



**IRISH SKIN  
FOUNDATION**

Supporting people with skin conditions

# **ISF** Annual Report 2021



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## Caroline Irwin celebrates ten years volunteering and peer support with the ISF

Founding board member of the ISF and dedicated patient advocate, Caroline Irwin stepped down as a charity trustee from the board earlier this year. Caroline has given over ten years of unwavering support and dedication, which has impacted the lives of thousands of people with psoriasis and other skin conditions. A dedicated campaigner, Caroline's commitment and tireless energy over the last decade has been instrumental in shaping the work and focus of the organisation since 2011.

Having founded the Psoriasis Association of Ireland in the 1990's, Caroline was among several people whose vision for a more ambitious, structured, and sustainable, approach to supporting people with many different inflammatory skin conditions, led to the creation of the ISF. Many people have been moved and inspired by Caroline's story over the years, the telling of which has been a powerful and very public way to raise awareness. Less well known are her decades of behind-the-scenes peer support, impacting individuals and families and quietly but energetically undertaken on the phone, over coffee, and in acts of kindness.

David McMahon, CEO commented that the "practical, low-key, kind, empathic and inclusive culture that Caroline has fostered, set the tone for the charity's approach, and is evident throughout the ISF's work".

Caroline's place on the ISF board will be filled by Mal Buckeridge, who looks forward to developing and expanding the types of support which we have available to people in Ireland struggling to manage skin conditions.

Caroline Irwin  
*ISF Board Member 2011-2021*



# A Message from our Chairperson and CEO

2021 was another out-of-the-ordinary year with many challenges and few certainties due to the long shadow cast by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, the ISF team adapted to the circumstances and continued to offer support to those who reached out to us.

Our mission at the ISF is to improve quality of life for people living with skin conditions, to promote skin health and the prevention of skin disease, by providing support, independent information, engaging in advocacy and raising awareness. Our work to fulfill our mission continued uninterrupted this year, as we moved more of our engagement online to offer virtual events and support through the later lock-downs and last periods of restricted movement. Our online videos and webinars covered topics and themes that reflected the practical concerns of those contacting us, offering tips and guidance from experts on how to manage skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis, acne, and hidradenitis suppurativa (HS).

The ISF team also created our first consultation tool which, in keeping with the times, focused on preparing for remote/virtual hospital consultations for skin conditions. The easily downloadable tool was developed in direct response to the 2021 phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continued to see many hospital appointments (that were originally intended as in-person visits) remain online or virtual.

As you'll read in this annual report, our 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline experienced the busiest year yet with over 1,000 queries. The demand for, and interest in, the service highlighted its importance and value to patients, families, and carers.

We would like to extend our warm thanks to our Board of Trustees, dedicated ISF team and volunteers for their continued commitment to the organisation. We are very grateful for the continued support of The City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity (CDSCHC), our valued Foundation Partners, Corporate Sponsors and all those who help us to fulfill our mission.



*Dr Marina O'Kane*  
Chairperson



*David McMahon*  
Chief Executive

# About the ISF and our work

The Irish Skin Foundation (ISF) is a national charity dedicated to improving the quality of life of people living with skin conditions.

The ISF was formed in 2011 when people living with psoriasis and atopic eczema, skin cancer prevention advocates, dermatology healthcare professionals and others affected by skin disease, agreed to join forces to improve quality of life for people living with skin conditions in Ireland.

Since that time, the ISF's work has been made possible by the generous support of the CDSCHC, our Foundation Partners, corporate sponsors and generous donations from advocates and supporters.

Following our public launch in 2013, we moved operations to UCD's Charles Institute of Dermatology and agreed our first strategic plan in 2015, and second in 2021.

## Skin conditions and skin cancer

There are many forms of skin disease, which include inflammatory conditions, such as eczema and psoriasis, skin cancer, including melanoma, basal and squamous cell carcinomas, autoimmune conditions, such as lupus and vitiligo, and hereditary diseases.

## Therapeutic advances

Many skin conditions are chronic in nature, with treatment focusing on reducing and managing symptoms. Yet, significant scientific and therapeutic advances continue to widen the treatment and management options accessible to people living with many long-term skin conditions.

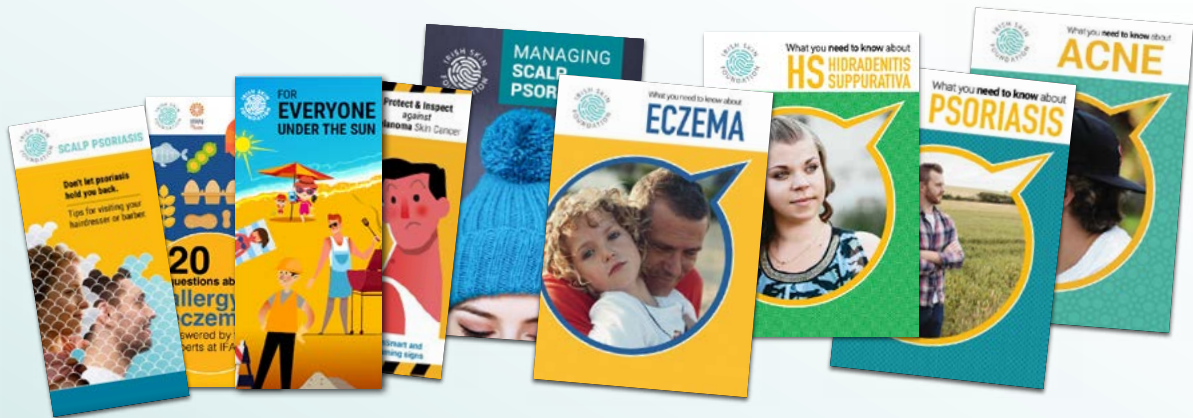
## Impact of skin conditions

The impact of skin diseases on quality of life can be far-reaching and profound, with the burden often experienced across several key life domains e.g. physically, psychologically, socially and financially. Rashes, flare-ups, and lesions are often very visible to others. Someone living with a skin condition may have to cope with the reaction of those around them, in addition to how it affects them personally.

## Supporting people with skin conditions

We operate the ISF 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline, on an appointment model, offering direct, accessible, and specialist guidance to people living with or caring for skin conditions.

Each year people reach out to the 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline for assistance about their skin concerns. Typically, the Helpline team receive requests about the care and management of the most common skin conditions, treatments, and new therapies, as well as navigating health services and care pathways. Queries include those of a very general character, as well as those involving very specific aspects of how a skin condition is managed – uniquely the 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline can offer individualised guidance and support.



The ISF also offers reliable information on many of the most common skin conditions, their management and treatment options, with a variety of resources available directly from us or through family doctors or hospital dermatology departments (these include booklets, leaflets, infographics, and videos) which aim to support people attending both primary and secondary care.

## COVID-19 and Skin Conditions Information Page

The COVID-19 and Skin Conditions Information Page was originally created in 2020 and continued to be the most visited page in 2021. In response to the volume of calls to the 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline, we created a video with Prof Anne Marie Tobin addressing concerns in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine and immunosuppressants. We also provided direct links to reputable sources of information such as the HSE, in what was a very fast moving and evolving situation.

Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**



Coronavirus  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice

# Our Pillars – ISF core activities

Many skin conditions are chronic in nature and often highly visible. In addition, some people can carry the heavy burden of management along with negative past experiences of distress and stigmatisation.

