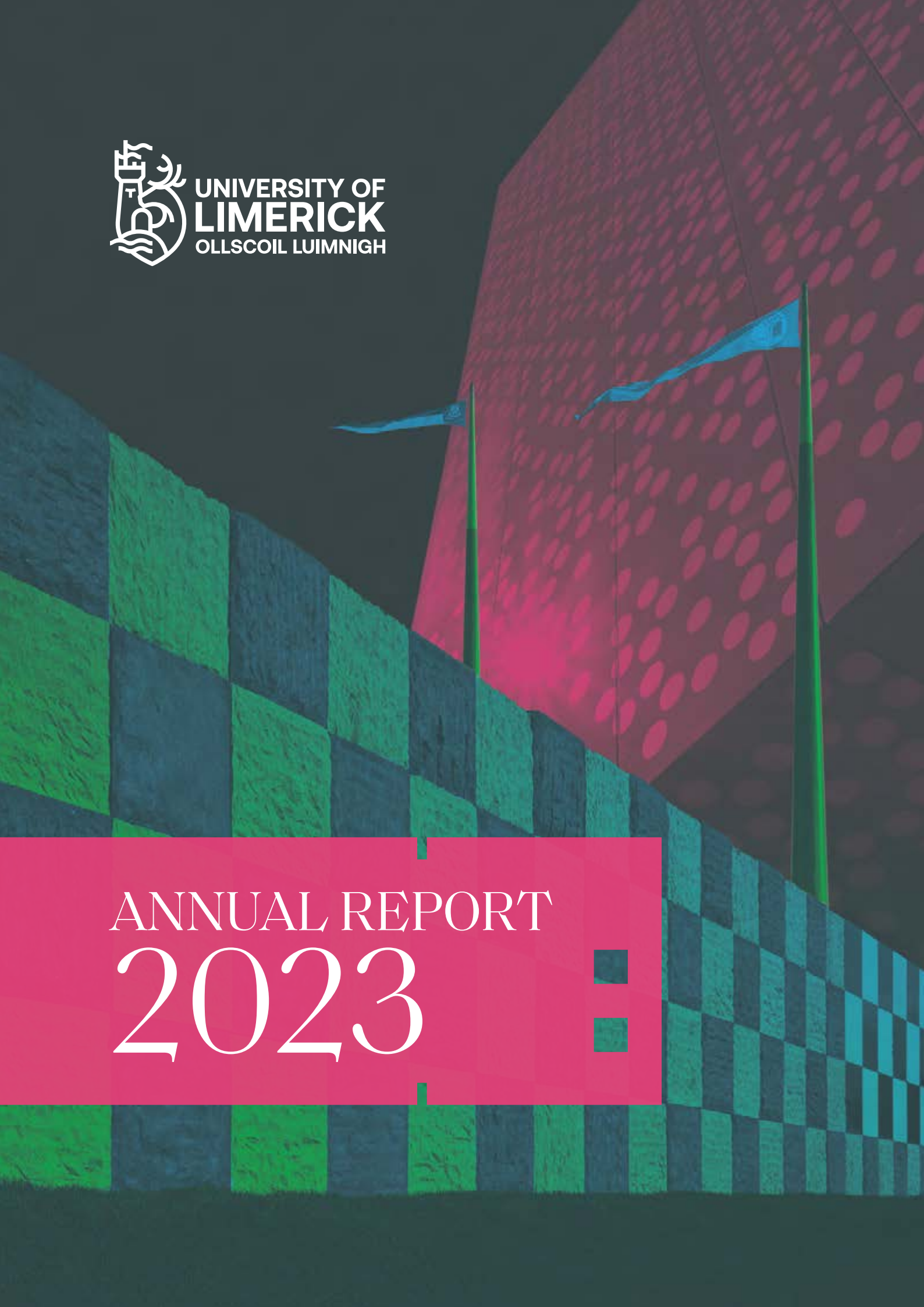


ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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GOVERNORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Members of Governing Authority
See Appendix 1 of Annual Statement of Governance

Chancellor
Professor Brigid Laffan (appointed 2 November 2023)
Ms. Mary Harney (term finished 30 September 2023)

Acting President
Professor Shane Kilcommins

Governing Authority appointed Auditors
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
One Bank Place
Charlotte Quay
Limerick
V94 HT2Y

Auditor
Comptroller & Auditor General
3A Mayor Street Upper
Dublin 1

Secretary and Registered Office
John Kelly
University of Limerick
Limerick

Registered Charity Number
20009274

Solicitor
Caroline Keane
University of Limerick
Limerick

Principal Bankers
Bank of Ireland
125 O'Connell Street
Limerick

European Investment Bank
100 boulevard Konrad Adenauer
Luxembourg
L-2950 Luxembourg



CHANCELLORS REPORT

I was appointed Chancellor of University of Limerick on 2 November 2023. This brief introduction by me to the University Financial Statements for the period ended 30 September 2023 became necessary due to the unprecedented requirement for the University to include two impairment charges in the Financial Statements – one related to the acquisition of the former Dunnes Stores site in the City Centre and the other related to the acquisition of twenty houses in Rhebogue for use as student accommodation. The necessity for both impairments arose as the University acquired properties for a price now determined to be greater than the recoverable value of those properties.

The total impairment charge included in these Financial Statements is €8.3m. Details in relation to the impairments are set out in Note 15. The impairments had the effect of turning a healthy surplus for the period into an overall deficit of €0.7m. While the overall financial sustainability of the University will not be materially impacted by the impairment charges the broader issue of the policy, controls and risk management failures must be addressed.

There are two significant reviews completed in relation to these transactions.

1. The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in accordance with the provisions of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993 has completed an examination of two capital acquisitions by the University.

2. At the request of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) the Governing Authority of the University has completed a major review in accordance with the HEA's powers under Section 64 of the Higher Education Authority Act 2022 ('HEAA 2022'). This review commenced on 1 May 2024 and a draft report was provided to the HEA on 29 July 2024, a final version was submitted on 25 September 2024. The terms of reference for this review include due diligence, conflicts of interest, communications, relationships and culture and governance and oversight.

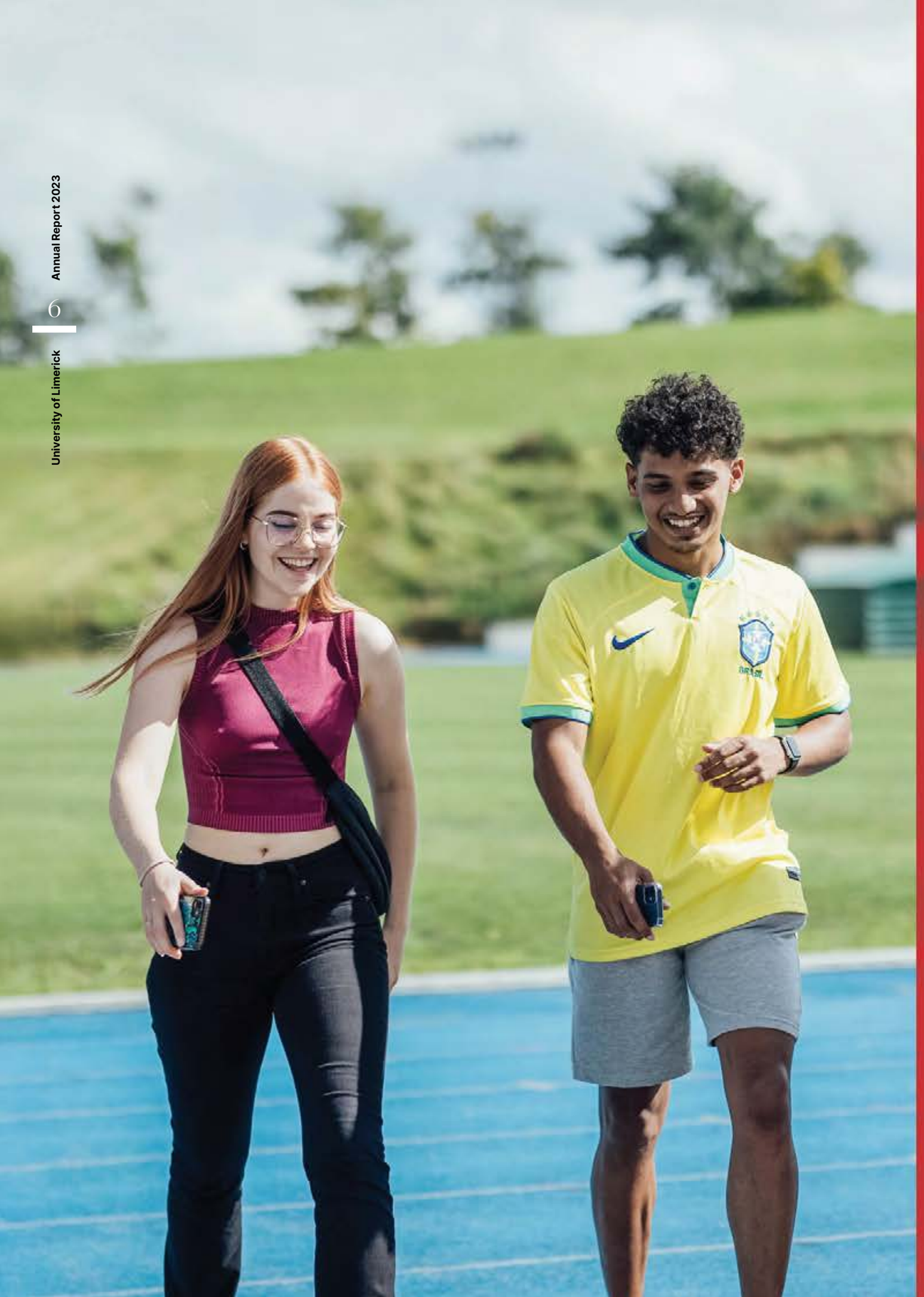
On 25 October 2024, the HEA CEO advised the Chancellor that having considered the UL S64 Report, incorporating four documents collectively referred to as the 'UL S64 Report', he had made a determination under Section 65(3)(a) of HEAA 2022 to impose a remedial measure on UL under the terms of Section 66(3)(c) of the HEAA 2022. This requires the University to put a plan in place which must address the findings and recommendations of the UL S64 Report as a whole and provide for implementation of actions from reports commissioned by the HEA. The plan must specify targets and monitoring requirements to be met by UL and reported to the HEA, monitoring of these targets will be by a third-party consultant appointed by UL to provide independent assurance to both the UL Governing Authority and the HEA.

The issues examined do not arise from the core academic mission or academic programmes at the University. The 'Section 64 Report', and the C&AG Report make for stark reading. What I take from them is that (i) the rules governing property acquisitions must be followed, (ii) there must be accountability where rules are disregarded, and (iii) shortcomings in our corporate governance and/or control environment must be confronted honestly and addressed comprehensively. The necessary change will require leadership and the right mix of skills, experience and expertise at all decision-making levels in the University. I am confident that there are excellent skills, experience and expertise within the University and where there are any gaps identified the Governing Authority will ensure that it addresses them. The University has paused property transactions until it is satisfied that the policy and control failures are comprehensively addressed.

A detailed plan for renewal has been collaboratively developed with the HEA and will set out how we begin the task. The change on the scale envisaged boils down to two critical and interrelated tracks. The first relates to culture and the second to UL's structures and processes of governance. They are of course two sides of the same coin. One will not be successful without the other and both are dependent upon strong leadership. There must also be a rearticulation of the core values of this University and clear alignment between those values and our practices, policies and behaviours. All these things must shape an entirely different model and approach to leadership.

The Governing Authority is determined to ensure that the University emerges from these reviews as a stronger and better governed Institution.

Professor Brigid Laffan
Chancellor
7 March 2025



ACTING PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Introduction

I am pleased to introduce the 2022-23 University of Limerick Annual Report incorporating the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2023.

UL was founded to meet the educational challenges of modern Ireland. University of Limerick is proud of its five decades of achievement and success in promoting new types of inquiry and learning, in forming pioneering academic and research partnerships and knowledge exchange initiatives and in ensuring that our graduates are knowledgeable and engaged citizens, who enrich the communities in which they study, live and work. For twelve months from May 2022, the University of Limerick celebrated fifty significant years of learning and teaching, research with impact, enterprise and civil engagement, holding events and realising projects that leave a lasting legacy that not only reflect on the past, but highlight the success of the University in transforming today's society, while considering what the next fifty years might hold.

Our staff, students, regulators, academic and business affiliates are justifiably shocked about what has emerged in relation to Rhebogue, coming as it does immediately after a poorly executed deal to buy the former Dunne Stores building. There is sadness, and anger too, at the damage that the Rhebogue controversy has done to the University's reputation. UL has been in the media for the wrong reasons. The Chancellor's report has captured the impact of the impairment charge that the University has had to take as a result of these two property acquisitions.

The Rhebogue acquisition has brought issues of organisational culture to the fore yet again. It also shows that the steps taken since the city campus purchase have not addressed some core governance issues at UL. Organisational culture must be a key focus for UL so that we can return to the positive and supportive environment which was once pervasive. University of Limerick is a very fine institution. It is a young, energetic, and enterprising university with a proud record of innovation in education and scholarship. In terms of meeting its core objectives we face many of the same challenges as our contemporaries. Overcoming these challenges and building our institutional profile with the support and oversight of our stakeholders should be UL's focus.

There are a number of reports, details of which are referenced in the financial statements, all of which are essential to the ongoing transformation of UL's culture and governance. We are working with the Higher Education Authority on plans for renewing trust and confidence in the University and I am committed to doing what is necessary to achieve transformational change at UL.

Rankings Success

It is fitting as we celebrate out 50th year that the cumulative effort of successive UL staff has seen this wonderful Institution move into the top 500 places of the two main ranking agencies (QS and THE) amidst growing global competition. Ranking in the top 500 Universities in the world is a testament to the unwavering dedication and commitment of our University community in the pursuit of excellence and innovation. We have achieved a milestone that reflects the power of collective effort and the limitless potential of University of Limerick. Rankings are a vital resource for students and academics helping them choose where to study and work.

In the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings for 2024, UL has moved into the 401-500 bracket out of the 1,904 Universities ranked globally, marking a significant improvement on last year's 601-800 placing. In addition, UL has significantly improved its position in the 2024 QS World University Rankings, climbing more than 100 places to a ranking of 426 overall.

Improving University world rankings holds immense significance for a research-led Institution committed to excellence, innovation, and sustainability. These rankings are not just numbers or symbols of prestige, they reflect a university's global standing and its impact on society. They serve as catalysts for attracting talent, fostering research, engaging with the community, and driving positive change. By striving for higher rankings, UL can position itself to be a leader in addressing the complex challenges of our time and shaping a more sustainable and innovative future. Within the measures reviewed by ranking agencies the most significant increases for UL were seen in the Research Quality and Industry pillars, reflecting UL's increasing strength and depth in its research excellence and collaborative links with industrial partners across the region, nationally and globally.

Sustainability

In 2022, on the 50th anniversary of the University, UL took the first tangible steps to becoming a truly sustainable University with the launch of UL's Sustainable Framework 2030. The University of Limerick aspires to be a national leader in its systemic and mission-based approach towards sustainability in the broadest sense. The framework is ambitious, aiming to orchestrate and lead its extended community to achieve a comprehensive portfolio of sustainability missions by 2030. The University is leveraging its Mission Lab to manage and progress through a portfolio of change projects, ensuring that the mission objectives are actionable and strategically aligned with broader sustainability goals. The university's approach is informed by previous achievements, critical (self-)evaluation, continuous learning, and improvement mindset, ensuring that the framework remains dynamic, relevant, and capable of adapting to new challenges and opportunities as they arise. The University is committed to deep collaboration, innovation, and transformative collective action to drive meaningful progress towards its sustainability missions.

We are in the process of reviewing all our policies based on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring that, in future, they will be aligned with global sustainability standards, emerging government policies and international best practices. This review will enhance our strategic alignment and coherence across various operational and strategic areas, safeguarding that our actions are unified towards achieving our sustainability objectives.

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings placed UL at 86 out of 1,591 Institutions globally when it comes to delivering on the UN SDGs. The ranking examines a university's performance against the SDGs across teaching, research, equality, internal culture, and the impact UL has in the wider society. This was an improvement on the previous set of results when UL was ranked in the 101-200 range out of a total of 1,400 Institutions.

UL Strategy

In response to the Covid19 pandemic, significant changes to the external operating environment and in addressing key recommendations made in the 2021 QQI Cinnte Review, we instigated a bottom-up and inclusive calibration of the Strategic Plan UL@50 in 2021.

Following on from this significant calibration exercise, the University has developed a suite of enabling strategies throughout the year. The Institutional Research Strategy *Wisdom for Action 2022–27*; the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy *Action for Wisdom 2022–2027*; and the UL Mission-based *Sustainability Framework 2030* were finalised alongside new strategies and operationalisation plans for our four Faculties. Most recently our HR EDI Strategy to 2022-27 was completed and the new Global Engagement Strategy 2023-28 is emerging.

The IT Strategy UL Enable (2022- 2027) sets out our vision to create a world class digital ecosystem and associated services to support the strategic goals of the University of Limerick. The pathway for IT has been developed to strategically align with our objectives for a digital University and UL's overarching digital enhancement. Included in the strategy are plans to facilitate a data-driven environment where data is accessible, measurable, and reliable, thus enabling performance improvement initiatives and to leverage sustainable technology to create greater operational resiliency and reduce our impact on the environment.

Education

Action for Wisdom, the UL Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy to 2027 was approved in December 2022. This strategy sets out the aims, actions, and outcomes of how education at UL will be transformed via the curriculum, teaching and inclusive student engagement and support to ensure the success of our graduates as citizens of the future. These were developed in line with UL@ 50, national and European policy and international best practice in consultation with staff and students. The strategy takes account of the challenges presented by a future world of work characterised by complexity, disruption, and unpredictability.

The future world of work for our graduates will involve more extensive collaboration with automation and artificial intelligence, ongoing job analysis, advanced training, reskilling, and more fluid designed working arrangements. This performance objective will support the delivery of our strategy for our students in developing the future graduate capital required to thrive in a dynamically changing professional landscape.

This strategy is underpinned by a deep Institutional commitment to Cooperative Education and career development.

UL is a leader in the sector with a sustained and pioneering tradition of work-based, integrated learning and teaching at undergraduate level and postgraduate level, supporting the future of work, generating new design frameworks and pathways including the use of microcredentials, co-located programmes and apprenticeships. Our work in the field of advancing lifelong learning, sustainable development and professional growth in a digital age is evidenced by a large portfolio of Microcredentials and Professional Diplomas developed in collaboration with employers that are delivered fully online to provide accessibility to lifelong learners.

Our commitment to work-integrated learning provides the basis of progressing towards a dual education model founded on advanced collaboration with enterprises to co-design and co-deliver research-led programmes of learning. This is exemplified in the Immersive Software Engineering BSc/MS, Human Capital Initiative 1 programmes and the establishment of Academies of Learning, the first one being the Irish World Aviation Academy launched in early 2023.

The University of Limerick is Ireland's first University to offer a suite of executive apprenticeships from Level 7 Diploma to Level 10 (Doctorate). These new executive apprenticeships have been created in collaboration with industry and are aimed at building Ireland's capacity to be world industry leaders through enhancing the skills of its existing workforce. Our programmes are focused on shaping future leaders and aim to develop leadership and management skills as well as enhancing programme specific strategy and execution capabilities. This year saw UL's first graduates from Apprenticeship programme, the first from any education Institution in the country.

The implementation of the new Virtual Learning Environment, part funded by the UL@Work initiative, aims to build a flexible, technology-enhanced learning platform that responds to digitisation and the future world of work. It presents an opportunity to improve user experience through a consistent and modern interface and centralised support and to create an agile infrastructure that can adapt to user requirements. Brightspace will replace the two VLE platforms (Moodle and Sulis) currently used at the UL, implementing an enterprise-wide solution that aligns with the UL's ambitions to grow and improve UL's national and international educational offerings.

Research

The mission of UL's new research strategy *Wisdom for Action* is to build a vibrant community where research excellence is valued, supported and central to all facets of the university. To advance this mission UL became the first Irish third level Institution to open a Doctoral College. We are working to ensure that UL is the place of choice for those wishing to pursue a PhD and this new Doctoral College shows that UL is committed to placing PhD studies and research at the heart of the university.

The Doctoral College offers an important opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the centrality of doctoral education across the University, as well as heighten the doctoral education experience through supporting a meaningful, relevant and worthwhile doctoral education ecosystem. The Doctoral College will be directed in its work by the most important strategic priorities for doctoral education which are funding for doctoral education, research ethics and integrity, quality of supervision and internationalisation. The UL Doctoral College will support and develop the structures that enable postgraduate researchers to pursue original research and provide the opportunities for them to develop their skills. Located within the Office of Vice President of Research, the UL Doctoral College will work with UL's four faculties to enhance and promote PhD studies and support the postgraduate researchers as they complete their course of study and develop their careers.

The Faculty of Science and Engineering, launched the Faculty of Science and Engineering's Sustainability PhD Scholarship Scheme. This €1 million scheme will support collaborative, transformative and interdisciplinary initiatives in sustainability by funding ten structured PhD scholarships. Proposals were required to focus on key areas of sustainable development and themes outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The successful proposals encourage interdisciplinary teams to tackle significant global problems.

€4.3m has been awarded to researchers at UL through the SFI Research Infrastructure Programme. The funding will go to the creation of facilities or purchase of equipment which are vital for the advancement of research currently underway. The investments have a strong focus on sustainability with funding to establish a national rechargeable battery fabrication and test facility, sustainable composites, nano pharmaceuticals and electron microscopy.

R@ISE (Research at Immersive Software Engineering) has been awarded €2.3 million from Science Foundation Ireland under the Strategic Partnership Programme, which will be matched by partners such as Tines, Analog Devices Ireland, Stripe, Johnson & Johnson and Limerick City and County Council. This is the first SFI Strategic Partnership Programme award for UL.

Access

Work is underway on the development of UL's new Access and Widening Participation Strategy, which will support the implementation of the National Access Plan 2022-2028 objectives and achievement of relevant KPIs at UL.

UL has the highest proportion of students who are from a disadvantaged (8%) or marginally below average (35%) background. At a combined 43%, this is significant in terms of the overall profile of UL's student population and is critical for understanding, prioritising and meeting the needs of the student population to ensure equitable access, participation and success, on full-time and flexible education programmes.

Future of UL Education Capital Project

The University was awarded €25 million to refurbish and extend the Main Building at the heart of its Castletroy campus, under the Higher Education Strategic Investment Fund (HESIF) for its Future of UL Education (FULE) project. The FULE project will allow for a 9,462 sqm extension and 2,823 sqm refurbishment of the 36,000 sqm Main Building, originally built in the late 1970s, to deliver enhanced research-led teaching and learning spaces to facilitate academic transformation and encourage interconnectivity between disciplines. It will also facilitate a growth in student numbers, meeting existing and emerging knowledge and skills at a regional and national level. This project has been paused by the Higher Education Authority.

The additional spaces created will be integrated with the Main Building. This will allow us to complete a full transformation of the Main Building and its surrounding places. The project has been informed by the principles of sustainability, inclusivity and will deliver a healthy and empowered environment for learners and staff. The project will include the development of digitally enhanced active learner spaces that will place student needs at its heart and create a critical mass of digitally transformed laboratories to facilitate essential in-person teaching and research-led learning activities. It will regenerate and reconnect existing spaces to make them fit for purpose in line with advanced pedagogies and further embracing a research-led culture. These spaces will contribute to the innovation of our curriculum and the facilitation of learning, enhancing the student experience and addressing critical skills needs for the knowledge economy. The project will advance the attainment of climate action targets. The existing Main Building is one of the poorest performing buildings on campus in terms of CO2 emissions and both electrical and thermal consumption. The energy performance of this existing building will be significantly improved by this project.

Equality and Human Rights

UL has been recognised as a leader in embedding gender equality and the broader EDI agenda in the University sector. UL is the first Institution in Ireland to receive a prestigious Athena Swan Silver Award. The Institution has always considered gender equality and broader equality, diversity, and inclusion issues as a key priority and through dedicated leadership has embedded gender equality across the Institution. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of members of the HREDI office and the excellent cross Institutional teams who worked with us to put this successful application together and the on-going work that the Athena Swan/EDI committees are undertaking throughout the University supporting us in our goal to achieve gender equality and the broader EDI agenda in all areas of our Institution supporting staff and students to achieve their full potential.

Remembrance

As part of our UL50 commemorations the University opened a memorial garden to provide a place of reflections and remembrance for the students and staff who have gone before us. It is important in looking forward that we also recognise the contribution of past colleagues who have made UL the fine Institution that it is. In the past year we saw the passing of two people who played an exceptional part in the development of UL.

In November 2022 we lost Professor Roger Downer, a past president of UL, under whose stewardship the University established the School of Medicine, the first new medical school since the formation of the Irish State. Professor Downer's contributions to the University are many and include a major capital development programme, the University expanded across the Shannon into County Clare, a five-fold increase in research income, the launch of an Access programme and the introduction of many new disciplines.

As the year ended, we learned of the loss of Chuck Feeney, the remarkable philanthropist, whose vision led to the establishment of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance and fostered our research capabilities in material science and whose generosity throughout the years has helped build our exceptional campus, including the Foundation Building, the School of Medicine and the Bernal Institute.

We also remember Dr Vicky Phelan, a former colleague in both teaching and professional service roles and an honorary doctorate recipient in 2018. Vicky had a major impact on people's lives during a most difficult and precious time in her own life. She was an inspiration to all UL students, to our staff and to our community. She brought great honour to the University, and she will be hugely missed.

