Irish Charitable Trust

Working with the needs of the Irish Community

Annual Report
1999/2000
THE IRISH CHARITABLE TRUST

Incorporating
THE IRISH SUPPORT AND ADVICE SERVICE

Registered charity number: 1053278

OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Jack Culleton  Trustee (appointed April 1999)
Kay Curtin  Trustee
Eileen Dooley  Trustee (appointed 1999)
Margaret Doyle  Chairperson (appointed Chairperson August 1999)
Fr Bob Dunn  Trustee
Michael Feerick  Trustee (resigned Chairperson August 1999)
Anne Killeen  Trustee
Tony Hennessy  Trustee (resigned September 1999)
Adrian Jones  Trustee (resigned January 1999)
Gerry Keegan  Treasurer (appointed September 1999)
Alice Casey Kennedy  Member
Patrick McNally  Company Secretary
Bob Mulcahy  Vice Chairperson
Jeanne Mullane  Trustee (resigned June 2000)
David Mullins  Trustee (appointed November 1999, resigned April 2000)
Kevin Nolan  Trustee (resigned September 1999)
Kevin O’Byrne  Treasurer (resigned June 1999)
Jacqui Reid  Trustee

REGISTERED OFFICE

The Irish Centre
Blacks Road
Hammersmith
London W6 9DT

AUDITORS

Michael Bell & Co.
Chartered Accountants
56 Saint James’s Street
London E17 7PE

BANKERS

Allied Irish Bank PLC
Sovereign House
361 King Street
Hammersmith
London W6 9NA

SOLICITORS

Cliona O’Tuama
Hamilton House
1 Temple Avenue
London EC4Y 0HA

Patrick McNally
Company Secretary
INTRODUCTION

History of the Irish Charitable Trust

The Irish Charitable Trust began as the Irish Welfare Bureau. The name was later changed to the Irish Support and Advice Service. The Irish Support and Advice Service was renamed the Irish Charitable Trust in January 1999. The Irish Support and Advice Service (ISAS) continues to be run from the Irish Centre in Hammersmith as a Trust project. In addition, since 1996, the agency has run its Outreach programme aimed at the most vulnerable members of the immigrant Irish community.

Objectives of the Irish Charitable Trust

Our charity was established for the purpose of relieving poverty and distress amongst Irish immigrants to the United Kingdom with particular regard to:

1. Assisting resident Irish immigrants where required to find suitable employment and accommodation in the UK.

2. Endeavouring to supply or gain access to the material and emotional support required by such immigrants in need.

3. Assisting Irish and other immigrants to obtain the benefit of statutory and voluntary support networks.

4. Providing information generally for immigrants with regard to social and recreational activities.

5. Advising and assisting immigrants who wish to return to Ireland.
Our Clients

The Irish are the largest ethnic minority community in Britain generally, and are particularly concentrated in West London and in the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

Many of our clients emigrated from Ireland to Britain from the 1940’s onwards and have lived and worked in West London for many years. Many men worked in physically demanding jobs in the construction industry. Often they were paid in cash, and national insurance contributions were not made on their behalf. Recessions in the 1970’s, 1980’s and early 1990’s led to lay-offs after which many never worked again. These, combined with the rolling-back of many social services and community care programmes have had devastating effects on parts of the Irish community. These emigrants often lost touch with their families at home, many feeling too ashamed to ask for help. Many are too proud or too ignorant even to claim those statutory benefits to which they are entitled. Therefore, as they enter old age, many of our clients are poor, unhealthy and socially isolated.

Although Irish emigrants to Britain are fewer in number in the 1990’s, they are often in greater need. Many of the new emigrants we see have mental health or drug problems as well as facing the traditional challenges of finding work and affordable housing in a foreign country.

A large proportion of our clients are in insecure, short-term housing. Unemployment is high. Lastly, many face significant health and disability issues. Observations at this agency are reinforced by national data. About 25% of all clients of working age indicate that they have some sort of current health problem or a disability. Given the level of health problems the relatively low rate of registration with a GP is a matter of concern. Roughly one in eight clients has suffered from mental health problems. The high admission rate of Irish people to mental hospitals has been identified in published research, and been related to the experience of migration. For women social pressures of Irish society play their part, with problems resolving a broken marriage or a legal abortion terminating an unwanted pregnancy causing feelings of guilt or rejection of the particular family values women are expected to uphold. Depressive illnesses reflect this disempowerment. Whilst the long term effects of migration provide an explanation of the high incidence of mental illness amongst the client group there are other factors and a range of services needs to be provided. Finally, alcohol misuse is a marked phenomenon that we encounter.