Recognising these realities in our 2021-2025 strategy, the approach of the ISF has been broken down into 4 priority areas or pillars as follows.



**We support with information, education and learning together**



**We advocate and influence for change**



**We use research to advance our work**



**We strengthen organisational capacity and presence**

For each strategic area we outline broad objectives and actions. Much of our strategy is delivered through projects that are aligned with our objectives.

We continue to work and collaborate with other organisations, bodies, groups, sponsors, Foundation Partners, and individuals on projects which advance our work.

## **Vision**



Our vision is for everyone in Ireland to lead healthy lives, as unburdened as possible by skin conditions.

## **Mission**



We are a national charity dedicated to improving quality of life for people living with skin conditions. We promote skin health and the prevention of skin disease by providing support, independent information, engaging in advocacy and raising awareness.

## **Values**



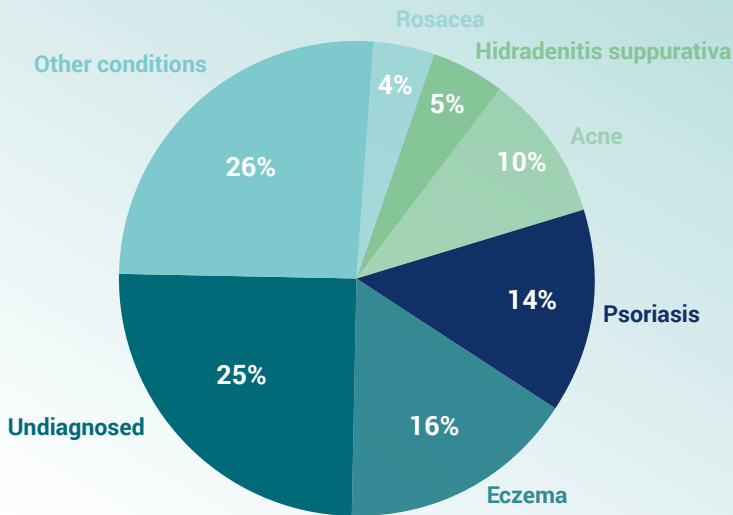
Compassion, care, integrity, accessibility, respect and empowerment.



# 2021 at a glance

## 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline

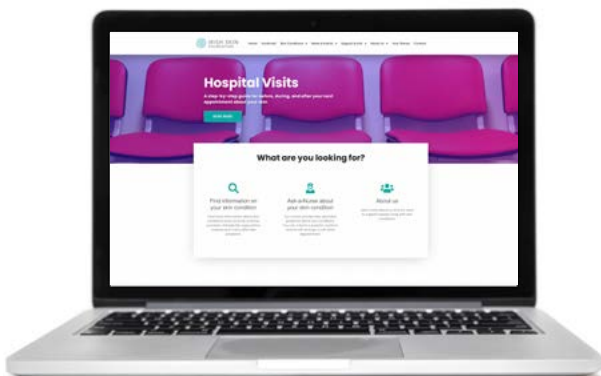
- 1,115 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline queries



- +97% would recommend the 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline to a friend

## ISF website relaunch

- Launch of the new and improved ISF website



## SkinSideOut webinar series

- Future of Atopic Eczema Care in Ireland
- Understanding Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS)
- Tackling Scalp Psoriasis

## Publication of new online resources:

- *Everyone Under the Sun* leaflet
- Seasonal UV Changes infographic
- Remote/Virtual Hospital Consultation Guide
- Back to school: Tips to help you care for your child's hands' reference guide.



## New SunSmart video series launched



*"A thousand thanks to that lovely nurse who rang me. She has given me so much hope and that means so much."*

*Jane*

*"Thank you so much for calling my son this morning. It has given him the knowledge that a little bit more can be done to help. He was beginning to get a bit down over his skin. It's just good to know there is someone at the end of the phone when needed."*

*Susan*

*"Thanks again Irish Skin Foundation. You are very helpful, and I really appreciate the call I had yesterday re my baby's eczema, it was a pleasure."*

*Gemma*

*"Thank you for contacting me, it was great talking. The information is very helpful, and the creams are working well for the moment. Thank you for your response to my issue."*

*Brendan*

# Strategy 2021-2025

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# Pillar 1:

## Supporting with information and learning together

Our first pillar reflects a continuation and expansion of our work to support people with skin conditions. We aim to bring the ISF's existing supports to the attention of more people and to broaden the scope of the resources we have available for people living with different conditions at different stages of life.

### ISF services and resources

#### ■ 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline

Our 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline experienced its busiest year yet in 2021, handling 1,115 queries; the COVID-19 pandemic creating the greatest demand for its service and guidance in the 5 years since our Helpline was established. Our service is uniquely delivered by Dermatology Nurse Specialists, and is free of charge to service users, many of whom are on lengthy waiting lists due to access pressures in primary and secondary care.

The 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline provided a valuable and much appreciated service in 2021 (consistently achieving a 97% user satisfaction rating) and addressed a wide variety of queries and concerns from patients, family members, and carers of patients with challenging and often worrisome skin conditions.

We experienced a marked increase in queries from people with undiagnosed conditions, mixed diagnoses, and complex conditions, many of whom had not visited their GP. The percentage of those undiagnosed, at the point of contacting us, rose from 16% in 2019, to 24% the following year, and to 25% in 2021.

While the 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline cannot provide a diagnosis, the encouragement and guidance we offer promotes engagement (or re-engagement) with GPs and family doctors. This is borne out by our follow-up validation survey, which shows that 56% of callers, who have no diagnosis at the time of their query with the 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline, go on to book appointments with their GP within six weeks of speaking with the ISF.

Service users found the 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline and ISF resources primarily through an online search. This percentage more than doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic from 31% in 2019 to 66% in 2021. The ISF features at the top of most search results for skin conditions.

On visiting our website, visitors can share their skin concern via our 'Ask-a-Nurse' form, which captures the detail required to properly triage the query (e.g., whether the query is adult or paediatric, about a diagnosed condition or not, amongst other considerations). At this stage, we can determine an appropriate response, whether that is simply to signpost to public services or arrange a call with an ISF nurse.

69% of all service-user queries came to use in that way during 2021, ensuring that nurses were well prepared ahead of their arranged call. Our Helpline is, of course, also accessible by phone and e-mail.



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*“Thank you for your quick turnaround. It is VERY helpful. When moving to a new country one often relies on the kindness of strangers to gain understanding of the new systems. I would have understood if you did not respond, but I am so grateful you did. I hope someone is just as kind to you some time very soon.*

*Best wishes”*

*Melanie*

## ■ We are pleased to report the following outcomes from our user satisfaction survey in 2021:

Of those patients with a diagnosis at the point of engagement with the ISF, 33% self-reported their condition to be much improved 4-8 weeks after a Helpline interaction and 39% somewhat improved.

95% would use the Helpline again, and 97% would recommend the service.