Conclusion

At the outset of this report, I referred to the serious matter of property acquisition resulting in a very significant impairment of c. €8m in these financial statements and reference the work on renewal that needs to take place in partnership with our stakeholders. I return to it now having outlined details on all other aspects of the University in year 22/23. I recall the words of the then Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Patrick O'Donovan T.D, when he spoke at our Conferring Ceremony on 26 August 2024, stating "*It is important that the Department, the Higher Education Authority, and the University work together to take the necessary steps to build a stronger future for UL based on good governance. We will emerge from this period stronger, united and more ambitious than ever to deliver not only for a city, or a county, or a region, but for the entire country,*"

We have worked collaboratively with the HEA on detailed plans to address all the findings and recommendations and are committed to doing what is necessary to achieve transformational change at UL. These plans have been submitted to the HEA and when implemented will result in a substantial improvement to the internal controls environment, refer to section 9.3 of the Statement on the Systems of Internal Control.

I would like to thank students, colleagues, partners and stakeholders for making UL such an invigorating and rewarding place to study and work. I am confident that in fifty years' time, when UL marks its centenary, our successors will look back with pride on your achievements, just as we today look back with admiration on those who, over the past fifty years, built this world class thriving Institution.



Professor Shane Kilcommins
Acting President
Date: 7 March 2025



CHIEF FINANCIAL & PERFORMANCE OFFICERS REVIEW



Finance Review

I am pleased to present my report on the University's financial affairs for 2022/23.

The University incurred a consolidated deficit of €744k for the financial year 2022-23.

The table below provides a summary of the financial performance during 2022-23.

Financial Year	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Consolidated	€'m	€'m	€'m	€'m
State Grant	81.0	70.2	59.3	52.1
Covid State Grants	-	1.5	3.1	3.5
Academic Fees	126.0	124.4	120.1	112.6
Research grants and contracts	38.1	36	34.7	33.1
Ancillary income	11.2	11.6	9.0	8.7
Other Income	61.0	56.1	41.9	36.6
Donations	0	0	0.0	0.0
Deferred pension funding	38.6	45.3	34.5	34.2
Total Income	**355.9**	**345.1**	**302.6**	**280.8**
Staff costs	205.8	190.7	176.8	161.6
Other operating expenses	92.5	83.5	68.1	67.6
FRS17 adjustment pensions	38.6	45.3	34.5	34.2
Total operating expenses	**336.9**	**319.5**	**279.4**	**263.4**
EBITDA - Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation	19.0	25.6	23.2	17.4
Interest payable	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.1
Interest (receivable)	(1.3)			
Impairment	8.3	-	-	-
Depreciation	19.5	20.1	20.6	20.0
Amortisation of state capital grants	(6.9)	(7.0)	(7.0)	(6.8)
(Deficit)/surplus for the year before other gains and losses	(1.6)	11.1	8.4	3.1
Gain/(Loss) on investment	0.8	(0.3)	(0.5)	0.8
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	**(0.8)**	**10.8**	**7.9**	**3.9**
Cash flow generated from operations	**28.2**	**39.5**	**40.5**	**29.0**
Fixed asset investment and loan funding	**(29.7)**	**(9.9)**	**(14.0)**	**(22.3)**
Movement in cash and cash equivalents	**(1.5)**	**29.6**	**26.5**	**6.7**
Net asset at end of year	**273.7**	**274.5**	**263.7**	**255.8**

Key Performance Metrics

The table below includes some key metrics around the University's financial performance. These reflect a decline in financial performance during 2022/23 compared to the prior year.

Key Financial Ratios as a % of income	22/23	21/22	20/21	19/20
EBITDA	5.2%	7.3%	7.5%	6.0%
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	(0.4)%	3.2%	2.7%	1.1%
(Deficit)/Surplus	(0.2)%	3.1%	2.5%	1.4%
Staff Costs	59.2%	62.6%	64.3%	64.4%
Operating Cash	7.7%	11.2%	13.1%	10.0%
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
EBITDA	18,985	25,581	23,122	17,382
Operating Cash Generated	28,184	39,601	40,531	28,698

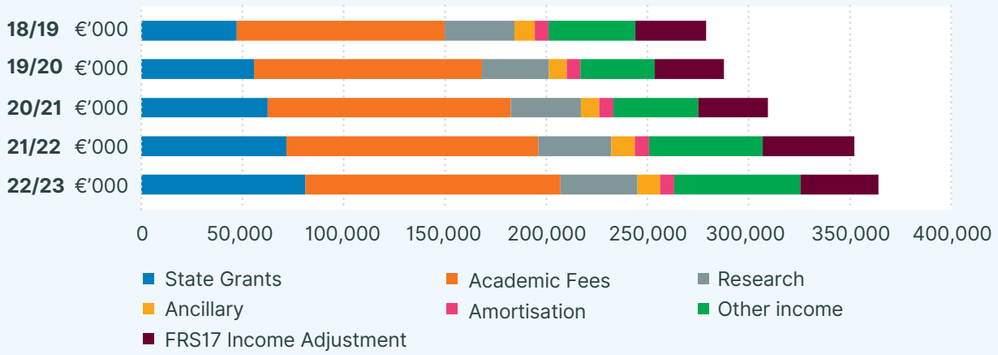
Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) is a measure of operational financial performance as this removes any non-cash figures. EBITDA is a way of measuring an Institution's financial performance without having to factor in financing decisions, accounting decisions or tax environments.

The percentage of operating cash against Income is a measure of the Institution's ability to generate cash, which is arguably even more important than generating a surplus. 10% upwards is considered to be an indicator of good performance. For the 2022-23 financial year operating cash generated was 7.7% which is driven off the deficit for the year and an increase in working capital at year end predominately driven off increased levels of state grants due which were received after the year end.

Income

The University has continued to grow its income compared to prior years as highlighted in the analysis below.

Income comparison 5 years to 2022/23







Academic Fees

Academic fee income grew by €1.642m in 2022-23 when compared to 2021-22. Increases in academic fee income is across undergraduate, medicine and study abroad. A decline in EU Master taught was offset by increases in non-EU Master taught. The University remains reliant on Undergraduate programmes as the primary source of fee income.

State Grant Income

The state grant income to the University for 2022-23 grew by 12.9% when compared to 2021-22. This increase is attributable to the grant for additional CAO places, the Human Capital Initiative grant, the devolved grant and a supplementary grant of €2.402m to fund pay awards that were agreed in response to cost of living pressures and non-pay inflation costs.

The University received a grant under the Human Capital Initiative (HCI) during 2020-21. The total award to the University of Limerick as lead Institution for the UL@Work project amounts to €16.3m.

This grant is received over four years as the initiative is implemented. During 2022-23 grant income related to HCI amounted to €3.136m.

Devolved grant income of €2.269m was recognised in the period under review.

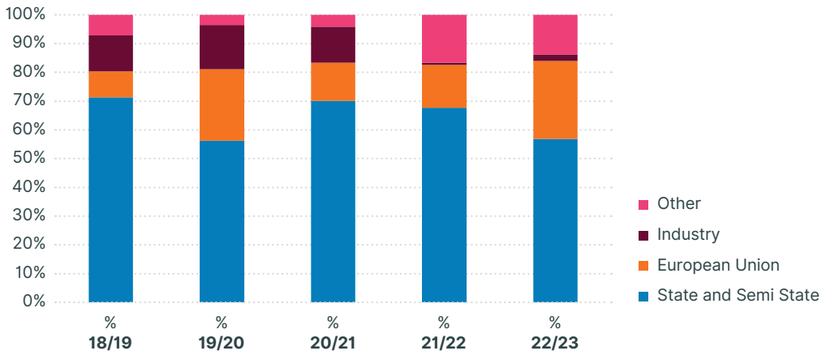
Research Grants and Contracts

Research Income has increased by c.5.9% to c. €38.120m compared to c. 4% to c.€ 36m in prior year. During the financial year the University was notified of new research funding awards totalling c. €28.3m (2022 €41.4m).

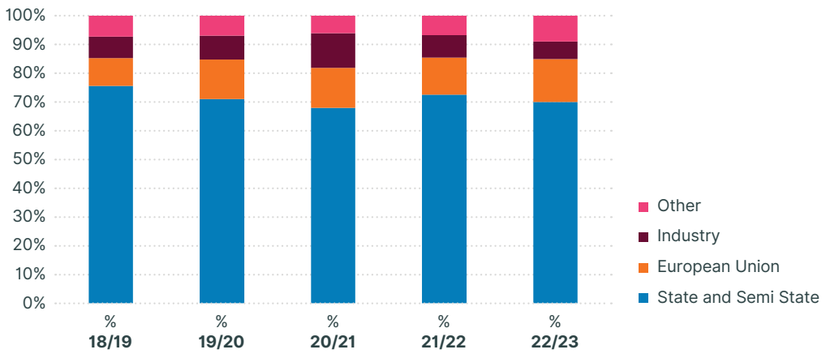
Additional advanced Income has been received and will be recognised in future financial years as projects are delivered, in total research advance funding at end of the financial year amounted to €74.784m (2022 €81.05m) while €14.62m (2022 €12.02m) was due from research funders.

Income is recognised in the financial statements in line with delivery and it is not unusual for funding to be deferred and recognised in future years.

Research Awards Mix



Research Income Mix



Ancillary Income

Ancillary income includes activities that are self-funding but not core teaching and research activities. The main income sources include, the Education Procurement Service, Erasmus and other international mobility funding, Language Centre, other faculty and support activities (conferences etc.) and student aid/ European social funding.

During 2022-23 income from ancillary activities decreased by €0.5m to €11.174m. The return to campus led to increased activity in the Language Centre and in Erasmus activities.

As with research much of ancillary activities are externally funded under grant/agreements and income is recognised in line with delivery/expenditure. A small number of activities are self-funded from its own operation e.g. Language Centre, conference and other events income in those cases income is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Other Operating Income

Other operating income increased by c.8.7% from €56.1M in 2021-22 to €61.0m in 2022-23.

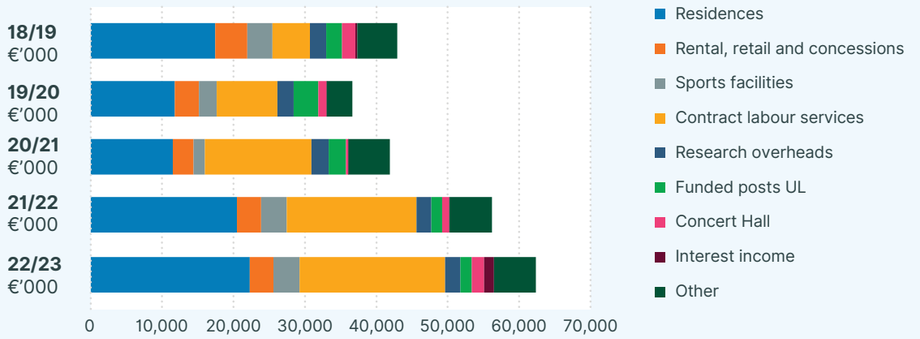
Unijobs accounts for a c.€2.2M increase in income year on year. This growth in Unijobs is mainly attributable to placement of staff with the HSE. Unijobs, was established in 2013, and is a wholly owned subsidiary of the University of Limerick. The business model sees dedicated specialist resources recruited in Unijobs to manage and centralise this temporary recruitment activity for its clients. Unijobs then second their employees to the client for the duration of the short-term contract on cost recoupment basis only.

Interest income increased from €53k in 21-22 to €1.336m in 22-23. The interest income is linked to the increase in ECB interest rates. The University's bank loans are on fixed rates and have not been impacted by the increased rates.

The subsidiary operations, as a result of the impairment charge, had reduced profitability in 2022-23.

The chart below highlights the impact that COVID-19 has had on the other areas of income that the University generates in 2019-20 and 2020-21 and demonstrates the recovery in these income sources since 2021-22

Other Income Comparison 5 years to 2022/23



Pay Costs

Pay costs have increased by c. €15.1m (7.9%) from the prior year. The increase includes the impact of the Building Momentum pay agreement which increased rates of pay by the greater of 1% or €500 in October 2022, and a further 2% agreed in response to cost of living challenges paid in March 2023. University pension pay costs increased by 11.4% to €17.97m (+€1.8m), while University staff costs increased by 7% (+€10.6m).

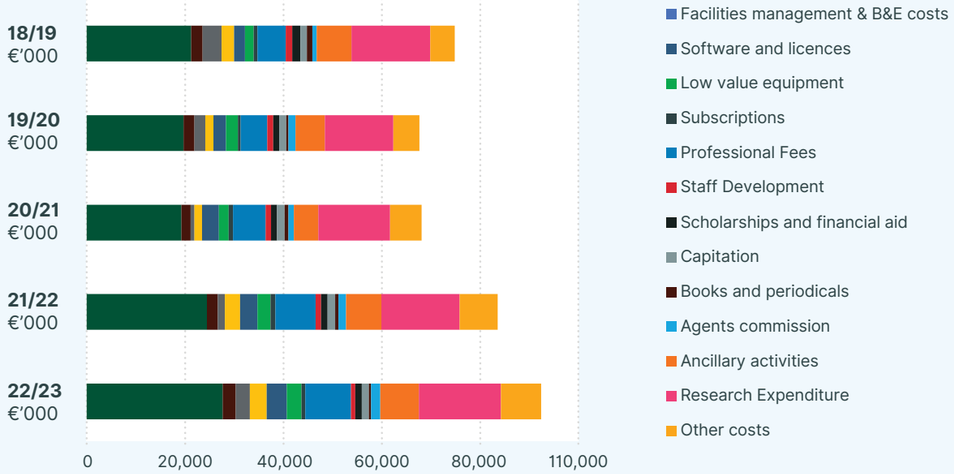
Pay costs within Unijobs are up c.€2.9m on prior year and this accounts for 1.5% of the increase of 7.9%. This growth in Unijobs is mainly attributable to placement of staff with the HSE.

Operating Costs

In 2022-23 operating costs increased across all categories of expenditure by €8.96m to €92.5m. The most significant increases were in energy, building facility costs, travel, hospitality, advertising and promotion, audit and professional, ancillary and research. Cost inflation and scaling up of research and travel are the primary drivers of the increased costs.

The chart below highlights a breakdown of other operating costs by category over the last five years.

Other operating costs 5 years to 2022/23



Impairment – Dunnes Stores site, City Centre

On 5 April 2019, the University purchased the former Dunnes site in Limerick City at an initial cost of €8 million. Subsequent to the purchase date, further expenditure was incurred by the University to put the site into use. Since the acquisition, accumulated depreciation on the site was €0.893m to 30 Sep 2023 and the subsequent expenditure amounted to €1.337m resulting in a net book, before impairment, value of the site of €8.444 million as at 30 September 2023.

In late August 2023, the University commissioned Power Property to provide an independent valuation of the site as of the date of purchase and again as at 30 September 2023. The valuation by Power Property as of the date of purchase was €6 million but due to deteriorating commercial real estate market conditions, the value of the site including subsequent expenditure incurred has declined to €5.4 million at 30 September 2023 reflecting open market value at that date. Accordingly, an impairment charge of €3.044 million has been charged to the statement of comprehensive income in accordance with the University's accounting policies and the related asset written down from €8.444 million to the independently valued open market value of €5.4 million.

Impairment – 1-20 Drominbeg Square, Rhebogue, Limerick

An impairment arose on this asset as the purchase price agreed conferred on the vendor a commercial benefit in excess of that which would have resulted were the arrangement to have been entered into on an arm's length basis at a valuation determined at open market value for similar residential property. In addition, the purchase price exceeded the amount approved by the Governing Authority, along with the payment terms differing from those approved by the Governing Authority. Furthermore, the University became aware, after Plassey Trust Company CLG filed a stamp duty return claiming exemption applicable to Charities, that stamp duty was applicable under Section 31E Stamp Duty Consolidation Act (SDCA) 1999 on certain residential properties. The University consequently conducted an impairment review of the properties. The carrying value of this addition, before impairment, at year end was €12.650m including stamp duty.

The University appointed Power Property to undertake a review of the fair value of the property, their valuation of the properties (1-20 Drominbeg Square, Rhebogue) on 30 September 2023 was €6.585m.

The University retained Mazars to carry out a value in use assessment' of the 20 houses based on the current use in accordance with FRS102 section 27 Impairment of Assets. Their report estimates the value in use at €7.425m. The higher of the fair value and value in use is the value in use of €7.425m. This gives rise to an impairment of €5.225m.

Deferred Pension Income

The University operates a defined benefit pension scheme, the University of Limerick Superannuation (Amendment) Scheme, which is funded annually on a "pay as you go" basis from monies provided by the HEA and from contributions deducted from staff salaries. Since January 2013 the University also operates the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (the "Single Scheme"). The new Single scheme came into effect for all new entrants to pensionable public service employment on or after 1 January 2013. The Single Scheme changes the basis of assessing the pension benefits on retirement to assessing on career average earnings and increasing the minimum retirement age. The legislation establishing the Single Scheme provides that pension contributions are deducted from employee pay and these are remitted by the employing organisation directly to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. Funding for pension in payment will be provided separately from the Exchequer through the Central Fund or a separate vote.

The University of Limerick regards that under both schemes defined benefits are being provided and accordingly these should be accounted for as defined benefit obligations under FRS 102, Para 28.10(b). The University does not, in substance, bear actuarial risk for the plans and the University's obligation is, in effect, acting as an agent in paying pension payments to the pensioners based on the amount confirmed and advised to the University and funded to the University by the HEA.

In addition (i) the establishment of newer schemes gives a statutory basis for what in practice was happening on the older schemes, i.e. the new Single scheme provides that pension deductions are to be remitted and separate funding will be provided by the Exchequer for pensions (and lump sums) in payment. (ii) The University is not exposed to the actuarial risk; this is because the structure of the Superannuation Scheme is such that the final pension will be paid from the last employer regardless of the level of service provided by the member. For example, if a lecturer provides 39 years of pensionable service to another Irish University and joins UL and later retires, then the entire lump sum and monthly pension payment will be paid by UL. The University of Limerick would not take on this liability without being certain that the State will reimburse all of the expenditure required to settle this employee's pension entitlements. In practice the University has always received an allocation as part of their funding to cover the cost of pensions and in the event of differences a 'top-up' from the HEA is received or the University refund the excess to the HEA. (iii) The University's role in relation to the pension schemes is administrative in nature.

The University is of the view that under FRS102 it is virtually certain that a reimbursement asset exists and accordingly a reimbursement asset (match asset) is recognised in the accounts.

Balance Sheet

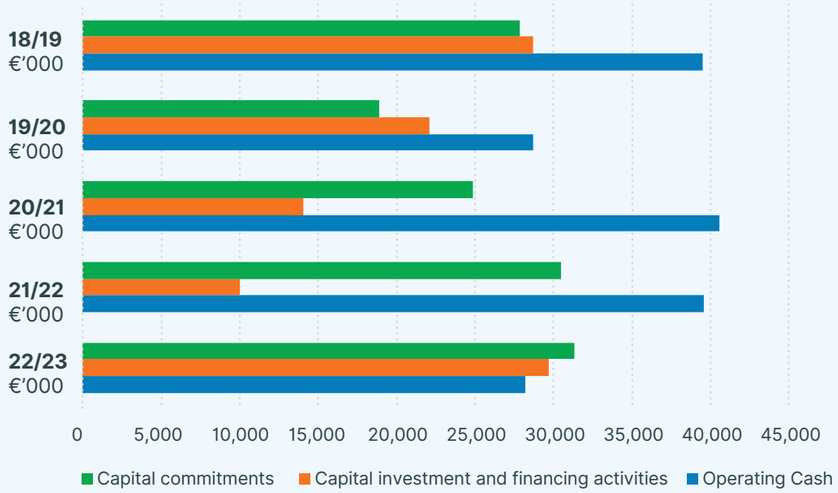
Due to careful financial management the University balance sheet has remained strong throughout the duration of COVID-19 and in the post COVID recovery of the last two years.

Consolidated additions to fixed assets totalled €22.937m of which €5.915m relates to computer and other equipment and €17.022m on land and buildings and assets under construction. Funding from State capital grants for equipment of €4.038m was received.

During the year cash and cash equivalents decreased from c.€189.4m to c.€187.9m. The net cash flow from operating activities was c. €28.2m compared to €39.6m in 2021/22.

The chart below highlights the Operating Cash and Capital Investments and financing activities of the last five financial years.

Operating Cash & Capital Investment and Financing Activities



The Student Fee Debt portion of academic fees outstanding at the year ended 30 September 2023 amounted to c. €10.72m cumulatively.

To offset the possibility of not collecting the remaining student debt there is a bad debt provision of c.€7.581m, which was increased during the year by c. €694k. This provision covers 70.7% of the total student debt and is deemed to be adequate for requirements.

During the financial year the University repaid bank loans of c. €6.63m leaving a balance of €75.1M (€81.7m in 2021-22). Total net assets increased from c.€274.5m to c.€273.7m. Revenue reserves as at 30 September 2023 are c.€273.7m.

Summary

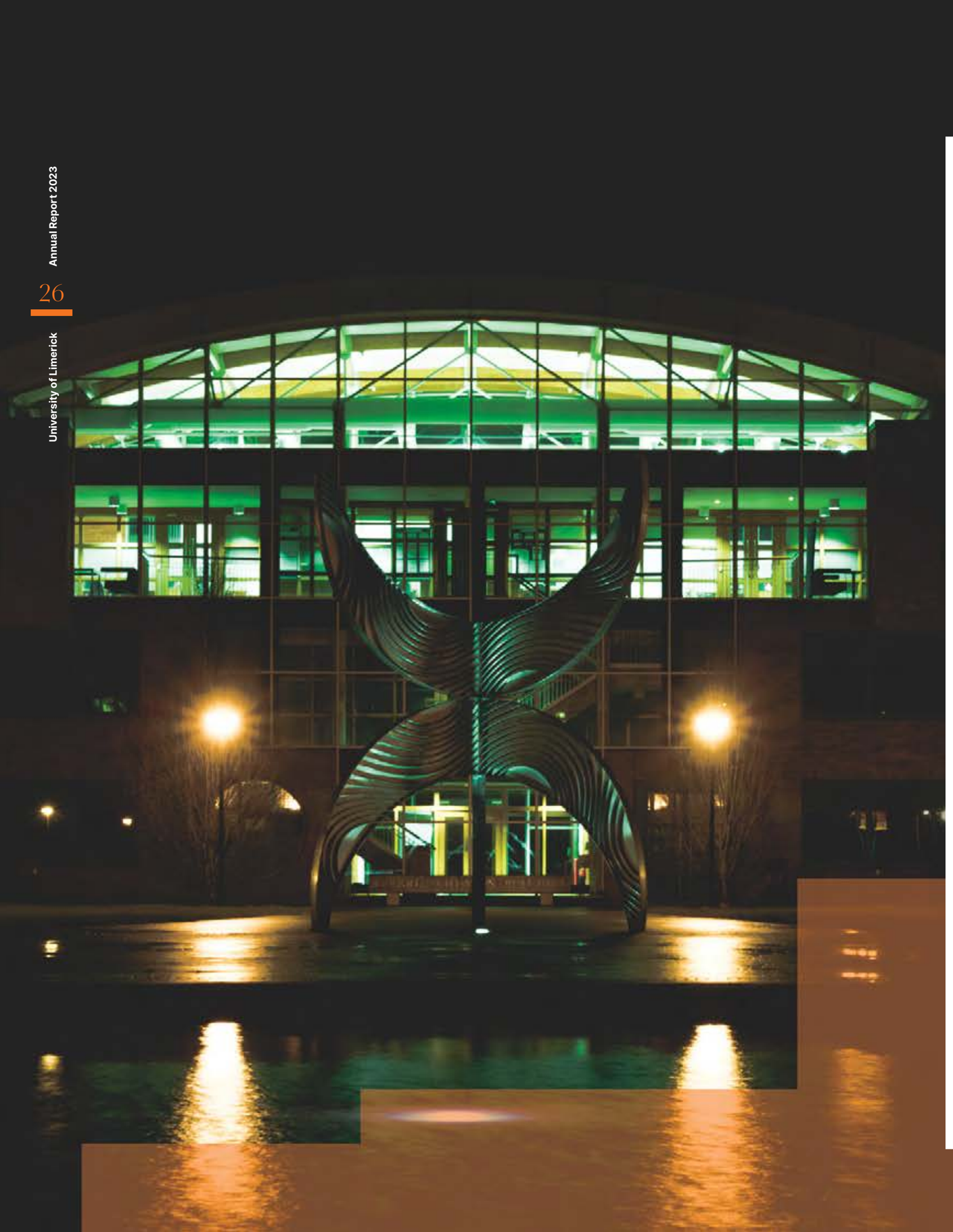
The financial year 2022-23 shows an overall deficit which is due to the challenging circumstances of fixed asset impairments, significant inflationary pressure on pay and non-pay combined with increased levels of activity as all campus activities returned to more normal activity levels.

The University cash and balance sheet positions remain strong despite the small fall in overall cash balances.

The University's long-term forecasts show a continued healthy liquidity position and work is underway on the next strategic plan for the University. There are still a number of risks and uncertainties including the threat to cyber security and the impact of the cost of living and accommodation crisis on student enrolment and retention. The University has over the last number of years significantly grown its undergraduate student numbers, the continued growth is not sustainable given factors including accommodation issues, demographics, and its next strategic plan will need to address little or no growth in undergraduate activity in the coming years. The University's financial plan seeks to maintain its financial strength and provide ongoing capacity to invest in order to deliver against the ambitions in its recalibrated strategic plan.

The University's strategy and values will guide its plans over the next period as it embarks on a new period of investment which will be focused on transforming the way in which it delivers excellent research, education and student experience in a digitally transformed world, and ensuring that it strives to make a positive difference in the world.

Mr. John Field
Chief Financial & Performance Officer
Date: 7 March 2025



STATEMENT OF GOVERNING AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governing Authority is required to comply with the Universities Act, 1997, as amended by the HEA Act 2022, and to keep in such form as may be approved of by An t-Údarás um Ard-Oideachas all proper and usual accounts of money received and expanded by it.

