

Benefacts |

Benefacts
Annual Report
2016

Benefacts,
6 Merrion Square,
Dublin 2,
D02 FF95,
Ireland.

Tel: +353 (0)1 536 7130

Email: info@benefacts.ie

www.benefacts.ie

 [@benefacts_ie](https://twitter.com/benefacts_ie)

 [benefacts](https://www.linkedin.com/company/benefacts)

Funding for Benefacts to build a data infrastructure for Irish nonprofits 2015-2017 has been provided under a unique three-year partnership between the Irish Government and philanthropy.



The
ATLANTIC
Philanthropies



THE IRELAND FUNDS

Chairman's introduction

Ireland is uniquely dependent on nonprofit organisations for the delivery of many public services – especially in health and social care, in education, in culture, sport and recreation. Thanks to Benefacts, for the first time we have an accurate picture of the scale of this sector, and the public can see who is engaged providing these services in our name, and at what cost.

Making this kind of information freely available is at the heart of Benefacts work. In a very short time, the company has brought hard evidence to a sector which for generations has relied on guesswork and anecdote, augmented by costly surveys, to support business decisions that have far-reaching impacts.

At the same time as providing a much-needed intelligence infrastructure to the sector and its funders and regulators, Benefacts has shone a light on nearly 20,000 organisations that have all suffered from the loss of public trust flowing from a small number of well-publicised controversies. There is a compelling need for transparent information – freely, clearly and impartially presented – to contribute to the restoration of trust in the sector.

To meet the challenges of growth and diversification of our work, Benefacts has grown its Board and has given some additional focus to its governance during 2016. We have been fortunate to attract new directors whose motivation and experience will strengthen our capacity to plan for the future. We have been fortunate also in the insights and support we receive from our two stakeholders groups – one involving our funders and institutional interests within government, the other drawn from civil society.



Bernie Cullinan
Chairman

Managing Director's introduction

Benefacts brings together a team of skilled professionals, working together to create something that is unique in Ireland – an authoritative and trusted repository of information that can be put to many uses by nonprofits, their participants, beneficiaries, funders and other stakeholders.

We believe that making more information more freely accessible to all can only serve to benefit civil society, and we work actively with the sector to improve standards of disclosure. This is a big undertaking and won't be achieved in a single year, but we are confident that it will repay the effort manifold.

Not least, we hope that a greater investment by nonprofits in the quality of their regulatory reports, harmonised and amplified by Benefacts into a digital resource, will pay off in the form of a reduced regulatory burden for all.

In passing the halfway point of our three-year proof of concept project, we believe we have made a convincing case for public disclosure to be maintained at these high levels, and developed even further.



Patricia Quinn
Managing Director

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General information

Directors

Bernie Cullinan (Chairperson)
Patricia Quinn
Philip Smith
Bob Ottenhoff
Brian Sheehan
Rory Coveney (appointed 4 May 2016)
Anna Visser (appointed 5 October 2016)
Tom Boland (appointed 19 December 2016)
Sinead McSweeney (resigned 11 April 2016)
Ian Duffy (resigned 21 June 2016)

Secretary Geraldine Sweeney

Company Number 553387

Registered Office 6 Merrion Square
Dublin 2

Auditor KPMG
1 Stokes Place
Dublin 2

Bank Bank of Ireland
St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

Solicitors Beauchamps Solicitors
Riverside Two
Sir John Rogerson's Quay
Dublin 2

Directors' Report

The directors present their report for the year ended 31 December 2016.

Benefacts' purpose and key objectives

Benefacts was established to make the work of civil society organisations in Ireland more transparent and more accessible – to themselves, to their stakeholders and to the public at large. Over the period 2015-2017, we set out to

1. improve information about, and understanding of the work of, all Irish nonprofits
2. promote greater public confidence in the use of the public's money
3. provide decision-makers with timely access to reliable data, collected and classified in a way that facilitates analysis
4. devise and develop web-based services that will help to reduce bureaucratic overheads and support administrative reform, specifically in line with the Government's public service reform agenda
5. provide the sector with intelligence tools that will support business planning at the level of organisations and sub-sectors

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company is the creation, maintenance and deployment of an extensive database derived from the public regulatory disclosures (including the financial statements where available) of all entities within scope, and the provision of web services including a free public website.