Of those patients without a diagnosis at the point of engagement:



*Helen Hadden*  
Helpline and  
Administration Manager



**56%** took our advice to visit a GP



and of those, **40%** received a diagnosis



**48%** were prescribed a treatment



and **36%** were referred to a consultant dermatologist



**97%** would use the Helpline again



and **99%** would recommend the service

## Tips to help you care for your child's hands



With the arrival of Covid 19, hand hygiene guidance was introduced as one of the measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. Hand hygiene involves cleaning the hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Unfortunately, the increase in hand hygiene measures can lead to skin irritation, due to frequent skin contact with chemicals, preservatives, fragrances, or detergents contained in soaps and sanitisers. These ingredients can upset or damage the skin barrier. Repeated exposure to these products can ultimately lead to a condition known as upset contact dermatitis – a form of eczema, which can cause the skin to become red, itchy, sore, and cracked.

To reduce the risk of developing hand dermatitis, it is important to take care of the hands. Understandably not all these steps are possible at school, so take advantage of the time your child spends at home to give the hands some extra attention.

### Top tips for good hand care



The HSE guidance is to use soap or hand sanitiser to destroy the coronavirus. Ordinary soaps can be irritating to the skin, so ideally use a product that is gentle and fragrance free. If you are in a situation where ordinary soap is the only option, you may counteract some of the irritating effects of the soap containing detergents by doing a double hand wash. First wash hands with ordinary soap, then use a soap alternative such as Silcocks base to wash away any detergent that may be left on the hands.



There are very few soaps that are gentle on the skin and destroy the virus. Talk to your pharmacist for advice. Dermatology clinics frequently suggest Elave sensitive hand wash. It is a gentle product that effectively breaks down the lipid layer that surrounds the coronavirus and destroys the virus.



When washing hands, wet the hands before applying soap. Keep the temperature of the water lukewarm, as hot water is more drying and irritating to the skin.



After washing, make sure to pat the hands dry. Do not rub! This is a good time to apply moisturiser.



Moisturiser is very important to repair and protect the skin barrier that has been damaged by increased preservatives and fragrances than cosmetic moisturisers. **Emollients are an essential part of treating hand dermatitis.** They lock moisture inside the skin, making it soft and supple, whilst restoring the skin barrier.



Emollients provide a protective film on the hands. They should be applied after handwashing, repeatedly throughout the day, and whenever the skin feels dry. **Ideally emollients should be applied to hands at least 3 or 4 times per day to help repair the skin.** There are many options for all budgets and a couple are available on the medical card. Your pharmacist can help you choose a suitable one.

Ideally choose a tube of emollient rather than a tub, as they are more hygienic. If your budget allows, a pump dispenser is easy to use and is also very hygienic. Some emollients come in 500g tubs which are better value for money and are available on the medical card. If using a tub, do not stick fingers in the tub. Take the emollient out with a clean utensil e.g., a spoon. You do not want to contaminate your cream with dirty fingers!

*“Many thanks for the tips on caring for your child’s hands. It is a fantastic resource which I will share with our school community. I wish you all the best with the fantastic work that you do. Take care”*

*Sarah (School Principal, Scoil Mhuire, Borrisokane)*

## Video and online series

Like many organisations the ISF worked remotely in 2021, utilising as many forms of communication as possible to reach and support people with, or caring for, someone with a skin condition.

The 'digital first' strategic communications approach, adopted in 2021, allowed us to stay connected with our audience during uncertain times. Over the last year the ISF have remained focused on delivering relevant, up-to-date and easily accessible content for people living with skin conditions. Through our webinars, news articles and partnerships with relevant external organisations, the ISF have been able to reach many people who traditionally may not have had an opportunity to attend our in-person events. We continue to explore all options both digital and in-person to support those who can benefit from our service.

### ■ Video: COVID-19 and skin conditions

Professor Anne-Marie Tobin, Consultant Dermatologist, Tallaght University Hospital and Clinical Lead, National Dermatology Programme HSE, spoke with David McMahon on some common questions on COVID-19 vaccines. Professor Tobin addressed the worries and concerns expressed by people living with skin conditions in relation to vaccines, in particular those on immunosuppressant medication.





## SkinSideOut Series

Throughout the year, the ISF hosted a series of live webinars under the SkinSideOut umbrella. As part of our overall support service, these webinars were recorded and made available on the ISF website to view at any time.

### ■ SkinSideOut webinar: Future of Atopic Eczema Care in Ireland

Paul Herriott, ISF board member, advocate, and broadcaster, hosted a discussion with Consultant Dermatologist, Professor Alan Irvine and Advanced Nurse Practitioner Carmel Blake, about recent medical advancements in the treatment of eczema. The panel discussed what this will mean for the future, as well as how the COVID-19 has impacted dermatology services and how they have adapted to deliver care.



### ■ SkinSideOut webinar: Understanding Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS)

With in-person events still on pause, the ISF recorded a video on 'Understanding Hidradenitis Suppurativa (HS)' to support Global HS Awareness Week, hosted by David McMahon, CEO.

In this webinar, which took place during HS Awareness Week, Consultant Dermatologist, Professor Brian Kirby spoke about current treatments for HS and what is coming down the line. Long-time HS patient advocates Barry McGrath and Suzanne Moloney spoke about their journey to diagnosis, their experience of living with HS, and about support available for people living with this chronic condition.

## ■ SkinSideOut webinar: Tackling Scalp Psoriasis

This webinar was recorded to mark World Psoriasis Day to address some of challenges in managing this very common presentation of psoriasis. Advanced Nurse Practitioner and ISF Helpline Clinical Nurse Manager, Carmel Blake, was joined by Psoriasis Patient Advocates Caroline Irwin, and Zoe Ryan. The panel discussed experiences of living with scalp psoriasis and shared some practical guidance and tips on management.



## Education, self-management and learning Initiatives

### Living Well Programme

The ISF supports the approach of the HSE Living Well Programme. Living Well is a free, group self-management programme for adults 18 years and older living with long-term or chronic health conditions. We worked to direct people to the programme to learn more about self-management and to help develop the skills and confidence to manage their health condition(s).

### Sun awareness/skin cancer prevention and skin health webinars

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the health promotion team delivered sun awareness/skin cancer prevention and skin health talks virtually to organisations at their request. Shifting to a virtual offering in the face of the pandemic, enabled us to communicate effectively and stay connected.

### New Everyone Under the Sun leaflet and Seasonal UV Changes Infographic

A new *Everyone Under the Sun* leaflet and Seasonal UV Changes Infographic were published online in 2021, in a downloadable format available from the ISF SunSmart webpage and 'Information booklets and resources' section of the website. The leaflet and infographic aim to increase awareness and adoption of skin cancer prevention behaviours highlighted in the first National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2019-2022, with a particular focus and visual reference to the four high-risk groups identified in the plan: children and young people, outdoor workers, those who pursue outdoor leisure and sunbed users.





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*“Thank you so much for writing back to me, which was very helpful, and exactly the sort of clarification my wife and I were looking for.”*

*Liam*

## Pillar 2:

# Advocate and influence for change

Strengthening our advocacy work, to persuade and influence policy and policy makers to address health inequality amongst patients who have skin disease, is our second strategic priority. We aim to become a stronger voice advocating for improved and better-resourced public services by advancing evidence-based arguments and by highlighting the patient voice.

### **BIOMAP (Biomarkers in Atopic Dermatitis and Psoriasis)**

The ISF joined other patient organisations on the patient advisory board of Biomap and continues to collaborate in highlighting patient insights and opinions across the different work strands of this large European project, which has the potential to improve the lives of people with atopic dermatitis and psoriasis.