In preparing those accounts, the Governing Authority is required to:

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

The Governing Authority is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the University and which enable it to ensure that its financial statement comply with the Universities Act, 1997, as amended by the HEA Act 2022, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Further and Higher Education Institutions and are prepared in accordance with FRS102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

The Governing Authority is responsible for ensuring that the business of the University is conducted in a proper and regular manner and for safeguarding all assets under its operational control and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Governing Authority considers that the financial statements of the University to be a true and fair view of the University's financial performance for the financial year and its financial position at the end of the year.

On behalf of Governing Authority

Professor Brigid Laffan
Chancellor
Date: 7 March 2025

Professor Shane Kilcommins
Acting President
Date: 7 March 2025





ANNUAL STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE'

This constitutes the University of Limerick's Annual Governance Statement for year ended 30 September 2023.

1. Code of Governance and Codes of Conduct

The University has adopted the 2019 Code of Governance for Irish Universities. The Governing Authority approved the "UL Code of Governance" in December 2021, that reflects the requirements of the 2019 Code. In accordance with the Code of Governance requirements the Governing Authority has approved the matters reserved to it for decision to ensure the proper management and control of the University. The Matters Reserved to Governing Authority is published on the University's website.

The Governing Authority approved a revised Code of Conduct for Members of Governing Authority in October 2022. The Code will be reviewed during 2025 given the governance changes effected by the Higher Education Authority Act 2022.

A Code of Conduct for Employees including clear conflict of interest and ethics in public office policies was in place during the year in review. As part of the Induction process, the Code of Conduct is circulated to all employees and is available for reference via the Policy Hub.

The provisions of the Code pertaining to external work are supplemented by the University's Policy for Private Consultancy and External Commercial Work. The University's Policy for Conflicts of Interests further requires all employees to declare any potential, perceived or actual conflict of interest arising in the context of external consultancy work.

2. Commercially Significant Developments

The University submits quarterly reports to the HEA for the reporting period included updates on financial, capital, and strategic matters.

- During the reporting period the University re-tendered the completion contract for the new Student Centre. Following a competitive procedure with negotiation, in December 2022 the Governing Authority authorised additional cost relating to the completion of the Student Centre which will increase the overall costs by a further €4.815m. Letter of acceptance issues to the contactor for completion contract which commenced on 20 March 2023 and is due for completion in Q1 2025.
- The Budget for 2023/24 was impacted by financial challenges including energy inflation, unfunded pay awards, student recruitment Masters, impact of the housing crisis on availability of accommodation on student recruitment and student rendition. The Governing Authority in June 2023 adopted a consolidated budget with a deficit of €1.3m and agreed that the Executive and the President must make every effort to secure a supplementary grant from the HEA to cover pay and energy inflation that has not been funded by the core grant allocation for 2023. In December 2023 a supplementary grant for pay and non pay inflation was allocated to the University and the quantum relating to FY22-23 included in State Grant income.
- The Governing Authority at its meeting in August 2022 approved a proposal to secure 20 houses for student accommodation. In October 2023, subsidiary company Plassey Trust Company (PTC) completed the acquisition of the 20 houses in Rhebogue, Limerick which provide 80 student bedspaces at a cost of €11,439,280. The University paid stamp duty of €1,007,866 in February 2024. As set out note 15 to the financial statements circumstances gave rise to an impairment review under FRS102 section 27 resulting in an impairment charge of €5.225m against the carrying value of these 20 houses. An audit and risk committee commissioned review of the Rhebogue transaction was completed and presented to GA on 28 March 2024, the findings of this review are set out in section of 8.2 of the Statement on the Systems of Internal Controls.
- On 1 May 2024 the Higher Education Authority issued agreed Terms of Reference for a review under Section 64 Higher Education Act 2022. The Governing Authority following a procurement process engaged Deloitte to undertake this review. The draft Deloitte report was accepted, approved and submitted by Governing Authority to the CEO Higher Education Authority on 29 July 2024. The final report was submitted by Governing Authority to the HEA on 25 September 2024. Following its consideration by the HEA, the CEO of the HEA advised the Chancellor that a renewal plan addressing all of the findings and recommendations of the UL S64 Report, and the findings and recommendations of HEA commissioned reports be submitted. A plan was submitted to the HEA in December 2024, the HEA in January 2025 have indicated they accept the plan subject to the upcoming finalisation of two reports that it commissioned on capital projects/property valuation and the review of the governance of protected disclosures, refer to section 9.3 of the Statement on the Systems of Internal Control.
- The Comptroller & Auditor General has completed a Value for Money (VFM) review of the Dunnes and Rhebogue transactions which was published on 13 September 2024. It contains two recommendations which were accepted by the University and will be implemented by the end of Q1 2025, refer to section 9.2 of the Statement on the Systems of Internal Control.

Details of the engagement and associated costs of external consultancy firms and investigators contracted to carry out investigations and enquiries on internal matters.

Policies & Procedures - Workplace Dignity & Respect, Grievance and Acceptable Behaviours in the Workplace	€
Investigations	4,729
Mediation	855
Appeal	5,166
Grievance policy	923
Policies & Procedures - sub total	**11,673**
Protected Disclosure	
Investigations	64,022
Total investigation and mediation costs	**75,695**

3. Pay & Pensions

The University is complying with Government Policy on Pay and the Framework for Departure from Approved Levels of Remuneration as agreed with the HEA under Section 25 of the Universities Act, 1997.

The University is complying with Government Policy on pensions. Any pension agreements with the Higher Education Authority, Department of Education, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science or any other Government Department were complied with.

Any severance payments made during the year in review were made with the consent of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, and were in compliance with the requirements of Circular 09/2018: Consolidation of arrangements for the offer of severance terms in the civil and public service.

4. Financial Reporting

The production of the University's Consolidated Financial Statement for year ended 30 September 2023 complies with the 2019 Code of Governance for Irish Universities.

An annual report, including audited financial statements, was published in May 2023 in respect of the Institutions activities for year ended 30 September 2022. The University is subject to annual audit by both the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General and by the Governing Authority appointed External Auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers. Appropriate procedures to produce the University's financial statements for year ended 30 September 2023 have been followed in line with the Code of Governance for Irish Universities and audited financial statements are prepared for all legal entities under the control of the University.

The contract cost of the Rhebogue development was not included in note 25 to the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2022 as a capital commitment contracted but not provided. It was included and disclosed in both the President's Report and in the Annual Statement of Governance under Commercially Significant Developments in the annual report for the year ended 30 September 2022. This contract cost has been included in the 2022 comparatives in note 25 in these financial statements.

5. Off Balance Sheet Transactions

The University arranged through Bank of Ireland, drawn on Wells Fargo, an irrevocable Letter of Credit in the amount of US$128,683, which expires on 31 August 2025, to the US Department of Education in respect of commitments under the US Federal Aid Loan programme. Except for this letter of credit, the University has not entered into any off-balance sheet transactions such as leases, letters of credit, guarantees, derivatives, sale of receivables, debit or debt like instruments of non-consolidated equity interest or joint ventures which give rise to or may give rise to an asset or liability in excess of €10m or 2% of the total net assets of the University (€5.5m).

6. Trusts and Foundations

Details summarising the transactions between the University of Limerick and the University of Limerick Foundation are included as a note and an appendix to the financial statements.

7. Internal Audit

The University has an internal audit function. However, following discussions with the current Audit and Risk Committee it has been acknowledged that additional investment in this function is required. Section 9.3 of the Statement on the Systems of Internal Control identifies the GA recommendation as part of the S64 review HEAA 2022 includes investing and promoting strong second and third lines of defence. The Internal Auditor reports functionally to the Chairperson of the Governing Authority, Audit & Risk Committee and administratively to the Corporate Secretary. The Internal Audit plan is approved by the University's Audit and Risk Committee.

The Audit & Risk Committee meets annually with the External Auditors appointed by Governing Authority, the Internal Auditor, and with representatives of the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General (C&AG) without members of the Executive present.

During the period 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023 a total of seven Internal Audit Reviews were completed and were approved in accordance with the provisions of the University's Internal Audit Charter.

The Internal Audit Reviews completed are:

- Starters Emergency Appointments and Leavers Review
- Starters and Leavers Review
- Annual Governance Statement Review
- Increment Review
- Non-Pay Expense Review – Biological Sciences
- Non-Pay Expense Review – Kemmy Business School
- Non-Pay Expense Review – School of Medicine

The University's Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), being a committee of the Governing Authority, reviewed the Internal Audit Plan for the Financial Year 2022/23 and considered it appropriate as part of the process to monitor the internal control environment. The Internal Audit Plan was approved by the ARC in April 2022. The Audit Plan was endorsed by the Governing Authority.

8. Procurement

(i) Procurement procedures

Policies and procedures for the procurement of all non pay expenditure are in place and communicated to staff and published on the University website. The University operates an online purchase requisition workflow. Requisitions with a value in excess of €5,000 are automatically work flowed to procurement for checking and approval of the procurement process followed. Functionality has been developed to identify aggregate spend exceeding €25,000 with individual suppliers. This enables monitoring of spends approaching threshold and thereby ensure where there is an ongoing requirement a procurement process can be progressed at the earliest opportunity subject to available framework and or resources.

The University actively engages with the services and frameworks of the Office of Government Procurement and the Education Procurement Service (EPS), which are used when applicable and available. There are a significant number of instances where the OGP cannot deliver a procurement request and the University must complete the process with its own resources. The University may not have the resources available to it to complete in a timely manner. The University continues to deploy its procurement resources to minimise this risk.

The University maintains a database of all contracts and payments in excess of €25,000. In addition, the University undertakes a post factum review annually on aggregate spend on suppliers. This review also informs any requirement for a revised procurement strategy.

(ii) Corporate Procurement Plan

The University annually reviews and updates it Corporate Procurement Plan, it is presented to GA FHRAMC for review on an annual basis. The University submitted its completed Multi Annual Procurement Planning (MAPP) to the EPS in November 2022 and has engaged with the EPS its sectoral analysis of HEI MAPP's.

(iii) Details of Non-Compliant Procurement above €25,000:

During the year the University identified €434,756 of expenditure relating to five suppliers that was not procured in accordance with public procurement regulations. Total non-pay expenditure plus equipment additions amounted to €86.2m and the non-compliant procurement equates to 0.5% (less than 1%) of addressable expenditure.

(iv) Non-Competitive Procurement above €25,000:

During the reporting period the University spent €3.158m with suppliers where the procurement process was non-competitive. These include maintenance/support contracts on previous tendered competitions for systems and equipment, exclusive rights for library journals, repairs and parts for specialist research equipment, continuity of research and article publishing costs in exclusive journals/databases etc. These are single source compliant procurements where the University's purchase approval process requires a completed supplier selection justification setting out details of the circumstances such as exclusive rights, replacement parts or accessories, technical services etc.

9. Asset Disposals

The disposal of assets by the University during the reporting period was carried out in line with the University's Policy for the Disposal of Assets. The policy is in compliance with the requirements of the 2019 Code of Governance for Irish Universities for the disposal of assets.

The University confirms there was no disposal of assets in any form above the threshold of €150,000 in the period under review.

10. Management of Capital Projects

The C&AG in its value for money report found that an economic assessment was not undertaken of the relative merits of the Honan's Quay property and suitable alternative properties e.g. at the nearby Opera quarter, where a suitable site was stated to be available at an estimated €3 million. Details of the progress on implementation of the two recommendations in the C&AG report are set out in section 9.2 of the Statement on the Systems of Internal Control.

The acquisition of 20 houses in Rhebogue proceeded without an appraisal process within the meaning of the Public Spending Code. Except for this transaction, during the reporting period, and the Honans Quay transaction, policies and procedures for the management of capital projects and property transactions were compliant with the Public Spending Code and the Capital Works Management Framework, relevant Circulars and Code of Governance. Policies and procedures for the management of capital projects and property transactions are reviewed every 3 years and as required and updated where appropriate.

Policies and procedures for the management of capital projects and property transactions have been approved via the appropriate governance structures of the Institution and are subject to external review periodically. Except as noted above, all capital projects and property transactions are managed and delivered in compliance with Institution's approved policies and procedures as well as relevant principles, requirements and guidelines of the current Public Spending Code, and the Capital Works Management Framework, relevant Circulars and Code of Governance.

The Policy for the Acquisition of New Property Buildings, Land and Infrastructure will be reviewed as a matter of priority taking into account recommendations from the Comptroller & Auditor General VFM review and the Section 64 Review Report.

The Governing Authority approved all significant capital and property transactions during the financial year in excess of €2m. Recommendations arising from the review of the Rhebogue transaction as part of the S64 review are set out in section 9.3 of the Statement on the Systems of Internal Control contained within this annual report.

11. Travel Policy

The University implements Government travel policy requirements through its Travel and Subsistence Policy approved by Governing Authority. The University is satisfied that there are robust controls in place in relation to the payment of travel related expenses.



12. Guidelines on Achieving Value for Money in Public Expenditure

The C&AG report found that because an economic assessment of the relative merits of the Honan's Quay site to suitable alternative properties was not completed and because there is no evidence of any additional real benefits to be gained from the University's development and use of Honan's Quay property, it is difficult to see how the excess cost incurred was warranted, or that it represents value for money.

The requirements of the Guidelines on Achieving Value for Money in Public Expenditure, both current and capital expenditure, as set out in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Public Spending Code were complied with during the year in review, except for the acquisition of 20 houses in Rhebogue. This transaction proceeded without an appraisal process within the meaning of the Public Spending Code.

The C&AG special report no.117 made two recommendations. (1) The University should revise its policy and procedures for the acquisition of property assets to take on board all the relevant requirements of the Public Spending Code. It should seek formal independent expert assurance that the revised policy and procedures adequately reflect the key requirements of the Code. (2) Responsibility for confirmation of the process of compliance in respect of a proposal for a major investment or property asset acquisition should be assigned to an officer who is independent of the project promoter. The University has appointed Deloitte to advise it on its revised policy and procedures, refer to section 9.2 of the Statement on the Systems of Internal Control.

13. Tax Laws

The University seeks to be compliant with taxation laws and is committed to ensuring that all known tax liabilities are paid by the relevant due dates. A subsidiary company Plassey Trust Company (PTC) completed the acquisition of 20 houses in Rhebogue, Limerick which provides 80 student bedspaces at a cost of €11,439,280. PTC is a registered Charitable Body. Within the prescribed period after contract completion PTC filed a stamp duty return claiming relief from stamp duty under Section 82 Stamp Duty Consolidation Act (SDCA) 1999. Section 82 provides for an exemption to charities for conveyances, transfer or leases of land made for charitable purposes. However, after filing the stamp duty return the University became aware that stamp duty is applicable under Section 31E SDCA 1999, introduced by the Finance (Covid-19 and Miscellaneous Provisions) 2021 – Stamp Duty on certain acquisitions of residential properties. The University paid the applicable stamp duty of €1,007,866 on 22 February 2024, it fell due on 10 October 2023. Interest due on the late payment of this stamp duty of €29,790 has also been paid by the University,

14. Legal Disputes

Details of all legal disputes (including costs to date) involving other State bodies, incurring expenditure of €25,000, were reported to the HEA by 30th June 2023.

Since the end of the financial year, the University was successful in its case against Irish Water. The decision that student accommodation satisfies the definition of "dwelling" in the 2013 Water Services -ACT means that Irish Water cannot charge water rates on university student accommodation.

15. Confidential Disclosure Reporting – Protected Disclosures Act 2014

Procedures were in place for the making of Protected Disclosures in accordance with S.21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014. The University's Annual Report was published on 1 March 2023 as required under the Act. There were four protected disclosures received during the financial year 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023. A review of the Policy for Protected Disclosures in light of recommendations from S64 review and the HEA commissioned report will be undertaken during 2025.

16. Governing Body Meetings

Eleven meetings of Governing Authority were held between October 2022 and September 2023 of which eight were scheduled meetings. The University confirms that a quorum was maintained at all meetings. The Chair of the Governing Authority confirmed that she was satisfied that the number of meetings was sufficient to discharge the duties of the Governing Authority.

The Governing Authority met without any executive members present on 28 May 2023. In October 2022 all executive committee members who were "in attendance" left the meeting, but those who were members of both the executive or management and Governing Authority remained.

17. Audit and Risk Management Committee Meetings

There were eight Audit & Risk Committee meetings held during the financial year under review. Although the question was not specifically put to the Governing Authority during the period in question, the Governing Authority was satisfied with the functioning of the Audit & Risk Committee. Subsequent to the reporting period the requirement for members of the audit and risk committee to have recent relevant financial experience was addressed as was an updated terms of reference approved by the Governing Authority.

18. Review of Governing Body Performance

The annual self-assessment evaluation questionnaire of the Governing Authority's performance and that of its committees was undertaken in Q2 of 2022. The Corporate Secretary, following discussion with the Chair, presented a report to Governing Authority outlining the main themes emerging from the self-assessment. Following that discussion, the follow-on work was referred at the request of the Chancellor to the Governance Committee. These actions will be used to inform the induction and training requirements of the next (sixth) Governing Authority of the University.

An external review of the effectiveness of the Governing Authority was completed in January 2021. The 6th Governing Authority was installed in October 2023 and a full review of the GA and its sub-committees will be completed in 2025.

19. Data provided to HEA

The University is satisfied as to the integrity and robustness of any data on student numbers and programmes provided to the HEA in the reporting period. Staff numbers are provided to the HEA each quarter. The data is automatically generated based on a suite of reports from the Core HR System. A review of the data as it compares across each quarter is completed as part of the detailed check of same. A single point of contact manages the data gathering and reporting as a safeguard to the integrity and robustness of the staff numbers provided.

20. Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions

A Sexual Harassment & Sexual Violence Policy and procedure was approved by Governing Authority on 24 September 2024. Training and education programmes including Active Consent, Bystander Intervention and Handling Disclosures have been rolled out to staff and students by the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Officer.

The University's Action Plan to Tackle Sexual Violence & Harassment was launched in October 2023. Details are available at www.ul.ie/equality-diversity-inclusion/student-designated-contact-persons-panel. Other key front facing stakeholders have been identified (Student Affairs, Student Life and UL Global) and additional extensive disclosure training has been provided. Quarterly updates are presented at the Governing Authority sub-committee i.e. Access, Equality and Student Affairs Committee, monthly to the Provost & Deputy President Management meetings and regularly to the Executive Committee and Governing Authority.

21. Child Protection Policy

The University of Limerick's Child Safeguarding Statement complies with the Children First Act 2015 and is being implemented. The University's associated organisations have local Child Safeguarding Statements in place that conform to Children First and are being implemented as confirmed in writing to the University's Designated Liaison Person. University Departments providing services to children must have a detailed child safeguarding risk assessment approved by the Head of Department and complete the Tusla Child First eLearning training programme. Event management plans submitted have included in the template provided, a section on Child Protection, it is mandatory that it is completed, and risk assessed. The University Child Safeguarding statement was updated during the review period to reflect the incoming Health & Safety Officer and Designated Person Liaison Person.

22. Disability Act 2005

Older buildings and infrastructure are substantially compliant and are upgraded and modified for compliance on a continuous basis subject to available funds. Except for these older buildings the University confirms that it met its obligations under the Disability Act 2005 during the year in review. The University confirms that all new buildings and infrastructure comply with the provisions of the Disability Act 2005 and Part M Building Regulations.

23. Fees and Expenses

The University confirms that Government guidelines were complied with on the payment of fees and expenses to Governing Authority members. No payment made to external members of Governing Authority for attendance on interview panels. Details of all other expenses as set out below.

Details of all payments to Governing Body members (honoraria/ remuneration/ fees/ expenses) in the reporting period

Payments by Category:	€
Expenses*	19,339
Honoraria	-
Remuneration	-
Fees	-
Total	**19,339**

*This includes the costs of flights / accommodation of the Minister's nominees, who are resident in the United States of America.

24. Governing Body Gender Balance

The University confirms there was a minimum of 40% representation of each gender for the year in review.

25. Subsidiaries, Joint Ventures and Interests in External Companies

Subsidiaries of the University of Limerick (and any subsidiary thereof) continued to operate solely for the purpose for which it was established and remained in compliance with the terms and conditions of the consent under which it was established.

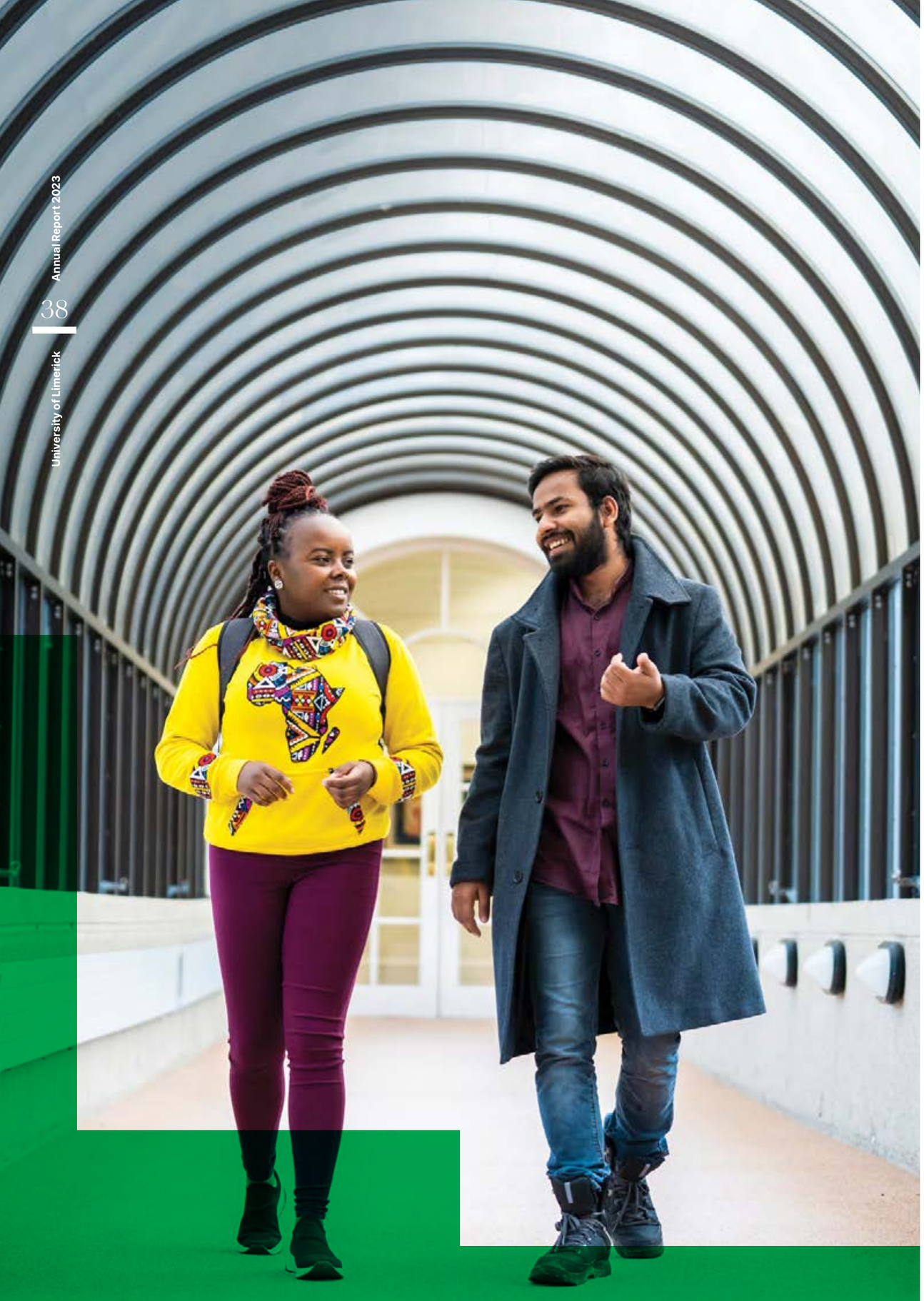
Codes of Governance are in place for all of the University's trading subsidiaries, the University Concert Hall, was approved by the University's Finance, HR and Asset Management Committee and submitted to Governing Authority in June 2023.

The University of Limerick disclosed details of all shareholdings and interests held by the University in external companies (spin outs, joint ventures and all other shareholdings in companies) in the audited financial statements.

There was no cost to the Exchequer for any financing arrangements attaching to any joint venture or other similar arrangements (including loans, dividends or other forms of funding provided by the University at the point of establishment of the joint venture / arrangement and thereafter). Any costs incurred by the University associated with joint ventures (Strategic Development Zone "SDZ") are funded from non-exchequer sources. In October 2024, following Governing Authority consideration the University withdrew the application for SDZ designation for lands adjacent to its north campus in Co. Clare. It is intended to wind up the UL & Clare Economic Development Association DAC during 2025.

The activities of the University of Limerick Alumni Association Alumni DAC (ULAA) have post year end been transferred back to the University and that ULAA will be wound up during 2025.

The S64 Review made a number of recommendations in relation to subsidiaries including governance and oversight and a reduction in the number of subsidiaries, refer to section 9.3 of the Statement on the Systems of Internal Control.



26. Intellectual Property (IP) and Conflict of Interest

The University has a single IP Policy that is published on its external website and reflects the management requirements of the national IP Protocol. The University of Limerick IP Policy is reviewed in accordance with the Policy Management Framework and approved by GA. Under the Policy, the decision to make any payments of benefits provided for within the policy is delegated to the Vice President Research. All payments are made in accordance with the IP policy. There were no IP benefit payments made during the year ended 30 September 2023. The Governing Authority was made aware of IP commercialisation metrics via memo and incorporated into Annual Research Performance Report. IP commercialisation metrics are verified by Knowledge Transfer Ireland.

The Governing Authority received the names of any spin-out companies from which the Institution received revenue in the relevant financial year from (i) equity sale (ii) dividends (iii) any milestone related (or similar) event not covered in (i) or (ii).

