



Annual Report 2006

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**Mary McAleese, President of Ireland
(Patron of Irish Water Safety)**

2006 Report Chairman's Statement

It is my pleasure as Chairman to present the Annual Report of Irish Water Safety for 2006, which has been a most successful year for a small Voluntary State Body, which has responsibility for Water Safety in this country. The report contains a comprehensive review of the many activities of Irish Water Safety undertaken by our volunteers and staff in an effort to make our maritime and inland waters safe, thus reducing drowning accidents. One of the measures of our success is that drownings for 2005 were the lowest recorded for many years, notwithstanding this we must strive to reduce it further.

One of the most significant events for all Irish Water Safety members during the year was the acceptance by Mrs. Mary McAleese, "President of Ireland" to become "Patron" of Irish Water Safety. Her great interest in our work and the humanitarian values we demonstrate in saving people from drowning "no doubt" influenced The President to accepting our invitation to become our Patron. The acclaim with which The President's acceptance was received by young and old within our Organisation was one of joy and pride. We sincerely thank The President for so honouring us by becoming our Patron.

During the year the term of office of the Council for the period 2003 to 2006 terminated and a new Council was appointed in July 2006 with two additional members. In conjunction with the appointments being made, a new Statutory Instrument (S.I. NO 389 of 2006) was given to the Council by the Minister of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under which Irish Water Safety was to function. The effect of the new Statutory Instrument is to give clarification to duties and responsibilities of the Council in certain areas such as lifeguarding, rescue etc, and to bring the Irish name "Sabhailteacht Uisce na hÉireann" into line with the near direct translation of Irish Water Safety.

This report also contains a comprehensive statement of our financial income and expenditure, which has been examined by the Comptroller & Auditor General. That so much is achieved by a small Organisation on a budget of less than "one million euro" and with a small staff, is a mark of the effectiveness of the work of the Council, its Commissions and supported by the members at local level in achieving its goals. The Council strives at all times to get value for money, but the high cost of pool hire and other necessary services to promote water safety are major factors in increased annual costs. Our staffing requirements will have to be addressed, at present we have a Chief Executive Officer with support staff of four, which is clearly not enough to service a vibrant expanding Organisation. Council has been compliant with all the necessary financial guidelines demanded of it by Government in relation to its financial activities. Our financial management is overseen by the Finance Commission (who report directly to the Council), by an independent Internal Examiner and also by our Firm of Accountants, R.J.Kidney & Co, Dublin.

Irish Water Safety through its expertise, leadership and dedication, provides an opportunity for the young of our community to learn swimming and lifesaving and this we do nationwide through a comprehensive summer and winter program. We provide them with the training to become lifesavers, instructors and lifeguards, and we give to them the skills necessary to save themselves and others involved in water related accidents. This we consider as a primary function of Irish Water Safety on this Island Nation of ours with such close proximity to water no matter where you are. We also provide these instructions under a comprehensive "Child Protection Code" of which we are very pleased to state was first put in place in 1995, being one of the first voluntary organisations to do so.

Sport is an essential part of training and development of youth in this country, this is acknowledged by Government. Irish Water Safety since its foundation in 1945 has always recognised this fact and therefore we play our part in this development through our national and international lifesaving sporting activities. Indeed, one of the most prestigious trophies to be competed for in sport in Ireland was presented by Uachtarán na hÉireann, Séan T O'Ceallaigh in 1950 and we are very proud that this trophy is competed for to this day and it stands as a testimony to the commitment of Irish Water Safety to fostering the development of the youth of Ireland through lifesaving sport.

With 30 Water Safety Area Committees, which includes one within An Garda Síochána and the other within the Defence Forces, we are able to promote water safety nationwide to a very high standard. We also have excellent schools programme, whereby we involve the schoolteachers and this allows us (in most cases) to have children educated in water safety awareness at a very young age. This aspect of our work is on going and we hope to develop it further in the coming years.

Sadly, during the year we lost some of our most dedicated volunteers through illness and accidents and we express to their families and friends our sincere sympathy. The dedication to water safety of our deceased Colleagues will remain with us in Irish Water Safety throughout the years.

On the 13th June 2006 we learned of the passing of Mr. Charles J. Haughey. Mr Haughey was a Patron of International Life Saving having been proposed by the Founding President, Mr Kevin Weldon AM (Australia). Mr Haughey took up his appointment in 1993 and was present for the inaugural meeting of International Life Saving in Cardiff in 1994. He was one of several Patrons among the following world and distinguished figures which includes, H.R.H. King CARL XVI Gustaf of Sweden, H.E. Nelson MANDELA (South-Africa) - former President of South Africa, H.E. Seyed Mostafa MIRSALIM (Iran) - former Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, H.E. Robert J. HAWKE (Australia) - former Prime Minister, H.E. John MAJOR (United Kingdom) - former Prime Minister, H.E. Brian MULRONEY (Canada) - former Prime Minister, H.E. Michel ROCARD (France) - former Prime Minister, Dr. Dave WILLIAMS, MD (Canada) - Space Agency Astronaut. We extend to Mrs. Haughey and her family our sincere sympathy, “Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam”.

The international dimension to water safety is a valuable one and at present we have membership of International Life Saving and the International Federation of Swimming Teachers. Through these we can learn from other country's lifesaving organisations and how they approach the teaching of swimming and water-rescue and promote water safety awareness. In return, other countries gain valuable experience and information from us concerning our approach to the promotion of water safety as an island nation.

During 2006, I was very concerned at the number of drownings that are occurring around our coast, especially among “non nationals” and including drowning accidents that have resulted within our indigenous fishing industry. On behalf of Irish Water Safety I extend to the bereaved families of those who died our sincere and deepest sympathy. Irish Water Safety has issued several Press Release concerning fishing off rocks and this has been picked by many “non national” columns in circulation here in Ireland and abroad. We have been in touch with International Life Saving seeking their help in notifying visitors and migrant workers to our country of the dangers of our seas compared to what they may normally be use to in their own countries. We will do our utmost to improve safety regimes for our offshore fishermen through our good working relationships with the many national maritime bodies we work closely with. Irish Water Safety continues to address loss of life through suicidal drownings and we have in place ongoing studies in this regard. We thank the ESB for the financial support they have given to us to address this issue.

This year, as we do every year in Dublin Castle, we honoured those who have given exceptional voluntary service to Irish Water Safety. We also acknowledged the kind sponsorships and supports that we received from many sources, which are substantial. Through the Seiko “Just in Time Awards” we acknowledged those who placed their lives on the line to rescue others in distress in water. We take this opportunity to congratulate all recipients on their fine achievements and kind sponsorships of our Organisation.

Irish Water Safety continues to have a very close relationship with Local Authorities and this we maintain through the Water Safety Development Officers who are members of Irish Water Safety on their appointment. We carryout risk assessments, pool and beach lifeguard training and testing and in general advise local authorities on matters of water safety and rescue. In return we receive financial support from all Local Authorities, which if we did not get would raise a question of sustainability in continuing with many of our programmes. Other financial support comes from several other sources including Central Government (especially the Department of

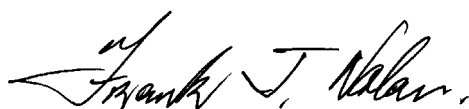
the Environment, Heritage & Local Government), fundraising by our members and the many businesses, firms and other voluntary organisations that give so generously to assist with programs and activities in the promotion of water safety.

I wish to thank our Medical Advisor, Dr. Tony Handley for the expert medical advice he has given us throughout the year. I wish to thank our Chief Executive Officer, the Marketing Manager, the Officer Manager and the other members of Staff for their dedication and loyalty throughout 2006. There is a vital role in supporting the efforts of the various groupings and members nationwide.

On a personal note, I express my thanks to my colleagues on the Council for their fine contribution to the promotion of water safety awareness during 2006. I know they will join with me in reflecting on the year with satisfaction, in the knowledge, that we have promoted water safety to the best of our ability. I thank all the voluntary members who give of their time so generously towards the work of the various Commissions and at local level.

I do wish to mention the exceptional high profile that Irish Water Safety has and is sustaining through the kindness of the various Press, Radio, TV and other media outlets. We thank them for their kind support and we acknowledge their commitment to saving life through their kind cooperation with us, which has never faltered over many years – Thank You!

