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Chairperson's Welcome



Anne McCarthy,
Chairperson

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for 2017. The past year at the Centre has been one filled with care, concern and support for those who have experienced sexual assault.

The mission of the Centre is to prevent, educate, advocate and provide counselling care for victims of sexual violence. The core values agreed by the Board and brought to life by the Centre staff are: survivor centred care, holistic and humanistic care, an open door policy, to hold perpetrators to account, and to maintain and develop local national and international networks.

In keeping with this mission, the CEO Mary Crilly has continued to tirelessly lead the education programme. She has visited schools throughout the city and county of Cork, engaging with pupils and their teachers. The core message imparted to the young persons is to understand the meaning of consent. We were invited to a number of schools and hundreds of students have heard this message in 2017.

When a client makes contact with and comes to the Centre, supportive, experienced Counsellors meet them. I want to thank the ongoing professional compassionate care provided by the Counsellors to the clients. Each client is assigned their own Counsellor who supports them through the healing and recovery process. The numbers seeking help and support has again increased in 2017.

A special thanks to the Board members. They meet regularly to support the ongoing work of the Centre and maintain good governance. The Board members are: Nura Haji, who brings a knowledge of issues facing women immigrants and ethnic minority communities, Dr Catherine O Sullivan brings her knowledge of criminal law and working with young adults, Noirin Fleming brings a wealth of experience of working with young persons and engaging with corporate governance, Mary Higgins, retired as a Director of Midwifery in CUMH is an internationally renowned midwife, representing Ireland at the W.H.O.

The Board is deeply grateful to Tusla, its principal funder and the Department of Justice and Equality. The work could not be carried out without the support received from the funders. A special group who deserve our gratitude are the volunteers who support the Centre's work.

In 2017, the Centre continued to care for clients, from meeting them in SATU (Sexual Assault Treatment Unit) to caring for their mental and emotional recovery, to supporting them in court. This has been achieved with the ongoing help and commitment from all concerned.

Anne McCarthy

CHAIRPERSON, SEXUAL VIOLENCE CENTRE, CORK
October 2018

Comments from the Director



Mary Crilly, Director

As I write this, it is already Autumn 2018 and 2017 seems far away. Both 2017 and 2018 have been eventful, so far, for Sexual Violence, both in Ireland and worldwide.

As I look back on 2017, I see it at a pivotal year in our 34th year of providing services to victims of sexual violence, their families and friends and the wider community. It was a year of forward strides and a year of backwards steps.

It was a year that saw 413 victims of sexual violence attend the Centre and 199 family members and friends. This is a substantial increase in demand for services on 2016 and earlier years. This increased demand has not, to date, resulted in increased and adequate funding to meet demand. As the demand for crisis and support services increases, unfortunately the waiting times for counselling and psychotherapy lengthens.

In 2017 we witnessed increased dialogue on the issue of consent and saw the establishment of the #metoo movement.

I was encouraged to see the Sexual Offences Act 2017 signed into Law. The Act defines ‘consent’, criminalises the purchase of sexual services, in addition to strengthening offences in relation to child pornography.

My personal low points continue to be: victim blaming, low conviction rates, short sentences and not believing victims. My personal high points continue to be the students and young people I meet every year. They give me hope. They keep me going. They tell me that the future can be better than the present and the past.

Mary Crilly

DIRECTOR, SEXUAL VIOLENCE CENTRE, CORK

November 2018

About Sexual Violence Centre Cork

The Centre has provided services to victims of Sexual Violence in Cork City and County since 1983. The Centre was formerly known as Cork Rape Crisis Service. The decision to change our name to Sexual Violence Centre Cork was made in 2004 to coincide with the Centre's 21st year anniversary of service provision. This name more accurately reflects both the range of clients who attend the Centre and the reality of sexual violence they experience. Sexual violence includes rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, online sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sex trafficking, FGM, forced marriage and domestic violence. Our service provision had also expanded to include male victims and teenagers aged 14 and upwards.

