'ISACS helped me incredibly by providing invaluable advice, support & inspiration at times when I needed it most.'
Claire Sheehan

'ISACS provides unlimited encouragement, advice and information on all and any aspect of the sector and how to improve my career.'
Ciara Moloughney

ISACS

Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network

ISACS

Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network

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www.isacs.ie

Design: Chameleon Creatives, Wexford.

Photographer Credits: Galway 2020 & Lucy Medlycott.

Artists Featured: Orlagh De Bhaldraithe, LUXE, Galway Community Circus, Macnas, Human Collective, Kate&Liam, Studio Eclipse, Tom Campbell, Spraoi, Síolta, Core Creations/Sorcas Garman.

Annual Report 2019

The Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network supports, encourages and empowers these art forms collectively.

ISACS at a Glance

The Irish Street Arts, Circus & Spectacle Network is a membership organisation, which aims to support, encourage and empower the Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Art forms of Ireland.

We provide a strong representative voice for the sector; gather and share information and resources; host seminars, conferences and networking events; lobby, advocate and inform policy development; deliver professional training support programmes, as well as offer direct advice and mentoring for and with our members.

2019 Highlights

FRESH STREET#3 in partnership with Circostrada and Galway 2020 became a glorious celebration of 'Place and Identity' which articulated the role that street arts provides in transforming the future of our place and the role of same in informing the future of our identities. This event saw 260 participants join together from 21 countries across the world. Street arts performances both spectacular and more intimate, were experienced on land and sea, from a wide range of artists from various backgrounds.

'Felt a real privilege to be there.'

Drawing the Crowds: Phase two of our sample Audience research programme for street, circus and spectacle arts supported by the Arts Council was completed and we are looking forward to bringing the third and final phase to fruition in 2020.

Increased programme: ISACS were pleased that our relationships with our core stakeholders grew significantly in 2019 with an uplift from the Arts Council of Ireland towards our core costs. This was balanced with a growth by our core partners of Culture Ireland and Wexford County Council as well as many other new relationships forming across the year.

Chairperson's Address

As my first year as Chair of ISACS comes to a close,I can reflect back on what has been an extremely successful and busy year for ISACS, the highlight of which was surely FRESH STREET in Galway, produced by ISACS in partnership with Circostrada and Galway 2020. Our network has grown again, our international reach has extended, and ISACS artists have performed all over the world.

Partnerships and relationships with the state sector has meant a gradual increase in our state funding, with the Arts Council of Ireland and Culture Ireland recognising the importance of our sector in growing audiences for the arts in Ireland, and reaching across continents to bring Irish artists to an international audience.

Insurance continues to be an issue for some of our members, and ISACS is working continuously and intensively with both members and consultative bodies to try and resolve this problem

We are indebted to the support of our members, the leadership of our board and the dedication and hard work of our Director, Lucy Medlycott.

The future is bright for ISACS and for the streets arts, circus and spectacle sector in Ireland.

Miriam Dunne | Chair of the ISACS Network 2019

Location of Members

ISACS Members 2019

Individual/organisation with youth circus activity
Individual/organisation which are based in Ireland and elsewhere