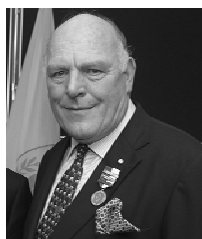
Finally, I extend the thanks of all members of Irish Water Safety to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. Dick Roche, T.D. who has been most supportive of our efforts in promoting water safety. We thank also other Ministers and Ministers of State who have taken time to be available to us to launch projects or present awards. Special thanks to the Secretary General, Mr. Callan and Assistant Secretary, Ms. G. Tallon and Staff Members of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, who gave assistance to the Council throughout the year 2006.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank J. Nolan'.

Frank J. Nolan.
G.Kt.Odr.L.S.

Chairman
Irish Water Safety

Irish Water Safety Council



Frank Nolan
Chairman

Frank Nolan has been involved in Water Safety and Sea Rescue on a voluntary basis for over 50 years. He is the Chairman of Irish Water Safety, a Vice President of European Life Saving and a European Director on the World Board of International Life Saving. He holds many National and International Honours including being a "Grand Knight of the Order of Lifesaving". Recognised as an expert in inshore rescue boats and cliff rescue, he holds an "All Ireland" lifesaving medal with Waterford. He serves as the present Vice Chairman of Waterford Water Safety Area Committee.



Kathryn Byrne

Appointed to the Council in 2000, Kathryn Byrne is Managing Director of Limelight Communications, a public relations consultancy based in Dublin. Kathryn brings her background in PR to the Promotion and Development Committee of which she is Chairperson.

Kathryn is a Council Member of Gaisce - The President's Award; President of Network Ireland for women in business – Kildare Branch; a founding Director of BNI Cill Dara; and a former Board member of An Bord Altranais.



Breda Collins

Breda Collins joined Water Safety in 1986 and is an active Instructor, Examiner and Risk Assessor. She is an International Surf Lifesaving referee and an ILSE Risk Assessor Tutor. Breda is currently serving as Chairman of the Lifesaving Commission.



Michael Cuddihy

Michael Cuddihy has been a member of the board since 1987. During this time he has served on many national and international committees and is currently the Chairman of the Sports Commission. He has a special interest in promoting sport within international lifesaving and has brought teams to South Africa, Australia, the USA and mainland Europe to compete successfully in international events.



Jim Lawlor

Jim Lawlor, Ministerial appointment and company director. Jim is a former President of the Irish Basketball Association, and he was President of Sligo Chamber of Commerce and Industry on two occasions. He is a former member of the national board of the Chambers of Commerce of Ireland. He is a member of Sligo Mental Health Association and Sligo Acquired Brain Injury Association. He represents IWS on the board of the International Federation of Swimming Teachers Associations.

**Brendan McGrath**

Brendan is current Chairman of Clare Water Safety Area Committee and serves on the Lifesaving Commission. Involved with water safety since 1970, Brendan is an active instructor, examiner and risk assessor.

**Michael Murphy**

Michael's involvement in water safety goes back to 1963 when he took his Red Cross examinations. He became more involved with the administration of the organisation's instructors and examiners and is current Chairman of the Education Commission. He led the development of a Code of Ethics for the organisation.

**Martin O'Sullivan**

Martin has been involved with water safety since 1971, when he did his lifesaving tests with the Red Cross. Martin has served as Chairman of Cork Water Safety Area Committee at various times since 1973 and is the current Chairman of the Rescue Commission. He has been involved internationally since 1990 as Chairman of World Lifesaving's Membership Committee and Chairman of the Rescue Committee of the European Region of ILS (Europe). Martin is the IWS representative on the Blue Flag jury.

**Brian Farrell**

Brian M Farrell Lt Cdr (Retd.). Cadetship with Irish Shipping and entered Naval Service in 1972 where he served in command of naval vessels and other naval appointments over a twenty year period. Now working as Harbour Master Dingle, he is involved in running the Dingle Sailing Club and his main interests are sailing and boating.

**Kevin Ring**

Kevin Ring, Principal Officer-Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, has served in the Department since 1971 and has worked in most of its Divisions. He is currently in charge of the Roads and Local Services Section where one of his responsibilities is Water Safety.

**Martina Moloney**

A Ministerial appointment to the Council, Martina is County Manager at Louth County Council and former Director of Services with Galway City Council. She has had experience in working for numerous Local Authorities in her career to date, including Clare County Council, Limerick City Council, Donegal County Council, North Tipperary County Council and Galway City Council.

**Anne Ryan**

A Wexford native, Anne is an Instructor and Volunteer with Irish Water Safety since 1995. Among her many credentials within the volunteering ethos of Irish Water Safety, Anne is also an Adult Education Officer, a Swim Teacher and Examiner and the Wexford Water Safety Area Committee Secretary. In addition to these activities, Anne finds the time to organise Cahore Outdoor Water Safety Week, with which she has played an active part since 1996.

**John Considine**

John Considine, Local Authority Employee (Environment Department) has been Water Safety Development Officer in County Limerick for over twenty-five years, and has served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-chairman and Child Liaison Officer of the Limerick County Area Committee at various times. He was a former member of the Council of the Irish Water Safety Association. He is currently Secretary of the Water Safety Development Officer's Association. He established and currently manages the lifeguard service on the Shannon Estuary. He is also involved in competitive sailing and boating.

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| Auditors |
|-----------------|

Comptroller & Auditor General
4-5 Harcourt Road
Dublin 2

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| Bankers |
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Ulster Bank
33 Eyre Square
Galway

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|-------------------|
| Solicitors |
|-------------------|

Lewis C Doyle & Co.
Augustine Court
Augustine Street
Galway

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|------------------------|
| National Office |
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Irish Water Safety
The Long Walk
Galway

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| Accountants |
|--------------------|

Robert J Kidney & Co
11 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Water Safety Area Committees

The organisation has thirty Area Committees, arranged almost on a county basis plus the Defence Forces and the Garda Síochána Water Safety Area Committees. Much recognition must be afforded to these Water Safety Area Committees who devise a programme of events and courses to cover their areas for the year. In addition to delivering water safety promotional programmes and demonstrations at schools, colleges, businesses, exhibitions and community events, each Committee delivers an extensive programme of pool water safety sessions in the winter and beach, lake and river water safety sessions in the summer.

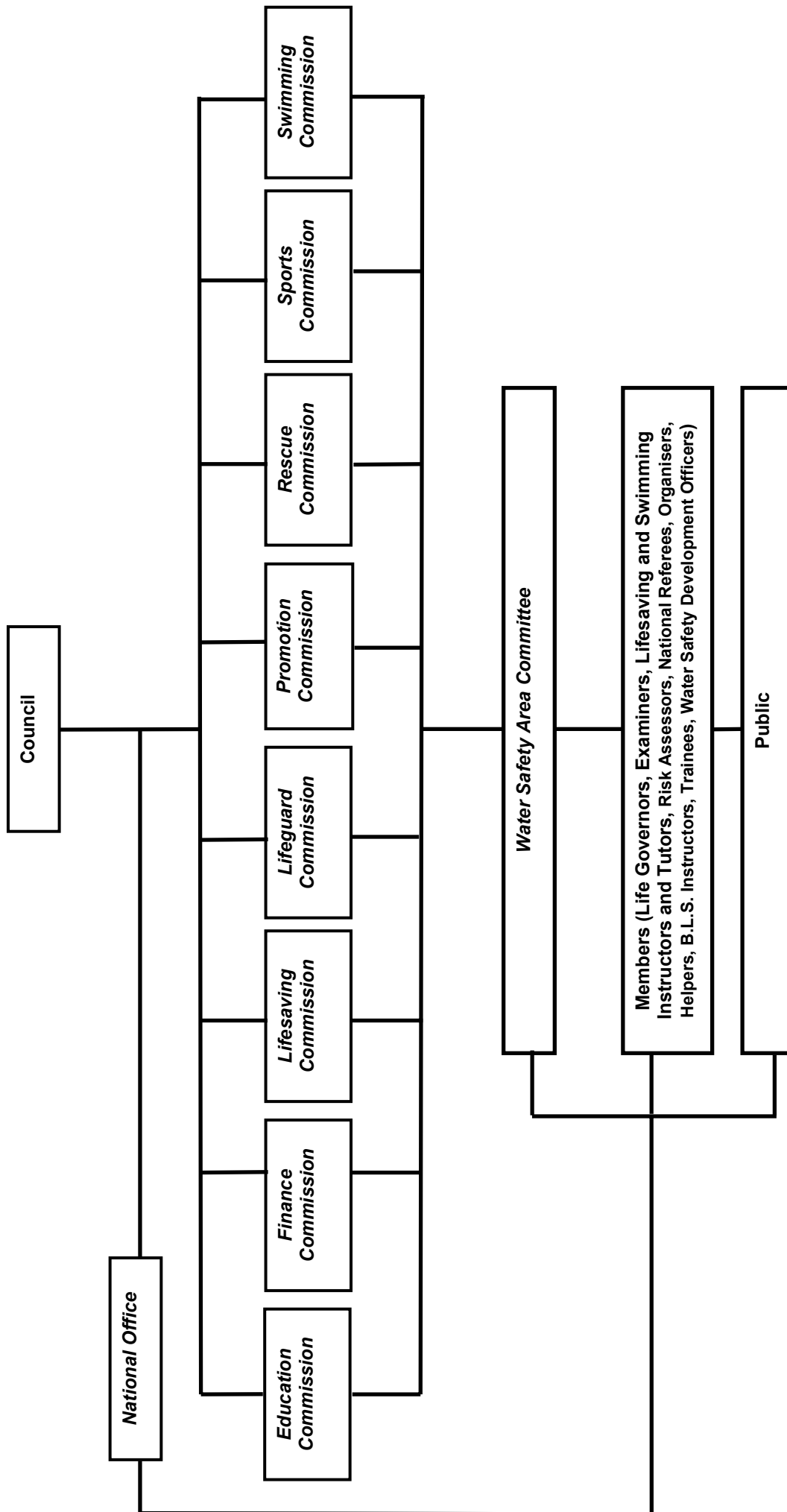
The official membership structure is of a voluntary nature with over one thousand five hundred members nationwide. It operates on a number of different levels: Life Governors, Examiners, Trainee Examiners, Tutors, Instructors, Trainee Instructors and Non-Technical Volunteer Organisers. Each Local Authority has a Water Safety Development Officer who is a member of Irish Water Safety.

