018)
Barbara O’Connell	(resigned 29/01/2018)
Don Bailey	-
Elaine Howley	(resigned 21/06/2018)
Gráinne O’Leary	-
John O’Sullivan	(resigned 21/06/2018)
Kathleen O’Meara	(resigned 09/10/2018)
Kevin Kelly	(appointed 13/12/2018)
Michael Doyle	-
Olga Estridge	-
Pat Clarke	-

Company Secretary  
John Dolan



**Left to right; DFI's Joanne McCarthy Senior Executive Officer Policy & Research and Elaine Howley at 2018's AGM.**



**Left to right; DFI's Laura English, Martina Nicholson and Aaron Browne at 2018's AGM.**



# Extract from 2018 financial statement

Full financial details available on our web site [www.disability-federation.ie](http://www.disability-federation.ie)

## Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating Income and Expenditure) for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Restricted funds 2018 €	Unrestricted funds 2018 €	Total funds 2018 €	Total funds 2017 €
<b>Income from:</b>				
Charitable activities generating funds	227,472	1,516,105	<b>1,743,577</b>	1,734,405
Investments	-	-	-	101
Donations and legacies	-	89,812	<b>89,812</b>	108,396
Other income	105,975	17,320	<b>123,295</b>	38,534
<b>Total income</b>	<b>333,447</b>	<b>1,623,237</b>	<b>1,956,684</b>	<b>1,881,436</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities	281,718	1,638,323	<b>1,920,041</b>	1,821,026
Governance costs	-	74,998	<b>74,998</b>	69,435
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>281,718</b>	<b>1,713,321</b>	<b>1,995,039</b>	<b>1,890,461</b>
Net surplus (deficit) before other recognised				
Gains and losses	51,729	(90,084)	<b>(38,355)</b>	(9,025)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>51,729</b>	<b>(90,084)</b>	<b>(38,355)</b>	<b>(9,025)</b>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	(4,047)	1,450,653	<b>1,446,606</b>	1,455,631
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>47,682</b>	<b>1,360,569</b>	<b>1,408,251</b>	<b>1,446,606</b>

## Disability Federation of Ireland

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Registered number: 140948

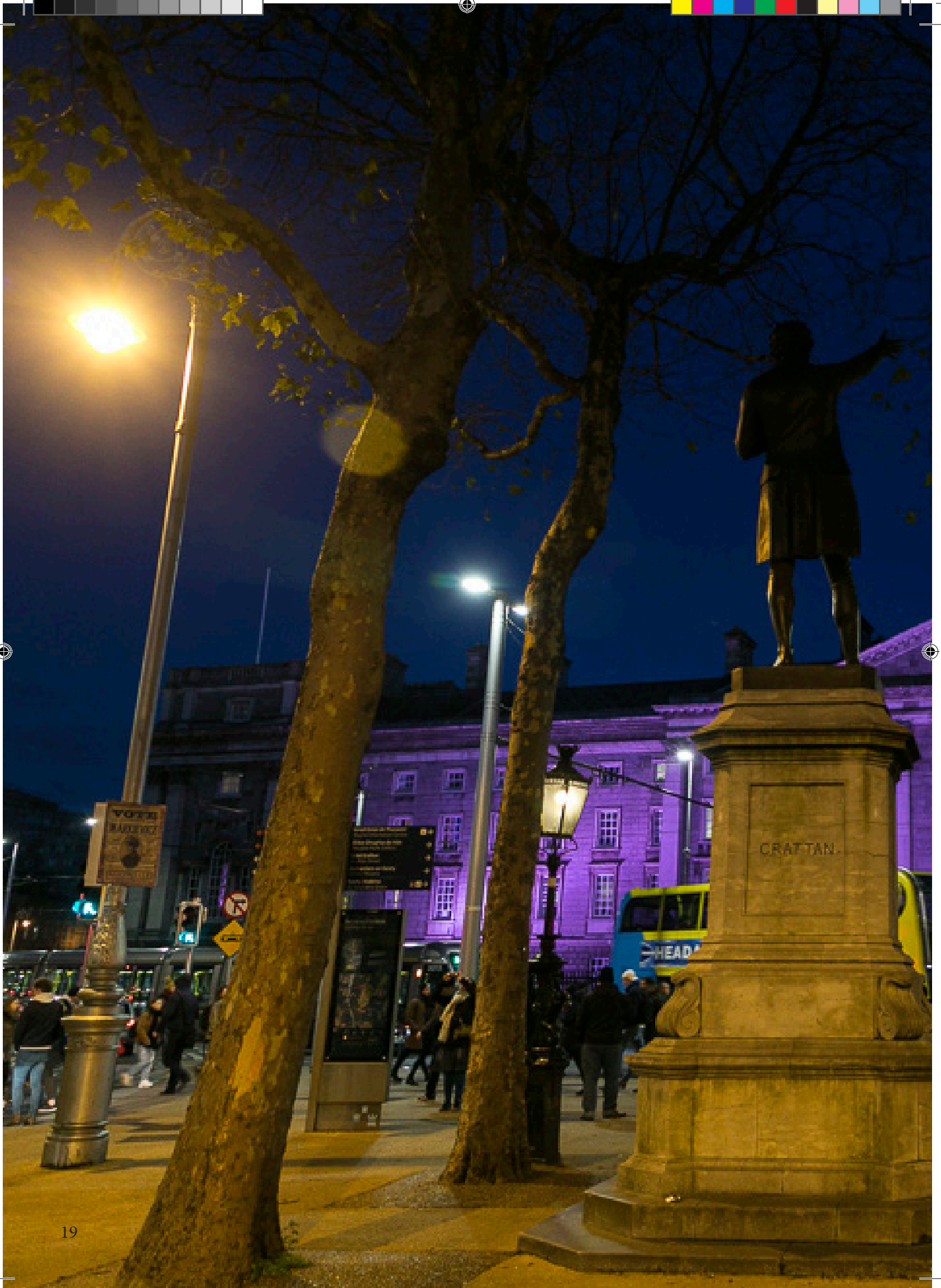
	2018	2017
	€	€
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	212,156	196,320
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	191,818	298,013
Cash at bank and in hand	1,356,997	1,472,852
	<u>1,548,815</u>	<u>1,770,865</u>
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	<u>(352,720)</u>	<u>(520,579)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>1,196,095</b>	<b>1,250,286</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b><u>1,408,251</u></b>	<b><u>1,446,606</u></b>
<b>Charity funds</b>		
Restricted funds	47,682	(4,047)
Unrestricted funds	1,360,569	1,450,653
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b><u>1,408,251</u></b>	<b><u>1,446,606</u></b>

The Company's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the directors on 9 th May 2019 and signed on their behalf, by:

**Fran Brennan**  
Director

**Gary Lee**  
Director





College Green, Dublin, lit up #PurpleLights 3rd December 2018





# DFI is about making Ireland fairer for people with disabilities.

We work to create an Ireland where everyone can thrive, where everyone is equally valued.

We do this by supporting people with disabilities and strengthening the disability movement.

There are over 120 member organisations in DFI. We also work with a growing number of other organisations that have a significant interest in people with disabilities.

DFI provides: Information | Training and Support | Networking | Advocacy and Representation | Research, Policy Development and Implementation | Organisation and Management Development

Disability is a societal issue and DFI works with Government, and across all the social and economic strands and interests of society.



[www.disability-federation.ie](http://www.disability-federation.ie)

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Disability Federation of Ireland, Fumbally Court, Fumbally Ln, Dublin