The Centre has 2 main aims:

- To work towards the elimination of violence in society
- To provide the highest quality of service provision to victims of sexual violence



Sexual Violence Centre Cork
5 Camden Place, Cork City
www.sexualviolence.ie
tel: 1890 496 496

The Sexual Violence Centre Cork is a registered charity (no.9591) and a company limited by guarantee (no.242357). The Centre has adopted the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland (The Governance Code). The Centre is registered as a lobbying organisation on the register of lobbying.ie.

Board of Directors:
Noirin Fleming
Nura Hagi
Mary Higgins
Anne McCarthy
Catherine O'Sullivan

Aim 1: Working towards the elimination of violence in society

The Primary focus of the Centre is to work towards the elimination of sexual violence in society. To this end, the Centre is involved in the area of sexual violence at local, regional, national and international levels. The Centre engages with a range of community and statutory bodies and engages with second and third level students and their colleges / schools.

The Centre is a member of the following:

- Cork City Public Participation Network
- Cork City Council, Joint Policing Committee
- Cork University Maternity Hospital, Domestic Violence Committee
- University College Cork, Society Appeals Committee
- National Women's Council of Ireland
- The Wheel
- Children's Rights Alliance
- The National Clinical Review Group
- National Observatory on Violence Against Women
- Anti Human Trafficking Unit Department of Justice and Equality, Referrals Committee
- WAVE, Violence Against Women Europe
- European Women's Lobby, National Experts Group
- It Stops Now, Advisory Committee
- ESTHE – Ending Sexual Harassment and Violence in Third Level Education



Consent Flag designed and raised by students of Mount Mercy College Cork

Education

In 2017 the Centre made 30 visits to second level schools, reaching over 1500 students, engaging primarily with Transition Year, Fifth and Sixth Year students. Transition Year students have the opportunity to engage in in the Young Social Innovators Initiative, the main goal of which is to encourage young people to get involved in actions which help improve the lives of others in their community. As in previous years, a number of schools highlighted the issues of sexual violence, with the issue of consent featuring prominently in 2017.

The Centre has a long history of engaging with third level institutions and students. In 2017, the Centre continued this tradition by providing student work placements and in assisting in project work and research projects. In 2017, Mary Crilly was honoured with an award from the Students Union, University College Cork for outstanding contribution to student life.



Aim 1: Working towards the elimination of violence in society continued

Community Engagement

Community engagement and networking are an integral part of the work of the Centre. They facilitate us in raising awareness of sexual violence, in liaising with other services and in reaching 'hard to reach' groups.

Awareness Raising

The Centre considers awareness raising to be one of its core functions. The Centre strives to prevent sexual violence, to raise awareness of it and to challenge the myths and disbeliefs surrounding the issue. It is also of vital importance that victims of violence know that there are services available, and that there is a place they can turn to.

The Centre both organises and participates in specific campaigns and events at given points throughout the calendar year:

- V Day – February 14th
- International Women's Day – March 8th
- 16 days of Activism – November 25th to December 10th
- 'Christmas Can Be Fragile' Campaign – Christmas period

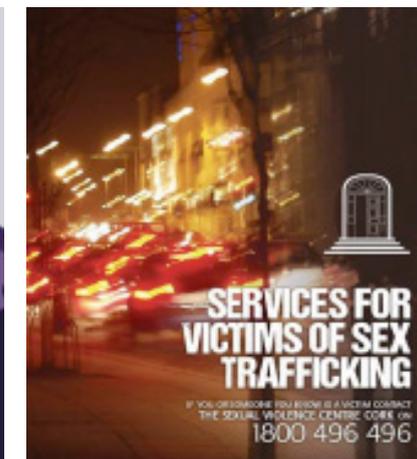
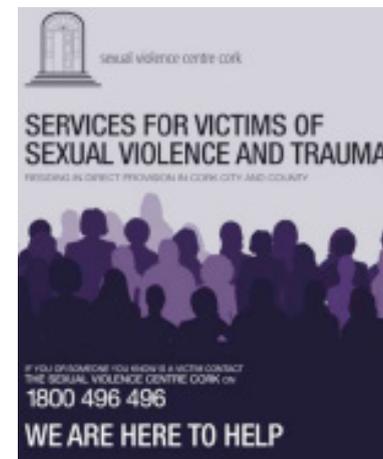
In past years, the Centre was a recipient of funding from COSC (Department of Justice Equality) towards our awareness raising campaigns. COSC has taken the decision to redirect its budget to national campaigns. The Centre is now totally dependent on donations and the fundraising efforts of supporters to continue our local and regional awareness campaigns.