Thanks to all their efforts to promote water safety we have seen a significant increase in the development of water safety awareness in local communities.

Staff

- Lt. Cdr. John F.M. Leech, CEO
- Roger Sweeney, Marketing Executive
- Joan Harte, Office Manager
- Jocelyn Cunningham, Clerical Administrator
- Alison Elstone, Clerical Administrator

Organisation Structure of Irish Water Safety



Finance Commission 2006

Commission Members:

- Frank Nolan, Chairperson
- Kevin Ring, Vice-Chairperson
- Joan Harte, Secretary
- Martina Moloney
- Sean Murphy
- John Leech

Duties Assigned:

- All Financial Matters
- Staff and HR
- Administration, including travel, National and International
- Membership all ranks
- National Ceremonies and Conferences (with the Promotion Commission)
- Internal Audit Committee & Risk Management

Frank Nolan, Chairman and John Leech, CEO are both Exofficio Members of all Commissions.

Rescue Commission 2006

Commission Members:

- Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman
- David Kenneally, Vice-Chairperson
- Ronnie Horan, Secretary
- Chris Reynolds
- Philip O'Rourke

Duties Assigned:

- Blue Flag
- Risk Assessments
- VAT Inspections
- Rescues Inland Waterways
- Rescue award and Just In Time award criteria
- Community Inshore Rescue Station Training
- Rescue Equipment
- Signs / ISO (the International Organisation for Standardisation)
- ILSE (International LifeSaving Europe)

Sports Commission 2006

Commission Members:

- Jim Lawlor, Chairperson
- Joan Morton, Vice-Chairperson
- Paul Devins, Secretary
- Oisín McGrath

Duties Assigned:

- Organise training courses.
- Run Sporting Competitions.
- Liaison with the Sports Council.
- Liaison with the Federation of Sport.
- International and Home Competitions.
- Role of Life Saving Clubs.
- Appoint Coaches, Referees and Officials.
- Drug Control in association with ILS.
- Sport Equipment.
- International Life Saving Sport & Competitions.

Lifesaving Commission 2006

Commission Members:

- Breda Collins, Chairperson
- Pat Cummins, Vice-Chairperson
- Sharon McKeon, Secretary
- Eileen Kelly

Duties Assigned:

- Provision of instruction in water safety, rescue, resuscitation and recovery skills
- All matters dealing with Lifesaving
- Review syllabus for Lifesaving
- Resuscitation
- Hypothermia
- Irish Heart Foundation
- Matters dealing with WS Examiners including Conference
- White Water Rescue & Flooding

Lifeguard Commission 2006

Commission Members:

- Michael Cuddihy, Chairperson
- John Considine, Vice-Chairperson
- Paul Murphy, Secretary
- Ann Ryan

Duties Assigned:

- Promotion of efficiency and standardisation of the Lifeguard Service
- The establishment of national standards for Lifeguards
- All matters dealing with Lifeguards (Pool, Beach, River)
- Develop standards for Lifeguard accommodation
- Develop national standards for all equipment
- Investigate and research rescue craft
- Train Lifeguards in rescue boating
- Health and Safety document appertaining to Lifeguards on beaches
- Beach Lifeguards as a declared facility
- Water Safety Officers Conference
- Development Aid to Poor Federations

Education Commission 2006

Commission Members:

- Michael Murphy, Chairperson
- Val O'Kelly, Vice-Chairperson
- Anna Byrne, Secretary
- Fiona Lynch
- Official of the Department of Education

Duties Assigned:

- Promotion of measures, including the advancement of education, related to the prevention of accidents
- All matters dealing with water safety awareness within the Irish education system
- Teachers courses
- Maintain current Standards of Child Protection
- Arrange seminar for Designated Liaison Persons
- Ensure that standards in relation to ethical matters are maintained
- Liaison with the Department of Education
- National Liaison Officer
- Address suicides and undetermined drowning issue

Swimming Commission 2006

Commission Members:

- Brendan McGrath, Chairperson
- James McLoughlin, Vice-Chairperson
- Seamus O'Neill, Secretary
- Margaret McKay

Duties Assigned:

- The provision of instruction in Swimming
- Promotion of Swimming under Irish Water Safety
- Examine swimming syllabus and awards
- Develop Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum Survival
- Agree Guidelines with ILAM and have book available for printing
- All matters dealing with Swimming Instructors and Tutors
- Matters dealing with Area Water Safety Committees
- Have the rule changes accepted by Council implemented
- Improving, membership, communication and profiles
- Organise Chairpersons meeting
- Represent IWS matter within IFSTA
- Liaison with Swim Ireland as necessary
- White Flag Jury
- Swimming Pool Standards excluding Lifeguards

Promotion Commission 2006

Commission Members:

- Kathryn Byrne, Chairperson
- Ita Richardson, Vice-Chairperson
- Roger Sweeney, Secretary
- Eddie Hoyne
- Donal O'Sullivan

Duties Assigned:

- Marketing and Promotional Matter as outlined within the Statutory Instrument
- Seeking Sponsorship (Commercial and other)
- Marketing the Organisation
- Standardisation of merchandise
- Standardisation and issuing of books, manuals, leaflets and posters from technical sources
- Monitor press releases
- Exhibitions
- Marketing issues;
- Liaison with ROSPA and the Marine Safety Working Group
- Promotion of a public awareness of water safety
- National Ceremonies & Conferences (with the Finance Commission)

Media Partnerships 2006

We are very grateful to the provincial and national media in helping us to target at-risk groups. In addition to 92 media interviews conducted on TV and radio, Irish Water Safety issued 34 press releases throughout the year, which resulted in 489 articles appearing in the national and local press and specialist periodicals.