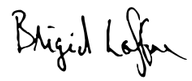
The University's Policy for Conflicts of Interest was approved by Governing Authority in May 2023. This is published on the UL Policy Hub. All staff have a duty to ensure that potential conflicts of interest are documented and managed with regard to the best interests of the University. Where appropriate, Declaration of Interest Forms are completed by staff members and signed off by their line manager before submission to the Director of Human Resources. Conflict of Interest Briefing Sessions take place throughout the year and the Director Human Resources briefs Governing Authority once yearly on declarations returned.

The Director, Human Resources presented to Governing Authority in January 2023 on conflicts of interests declared to his office in the previous 12 months.

27. HEA Principles of Good Practice in Research in Irish Higher Education Institutions

The University of Limerick has in place an Institutional Research Integrity policy (based on the National Research Integrity Policy statement), robust research ethics guidelines and procedures, policies in the areas of intellectual property, conflicts of interest, research infrastructure management, data management, and health research oversight. Training is available to staff members (whether academic, research or administrative/professional) in the areas of research integrity research ethics, conflict of interest management among other topics.

Research activity funded by external partners (such as SFI, HRB etc.) is managed and implemented per the terms of the grant agreement reached between the University and the said agencies, including scheduled review. Researchers, whether externally funded or not, are bound to meet the requirements of University policy with regard to research activity, which includes procedures mandated under the policies delineated above among others.

Chancellor: **Professor Brigid Laffan**	
Acting President: **Professor Shane Kilcommins**	
Name of Institution:	University of Limerick
Date:	*7 March 2025*

Appendix 1
Attendance at Governing Authority meetings 1 October 2022 – 30 September 2023

The Governing Authority met 11 times during the period under review.

	Governing Authority Member	No. of Meetings Attended	No. of Meetings Eligible to Attend
Chief Officer:	Professor Kerstin Mey[1]	11	11
Chancellor:	Ms Mary Harney[2]	11	11
Senior Officer of University:	Professor Nigel Healey	8	9
	Professor Shane Kilcommins	11	11
Professors/Associate Professors: (elected by such staff)	Professor Sean Arkins	10	11
	Professor Edmond Magner	11	11
	Professor Kevin M Ryan	11	11
Academic & Research Staff: (elected by such staff)	Dr David Fleming	10	11
	Dr Fergal O'Brien[3]	5	6
	Dr Bob Strunz	10	11
Support Staff: (elected by such staff)	Ms Michelle Breen	7	11
	Ms Kim O'Mahony	11	11
Elected officers of the Students' Union:	Ms Maeve Rutledge	7	8
	Mr Ronan Cahill	3	3
	Mr Maeve Gilmore	7	8
	Ms Emily Rosenkranz	3	3
	Mr Louis Pemble	9	9
	Mr Roger DeSilva	2	2
Nominees of Organisations:	Ms Joan Aherne	9	11
	Mr Kevin Fleming	8	11
Nominees of Department of Education:	Ms Grainne Barron	8	11
	Dr Garret A FitzGerald	9	11
Persons appointed having regard to Artistic/ Cultural Interests:	Ms Aibhlín McCrann	11	11
	Ms Trish Long	10	11
	Ms Judith Woodworth	11	11
Graduates of the University of Limerick: (elected by such graduates)	Mr Liam Carroll	8	11
	Vacancy		
Cathaoirleach of the City & County of Limerick[4]:	Cllr Olivia O'Sullivan	3	9
	Cllr Abul Kalam Azad Talukder	0	2
Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick[4]:	Cllr Francis Foley	6	9
	Cllr Gerard Mitchell	2	2
University of Limerick Foundation Nominees:	Ms Rose Hynes (Deputy Chairperson)	10	11
	Mr Eddie Sullivan[5]	0	3
President, MIC:	Professor Eugene Wall	11	11

[1] The Chancellor notified the Campus on 14 June 2024 that Professor Mey would resign her role as President and from 1 September 2024, Professor Mey took up a Professorship role within the University.

[2] The 6th Governing Authority came into effect on 2 October 2023, the Chancellor Professor Brigid Laffan was appointed on 2 November 2023

[3] Prof Fergal O'Brien resigned in April 2023

[4] Cathaoirleach of the City & County of Limerick and Mayor of the Metropolitan District of Limerick new terms commenced June 2023

[5] Mr Eddie Sullivan RIP January 2023

Sub-committee meeting attendance period 1 October 2022- 30 September 2023

Audit & Risk Committee (ARC)
The Audit & Risk Committee met on 8 occasions and the attendance record is detailed below:

Members of Governing Authority and ARC members
Mr Eddie Sullivan – attended 0 of 3 meetings
Mr Kevin Fleming (Chair) – attended 8 of 8 meetings
Ms Joan Ahern – attended 8 of 8 meetings

Finance, Human Resources & Asset Management Committee (FHRAMC)
The Finance, Human Resources & Asset Management Committee met on 6 occasions and the attendance record is detailed below:

Members of Governing Authority and FHRAMC members
Mr Ronan Cahill - attended 1 of 1 meeting
Mr Liam Carroll - attended 2 of 6 meetings
Mr Roger DeSilva – attended 1 of 1 meeting
Ms Rose Hynes (Chair) – attended 6 of 6 meetings
Ms Aibhlín McCrann – attended 6 of 6 meetings
Dr Fergal O'Brien – attended 3 of 4 meetings
Ms Kim O'Mahony – attended 6 of 6 meetings
Mr Louis Pemble – attended 5 of 5 meetings
Professor Kevin M Ryan – attended 5 of 6 meetings
Ms Maeve Rutledge – attended 5 of 5 meetings
Ms Judith Woodworth – attended 5 of 6 meetings

Governance Committee (GC)
The Governance Committee met on 4 occasions and the attendance record is detailed below:

Members of Governing Authority and GC members
Professor Seán Arkins – attended 3 of 4 meetings
Mr Liam Carroll – attended 1 of 4 meetings
Ms Trish Long – attended 3 of 4 meetings
Ms Kim O'Mahony – attended 4 of 4 meetings
Ms Aibhlín McCrann (Chair) – attended 4 of 4 meetings
Dr Bob Strunz – attended 4 of 4 meetings

Access, Equality & Student Affairs Committee (AESAC)
The Access, Equality & Student Affairs Committee met on 4 occasions and the attendance record is detailed below:

Members of Governing Authority and AESAC members
Ms Joan Aherne – attended 4 of 4 meetings
Ms Michelle Breen – attended 3 of 4 meetings
Ms Maeve Gilmore – attended 3 of 4 meetings
Professor Shane Kilcommins – attended 2 of 4 meetings
Ms Trish Long (Chair) - attended 4 of 4 meetings
Professor Edmond Magner – attended 4 of 4 meetings
Professor Kerstin Mey - attended 0 of 4 meetings
Mr Louis Pemble – attended 4 of 4 meetings
Ms Maeve Rutledge – attended 1 of 4 meetings
Dr Bob Strunz – attended 4 of 4 meetings



STATEMENT ON THE SYSTEMS OF INTERNAL CONTROL

1. Rhebogue transaction and subsequent reviews.

In August 2022 the Governing Authority approved the acquisition of twenty houses at Rhebogue, Limerick to be used as student accommodation. The purchase, for a total consideration of €12.650m, was completed in October 2023 (certificate of practical completion was issued in September 2023). As set out in note 15 of the financial statements, an impairment charge of €5.225m was subsequently recorded in respect of this transaction.

The Governing Authority commissioned a fact-based report on the Rhebogue transaction completed by Ms. Niamh O'Donoghue. That report found issues relating to proper due diligence, failure to follow University policies and procedures, issues relating to the valuations, information presented to the then FHRAMC and GA, unapproved amendment to the contract, planning issues and a stamp duty matter.

This report was shared with the HEA and gave rise to the requirement for a statutory report under S64 HEAA 2022 notified by the HEA to the Chancellor in March 2024. Significant management override of controls is considered to have occurred as part of this transaction process, refer to section 9

2. System of Internal Controls

The system of internal control is designed to manage and reduce risk rather than to eliminate risk and as such, the review of the system of internal control is designed to provide reasonable but not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The President acknowledges that Governing Authority has overall responsibility for the University's system of internal control, including that of its subsidiary companies. The system covers all material controls including financial, operational and compliance controls and risk management systems that support the achievement of the University's Strategic Plan, the achievement of the Strategic Plans/ objectives of its subsidiary companies and the implementation of university policies and procedures while safeguarding the public and other funds and assets for which the University is responsible.

As set out in the Chancellor's report within these financial statements the University has been subject to a number of reviews including the HEA S64 review in accordance with the HEAA 2022, a number of HEA commissioned reports and the C&AG special report. The Governing Authority has accepted the findings and recommendations of these reports, in collaboration with the HEA a plan has been developed and put in place to address all the findings and recommendations which, amongst other matters, identified certain failings in the capital acquisitions process. The University accepts and acknowledges that there is a requirement to strengthen governance and controls within the Institution. Details are set out in section 9 below.

The Statement of Internal Controls is reviewed by the Audit and Risk committee. A review of the effectiveness of internal controls was undertaken by the Governing Authority for the period to which this Statement relates and that such review was completed on 8 December 2023, within three months of the end of the reporting period.

3. Reasonable assurance against material error

The University recorded an €8.3m impairment charge in these Financial Statement. The necessity for both impairments arose as the University acquired properties for a price now determined to be greater than the recoverable value of these properties. The C&AG has published a report under Section 9 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993 into the acquisition of the two properties by the University in 2019 and 2023.

The University is aware and acknowledges that its system of internal controls is designed to minimise risk thereby managing it to an acceptable level. However, it is acknowledged that the system of internal controls does not eliminate risk and therefore cannot provide absolute assurance that the assets are safeguarded, transactions are appropriately authorised and recorded, and that material error or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely manner.

It is confirmed that the University's system of internal controls has been in place for the year ended 30 September 2023 and up to the approval of the financial statements. It is also acknowledged that the system of internal controls needs to be strengthened in line with the findings of the reviews undertaken during 2024 as set out in Section 9.

4. Review of the Statement of Internal Control

It is confirmed that the Statement on the Systems of Internal Controls is reviewed by the University's Auditors as part of their consideration of the financial statements. The Auditors are required to include a statement in the financial statements Audit Report indicating whether or not the Statement of Internal Controls is consistent with the information of which they are aware as a result of their work.

5. IT Security

During the financial year ended 30th September 2023, UL was not compromised by any major IT security events. UL are satisfied that the IT security controls that were in place for the reporting period prevented any major cyber security breaches. UL recognises cyber security as a key risk and through the implementation of controls and processes endeavours to the best of its ability to mitigate this risk. UL has invested in IT Security Enhancement initiatives and resources since 2019 to improve the University's IT Security posture. Further IT security enhancement projects were implemented during the reporting period under review. UL remains acutely aware of the external cyber threat landscape and continues to proactively monitor the external threat environment. The UL IT Security team respond to new external cyber threats on an ongoing basis as new risks are identified. UL has additional IT Security Enhancement initiatives and investments planned over the coming years to further enhance the IT security controls within the Institution, so that UL is prepared to deal with future cyber security threats in an increasingly complex IT Security threat environment.

During the year in review, an ICT security risk assessment was completed. Adequate controls and processes were developed and implemented to address any risks identified by this risk assessment. ICT security audits (internal and external) are routinely carried out and recommendations implemented.

6. Risk Management

During 2022-23 there was a risk management system in place and following the Rhebogue transaction this has received significant additional attention. During 2024 the University undertook a thorough overhaul of its risk management system. In October 2024 the Governing Authority approved a new Enterprise Risk Appetite Statement and a new Enterprise Risk Management Policy. The revised Fundamental risk register was approved by the Governing Authority Audit and Risk Committee and Governing Authority in December 2024. During 2024 the University replaced its bespoke software solution with a new integrated off the shelf risk management system. The Policy includes a clearly defined process for the identification of new risks and a process for evaluating and managing existing risks.

7. Key procedures in place designed to provide effective internal control

During the period under review the President announced a realignment of Executive portfolios which came into effect on 19 June 2023. The Directors of ITD and HR and the Corporate Secretary became full members of the Executive Committee.

- The University's Executive Committee has written terms of reference that set out the role and responsibilities of the Committee. The Executive Committee also established a number of sub-committees with written terms of reference that provide for clear levels of authority and reporting structures to Executive Committee. The S64 review recommends a review of the management and organisation structure taking into consideration the findings outlined in the report, refer to section 9.3.
- An annual strategic budgeting process involving key individuals within the University takes place that informs the development of the University's budget.
- Vice Presidents, Executive Deans, Divisional Directors and Heads of Academic Departments/ Administrative Units, in fulfilling their functions, operate with clear staff structures and appropriate assignment of duties within their respective areas of responsibility. In addition, their respective units have appropriate committee/group structures in place to support the development and work of the units. These units operate in accordance with internal policies and procedures as well as corporate-level policies approved by the Governing Authority on the recommendation of its sub-committees.
- The University undertakes an update to its Annual Governance Statement and Statement on the Systems of Internal Control on an annual basis. This update is secured through the circulation of a questionnaire to a wide range of functional managers throughout the University. The questionnaire has been the subject of external review to ensure it is fit for purpose. In addition, external experts provided specific training to all members of Management Council on their responsibilities in responding to the questionnaire and the type and level of information required.
- Senior executives of the University are appointed as directors on all subsidiary company boards, and they provide advice as requested by management and/or the respective Boards of Directors of these companies on the impact of the University's strategy, policies and procedures on the work of the company. The Matters Reserved to Governing Authority and terms of reference of its Finance Strategy & Performance Committee provide for oversight of subsidiary activities. The S64 review recommends defining University approach to subsidiary oversight and documenting it in a subsidiary policy or framework. This is one of the Deloitte recommendations pertaining to subsidiaries, refer to section 9.3.
- The University has established a Policy Management Framework that ensures consistency in the development and implementation and monitoring of implementation of corporate level statutes and policies. All new policies and revised existing policies must conform to the requirements of the Framework prior to approval by the Governing Authority. The implementation of the

requirements of the Policy Management Framework is supported by an online Policy Hub which is the single authoritative source of all University statutes and policies.

- Procedural manuals and guidelines on academic, financial, IT, research and HR management are available to all managers.
- The University's Academic Council, composed in accordance with the Universities Act, 1997, meets regularly and has a range of sub-committees in place to ensure the development, review and implementation of academic related policies, regulations and procedures. These sub-committees report regularly to the Academic Council.
- There is a Quality Review process in place that operates in accordance with statutory requirements that ensures regular quality reviews of the academic, professional service and affiliate units across the University and the implementation of agreed recommendations arising from such reviews where practicable. The outcomes of these reviews (Quality Review Group Report) and the respective quality implementation plan are presented to the UL Quality Committee for approval. Outputs from quality reviews are reported to Governing Authority by the Provost. All review reports are published on the Quality Support Unit website, along with review schedules, guidelines and summary implementation reports.
- The University of Limerick is focused on providing the optimum student experience and in this regard, conducts Institutional module satisfaction and student exit surveys and participates in ISSE to elicit where the University can improve its offerings to the students. The outcomes of these surveys are considered in detail and acted upon where practicable. Additionally, the University's Centre for Transformation & Learning works to enhance teaching and learning processes through supporting students' transition into university (First Seven Weeks), offering staff development programmes in learning, teaching and scholarship, heightening the profile and value of teaching activities including through Teaching Excellence Awards, collaboratively engaging in related research nationally and internationally and enabling key teaching innovations including technology assisted learning.
- The Intellectual Property Policy provides for procedures to be laid down from time to time for the appropriate management of the University's IP arising out of research activities. Procedures are in place for management of intellectual property and for the formation of UL Campus Companies. The Research Commercialisation Committee (RCC) provides oversight and guidance to the VPR on matters pertaining to research commercialisation, campus company formation and management of the Nexus Centre.
- The University Research Committee, reporting to the University Executive Committee, advises and reports on University research priorities, strategy, and policy.
- The Research Ethics Governance Committee (ULREG), supported by the Research Governance Officer, reports to Academic Council and in turn is reported to by five standing Research Ethics Committees: one each from the University's four faculties, and a separate Animal REC. ULREG is responsible for research ethics governance, setting standards for research ethics scrutiny, defining mechanisms to deliver these standards and overseeing associated monitoring and assessment arrangements. ULREG is supported in this role by research ethics committees (RECs). All research ethics applications are submitted to and considered by the relevant REC, whose decisions are reported to and ratified by ULREG.
- The Governing Authority has a sub-committee structure with clear terms of reference that are reviewed regularly. Membership of these committees provides for additional external expertise relevant to the sub-committee. Since the reporting period, a review of the sub-committee structure and the composition of the committee including the competencies matrix has been put in place together with updated terms of reference, refer to section 9.3.
- The Audit & Risk Committee, supported by the Internal Auditor, reviews the scope and effectiveness of the University's internal controls and those of its subsidiaries, including financial, operational and compliance controls and reports regularly to the Governing Authority.
- Regular reporting to the relevant Governing Authority sub-committees and the Governing Authority on the financial aspects of major projects being proposed and/or completed.
- Regular reporting to the relevant Governing Authority sub-committee on the physical design of capital projects to ensure they complement surrounding buildings on the Campus.
- The terms of reference of the Governing Authority sub-committees include the oversight of major initiatives within their remit and they report regularly to Governing Authority on such matters.
- The University of Limerick Governing Authority operates in accordance with legislation. The requirements of the 2019 national Code for the Governance of Irish Universities have been implemented by the University. While the University works to the provisions of the 2019 Code of Governance, the University's own Code of Governance has been updated to comply with the 2019 national Code and reflect other updated practices within the University and was approved by Governing Authority in December 2021.
- Codes of Governance are in place for all of the University's trading subsidiaries.
- The latest revision Matters Reserved to Governing Authority reflects requirements of the 2019 Code of Governance for Irish Universities and recommendations arising from review by the IPA.
- Organisational and technical measures have been put in place in the University to enable compliance with data protection law. In the period under review, two data breaches were reported to the Data Protection Commission ("DPC").

Notwithstanding the procedures set out above, arising from the Rhebogue transaction, governance and internal control deficiencies have been identified from internal and external reviews conducted during 2024. The University is implementing an action plan to address the findings and recommendations of these reviews, refer to section 9.

Information Systems

- The University has established a resource allocation and budgeting system. It carries out an annual strategic budgeting process and the resulting Annual Budget is approved by the FHRAMC and then the Governing Authority. Budgets are reviewed against actual expenditure during the year. Monthly reports are issued to budget-holders and financial reports are reviewed by the FHRAMC on a quarterly basis.
- Subsidiary companies carry out an annual budgeting process and the budget is approved by the board of directors. Budgets are reviewed against actual during the year and quarterly reports are reviewed by the board. The subsidiary companies report on their performance to the Governing Authority through the FHRAMC.

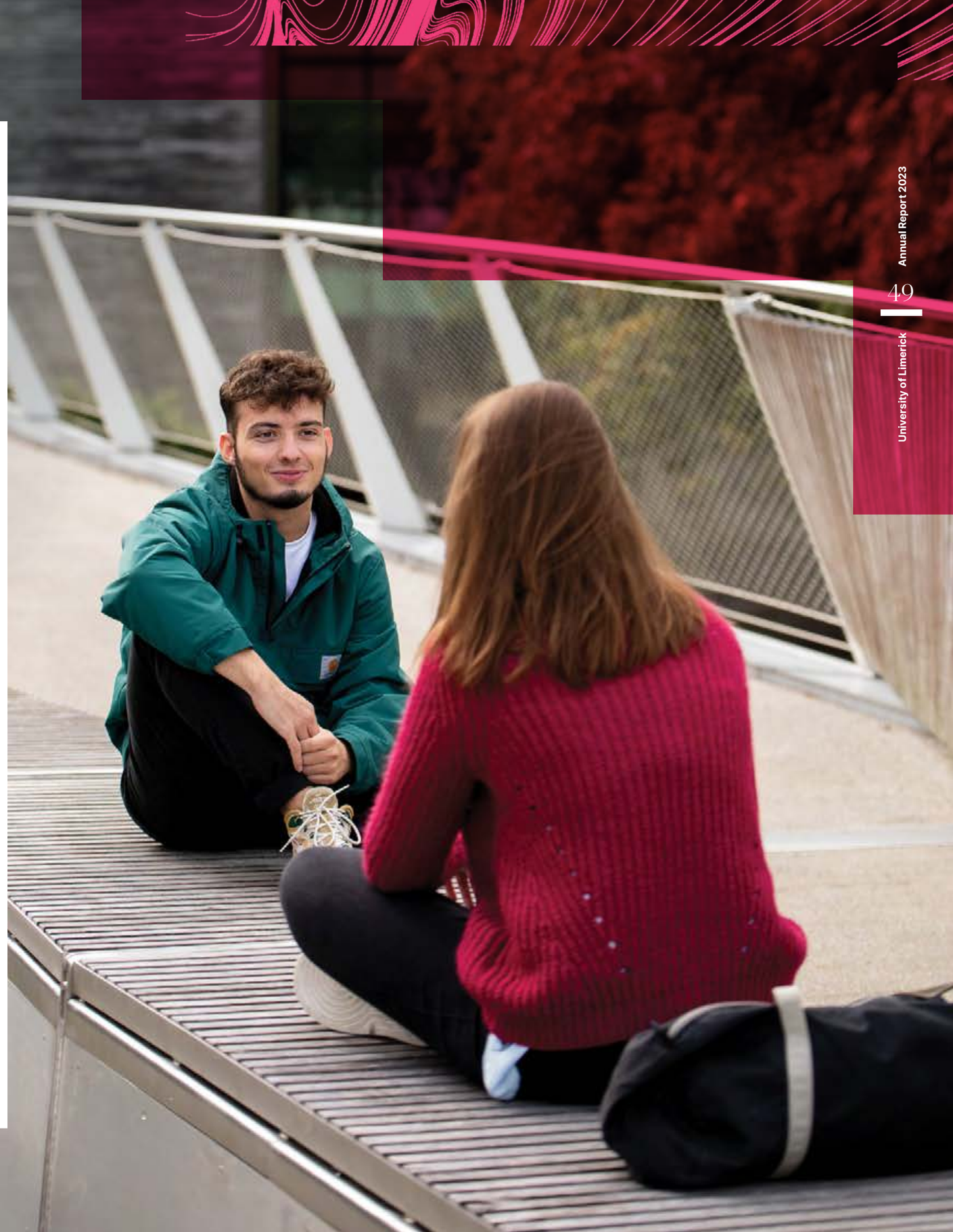
Financial Implications of Major Business Risks

- The University had a contract signing policy in place during the financial year, this policy has been reviewed subsequent to the end of the reporting period and the updated policy post this review was approved by the Governing Authority in October 2024. The University has a structured authorisation process matching the monetary limits for the signing authority on financial transactions, within specified accounts, to the appropriate grade within each area. The Head of Department/Function has overall responsibility for the delegation of signing authority within his/her area. In a devolved financial structure, the Executive Dean/Divisional Director is accountable to the Governing Authority, through its FHRAMC, for all financial matters of his/her Faculty/Division. The Finance Division works in partnership with and advises areas of the University in relation to compliance with legislative and other financial obligations on the University. A devolved financial structure also operates within subsidiary companies and the executive management are accountable to the board of directors for all financial matters.

- Detailed procedures on handling financial transactions are published on the University website by the Finance Division. This Division also provides training to staff on a regular basis. Policies and procedures are regularly reviewed and updated as appropriate. Staff in subsidiary companies are trained as required and policies and procedures specific to the subsidiary are reviewed on a regular basis and updated where needed.
- Finance or legal professionals are members of the following Governing Authority Sub-Committees:
  - Audit & Risk Committee
  - Finance Strategy & Performance'
- Members of the Finance Division/subsidiary companies attend meetings of the Audit & Risk Committee as and when required by the Committee.
- Finance Division staff and finance staff of subsidiary companies provide direct advice and support to the campus communities in relation to financial matters.

Monitoring the Effectiveness of the Internal Control System

- A programme of external quality reviews of academic and support areas, the results of which feed into the risk registers of the individual areas.
- The University's financial statements are audited by external independent auditors who express an Audit Opinion.
- The University has in place an Internal Audit Charter that is considered on a regular basis to ensure it continues to reflect best practice in the area of Internal Audit, revisions to the Internal Audit Charter were approved by the Governing Authority in December 2023. The Internal Audit process is conducted in accordance with the Charter.
- The S64 Review recommends investment in and promotion of a strong risk and compliance and internal audit functions. This is a key recommendation of the GA's report within the section 64 review, refer to section 9.3.
- The Audit & Risk Committee approves an internal audit plan on an annual basis. This plan provides for internal audit review of a range of functional areas throughout the University, including its subsidiary companies. The subsequent Internal Audit Reports are submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration and approval in the first instance. Subsequently, the reports are submitted to the Audit & Risk Committee for information and reporting to Governing Authority. These Internal Audit Reports are based on the status of internal controls within the respective functional areas and the Internal Auditor meets with the head of the functional area/subsidiary to which the reports relate to ensure the accuracy of the report and to secure the management responses to recommendations for inclusion in the report.
- The Audit & Risk Committee reports to the Governing Authority on a regular basis on the outcome of such reviews. As part of its internal audit process, the University has established an Internal Audit Review Group comprising senior executives of the University whose remit is to monitor the implementation of recommendations arising from any Internal Auditor review of controls in the various functional areas. The Review Group operates in accordance with a remit set down by the Governing Authority through its Audit & Risk Committee. The remit is also provided for in the University's Internal Audit Charter.
- The Review Group reports regularly to the Audit & Risk Committee and interacts with the Internal Auditor on the status of implementation of recommendations arising from the Internal Audit reviews. In turn the Internal Auditor undertakes a follow-up review of a sample of recommendations deemed implemented and reports to the Audit & Risk Committee to provide assurances on the implementation of recommendations.