2ManyDanceMoves
AcroAer
Acrophobia
Aedín Walsh/Seraph Id - Sweden
Aerial Cirque
Aidan Ring/Tornaido
Aisling Ni Cheallaigh
Ana Camillo
Angelica Santander
Angelique Ross
Anita Wood
Aoife Raleigh
Artastic
Bella Gibney - Italy
Bloco Garman
Brian Daly
Bui Bolg
C Circus K
Caroline Toledo
Catherine Bourne
Chrissie Ardill/Underhanddance - UK
Ciara Moloughney/Katakin Productions
Cie Maleta
Circus 250
Cikada Circus
Circus Factory Cork
Circus Fergus
Circus Gerbola
Claire Sheehan Creatives
Cloughjordan Circus
Core Creations
Cork Community Art Link
Curious State
Danae Wollen
Deirdre Griffin/HeadonBody
Dublin Circus Project
DueDa Company - Italy
Dunn Create
Duo Les mains en l'Air - France
Elisa Gallo Rosso
Elysia McMullen - Holland
Emily Aoibheann
Faerialist/Hannah Anderson
Fanzini Productions
Fay Geldof-Dowling
Fidget Feet Aerial Dance
Flowlita/Sarah Kineen
Francesca Castellano
Freddy Burrows
Funtastics Gymnastics
Fuse Performance/Uni of Winchester - UK
Galway Community Circus
Geena O'Keeffe
Go Dance Ireland
Gracie May Marshall - Spain
Guy Carleton
Hat Fair Winchester - UK
Hotch Potch
Human Collective
Il Cataldo - Italy
Inferno Fire Show
Irish Aerial Creation Centre
Isabela Mello
Jack Wise
Jacob Andersen
Jessica Doolin - China
Jimmy Bray
Joli Vyann - UK
Jordan Walshe
Judenald Marcus Penders
Julie-Rose McCormick
Kadira Theatre
Kasheba/Macha Shewolf
Kate Finegan
Kathleen Doherty
Katie Holmes
Kim McCafferty
Laura Ivers
Laura Murphy
Laura Rossi - Italy
Linda Cullen
Lioness Aerial Fitness
Logy on Fire
LoosySmokes
Lords of Strut
Lumen Street Theatre
Macnas
Maire Dee Dance
Maria Corcoran
Mecanique Vivante - France
Michaela Heyer - UK
Miquel Barcelo/Revolution of Jesters
Missy Fortune/Danielle Fortune Reck
Molly Dowling
Naomhan McKeon Joyce
Natasha Bourke
National Circus Festival of Ireland
Nicola Moran
Oceanallover - UK
Orlagh De Bhaldraithe
Orlaith Carr Ni Chearra
Owen Reynolds - UK
Passepartout
Paulina KIdz Parties
Physical Fool/Sophia Knox Miller - USA
Pyre Productions
Rachel Ni Bhraonain
Realta Entertainment
Reeny RooRaz - UK
Riuchi
Ronan Brady/Be Your Anomaly
Ronan McLoughlin
Sarah Blanc/Moxie Brawl - UK
Sevesfeathers
Spraoi
Squarehead Productions - Germany
Stephen Cadwell
Taking Flight Aerial & Acrobatics
Teatime company - Holland
The Dirty Circus
The Fairy and the Fiddler
Tom Campbell
Tony McCarthy/McCarthy's Circus Collection
Tumble Circus
Turas Theatre Collective
Vicky Lennie Costumes
Woven Circus Collective

Overview of Programme Activity 2019

Seminars/Conferences/Networking events

FRESH STREET#3 in partnership with Circostrada and Galway 2020

FRESH STREET saw several strands of work around Street Arts come together from an academic, a practitioner, and a programmers perspective, both national and international, including twelve policy makers from six different countries who attended a private Pre FRESH event in addition to FRESH itself.

'Unique and creative programme exploring the themes in an accessible and imaginative way.'

EXplore: Annual Seminar & AGM | Dublin

ISACS hosted their Annual gathering in Dance Ireland, Dublin with a host of ISACS artists and members joining together to share and exchange ideas, projects and points of view.

On the Road | Spraoi, Waterford

This vibrant international Open Forum hosted by ISACS in partnership with Waterford Spraoi and Outdoor Arts UK, was a huge success. Joined by a range of international guests, visitors, programmers and stakeholders – the ISACS members, local community and wider public exchanged across a variety of topics and conversations.

Share | National Circus Festival of Ireland, Tralee, Co. Kerry

The theme in 2019 was Overcoming Obstacles. This well-established open forum, gathers together a range of ISACS members to share their successes and challenges in a safe environment. Attendees ranged from ISACS artists & members to international Festival Programmers from as far afield as Poland and Mallorca. Much was shared, exchanged and learned.

Liz Lerman: Critical Response Process

In partnership with Brian O'Connell, we delved into the Liz Lerman technique with a detailed workshop led by Natasha Gore. ISACS members Teatime Company were the brave artistic participants and a very useful technique for sharing and learning about how to give and receive artistic feedback was gathered, from which we all have much to learn.

Professional Development Programmes

DELVE

ISACS partnered with the Dublin Dance Festival, Irish Aerial Dance Festival, Waterford Spraoi and the National Circus Festival of Ireland for our DELVE 19 programme. This programme brings ISACS members to see and discover new art work and art forms through attendance, participation and mentoring at local festivals. Eight ISACS members participated in this programme in 2019.