▪ Press Releases 2006:

- Atlantic Rowers Rescue
- Fingal County Council donate equipment to IWS
- Rescue 2006 Australia
- Rescue 2006 Australia - Irish set a World Record
- Boat Show St Patrick's Day weekend
- Water Safety development Officer's Conference Dingle
- Easter Press Release
- May Bank Holiday
- On The Water Boat Show
- President announced as Patron of IWS May
- Drownings Abroad July
- Review of Drowning Mortalities June
- Heat Wave July
- Nivea Cup Germany
- Nivea Cup Germany update
- Press Release National Water Safety Awareness Week
- June Bank Holiday Weekend
- A Stolen Ringbuoy - A Stolen Life
- Photocall Notice Minister Roche
- August Bank Holiday
- Seal Safety August
- Council Appointments August
- Junior Lifesaving Championships - Galway
- Junior Lifesaving Championships Results - Galway
- National Lifesaving Championships
- National Lifesaving Championships update
- Celtic Challenge
- Flood and Stranding Warning October
- October Bank Holiday Weekend
- Rock fishing
- A message from the Chairman's address in the Annual Report
- Awards Ceremony
- Awards Ceremony update
- Chairman's Christmas Press Release 2006

Corporate and Social Responsibility Partnerships 2006

The contributions of sponsors has played a key role in the wide range of promotional and educational campaigns that Irish Water Safety has been able to provide. We value each and every sponsor who partnered with us to raise water safety awareness throughout the year and express our sincere appreciation to them all.

- **BSKYB TV Campaign**
 - Our thanks are extended to BSKYB for airing an IWS TV campaign on Sky One and Sky News. Many thanks also to TV and Radio Presenter Ray D'Arcy for appearing in the promotional campaign.
- **TG4 TV Campaign**
 - Our thanks are extended to TG4 for airing a TV campaign in Irish. Many thanks also to Actor Pádraic Breathnach for appearing in the campaign and to the Galway Film Centre for creating the advert.
- **Nickleodeon TV Campaign**
 - Complimentary advertising targetted children during summer broadcasts
- **MTV Music Channel Campaign**
 - Complimentary advertising targeted teenagers during summer broadcasts
- **Planet Aqua / AquaTT**
 - The training body for the European Aquaculture Industry partnered with IWS to deliver water safety messages at two extensive 10-day exhibitions in Cork and Dublin
- **Irish Marine Federation Boat Show, RDS, Dublin**
 - Water Safety stand promoting classes and information publications
- **Diary & Wall Planner**
 - Financial support from sponsors enabled for the published diary and wall planner of IWS events.
- **Safe Boating & Allianz**
 - Sponsors of Safe Boating posters and leaflets.
- **National Water Safety Awareness Week (May 29th - June 5th)**
 - TV broadcasts on RTE 1, RTE2, TG4, MTV and Nickleodeon
 - A national radio campaign featuring Ray D'Arcy complimented the TV adverts on SKY.
- **Service station advertising**
 - A new commercial for service station LCD displays was screened to promote water safety to motorists.
- **Stolen Ringbuoy poster launched by Minister Roche**
 - IWS is also grateful to Fair City's Russian Actress Tatianna Ouliankina who helped launch the "Stolen Ringbuoy – Stolen Life" and "Always wear a PFD" campaigns.

- **IWS also attended a number of shows promoting a range of water safety messages**
 - Irish Skipper Fisherman's Show, Galway
 - Snickers Outdoor Adventure Show, RDS
 - Irish Angling Show, Cloghran, Co Dublin
 - Boat Show, Citywest, Dublin
 - Limerick Summer Show
- **The National Injury Prevention Committee (NIPC) launch safety CD**
 - As a Committee member, IWS provided water safety content / support for the DVD "Safety around the home" which was launched and distributed nationally.
- **Motor Tax Leaflet**
 - 1.8 million leaflets promoting water safety were delivered via motor tax renewal statement reminders.
- **Aer Arann**
 - Aer Arann for providing IWS with a free full page in their "Express It" magazine to promote a water safety message to travellers.
- **Super Quinn Till Receipts**
 - A free water safety campaign on shop till receipts promoted summer safety.
- **BMW Yacht Race**
 - IWS stand at the BMW Round Ireland Yacht Race
- **Galway Aquarium**
 - IWS stand at the Galway Aquarium in July.
- **Website Hits**
 - 362,759 pages were visited by 134,115 visitors to the website www.iws.ie.

Certification

There are two broad categories of certification – Swimming and Lifesaving. Our Swim certificates are issued directly to and accounted for by Area Committees. The overall number of Swim certificates is significant and continues to grow reflecting the efforts of our voluntary members who instil water confidence and deep-water swimming ability in thousands of people every year. In recent years, these are accounted for at local level.

Water Safety Area Committees processed 31,403 Swimming and Lifesaving certificates through the online system in 2006 (see table below).

Certificates processed online through the National Office in 2006:

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| AED Examiner | 5 |
| AED Instructor | 10 |
| AED Operator | 311 |
| Aquatics organiser | 147 |
| Aquatics Pool Assistant | 9 |
| Assistant Swimming Teacher | 138 |
| Beach Lifeguard | 329 |
| Beach Lifeguard Revalidation | 60 |
| Basic Life Support (BLS) 1 | 2192 |
| BLS 2 | 1772 |
| BLS 3 | 1648 |
| BLS 4 | 42 |
| Challenge 1 | 568 |
| Challenge 2 | 634 |
| Endurance 1 | 789 |
| Endurance 2 | 731 |
| Examiner | 43 |
| Helmsmans Course | 35 |
| Inland Open Water Lifeguard | 70 |
| Inshore Rescue 1 Day D RIB | 34 |
| Instructor | 412 |
| IWS ILAM PLG | 69 |
| IWS ILAM PLG Level 1 | 148 |
| IWS ILAM PLG Level 2 | 225 |
| IWS ILAM PLG Revalidation | 151 |
| Pool Lifeguard | 583 |
| Pool Lifeguard (1.5m) | 74 |
| Pool Lifeguard (1.7m) | 123 |
| Rescue 1 | 1818 |
| Rescue 2 | 1522 |
| Rescue 3 | 1559 |
| Rescue 4 | 821 |
| Safety 1 | 1798 |
| Safety 2 | 2231 |
| Safety 3 | 2193 |
| Safety 4 | 1919 |
| Splash | 357 |
| Surf 1 | 19 |
| Surf 3 | 12 |
| Survival 1 | 264 |
| Survival 2 | 427 |
| Survival 3 | 52 |
| Swim 1 | 1091 |
| Swim 2 | 1070 |
| Swim 3 | 907 |
| Swim 4 | 1088 |
| Swim 5 | 886 |
| Swimming Teacher | 17 |

Summer Water Safety Weeks

The thirty Water Safety Area Committees nationwide run an extensive series of swimming and water safety weeks throughout the summer in pools, rivers, lakes and beachfronts. Many of these classes extend beyond the summer in places that have pools and leisure centres.

Swim weeks consist of instruction in swimming and water safety weeks develop skills in rescue, water survival and basic life support. Details of these programmes are regularly updated on the Association's website, www.iws.ie. Many counties experienced an exceptional interest in classes following a series of successful radio, press and TV campaigns.

Representation at National Level

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|---|
| Frank Nolan | ----- | Irish Marine Search & Rescue Committee. |
| John Leech | ----- | (Users Group), Commissioner's Irish Lights |
| Roger Sweeney | ----- | Marine Safety Working Group. |
| David Kenneally | ----- | Community Inshore Rescue Advisory Group |
| Breda Collins | ----- | Irish Heart Foundation |
| John Leech | ----- | ACESA |
| Brendan McGrath | ----- | ILAM |
| Martin O'Sullivan | ----- | Blue Flag |
| Margaret McKay | ----- | White Flag |
| Jim Lawlor | ----- | Irish Sports Federation & Irish Olympic Committee |
| Anna Byrne | ----- | FETAC |
| John Leech/Frank Nolan/ | | |
| Breda Collins | ----- | Charles Thomson Award Jury with RLSS |

Representation at International Level

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--|
| Frank Nolan | ----- | World Board ILS & European Board ILS |
| Frank Nolan | ----- | Finance Commission ILS |
| Sean Murphy | ----- | Auditor ILS |
| Sean Murphy | ----- | Auditor ILS(E) |
| Martin O'Sullivan | ----- | European Board ILS |
| Martin O'Sullivan | ----- | Rescue Commission Europe & World ILS. |
| Martin O'Sullivan | ----- | ISO Working Group |
| Michael Cuddihy | ----- | ILS(E) Sport Commission |
| Michael Murphy | ----- | ILS(E) Education Commission |
| John Leech | ----- | ILS(E) Management & Administration Commission. |
| Brendan McGrath & Jim Lawlor | ----- | International Federation of Swimming Teachers |
| Kathryn Byrne | ----- | ROSPA & Other Marketing Conferences. |
| Michael Cuddihy | ----- | College of Referees Panel ILS(E) |