8. General governance and accountability issues

As per the Oversight Agreement between the Institution and the HEA, the President has a responsibility for keeping the HEA informed, on a timely basis, of any governance issues, concerns, or major risks that arose for the University in the reporting period. In addition to that, the University returned a quarterly review of matters pertaining to its governance during the financial year in question. These were submitted to the CEO of HEA via the President's Office. It is acknowledged that in the period under review no concerns were raised by the former President regarding the Rhebogue transaction.

8.1 KMPG Report

The legal proceeding initiated by a former staff member against the University were settled during 2024 without payment of any compensation, a contribution towards the plaintiff's cost was agreed.

8.2 Acquisition 1-20 Drominbeg Square, Rhebogue

The Governing Authority was notified on 18 December 2023 in relation to a stamp duty liability for the twenty Rhebogue properties. On 15 February 2024, the Higher Education Authority was informed (through Report C) about issues arising in relation to the acquisition of 20 houses in Rhebogue. The Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) commissioned a review of the acquisition at the request of Governing Authority.

The ARC report was commissioned with the purpose of examining the transaction on an end-to-end basis and concluding whether there were any shortcomings in the governance processes, procedures or due diligence followed in this instance. The review was not asked to consider whether the decision made to acquire this property was correct, or whether benefits to the University had been realised or not. Rather, the review was focused on the process leading to the making of the decision and considering whether those making the decision had full possession of the facts in making their determination. The ARC considered and accepted the report at its meeting on 26 March 2024. The review confirmed significant shortcomings in the Rhebogue transaction, these were communicated to the HEA which precipitated a statutory review under S64 HEAA 2022, refer to section 9.3.

The Governing Authority was notified that the transaction would be accounted for in the Financial Statements year ended 30 September 2023 and that an indicator of impairment existed which created cause to conduct an impairment review. This impairment review was undertaken and on 15 March 2024 assessed the requirement for a substantial write down of €5.225m in the asset value of this acquisition by reference to the reports which were provided by Power Property and Mazars.

8.3 Section 64 Review, Higher Education Authority Act 2022 (HEAA 2022)

The Higher Education Authority under Section 64 of the HEAA 2022 requested the Governing Authority to undertake a review of the matters set out in a letter of 1 May 2024. The Governing Authority appointed Deloitte to undertake this review, it's draft Report was accepted, approved and submitted to the HEA on 29 July 2024. Final UL S64 Report was submitted by Governing Authority in late September 2024, and the HEA CEO advised the Chancellor that under S66(3)(c) HEAA 2022 the University should put a plan in place to address all of the findings and recommendations of the UL S64 report and the HEA commissioned reports. The plan specifics targets and monitoring, and the requirement for external assurance by a UL appointed third party consultant. The Governing Authority approved the Plan for Renewal (Recovery Plan) on 16 December 2024. Details are set out in section 9.3

9. Disclosure of non-compliance, breaches in Internal Control, weakness in internal control and/or material losses or frauds, and actions to address

Disclosure of details regarding instances where breaches in control occurred and a description of the action taken, or intended to be taken, to correct any non-compliance or weaknesses in internal control identified, together with the timeframes within which this will be done, or an explanation of why no action is considered necessary, are reported in the table below.

This section is broken into four tables as follows:

- **9.1** Recommendations arising from internal audit reports and procurement non-compliance
- **9.2** Impairment reviews and related transactions
- **9.3** Section 64 review incorporating the report of the Governing Authority and the Deloitte review report. It also includes the HEA commissioned reports on culture review, protected disclosure review, independent property valuation and capital review. The latter two reports have not been finalised.

9.1 Recommendations arising from internal audit reports and procurement non-compliance

Disclosure of non-compliance, breaches in Internal Control, weakness in internal control and/or material losses or frauds	Description of the action taken to correct non-compliance, breaches in Internal Control, weakness in internal control and/or material losses or frauds	Due date
Procurement non-compliance as reported in the Annual Governance Statement section 8 (iii)	The University continues to prioritise procurement compliance and a number of system improvements have been implemented to assist with achieving greater compliance. The level of noncompliance for the reporting period equated to 0.5% (less than 1%) of addressable expenditure.	On going - with quarterly reporting to GA, Audit and Risk Committee on non-compliance
CORE HR should issue one leavers report to key systems owners – Agresso & Email (Active Directory) to ensure timely removal of access to these systems.	Leavers should be removed from key business systems in line with best practise which dictates that removal is on date of departure. Removal from key business systems on a timely basis will remove the risk of unauthorised access to key systems, therefore eliminating the risk of compromising the security and integrity of key systems and data. It will also remove the implied authority acting on behalf of the University and remove any associated reputational risk. A significant project was completed to comprehensively deal with this matter. The Project dealt with Leaver Access to ITD when leaving the employment of the University or through retirement.	Completed

9.2 Impairment reviews and related transactions

Impairment Charge details are set out in note 15 of the financial statements.

During FY2022-23 the University had a total impairment charge of €8.269m, of which €3.044m relates to the University in respect of the Honan's Quay City Centre Property purchased in 2019 and €5.225m relates to the Rhebogue Property transaction in Plassey Trust Company who stepped in to the contract, entered into by the University in August 2022, on closing.

These transactions were the subject of a C&AG special report no 117, which made two recommendations. The University accepted both recommendations and these will be implemented by end of Q1 2025, Deloitte had been appointed to provide independent expert assurance that the revised policy and procedure adequately reflects the key requirements of the code.

Disclosure of non-compliance, breaches in Internal Control, weakness in internal control and/or material losses or frauds	Description of the action taken to correct non-compliance, breaches in Internal Control, weakness in internal control and/or material losses or frauds	Due date
City Centre Premises at Honan's Quay, Limerick former Dunne Stores Shopping Centre, acquired in April 2019, was purchased without a formal valuation and an economic assessment was not undertaken on the relative merits of the property over suitable alternative properties.	An impairment review was undertaken in line with the requirements of S27 of FRS102. The details of this review and resulting impairment charge of €3.044m are set out in note 15 of the financial statements. The C&AG special report 117 issued in August 2024 which reviewed this transaction made two recommendations. These include a revised policy for the acquisition of property assets to take on board all of the relevant requirements of the Public Spending Code and Infrastructure Codes and obtain formal independent expert assurance that the revised policy and procedures reflect the requirements of the code. The second recommendation requires that confirmation of compliance in respect of major investment projects or property acquisition should be assigned to an officer who is independent of the promoter.	Impairment review – Completed Revised policy with input of independent expert advice to be progressed to approval by end of Q1 2025.
Purchase of 1-20 Drominbeg Square, Rhebogue – student accommodation. The acquisition proceeded without an appraisal process within the meaning of the Public Spending Code. Due diligence failures relating to planning matters, failure to follow the approved policy, valuations prepared on a basis that differed to the proposed transaction, accuracy of information submitted to GA, contract price differs from the GA approval and unanticipated stamp duty costs. Significant management override of controls is considered to have occurred as part of this transaction process.	The C&AG special report 117 issued in August 2024 which reviewed this transaction made two recommendations. These include a revised policy for the acquisition of property assets to take on board all of the relevant requirements of the Public Spending Code and Infrastructure Codes and obtain formal independent expert assurance that the revised policy and procedures reflect the requirements of the code. The second recommendation requires that confirmation of compliance in respect of major investment projects or property acquisition should be assigned to an officer who is independent of the promoter. An independent officer of the University will be assigned to all future proposals for major investment projects of property acquisition who is independent of the project promoter to confirm process compliance. An impairment review was undertaken in line with the requirements of S27 of FRS102. The details of this review and resulting impairment charge of €5.225m are set out in note 15 of the financial statements. As a result of significant concerns arising from the impairment charge of €5.225m and in accordance with the provisions of Section 64 Higher Education Act 2022, the CEO of the HEA requested that the Governing Authority now undertake a review of governance issues, procedural/business case, value for money and due diligence related to the Rhebogue transaction and also of the general governance and culture of the organisation. The Governing Authority appointed Deloitte to undertake the S64 Review and their report was accepted by the GA and submitted to the HEA. A plan to address the findings and recommendations of the S64 Review and UL commissioned reports under S66(3)(c) HEAA 2022 has been submitted to the HEA. In January 2025 the HEA indicated they accepted the plan subject to the upcoming finalisation of two reports that it commissioned on capital projects/ property valuation and the review of the governance of protected disclosures. Details are set out in table 9.3	Revised policy with input of independent expert advice to be progressed to approval by end of Q1 2025. Impairment charge completed The entirety of the S64 recommendations will take circa 2 years to fully implement. It is agreed with the HEA that the University will report quarterly. A third party will be appointed to provide independent assurance on a quarterly basis to both the GA and the HEA of implementations

9.3 Section 64 review and other reviews arising from the Rhebogue transaction specifically and overall GA response

The Section 64 Review HEAA 2022 commenced in May 2024. The overall review encompassed a number of reports and these reports along with the focus areas, terms of reference are listed here, each report then forms a separate entry in the table below.

- GA Commissioned Deloitte Review focus on:
  - **Rhebogue Due diligence process** including a review of the policy, control and risk management failures (2 findings)
  - **Conflict of interest** disclosure and management specific to the Rhebogue transaction, broader review of the disclosure and management of conflict-of-interest practices at UL and in its subsidiaries. (7 findings)
  - **Communication, Relationships, and Culture** specific to the Rhebogue transaction which caused the due diligence to fall short of appropriate standards. A review of the relationships within and between the executive, management, and UL staff, staff of UL subsidiaries, students and internal and external stakeholders in terms of transparency and trust in decision making. (3 findings)
  - A review of **HR functions and policies** including an evaluation of adherence to policies. (9 findings)
  - **Governance and oversight** a review of individual members of Governing Authority, its committees and subcommittees, a review of the UL executive committee and of the boards of UL subsidiaries across a set of competencies in support of effective organisational governance. A review of UL management and organisation structure (other than academic) and proposals for the revision of that structure. Review of the interactions between UL GA and UL executive and particularly in relation to delegation of authority. (14 findings including subsidiaries below)
  - **Subsidiaries** – structure, oversight and governance and recommendations in relation to improvements.
- GA report – initiated to deal with broader issues, not directly part of the scope assigned to Deloitte under s.64, to address key foundational and impactful enablers to ensure the successful implementation of the s.64 recommendations.
- HEA commissioned Mazars report – comprehensive evaluation of the culture at UL and to make recommendations in respect of the culture of UL and the effectiveness of institutional strategies and initiatives underway to enhance culture.
- HEA commissioned the Maher report – Protected Disclosure Governance including structure, practice and processes that support those making protected disclosures and the handling of protected disclosures by UL.
- HEA commissioned Valuation (Rhebogue) and Capital review, full life cycle of projects including public spending code requirements, capital works management framework and relevant circulars.
- Strategic Governance Committee - established by the GA to respond to and address matters arising from the 2023 Public Accounts Committee.

There is overlap between the recommendations from the various reports, these are all addressed in the Plan for Renewal which addresses the recovery plan and implementation of all recommendations. All the various recommendations have been mapped to two key pillars (i) Organisational Culture and (ii) Governance and Operating Model. A Plan for Renewal (Recovery Plan) has been developed in co-partnership with the HEA. In January 2025 the HEA indicated they accept the plan subject to the upcoming finalisation of two reports that it commissioned on capital projects/property valuation and the review of the governance of protected disclosures.

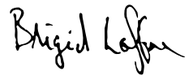
A tracker system has been established, and a transformation office is being put in place.

The University will report regularly to GA and quarterly to the HEA on implementation progress. A third party will be appointed to provide independent assurance on a quarterly basis to both the GA and the HEA on implementation.

Disclosure of non-compliance, breaches in Internal Control, weakness in internal control and/or material losses or frauds	Description of the action taken to correct non-compliance, breaches in Internal Control, weakness in internal control and/or material losses or frauds	Due date
GA commissioned Deloitte Review Report which focused on themes, the details of which are set out above, of: — Due diligence Rhebogue transaction — Conflict of interests — Communications, relationships and culture — HR functions and policies — Governance and oversight — Subsidiaries	The Deloitte Report made 35 recommendations across the theme areas upon which it was required to review and make recommendations. They were assigned a High (6), Medium (24), or Low (5) impact to each of its findings. In its review the Governing Authority assessed each of the recommendations based on factors such as its potential for impact on UL's operation, risk exposures, and alignment with long-term strategic goals. High risk areas, particularly those affecting culture, compliance, accountability and overall governance stability were reprioritised to ensure that swift and decisive action is now taken. As a result, the 35 recommendations contained in the Deloitte Report have been reprioritised by GA as follows 22 High, 11 Medium and 2 Low.	Underway – anticipated that it will take 2 years to fully implement all of the various S64 recommendations. Next steps include (1) the establishment of a recommendations tracker system to track a total of 135 recommendations. This total eliminated the overlap in recommendations. A SMART approach to tracking recommendations will be maintained internally by a dedicated transformation office team, (2) establish a transformation office and work programme.
GA report identified a need to strengthen the promotion and investment in strong 2nd and 3rd lines of defence in the risk management compliance function and internal audit function.	The GA made 7 recommendations in the boarder context of transformation under two key priorities (1) People and Culture (target culture, reset Executive, culture change programme, leadership development and tone at the top. and (2) Structures, Processes and Policies of Governance. (Implement the Deloitte recommendations, prioritise risk management and accountability).	

Disclosure of non-compliance, breaches in Internal Control, weakness in internal control and/or material losses or frauds	Description of the action taken to correct non-compliance, breaches in Internal Control, weakness in internal control and/or material losses or frauds	Due date
HEA commissioned Culture Report completed by Mazars Comprehensive evaluation of the culture at UL and to make recommendations in respect of the culture of UL and the effectiveness of institutional strategies and initiatives underway to enhance culture	The Mazars report makes 14 recommendations across the following thematic areas — Responsibility for people and culture — Leadership programme — Definition of a target culture — Programme of work on target culture — Culture and engagement oversight and structure — Communication of progress	Of the 135 recommendations, 42 relate to defining and embedding a new organisational culture; and 93 recommendations align to pillar 2 governance and operating model. Pillar 1 Organisational culture has four main sub streams being HR, internal and external communication, target culture and rebuilding trust and confidence. Pillar 2 Governance and Operating Model also has four sub streams: structural reform, corporate governance, subsidiary governance and internal controls. The above excludes any recommendations from the Maher PD report and the Capital/Valuation report until these are finalised.
Matters on governance of protected disclosures, including structure, practice and processes that support those making protected disclosures and the handing of protected disclosures by the University.	HEA commissioned the Maher Report on protected disclosures. The HEA independent review of protected disclosures has not yet been finalised and reviewed by the Governing Authority. The response to the Maher review will follow the established process of evaluating the findings and identifying specific outcomes, actions, owners and timelines to optimally facilitate the implementation process at UL.	
HEA commissioned Capital and Valuation report (Rhebogue)	The HEA Capital Review had not yet been received by UL. The response to this review will also follow the established process set out above.	
Strategic Governance Committee (internal, time bound established in June 2023 and ended its work in February 2024) to address matters highlighted at Public Accounts Committee across culture, conflicts of interest, subsidiaries, capital acquisition policy, procurement and committees among other matters.	This internal committee chaired by the then Provost and Deputy President, in its final report made 60 recommendations most of which overlap with the recommendations of the above itemised reports. Its recommendations have now been aligned with the themes from the Deloitte report and the C&AG special report recommendations.	

We confirm, on behalf of the Institution, that we are satisfied with the confirmations, explanations and information provided in this Statement on the Systems of Internal Control.

Chancellor: **Professor Brigid Laffan**	
Acting President: **Professor Shane Kilcommins**	
Name of Institution:	University of Limerick
Date:	*7 March 2025*



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste
Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

University of Limerick

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the University of Limerick for the year ended 30 September 2023 as required under the provisions of the Universities Act 1997. The financial statements comprise

- the consolidated and University statement of comprehensive income
- the consolidated and University statement of changes in reserves
- the consolidated and University statement of financial position
- the consolidated statement of cash flows, and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the University and of the University group at 30 September 2023 and of the income and expenditure of the University and of the University group for the year then ended in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 — *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the University and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

In conducting my audit, I seek to rely on evidence from an audit of the financial statements by auditors engaged by the University.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

The University has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the Chancellor's report, the Acting President's report, the Chief Finance and Performance Officer's review, a statement of the Governing Authority responsibilities, an annual statement of governance, a statement on the systems of internal control, and the audited financial statements of the University of Limerick Foundation for the year ended 31 August 2023. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

Impairment of property values

The consolidated and university statement of comprehensive income recognises impairment losses totalling €8.269 million in the 2022-2023 year of account in relation to two properties acquired by the University: a property acquired in 2019 to establish a city centre campus; and a development of 20 residential units acquired in 2023 for use as student accommodation. The reasons the impairments are considered appropriate are outlined in note 15 to the financial statements.

Report of the C&AG (continued)

As explained in the note, the Governing Authority has concluded that the University paid significantly over the open market value for both properties. In addition, it has concluded that controls over property acquisitions failed to operate as envisaged. Note 26 discloses that the Governing Authority has been unable to establish the business rational for the terms upon which the transaction to acquire the 20 residential units in 2023 was entered into, or to conclude whether there was any related party involvement.

I carried out an examination of the circumstances surrounding the University's oversight and decision making in relation to the two property acquisitions under section 9 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993. I presented the findings of that examination in a special report (*University of Limerick property acquisitions in Limerick city*, special report number 117, 8 August 2024) which was presented to Dáil Éireann in September 2024.

Pursuant to section 64 of the Higher Education Authority Act 2022, the Higher Education Authority in May 2024 requested the Governing Authority to undertake a formal review of governance issues, procedures and business case development, value for money assessment and due diligence related to the student accommodation transaction, and the general governance and culture of the University. That review was completed in September 2024, and the University has put a plan in place to address the review's findings and recommendations (see sections 8 and 9 of the statement on the systems of internal control).

The University has also reported certain concerns related to the student accommodation transaction to An Garda Síochána.



Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General

8 April 2025

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of Governing Authority members

The members are responsible for

- the preparation of annual financial statements in the form prescribed under the Universities Act 1997
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under the Universities Act 1997 to audit the financial statements of the University and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

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

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.
- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the University's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the University to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to bodies in receipt of substantial funding from the State in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.





CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Financial Year Ended 30 September 2023

	Notes	Consolidated 30 September 2023 €'000	Consolidated 30 September 2022 €'000	University 30 September 2023 €'000	University 30 September 2022 €'000
Income					
State grants	5	80,982	71,735	80,982	71,735
Academic fees	6	126,003	124,361	126,003	124,361
Research grants and contracts	7	38,120	36,004	38,120	36,004
Ancillary services and other self-funded income	30	11,174	11,646	11,174	11,646
Amortisation of deferred capital grants	23	6,906	7,061	6,906	7,061
Other operating income	8	60,988	56,136	10,461	11,415
Interest income	9	1,336	53	1,336	53
Donation		-	-	1,700	-
Net deferred funding for retirement benefits	27	38,588	45,274	38,588	45,274
Total income		**364,097**	**352,270**	**315,270**	**307,549**
Expenditure					
Staff costs	10	205,817	190,705	180,394	167,998
Retirement benefit service cost	27	9,580	29,846	9,580	29,846
Other operating expenses	11	92,465	83,596	80,976	74,463
Interest payable and similar charges	12	1,079	1,371	1,016	1,319
Retirement benefit interest cost	27	29,008	15,428	29,008	15,428
Impairment	15	8,269	-	3,044	-
Depreciation	15	19,454	20,176	13,650	14,314
Total expenditure		**365,672**	**341,122**	**317,668**	**303,368**
(Deficit)/surplus before other gains and losses		(1,575)	11,148	(2,398)	4,181
Gain/(loss) on investment property	16	837	(344)	-	50
(Deficit)/surplus for the year before taxation		(738)	10,804	(2,398)	4,231
Taxation	13	(6)	(11)	-	-
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	14	(744)	10,793	(2,398)	4,231
Actuarial gain in respect of retirement benefit scheme	27	26,141	340,595	26,141)	340,595
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefit funding	27	(26,141)	(340,595)	(26,141)	(340,595)
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the financial year		**(744)**	**10,793**	**(2,398)**	**4,231**
Represented by:					
Restricted comprehensive income for year		-	-	-	-
Unrestricted comprehensive (loss)/income for year		(744)	10,793	(2,398)	4,231
		(744)	**10,793**	**(2,398)**	**4,231**

All items of income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

The financial statements on pages 62 to 117 were approved by the Governing Authority on 25 February 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

On behalf of Governing Authority

Professor Brigid Laffan
Chancellor
Date: 7 March 2025

Professor Shane Kilcommins
Acting President
Date: 7 March 2025

CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

Financial Year Ended 30 September 2023

	€'000
Consolidated	
Balance at 1 October 2021	263,667
Surplus from statement of comprehensive income	10,793
Release of restricted capital funds spend in year	-
Balance at 30 September 2022	**274,460**
Balance at 1 October 2022	274,460
Deficit from statement of comprehensive income	(744)
Release of restricted capital funds spend in year	-
Balance at 30 September 2023	**273,716**
University	
Balance at 1 October 2021	172,452
Surplus from statement of comprehensive income	4,231
Release of restricted capital funds spend in year	-
Balance at 30 September 2022	**176,683**
Balance at 1 October 2022	176,683
Deficit from statement of comprehensive income	(2,398)
Release of restricted capital funds spend in year	-
Balance at 30 September 2023	**174,285**

CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 September 2023

		Consolidated		University	
	Notes	30 September 2023 €'000	30 September 2022 €'000	30 September 2023 €'000	30 September 2022 €'000
Non-current assets					
Tangible assets	15	434,507	439,377	313,904	320,870
Investment property	16	9,950	9,000	4,700	4,700
		444,457	**448,377**	**318,604**	**325,570**
Current assets					
Trade and other receivables	18	35,711	31,548	81,095	65,976
Cash and cash equivalents	19	187,934	189,416	152,106	164,473
		223,645	**220,964**	**233,000**	**230,449**
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(202,116)	(193,549)	(186,661)	(179,719)
Net current assets		21,529	27,415	46,539	50,730
Total assets less current liabilities		**465,986**	**475,792**	**365,143**	**376,300**
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	21	(192,270)	(201,332)	(190,858)	(199,617)
Provisions:					
Retirement benefit receivable	27	720,555	708,108	720,555	708,108
Retirement benefit provisions	27	(720,555)	(708,108)	(720,555)	(708,108)
Total net assets		**273,716**	**274,460**	**174,285**	**176,683**
Unrestricted reserves:					
Revenue reserves		273,716	274,460	174,285	176,683
Total reserves		**273,716**	**274,460**	**174,285**	**176,683**

The financial statements on pages 62 to 117 were approved by the Governing Authority on 25 February 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

On behalf of Governing Authority

Professor Brigid Laffan
Chancellor
Date: 7 March 2025

Professor Shane Kilcommins
Acting President
Date: 7 March 2025

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Financial Year Ended 30 September 2023

	Notes	Consolidated 30 September 2023 €'000	Consolidated 30 September 2022 €'000
Cash flow from operating activities			
(Deficit)/surplus for the year		(738)	10,804
Taxation paid		(6)	(11)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		70	67
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation	15	19,454	20,176
Impairment	15	8,269	-
Amortisation of deferred capital grants	23	(6,906)	(7,061)
Transfer from tangible assets to investment property		-	53
Revaluation (gain)/loss		(837)	344
Interest income		(1,336)	(53)
Interest payable		1,079	1,371
Operating cash flow before movement in working capital		**19,049**	**25,690**
Adjustment for working capital items			
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables		(4,163)	3,052
Increase in trade payables		8,615	11,296
Other movements			
Capital grants received (note 23)		4,426	881
Adjustment for investing or financing activities			
Interest income		1,336	53
Interest payable		(1,079)	(1,371)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		**28,184**	**39,601**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of investment property		(113)	(113)
Proceeds on sale of assets		14	(1)
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	15	(22,937)	(3,171)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		**(23,036)**	**(3,285)**
Cash flows from financing activities			
Debt due within one year: (Decrease) in short term borrowings		(183)	(94)
Debt due after one year: Decrease in long term borrowings		(6,447)	(6,634)
Decrease in long term liabilities		-	-
Net cash outflow from financing activities		**(6,630)**	**(6,728)**
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(1,482)	29,588
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		189,416	159,828
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	19	**187,934**	**189,416**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Year Ended 30 September 2023

1 General information

The mission of the University of Limerick is to be a distinctive, pioneering and connected university that shapes the future through educating and empowering people to meet the real challenges of tomorrow.

Our vision is to be internationally recognised as a distinctively progressive, research led university that provides an engaging student experience, conducts world-class research renowned for its translational impact and is globally and locally connected in terms of its contribution to economic, social and cultural life.

Reinforced by an abiding commitment to the principles of academic freedom, we will be guided by six core values in the realisation of our vision: excellence, creativity, ethics, sustainability, community and global focus.

2 Statement of compliance

The entity financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with Irish GAAP (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council of the UK). The entity financial statements comply with Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education.

3 Summary of significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies used in the preparation of the entity financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all financial years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation

The entity financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the measurement of certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value through the statement of comprehensive income, and the measurement of freehold land and buildings at their deemed cost on transition to FRS 102 issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires the use of certain key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the financial year. It also requires the Governing Authority to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the university's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or areas where assumptions and estimates have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are disclosed in note 4.

The functional currency of the University is considered to be Euro because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the University operates. The consolidated financial statements are stated in Euro.

(b) Basis of consolidation

The university's consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the university and all of its subsidiary undertakings made up to 30 September 2023. Subsidiaries are all entities over which the group has the power to exercise control.