'This has given me a boost of confidence to venture into new ways of making artwork, while knowing I can use the experience I already have of working in other media.' Vicky Lennie (DELVE IADF).

NEST

The New Emerging Street Talent programme (NEST) in partnership with Spraoi Festival and Arts Council Ireland was delighted to work with artists Laura Ivers and Human Collective this year. These artists spent a week in residence in Waterford, under the guidance of Olivia Quayle and Jan Patzke, of Joli Vyann, before showcasing their work to the Spraoi festival audience and the international delegation.

LEAP | Learn, Experience, Achieve, Prepare

The LEAP programme has now become a well-established programme for upcoming arts professionals to engage in. Over the course of 12 weeks, participants learn arts administration, communication, research techniques, management and advocacy skills in a direct working environment.

This has proved highly popular with 15 attendees, joining us from 8 countries across 4 continents, over the last three years.

'This experience is an opportunity to have a better idea of the range of jobs which you could do in the future or invent for yourself.' Cyrille Roussial LEAP Trainee 2019

In 2019 the LEAP trainees included: Cyrille Roussial, Sara Galletti, Marie Semichon, Clara Simon and Augustina Vasile. Beir Bua!

Sorcas Garman

A new partnership with the FDYS Youth Service was developed with the purpose of developing a grass roots social circus community in Wexford. This seed-sowing project was put out to tender among the ISACS members and Core Creations were the successful applicant to lead same. Over 20 young people were involved, with feedback including: *'Sorcas Garman is a creative outlet for me and is a great way to meet up with friends.'*

This project was funded by Wexford Local Development, with additional support from Wexford Arts Centre and Local Links Wexford.

Artistic Residency | Áras Éanna

A new partnership was initiated together with the Áras Éanna arts centre facilitating an artists' residency for a month on the island of Inis Oírr. This year the residency was aimed towards the creation of a new site specific work for FRESH STREET. The Open call for same was launched in November and the successful artists of Kate Boschetti & Liam Wilson were in situ for the month of May. Looking forward to the continuation of this new initiative.

Pitch

ISACS partnered with Culture Ireland to deliver a training programme on How to Pitch your work. Three artists were invited to participate, pitching their work to a room full of programmers, funders and supporters: Isabella Mello, Nicola Moran and Angelica Santander.

Upsource | Cultural Leadership

ISACS was invited to participate in a Cultural Leadership coaching programme led by Susan Coughlan in partnership with Dublin Dance Festival. This programme was extremely beneficial for our core staff in developing their skills, confidence and growing their network, along with other participants from Dance Ireland, Galway Community Circus, Live Collision, Collapsing Horse, Sing Ireland, Fidget Feet, Liz Roche Dance Company, Baboro Festival, Chamber Choir Ireland and the Contemporary Music Centre.

International

Focus Ierland | Spoffin

ISACS together with Spoffin Street Arts Festival, hosted an international platform for artistic organisations to present work in the Netherlands. Selected ISACS artists were Francesca Castellano, Cia Maleta & Lords of Strut.

See Here | Spraoi

ISACS invited eleven international programmers to see work and meet artists in Ireland at Waterford Spraoi, with the support of Culture Ireland. They were treated to a range of professional gatherings, a visit to the studio, an opportunity to meet Irish artists, to see a diversity of street arts work and a chance to see the famous Spraoi parade. Invited guests included: Gert Nulens - Theater Op de Markt, Belgium | Anu Tähemaa – HOOG International Contemporary Circus Festival, Estonia | Goro Osojnik – Ana Desetnica, Ljubljana | Tia Jorda & Joana Peralta - Circaire, Mallorca | Rosa Forteza & Alejandro Navarro – Cia Mov-i-ments, Mallorca | Olivia Quayle & Jann Patzke – Joli Vyann, UK | Angus McKechnie - Outdoor Arts, UK | Alan Richardson – SURGE Scotland, UK.

'I enjoyed the festival and the parade, the talks with the artists, and also the time on my own (strolling through the streets of Waterford...). Wonderful!' Gert Nulens | Theater op de Markt

Irish Mallorcan Exchange

ISACS were delighted to initiate for the first time an exchange between the Irish Aerial Creation Centre and Cine Sineu. ISACS members Síolta Collective were invited on an artistic residency for two weeks in the heart of this island at Cine Sineu in 2018 and in August 2019 Cia Moviments attended a residency in Limerick with the IACC. We hope to build this initiative further in the future.