Review of 2016

Having designed and built our core systems, and consulted widely on some key issues including our approach to classification during 2015, our principal focus in 2016 was to ensure the quality and consistency of our data, and to launch a number of online and offline services derived from the database (described below). These include some services for which we plan to levy charges in 2017 and beyond.

Strategic Impact

Free public website – benefacts.ie

In 2016, Benefacts provided free searchable access to its database of Irish nonprofits online for the first time. www.benefacts.ie was launched on target in May, with an online listing for every nonprofit organisation in the database including their registered name(s), number(s) and address, a link to their own website and an internationally-recognised classification. Access to the website is free and does not require registration.

For about half of the nonprofits in the database, Benefacts is able to provide an analysis of their governance and financial profile, and freely downloadable copies of their current constitutional and reporting documents.

At the end of the year we extended the scope of the database, bringing the total number of nonprofits on benefacts.ie to 19,265. With the benefit of feedback from some of the nonprofits listed, we released an update to the website at the end of the year.

Performance

In the eight months between launch and the year-end, the website was live 24/7 with no downtime. There were 40,266 visits to Benefacts.ie, made by 27,475 users.

On the website, individual nonprofit organisation profiles were viewed more than 71,000 times, and their reports or constitutional documents were downloaded more than 19,000 times.

Almost 70% of visitors used benefacts.ie to search for a particular organisation. The three most commonly researched sectors were Health, Social Services, and Arts & Culture.

Plans for 2017

Our target is to grow traffic to the website incrementally, supported by regular social media posts, and to build regular and consistent usage, based on surveys to assess the needs of our key user groups.

“ We welcome the site and hope that it grows and offers even more transparency to the sector ”

Pat Doherty, Head of Strategic Development and Funding
ALONE

Benefacts Nonprofit Sector Analysis

Based on an approach to classifying nonprofits used by the Central Statistics Office and by Eurostat, we provided an analysis on benefacts.ie/ explore of the sector at large and of each of its twelve constituent sub-sectors.

This illustrates the geographic distribution, and the institutional, financial and funding profile of the sector at large and each of its constituent sub-sectors, derived for the first time from full population data.

Performance

Sector analysis attracted 16% of all traffic to Benefacts.ie during 2016 or 14,494 visits. After the search function and the homepage, this is the third most visited part of the site.

Plans for 2017

In 2017, we will publish a report early in Q2, providing a much more detailed analysis on nonprofits and philanthropic giving in Ireland, which we plan to be the first in an annual series.

Benefacts Open Data

Only some of the data harvested by Benefacts from public sources is “open” – that is, publicly available machine-readable data that can be universally and readily accessed, used and redistributed free of charge.

Having identified the ~20,000 civil society organisations in our scope, Benefacts re-publishes open data about these as a single open dataset augmented by the Benefacts sector classification. We keep this current with daily updates, and it can be freely downloaded from benefacts.ie or from data.gov.ie in human- or machine-readable formats. We also provide the summary data available on every nonprofit listing in the form of an Application Programme Interface (API) which allows registered users with the technical capacity to do so to extract these directly from the database.

Performance

In the six weeks between this service going live and the year-end, there were 503 open data file downloads, and 231 specialist API users.

Plans for 2017

We will maintain this free open data service, augmenting it with new scope, and with daily updates as these become available. We will look for partners in deploying this data in a range of uses and applications.

Benefacts Data Services

In cooperation with nonprofit lead bodies and with the CSO, we devised our first standardized data products. These can be provided to end-users at a higher standard of reliability and fraction of the cost of alternative survey methods.

Performance

Working with a dozen sector leader representative or umbrella bodies including the CII, the FedVol, the Wheel and others, we prepared sample datasets and distributed these under license.