The clients who approach ISAS often come to obtain a variety of services. Their multiple needs cannot readily be met by mainstream agencies. At times, several visits are needed to deal with the variety of needs identified. We also endeavour to reassure clients at times of great hardship and distress.
Our Services

Advice services
We offer advice on housing, welfare rights, employment, family matters, law, discrimination, battery, gay rights and drug addiction.

Counselling
Many of our clients need emotional support and an Irish person to talk to. Our therapeutic groups give clients an opportunity to address issues facing them together with the support of trained counsellors. Our volunteer professional counsellors also fulfil this need.

Material support
Our main mandate is to offer advice. However, many of our clients come to us in need of material support. As an Irish agency our clients often find it easier to approach us, and let us direct them to the appropriate agencies. We direct hungry clients to the Broadway project. We give hampers to some of our most vulnerable clients at Christmas. We provide underwear and socks to the most needy of our clients. We advance small sums of cash for young people (under 25) returning to Ireland. On occasion, we allow clients supervised access to a telephone.

Irish-specific needs
We help clients who want help with obtaining identification documents, repatriation, making funeral arrangements, finding accommodation and ordinary travel to Ireland. Repatriation is a big decision, especially for people who have not been back for many years. We direct clients to appropriate information, and help them with arrangements. We often help clients to trace birth or marriage certificates for identification when claiming benefits. As an Irish agency we can process such requests efficiently and sensitively.
## Client Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client Group</th>
<th>Typical Problem</th>
<th>Advice</th>
<th>Counselling</th>
<th>Material/Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People with</td>
<td>Insecure Housing</td>
<td>Welfare Benefits</td>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Women’s Group</td>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Financial Advice</td>
<td>(domestic violence)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>Housing Advice</td>
<td>Elderly Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(especially alcoholic)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td>Housing Referral to</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>Alcohol Abuse</td>
<td>Drying Out Clinic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harassment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 25’s</td>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Help with ID and Repatriation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>Arrangements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mental Health Problems</td>
<td></td>
<td>Food, and Travel Costs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alcohol Abuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug Abuse/HIV</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 25 to 44 Age</td>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>General Counselling</td>
<td>Food &amp; Clothing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groups</td>
<td>Insecure Housing</td>
<td>Welfare Benefits</td>
<td>(for women, in particular)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(50% of clients</td>
<td>(private renters)</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have lived in</td>
<td>Homelessness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain for most</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of their lives)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 65 and over</td>
<td>Council Tenants Owner Occupiers</td>
<td>Advocacy in Health &amp; Housing</td>
<td>Elderly Group Outreach</td>
<td>Clothing, Repatriation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(most in Britain</td>
<td>in Badly Maintained Houses (few</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for over 10yrs,</td>
<td>private renters)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>half have health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>problems)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHATPERSON’S REPORT

Dear Friends,

On the behalf of the Trustees of the Irish Charitable Trust, I am pleased to report to you, our members, supporters and well-wishers, our progress during the financial year ending March 31st 2000.

Review of Developments, Activities and Achievements

Our work with Irish elders has been recognised in our participation in the government’s Better Government for Older People Initiative. Bob Mulcahy, our Vice-Chairperson, represents ISAS on Hammersmith & Fulham’s Better Government for Older People Review Panel. Our manager, Stella Houlihan, deputises for our Vice Chairperson and is a member of a borough committee comprising councillors and representatives of organisations from agencies around the borough. It is the vulnerable elderly Irish that our Outreach programme serves.

Outreach Programme

Ann Laffey has been running this project since joining in August 1999, she is well respected by the Irish elderly clients, and maintains enthusiasm for her work with this needy group of people. Paul Murphy has joined Ann, on a temporary basis, so that we can maintain the expected level of service that the elderly Irish community have come to expect and deserve from ISAS. As the title suggests this is reaching out to the often lonely, vulnerable and needy, elderly Irish who would not otherwise receive help from other agencies. We can visit, assess and act quickly to these clients needs.

Funding

We wish to record our thanks to the Irish Government’s Dion Fund and to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Social Services and Community Liaison departments for their continuing support to this charity.