Fira Tarrega

ISACS once again participated, exchanged and nurtured our international relations at Fira Tarrega | International Festival and market place for Street arts. Thanks to the Institut Ramon Llull, together with Culture Ireland, ISACS were enabled to support a strong Irish delegation to participate.

In addition this year we presented a joint breakfast meeting in partnership with the Institut Estudis Balearics called 'Island Life' highlighting our Mallorcan/Irish exchange.

Delegates included: Tara McGowan -Cairde Festival:Sligo, Kim McCafferty – Fanzini's & National Circus Festival of Ireland, Ria Murphy – Aerial Cirque, Mike Leahy – Waterford Spraoi, Henrik Gard & Ali Stanger – Cikada Circus, Tom Campbell – artist, Lucy Medlycott & Niamh Colbert – ISACS Network & Ciarán Walsh – Culture Ireland.

'Fira Tarrega is a central event in the international street arts calendar and opportunities for ISACS members to participate at every level are crucial to the continued development of the sector.'

SEE HERE | NCFI Tralee

ISACS were delighted to host Tia Jorda of Circaire, Mallorca and Rafal Sadownik of Carnaval Sztukmistrzów, Poland with the support of Culture Ireland, to see and meet circus artists at Ireland's only dedicated circus festival.

Circostrada

ISACS remained deeply involved in the development of Circostrada - European Network Circus and Street Arts, through attendance at both general meetings in 2019 – Cirqu' Festival - Aarau, Switzerland and Café de las Artes Teatro, Santander, Spain. This was in addition to leading on the delivery of FRESH STREET#3 in 2019 and continuing to contribute to the evolution of this international event for street arts, which takes place in Torino in October 2020 under the leadership of FNAS.

Advocacy

Insurance: In 2018 ISACS joined forces with the Alliance for Insurance Reform to actively advocate for Insurance reform and this continued unabated in 2019. In this regards we have attended, spoke, presented and met with many concerned parties, relevant officials, politicians and more in order to address this threatening crisis to the development of this sector. This has tested the future of our sector to the max and pushed all of us to learn and fast about the mechanisms in which to achieve real reform for our country. This is an ongoing task and one we are still fighting. #InsuranceReform NOW

Artists Social Welfare Scheme: ISACS were delighted to be one of the advisors to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht together with the Department of Social Welfare, on the expansion of the Artists Social Welfare scheme to include Street, Circus and Spectacle artists from September 2019.

Pay the Artist: The Arts Council of Ireland worked closely in 2019 with a range of resource organisations including ISACS to develop a new policy around Paying the Artists. We look forward to further developing our role in this regards in 2020.

Research & Publications: In 2018 ISACS continued to establish our work in audience research, working in partnership with Carlow Arts Festival, Cairde Arts Festival, Earagail Arts Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, Laya Healthcare City Spectacular and Waterford Spraoi to deliver 'Drawing the Crowd' | 2019 Audience Mapping Project by Dr Stephen Cadwell with assistance from Jack Beglin.

thank you

- **A huge thank you to all who supported, contributed, engaged and believed in the strength of collective voices and a dedicated network for the development of this inspiring sector.**
- **To our members whom we represent and who create and grow these art forms daily.**
- **To our host partners at the Wexford County Council and the Irish Theatre Institute.**
- **To our fellow networks at Circostrada, Outdoor Arts UK and Theatre Forum for their ongoing support and encouragement.**
- **To our funders: Arts Council of Ireland, Culture Ireland, Wexford County Council, Galway 2020, Wexford Local Development and more.**

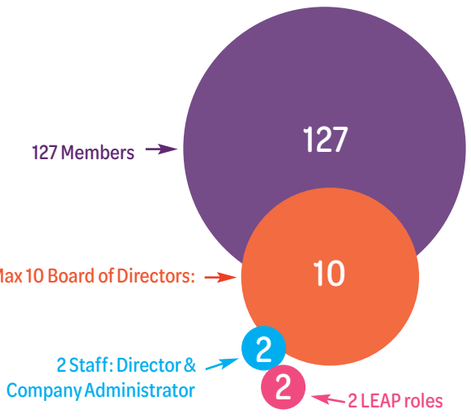
'ISACS continues to support our organisation on a multitude of levels throughout each year.'
Galway Community Circus

'ISACS is so vital for these art forms in Ireland. It gives us a voice, a network and is strung together with such vivacity that it's hard not feel like a family member in this community!'
Hannah Rogerson

Governance

The Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network is a Not for Profit, Company Limited by Guarantee and a registered Charity.