Conferences

- **National Awards Ceremony,**
Dublin Castle, 21st November
- **IWS Seminar,**
Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, 27th May
- **Water Safety Development Officer's,**
Dingle Skellig Hotel, Dingle, Co Kerry, 5th - 7th April
- **IWS Examiner's Conference,**
The Breafoy International Hotel, Castlebar, Mayo, 21st, 22nd October

Competitions

▪ National Lifesaving Championships

- Ferrybank Swimming Pool, Wexford, Friday 8th September.
- Curracloe Beach, Wexford, Sat 9th September.
 - Overall Placing, Ladies:
 - 1st: Clare, 143 Points
 - 2nd: Donegal, 135 Points
 - 3rd: Waterford, 93 Points
 - Overall Placing, Men:
 - 1st: Clare A, 163 Points
 - 2nd: Wicklow, 93 Points
 - 3rd: Waterford A, 86 Points

▪ National Junior Lifesaving Championships

- Leisureland Pool, Salthill, Galway, Friday 25th August.
- The Ladies Beach, Salthill, Galway, Saturday 26th August.
 - Overall Placing, Girls:
 - 1st: Donegal
 - 2nd: Kilkenny
 - 3rd: Clare
 - Overall Placing, Boys:
 - 1st: Donegal
 - 2nd: Clare A
 - 3rd: Clare B

▪ IWS International Lifesaving Teams

- IWS Lifesavers competed at **Rescue 2006 in Australia** (Feb 12th - Feb 26th). Norma Cahill from Clare took 15 seconds off the previous world record of 2mins 46 seconds in the 200 metre Pool Obstacle Masters race. Norma went on to set a new world record in the 50metre Manikin Masters race to come home first within 45.5 seconds.
- IWS Lifesavers also competed at the **German Lifesaving Championships** in Warnemünde, Germany (20th –23rd July). A total of 8 silver and 4 gold medals were won. John Jackson from Dublin claimed the greatest haul of 3 medals winning individual silvers in the beach sprint and beach flag race as well as team silver in the Taplin event.
- IWS Lifesavers also competed in the **Celtic Challenge Cup** (30th September). The 2006 competition was held at Spanish Point, Co Clare where teams from Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales competed in an open water lifesaving championships that tested the lifesaving skills and abilities of all contestants.

| |
|--|
| National Awards Ceremony Recipients |
|--|

10 Years Award Recipients

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Mary Day | Cork | Michael Gleeson | Mayo |
| Geraldine Lehané | Cork | Michael Hegarty | Mayo |
| Ann McCarthy | Cork | Noreen O'Connor | Mayo |
| Sharon McKeown | Cork | Orla O'Connor | Mayo |
| Ann Mehegan | Cork | Tara Coady | Waterford |
| Carol Murphy | Cork | Elise Hickey | Waterford |
| Diarmuid O Donnobhain | Cork | Ciara McSweeney | Waterford |
| Ann O Riordan | Cork | Daniel Wrafter | Waterford |
| Pauline O'Sullivan | Cork | Maeve Canning | Wexford |
| John Joe O'Sullivan | Cork | Tracey Edwards | Wexford |
| Mary Harrington | Kildare | Sarah Horgan | Wexford |
| Catherine Ryall | Kildare | Anne Ryan | Wexford |
| Reena Cole | Limerick | Adrian Stafford | Wexford |
| Fintan Kelly | Louth | Susan Vaughan | Wexford |
| Orla Donnelly | Mayo | | |

15 Years Award Recipients

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| Fiona Dinneen | Cork | Michael Gavin | Mayo |
| Leo Mahon | Kildare | Helen Creagh | Waterford |
| Elizabeth Tivnan | Kildare | Mary O'Brien | Waterford |
| Ciara O'Sullivan | Limerick | Bridget Quealy | Waterford |
| Mel Barry | Louth | Lynn McAllorum | Wexford |
| Roseleen Harmon | Louth | Lynn Travers | Wexford |

20 Years Award Recipients

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| Paul Burke | Cork | Frances O'Regan | Louth |
| Mary O'Sullivan | Cork | Ann O'Sullivan | Cork |
| Donal McNamara | TippSouth | Hillary Leahy | Cork |
| Frank English | Kildare | Margaret Horgan | Wexford |
| Michael O'Brien | Kildare | Tom Mackey | Limerick |
| Maureen Creagh | Waterford | Nicola Dowdall | Wexford |

30 Years Award Recipients

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|----------|
| Shirley Crabbe | Cork | Terence Mahon | Kildare |
| Richard McLoughlin | Cork | Paul Murphy | Dublin |
| Gerry O'Sullivan | Cork | Margaret Bell | Limerick |
| Dan O'Connell | Defence Forces | Anne Boyle | Louth |
| Kathleen Cross | Kildare | Bronagh Stafford | Wexford |
| Philip Keleghan | Kildare | Angela Travers | Wexford |

40 Years Award Recipients

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Elmar Nolan | Cork |
|-------------|------|

Life Governor Award

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Dermott Walsh | Donegal |
|---------------|---------|

Certificate of Accomplishment Award

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Imedla Lynch | English channel Swim (30miles) in just over 14.5 hrs, 9 th Sept 2005. |
| James Swift | The youngest man to swim the English Channel. |

Certificate of Achievement Award

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Ian Claxton | Round Ireland Swim |
| Henry O'Donnell | Round Ireland Swim |
| Ryan Ward | Round Ireland Swim |
| Tom Watters | Round Ireland Swim |
| Nuala Moore | Round Ireland Swim |
| Anne Marie Ward | Round Ireland Swim |

Community & Social Responsibility Award

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| David Barns | APT Signs |
| Padraig Breachnach | TG4 |
| Ray D'Arcy | Today FM |
| Ronan Redmond | SKY Ireland |
| Mark Deering | SKY Ireland |
| Cathal Kavanagh | Rusheen Bay Windsurfing School |
| Frank Laffey | Teagasc |
| Ian Lambkin | Helter Skelter / Picture Works |
| Kevin McDermott | ESB |
| Pádraic Ó Ciardha | TG4 |
| Joan Byrne | SDL Exhibitions |
| Bernadette Healy | Allianz |
| Nuala McNamara | FBD Insurance |
| Tatianna Ouliankina | RTE's Fair City |

Media Appreciation Award

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Ted Creedon | Radio Kerry |
| Tom Mac Sweeney | RTE |
| Declan Malone | Kerryman |
| Johnny O Hanlon | Anglo Celt |
| Liam Regan | Southern Star |
| Ger Scully | Midland Tullamore Tribune |
| Tim Vaughan | Irish Examiner |

International Life Saving Award

Captain Jim Kennedy
Jim Robinson
Maurice Mullen

SEIKO Just in Time Award**Garda Jason Clarke, Roscommon**

Garda Jason Clarke who was on foot patrol noticed a woman in distress in the river Corrib at O'Briens Bridge, Galway where the water flow is fast and treacherous. Jason, a trained Lifeguard, entered the water and brought the woman to safety on the bank, where he received welcome assistance to take her to an awaiting ambulance.

Garda Nigel McInaw, Louth

On 17th May 2005 at 3am, Garda Nigel McInaw entered the fast flowing and treacherous river Boyne at St Mary's Bridge, Drogheda and rescued a young woman who had fallen into the water.

Fergal Caffrey, Dublin**Kevin O'Brien, Dublin****Sean Ivory, Dublin**

Kevin O'Brien, Sean Ivory and Fergal Caffrey, staff of the Eastern Fisheries Board were returning to Howth harbour from a coastal sea patrol when a woman was spotted lying face down in the water. Sean Ivory went into the water and swam to the woman and brought her to the fisheries Patrol Craft; Fergal and Kevin pulled her into the boat where she regained consciousness and was taken ashore to refuge.

Pat Gleeson, Kilkenny

While holidaying in Torremolinos, Pat Gleeson noticed two girls in distress in the water at the beach. Without hesitation Pat entered the water along with another gentleman and brought the two girls to safety through strong surf conditions.

Sarah Meehan, Donegal
Philip McAvoy, Armagh

On 26th August 2006 at 7pm, Sarah Meehan observed a man in difficulty in the water at Creevy Pier, Ballyshannon. She took a ring buoy and swam 50 meters from shore to the man in difficulty. Sarah used her lifesaving skills to calm the subject and keep him afloat until Philip McAvoy observed the incident and swam out to assist Sarah. They both used an arm carry and side stroke to successfully take the subject ashore and treat him for shock, until he was taken by ambulance to Sligo General Hospital.