Plans for 2017

We will explore the future uses of Benefacts data services with sector interests and others.

Benefacts Bespoke Solutions

In cooperation with partners in government and in the sector, we developed individual solutions to meet particular needs or opportunities. For example we provided Revenue with digital link to the Benefacts database, and cooperated with the Carmichael Centre to devise a widget that simplifies the work of compliance disclosure for a pilot group of nonprofits.

Performance

We will survey end-user satisfaction during 2017

Plans for 2017

Working with our Stakeholders Forum and our Project Advisory Group, we will seek other opportunities to customize our data in ways that benefit the sector and its stakeholders.

Benefacts Analytics

In cooperation with institutional partners in government and philanthropies, we developed a dashboard for registered users to explore structured, domain-specific data about nonprofits. The regulatory, financial and governance data for this tool can be tailored specifically to each user's unique needs, and includes alerts and other automated analysis features, derived from three years' regulatory data.

Performance

User-testing was scheduled at the end of the year with trial users in the Arts Council, the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Social Protection respectively, the Health Service Executive, the Housing Agency, the Ireland Funds, Kildare County Council, and TúsIa.

Plans for 2017

Based on feedback to the prototype, we will roll the service out more widely in 2017.

Activities

Strategic impact

	benefacts.ie	Benefacts Nonprofit Sector analysis	Benefacts Open data	Benefacts Data Services	Benefacts Bespoke Solutions	Benefacts Analytics
OBJECTIVES Improve information about, and understanding of the work of all Irish nonprofits	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Promote greater public confidence in the use of the public's money	✓	✓				
Provide decision-makers with timely access to reliable data			✓			✓
Devise and develop web-based services to help reduce administrative overheads and support reform				✓	✓	✓
Provide the sector with information services that will support business planning				✓	✓	

This chart connects the performance of the company during 2016 with what we set out to achieve (described on page 4).

Future Strategy

Benefacts strategy during 2015-2017 has been to demonstrate the utility of regulatory data from multiple sources – captured consistently, stored faithfully and promulgated in an impartial way – in providing a much-needed infrastructure for nonprofits and their stakeholders.

We have learned that raw data on its own is of interest to some, but not all of our users. We have converted the data into products (like Benefacts Analytics) and services (like our sectoral analysis), and we are actively engaging with end-users to discover what value this creates for them. So far, the response is very encouraging.

This means that in 2017 we will have solid evidence on which to formulate a future plan for the continuation and further development of the database and the public benefits derived from it.

“ Stunning, greatly appreciated and really underscores the value of Benefacts ”

Joe McGloin, Community Services Mid-Leinster,
Department of Social Protection.

Governance and Organisation

Company Information

Benefacts is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee without share capital. It operates out of its registered address in central Dublin. Its directors are appointed by the members of the company under the provisions of its constitution.

Directors' service on the board is voluntary (unpaid). The managing director is remunerated in her capacity as chief executive officer Note 6 and no other executive serves as a Director. Senior managers are regularly in attendance at meetings of the Board and its sub-committees or working groups.

The Company Secretary is Ger Sweeney, who received certified training in the role on being assigned to it.

Directors of the company

The current directors are shown in General Information (page 3). Non-executive Directors serve for a three-year term and for up to three successive terms. New Directors were appointed during 2016 following a public advertisement process.

Rory Coveney was appointed on 4 May 2016.

Anna Visser was appointed on 5 October 2016.

Tom Boland was appointed on 19 December 2016.

Sinead McSweeney resigned on 11 April 2016 and Ian Duffy resigned on 21 June 2016.

Bernie Cullinan, who is Chair of the Board sub-committee for Audit, Risk and Governance, assumed the role of Acting Chairperson on the resignation of Ian Duffy.

Biographical information on all directors is published on the company's website.

Competencies

Directors of Benefacts are recruited in line with a competency framework that takes account of the company's mission and values. Specifically, the company seeks to ensure that its Board has expertise in information technologies especially in the context of start-ups; in the work of nonprofits and philanthropies; in public communications; and in public governance with particular reference to the current policy and regulatory environment.