### **Skin Cancer Prevention Implementation Group**

The ISF continues to work with the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), Healthy Ireland and a range of partners to advance the aims of the National Skin Cancer plan 2019-2022. The health promotion team continue to assist in projects and resources relating to Action Area 3, as part of the Children and Young People subgroup.

### **Irish Cancer Prevention Network**

The ISF is a member of the Irish Cancer Prevention Network (ICPN), led by the National Cancer Control Programme, and is working in collaboration with the Irish Cancer Society, the Marie Keating Foundation, Breakthrough Cancer Research and the National Screening Service to advance cancer risk reduction initiatives, specifically Healthy Ireland SunSmart.

## Irish Cancer Prevention Network



## Global Research on the Impact of Dermatological Diseases (GRIDD)

GRIDD was launched in 2017 by the International Alliance of Dermatology Patient Organizations (also known as GlobalSkin). This advocacy project is a multi-year and multi-phase global research study, with the mission to develop optimised patient-impact outcomes and a new patient-impact measurement tool by engaging with dermatology patient organisations and patients worldwide. This project is the first global patient-initiated and patient-led impact research study in dermatology.

As a proud member of GlobalSkin, the ISF supports this project. In 2021, we highlighted GRIDD's Phase 3 study: 'Patient Data Verification Delphi' by making a call-out to Irish adults living with a skin condition who were interested in participating in this research. The important contribution made by adults living with skin disease in the Delphi study will support the design of a new validated measurement tool (questionnaire), to more completely capture the impact and challenges experienced by people living with skin diseases.



International Alliance of  
Dermatology Patient  
Organizations

## Skin cancer awareness: SunSmart interview on Ireland AM, Virgin Media

In 2021, Ms Shirley McEntee, patient advocate, very kindly shared her experience in an interview with Ireland AM and their viewers about developing melanoma skin cancer which almost cost, her life. Professor Anne Marie Tobin also joined the discussion and provided advice and guidance on how to protect your skin and be SunSmart during the summer months.





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*“I would just like to say that I was so impressed with the service I received after emailing a question. The information that was provided has been so helpful and it was so kind of the ISF to email me with this extra info about hand dermatitis. A huge thank you for the support!”*

*Aoife*



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*“Thank you so much to the ISF which was so helpful; it was great to speak to someone. The help and information I received regarding my brother’s diagnosis was invaluable. Thankfully, he is doing really well. Many thanks to all involved for your very helpful services.”*

*Deirdre*



## Pillar 3:

# Research to advance our work

Our third strategic priority is to align future research work more closely with the organisation's advocacy agenda, while developing our capacity to engage with new projects as they arise.

### SunSmart 2021 - ISF, ULHG, NCCP collaboration and research: New SunSmart video series encourages everyone to enjoy the sun safely

In June 2021, the ISF, Ms Evelyn Power, Skin Cancer CNS and Dr Sinead Field, Consultant Dermatologist at University Hospital Limerick, in association with the HSE's National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), University of Limerick Hospital Group (ULHG), and the Healthy Ireland SunSmart campaign launched a series of five video animations, to encourage people to build SunSmart behaviours into their everyday routine, from April to September.

The messaging throughout the video series highlighted key skin cancer preventative behaviours and focused primarily on the four priority groups identified in the National Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2019-2022; children and young people, outdoor workers, those who participate in outdoor leisure activities and sunbed users. The videos encourage people to follow the SunSmart 5 S's: **Slip-on** clothing that covers your skin, **Slop** on sunscreen, **Slap** on a wide-brimmed hat, **Seek** shade, and **Slide** on sunglasses.



The videos were played on visual display units throughout ULHG hospitals and hospital social media channels over the summer of 2021, as part of a research initiative to evaluate the effectiveness of these assets in raising awareness of sun protective behaviours amongst staff.

The videos are also available on the ISF SunSmart webpage, and the HSE's SunSmart Hub for public viewing.



Dr Sinead Field, Ms Evelyn Power, Dr Emma Porter, University Hospital Limerick.

## Published Research

Surge in calls to Irish Skin Foundation's 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline during the COVID-19 pandemic\* published in CED journal.



\*Blake, C., Hadden, H., Dolan, M., Greenwood, M., O’Kane, M., McMahon, D. and Tobin, A.M. (2021), ‘Surge in calls to Irish Skin Foundation’s ‘Ask-a-Nurse’ helpline during the COVID-19 pandemic’. *Clinical Experimental Dermatology*, 46: 1332-1332. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ced.14728>

## **CED article - Surge in calls to Irish Skin Foundation's 'Ask-a-nurse' Helpline during the COVID-19 pandemic**

In this article we compared the first 12 weeks of lock-down in 2020 to the same 12-week period in 2019, during which time the ISF 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline recorded a 66% increase in the volume of calls. We attributed this increased activity to the fact that most general practitioners (GPs) were not conducting face-to-face consultations, and some dermatology staff in secondary care were redeployed, thus reducing dermatology services and leading to the cancellation of dermatology outpatient appointments. However, the Helpline continued operating through lock-down, with increased calls relating to undiagnosed skin conditions, provision of outpatient services and cutaneous presentations of COVID-19.

The calls received were varied, with 33% of calls being directly related to COVID-19 concerns. Users sought guidance regarding safety of immunosuppressant medication and COVID-19, risks associated with autoimmune disease and COVID-19, and the presence of possible COVID-19 rashes.

Other worries related to hand dermatitis, access to services and management of skin flares due to canceled treatments during lock-down. Interestingly, we had a 221% increase in the number of people contacting us who did not have a diagnosis, because although many were anxious that their rash could be linked with COVID-19, they were also reluctant to visit GP surgeries for fear of exposure to COVID-19. For those callers with a diagnosis, there was a 61.5% increase in queries relating to dermatitis/eczema, compared with the same time period in 2019.

The most common cause for concern was hand dermatitis, attributed to the increased hand hygiene measures; consequently, managing and preventing hand dermatitis was a common query. There was a 22% increase in queries regarding psoriasis compared with the same time period in the previous year, and a 20% increase related to hidradenitis suppurativa. These queries reflected a range of concerns, including possible risks associated with immunosuppressant medication, increased COVID-19 risk associated with underlying conditions, skin flaring due to stress about COVID-19, cocooning (shielding), how to manage psoriasis flares due to cancelled phototherapy, and reduced access to a dermatologist or GP. An increase of 175% in queries to the Helpline was registered related to acne, and a 43% increase in enquiries regarding sun protection and moles. We could not explain these increases. Taking the year 2020 as a whole, we experienced a 55% increase in queries compared to 2019.

# Pillar 4: Strengthening capacity and presence

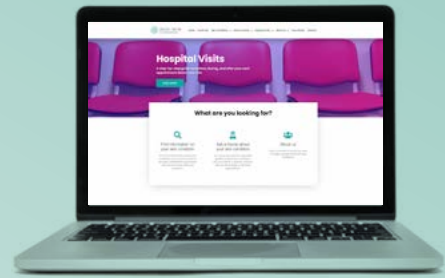
Our fourth strategic pillar concerns the future development of the ISF itself. This pillar centres on our continued focus on developing and improving our communications.

## ISF website re-launch

2021 saw the re-launch of the ISF website with a fresh image and improved navigation. We felt it was important that the organisation's digital presence was enhanced to create a more valuable and user-friendly experience.

The new website offers a clean and updated design, as well as improved functionality, for anyone looking for information, resources, and support for their skin condition.