University of Limerick Foundation
The financial statements of the University of Limerick Foundation are excluded from these financial statements as the Foundation is not controlled by the University of Limerick. Details of activity with the University of Limerick Foundation is set out in note 26.

(c) Going concern

The University and its subsidiaries incurred a deficit of €0.744m for the year and is in a net asset position of €273.716m at 30 September 2023. The consolidated cash and cash equivalents balance at 30 September 2023 is €187.934m.

The University meets its day-to-day working capital requirements through its bank facilities.

The University and its subsidiaries have prepared forecasts under various scenarios. Based on these forecasts and after making further enquiries, the governors have a reasonable expectation that the University and its subsidiaries have adequate resources to continue in operational existence and meet their obligations as they fall due for the 12-month period following the approval of these financial statements based on its current cash balances and existing facilities. Thus, the Governing Authority continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

(d) Foreign currency

(i) Functional and presentation currency
The university's functional and presentation currency is the euro, denominated by the symbol "€" and unless otherwise stated, the financial statements have been presented in thousands ('000).

(ii) Transactions and balances
Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At the end of each financial year foreign currency monetary items are translated to euro using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of transactions and from the translation at exchange rates at the end of the financial year of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings and cash and cash equivalents are presented in the statement of comprehensive income within 'interest receivable and similar income' or 'interest payable and similar charges' as appropriate. All other foreign exchange gains and losses are presented in the statement of comprehensive income within 'other expensing expenses'.

(e) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost (or deemed cost) less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price, costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for its intended use, applicable dismantling, removal and restoration costs and borrowing costs capitalised.

(i) Land and buildings
The University's buildings are valued at cost or deemed cost for land and buildings measured at valuation at the date of transition to FRS102 less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses on buildings, furniture and fittings. Tangible fixed assets are not depreciated until they are brought into use. Freehold land and buildings are stated in the statement of financial position at cost as they are specialised buildings and therefore it is not appropriate to value them on the basis of open market value. Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold buildings are depreciated over their expected useful economic lives to the University of between 33 and 50 years.

Where land and buildings are acquired with the aid of specific state grants, they are capitalised and depreciated as above. The related state grants are credited to a deferred capital grant account and are released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

Finance costs where applicable, which are directly attributable to the construction of land and buildings, are not capitalised as part of the cost of those assets.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the fixed asset may not be recoverable.

Assets under construction are accounted for at cost. They are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

(ii) Equipment and minor works
Equipment costing less than €25,000 per individual item is written off to the income and expenditure account in the year of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost. Capitalised equipment is depreciated over its useful economic life as follows:

Leased assets	5 years or primary lease period, if shorter
Computer equipment	3 years
Equipment and minor works	Up to 10 years
All weather pitches	20 years

Where equipment is acquired with the aid of specific grants it is capitalised and depreciated in accordance with the above policy, with the related state grant being credited to a deferred capital grant account and released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful economic life of the related equipment.

(iii) Donations
The University receives on occasion benefits in kind such as gifts or equipment. Items of significant value donated to the University, which if purchased, the group would treat as tangible fixed assets, are capitalised at their current value and depreciated in accordance with the policy set out above. The recognition of income is accounted for in accordance with the policy set out below.

(f) Heritage assets

The University of Limerick has acquired many assets of unqualified historic and cultural importance to the State. This collection includes a period house (Plassey House), artworks and other paintings and artefacts.

Plassey House is part of the working infrastructure of the University campus and as such is capitalised in the statement of financial position in line with Section 17 FRS 102. All artwork purchased for the benefit of the University is capitalised in the statement of financial position at original cost and is not depreciated.

Donated archives and printed books are not capitalised in the financial statements. All costs incurred in relation to preservation and conservation are expensed as incurred.

(g) Investment properties

Investment properties comprise of properties held by the group for rental, capital appreciation or both, rather than for use in the group's primary activity of teaching and research.

Investment properties are initially measured at cost. Cost comprises the purchase price plus any directly attributable expenditure.

Investment properties are subsequently measured at fair value, with all changes in fair value being recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. Fair value deficits are reflected in the revenue reserve.

(h) Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

The university has chosen to apply the provisions of Section 11 and 12 of FRS102 to account for all of its financial instruments.

(i) Financial assets

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

Trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents, investments in corporate bonds and financial assets from arrangements which constitute financing transactions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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

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

Other financial assets, including investments in equity instruments which are not subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures, are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price.

Such financial assets are subsequently measured at fair value and the changes in fair value are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, except that investments in equity instruments that are not publicly traded and whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or (b) substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred to another party or (c) control of the financial asset has been transferred to another party who has the practical ability to unilaterally sell the financial asset to an unrelated third party without imposing additional restrictions.

(ii) Financial liabilities

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

Trade and other payables, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies, preference shares and financial liability from arrangements which constitute financing transactions are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest method.

Fees paid on the establishment of loan facilities are recognised as transaction costs of the loan to the extent that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down. In this case, the fee is deferred until the draw-down occurs. To the extent there is no evidence that it is probable that some or all of the facility will be drawn down, the fee is treated as a prepayment for liquidity services and amortised over the period of the facility to which it relates.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade payables are classified as due within one year if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as falling due after more than one year. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

(iii) Offsetting
FRS102, 11.38A, 12.25A
Financial assets and liabilities are offset, and the net amounts presented in the financial statements when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

(i) Taxation

As an exempt charity, the University is not liable for Corporation Tax or Income Tax on any of its charitable activities. It is registered for Value Added Tax, but since the supply of education is an exempt activity on which no output tax is charged, it is unable to recover input tax on the majority of its purchases.

Trading activities undertaken by the University are administered through its subsidiary companies, which as commercial organisations are liable to Corporation Tax where applicable. Where applicable current tax is provided at amounts to be paid (or recovered) under current tax legislation.

(i) Deferred taxation
In subsidiary companies, who do not hold a charitable status, deferred taxation is provided on all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the statement of financial position date where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the statement of financial position date.

Timing differences are temporary differences between surpluses as computed for taxation purposes and surpluses as stated in the financial statements, which arise because certain items of income and expenditure in the financial statements are dealt with in different periods for taxation purposes.

Deferred tax is measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the years in which the timing differences are expected to reverse, based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the statement of financial position date. Deferred tax is not discounted.

(j) Revenue recognition

(i) State grants
Grant from the Higher Education Authority and other government bodies are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or assets. Recurrent and non-recurrent grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants from the Higher Education Authority or other government bodies received in respect of the acquisition or construction of fixed assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

(ii) Academic fees
Academic fees are recognised in the period to which they relate. Academic fees received in advance are deferred and credited to the income and expenditure account once the service is deemed to have been performed.

(iii) Research grants and contracts
Income from research grants and contracts from government sources is recognised based on the performance/accrual model. Income from research grants and contracts from non-government sources is recognised based on the performance model i.e. income is recognised to the extent that performance-related conditions have been met.

Research grants from non-government sources
Income from grants from non-government sources is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when performance related conditions are met. If a restriction in use but no performance related condition exists, the income is recorded in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Grants with unfulfilled performance related conditions are held as deferred income until such time as the conditions are met, at which point the income is recorded in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Grants with restrictions are recorded within the Statement of Comprehensive Income on entitlement of the income and subsequently retained within a restricted reserve until such time that the expenditure is incurred in line with the restriction.

(iv) Donations
The most common classes of such transactions are:

1) Donations with no restrictions
Donations with no restrictions include amounts given to the University by way of cash or asset with no restriction as to how the donation should be used. Such donations are recorded in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on entitlement to the income.

2) Donations with restrictions
Donations with restrictions are recorded in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on entitlement to the income. The restricted income received is held in the temporarily restricted reserve until such time that the expenditure is incurred in accordance with the restrictions.

(v) Income from short-term deposits
All income from short-term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned.

(vi) Rental income and other rental charges
Rental income arising on rent and other charges relating to the student villages and sports facilities is recognised on an accruals basis and as the service is provided.

(vii) Other income
Other income is recognised in the financial statements on an accrual's basis.

(k) Leasing

(i) Finance leases

Finance leases transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership to the lessor.

At the commencement of the finance lease term the university recognises its right of use and obligation under a finance lease as an asset and a liability at the amount equal to the fair value of the leased asset, or if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments calculated using the interest rate implicit in the lease. Where the implicit rate cannot be determined the university's incremental borrowing rate is used. Incremental and directly attributable costs incurred in negotiating and arranging a finance lease are included in the cost of the asset.

Assets under finance leases are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful life of the asset. Assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each financial year.

The minimum lease payments are apportioned between the outstanding liability and finance charges, using the effective interest method, to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

(ii) Operating leases

Operating leases do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessor. Payments under operating leases are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(l) Investments

Investments are stated at cost less any permanent diminution in value. Investment income is recognised on an accrual's basis. Investments included in current assets have a maturity of 12 months or less.

(m) Borrowing costs

General and specific borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets, which are assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to get ready for their intended use or sale, are capitalised as part of the cost of those qualifying assets, until such time as the qualifying assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale.

All other borrowing costs are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income in the financial year in which they are incurred.

(n) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities. Cash and cash equivalents are initially measured at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Bank deposits which have original maturities of more than three months are not cash and cash equivalent and are presented as current asset investments.





(o) Employee benefits

The university provides a range of benefits to employees, including short term employee benefits such as paid holiday arrangements and post-employment benefits (in the form of defined benefit or defined contribution retirement benefit plans). A subsidiary company operates a performance related bonus up to an agreed monetary value (see note 10).

(i) Short term employee benefits

Short term employee benefits, including paid holiday arrangements and other similar non-monetary benefits, are recognised as an expense in the financial year in which employees render the related service. The university operates an annual bonus plan for employees. An expense is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when the university has a present legal or constructive obligation to make payments under the plan as a result of past events and a reliable estimate of the obligation can be made.

(ii) Post-employment benefits

Defined contribution plan

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

Defined benefit pension schemes

(i) UL Superannuation scheme

The pension benefits for employees are governed by the University of Limerick Superannuation (Amendment) Scheme (UL Superannuation Scheme).

The University operates an unfunded defined benefit pension scheme, the University of Limerick Superannuation (Amendment) Scheme, which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies provided by the Higher Education Authority and from contributions deducted from staff salaries.

The University believes that it operates as an agent in the operation of the Scheme and does not contribute formally to the Scheme. The University believes that the liability in respect of the benefits payable to employees who are under UL Superannuation Scheme will be repaid in full by the HEA/State.

In accordance with FRS 102 Section 28.28, the University believes that it is virtually certain that the HEA/State will reimburse all of the expenditure required to settle the defined benefit obligation, and it recognises a reimbursable asset (plan asset), an amount corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions. Defined benefit pension scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. The defined benefit pension charge to operating surplus comprises the current service cost and past service costs. The excess of the matching deferred asset is presented in the income and expenditure account as net deferred funding for pensions. Actuarial gains and losses arising from changes in actuarial assumptions and from experience surpluses and deficits are recognised in the other comprehensive income for the year in which they occur.

(ii) The Single Public Service Pension Scheme

The Single Public Service Pension Scheme commenced with effect from 1 January 2013. Most new employees after this date in the University will be members of the Single Scheme, which is an unfunded defined benefit scheme, funded annually on a pay as you go scheme from monies provided by the HEA. Pension contributions are remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The University is prescribed in S.I. No 584 of 2012 as a relevant authority for the purposes of the single Scheme. Future benefits accruing to Scheme members have been provided for in these financial statements. It is the University's opinion (in accordance with Section 44 of the 2012 Act) that any liability in respect of the Single Scheme would be offset by an equivalent asset in respect of future State funding. Accordingly, the University recognises an asset, an amount comprising the unfunded deferred liability for pensions as the liabilities are considered to be guaranteed by the State.

(p) Provisions, contingences and commitments

(i) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount.

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

Provisions are measured at the present value of the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. Provisions are reviewed at the end of each financial year and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in the statement of comprehensive income, presented as part of 'interest payable and similar charges' in the financial year in which it arises.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole.

In particular:

(i) Restructuring provisions are recognised when the university has a legal or constructive obligation at the end of the financial year to carry out the restructuring. The university has a constructive obligation to carry out a restructuring when there is a detailed, formal plan for the restructuring and the university has raised a valid expectation in those affected by either starting to implement the plan or announcing its main features to those affected; and

(ii) Provision is not made for future operating losses.

(ii) Contingencies

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

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

(ii) Commitments

Contractual capital commitments entered into before year end, for the acquisition of capital or other asset after year end, are disclosed as a capital commitment. Amounts authorised but not contracted for at year end are also disclosed as capital commitments at year end.

The 2022 amount in note 25 within "Contracted for but not provided" has been restated to include the contract value of the Rhebogue development at 30 September 2022. The effect of this was to restate this disclosure from €25.916m to €37.895m. There was no other effect on the financial statements.

(q) Grants

Capital government grants (other than Land) are treated as deferred income, which is credited to the income and expenditure account on the same basis as the related assets are depreciated.

Non-government Capital Grants are accounted for under the performance model and are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when the performance related conditions have been met.

(r) Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each financial year date non-financial assets not carried at fair value are assessed to determine whether there is an indication that the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) may be impaired. If there is such an indication the recoverable amount of the asset (or asset's cash-generating unit) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from continuing use of the asset (or cash-generating unit) and from its ultimate disposal. In measuring value-in-use pre-tax and interest cash flows are discounted using a pre-tax discount rate that represents the current market risk-free rate and the risks specific to the asset for which the future cash flow estimates have not been adjusted.

If the recoverable amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is less than the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) the carrying amount is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, unless the asset has been revalued. If the asset has been revalued the impairment loss is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of the revaluation gains accumulated in equity in respect of that asset. Thereafter any excess is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

If an impairment loss reverses (the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply), the carrying amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the revised carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of depreciation) had no impairment loss been recognised in prior financial years. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount.

4 Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the entity financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The governors make estimates and assumptions concerning the future in the process of preparing the University financial statements. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

(i) Useful economic lives of tangible fixed assets

The annual depreciation on tangible fixed assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reviewed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on future refurbishment plans, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See note 15 for the carrying amount of the tangible fixed assets and note 3(e) for the useful economic lives for each class of tangible fixed assets. See note 15 for the carrying amount of the tangible fixed assets and note 3(e) for the useful economic lives for each class of tangible fixed assets.

(ii) Impairment of tangible fixed assets

Assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use. For the purpose of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date. Details of impairments recorded are set out in note 15.

(iii) Impairment of receivables

The governors make an assessment at the end of each financial year of whether there is objective evidence that a trade or other debtor is impaired. When assessing impairment of trade and other receivables, the directors consider factors including the current credit rating of the debtor, the age profile of outstanding invoices, recent correspondence and trading activity, and historical experience of cash collections from the debtor.

(iv) University of Limerick Foundation

The financial statements of the University of Limerick Foundation are excluded from these financial statements as the Foundation is not controlled by the University of Limerick. Details of activity with the University of Limerick Foundation is set out in note 26.

(v) Pension provisions

The pension provision is calculated based on actuarial assumptions provided by an actuary annually. The actuarial assumptions include discount rates, salary increases, pension increases and inflation rates.

Critical accounting judgement

(i) Pension

As further explained in note 27 to the financial statements, the University of Limerick has recognised a deferred pension asset in respect of the University of Limerick Superannuation (Amendment) Scheme on the basis that it anticipates that funding will be provided by the State to meet retirement benefit obligations as they fall due. This accounting treatment assumes that any income generated by the University of Limerick will in the first instance be applied towards current expenses and that State funding will meet any shortfall in resources to fund future retirement benefit liabilities.

5 State grants

	Consolidated and University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
State grant allocated for recurrent purposes	41,937	36,091
Covid grant	-	1,502
Other grants	20,522	17,486
State grant pension*	18,523	16,656
	80,982	**71,735**

All of the above grant income was received from the Higher Education Authority.

*State grant cash received under pension grant includes members' contributions of €5.328m (2022: €5.224m).

	Core Grants €'000	Other Grants €'000	Pension Grant €'000	Total Grants €'000
State grant received in respect of year ended 30 Sept 2022	33,967	23,041	22,556	79,564
State grant deferred from prior accounting year	2,283	5,714	1,322	9,319
State grant deferred to subsequent accounting years	(159)	(9,767)	(7,222)	(17,148)
	36,091	**18,988**	**16,656**	**71,735**

	Core Grants €'000	Other Grants €'000	Pension Grant €'000	Total Grants €'000
State grant received in respect of year ended 30 Sept 2023	41,779	18,043	10,338	70,160
State grant deferred from prior accounting year	159	9,767	7,222	17,148
State grant deferred to subsequent accounting years	(1)	(7,288)	963	(6,326)
	41,937	**20,522**	**18,523**	**80,982**

State funding is allocated on a calendar year basis. The University financial year is based on the academic year from October to September. In accordance with the University's accounting policies recurrent grants have been recognised on an accruals basis. In any accounting year, therefore an element of funding will be deferred to subsequent accounting periods in order to match the funding to the related expenditure.

6 Academic fees

	Consolidated and University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Academic fee income	124,813	122,083
Miscellaneous fee income	1,190	2,278
Total fees paid by or on behalf of individual students	**126,003**	**124,361**

A total of €48,309,428 (2022: €37,221,586) included in academic fee income was paid directly by the Higher Education Authority.

7 Research grants and contracts

	Consolidated and University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
State and semi-state	26,702	26,123
European Union	5,656	4,606
Industry	2,349	2,844
Other	3,413	2,431
	38,120	**36,004**

8 Other operating income

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Residences	22,247	20,441	-	-
Other rental and concession income	2,500	2,819	1,054	2,254
Sports facility income	3,668	3,570	-	-
Retail and visitor centre	363	221	-	-
Contract labour services	20,341	18,139	-	-
Car park income	488	402	488	402
Research overheads	2,139	2,072	2,139	2,072
Funded post income	1,638	1,556	1,638	1,556
Concert Hall	1,723	962	-	-
Other self-funded income	3,192	2,678	3,192	2,678
Other income	2,689	3,276	1,950	2,453
	60,988	**56,136**	**10,461**	**11,415**

9 Interest income

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Interest income	1,336	53	1,336	53

10 Staff costs

(i) The average weekly number of persons (including senior post-holders) employed by the University (including its subsidiaries) during the year, expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 Number	2022 Number	2023 Number	2022 Number
Staff employed (WTE)	**2,771**	**2,634**	**2,130**	**1,992**

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Salaries	170,238	158,663	147,866	138,807
Overtime	223	870	223	235
Allowances	415	476	415	476
Short term employee benefits	170,876	160,009	148,504	139,518
Social welfare	16,341	14,257	13,673	12,347
Defined contribution employers' cost	383	306	-	-
Pensions in payment (note 27)	18,217	16,133	18,217	16,133
	205,817	**190,705**	**180,394**	**167,998**

Total staff costs include payments for all full and part time staff and any other costs in respect of their employment relationship with the University, including employer pension contributions cost of €10.681m (2022: €9.246m) (note 27).

Termination and severance payments (including statutory redundancy) amounted to €394,703 were paid to twelve staff members (2022 €67,016 paid to two staff members) of the University (ten) and its subsidiary UniJobs DAC (two). In respect of severance payments there were no professional added year agreements entered into in current or prior year. Following a board approved restructure, a redundancy settlement was made in a subsidiary of the University in 2022. The total cost was 2023 €nil (2022: €176,835).

The board of a subsidiary, Plassey Campus Centre CLG, following a review of the year ahead and review of performance of current year put in place an annual fund of €50,000 to provide for performance related pay for staff involved in the development of summer business in the residences and visitor centre. This is a highly competitive market. During 2023, €20,000 (2022: €30,000) of this fund was awarded to staff.

(ii) *Governors*

No payments were made in the current or previous year to any Governor for work undertake in their role as Governor. Of the 29 members of the current Governing Authority, whose term commenced on 1 December 2017, 10 are members of University Staff 3 of whom (2022: 3) are key management personnel. Their salaries are therefore included in the key management note below, while the other 7 (2022: 8) members' salaries are stated separately below. There were 3 vacancies on the Governing Authority at 30 September 2023.

(iii) *Key management compensation*

The costs below reflect the salaries for the period which staff served on Executive while the number for senior management reflects the number on Executive at the end of the year.

Key management personnel are both the Governing Authority and Senior Managers, the compensation of both split out as follows:

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 Number	2022 Number	2023 Number	2022 Number
Governing Authority (staff members)	7	8	7	8
Governing Authority (non-staff members)	16	17	16	17
Senior management	13	11	13	11
	36	**36**	**36**	**36**

Key management are members of the University's pension schemes and their post-employment benefits arising from their appointments do not extend beyond the terms of the relevant schemes.

The total salary paid to the President for the period from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023 was €225,559. The President is a member of the Single Pension Scheme, and the post-employment benefits arising from her appointment do not extend beyond the terms of that scheme.

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Governing Authority (staff members)	883	886	883	886
Governing Authority (non-staff members)	-	-	-	-
Senior management	2,176	1,918	2,176	1,918
	3,059	2,804	3,059	2,804

The University has adopted a starting value of €60,000 to identify higher paid staff. Staff remuneration, in salary bands of €10,000 using €60,000 as the starting value is as follows.

	Consolidated		University	
	Number of employees 30 September 2023	Number of employees 30 September 2022	Number of employees 30 September 2023	Number of employees 30 September 2022
€60,000 to €69,999	266	179	263	176
€70,000 to €79,999	144	127	142	125
€80,000 to €89,999	78	150	76	148
€90,000 to €99,999	148	117	146	115
€100,000 to €109,999	103	75	102	74
€110,000 to €119,999	66	34	65	33
€120,000 to €129,999	87	64	86	63
€130,000 to €139,999	12	14	11	13
€140,000 to €149,999	7	4	7	4
€150,000 to €159,999	14	59	14	59
€160,000 to €169,999	54	8	54	8
€170,000 to €179,999	5	1	5	1
€180,000 to €189,999	2	-	2	-
€200,000 to €209,999	-	1	-	1
€210,000 to €219,999	-	1	-	1
€220,000 to €229,999	3	1	3	1
€230,000 to €239,999	-	1	-	1
€250,000 to €259,999	1	1	1	1
€280,000 to €289,999	-	1	-	1
€290,000 to €299,999	1	-	1	-
€330,000 to €339,999	1	-	1	-
Total	**992**	**838**	**979**	**825**





11 Other operating expenses

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Consumables	2,872	2,232	2,805	2,188
Heat, light, water and power	5,235	4,105	3,672	2,601
Repairs and general maintenance	7,377	5,922	6,529	5,602
Buildings, maintenance and renewal costs	2,758	3,494	2,758	3,494
Travel	1,120	612	1,073	608
Hospitality	1,793	877	1,793	877
Student village management and maintenance	2,582	2,132	-	-
Equipment maintenance	1,617	1,561	1,617	1,560
Security	2,328	2,070	2,024	1,771
Telephone and administration	802	637	379	396
Advertising, promotions, and publications	3,605	2,286	3,196	1,969
Subscriptions	845	959	809	933
Software licences	4,360	3,541	4,110	3,313
Audit and professional	6,325	8,203	5,853	7,886
Rent and rates	1,277	918	831	448
Ancillary and other self-funded programmes	7,817	7,189	7,817	7,189
Research expenditure	16,713	15,848	16,713	15,848
Capitation	1,412	1,606	1,412	1,606
Other expenses	5,878	5,811	3,061	3,702
Books and periodicals	523	653	523	653
Contract cleaning	3,377	2,986	2,588	2,291
Agent commission	1,878	1,562	1,878	1,562
Low value equipment	3,013	2,710	3,013	2,710
Scholarships and financial aid	1,272	1,239	1,052	1,239
Recruitment costs	360	320	298	227
Postal services	97	91	95	85
External examiner fees	450	168	450	168
Staff development and course fees	1,276	1,155	1,183	1,142
Module delivery	2,332	1,398	2,332	1,398
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	70	67	70	67
Insurance	1,101	1,244	1,042	930
	92,465	**83,596**	**80,976**	**74,463**
Other operating expenses include: Auditors' remuneration:				
- External audit - management auditor	203	201	123	125
- C&AG	54	52	54	52
- Non audit services	163	116	140	116

External audit fee includes the audit fee paid in respect of the audit of Plassey Campus Centre Limited and its subsidiaries and the audit of the University of Limerick.

Travel and hospitality costs, including these costs included in research expenditure and ancillary and other self-funded programmes are Travel €4,456k (2022 €2,110k) and Hospitality €1,793k (2022 €877k).

Details of advisory fees paid by the University are set out below:

	University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Implementation fees for digital transformation of student records	1,450	1,917
Legal services	444	490
Professional fees associated with capital and refurbishment projects	296	404
IP, patents and technology transfer	262	403
Strategic development	281	185
Website	-	139
Health and safety	139	94
Pensions	14	64
Public relations	35	51
Futures and foresights	585	30
Market research	178	-
Valuation	28	21
Recruitment	50	17
Athena Swan	21	-
IT and cyber risk	32	9
Job sizing and job evaluation	84	-
Systems developments	109	-
Energy audit and decarbonisation study	53	-
Procurement EPS	27	-
Treasury	18	-
Governance	2	-
Archives	2	-
	4,110	**3,824**

12 Interest payable and similar charges

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
On bank loans:				
Wholly repayable within 5 years, not by instalments	288	225	225	173
Wholly repayable within 5 years, by instalments	30	2	30	2
Wholly repayable in more than 5 years	761	1,144	761	1,144
Total	**1,079**	**1,371**	**1,016**	**1,319**

Interest is payable on loans taken out to build new residential accommodation for students. This activity is carried out by a subsidiary undertaking: Plassey Campus Centre Limited.