European Projects

In 2017, the Centre was a partner in 2 EU Projects. The CONVEY Project aims to change the attitudes and behaviour of young people and will continue until 2019. Full details can be viewed on www.conveyproject.eu. The Gender Alternatives Foundation, Bulgaria are initiating the first Rape Crisis Service in Bulgaria and the Centre will be involved in multi-agency training.

Media

The recent trend of moving away from traditional print media and towards radio and social media continued throughout 2017. The Centre's online presence and activity continued to attract increased audiences and engagements. As engagement with Facebook pages declines, there is increased engagement on Twitter and Instagram.



Launched posters for two new projects, started by the Centre in 2017

Aim 2: Service provision

The Centre provides services to victims of sexual violence, their families and friends, in addition to supporting professionals and community / voluntary organisations to assist victims.

Victims of sexual violence include victims of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, sex trafficking, FGM and forced marriage. We provide services to women and men and teenagers aged 14 and upwards. We serve the geographical area of Cork City and County. Services are delivered from our city centre location at 5 Camden Place Cork. Up until 2010 the Centre operated outreach centres in Mallow, to serve the area of North Cork, and Bantry to serve the area of West Cork. These Centres were closed due to funding reductions that were experienced by many organisations. Funding has not been secured to date, to reverse these closures.

The Centre is committed to providing counselling and therapy of the highest ethical and professional standards. Counsellors/psychotherapists employed by the Centre are professionally qualified and accredited and have many years of experience working within the area of trauma and sexual violence.

The centre provided the following services in 2017:

- Telephone Helpline
- Attendance at the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU)
- Crisis Support
- Counselling, psychotherapy and art therapy
- Court Accompaniment
- Advocacy and Referral
- Preparation of Victim Impact Reports
- The telephone helpline is manned Monday to Friday, from 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm. The messaging services are checked on a regular basis.
- Attendance at the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit, based in the South Infirmery / Victoria Hospitals is available 24/7, 365 days a year.
- Crisis support is provided in the immediate aftermath of a rape or sexual assault. There may be a waiting list for counselling / therapy services. We endeavor to arrange an initial appointment within 48 hours of making contact with the Centre.

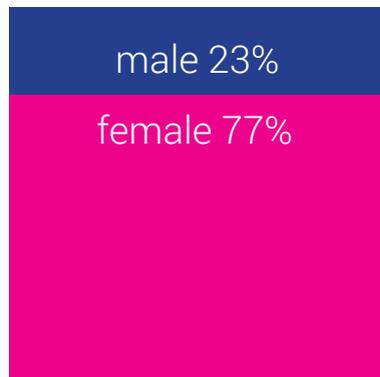
ALL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE

Aim 2: Service provision continued

Clients

In 2017, the centre provided services to 413 victims of sexual violence. Of those, 343 presented for the first time in 2017. In 2016, the comparable figures were 310 and 248. The Centre is used to seeing reports of sexual violence and demand for services increase year on year. An increase of this magnitude is unprecedented and has resulted in increased waiting times for some services.