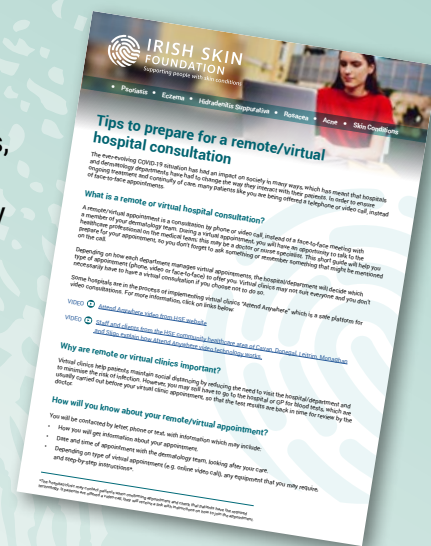
Fully responsive with mobile devices, the new website is easy to navigate on a wide range of web browsers and devices whether at your desk or on the move.



## Remote/virtual hospital consultation tool

The ever-evolving COVID-19 situation impacted society in so many ways, including how hospitals and dermatology departments interacted with their patients. To ensure ongoing treatment and continuity of care, many patients were offered a telephone or video call, instead of face-to-face appointments.

The ISF created hints and tips on how to approach remote/virtual hospital consultations for people living with skin disease and shared the tool in a downloadable format on the ISF website. The aim of this guidance was to aid dermatology patients with suggestions about how to prepare for their virtual consultation; before, during and after their appointment.



## Back to school: Tips to help you care for your child's hands

With the arrival of COVID-19, hand hygiene guidance was introduced as one of the measures to reduce the spread of the COVID-19. Unfortunately for many, the increase in hand hygiene measures led to hand dermatitis.

In response to a request to 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline by a primary school principal, a downloadable resource was developed to assist parents and caregivers of children, with practical and useful tips to help care for children's hands.

# Foundation Partners, Corporate Sponsors and Supporters

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## City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity



The City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity

Our work would not be possible without the generous funding and support from the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity. The ISF would like to acknowledge and thank the Charity for its ongoing commitment.

## Foundation Partners

We would like to acknowledge with thanks the generosity of our seven Foundation Partners, all of whom sponsor the ISF 'Ask-a-Nurse' Helpline and, through this important service, our work throughout 2021 to support people living with and caring for with skin conditions.

abbvie

AMGEN



Inspired by patients.  
Driven by science.



NOVARTIS



Pfizer



SANOFI

## Donors and fundraisers

The ISF is very grateful to donors and fundraisers who support our work. In particular, we would like to thank all those who donated through our website in 2021. Your support helps us to continue our work to raise awareness of, and advocate for, people living with skin conditions in Ireland.

Special thanks for support





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*“Thanks so much for chatting to me, you are a wealth of knowledge. I will follow your guidance re products that may help.”*

*Jayne*

# Appendix 1: Financial Reports

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# **The Irish Skin Foundation**

(A company limited by guarantee  
and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial Statements

Financial Year Ended 31 December 2021

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# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

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# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

### Reference and administrative information

<b>Charity name:</b>	The Irish Skin Foundation
<b>Revenue Commissioner Charity number:</b>	CHY 19949
<b>Registered number:</b>	493784
<b>Charity Regulatory Authority number:</b>	20078706
<b>Secretary and registered office:</b>	Seamus Kennedy C/O Gerrard L McGowan Solicitors The Square Balbriggan Co. Dublin.

### Board of Directors at 31 December 2021

AM Tobin	
C Irwin	(resigned 1 Dec 2021)
C Wilkinson	
J W O'Raghallaigh	
M O'Kane	
M Foley	
P O'Cearbhaill	
R Watson	
S Ryan	
R Barry	
K McKenzie	
P Herriott	
M Buckeridge	(appointed 1 Dec 2021)
A Salim	(appointed 1 Dec 2021)

<b>Independent Auditors:</b>	PricewaterhouseCoopers Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors One Spencer Dock North Wall Quay Dublin 1
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<b>Bankers:</b>	Bank of Ireland Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2
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<b>Solicitors:</b>	Gerrard L McGowan The Square Balbriggan Co. Dublin2
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# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Directors of The Irish Skin Foundation (the Charity) are its Directors/Trustees for the purpose of Charity Law. The Directors present their report and audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. This report presents the information and disclosures required by a Director's Report under the Companies Act 2014, together with additional information required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective Mar 2018). The Charity SORP (FRS 102) is not yet mandatory in the Republic of Ireland and the Irish Charity Regulator has not yet prescribed accounting regulations for Irish Charities. In the absence of such prescriptive guidance, the Directors have adopted the Charity SORP (FRS 102) as it is considered best practice.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

### Legal status and governing document

The Irish Skin Foundation is an Irish Company incorporated on 17 January 2011, under the Companies Act, 1963 registration number 493784. It is a Company Limited by Guarantee and does not have a share capital. It is governed by a memorandum and Articles of Association dated 17 January 2011. The Irish Skin Foundation is a registered Charity, registration number CHY 19949 and is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority number 20078706.

### The Irish Skin Foundation's Board of Directors and Management

The Irish Skin Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors who are proposed for election. The Board meets four times a year and has overall responsibility for the governance and management of the organisation. Board members do not receive any remuneration in respect of their services to the Charity.

### Directors Induction and Training

New Directors are provided with a Board pack which outlines the essence of The Irish Skin Foundation including the vision and mission of the Charity.

		Meetings held during the Financial Year	Meetings attended during the financial year
AM Tobin		4	4
C Irwin	(Resigned 1 Dec 2021)	3	1
C Wilkinson		4	2
J W O'Raghallaigh		4	4
M O'Kane		4	3
M Foley		4	4
P O'Cearbhaill		4	3
R Watson		4	3
R Barry		4	2
S Ryan		4	4
K McKenzie		4	2
P Herriott		4	2
M Buckeridge	(appointed 1 Dec 2021)	1	1
A Salim	(appointed 1 Dec 2021)	1	1

# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT - continued

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

#### Objectives of the Charity

The Irish Skin Foundation (ISF) was launched in 2011 to assist people living with all forms of skin disease.

#### Mission

*"to improve the quality of life for people with skin conditions, promote skin health and the prevention of skin disease through support, advocacy, research and awareness."*

The Irish Skin Foundation is a National Charity with the purpose of supporting people with skin conditions. We provide information and support, engage in health promotion and disease awareness, engage in advocacy for people with skin conditions and fund community-based research projects where appropriate. We are supported from several sources, which include individual donors, the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity (CDSCHC), Helpline Partners and other corporate supporters.

The Charity was established by the CDSCHC following the sale of the voluntary hospital on Hume Street, Dublin 2, which had provided care and treatment to people with skin disease for almost a century from 1911 - 2006. We are unique among similar organisations in Europe in that by merging the Psoriasis Association of Ireland, the Irish Eczema Society and the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Society, each of which is represented on our Board, the organisation now represents and supports people with nearly every form of skin disease in Ireland.

#### Principal activities

The Irish Skin Foundation offers general information and support to people with skin conditions. A nurse Helpline service for skin disease commenced in March 2016 and offers specialist advice to those suffering from all types of skin disease.