Mel McCarthy, Laois

On the 4th August 2004, Mel swam to two girls who got into difficulty due to heavy surf conditions at Tramore beach, Co Waterford. He managed to bring one girl to safety while his friend went to rescue the other girl until he too got into difficulty. Mel went back out to assist his friend while a lifeguard rescued the other girl. All three survived.

Eamonn Murray, Wicklow
Patrick O'Brien, Wicklow

On Wednesday 19th July 2006 an incident took place at Blessington lake where a family of four were fishing and their boat capsized. Two people including an uncle of the family, watching from the shore plunged into the water in a desperate bid to rescue them. Patrick and Eamonn received calls notifying them of the incident and they immediately went to the scene where they successfully rescued all six.

Ciaran O'Reilly, Cavan

On the 18th June 2006 Ciaran noticed a woman in distress in the water at Belturbet, Co. Cavan. He immediately dived into the water and swam towards the semi conscious woman and brought her to safety where Basic Life Support was administered by Ciaran's wife and Garda Siobhan Campbell. She was then taken to Cavan General Hospital for treatment. Without the quick thinking and courageous action of Ciaran the outcome may have been very tragic.

John Madden, Offaly

John and his friend were duck shooting on the river Shannon near Banagher when his boat capsized. John climbed onto the over turned boat and held onto his companion. With his free hand he called for help on his mobile phone. John held onto his companion for over an hour in icy waters until emergency services rescued both of them. It is without doubt John's great strength and prompt action that saved both himself and the life of his companion.

Rescue Appreciation Award

David Cox, Laois

David came to the rescue of his neighbour in July of 2006 when she got into difficulty and started choking on a piece of meat - he immediately began back slaps until the obstruction came up. Thanks to the IWS courses David had undertaken he was able to respond quickly and professionally to save this lady's life.

Kerri Anne Cully, Cavan
Siobhan O'Hara, Cavan

On 9th October 2005 an accident occurred on the Main Street in Arva involving a motorbike and lorry. Siobhan & Kerry used their knowledge of spinal injuries learned at IWS courses to take control of the situation and administer first aid, keeping the young man comfortable until the ambulance and local Doctor arrived. The ambulance crew praised them for their endeavours.

| Life Governors and year of appointment | | |
|--|--|--|
|--|--|--|

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Joseph Ainsworth | Chairman – National Safety Council | 1995 |
| Brendan Howlin TD | Minister for The Environment | 1995 |
| Noel Dillon | County Manager, Co. Cork | 1997 |
| Blaise Treacy | County Manager, Co. Wicklow | 1997 |
| Kevin Weldon AM | Founding President ILS | 1998 |
| Robert Molloy TD | Founding Member, IWSA 1971 | 1999 |
| Donal Connolly | County Manager, Co. Waterford | 1999 |
| John Parker | Loyal & Dedicated Supporter IWS | 2000 |
| Cartan Finegen | Chairman, National Safety Council | 2000 |
| Des Howett | Water Safety Supervisor NSC | 2000 |
| Maureen Kenny | Loyal & Dedicated Supporter IWS | 2000 |
| Klaus Wilkens | President – ILS Europe & DLRG | 2000 |
| Michael Somers | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2001 |
| Nicholas Corish | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2001 |
| Noel O'Beara | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2001 |
| Paddy Phipps | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2001 |
| Noel Dempsey TD | Minister for Environment | 2002 |
| Donal O'Sullivan | Loyal & Dedicated Supporter IWS | 2002 |
| John Cowman | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2003 |
| Eamonn Doherty | Garda Commissioner Retired | 2003 |
| Eileen Maloney | Founding Member Irish Red Cross | 2003 |
| Sean Hennessy | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2003 |
| Michael Dalton | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2004 |
| Clayton Love, Jr. | Deputy Chairman RNLI | 2004 |
| Nenad Javornik | CEO Croatian Red Cross | 2004 |
| Pat Costello | CEO of National Safety Council | 2004 |
| Seamus Finnan | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2004 |
| James McGoldrick | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2004 |
| Pat Aylward | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2004 |
| David Kenneally | 50 Years Voluntary Service IWS | 2004 |
| Martin Cullen TD | Minister for the Environment | 2005 |
| Anthony Handley MD | Hon. Medical Officer IWS | 2005 |
| Liam Kirwan | Director – Irish Coast Guard | 2005 |
| Frank Nolan | Chairman – Irish Water Safety | 2005 |
| Valentine O'Kelly | Loyal & Dedicated Supporter IWS | 2005 |
| Philip O'Neill | Director of Services, Kilkenny Co Co | 2005 |
| Dermot Walsh | Hotelier, Donegal | 2006 |

Irish Water Safety is committed to providing a Quality Customer Service to the public and to ensuring that both internal efficiencies are achieved and customer's expectations are assessed and needs are met.

Comptroller & Auditor General,
Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General,
Dublin Castle,
Dublin 2.

Irish Water Safety

We confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief, and having made the appropriate enquiries of other Council Members and Officials of the Association, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of the Association's financial statements of the Council for the year ended 31st December 2006.

1. We acknowledge as Council Members our statutory responsibility for the financial statements. All of the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit and all the transactions undertaken by the Association have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Council meetings, have been made available to you.
2. There are no financial commitments of a revenue or capital nature other than those as disclosed in the financial statements.
3. Annual lease commitments at 31st December 2006 amounted to €41,722 in respect of leased offices occupied by the Association at The Long Walk, Galway.
4. Full disclosure and provision has been made for all liabilities at the Balance Sheet date. Contingencies have been appropriately disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.
5. There are no legal actions, which were instigated against the Council.
6. The Association has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the Association's assets, except as disclosed in the financial statements.
7. At the Balance Sheet date cash on hand and at bank amounted to €68,480.
8. The Council Members are of the opinion that the Association will have sufficient working capital to meet its foreseeable requirements for at least the next twelve months.
9. No transactions were entered into shortly before the accounting date with the intention that they should be reversed shortly after that date, so as not to present a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association.
10. There were no third party guarantees or letters of comfort issued by the Association.
11. No irregularities or frauds have occurred or are being investigated as at 31st December 2006.
12. The Association has not exceeded the borrowing limits approved by the Department of Environment and Local Government.
13. No circumstances have arisen or events occurred between the Balance Sheet date and the date of this letter, which would require adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements.
14. Payments and transactions in respect of any grants, loans and investments made during the year conformed with legislation and with Government and Department directives and were authorised, approved and processed in accordance with the Association's internal procedures and controls.
15. The Council Members do not have an interest in any grant or other contract entered into by the Association during the year other than as disclosed in the financial statements.

16. All transactions with subsidiary and related parties have been properly recorded and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.
17. The Association complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There have been no communications concerning non-compliance with requirements of regulatory or tax authorities with respect to any matter.
18. The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies has been adopted and is being complied with, and in particular:
- All appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, procurement and assets disposals are being carried out;
 - Codes of Business Conduct for Council Members and Employees have been put in place and adhered to;
 - Government policy on the pay of the Chief Executive and all employees is being complied with;
 - The Guidelines for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals are being complied with.
19. The Statement on the System of Internal Financial Control reflects our compliance with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
20. We have no subsidiaries, joint ventures or shareholdings acquired other than those disclosed in the financial statements.

For and on behalf of the Council.



CHAIRMAN



Chief Executive

Date: 30th April 2007

| |
|---|
| Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas |
|---|

I have audited the financial statements of Irish Water Safety for the year ended 31st December 2006 under the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993.

The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the Statement of Accounting Policies, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Respective Responsibilities of the Council and the Comptroller and Auditor General

Irish Water Safety is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Irish Water Safety (Establishment) Order 2006, and for ensuring the regularity of transactions. Irish Water Safety prepares the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. The accounting responsibilities of the Members of the Council are set out in the Statement of the Responsibilities of the Council.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. I also report whether in my opinion proper books of account have been kept. In addition, I state whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

I report any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions do not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report if I have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of my audit.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control reflects the body's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and report any material instance where it does not do so, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information of which I am aware from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control covers all financial risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the risk and control procedures.