Gender of new clients 2017



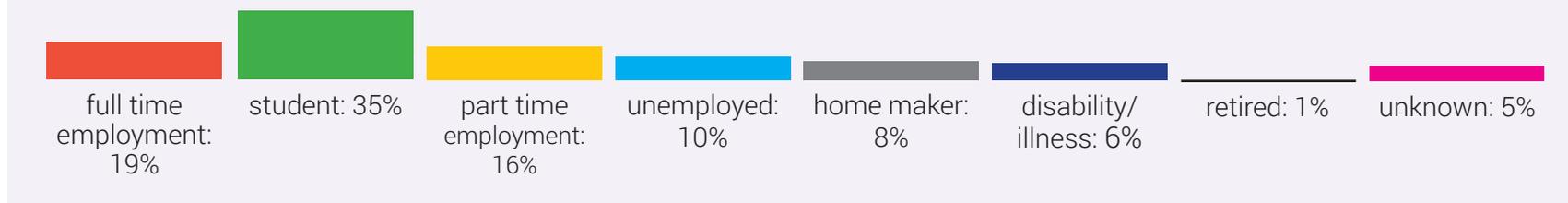
Incidences of sexual violence reported by new clients 2017



The following analysis refers to clients presenting for the first time in 2017.

- 91% of clients were female, 9% were male
- In cases of adult rape/assault, 30% were aged 18–23
- 35% of clients were students
- 6% declared a disability
- 4% of clients were homeless
- 7% of clients were in direct provision
- 5% of clients identified as GSD
- 1% of client were members of the travelling community

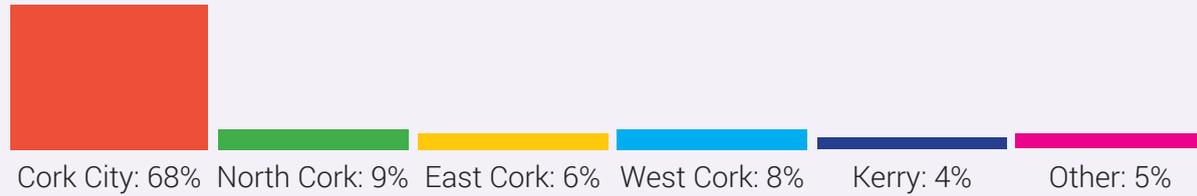
Occupation of new clients 2017



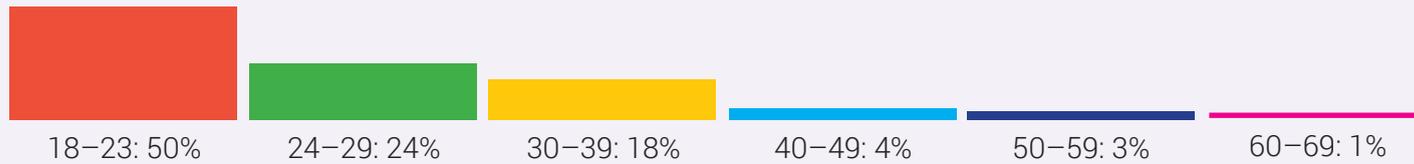
Aim 2: Service provision continued

Clients

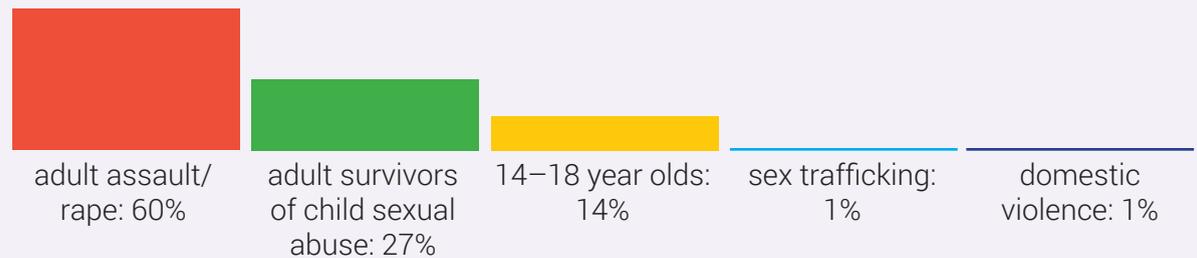
Residence of new clients 2017



Adult rape/assault: age at time of assault



Types of sexual violence reported by new clients 2017



Aim 2: Service provision continued

Clients

Counselling appointments allocated in 2017

• Attended	1,137
• Client cancelled	373
• No show	123
• Client on leave	52
• Total	1,685

A total of 1685 counselling appointments were offered in 2017, compared to 1633 in 2016 and 1536 in 2015. This includes initial sessions, crisis support and counselling.