The Irish Skin Foundation works with people in the Dermatology community, Dermatology Consultants, people with skin conditions, GPs, nurses, physicians, and healthcare providers to produce accessible health promotion and awareness materials. Their aim is to empower people with skin conditions, support timely diagnosis and treatment, and promote public awareness.

#### Donors and Sponsors

The Irish Skin Foundation continues to expand their Donor and Sponsor base and to rely on the generosity of Donors and Sponsors to allow them to continue to provide their services to people with skin diseases. The Directors would like to thank each and every donor and sponsor for their contribution in making it possible. Whether it be corporations, foundations or individuals, your support is essential to the successful provision of services.

#### Financial business review

The financial results for the year to 31 December 2021 are outlined in the Statement of Financial Activities (page 11), the Balance Sheet (page 12), the Cash Flow statement (page 13), and the Statement of Changes in Funds (page 14) and are further explained in the notes to the financial statements on pages 15 to 24.

The Irish Skin Foundation received a total income of €510,397 in the financial year to December 2021. Income received was predominantly derived from donations in the sum of €363,000 from the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity.

Total resources expended amounted to €503,350 and reflects expenditure of 100% on charitable activities. Charitable activities include all direct expenditure associated with running the Charity and the necessary support costs to facilitate this including salaries. It also includes allocated support costs.

# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT - continued

### Funds

Page 11 to the Financial Statements illustrates the net movement in fund balances for the year and the balances brought forward.

The level of restricted reserves at the year-end is €16,672. The level and adequacy of the reserves is reviewed periodically by the Board.

<b>Movements in funds</b>	€
Opening funds	22,169
Funds generated during the year	7,047
Funds at end of year	<b>29,216</b>

### Investment policy

All funds that are not immediately required for operational purposes are invested in a mixture of short-term deposits.

### Risk management and impact of COVID-19 - going concern

The Directors are responsible for the management of risks faced by the Charity and have examined the major strategic business, operational and financial risks to which the Charity is and may be exposed. They are satisfied that the systems and controls are in place to mitigate and manage exposure to such major risks identified by the Directors. They continue to review current processes recognising that systems and processes can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that major risks have been adequately managed. The Directors are not aware of any impact associated with Brexit.

Social distancing and the restrictions on social gatherings continued to affect the sector and the pandemic has presented a unique challenge to the charity sector in general and for The Irish Skin Foundation in 2021. The charity did not organise any direct patient contact events during the year but supported those suffering from skin disease through its nurse helpline and the continued updating of appropriate advice on its website. The charity benefitted from reductions in expenditure as a result of the restrictions on social gatherings whilst being able to retain funding from its committed partners.

The Directors have reviewed their cash forecasts to the end of June 2023 and are satisfied that commitments made by funders are adequate to meet the budgeted costs of the charity.

### Future developments

The Directors will continue to support skin health in keeping with their overall mission and objectives.

### Accounting records

The measures taken by the Directors to secure compliance with the Charity's obligation to keep adequate accounting records are the use of appropriate systems and procedures and employment of competent persons. The accounting records are kept at the Irish Skin Foundation, Charles Institute, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4.

## The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT - continued

#### Directors

The names of the persons who served as Directors at any time during the year are set out below. Other than as indicated they served as Directors for the entire year.

AM Tobin	
C Irwin	(resigned 1 Dec 2021)
C Wilkinson	
J W O'Raghallaigh	
M O'Kane	
M Foley	
P O'Cearbhaill	
R Watson	
S Ryan	
R Barry	
K McKenzie	
P Herriott	
M Buckeridge	(appointed 1 Dec 2021)
A Salim	(appointed 1 Dec 2021)
Disclosure of information to auditors	

#### The Directors in office at the date of this report have each confirmed that:

- as far as he/she is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's statutory auditors are unaware; and
- he/she has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a Director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

#### Independent Auditors

The auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, have indicated their willingness to continue in office.

#### On behalf of the board

K McKENZIE  
*Kath McKenzie*

*P O'Ceall ad*  
P O'CEARBHAILL

17 August 2022

## DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors report and the Financial Statements in accordance with Irish Law.

Irish law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year giving a true and fair view of the charity's assets, liabilities, and financial position at the end of the financial year and the profit or loss of the charity for the financial year. Under that law the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (accounting standards issued by the UK Financial Reporting Council, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and Irish Law).

Under Irish Law, the Directors shall not approve the Financial Statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the Charity's assets, liabilities, and financial position as at the end of the financial year and the profit or loss of the Charity for the financial year.

### In preparing these Financial Statements, the Directors are required to:

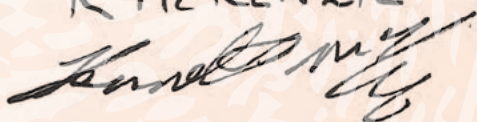
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and identify the standards in question, subject to any material departures from those standards being disclosed and explained in the notes to the Financial Statements; and
- prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.


### The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to:

- correctly record and explain the transactions of the Charity;
- enable, at any time, the assets, liabilities, financial position and the net income or expenditure of the Charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy; and
- enable the Directors to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable those Financial Statements to be audited.

The Directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### On behalf of the board

K MCKENZIE  


  
P O'CEARBHAILL

17 August 2022





## ***Independent auditors' report to the members of Irish Skin Foundation***

### **Report on the audit of the financial statements**

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#### **Opinion**

In our opinion, Irish Skin Foundation's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the company's assets, liabilities and financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of its profit and cash flows for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council of the UK, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Irish law); and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Directors' Report and Financial Statements, which comprise:

- the balance sheet as at 31 December 2021;
- the statement of financial activities for the year then ended;
- the cash flow statement for the year then ended;
- the statement of changes in funds for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

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#### **Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) ("ISAs (Ireland)") and applicable law.

Our responsibilities under ISAs (Ireland) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Independence**

We remained independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, which includes IAASA's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

---

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

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## Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Directors' Report and Financial Statements other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Directors' Report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by the Companies Act 2014 have been included.

Based on the responsibilities described above and our work undertaken in the course of the audit, ISAs (Ireland) and the Companies Act 2014 require us to also report certain opinions and matters as described below:

- In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December 2021 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.
- Based on our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

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## Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

### *Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements*

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 7, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

The directors are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### *Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Our audit testing might include testing complete populations of certain transactions and balances, possibly using data auditing techniques. However, it typically involves selecting a limited number of items for testing, rather than testing complete populations. We will often seek to target particular items for testing based on their size or risk characteristics. In other cases, we will use audit sampling to enable us to draw a conclusion about the population from which the sample is selected.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA website at:

[https://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description\\_of\\_auditors\\_responsibilities\\_for\\_audit.pdf](https://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf)

This description forms part of our auditors' report.



### *Use of this report*

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

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## **Other required reporting**

### **Companies Act 2014 opinions on other matters**

- 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.

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### **Other exception reporting**

#### *Directors' remuneration and transactions*

Under the Companies Act 2014 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of that Act have not been made. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Aisling Fitzgerald'.