I read other information contained in the Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Basis of Audit Opinion

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General, I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board and by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures and regularity of the financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the body's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

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

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of Irish Water Safety's affairs at 31st December 2006 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by Irish Water Safety. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'G' followed by a long horizontal stroke and a final loop.

Gerard Smyth
for and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General
21st May 2007

Irish Water Safety

Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2006

Contents

Information

Statement of Responsibilities

Statement on Internal Financial Control

Statement of Accounting Policies

Income & Expenditure Account

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

Balance Sheet

Notes to the Financial Statements

| |
|--------------------|
| Information |
|--------------------|

Accountants

Robert J. Kidney & Co.
Chartered Accountants
11 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Business Address

The Long Walk
Galway

Auditor

The Comptroller and Auditor General

Statement of Responsibilities of the Council of Irish Water Safety

Irish Water Safety was established on 24th July 2006 by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006 (S.I. 389 of 2006). The order re-established the former Irish Water Safety Association as a corporate body under its new title "Irish Water Safety" and expanded the services to be provided by the body. Notwithstanding the revised Statutory Instrument under which the body now operates, these financial statements cover the period 1st January 2006 to 31st December 2006.

Irish Water Safety is required to prepare financial statements, in the form approved by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, which give a true and fair view of its state of affairs and income and expenditure for the period. In preparing the financial statements, Irish Water Safety is required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. State whether any applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Irish Water Safety will continue in operation.

The Council is responsible for keeping proper books of account, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of Irish Water Safety and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006. The Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Irish Water Safety, and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



Chairman



Chief Executive

30th April 2007

Statement on Internal Financial Control

Responsibility for the system of Internal Financial Control

On behalf of the Council of Irish Water Safety, I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated.

The system can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

Key Control Procedures

The Council has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by;

- Clearly defining management responsibilities;
- Establishing formal procedures for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.

In December 2005 the Council established a formal process to identify and evaluate business risk by;

- Identifying the nature, extent and financial implication of risks facing the body including the extent and categories which it regards as acceptable;
- Assessing the likelihood of identified risks occurring;
- Assessing the body's ability to manage and mitigate the risks that do occur;
- Assessing the costs of operating particular controls relative to the benefit obtained.

In 2006 the Finance Commission carried out this exercise and reported to the Council.

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures including segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- A budgeting system with an annual budget which is reviewed and agreed by the Council;
- Regular reviews by the Council of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecast;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.

In December of 2001, the Council established a Finance Commission consisting of three non-executive and two executive members and that Commission reviews internal control matters and issues raised by the Comptroller and Auditor General. At present Irish Water Safety does not have an internal audit function. A sub-committee of the Council, i.e. the Finance Commission carries out the analysis of risk.

The Council's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control had in the past been based on the work of the Financial Officer and CEO who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of an appropriate financial control framework. The Council will continue to seek the input of the Financial Officer and CEO on this matter and will also rely upon reports and comments made by the Finance Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General in his management letter or other reports.

Annual Review of Controls

The Council and Finance Commission headed by me as Chairman, with the full cooperation of the Chief Executive Officer and the Financial Officer, both of whom have been designated by the Council to ensure that the necessary controls are in place, review these controls on a continual basis in line with any directions received. One of the non-executive members of the

Finance Commission has been appointed as an independent reviewer/examiner of Internal Financial Controls. His function is to report back to the Finance Commission and the Council on the appropriateness and correctness of the standards of internal financial control to date in place. We confirm that in the year ended 31 December 2006 the Council has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the systems of internal financial control.

Signed on behalf of the Council of Irish Water Safety.



Frank Nolan
Chairman



John Leech
Chief Executive

30th April 2007

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, under the accruals method of accounting except as stated below and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. The statements are in a form approved by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, under the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006 (S.I. 389 of 2006).

Period of Accounts

The financial statements cover the 12 month period to 31st December 2006.

Income

Oireachtas Grants represent the actual cash receipts in the year.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed Assets are shown at cost. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Leasehold Improvements | 21 years |
| Office Equipment | 5 years |
| Computer Equipment | 3 years |

Artworks donated to Irish Water Safety over a number of years were valued by an independent valuer during 2006 and have been included in the financial statement at this valuation. Artworks are not depreciated, as the Council believes that they are unlikely to suffer a loss in value.

Capital Account

The capital account represents the unamortised value of income used for capital purposes.

Pensions

Under the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006, schemes and regulations made under the Local Government (Superannuation) Act 1980 (No. 8 of 1980) apply to Irish Water Safety as if it were a Local Authority.

Irish Water Safety operates a defined benefits scheme which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and from contributions deducted from staff salaries.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by Irish Water Safety. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Water Safety Committees

Committees, which are responsible for the organisation of water safety activities at local level, undertake local fundraising activities for which Irish Water Safety sets targets. Fundraising income is retained by the Water Safety Committees to finance local activities. Financial transactions of these Committees are not incorporated into these accounts.

Income & Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2006

| | Note | 2006 € | 2005 € |
|--|------|----------------|----------------|
| Income: | | | |
| Oireachtas Grants | | 582,000 | 553,000 |
| Net Deferred Funding for Pensions | 9b | <u>57,000</u> | <u>57,000</u> |
| | | 639,000 | 610,000 |
| Contributions from Local Authorities | | 171,119 | 163,848 |
| Miscellaneous | 1 | <u>140,473</u> | <u>79,344</u> |
| | | 950,592 | 853,192 |
| Transfer from Capital Account | 8 | <u>16,604</u> | <u>28,254</u> |
| | | <u>967,196</u> | <u>881,446</u> |
| Expenditure: | | | |
| Administration Expenses | 2 | 514,184 | 505,230 |
| Travel and Subsistence Expenses | 3 | 106,471 | 120,581 |
| Promotions, Publicity and Training | 4 | 239,734 | 152,498 |
| Grants to Water Safety Committees | | 74,830 | 67,580 |
| Special Projects | 5 | <u>28,337</u> | <u>20,189</u> |
| Total Operating Costs | | <u>963,556</u> | <u>866,078</u> |
| Surplus for the Year | | 3,640 | 15,368 |
| Accumulated Surplus 1 January | | 100,832 | 85,464 |
| Accumulated Surplus 31 December | | <u>104,472</u> | <u>100,832</u> |

The statement of Accounting Policies and notes 1 to 13 form part of these Financial Statements.

 **Chairman**

 **Chief Executive**

30th April 2007

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

for the year ended 31 December 2006

| | Note | 2006 € | 2005 € |
|---|------|--------------|---------------|
| Surplus for the Financial Year | | 3,640 | 15,368 |
| Experience Gains/(Losses) Arising on Pension Scheme Liabilities | | 7,000 | 31,000 |
| Changes in Assumptions Underlying the Present Value of Pension Scheme Liabilities | | - | - |
| Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding | | (7,000) | (31,000) |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the Financial Year | | 3,640 | 15,368 |

The statement of Accounting Policies and notes 1 to 13 form part of these Financial Statements.

 **Chairman**

 **Chief Executive**

30th April 2007

Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2006

| | Note | 2006 € | 2005 € |
|---|------|-----------------|-----------------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | | |
| Tangible Assets | 6 | <u>252,496</u> | <u>204,950</u> |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Debtors | 7 | 65,743 | 18,480 |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand | | 68,480 | 120,476 |
| | | <u>134,223</u> | <u>138,956</u> |
| CREDITORS - Amounts falling due within one year | | | |
| Creditors and Accruals | | <u>(29,751)</u> | <u>(38,124)</u> |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>104,472</u> | <u>100,832</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | 356,968 | 305,782 |
| DEBTORS/(CREDITORS) - Amounts falling due after one year | | | |
| Deferred Pension Funding | 9d | 260,000 | 210,000 |
| Pension Liabilities | 9e | (260,000) | (210,000) |
| | | <u>356,968</u> | <u>305,782</u> |
| CAPITAL AND RESERVES | | | |
| Capital Account | 8 | 252,496 | 204,950 |
| Income & Expenditure Account | | 104,472 | 100,832 |
| | | <u>356,968</u> | <u>305,782</u> |

The statement of accounting policies and notes 1 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