13 Taxation

		Consolidated		University	
		2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
(a)	Current taxation:				
	Irish corporation tax on surplus/(deficit) for the year	6	11	-	-
	Adjustments in respect of prior years	-	-	-	-
	Current tax charge for the year	6	11	-	-
	Deferred tax:				
	Origination and reversal of timing differences	-	-	-	-
	Effect of reduction in tax rate on opening liability	-	-	-	-
	Deferred tax charge for the year	-	-	-	-
		6	**11**	**-**	**-**

(b) The total tax charge for the year differs from the charge that would result from applying the standard rate of Irish corporation tax to the surplus for the year. The differences are explained below:

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
(Deficit)/surplus after depreciation of assets before taxation	(738)	10,804	(2,398)	4,231
(Deficit)/surplus before tax multiplied by the average rate of Irish corporation tax for the year of 12.5%	(92)	1,351	(300)	529
Effects of: (Deficit)/surplus not subject to Irish corporation tax	98	(1,340)	300	(529)
Total tax charge for the year	**6**	**11**	**-**	**-**

Provision for taxation has not been made in the University or its relevant subsidiary companies as they were established for charitable and educational purposes only. The income of subsidiary companies is exempt from taxation once it is applied in furthering the charitable objectives of the companies. The income of Plassey Campus Arena Limited is exempt from taxation also once it is applied to the sole purposes of promoting athletic or amateur games or sports. The tax charge arises from transfer pricing, and normal trading corporation tax in subsidiaries UL Aviation Registries Limited and University of Limerick Alumni Association DAC.

14 (Deficit)/surplus for the year

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
The (deficit)/surplus for the year is made up as follows		
University's (deficit)/surplus for the year	(2,398)	4,231
Surplus generated by subsidiary undertakings	1,654	6,562
Consolidated (deficit)/surplus for the year	**(744)**	**10,793**

15 Tangible assets

	Land and buildings €'000	Assets under construction €'000	Minor works €'000	Computer equipment €'000	Equipment €'000	Leased assets €'000	Total €'000
Consolidated							
Cost							
At 1 October 2021	574,692	5,913	3,106	6,631	103,493	536	694,371
Transfers	-	-	-	-	(53)	-	(53)
Additions	1,140	197	-	454	1,380	-	3,171
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,360)	(1,955)	-	(3,315)
At 30 September 2022	575,832	6,110	3,106	5,725	102,865	536	694,174
Accumulated depreciation							
At 1 October 2021	162,553	-	2,367	4,797	67,617	536	237,870
Charge for year	12,653	-	-	333	7,190	-	20,176
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,339)	(1,910)	-	(3,249)
At 30 September 2022	175,206	-	2,367	3,791	72,897	536	254,797
Net book value							
At 30 September 2022	400,626	6,110	739	1,934	29,968	-	439,377
At 30 September 2021	412,139	5,913	739	1,834	35,876	-	456,501

15 Tangible assets - continued

	Land and buildings	Assets under construction	Minor works	Computer equipment	Equipment	Leased assets	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Consolidated -- continued							
Cost							
At 1 October 2022	575,832	6,110	3,106	5,725	102,865	536	694,174
Additions	13,368	3,654	-	322	5,593	-	22,937
Disposals	-	-	-	(402)	(2,185)	(536)	(3,123)
At 30 September 2023	589,200	9,764	3,106	5,645	106,273	-	713,988
Accumulated depreciation							
At 1 October 2022	175,206	-	2,367	3,791	72,897	536	254,797
Charge for year	13,041	-	-	431	5,982	-	19,454
Disposals	-	-	-	(402)	(2,101)	(536)	(3,039)
Impairment	8,269	-	-	-	-	-	8,269
At 30 September 2023	196,516	-	2,367	3,820	76,778	-	279,481
Net book value							
At 30 September 2023	392,684	9,764	739	1,825	29,495	-	434,507
At 30 September 2022	400,626	6,110	739	1,934	29,968	-	439,377

15 Tangible assets

	Land and buildings	Assets under construction	Minor works	Computer equipment	Equipment	Leased assets	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
University							
Cost							
At 1 October 2021	437,009	5,913	3,106	6,631	68,070	536	521,265
Additions	1,114	197	-	454	1,251	-	3,016
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,360)	(1,858)	-	(3,218)
At 30 September 2022	438,123	6,110	3,106	5,725	67,463	536	521,063
Accumulated depreciation							
At 1 October 2021	135,210	-	2,367	4,797	46,121	536	189,031
Charge for year	9,148	-	-	333	4,833	-	14,314
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,339)	(1,813)	-	(3,152)
At 30 September 2022	144,358	-	2,367	3,791	49,141	536	200,193
Net book value							
At 30 September 2022	293,765	6,110	739	1,934	18,322	-	320,870
At 30 September 2021	301,799	5,913		1,834	21,949	-	332,234

15 Tangible assets - continued

	Land and buildings	Assets under construction	Minor works	Computer equipment	Equipment	Leased assets	Total
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
University - continued							
Cost							
At 1 October 2022	438,123	6,110	3,106	5,725	67,463	536	521,063
Additions	879	3,654	-	322	4,943	-	9,798
Disposals	-	-	-	(402)	(2,065)	(536)	(3,003)
At 30 September 2023	439,002	9,764	3,106	5,645	70,341	-	527,858
Accumulated depreciation							
At 1 October 2022	144,358	-	2,367	3,791	49,141	536	200,193
Charge for year	9,390	-	-	431	3,829	-	13,650
Disposals	-	-	-	(402)	(1,995)	(536)	(2,933)
Impairment	3,044	-	-	-	-	-	3,044
At 30 September 2023	156,792	-	2,367	3,820	50,975	-	213,954
Net book value							
At 30 September 2023	282,210	9,764	739	1,825	19,366	-	313,904
At 30 September 2022	293,765	6,110	739	1,934	18,322	-	320,870

Plassey Village, Kilmurry Village, Thomond Village, Dromroe Village, Cappavilla Village Residences, Quigley Residences and William Brennan Court were stated at open market value, which was determined following a formal independent valuation by DTZ Sherry Fitzgerald Limited at 30 September 2014. The university applied the transition exemption in Section 35 of FRS102 and used this previous valuation as the deemed cost for certain freehold land and buildings on transition to FRS102. The deemed cost of the freehold land and buildings will be depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the freehold land and buildings.

The remaining portion of the Park Point asset €2,205k was transferred to investment property in FY21. The investment property was stated at open market value, which was determined following a formal independent valuation by Savills at 30 September 2023.

Assets Under Construction include investments in the Student Centre.

Impairment

(i) Dunnes site

On 5 April 2019, the University purchased the former Dunnes site in Limerick City at an initial cost of €8 million. Subsequent to the purchase date, further expenditure was incurred by the University to put the site into use. Since the acquisition, accumulated depreciation on the site was €0.893m and the subsequent expenditure amounted to €1.337m up to 30 Sep 2023 resulting in a net book value of the site of €8.444 million at 30 September 2023.

The University commissioned an independent valuation of the site from Power Property as of the date of purchase and again as of 30 September 2023. The valuation at the date of purchase was €6 million but due to deteriorating commercial real estate market conditions, the value of the site including subsequent expenditure incurred has declined to €5.4 million at 30 September 2023 reflecting open market value at that date. An impairment charge of €3.044 million has been charged to the consolidated and University statements of comprehensive income in accordance with the University's accounting policies and the related asset written down from €8.444 million to the independently valued fair value of €5.4 million.

(ii) 1-20 Drominbeg Square, Rhebogue

An impairment arose on this asset as the purchase price agreed conferred on the vendor a commercial benefit in excess of that which would have resulted were the arrangement to have been entered into on an arm's length basis at a valuation determined at open market value for similar residential property. In addition, the purchase price exceeded the amount approved by the Governing Authority, along with the payment terms differing from those approved by the Governing Authority. Furthermore, the University became aware, after Plassey Trust Company CLG filed a stamp duty return claiming exemption applicable to Charities, that stamp duty was applicable under Section 31E Stamp Duty Consolidation Act (SDCA) 1999 on certain residential properties. The University consequently conducted an impairment review of the properties. The carrying value of this addition, before impairment, at year end was €12.650m including stamp duty. A consideration of related party disclosures is set out in note 26.

The University appointed Power Property to undertake a review of the fair value of the property. Power Property valued the properties (1-20 Drominbeg Square, Rhebogue) on an open market basis, using a market sales comparison approach and based on the nature of the property allowed for in the planning permission. This resulted in a valuation as of 30 September 2023 of €6.585m. The University estimates cost to sell of 3% (€198k) resulting in an open market value less costs to sell of €6.387m as of 30 September 2023.

The University retained Mazars to carry out a value in use assessment of the 20 houses based on the current use in accordance with FRS102 section 27 Impairment of Assets. Their report estimates the value in use at €7.425m. The key assumptions in the value in use model were (a) the cash flow over a ten-year period (b) the terminal value in year 10 which assumes an annual increase of 5% per annum for the first five years on the fair value (based on Power Property assessed open market value of €6.585m as of 30 September 2023) and thereafter for the following 5 years 2% per annum less 3% costs to sell (c) full occupancy during the academic year (38 weeks) and 50% occupancy during the summer period and (d) a discount rate of 7.31%.

The report noted the issue of a warning letter by the Limerick City and County Council in December 2023 stating that an unauthorised development may have occurred, specifically involving the change of use from residential dwellinghouses to student accommodation without regard to planning permission. A response provided by HW Planning, on behalf of the University in January 2024 asserts that the development is authorised and complies with planning and no violations occurring in this instance. The Mazars reports sets out that if the ultimate outcome of this process results in the current use having to cease or be altered in some way, the impact this would have on the cash flows of the Properties would need to be revisited.

Limerick City and County Council referred the matter to An Board Pleanála for a determination. The University acknowledges the ongoing nature of the matter, which has not yet reached a conclusion, there exists a potential risk that the development could be deemed unauthorised, necessitating a change to residential dwelling houses or an application for retention of the change of use to student accommodation.

The report also sets out that Mazars considered the potential risk associated with transitioning the properties from student accommodation to residential dwellinghouses. Given the shortage of rental accommodation in Limerick (reference Limerick Chamber Mid-West Rental Monitor) they believe that renting the houses to the general public would not adversely impact the net rental income. While gross rental income from standard residential market lettings maybe lower than the income generated from designated premium-quality student accommodation, the corresponding costs and expenses might also be lower.

The higher of the fair value less costs to sell and value in use is the value in use of € 7.425m. This gives rise to an impairment of €5.225m. This amount has been included in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, and along with the Dunnes site impairment of €3.044m results in a total impairment for the year of €8.269m.

As a result of significant concerns arising from the impairment charge of €5.225m and in accordance with the provisions of Section 64 Higher Education Act 2022, the CEO of the HEA requested that the Governing Authority undertake a review of governance issues, procedural/business case, value for money and due diligence related to the Rhebogue transaction and also of the general governance and culture of the organisation. Governing Authority appointed Deloitte to undertake the S64 Review and their report was accepted by the GA and submitted to the HEA. A plan to address the findings and recommendations of the S64 Review and UL commissioned reports under S66(3)(c) HEAA 2022 has been submitted to the HEA.

Heritage assets

Period house

Plassey House is part of the working infrastructure of the University campus and as such is capitalised in the statement of financial position in line with FRS 102 section 17.

Artwork, archives and printed books

Artwork purchased for the benefit of the University is capitalised in the statement of financial position at original cost and is not depreciated. The value of artwork capitalised in the statement of financial position is €2,175k (2022: €2,175k). Archives, printed books and other artefacts donated to the University have not been capitalised as these are, in effect, inalienable, held in perpetuity, are mostly irreplaceable and are not readily realisable. They are neither held for financial gain nor encumbered in any manner. Artwork, archives and printed books have been valued for insurance purposes at €13.55m (2022: €12.59m).

Artwork

- The University is the permanent home of several art collections, including:
- The National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland
- The Watercolour Society of Ireland Collection
- The O'Malley Sculpture Collection
- The Irish American Cultural Institute's O'Malley Collection
- The Armitage Collection
- The Medical Art Collection

The University's own Arts Collection includes outdoor sculptures by international artists including Michael Warren, Peter Logan, Alexandra Wejchert, James McKenna, Tom Fitzpatrick, Antony Gormley and Sean Scully. These sculptures have added significantly to the artistic and cultural ambience of the University and the region.

The University of Limerick seeks to acquire, preserve and provide access to unique and distinct materials including rare books, manuscripts and other primary sources, as well as strong collections of supporting published materials.

Archives

The University of Limerick houses a range of archival collections of private origin, including estate collections, the papers of noted literary and political figures, as well as collections of local interest. The archives are made available for consultation in the Reading Room.

Printed Books

The University of Limerick seeks to acquire, preserve and provide access to unique and distinct materials including rare books, manuscripts and other primary sources, as well as strong collections of supporting published materials.



	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Five-year summary of Consolidated and University heritage assets					
Artwork					
Opening balance - valuation	3,854	3,852	3,846	3,836	3,784
Additions – cost	-	2	6	10	52
Change in valuation	1,124	-	-	-	-
Closing balance	**4,978**	**3,854**	**3,852**	**3,846**	**3,836**
Archives					
Opening balance - valuation	1,542	1,592	1,550	1,547	1,529
Additions – valuation	-	-	8	2	7
Change in valuation	-	(50)	34	1	11
Closing balance - valuation	**1,542**	**1,542**	**1,592**	**1,550**	**1,547**
Printed books					
Opening balance - valuation	7,190	6,965	7,047	6,867	6,863
Additions – valuation	-	325	1	180	-
Change in valuation	(160)	(100)	(83)	-	4
Closing balance - valuation	**7,030**	**7,190**	**6,965**	**7,047**	**6,867**

16 Investment property

	Consolidated		University	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	Number	Number	Number	Number
Munster training centre	4,700	4,700	4,700	4,700
Park Point	5,250	4,300	-	-
	9,950	**9,000**	**4,700**	**4,700**

The Munster training centre is leased to Munster Rugby on a 15-year lease, commencing from September 2016. The investment property is stated at open market value, which was determined by a formal valuation by Cushman Wakefield as at 30 September 2022 upon which, management are satisfied there has been no material change in value since that date.

The Park Point asset includes two units that were transferred to investment property in 2017, with the rest of the building transferred to investment property in the prior year. The investment property was stated at open market value following a formal independent valuation by Savills at 30 September 2023. This resulted in a revaluation gain of €837k.

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Park Point		
At beginning of year	4,300	4,581
Transfer from tangible assets (note 15)	-	53
Gain/(loss) on revaluation	837	(394)
Additions	113	60
At end of year	**5,250**	**4,300**

All other units in Park Point are included in consolidated fixed assets land and buildings at their original cost.

17 Financial instruments

The carrying values of the Group's and University's financial assets and liabilities are summarised by category below:

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Financial assets				
Measured at undiscounted amount receivable				
— Trade and other receivables	6,435	9,012	4,222	5,734
— Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	-	36,763	39,358
Equity instruments measured at cost less impairment				
— Fixed asset investments in unlisted equity instruments	-	-	-	-
— Current asset unlisted investments	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities				
Measured at amortised cost				
Loans payable	66,632	73,079	65,220	71,364
Obligations under finance leases				
Measured at undiscounted amount payable				
Bank loans	8,428	8,611	8,109	8,199
Trade and other payables	7,920	13,842	6,848	12,517
Amounts owed to subsidiary companies				
	-	-	2,164	1,910

The Group's income, expense, gains and losses in respect of financial instruments are summarised below:

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Interest income and expense		
Total interest income for financial assets at amortised cost	1,336	53
Total interest expense for financial liabilities at amortised cost	1,079	2,007
Fair value gains and losses		
On financial assets (including listed investments), measured at fair value through statement of comprehensive income	-	-
Impairment losses		
On financial assets measured at amortised cost	-	-
On unlisted equity instruments measured at cost less impairment	-	-
Investments at the year-end were held as follows:		
Management funds	-	-

The University held an interest in the following subsidiary and associate undertakings:

Subsidiary undertaking name	% Control	Activity
Plassey Campus Centre CLG	100%	Property holding and rental
Plassey Trust Company CLG	100%	Property holding and rental
Plassey Campus Developments Limited	100%	Construction contracting
Plassey Campus Arena CLG	100%	Operating the university arena
University Concert Hall CLG	100%	Venue for artistic performances and other activities
Unijobs DAC	100%	Recruitment company
UL Aviation Registries Limited (incorporated 30 November 2022)	100%	Establishing globally recognised aviation registry
University of Limerick Alumni Association DAC	100%	Alumni relationships
UL & Clare Economic Development Agency DAC (incorporated 19 January 2022)	50%	Joint venture application for a south Clare UL Strategic Development Zone

All the subsidiary companies are incorporated in the Republic of Ireland and their registered offices are at Plassey House, University of Limerick, Limerick with the exception of UL & Clare Economic Development Agency DAC whose registered office is Holmes, Bishopsgate, Henry Street, Limerick.

The University holds minority shareholdings in a number of Campus Companies. Campus companies are created predominantly from University of Limerick research results and approved in accordance with UL Campus company procedures. The University does not operate any investment fund, nor does it invest any University funds into campus companies. The equity holding is a return for the intellectual property arrangements. These arrangements are covered by legal agreement between the University and the campus company including a provision that the University does not provide any warranties or assurance in relation to the use of the intellectual property by the campus company.

In addition, the University will generally seek an indemnity from the company around its use of the intellectual property. In initial shareholder agreements the University may reserve the right to appoint a director or observer to the board, this option has not been exercised. The right to a board seat is generally impacted by the various funding rounds which result in a dilution of the University shareholding and loss of right to a board appointment.

The carrying value of such investments in the University financial statements is €Nil.

Campus Company Name	Activity	Shareholding
LearnOpt Ltd	Software solutions for CPD organisations	15%
Crescent Diagnostics Ltd	Bio–medical	1.70%
Bearna Medical Ltd	Development of novel bone cements and grafts	~15%
Poly Pico Ltd	Printing high density protein/antibody/ DNA microarrays	~ 5%
ALR Innovations	Manufacture and sale of LCD recycling equipment	~15%
Class Medical Ltd	Medical device design and manufacture	~6.7%
Transgero Ltd	Risk management services	~5%
Farmhedge	On-farm weather risk information	~8%
Ostoform	Pharmaceutical technology and discovery	~7%
Hook Bio	Pharmaceutical technology and discovery	~6.8%
MicaNanotech	Novel materials	~10%

~ approximation

18 Trade and other receivables

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Trade receivables	5,793	7,326	3,765	4,209
Research grants and contracts receivable (note 30)	14,362	12,023	14,362	12,023
Ancillary and other self-funded receivable (note 30)	1,294	786	1,294	786
State grant receivable - HEA	4,354	1,799	4,354	1,799
Academic fees receivable	5,013	4,374	5,013	4,374
Prepayments	4,253	3,554	2,639	1,902
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	-	-	49,210	39,358
Other receivables	642	1,686	457	1,525
	35,711	**31,548**	**81,094**	**65,976**

Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings on 30 September 2023 include intercompany loans of €36.178m (2022 €38.961m) falling due after more than one year. These loans are unsecured and interest bearing at rates from 0.739% to 1.739% per annum.

19 Cash and cash equivalents

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Cash at bank including balances held on short term deposit	187,934	189,416	152,106	164,473
	187,934	189,416	152,106	164,473

20 Creditors:

Amounts falling due within one year

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Trade payables	4,127	3,123	3,064	1,805
Research grants and contracts in advance (note 30)	74,782	81,054	74,782	81,054
Ancillary and other self-funded in advance (note 30)	15,425	10,618	15,425	10,618
Academic fees received in advance	31,049	24,664	31,049	24,664
State grant received in advance - HEA	10,680	11,725	10,680	11,725
Other Creditors and Accruals	34,933	25,691	24,245	17,326
Deferred income	4,889	5,076	-	-
Bank loans (note 22)	8,428	8,611	8,109	8,199
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertaking	-	-	2,164	1,910
Other taxation and social security	7,178	5,571	6,315	5,009
Other payables	3,793	10,719	3,784	10,712
Deferred capital grants (note 23)	6,832	6,697	6,832	6,697
	202,116	**193,549**	**186,661**	**179,719**





21 Creditors:

Amounts falling due after one year

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Bank loans (note 22)	66,632	73,079	65,220	71,364
Deferred capital grants (note 23	125,638	128,253	125,638	128,253
	192,270	**201,332**	**190,858**	**199,617**

22 Borrowings

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
(a) Bank loans				
Bank loans are repayable as follows:				
Amounts due within one year	8,428	8,611	8,109	8,199
Due between one and two years	6,329	6,557	6,138	6,145
Due between two and five years	18,877	19,210	18,303	18,386
Due after more than five years	41,426	47,312	40,779	46,833
Total	**75,060**	**81,690**	**73,329**	**79,563**

(b) Security details

The borrowings of the subsidiary companies are secured as follows:

(a) A legal charge over Plassey Village Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3.
(b) A legal charge over Brennan Court Apartments.
(c) A first legal charge over the leasehold interest in property at the Medical School Residences.

The European Investment Bank provided part of the funding necessary for the University's capital expenditure programme. The facility is repayable over a maximum of 20 years (2036) and currently incurs interest at Euribor plus a margin.

23 Deferred capital grants

	State 2023 €'000	State 2022 €'000
Consolidated and University		
At beginning of year		
Buildings	122,098	125,855
Equipment	12,852	15,275
Total	**134,950**	**141,130**
Received during the year		
Buildings	388	-
Equipment	4,038	881
Total	**4,426**	**881**
Amortised to statement of comprehensive income		
Buildings	(3,765)	(3,757)
Equipment	(3,141)	(3,304)
Total	**(6,906)**	**(7,061)**
At 30 September		
Buildings	118,721	122,098
Equipment	13,749	12,852
Total	**132,470**	**134,950**

24 Analysis of changes in net funds

	2023 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Consolidated			
Cash	189,416	(1,482)	187,934
Bank loans	(8,611)	183	(8,428)
	180,805	(1,299)	179,506
Bank loans	(73,079)	6,447	(66,632)
Total	**107,726**	**5,148**	**112,874**
University			
Cash	164,473	(12,367)	152,106
Bank loans	(8,199)	90	(8,109)
	156,274	**(12,277)**	**143,997**
Bank loans	(71,364)	6,144	(65,220)
Total	**84,910**	**(6,133)**	**78,777**

25 Capital commitments

	Consolidated		University	
	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Contracted for but not provided	31,076	37,895	31,076	37,895
Authorised but not contracted out	226	4,539	226	4,539
	31,302	**42,434**	**31,302**	**42,434**

26 Related parties

Section 33.1 FRS 102 requires the University to include in its financial statements the disclosures necessary to draw attention to the possibility that its financial position and profit or loss have been affected by the existence of related parties and by transactions and related balances with such parties. Where the University has related party transactions, section 33.9 FRS 102 requires it to disclose the nature of the related party relationship as well as information about the transactions, balances and commitments necessary for an understanding of the potential effect of the relationship on the financial statements.

In respect of the transaction to acquire twenty houses in Rhebogue for use as student accommodation, the University has concluded that the purchase price agreed conferred on the vendor a commercial benefit in excess of that which would have resulted were the arrangement to have been entered into on an arm's length basis at a valuation determined at open market value for similar residential property. At this time, the Governing Authority has been unable to establish the business rationale for the terms upon which this transaction was ultimately entered into or to conclude whether there was any related party involvement. Certain other internal and external processes related to this transaction remain ongoing. In these circumstances, based on inquiries and information currently available, the University has made the disclosures required by FRS102 to the extent possible.

As set out in note 15 to these financial statements, the nature of the conduct of this arrangement gave rise to an impairment review of the value of the Rhebogue property under section 27 FRS 102. This review resulted in an impairment charge of €5.225 million in respect of the property being applied to the consolidated statement of comprehensive income.

The University also transacts, in the normal course of business, with group companies and the University of Limerick Foundation. The University has availed of exemptions permitted under Section 33.1.A FRS 102.

University of Limerick Foundation
During the year the University contributed €365k (2022: €378k) towards the running costs of the Foundation. During the year the University received funding from the University of Limerick Foundation of €1,319k (2022: €1,507k). This funding was received for the following purposes:

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Funding completed capital projects included in other income	3	256
Funded posts	740	970
Research grants and contracts	145	25
Ancillary projects included in other operating income	90	57
Scholarships included in student fee income	341	199
	1,319	**1,507**

The net assets of the University of Limerick Foundation at 31 August 2023 were €14,738k (2022: €14,675k).

Plassey Campus Developments
Plassey Campus Developments was the principal contractor associated with ongoing property development contracts totalling €6,989,570 in the year (2022: €4,655,452) on behalf of the University of Limerick. Representatives of the University are members of Plassey Campus Centre Company Limited by Guarantee. At the statement of financial position date €2,018,154 (2022: €1,527,855) was outstanding in respect of such work.

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Plassey Campus Arena CLG		
Income:		
University of Limerick	608	562
Receivable at 30 September:		
University of Limerick	-	557

University Concert Hall CLG
The University Concert Hall Limited provides lecture facilities to the University of Limerick as part of its normal trading activities.

The value of the facilities provided during the year amounted to €36,987 (2022: €36,987).

The balance due to the University of Limerick at the year-end amounted to €1,763 (2022: €1,757).

The balance due by University of Limerick at the year-end amounted to €25,744 (2022: €23,471).

27 Retirement benefits

The University operates both defined benefit and defined contribution retirement benefit schemes.

Defined contribution retirement benefit scheme
The University subsidiaries operate defined contribution schemes to cater for the specific circumstances of its employees. These schemes seek to ensure that both the requirements of the relevant employees and the responsibilities of the University subsidiaries are properly addressed. The retirement benefit charge for the period represents contributions payable by the University subsidiaries to the scheme and amounted to €383k (2022: €306k) – note 10.