On appointment, each Director receives a detailed briefing on the work of the company and meets team leads to familiarise themselves with its technologies and processes.

Company Information

(continued)

Meetings

During 2016 the Board of Benefacts met nine times; a table setting out the attendance of directors at meetings of the Board is given below.

	Joined the Board	Retired from the Board	Meetings attended in 2016 (possible meetings)
Tom Boland	19th Dec 2016		1 (1)
Rory Coveney	4th May 2016		4 (5)
Bernie Cullinan	1st Dec 2015		8 (9)
Ian Duffy	28th Nov 2014	21st June 2016	5 (5)
Bob Ottenhoff	2nd April 2015		8 (9)
Patricia Quinn	28th Nov 2014		9 (9)
Brian Sheehan	28th Nov 2014		8 (9)
Philip Smith	28th Nov 2014		9 (9)
Sinead McSweeney	1st Dec 2015	11th April 2016	2 (2)
Anna Visser	5th October 2016		2 (2)

Governance standards

Having committed to take steps to implement it in the course of the year, the company has stated that it complies on a voluntary basis with the provisions of the Governance Code – a voluntary governance standard for nonprofit organisations, promulgated and monitored by sector leaders.

This provides, among other things, for Directors to provide the company with an annually updated statement of interests, and a statement of compliance with the company's ethical and business codes of conduct.

Audit, Governance and Risk

The Audit, Governance and Risk committee met three times, and all of its members - Bernie Cullinan (Chair), Philip Smith, Patricia Quinn - participated in all of the meetings. Senior managers were also in attendance.

The work of the committee was chiefly concerned with review of management accounts, financial strategy, approval of financial and other business procedures, governance standards, and consideration of business risk and reports from the management team on risk management and mitigation.

Company Information

(continued)

During 2016, Benefacts had an average of 15 full-time equivalent staff:

- three with specialist data management, programming and IT skills, who are responsible for the design and quality of the database, the production and maintenance of the website, and the fulfilment of other web-based services;
- seven full-time equivalents with financial accounting expertise, who are responsible for analysing financial statements and harvesting the data contained in them;
- two with digital communications and data analysis skills, who are involved in web content, communications, sector engagement and service development
- three with sector knowledge, general management and project governance experience, who manage the project and deliver on its accountabilities to funders and other stakeholders.

Staff are encouraged to maintain their skills and professional networks, and are supported to do so. Staff performance is reviewed and managed through a formal process.

“ A true treasure trove of data. It is fantastic to have it all in one place ”

Diarmaid Ó Corrbuí, CEO,
Carmichael Centre

Stakeholding Interests

From the outset, Benefacts has placed a high value on engagement with stakeholding interests – funders, nonprofits listed on its website, regulatory sources of data, data users, sectoral interests, civil society/the general public.

Funders

We engage with funders and other institutional stakeholders in Government by means of a Project Advisory Group (PAG), whose terms of reference were agreed with the funders. The Benefacts PAG was chaired during 2016 by an official of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, and it includes a representative from each of the funding stakeholders. Its other members include a representative from each of the Central Statistics Office; the Charities Regulatory Authority; the Health Services Executive; the Housing Agency and Government Departments respectively of Environment, Community & Local Government, Foreign Affairs & Trade, Health, and Social Protection.

During 2016 the PAG met five times, and its work included noting the launch of the free public website, considering a mid-term progress review, approving a set of pilot proof-of-concept activities, and establishing a working group to facilitate the development of the new Benefacts Analytics service. During 2017, its workplan will include monitoring/review of new services, project evaluation and future planning.

Listed nonprofits

Benefacts re-uses public information derived from various public sources (listed on benefacts.ie), under the provisions of Open Data regulations. It is not necessary nor would it be practical for us to establish contact with all of the ~20,000 nonprofit entities in the scope of our database. That said, we take our responsibilities as curators of other peoples' data very seriously and we respond quickly and actively to every query or expression of concern about data published on benefacts.ie.