We established a new fund-raising committee in the Autumn. We held a drinks party to promote the charity among friends of Irish charitable causes at The Economist Tower in St James’s, London SW1 on February 10th. We received donations totalling £15,000 surrounding the event.

We are also grateful to the Irish Youth Foundation for their subvention of £5,000 for drug counselling.

We promoted the charity at the London Trinity Association, St Patrick’s Day party at the Irish Club, Eaton Square. Waterford Crystal, L’Oreal, British Midland and local businesses contributed prizes to a raffle, which raised £260. The dinner dance also gave the chairperson and staff an opportunity to promote the charity to a group of young business people.

We are grateful to the members of the Irish Society in Richmond, South West London who raised £556 for the charity.

Our thanks go to the Doctor Edwards’ and Bishop King’s Fulham Charity for their generous support for our welfare work to Fulham people in need, including distribution of Christmas hampers to Fulham households in poverty. We are also grateful to those who have taken part in our Flora London Marathon, both as sponsors and runners. We offer sincere thanks to all involved and look forward to your continued support for the Marathon in 2001.
We must also record our thanks to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and to many other charities who have made donations to our clients on referral by Irish Charitable Trust staff, allowing us successfully to address acute personal needs.

Silverskin, a communications consultancy, designed a new identity - real and virtual - for us, *pro-bono*. We have used it for our invitations, fund-raising literature and general correspondence. We believe that the logo signifies emigration, and the chance that an emigrant can fall as easily on barren soil as on fertile ground.

Lastly, we are grateful to you, our members and friends, for your continuing generosity.

**Community Development**

Thanks to continued funding and support from the Social Services Department of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, we have been able to maintain our successful community care contract for local vulnerable people. Our group leaders Tony Nolan and Johanna Duffy work with three separate groups: the elderly, women and people with mental health problems. Attendance at the groups enables the members to participate in society and lead to fuller and more satisfactory lives.

The outreach group meet at the Irish Centre for an afternoon every second week. Membership has grown to over 30, with average attendance of 28 pensioners a week. Ann Laffey who runs the group also arranges summer trips to the seaside and tea dances, which have proved very popular. The result is that new pensioners continue to make contact and join the group.

We are proud to report the popularity of the Christmas Party which was free of charge thanks to sponsorship by Courage Brewery, Waverley Wines and Celtic Bakers, amongst other kind donors. Also our St. Patrick’s Day party for Irish pensioners, the only event of its kind held in the Irish Centre.

The Irish Centre played host to the Reminiscence project on 22nd June 2000. The project was funded by the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Better Government for Older People, the Millennium Fund. Johanna Duffy, our women’s and mental health counsellor and Ann Laffey, outreach worker, helped a group of elderly Irish to collate their memories, which resulted in the publication of their thoughts in “Glor caoin ne Gael” (Gentle Voice of the Irish). The project has been exhibited in the Irish Centre Foyer (Hammersmith) since its completion, and a second venue is at present being sought to continue exhibiting the work, this will also have media coverage. The exhibition of this work will continue for twelve months.

**Staff**

We would like to thank those members of staff who left us during the year. We wish Bill, Margaret, Deirdre, Tina, Angela, Tony and Jonathan, every success in their new ventures.

We were pleased to enjoy the good-natured services of Joanna Byfield, who helped us with filing and administration, as a New Deal worker.

We have been pleased to welcome new members of staff. Ann Laffey joined us as an outreach worker in August 1999 and has been an enthusiastic and energetic member of our team. After an exhaustive search, we were delighted to recruit Stella Houlihan as manager. She started last July.
I would like to record the committee’s thanks to Pat McNally, secretary, who stepped in at short notice to serve as part-time manager while we sought a new manager.

Paul Murphy, who will be known to old friends of the service as our former manager, has been assisting us as a locum outreach worker as we seek permanent staff.

**Volunteers**

We are grateful to the many members of the local community who offer their energetic services for free. Our volunteers help us in a variety of ways: fund-raising, book-keeping, administration, greeting clients and visitors to the Irish Centre and helping to ensure our St. Patrick’s Day and other celebrations a success. In all this work, the empathy and understanding shown by our volunteers is inspirational.