 **Chairman**

 **Chief Executive**

30th April 2007

| |
|--|
| Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2006 |
|--|

| | 2006 | 2005 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| Note 1. Miscellaneous Income | | |
| Sales | 48,014 | 18,006 |
| Membership | 3,970 | 6,495 |
| Ring Buoy Contribution | 23,000 | 21,000 |
| In Service Teacher Course Grant | 8,800 | 6,320 |
| Sponsorship | 53,913 | 24,284 |
| RI Royalties | 2,020 | 3,025 |
| Other Income | 756 | 214 |
| | 140,473 | 79,344 |
| Note 2. Administration Expenses | € | € |
| Salaries and Temporary Staff | 277,417 | 261,665 |
| Pension Costs | 44,776 | 45,394 |
| Staff Training | 1,675 | 1,527 |
| Rent, Rates, Light and Heat | 48,398 | 45,137 |
| Insurance | 19,715 | 24,434 |
| Stationery | 12,038 | 12,634 |
| Postage and Telephone | 30,572 | 29,710 |
| Maintenance and Cleaning | 16,630 | 21,436 |
| Audit Fee | 9,000 | 9,600 |
| Accountancy | 3,630 | 3,341 |
| Legal Fees | 7,500 | 7,984 |
| Bank Charges | 687 | 618 |
| Miscellaneous Administration Expenses | 10,603 | 12,442 |
| Depreciation | 31,543 | 29,308 |
| | 514,184 | 505,230 |
| Note 3. Travel and Subsistence Expenses | € | € |
| Council | 28,937 | 38,141 |
| Committees and Commissions | 15,329 | 25,449 |
| Office | 19,148 | 21,611 |
| Ring Buoy Inspectors | 19,949 | 18,921 |
| International Travel | 13,594 | 6,714 |
| Other Travel | 9,514 | 9,745 |
| | 106,471 | 120,581 |

| Note 4. Promotion, Publicity and Printing Expenses | 2006 | 2005 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | € | € |
| Advertising and Press Cuttings | 57,159 | 26,712 |
| Promotional Projects | 16,335 | 3,000 |
| Conferences and Courses | | 56,936 |
| Non Saleable Books and Manuals | 68,016 | 56,248 |
| Purchase of Saleable Items | 27,128 | 6,958 |
| Memberships | 3,785 | 2,644 |
| | <u>239,734</u> | <u>152,498</u> |

| Note 5. Special Projects | € | € |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Senior Surf and Pool Competition | (204) | 6,903 |
| Junior Surf and Pool Competition | 3,561 | 3,701 |
| International Competition | 14,750 | 9,585 |
| Other Competitions | 10,230 | - |
| | <u>28,337</u> | <u>20,189</u> |

Note 6. Tangible Fixed Assets

| | Leasehold Improvements | Computer Equipment | Other Office Equipment | Art & Paintings | Total |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| | € | € | € | € | € |
| Cost or Valuation | | | | | |
| Opening Balance 1 January 2006 | 260,458 | 35,939 | 49,869 | - | 346,266 |
| Additions | - | - | 14,939 | - | 14,939 |
| Adjustment* | - | - | - | 64,150 | 64,150 |
| Disposals | - | - | (13,622) | - | (13,622) |
| Closing Balance 31 December 2006 | <u>260,458</u> | <u>35,939</u> | <u>51,186</u> | <u>64,150</u> | <u>411,733</u> |
| Depreciation | | | | | |
| Opening Balance 1 January 2006 | 74,395 | 27,125 | 39,796 | - | 141,316 |
| Disposals | - | - | (13,622) | - | (13,622) |
| Charge For Period | <u>12,397</u> | <u>8,741</u> | <u>10,405</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>31,543</u> |
| Closing Balance 31 December 2006 | <u>86,792</u> | <u>35,866</u> | <u>36,579</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>159,237</u> |
| Net Book Values | | | | | |
| At 31 December 2006 | <u>173,666</u> | <u>73</u> | <u>14,607</u> | <u>64,150</u> | <u>252,496</u> |
| At 31 December 2005 | <u>186,063</u> | <u>8,814</u> | <u>10,073</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>204,950</u> |

Leasehold improvements pertain to fit out costs in the premises occupied by Irish Water Safety.
 *Artworks donated to Irish Water Safety over a number of years are included above at valuation following an independent valuation carried out in May 2006.

| Note 7. Debtors | 2006 | 2005 |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | € | € |
| Trade Debtors | 8,832 | 5,630 |
| Other Debtors | 56,911 | 12,850 |
| | <u>65,743</u> | <u>18,480</u> |

| Note 8. Capital Account | 2006 | 2005 |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| | € | € |
| Balance as at 1 January | 204,950 | 233,204 |
| Income Allocated for Capital Purposes | 14,939 | 1,054 |
| Funds Released on Disposal of Assets | - | - |
| Amortisation in Line with Depreciation | <u>(31,543)</u> | <u>(28,524)</u> |
| Transfer to Income & Expenditure Account | (16,604) | (27,470) |
| Transfer Value of Artworks Donated (Note 6) | 64,150 | - |
| Balance as at 31 December | <u>252,496</u> | <u>205,734</u> |

Note 9. Pension Costs

a. Pension Scheme

Irish Water Safety operates a defined benefits scheme which is unfunded.

The valuation used for FRS 17 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation on 25 January 2007 by a qualified independent actuary to take account of the requirements of FRS 17 in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2006.

The financial assumptions used to calculate scheme liabilities under FRS 17 are:

| | at 31/12/06 | at 31/12/05 | at 31/12/04 |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Discount rate | 5.5% | 5.5% | 5.5% |
| Rate of increase in salaries | 4.0% | 4.0% | 4.0% |
| Rate of increase in pensions | 4.0% | 4.0% | 4.0% |
| Inflation | 2.0% | 2.0% | 2.0% |

b. Net Deferred Funding for Pensions in Year

| | 2006 | 2005 |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| | € | € |
| Funding Recoverable in Respect of Current Year Pension Costs | 57,000 | 57,000 |
| State Grant Applied to Pay Pensioners | - | - |
| | 57,000 | 57,000 |

Note 9. Pension Costs (continued)**c. Analysis of Total Pension Costs Charged to Expenditure**

| | 2006 | 2005 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | € | € |
| Current Service Cost | 45,000 | 47,000 |
| Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities | 12,000 | 10,000 |
| Employee Contributions | (12,224) | (11,606) |
| | <u>44,776</u> | <u>45,394</u> |

d. Deferred Funding Asset for Pensions

Irish Water Safety recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. While there is no formal agreement regarding these specific amounts with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Irish Water Safety has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice. The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December 2006 amounted to €260,000 (2005: €210,000).

e. Movement in Net Pension Liability During the Financial Year

| | 2006 | 2005 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | € | € |
| Net Pension Liability at 1st January | 210,000 | 184,000 |
| Current Service Cost | 45,000 | 47,000 |
| Interest Cost | 12,000 | 10,000 |
| Actuarial (Gain)/Loss | (7,000) | (31,000) |
| Pensions Paid in Year | - | - |
| | <u>260,000</u> | <u>210,000</u> |

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2006

f. History of experience gains and losses

| | 2006 | 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Experience (gains)/losses on scheme liabilities | | |
| Amount (€) | (€7,000) | €31,000 |
| Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities | (3%) | (15%) |
| Total amount recognised in Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses | | |
| Amount (€) | (€7,000) | (€31,000) |
| Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities | (3%) | (15%) |

Note 10. Lease Commitments

As at 31st December 2006, Irish Water Safety has annual commitments in respect of an operating lease for the premises it occupies at Long Walk, Galway, under a lease for 21 years, which commenced in July 2000. The current rental is €41,722 per annum. The lease has break options after ten and fifteen years.

Note 11. Council Members Interests

The Council adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Finance in relation to the disclosure of Interests by Board Members and those procedures have been adhered to in the year. There are no transactions in the year in relation to Irish Water Safety's activities in which Council members had any beneficial interest.

Note 12. EU Late Payments Regulations

The regulation imposes a legal requirement on bodies to make interest payments in respect of invoices that are paid in excess of 30 days after receipt. Irish Water Safety has a system in place to identify overdue invoices and to calculate and pay the interest due as part of the invoice payments. No interest payments were made under the terms of the regulations in 2006 or 2005.

Note 13. Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Council on 30th April 2007.

Drowning Statistics 2006

IWS maintains a comprehensive database of drowning incidents in Ireland. This database is constantly updated using information provided by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), An Garda Síochána and extracts from national and local media. Tragically in the year 2006 there were a total of 131 drownings.