Primary stated reason for seeking counselling at initial appointment, 2017:

• Support	31%
• Current difficulties	20%
• Crisis	16%
• Coping difficulties	13%
• Mental health difficulties	5%
• Emotional reasons	4%
• Relationship	4%
• Suicidal	1%
• Self-harm	1%
• Physical health	1%
• Sexuality	1%
• Addiction	1%
• Eating disorder	1%

Most clients report a multiplicity of reasons/issues.

Aim 2: Service provision continued

Family & Friends

In 2017, the Centre provided services to 199 family members or friends of victims of sexual violence. This compares to 155 in 2016.

Family Friends: Gender

- Male 23%
- Female 77%

Relationship to new clients 2017

- Mother 47%
- Friend 17%
- Father 14%
- Other Family Member 10%
- Spouse/Partner 6%
- Sister 5%
- Work colleague 1%

Services Sought by Family/Friend

- Accompanied victim 30%
- Advice on support 29%
- Making an appointment for Victim 17%
- Seeking information on centre services 11%
- Making appointment for self 4%
- Medical advice 3%
- Legal advice 2%
- Other advice 1.5%
- Accompaniment services 1%
- Information re. reporting to the Gardaí 1%
- Support session 0.5%

Professionals

The Centre provided information and support services to 167 professionals who had encountered victims of sexual violence in the course of their work.

Telephone Helpline & Texts 2017

In 2017, the telephone helpline received **2,001 telephone calls**.

The text message service received **1,466 text messages**. This is a total of **3,467 contacts**. The Centre also receives communications via email and our social media platforms.

Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) Accompaniment 2017

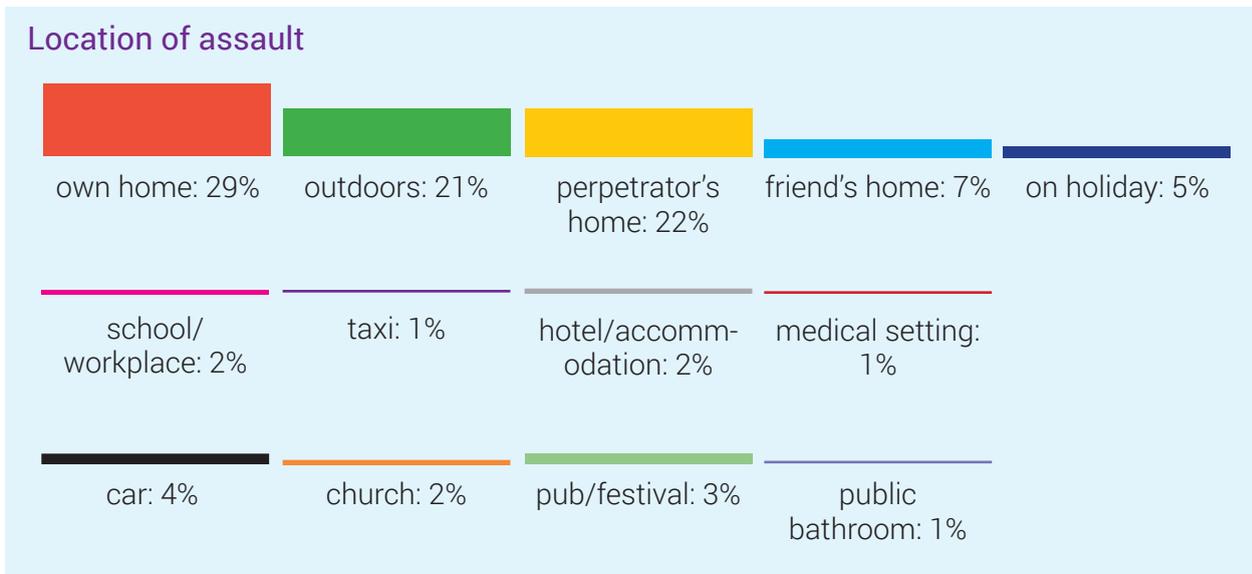
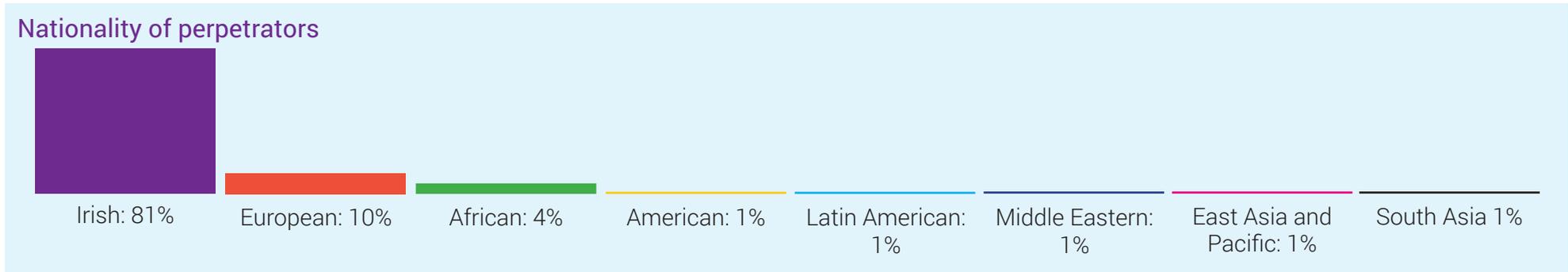
Staff from the Centre responded to **137 callouts** to SATU in 2017. This compares to callouts totalling 92 in 2016.