Some of our volunteers prefer for their actions not to be publicly noted. But of the others, we would particularly like to note the following:

Kathleen O’Donovan works at the centre virtually every day as receptionist. Kathleen is responsible for greeting and creating a welcoming environment for clients.

Owen McGuirk has turned around our birth certificates service, for which we charge a nominal £9. Attending regularly, he requests copies of birth certificates for clients from the Public Records Office in Sligo. These are necessary for many benefits claims and for passports, and a speedy service saves clients expense and distress.

Nora McMahon, at 84, is our oldest volunteer. Along with Sister Helena and Irene O’Donnell, she regularly mans the reception desk.

Dave Lee is a familiar face around the centre, he fits his work with us in between other voluntary duties at the Broadway drugs project.

We are delighted to record that three of our volunteers have secured employment. After a spell working with the service; Tina Martin was hired by the Irish Centre in Haringey, where she works as a welfare benefits adviser. Bill Carey, a former receptionist and all-round volunteer for the service, has been recruited by the Irish Centre as premises assistant, and Josephine Pascall, who used to help clients fill in disability living allowance forms, now works for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

**Management Committee**

To the Trustees who have gone, Adrian, Tony, Jeanne, David, and the two Kevins, many thanks for their support. To the new Trustees, including Eileen Dooley, a qualified social worker who spends one morning or afternoon a week at the centre dealing with clients; also Gerry Keegan our new treasurer. Among our other Trustees, Jack Culleton, a reliable volunteer, and Anne Killeen we say hello. Alice Casey-Kennedy, a manager with Hammersmith Council, and Kay Curtin, a district nurse, have both spent time at the centre over the past year, assessing our policies and procedures and working with staff to bring them up to best practice.
External Support

The agency is grateful to Christine Collins, community liaison officer at Hammersmith & Fulham council and Peter Ridout, manager of the Hammersmith & Fulham-funded Shepherds Bush Advice Centre, for their advice and support in our work.

Community Relations

A large part of the management committee and manager’s time is given up to maintaining relations in the community: with our funders; with our volunteers; with housing associations; with other charities and with other Irish organisations.

Bob Mulcahy, our Vice-Chairperson and a former deputy mayor of Hammersmith, visits the centre several days a week.

Four representatives of the trust attended the FIS annual meeting in May. We aim to have at least one representative at all of the FIS meeting, and succeeded in that aim this year.

How You Can Help?

We are eager to secure the help of more of you to help us in our vital work for the Irish in West London. Our volunteers are rising in number, and we are attracting a new community of supporters, but the needs we address are increasing even faster. The generations of Irish who came to Britain in the 1940’s and 1950’s are facing retirement, frequently in conditions of ill-health, poverty and loneliness. And more recent emigrants, while fewer in number, are greater in need. We ask you for your help. You can assist us by donating money or becoming a volunteer.

Contact our manager, Stella Houlihan by mail at the Irish Charitable Trust, Irish Centre, Blacks Road, Hammersmith, London W6 9DT or by phone on 020 8735 9892. Alternatively, e-mail us at stella@irishadvice.demon.co.uk.

Together, we can build the service that our clients deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Doyle
Chairperson
MANAGER’S REPORT

I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce myself as the new Manager of the Irish Charitable Trust and incorporating the Irish Support and Advice Service (ISAS).

The service provided by the ISAS has proven to be invaluable to the Irish people in West London. We are dealing with the immediate needs of our clients in day to day living. We share information and ideas with groups with similar concerns, at both local and national level, to aim at what is best practice. And we provide Irish emigrants with access to their culture, and an opportunity for social interaction.

Prior to my engagement, the management committee, staff and volunteers met with and accepted the advice of various agencies with the aim of reviewing and improving the mission and strategy of the trust. Taking on board the advice received from Federation of Independent Advice Centres, and Peter Ridout of the Hammersmith & Fulham-funded Shepherds Bush Advice Centre, the management committee set about with a clearer focus to guide the staff and volunteers, in the future.

This has therefore, been an ideal time for me to come on board and to join such a committed organisation. My aim is to support each individual within their role at ISAS. I shall obtain the necessary resources, so that each group can offer the best service and in turn support the Irish Community and their needs within West London.

Stella Houlihan
Manager
WELFARE AND SOCIAL WORK REPORT

One of the responsibilities of this post is to provide comprehensive information to clients on all welfare rights issues.