During 2016 we received 223 queries or requests for review from listed nonprofits. Most queries were resolved within two weeks and in many cases we used them to make small continuous adjustments to the way information is presented on the website. We also learned a lot about how the sector views the Benefacts project, and at the year-end we supplemented this with a short online survey whose results will feed into further service enhancement.

Regulators and registrars

Benefacts model involves acquiring data from various different sources listed on our website. Sometimes there are inconsistencies in data about the same organisations, derived from different sources. We flag these, resolve them where possible, and keep the public regulators and registrars advised of what we are doing. We also co-operate with the givers and monitors of two voluntary codes – the Governance Code, and the Best Practice Fundraising Standards – and republish their lists with their approval.

Data users including Sectoral interests

We identified some of the leading sectoral umbrella or representative bodies and had direct meetings with their Boards of Directors and senior managers. We organised seminars for wider interest groups including professional analysts and research interests in the context of the launch of benefacts.ie in May. We have encouraged these interests to stay involved with the project through direct mailings, and through our social media activity.

Civil society/general public

We established a Stakeholders Forum in 2015 and in the course of 2016 advertised publicly for new members to join the forum, based on published terms of reference. Some elected to serve a second year's term, and some new members joined in September. The Benefacts Stakeholders Forum met 6 times during 2016, and provided invaluable insights and good counsel on various aspects of our plans – including our approach to stakeholder engagement more widely.

The Benefacts Stakeholders Forum 2015-2016 was chaired by Richard Dixon and its members were:

Marie Price Bolger (Irish Local Development Network), Katie Burke (Centre for Effective Services), Ivan Cooper (The Wheel), Richard Dixon (Concern), Niamh Gallagher (Women for Election), John Hannigan (Sunbeam House), Nuala Haughey (Tasc), Owen Keenan (Middlequarter), Ed Mulhall (Independent Media Specialist), Diarmaid Ó Corrbuí (Carmichael Centre), Anna Visser (The Advocacy Initiative), Alex Pigot (Addressing the Unaddressed).

The Benefacts Stakeholders Forum 2016-2017 is jointly chaired by Niamh Gallagher and John Hannigan and its members are:

Ian Brady (Davy), Jacki Conway (Barnardos), Ivan Cooper (The Wheel), Lucy Franks (Misean Cara), Niamh Gallagher (Women for Election), John Hannigan (Sunbeam House), Gillian Leo (Samaritans), Grainia Long (ISPCC), Ed Mulhall (Independent Media Specialist) Diarmaid Ó Corrbuí (Carmichael Centre).

“ The website looks great and will be an important source of information for the public, media and the sector itself.”

Sorcha Nic Mhathúna, Communications and Content Manager, Oxfam Ireland

Funding and Financial Review

Funding

In 2015, Benefacts entered into fixed-term (three-year) fixed-purpose funding agreements with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, with the Atlantic Philanthropies and with the Ireland Funds respectively. The quantum of government funding is matched by the philanthropic contributions; the amounts received and receivable over the life of the agreements are set out in Note 3 of the financial statements.

In 2017, the company is projecting modest earnings from service fees.

Financial review

The Company is currently funded by a combination of grants from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (D/PER), The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Ireland Funds until the 31 December 2017. The amount of funding received in 2016 was €1.45m (€0.65m D/PER; €0.6m Atlantic Philanthropies; and €0.2m The Ireland Funds).

The total amount of The Atlantic Philanthropies contribution 2015-2017 was paid in 2015/2016, in light of their withdrawal from active grant-making after 2016. An amount of €0.57m is held as a deferred grant liability in the balance sheet reflecting projected costs in 2017, and the phasing of funding from this source.

The expenditure of €1.29m in 2016 as detailed in Note 4 was mainly associated with the costs of keeping the database up to date during the year; of building and launching the free public website in May; and of developing, testing and providing a range of data services as described in the strategic review of 2016.