Court Accompaniment 2017

A total of 16 individuals were accompanied in court in 2017.

Aim 2: Service provision continued

Perpetrators



Highlights 2017



Mary Crilly in conversation with Louise O'Neill as part of the CONVEY Project. Louise O'Neill is author of 'Asking For It', a harrowing novel on the issue of sexual consent, which asks important questions of the reader.



Mary Crilly speaking at the WAVE Network conference in Budapest.



Mary Crilly with Madeline Black, author of 'Unbroken', an autobiographical account of her experiences of sexual violence.



Speaking at the general assembly of the European Women's Lobby in Brussels.



Workshop with Ballincolling Community School Young Social Innovators about the work we do at the Sexual Violence Centre.



Students from Mount Mercy College Cork.



The cast from 'Vagina Monologues', who performed in the Aula Maxima in UCC.



Happy to be one of the chosen recipients of the Raise and Give donation from UCC students.

Financial Accounts

We have audited the financial statements of Cork Rape Crisis Centre CLG for the year ended 31/12/17 which comprise the profit and loss account, statement of income and retained earnings, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Certified Public Accountants in Ireland.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the directors responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the directors report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31/12/17 and of its loss for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant reporting framework and, in particular the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the director's report is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

Gary Buchan,
For and on behalf of, Gordon, Lane & Co., Statutory Auditors & Certified Public Accountants,
Hanover House, 85–89 South Main Street, Cork
26/03/18

Financial Accounts continued

Profit and loss account Financial year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 €	2016 €
Turnover	5	335,524	374,464
Gross profit		335,524	374,464
Administrative expenses		(356,104)	(359,374)
Operating (loss)/profit	6	(22,580)	15,090
(Loss)/profit before taxation		(22,580)	15,090
Tax on (loss)/profit		-	-
(loss)/Profit for the financial year		(22,580)	15,090

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

Financial Accounts continued

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2017

	Note	2017		2016	
		€	€	€	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11	170,756		170,224	
			170,756		170,224
Current assets					
Cash at hand in bank		65,415		70,197	
		65,415		70,197	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(48,492)		(39,986)	
Net current assets			16,923		30,211
Total assets less current liabilities			187,679		200,435
Net assets			187,679		200,435
Capital and reserves					
Revaluation reserve	15		149,936		149,936
Profit and loss account	15		37,743		50,499
Members funds			187,679		200,435