We deal with a diverse range of queries, which reflect the local community at large. Many clients have cases which are ongoing long term, requiring weekly support; drop-in clients who are often seen on a one-off basis once an issue is resolved promptly; short term cases which are usually resolved once a few interviews have taken place and cases referred to the relevant external agencies.

General queries can involve assisting with form filling, explaining entitlement letters, requesting grants, to more complex queries regarding appeals, overpayments and non dependant deductions, drink and drug problems which involve going through a network of agencies which tend to be more time consuming.

Other issues dealt with are: repatriation, domestic violence, abuse, substance misuse, mental health, learning disabilities, physical illness, family work, benefits, other finances (including debt), homelessness and pensions, particularly Irish pension entitlements (recently extended).

It is vital with welfare benefits, advice and social work to develop and maintain a strong network of contacts in both the statutory and volunteer sectors and to keep up-to-date with new developments and the constant changes in legislation. This ensures that clients have more options and an improved quality of service.

We work as a team. The welfare and social work officer, along with the housing officer are the frontline staff at the office - ably supported by the administrator who does all the reception work. The two Outreach Workers refer their client contacts, where appropriate, to the office staff.

Annette Henry
Welfare Advice Worker
HOUSING OFFICER REPORT

The housing advice service is extremely busy and we spend approximately 40% of our advice resources dealing with housing related problems.

The housing advice worker sees an average of eight clients a day, most of who have complex problems requiring on-going case work.

We offer a daily drop-in advice and advocacy service to people in housing crisis, many of whom are sleeping rough in the local area or in the surrounding boroughs.

We refer people to the emergency housing services whenever appropriate, but mostly we have to try to house single homeless people who do not qualify for local authority assistance. This is a difficult task, due to the lack of hostels and other emergency accommodation in the city. We are lucky to have referral rights to several Irish housing associations who assist us in securing accommodation for homeless Irish people with support needs.

Many of our clients who seek housing advice and advocacy come to us at a stage when their problems have become unmanageable for them. For example, they may be on the verge of being evicted, and they may require immediate legal intervention, in order to prevent them from losing their homes.

Most clients are unable to comprehend the infinite complexity of the housing legislation system and we help them to become aware of their rights and responsibilities as tenants.

Other clients require representation and advocacy services, as they are unable to represent themselves due to social or welfare difficulties such as drug/alcohol dependencies, depression or mental health problems. As a housing advisor, I make written and oral representation on behalf of our clients, while also helping them to represent themselves, whenever possible.

Patricia Scanlon
Housing Officer
OUTREACH SERVICE

The service offered by the ISAS Outreach Work has proved to be invaluable to the Irish people in West London. There are three main areas to the service; firstly, it gives support and advice on issues such as welfare benefits, social services, housing, and returning home to Ireland. This includes referring to specialist agencies including solicitors, when necessary. Secondly, ISAS endeavours to access information with similar groups by way of representation, e.g., the London Irish Elders Forum. Thirdly, group involvement is encouraged through the Outreach Club, and projects such as the Reminiscence project. These three areas ensure that we are dealing with the immediate needs of our clients in the day-to-day living, sharing information and ideas with similar groups, so that we are not missing out on opportunities, at both national, and local level; Finally, allowing the Irish people access to their culture, and social interaction.

Reminiscence Project

Following a successful bid to the Millennium Small Grants Scheme and the award of £1,000 towards the funding of an exhibition, the Reminiscence Project got under way. The work was supported by the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as part of their Better Government for Older People initiative; the Irish Support and Advice Service and the Ethnic Communities Oral History Project. This has resulted in the publication of the work in; ‘Glor caoin na Gael’ (Gentle Voice of the Irish). This will be exhibited, with media coverage at various venues for the next twelve months.

The Outreach Service organised weekly sessions for Irish men and women over 50 years of age to meet socially and explore common experiences such as work, family and social life as well as other issues like migration and discrimination. All Irish ‘over-50’s’, be they first or second generation, were warmly welcomed to sessions of reminiscing, teas and socialising. With the help of a tutor to facilitate the activities, members were involved in recording and editing material for publication. This displayed the diversity of Irish life in Britain and revealed how these experiences shaped the social, economic and health needs of Irish men and women in Hammersmith & Fulham.

Social Gatherings

The Christmas Party (1999) was very successful, with attendance figures of 250. Irish dancing was one of the performances that took place.