Reserve Policy

The main financial risks identified by the business would be unforeseen delays in the receipt of grant income from one or more of its funders, or indeed the non-receipt of such income. To mitigate and manage such risks the Company has agreed payment schedules with all of its funders, has agreed arrangements for timely project reporting, and has in accordance with reserve put in place a cash reserve of €200,000 which would cover two months of payroll and ongoing expenditure.

Future

As set out in the review of 2016, Benefacts plans to deliver and further develop products and services derived from its unique database, targeted on users in the public, nonprofit, philanthropic, research and other communities, as well as the public at large, and the private sector. In the course of 2017, the company will provide a further three-year strategy and business plan 2018-2020 to existing and prospective new funders, showing how it proposes to continue to create value for the nonprofit sector and its stakeholders on a cost-recovery basis.

Results for the year

The results of the Company for the reporting period are set out in the income and expenditure account and in the related notes.

Research and development

The company did not engage in any research and development activities during the year.

Events since the balance sheet date

No significant events have occurred since the year end.

Accounting records

The directors believe that they have complied with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to adequate accounting records by employing accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and by providing adequate resources to the financial function.

The accounting records of the Company are maintained at 6 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Disclosure of information to the auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware. Having made enquiries of fellow directors and the company's auditor, each director has taken all the steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

In accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, KPMG, Chartered Accountants, will continue in office.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf by;



Bernie Cullinan (Chair)



Brian Sheehan (Director)

10 March 2017

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the, Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

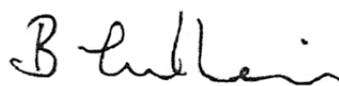
Irish Company law requires the directors to prepare the financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS102 under Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (Irish Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

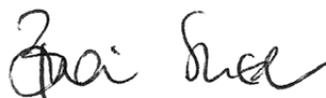
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether Irish Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The directors are also responsible for preparing a directors' report that complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information about Benefacts included on the Company's website. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.



Bernie Cullinan (Chair)



Brian Sheehan (Director)

Independent auditor's report to the members of Benefacts

We have audited the financial statements of Benefacts ("the company") for the year ended 31 December 2016 which comprise the statement of income and expenditure, the statement of financial position, the cash flow statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

Opinions and conclusions arising from our audit

1 Our opinion on the financial statements is unmodified

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 December 2016 and of its results for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

2 Our conclusions on other matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014 are set out below

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 and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

3 We have nothing to report in respect of matters on which we are required to report by exception

ISAs (UK & Ireland) require that we report to you if, based on the knowledge we acquired during our audit, we have identified information in the annual report that contains a material inconsistency with either that knowledge or the financial statements, a material misstatement of fact, or that is otherwise misleading.

In addition, the Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Benefacts (continued)

Basis of our report, responsibilities and restrictions on use

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 17, 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 Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

An audit undertaken in accordance with ISAs (UK & Ireland) 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 Annual 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.

Whilst an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK & Ireland) is designed to provide reasonable assurance of identifying material misstatements or omissions it is not guaranteed to do so. Rather the auditor plans the audit to determine the extent of testing needed to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements does not exceed materiality for the financial statements as a whole. This testing requires us to conduct significant audit work on a broad range of assets, liabilities, income and expense as well as devoting significant time of the most experienced members of the audit team, in particular the engagement partner responsible for the audit, to subjective areas of the accounting and reporting.

Our 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 auditor's 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.



David Meagher
for and on behalf of KPMG
Chartered Accountants,
Statutory Audit Firm
1 Stokes Place
St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

10 March 2017

Statement of Income and Expenditure

for year ended 31 December 2016

	<i>Note</i>	Year ended 31 Dec 2016	14 mth period ended 31 Dec 2015
		€000	€000
Income	3	1,292	852
Cost of operations		<u>(986)</u>	<u>(584)</u>
Gross surplus		306	268
Administrative expenses		<u>(306)</u>	<u>(268)</u>
Surplus for the reporting period	4	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2016