Aisling Fitzgerald  
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm  
Dublin  
24 August 2022

# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

### Financial Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2021 €	Restricted funds 2021 €	Total funds 2021 €	Total funds 2020 €
<b>Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	362,573	147,824	510,397	444,300
Other		-	-	-	17,699
<b>Total income</b>		<b>362,573</b>	<b>147,284</b>	<b>510,397</b>	<b>461,999</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	3	-	-	-	415
Charitable activities	4	355,526	147,824	503,350	493,941
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>355,526</b>	<b>147,824</b>	<b>503,350</b>	<b>494,356</b>
Net income/(expenditure)		7,047	-	7,047	(32,357)
Net movement in funds		7,047	-	7,047	(32,357)
Total funds brought forward		5,497	16,672	22,169	54,526
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>12,544</b>	<b>16,672</b>	<b>29,216</b>	<b>22,169</b>

# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

## BALANCE SHEET

### As at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 €	2020 €
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	10	5,054	5,359
Cash and cash equivalents	12	130,945	162,813
		<b>135,999</b>	<b>168,172</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(106,783)	(146,003)
<b>Net current assets</b>		29,216	22,169
<b>Total assets less current (liabilities)</b>		29,216	22,169
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>29,216</b>	<b>22,169</b>
<b>Funds of the Charity:</b>			
Unrestricted funds		12,544	5,497
Restricted funds		16,672	16,672
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>29,216</b>	<b>22,169</b>
<b>Total Charity funds</b>		<b>29,216</b>	<b>22,169</b>

# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

### Financial Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 €	2020 €
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Net cash generated from operating activities	11	(31,868)	52,712
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting year</b>		<b>(31,868)</b>	<b>52,712</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting year		162,813	110,101
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to net cash generated from operating activities		(31,868)	52,712
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting year</b>		<b>130,945</b>	<b>162,813</b>

On behalf of the board

*Kenneth McKenzie*  
K MCKENZIE

*P O'Ceallacháin*  
P O'CEARBHAILL

17 August 2022

# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS

### Financial Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted €	Restricted €	Total €
At 1 January 2020	20,498	34,028	54,526
Net expenditure for the year	(15,001)	(17,356)	(32,357)
<b>At 31 December 2020</b>	<b>5,497</b>	<b>16,672</b>	<b>22,169</b>
At 1 January 2021	5,497	16,672	22,169
Net income for the year	7,047	-	7,047
<b>At 31 December 2021</b>	<b>25,368</b>	<b>3,848</b>	<b>29,216</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies used in the preparation of the charity's Financial Statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all financial years presented, unless otherwise stated. The Charity has adopted FRS 102 and Charity SORP (FRS102).

The preparation of Financial Statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires the use of certain key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date. **It also requires the Directors to exercise judgement in the process of applying the Charity's accounting policies.** The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or areas where assumptions and estimates have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are disclosed in note 15.

#### Statement of compliance

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with Irish GAAP (accounting standards issued by the UK Financial Reporting Council and the Companies Act 2014). The entity financial statements comply with Financial Reporting Standard 102, **"The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102")** and the Companies Act 2014. The Financial Statements have also been prepared in accordance with the recommendations of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

#### Basis of preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with Irish GAAP (accounting standards issued by the UK Financial Reporting Council and the Companies Act 2014). **The Financial Statements comply with Financial Reporting Standard 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2014 and with Charity SORP FRS102.**

The Irish Skin Foundation meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

#### Historical cost convention

The Financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention except that investments are stated at fair value.

#### Going concern

Notwithstanding the impact of COVID-19 on the charity, which is described above in the risk management and going concern paragraph, the Charity continues to operate in a challenging environment. The Charity generated a net income/**(expenditure) for the year of €7,047 (2020: (€32,357)) and has net assets of €29,216 at the balance sheet date. (2020: €22,169).**

Management have prepared forecasts covering the period of at least 12 months from the finalisation of the financial statements and they are comfortable that the forecasts they have prepared have considered a number of sensitivities, including a range of outcomes, and that in all cases there remains sufficient mitigation measures available to management to ensure that cash-flows are managed.



# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
Statements 2021

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies – continued

The Directors are therefore satisfied that appropriate measures can be taken to ensure the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. After considering the uncertainties facing the charity including the ongoing impact of COVID-19, and having considered the Charity's forecasts and planned actions, as well as the funding commitment from the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the period of at least 12 months from signing the financial statements. Therefore, these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Charity is satisfied that it will continue to receive funding in the form of donations from its main donor, the City of Dublin Skin and Hospital Charity and has received a letter confirming this intent, which it has relied on in making its assessment that it is appropriate to prepare these Financial Statements on a going concern basis.

#### Income

Income is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

#### Grant income

Income from grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

#### Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the Charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the Charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount the Charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt. There were no donated goods or services included in the 2021 Financial Statements.

#### Legacy income and bequests

For legacies and bequests, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the Charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to clarify that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipts of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably, and the Charity has been notified of the executor's intentions to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the Charity, or the Charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

#### Deferred income

Grants relating to expenditure to be incurred in a future accounting period received in advance are deferred and recognised in the period to which they relate.

#### Funds

All transactions of the organisation have been recorded and reported as income into or expenditure from funds which are designated as "restricted", "endowment" or "unrestricted".

Income is treated as restricted where the donor has specified that it may only be used for a particular purpose or where it has been raised for a particular purpose. All other income is treated as unrestricted. Expenditure is treated as being made out of restricted funds to the extent that it meets the criteria specified by the donor or the terms under which it was raised. All other expenditure is treated as unrestricted.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

The balance on each restricted fund at the end of the year represents the asset held by the organisation for particular purposes specified by the donors. The balance of the unrestricted fund at the end of the year represents the assets held by the organisation for general use in furtherance of its work. Endowment fund represents amounts held for investment purpose. Income from these principal amounts will either be (a) unrestricted and used for general purposes, or (b) restricted by the donor or by the Board.

#### Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs incurred by The Irish Skin Foundation in raising funds for its charitable purposes. It includes the costs of all fundraising activities and events.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs incurred in undertaking the various charitable activities which are performed for the benefit of the Irish Skin Foundation beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the Charity apportioned to charitable activities. It also includes the costs of grants made to other charitable organisations.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

#### Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 5.

#### Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

#### Foreign currencies

Normal exchange differences arising on revenue transactions are reflected in the result for the year. Bank balances are translated at the year-end rate.

##### (I) Functional and presentation currency

The Foundation's functional presentation currency is the Euro, denominated by the symbol '€'.

##### (II) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated to Euro using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of transactions and from the translation at period-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of activity except when deferred in other comprehensive income as qualifying cash flow hedges.

Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings and cash and cash equivalents are presented in the statement of activity.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies – continued

#### Employee benefits

The Charity provides a range of benefits to employees, including short term employee benefits such as paid holiday arrangements and post-employment benefits (in the form of defined contribution pension plans).

##### (I) Short term benefits

Short term employee benefits, including paid holiday arrangements and other similar non-monetary benefits, are recognised as an expense in the financial year in which employees render the related service.

##### (II) Defined contribution pension plans

The Charity operates a defined contribution plan for certain employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Charity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions or to make direct benefit payments to employees if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Charity in independently administered funds. The contributions to the defined contribution plan are recognised as an expense when they are due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet.

#### Financial instruments

The charity has chosen to apply the provisions of Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 to account for all of its financial instruments.