It is governed by a Voluntary Board of Directors with a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 directors at one time. There is a one third rotation annually of the longest serving board members at the AGM.



Information and Resource Sharing

ISACS established itself as the main point of information for its members and other stakeholders working in the sector through:

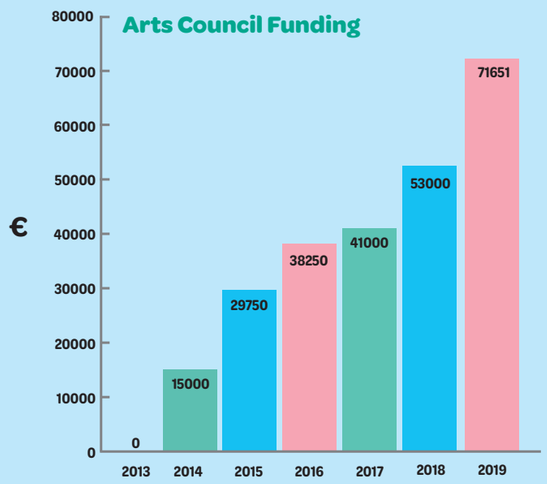
- ISACS Website
- Members profile pages
- Members event listing
- Up to date listings for jobs, auditions, funding, training, residencies, research and many more
- Social Media; Twitter & Facebook Profiles highlighting events, work and profiles of ISACS members specifically, as well as sharing information relevant to the development of the sector
- Internal communication of specific sector opportunities, resources, news and events to ISACS members via Facebook and members space on our website.

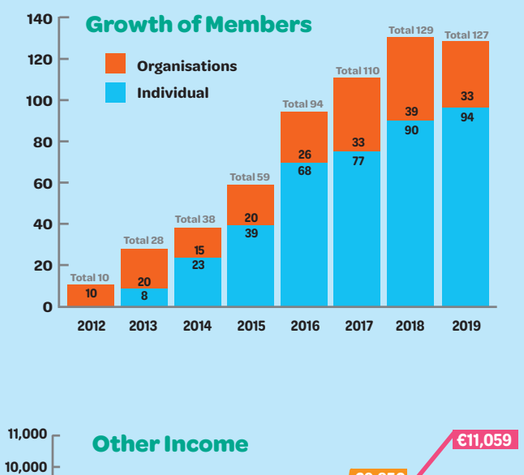
Board Members

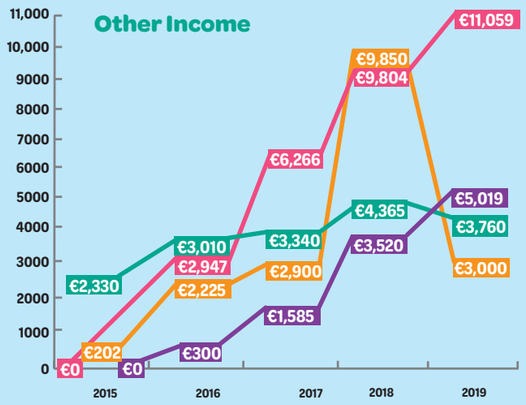
Miriam Dunne – Chair (appointed 30/04/2019)
Niamh Colbert – Treasurer
Catherine Bourne – Mins Secretary
Moe Coakley
Laura Ivers
Chantal Daly
Nicholas Kavanagh
Siobhan Creaton
Elisa Gallo Rosso (appointed 30/04/2019)
Aidan Phelan (resigned 30/04/2019)
Noeline Kavanagh (resigned 30/04/2019)