	Note	31 Dec 2016 €000	31 Dec 2015 €000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	8	65	36
Cash at bank and in hand	9	<u>610</u>	<u>472</u>
		675	508
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>684</u>	<u>518</u>
Net current liabilities		<u>(9)</u>	<u>(10)</u>
Net assets		<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

On behalf of the board



Bernie Cullinan (Chair)



Brian Sheehan (Director)

Cash Flow Statement

for year ended 31 December 2016

	<i>Note</i>	Year ended 31 Dec 2016	14 mth period ended 31 Dec 2015
		€000	€000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Surplus for the period		-	-
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Depreciation		4	3
(Increase) in trade and other debtors		(29)	(36)
Increase in trade and other creditors		166	518
Net cash from operating activities		141	485
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of equipment	7	(3)	(13)
Net cash from investing activities		(3)	(13)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		138	472
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year/period		472	-
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year/period		610	472

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

1. Basis of preparation

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 which is the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") as issued in August 2014. The presentation currency of these financial statements is Euro. All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest €1,000.

Going Concern

After reviewing the company's forecasts and projections, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company will have resources to enable the company to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Income

Income is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure when the effect of the transaction or other event results in an increase in the company's assets. Income from grant agreements is recognised when the activity has been undertaken. Income already received in relation to future years but not yet expended is shown in creditors as deferred income.

2.2 Operating leases

Rentals in respect of operating leases are charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure as incurred.

2.3 Taxation

Taxation on income and expenditure is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure. Corporation taxation for the period is up to date. The company is in compliance with Circular 44/2006 "Tax Clearance Procedures Grants, Subsidies and Similar Type Payments".

2.4 Basic financial instruments

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits.

2.5 Employee benefits

Retirement benefit

Pension benefits for members of the company's defined contribution scheme are funded over employees' period of service by way of contributions which are charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure as they become payable.

2.6 Government grants

Government grants are credited to the income and expenditure account in periods in which the related costs are incurred. In view of the fact that the company is in receipt of government funding, it is required to report according to the standards set out in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 14/2014 "Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds".

2.7 Tangible assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost less estimated residual value of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives using the straight-line method. The rate applicable for computer hardware is 3 years.

2.8 Impairment of assets

At each reporting period fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If the estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying value is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

2.9 Accounting Periods

The current period financial statements are for a 12 month period ending 31 December 2016. The comparative accounts are for the 14 month period ending 31 December 2015.

3. Income

All grants are restricted to the delivery of the project goals as specified within the contracts between the company and its respective funders. The purpose of all the grants was the creation of a database of Irish civil society organisations, and the design, creation, production and maintenance of a series of web-based services including a free public website and services for institutional users. Income was received from the following funders:

	2015 -2017 €'000	2016 €'000	2016 €'000	2016 €'000	2016 €'000	2015 €'000
	Full Commitment	Opening Balance Deferred Grant	Cash Receipts	Closing Balance Deferred Grant	Total Income	Total Income
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (D/PER)	1,950	-	650	-	650	350
Atlantic Philanthropies	1,400	413	600	571	442	387
The Ireland Funds	410	-	200	-	200	110
Other Income	-	-	-	-	-	5
	3,760	413	1,450	571	1,292	852

4. Surplus for the reporting period

The surplus on ordinary activities is stated after:

	2016	2015
	€'000	€'000
Cost of Operations		
Once-off setup costs	94	265
Database production	465	173
Web services delivery	212	127
Data services	215	19
	986	584
Administrative Expenses		
Core management & governance	101	147
Marketing/communications	130	70
Premises and other overheads	70	46
Auditor remuneration	5	5
	306	268
	1,292	852

5. Directors

No director received or is due fees for services as a director.

6. Employees

In respect of services as an executive, one director received total remuneration of €107,710 for the year ended 31 December 2016 (14 month period 2015: €106,764 remuneration plus €18,595 in respect of pre-incorporation services provided), including a pension contribution of €5,615 (14 month period 2015: €7,391).