St Patrick’s Day (2000) Party was successful and was attended by over 220 people. During The St. Patrick’s Day Party the opportunity was taken to speak to the large number of those who attended and Outreach leaflets were distributed.

Befriending Scheme

A befriending scheme initiative is being set up, using the Outreach Bulletin, we shall be asking for help from people with time on their hands for various types of assistance with the Outreach clients; eg., sitting with the sick, driving, reading, shopping etc.

Outreach Bulletin

We shall be re-instating the Outreach Bulletin, which will be informative to the Irish Community in a dual role capacity. Firstly, advising what services we offer, and secondly, to request help in voluntary roles.

Ann Laffey & Paul Murphy
Outreach Workers
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Company law requires the Members of the Committee to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year, which gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the year and the surplus or deficiency for the year then ended.

In preparing those Financial Statements the Members of the Committee are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them on a consistent basis, making judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable. The Members of the Committee must also prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Members of the Committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and to enable them to insure that the Financial Statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. The Members of the Committee 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.
AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the following Financial Statements which have been prepared under historical cost convention and accounting policies.

The following accounts may not be sufficient for a reader to understand the charity's accounts. A full set of accounts can be obtained from the Secretary of the Irish Charitable Trust.

Respective Responsibilities of the Members of the Committee and the Auditors

The Members of the Committee are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those Statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made in the preparation of the Financial Statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit, so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary, in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the Financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the Financial Statements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the Financial Statements gave a true and fair view of the charitable company's state of affairs as at 31st March 2000, and of it's incoming resources and application of resources, including it's income and expenditure, in the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

MICHAEL BELL & CO
Chartered Accounts
56 St. James's Street,
London E17 7PE

Date 28th September 2000
# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

**Year Ended 31st March 2000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted Funds</th>
<th>Restricted Funds</th>
<th>TOTAL Funds 2000</th>
<th>TOTAL Funds 1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming Resources:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>21,146</td>
<td>75,475</td>
<td>96,621</td>
<td>56,620</td>
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<td>Grants receivable</td>
<td>1,290</td>
<td>103,854</td>
<td>105,144</td>
<td>109,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>2,271</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,271</td>
<td>3,252</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income Resources</strong></td>
<td>24,707</td>
<td>179,329</td>
<td>204,036</td>
<td>169,817</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Resources Expanded:**        |                    |                  |                  |                  |
| Direct Charitable Expenditure  | 3,078              | 128,261          | 131,339          | 127,373          |
| Fundraising and publicity      | 1,781              | 0                | 1,781            | 432              |
| Management & administration    | 0                  | 55,928           | 55,928           | 44,600           |
| **Total Resources Expanded:**  | 4,859              | 184,189          | 189,048          | 172,405          |

| Net Movement of Reserves       | 19,848             | -4,860           | 14,988           | -2,588           |
| Balances brought forward       | 30,434             | 7,688            | 38,122           | 40,710           |
| **Balances carried forward**   | 50,282             | 2,828            | 53,110           | 38,122           |

The Charitable company has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charitable company are classed as continuing.
## SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

### Year Ended 31st March 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turnover</strong></td>
<td>201,765</td>
<td>166,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>189,048</td>
<td>172,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating (Deficiency)/Surplus</strong></td>
<td>12,717</td>
<td>-5,840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest receivable and similar income</td>
<td>2,271</td>
<td>3,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest payable and similar charges</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Net (Deficiency)/Surplus for the financial year** | 14,988 | -2,588 |

The Charitable company has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charitable company are classed as continuing.
## FIXED ASSETS

Year Ended 31st March 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tangible Assets</strong></td>
<td>6,308</td>
<td>5,069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debtors / prepayments</td>
<td>11,336</td>
<td>4,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
<td>48,519</td>
<td>40,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59,855</td>
<td>45,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creditors:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts falling due within one year</td>
<td>13,053</td>
<td>-12,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Current Assets:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46,802</td>
<td>33,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-53,110</td>
<td>38,122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reserves:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designated funds</td>
<td>35,925</td>
<td>20,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other charitable funds</td>
<td>14,357</td>
<td>10,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>2,828</td>
<td>7,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>53,110</td>
<td>38,122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on the 2000, and are signed on their behalf by

**Ms. M. Doyle**

**Mr. P. McNally**