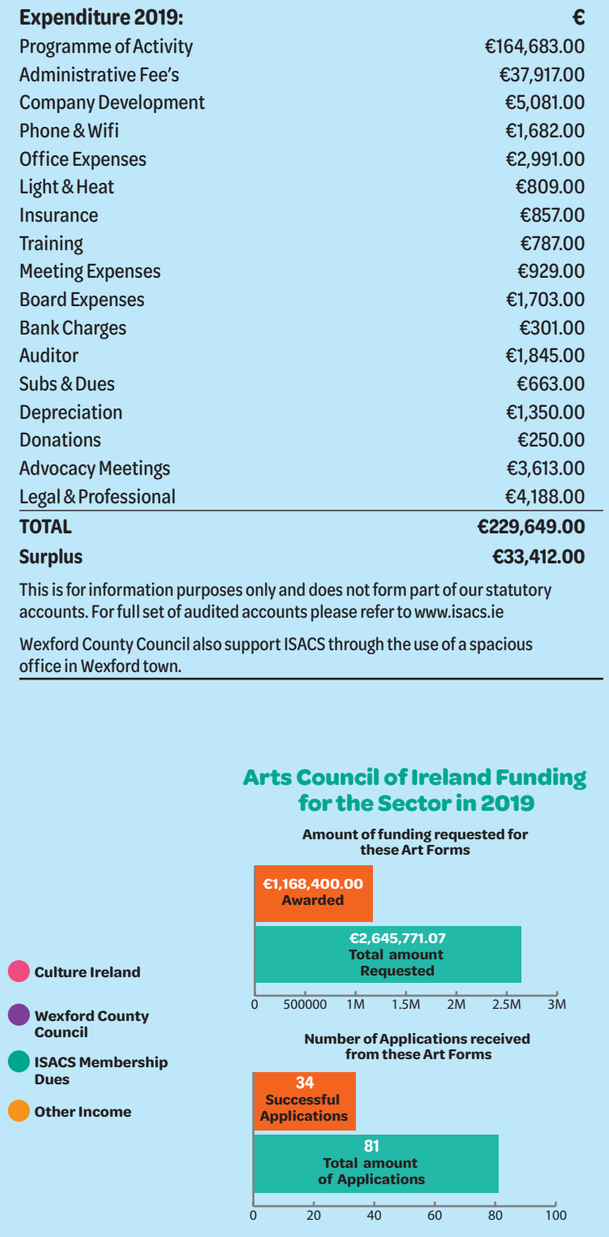
Staff

Director – Lucy Medlycott
Communications & Information Officer – Charlotte Haffner (January 2019)
Company Administrator – Kate Lynch (November 2019)



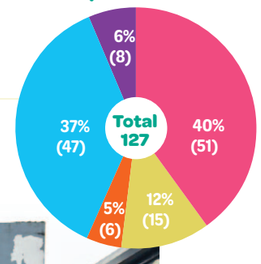






Source of data: Arts Council of Ireland
The Arts Council's grant from the Irish Exchequer in 2019 is €75 million.

Unique ISACS Memberships by Art Form



ISACS Data

Circus
Street Arts
Spectacle
Cross Arts
Others

This data is drawn from a sample survey in which a quarter of the active ISACS members participated with answers.

Income & Expenditure Summary 2019

Income 2019:	€
FRESH STREET	€144,826.00
Arts Council Strategic Funding	€71,651.00
Wexford Local Development	€23,746.00
Culture Ireland	€11,059.00
Wexford County Council	€5,019.00
Membership Income	€3,760.00
Other Income(Artistic Fee's)	€3,000.00
TOTAL	**€263,061.00**

Expenditure 2019:	€
Programme of Activity	€164,683.00
Administrative Fee's	€37,917.00
Company Development	€5,081.00
Phone & Wifi	€1,682.00
Office Expenses	€2,991.00
Light & Heat	€809.00
Insurance	€857.00
Training	€787.00
Meeting Expenses	€929.00
Board Expenses	€1,703.00
Bank Charges	€301.00
Auditor	€1,845.00
Subs & Dues	€663.00
Depreciation	€1,350.00
Donations	€250.00
Advocacy Meetings	€3,613.00
Legal & Professional	€4,188.00
TOTAL	**€229,649.00**
Surplus	**€33,412.00**

This is for information purposes only and does not form part of our statutory accounts. For full set of audited accounts please refer to www.isacs.ie

Wexford County Council also support ISACS through the use of a spacious office in Wexford town.