##### (I) Financial assets

Basic financial assets, including trade and other debtors, cash and cash equivalents, short-term deposits, are initially recognised at transaction price (including transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. Where the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction the resulting financial asset is initially measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Trade and other debtors and cash and cash equivalents are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

At the end of each financial year financial assets measured at amortised cost are assessed for objective evidence of impairment. If there is objective evidence that a financial asset measured at amortised cost is impaired, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss. The impairment loss is the difference between the financial asset's carrying amount and the present value of the financial asset's estimated cash inflows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

If, in a subsequent financial year, the amount of an impairment loss decreases, and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed. The reversal is such that the current carrying amount does not exceed what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment loss not previously been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

##### (II) Financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. Where the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction the resulting financial liability is initially measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Trade and other creditors are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest method.

# The Irish Skin Foundation

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Directors' Report and Financial  
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## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies – continued

#### Provisions and contingencies

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount.

Provisions are recognised when the charity has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount of the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Contingent liabilities, arising as a result of past events, are not recognised as a liability because (i) it is not probable that the Charity will be required to transfer economic benefits in settlement of the obligation or the amount cannot be reliably measured at the end of the financial year. Possible but uncertain obligations are not recognised as liabilities but are contingent liabilities. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the Financial Statements unless the probability of an outflow of resources is remote.

Contingent assets are not recognised. Contingent assets are disclosed in the Financial Statements when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

#### Related party transactions

The charity discloses transactions with related parties which are not wholly owned within the same group. It does not disclose transactions with members of the same group that are wholly owned.

2. Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds €	Restricted funds €	Total €
<b>2021</b> General donations	362,573	147,824	119,300
<b>2020</b> General donations	325,000	119,300	444,300

3. Raising funds	Unrestricted funds €	Restricted funds €	Total €
<b>2021</b> Fundraising activities costs	–	–	–
<b>2020</b> Fundraising activities costs	415	–	415

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## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

4. Charitable activities	Unrestricted funds €	Restricted funds €	Total €
<b>2021</b>			
Payroll costs	272,659	118,009	390,668
Programme supplies	-	6,470	6,470
Insurance	4,438	2,813	7,251
Rent, rates, helpline, and other office costs	27,834	20,532	48,366
Bank charges	1,362	-	1,362
Support costs (note 5)	41,048	-	41,048
Governance costs (note 5)	8,185	-	8,185
<b>Total</b>	<b>355,526</b>	<b>147,824</b>	<b>503,350</b>
<b>2020</b>			
Payroll costs	280,616	113,438	394,054
Programme supplies	-	11,665	11,665
Insurance	3,942	2,871	6,813
Rent, rates, helpline, and other office costs	28,284	8,682	36,966
Bank charges	1,130	-	1,130
Support costs (note 5)	35,022	-	35,022
Governance costs (note 5)	8,291	-	8,291
<b>Total</b>	<b>357,285</b>	<b>136,656</b>	<b>493,941</b>

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## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

5. Analysis of governance and support costs	Charitable activities		Raising funds		Total €	Basis of allocation
	General support €	Governance function €	General support €	Governance function €		
<b>2021</b>						
IT related support costs	18,550	-	-	-	<b>18,550</b>	Based on time spent
Accounting support	18,832	-	-	-	<b>18,832</b>	Based on time spent
Audit fee	-	6,540	-	-	<b>6,540</b>	Based on time spent
Other support	3,666	-	-	-	<b>3,666</b>	Based on time spent
Other governance costs	-	1,645	-	-	<b>1,645</b>	Based on time spent
Function/activity total	<b>41,048</b>	<b>8,185</b>	-	-	<b>49,233</b>	Based on time spent
<b>2020</b>						
IT related support costs	13,028	-	-	-	<b>13,028</b>	Based on time spent
Accounting support	18,403	-	-	-	<b>18,403</b>	Based on time spent
Audit fee	-	6,320	-	-	<b>6,320</b>	Based on time spent
Other support	3,591	-	-	-	<b>3,591</b>	Based on time spent
Other governance costs	-	1,971	-	-	<b>1,971</b>	Based on time spent
Function/activity total	<b>35,022</b>	<b>8,291</b>	-	-	<b>43,313</b>	Based on time spent

## The Irish Skin Foundation

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

<b>6. Statutory and other information</b>	2021 €	2020 €
The net income for the year has been arrived at after charging:		
Auditors' remuneration (including expenses)	6,540	6,320
<b>7. Analysis of particulars of staff, director remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel</b>	2021 €	2020 €
Employee costs:		
Wages and salaries	319,102	319,102
Social insurance costs	34,436	34,436
Pension and income continuance costs	33,538	33,538
	<b>387,076</b>	<b>387,076</b>

The average number of full-time persons employed by the organisation during the year was 3 (2020: 3). There was no remuneration paid to Directors during the year (2020: nil).

	2021 Number of employees	2020 Number of employees
Salary range of employees earning >€70,000 (excluding pension contributions):		
€100,001 – €110,000 € (2020: €100,001 – €100,000)	1	1

In the year, 2 staff earning in excess of €50,000 p.a. (2020: 2) participated in the pension scheme. Contributions totalling €16,785 were made in respect of these employees (€16,672 in 2020).

**8. Taxation**  
There is no corporation tax charge as the Charity has been granted charitable exemption by the Revenue Commissioners - (2020: nil)

**9. Related party transactions**  
The Irish Skin Foundation ("ISF") is associated with the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity by virtue that they have a common Director, Pdraig O'Cearbhaill. The City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity set up the Irish Skin Foundation and continues to support it.

In the year ended 31 December 2021, donations amounting to €363,000 (2020: €325,000) were received from the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity.

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## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

<b>10. Debtors</b>	2021	2020
	€	€
Prepayments	5,054	5,359
All amounts included above fall due within one year.		
<b>11. Reconciliation of net income to cash flow from operating activities</b>	2021	2020
	€	€
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting year (per SOFA)	7,047	(32,357)
Adjustments for:		
Decrease in debtors	305	14,118
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(39,220)	70,951
Net cash generated by operating activities	<b>(31,868)</b>	<b>52,712</b>
<b>12. Cash and cash equivalents</b>	2021	2020
	€	€
<b>Company</b>		
Unrestricted cash	130,945	162,813
<b>13. Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)</b>	2021	2020
	€	€
Trade creditors	4,261	12,073
Taxation and social insurance	12,979	9,670
Accruals	11,893	11,610
Deferred income	77,650	112,650
	106,783	146,003

Trade creditors and other creditors are payable at various dates in the three months after the end of the financial year in accordance with the creditors usual and customary credit terms.

Creditors for tax and social insurance are payable in the timeframe set down in the relevant legislation.

<b>14. Analysis of changes in net funds</b>	At 31 December 2020	Cash flows	At 31 December 2021
	€	€	€
Cash		162,813	(31,868)
		130,945	



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## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued

### 15. Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the charity's Financial Statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Directors make estimates and assumptions concerning the future in the process of preparing the entity Financial Statements. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There were no estimates and assumptions that are considered by the Directors/Trustees to have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

### 16. Statement of compliance and accounting policies

The statement of compliance on page 15 and accounting policies on pages 15 to 19 form an integral part of the notes to these Financial Statements.

### 17. Approval of financial statements

The directors approved the financial statements on

17th AUGUST 2022



# IRISH SKIN FOUNDATION

Supporting people with skin conditions

**Irish Skin Foundation  
Charles Institute for Dermatology  
University College Dublin  
Dublin D04 V1W8**

**T: (01) 486 6280  
E: [info@irishskin.ie](mailto:info@irishskin.ie)  
W: [www.irishskin.ie](http://www.irishskin.ie)**