Staff costs during the year were as follows (total costs in 2015 reflect the fact that most staff were recruited mid-year):

	Year ended	14 mth period
	31 Dec 2016	ended 31 Dec
	€000	2015
	€000	€000
Wages and salary costs	795	390
Social security costs	84	41
Retirement benefit costs	27	21
	906	452

6. Employees (continued)

The number of staff whose total remuneration was in excess of €60,000 was as follows:

	Year ended 31 Dec 2016	14 mth period ended 31 Dec 2015
	Number	Number
€60,000- €70,000	2	0
€70,001 - €80,000	1	0
€80,001 - €90,000	0	0
€90,001 - €100,000	1	0
€100,001 - €110,000	1	0
€110,001 - €120,000	0	1
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 1

The absence of comparative figures for 2015 reflects the fact that most staff started mid-year.

Benefacts operates a defined contribution scheme for its employees, to which the company contributes an employer contribution. The assets of the scheme are invested with an independent pensions provider which is also the scheme's Registered Administrator. Pension payments recognised as an expense during the year amount to €21,174 (14 month period 2015: €20,146) and €6,035 was due to the scheme at 31 December 2016 (2015: nil).

Total compensation of four key management personnel (including pension benefits) in 2016 amounted to €357,454 (2015: €275,690).

The number of full-time and part-time employees ranged from 17 to 32 during the year.

The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2016	2015
	Number	Number
Full-time	9	7
Part-time	6	2
	<hr/> 15 <hr/>	<hr/> 9 <hr/>

7. Tangible assets

	Computer hardware €'000
Cost	
At 1 January 2016	13
Additions	3
At 31 December 2016	16
Depreciation	
At 1 January 2016	3
Charge for the period	4
At 31 December 2016	7
Net book amount	
At 31 December 2016	9
Net book amount	
At 1 January 2016	10

8. Debtors

	2016 €'000	2015 €'000
Prepayments	11	11
Other Debtors	54	25
	65	36

9. Cash and cash equivalents

The cash balance held on the Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2016 largely reflects the grants received from The Atlantic Philanthropies during 2016, which will be fully released to the Statement of Income and Expenditure in 2017.

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2016 €'000	2015 €'000
Trade Creditors	19	52
Other Creditors	53	18
Accruals	40	35
Deferred Income	571	413
	684	518

The deferred income represents grant income received which exceeded the costs incurred in the reported period. This deferred income will be fully released to the Statement of Income and Expenditure in 2017.

11. Operating leases

Non-cancellable operating lease rentals are payable as follows:

	2016	2015
	€'000	€'000
Less than one year	25	25
Between one year and five years	-	25
	<u>25</u>	<u>50</u>

During the reporting period €25,000 was recognised as an expense in the income and expenditure account in respect of operating leases.

12. Contingent liabilities

Grant income could be repayable to the funders, were the company to fail persistently to comply with the terms of the funding agreements in any material respect.

13. Related parties

Transactions with key management personnel

FRS102 Section 33.2 (iii), requires the company to disclose transactions with “related parties”, the definition of which includes key management personnel.

In 2016 key management personnel was made up of the voluntary directors of the Board and four employees of the company namely the managing director and the heads respectively of operations, finance and IT. As set out in Note 5, no fees were paid to directors for services as directors, and none of the employees received any compensation outside of the remuneration set out in Note 6.

Other related party transactions

There were no other related party transactions during the reporting period to 31 December 2016 (14 month period 2015: nil).

14. Approval of financial statements

The directors approved the financial statements on 10 March 2017.

Data for social good

Benefacts is an Irish company that has created the Database of Irish Nonprofits - a unique and authoritative source of regulatory, financial and governance data on nonprofits in Ireland.

Benefacts harvests data from many public sources, curates it and publishes current extracts on benefacts.ie for easy access.

Working with partners in the public and nonprofit sectors, Benefacts has developed a number of online and bespoke data solutions for the benefit of the sector and its stakeholders.

Contact us at:

info@benefacts.ie

6 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland

www.benefacts.ie