Defined benefit pension scheme
The University operates a defined benefit pension scheme, the University of Limerick Superannuation (Amendment) Scheme, which is funded annually on a "pay as you go" basis from monies provided by the Higher Education Authority and from contributions deducted from staff salaries. The scheme provides for a retirement benefit and retirement lump sum based on pensionable pay on the date of retirement (average salary used if promoted within the last 3 years of service), and spouse's and children's pensions. Staff employed prior to 1 January 2006 must retire when they reach the age of 65. For staff employed after that date, there is no compulsory retirement age; an employee may retire at any time after reaching age 65. The scheme includes an actuarially reduced early retirement facility from age 55.

Single public service retirement benefit scheme
The Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Single Scheme), which the University operates on behalf of the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform, is the defined benefit pension scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013 in accordance with the Public Service Pension (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012. The scheme provides for a retirement benefit and retirement lump sum based on career-average pensionable remuneration, and spouse's and children's pensions. The minimum pension age is 66 years (rising in line with State pension age changes). It includes an actuarially reduced early retirement facility from age 55. Pensions in payment increase in line with the consumer price index.

The valuation prepared under FRS 102 Section 28 has been based on an actuarial valuation on 13 December 2023 by a qualified independent actuary to take account of the requirements of FRS 102 in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 30 September 2023 and 2022. The financial assumptions used to calculate scheme liabilities are:

	At 30 September 2023 Projected unit %	At 30 September 2023 Projected unit %
Valuation method:		
Discount rate	4.65	4.15
Inflation rate	2.55	2.35
Salary increases	4.05	3.85
Pension increases	3.05	2.85

On foot of EU Directive, the Protection of Employee Acts 2001 and 2003 extended pension benefits to part-time and fixed term workers. The University immediately entered into negotiations with the University Sector and relevant Government Departments in relatwion to the funding of these statutory liabilities.

Unfunded liability for retirement benefits
The University recognises an asset, an amount corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits. The University believes that it operates as an agent in the operation of the UL Superannuation Scheme and does not contribute financially to the Scheme. The University believes that it is virtually certain that the State will reimburse all of the expenditure required to settle the defined benefit obligation, and in accordance with FRS 102 recognises a reimbursable amount.

The University also recognises a reimbursable asset value under FRS102 in respect of the Single Scheme as the obligations and liabilities under the Single Scheme are guaranteed by the State.

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Consolidated and University		
Analysis of amount charged to operating profit:		
Current service cost *	20,261	39,092
Past service cost	-	-
Total operating charge	**20,261**	**39,092**
Analysis of the amount credited to other finance income:		
Expected return on scheme assets	-	-
Interest on scheme liabilities	(29,008)	(15,428)
Net return	**(29,008)**	**(15,428)**
Analysis of the amount recognised in statement of total recognised gains and losses:		
Actual less expected return on scheme assets	-	-
Experience gain	(11,920)	(24,563)
Changes in assumptions	38,061	365,158
Actuarial gain/(loss) recognised in Statement of comprehensive income	**26,141**	**340,595**
Movement in present value of defined benefit obligation		
At beginning of year	708,108	1,003,429
Current service cost	20,261	39,092
Interest cost	29,008	15,428
Plan members - contributions	7,536	6,924
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(26,141)	(340,595)
Insurance premium for risk benefits	-	-
Benefits paid	(18,217)	(16,170)
At 30 September	**720,555**	**708,108**

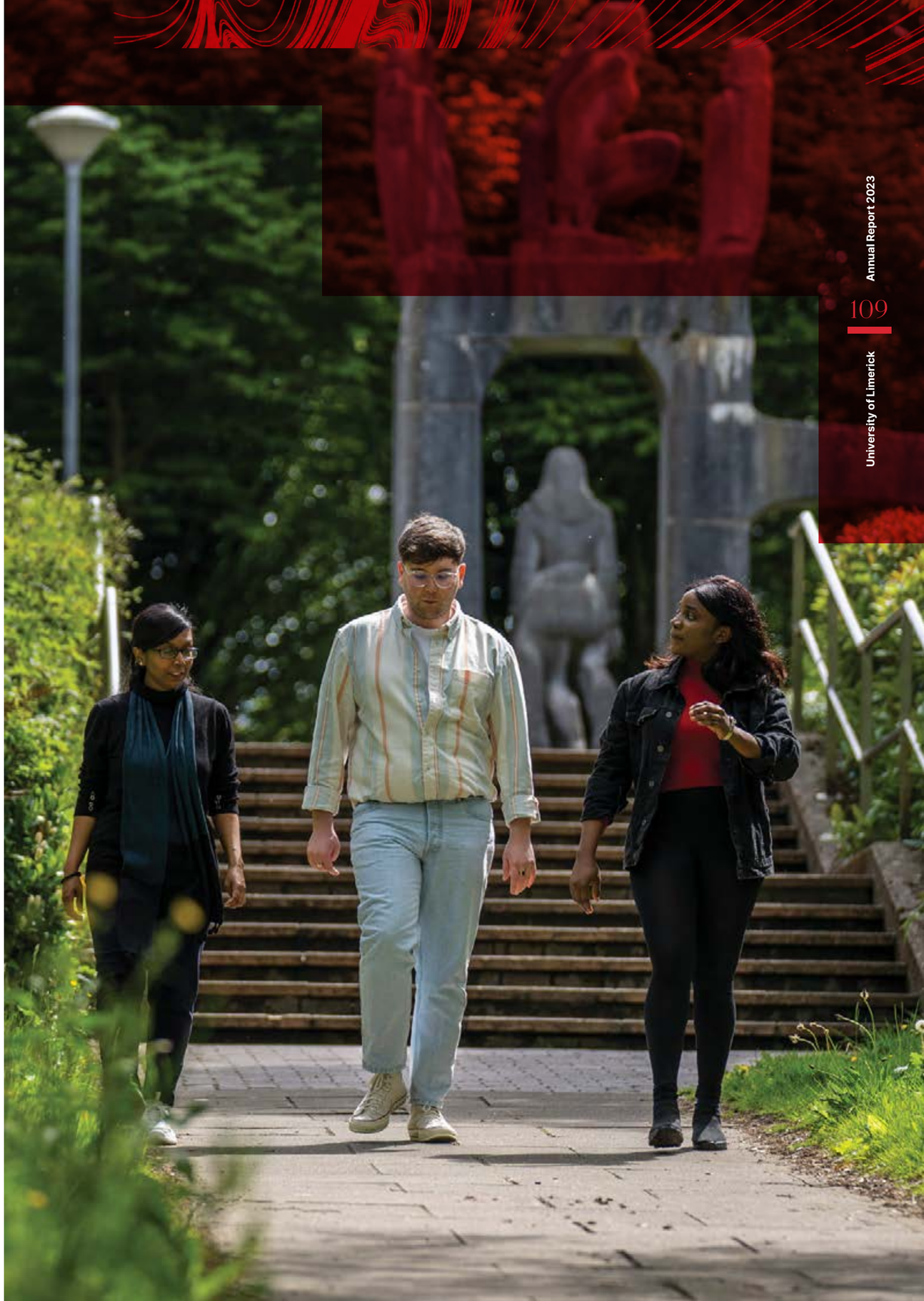
* Current service cost comprises employer contributions and incremental pension cost underwritten by the State.

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000
Consolidated and University		
Analysis of movement in pension receivable during the year:		
Actuarial (gain)/loss	708,108	1,003,429
Incremental pension cost underwritten by the State *	(26,141)	(340,595)
State underwritten finance charge	9,580	29,846
Employer contributions *	29,008	15,428
Members contributions	10,681	9,246
Insurance premium for risk benefits	7,536	6,924
Benefits paid (note 10)	-	-
At 30 September	(18,217)	(16,170)
	720,555	**708,108**

In accordance with the accounting policy (Note 3(o)), the total amount required to fund the retirement benefit deficit at 30 September 2023 amounts to €720,555,000 (2022: €708,108,000).

Within this figure, €44.8m (2022: €39.4m) relates to the accrued liability for the single Public Service Pension Scheme (Single Scheme).

	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
History of actuarial gains and losses:					
Difference between expected and actual return on scheme assets	-	-	-	-	-
Expressed as a percentage of scheme assets	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Experience gains and losses on scheme liabilities	(11,920)	(24,563)	22,684	1,451	(2,903)
Expressed as a percentage of scheme liabilities	(1.65%)	(3.47%)	2.26%	0.01%	(0.03%)
Total amount recognised in statement of comprehensive income	26,141	340,595	(54,752)	39,717	(127,428)
Expressed as a percentage of scheme liabilities	3.6%	48.1%	(5.5%)	4.3%	(13.9%





28 US Department of Education Financial Responsibility Supplemental Schedule

In satisfaction of its obligations to facilitate students' access to US federal financial aid, the University is required, by the US Department of Education, to present the following Supplemental Schedule in a prescribed format.

The amounts presented within the schedules have been:

- prepared under the historical cost convention, subject to the revaluation of certain fixed assets;
- prepared using Irish generally accepted accounting practice, in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education (2019 edition); and,
- presented in Euro.

The schedules set out how each amount disclosed has been extracted from the financial statements. As set out above, the accounting policies used in determining the amounts disclosed are not intended to and do not comply with the requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Note/Schedule	Term used in the Financial Statements	Term used in US Department of Education Financial Responsibility Supplemental Schedule	2023 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2022 €'000
		Expendable Net Assets:				
CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Income and expenditure – unrestricted reserve	Net assets without donor restrictions		273,716		274,460
N/A	N/A	Net Assets with donor restrictions		-		-
N/A	N/A	Secured and Unsecured related party receivable	-		-	
N/A	N/A	Unsecured related party receivable		-		-
15,23	Tangible Fixed assets €434,507k less Deferred Capital Grants €132,470k	Property, plant and equipment, net (includes Construction in progress)	302,037		304,427	
15	Note 15 of the Financial Statements – Analysis of non-current assets for US Financial Responsibility Supplement Schedule	Property, plant and equipment – pre-implementation		279,100		301,256
15	N/A	Property, plant and equipment – post-implementation with outstanding debt for original purchase		-		-
15	Note 15 of the Financial Statements – Analysis of non-current assets for US Financial Responsibility Supplement Schedule	Property, plant and equipment – post implementation without outstanding debt for original purchase		22,937		3,171
N/A	N/A	Construction in progress		-		-
N/A	N/A	Lease right-of-use asset, net		-		-
N/A	N/A	Lease right-of-use asset pre-implementation		-		-
N/A	N/A	Lease right-of-use asset post-implementation		-		-
N/A	N/A	Intangible assets		-		-

Note/Schedule	Term used in the Financial Statements	Term used in US Department of Education Financial Responsibility Supplemental Schedule	2023 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2022 €'000
		Expendable Net Assets:				
CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Retirement benefit receivable €720,555k less retirement benefit provisions €720,555k	Post-employment and pension liabilities		-		-
22	Total bank loans	Long-term debt – for long term purposes	75,060		81,690	
22	2023 Total bank loans €75,060k	Long-term debt – for long term purposes pre- implementation		75,060		81,690
22	N/A	Long-term debt – for long term purposes post- implementation		-		-
N/A	N/A	Line of Credit for CIP		-		-
N/A	N/A	Lease right-of-use asset liability		-		-
N/A	N/A	Pre-implementation right-of-use leases		-		-
N/A	N/A	Post- implementation right-of-use leases		-		-
N/A	N/A	Annuities with donor restrictions		-		-
N/A	N/A	Term endowments with donor restrictions		-		-
N/A	N/A	Life income funds with donor restrictions		-		-
N/A	N/A	Net assets with donor restrictions: restricted in perpetuity		-		-
		Total Expenses and Losses:				
CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure - Total expenditure €365,672k less Pension service cost €9,580k less Pension Interest cost €29,008k less Amortisation of deferred grants income €6,906k less loss on Sale of Fixed Assets €70k	Total expenses without donor restrictions – taken directly from Statement of Activities		320,108		288,720

Note/Schedule	Term used in the Financial Statements	Term used in US Department of Education Financial Responsibility Supplemental Schedule	2023 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2022 €'000
		Expendable Net Assets:				
CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure –Gain on investments €837k less Taxation (€6k) plus Deferred funding for pensions €38,588k less Pension service cost (€9,580k) less Pension Interest expense (€29,008k).	Non-Operating and Net Investment (loss)		831		(355)

Note/Schedule	Term used in the Financial Statements	Term used in US Department of Education Financial Responsibility Supplemental Schedule	2023 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2022 €'000
		Total Expenses and Losses:				
CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	(Loss)/Gain on investments	Net investment gains/ (losses)		837		(344)
N/A	N/A	Pension -related changes other than net periodic costs		-		-





Equity Ratio

Note/Schedule	Term used in the Financial Statements	Term used in US Department of Education Financial Responsibility Supplemental Schedule	2023 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2022 €'000
		Expendable Net Assets:				
CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Revenue reserves	Net assets without donor restrictions		273,716		274,460
N/A	N/A	Net assets with donor restrictions		-		-
N/A	N/A	Intangible assets		-		-
N/A	N/A	Secured and Unsecured related party receivable		-		-
N/A	N/A	Unsecured related party receivables		-		-
		Modified Assets:				
CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION	Consolidated Statement of financial position – Non-current assets €444,457k plus Current assets €223,645k less Deferred Grants(Note 23) €132,470k	Total assets		535,632		534,391
N/A	N/A	Lease right-of-use asset pre-implementation		-		-
N/A	N/A	Pre-implementation right-of-use leases		-		-
		Modified Assets:				
N/A	N/A	Intangible assets		-		-
N/A	N/A	Secured and Unsecured related party receivable		-		-
N/A	N/A	Unsecured related party receivables		-		-

Note/Schedule	Term used in the Financial Statements	Term used in US Department of Education Financial Responsibility Supplemental Schedule	2023 €'000	2023 €'000	2022 €'000	2022 €'000
		Net Income Ratio:				
CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure – Surplus for the year	Change in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions		(744)		10,793
CONSOLIDATED AND UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure – total income Total income €364,097k plus investment gain €837k, less loss on sale of tangible fixed assets €70k less net deferred funding for retirement benefits €38,588k less Amortisation of deferred capital grants €6,906k	Total Revenues and Gains		319,370		299,524

29 Events after the reporting period

Since the end of the reporting period under Section 64 Higher Education Act 2022, terms of reference for a review by the Governing Authority were issued by the CEO of the Higher Education Authority to the Chancellor and Governing Authority on 1 May 2024. Governing Authority engaged Deloitte to undertake the review, and its report was accepted and approved by the Governing Authority and submitted to the HEA. A plan to address the findings and recommendations of the S64 Review and UL commissioned reports under S66(3)(c) HEAA 2022 has been submitted to the HEA.

The Comptroller & Auditor General has completed a Value for Money (VFM) review of the Dunnes and Rhebogue transactions, this report was published on 13 September 2024.

The Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) commissioned a review of the Rhebogue acquisition at the request of Governing Authority. The review was completed by Ms. Niamh O'Donoghue and the ARC considered and accepted the report at its meeting on 26 March 2024.

The University has committed to progressing a programme of refurbishment including remedial and upgrade works in its Cappavilla Student Village (500 bedrooms) at an estimated cost of €11.14m.

30 Circular 13/2014 - Management of and accountability for grants from exchequer funds

This information is required by circular 13/2014 issued on 26 September 2014 by the Department of Expenditure and Public Reform. It is not a requirement under FRS 102.

Consolidated and University	Grant deferred/ (due) 1/10/2022 €'000	Cash received 2022-23 €'000	Taken to income 2022-23 €'000	Grant deferred 30/09/23 €'000	Grant due 30/09/23 €'000
RESEARCH GRANTS					
Exchequer Funding					
Science Foundation Ireland	28,553	12,202	14,618	29,771	(3,634)
Enterprise Ireland	2,626	5,065	5,487	4,551	(2,347)
Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine	47	512	586	511	(538)
Health Research Board	1,494	596	783	1,690	(383)
Irish Research Council	1,074	2,560	2,673	1,103	(142)
Higher Education Authority	1,304	2,397	1,065	3,150	(514)
State – other	4,277	(484)	1,171	3,674	(1,052)
Environment Protection Agency	164	269	285	353	(205)
Teagasc	(4)	35	34	25	(28)
Sub-total Excxhequer	**39,535**	**23,152**	**26,702**	**44,828**	**(8,843)**
Industry	11,937	3,316	2,349	14,836	(1,932)
European Commission	11,324	1,201	5,656	9,360	(2,491)
Other	6,235	1,840	3,413	5,758	(1,096)
Sub-total Non-Exchequer	**29,496**	**6,357**	**11,418**	**29,954**	**(5,519)**
Total Research Grants	**69,031**	**29,509**	**38,120**	**74,782**	**(14,362)**
Other self-funded and ancillary activities	9,832	15,473	11,174	15,425	(1,294)
Total other self-funded and Ancillary Grants	**9,832**	**15,473**	**11,174**	**15,425**	**(1,294)**

Consolidated and University	Grant deferred/ (due) 1/10/2022 €'000	Cash received 2022-23 €'000	Taken to income 2022-23 €'000	Grant deferred 30/09/23 €'000	Grant due 30/09/23 €'000
STATE GRANT RECURRENT					
Higher Education Authority	17,148	70,160	80,982	10,680	(4,354)
Total State Grant Recurrent	**17,148**	**70,160**	**80,982**	**10,680**	**(4,354)**
STATE CAPITAL GRANT BUILDINGS & EQUIPMENT					
Higher Education Authority	-	4,426	4,426	-	-
Total State Capital Grant	**-**	**4,426**	**4,426**	**-**	**-**

In order to provide further clarity to users of these financial statements, other self-funded and ancillary activities which was previously included within other operating income is now shown separately on the face of the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Other self-funded and ancillary income comes from a variety of sources.

31 Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Governing Authority on Approved by GA on 25 February 2025.



APPENDIX I

The University of Limerick Foundation Annual Report

Financial Year Ended 31 August 2023

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DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Board of Directors

Harry Fehily (Chairman)
Loretta Brennan Glucksman (USA)
Rose Hynes
Paul Kimball (USA)
Dr James McCarron (USA)
Michael O'Keefe (USA)
Ralph Parkes
Daniel Tierney
Michael Tiernan
Dr Edward Walsh
Patrick Gerard Boland
Kathleen O'Toole (USA)
Richard Meaney
James Normile (USA)
Mark Kennelly
Kerstin Mey
Anne Alexis Cote Taylor (USA)
Cian Cotter (USA)
Brigid Laffan

Chief Executive Officer

Harvey Duthie (resigned 31 March 2023)

Secretary and Registered Office

Niall Murphy
Plassey House
University of Limerick
Plassey Technological Park
Limerick

Registered Number:

147116

Charitable Status Number:

CHY 9688

Registered Charity Number:

20024260

Independent Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
One Bank Place
Charlotte's Quay
Limerick
V94 HT2Y

Solicitors

Holmes O'Malley Sexton
Bishopsgate
Henry Street
Limerick

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
International Banking Division
Baggott Street
Dublin 4

Bank of Ireland
University Branch
Plassey
Limerick

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements of The University of Limerick Foundation ("the company") for the financial year ended 31 August 2023.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law.

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

Under Irish law, the directors shall not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the company's assets, liabilities and financial position as at the end of the financial year and the profit or loss of the company for the financial year.

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

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

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

- correctly record and explain the transactions of the company;
- enable, at any time, the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy; and
- enable the directors to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable those financial statements to be audited.

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

Legal status

The University of Limerick Foundation ("the company") is a company limited by guarantee. The liability of the members (of which there are 7) in the event of a winding up is limited to €1.27 each. The guarantee continues for one year after membership of the company ceases.

The company has been granted charitable exemption by the Revenue Commissioners.

Principal activities and business review

The company's principal activity is the furtherance of education and research, in particular the furtherance of education and research carried out by the University of Limerick and other educational, research and development bodies associated with the University of Limerick. The directors consider any events that could lead to a substantial reduction in donations and income received as the principal risk faced by the company. The directors are satisfied that there are relationships in place and being developed at present that mitigate this risk.

The Foundation continued to support the University throughout the year in its missions of education, and research and this included supporting UL's new Immersive Software Engineering Programme, professorships in the Bernal Institute and the awarding of scholarships and bursaries. It also continued to collaborate with the University on a number of development projects including the establishment of the Strategic Development Zone on the North Campus, and is supportive of the University recalibrating its Strategic Plan under the leadership of the President, Professor Kerstin Mey.

Income is derived from donations and gifts received for the year amounting to €2,130,234 (2022: €2,641,928).

Governance

The Board comprises of 20 directors and brings a range of relevant experience and expertise to the company. Board members do not receive any remuneration for their services and are supported by the following sub-committees:

Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

The Audit, Finance and Risk Committee monitors risk, conducts an overview of the company's annual budgets, management financial statements and internal financial control systems. It liaises with the company's external auditors and conducts a review of the company's annual financial statements and directors report.

Remuneration and Benefits Committee

The Remuneration and Benefits Committee is charged with monitoring the appropriateness and relevance of remuneration for senior management and its application.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the company's obligation to keep adequate accounting records are the use of appropriate systems and procedures and employment of competent persons. The accounting records are kept at Plassey House, University of Limerick, National Technological Park, Limerick.



Results
The company's deficit for the financial year was €44,809 (2022: surplus €162,511).

Future developments
The directors foresee no significant changes in the principal activities of the company in the foreseeable future.

Disclosure of information to auditors
The directors in office at the date of this report have each confirmed that:

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

Directors and secretary
The Constitution of the Company require the directors to retire by rotation. The names of the persons who were directors at any time during the year ended 31 August 2023 and since the year end are set out below. Unless indicated otherwise they served as directors for the entire year.

Directors:
Loretta Brennan Glucksman (USA)
Harry Fehily (Chairman)
Rose Hynes
Paul Kimball (USA)
Dr James McCarron (USA)
Michael O'Keefe (USA)
Paul O'Connell (resigned 30 April 2024)
Ralph Parkes
Daniel Tierney
Michael Tiernan
Dr Edward Walsh
Patrick Gerard Boland
Kathleen O'Toole (USA)
Richard Meaney
Mary Harney (resigned 14 February 2024)
James Normile (USA)
Michael Noonan (resigned 7 November 2023)
Mark Kennelly
Daniel Geary (resigned 25 April 2024)
Kerstin Mey
Anne Alexis Cote Taylor (appointed 21 October 2022)
Cian Cotter (USA) (appointed 16 June 2023)
Brigid Laffan (appointed 23 April 2024)

Events since the balance sheet date
There have been no significant events since the balance sheet date.

Statutory auditors
The statutory auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, have indicated their willingness to continue in office, and a resolution that they be re-appointed will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of the board

Harry Fehily
Chairman

Gerry Boland
Director

20 May 2024



Independent auditors' report to the members of The University of Limerick Foundation

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, The University of Limerick Foundation's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the company's assets, liabilities and financial position as at 31 August 2023 and of its loss and cash flows for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council of the UK, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Irish law); and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report, which comprise:

- the balance sheet as at 31 August 2023;
- the income and expenditure account for the year then ended;
- the cash flow statement for the year then ended;
- the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of the accounting policies.

Basis for opinion

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

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

Independence

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

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

Reporting on other information

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

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

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

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

- In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Directors' Report for the year ended 31 August 2023 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.
- Based on our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements
As explained more fully in the Statement of directors' responsibilities set out on page 3, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

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

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

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

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

Other required reporting

Companies Act 2014 opinions on other matters

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Other exception reporting

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

Maria O'Connell
for and on behalf of **PricewaterhouseCoopers**
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Limerick
21 May 2024



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the financial year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Income	5	2,130,234	2,641,928
Other operating income			
Gain on market value of investments	8	173,804	213,672
Expenditure			
Fundraising, publicity and administration		(751,204)	(731,149)
Research and development grants		(1,597,643)	(1,961,940)
		(2,348,847)	(2,693,089)
Deficit/(surplus) for the financial year	**6**	**(44,809)**	**162,511**

All amounts above relate to continuing operations.

The company had no comprehensive income apart from that reflected in the income and expenditure account above and, therefore, no separate statement of comprehensive income is presented.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed assets			
Financial assets	8	11,978,068	7,190,524
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		11,390,652	16,529,093
Debtors	9	122,246	102,642
		11,512,898	**16,631,735**
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	10	(8,753,223)	(9,147,207)
Net current assets		**2,759,675**	**7,484,528**
Net assets		**14,737,743**	**14,675,052**
Permanent endowment fund	13	12,810,345	12,748,690
Venture capital fund	13	575,533	542,492
Income and expenditure account	13	1,351,865	1,383,870
Total equity	**13**	**14,737,743**	**14,675,052**

On behalf of the board

Harry Fehily
Chairman

Gerry Boland
Director

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the financial year ended 31 August 2023

	Venture capital fund	Permanent endowment fund	Income and expenditure account	Total equity
	€	€	€	€
Balance at 31 August 2021	545,454	7,720,049	1,247,038	9,512,541
Investment (loss)/gains for the financial year	(2,962)	216,633	-	213,671
Endowment funds received in year	-	5,000,000	-	5,000,000
Endowment payments for the financial year	-	(187,992)	-	(187,992)
Surplus for the financial year	-	-	136,832	136,832
Total comprehensive income for the financial year	(2,962)	5,028,641	136,832	5,162,511
Balance at 31 August 2022	**542,492**	**12,748,690**	**1,383,870**	**14,675,052**
Investment gains for the financial year	33,041	140,763	-	173,804
Endowment funds received in year	-	107,500	-	107,500
Endowment payments for the financial year	-	(186,608)	-	(186,608)
Loss for the financial year	-	-	(32,005)	(32,005)
Total comprehensive income for the financial year	33,041	61,655	(32,005)	62,691
Balance at 31 August 2023	**575,533**	**12,810,345**	**1,351,865**	**14,737,743**

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the financial year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Cash used in operations	12	(632,201)	(1,514,020)
Income taxes paid		-	-
Net cash used in operating activities		(632,201)	(1,514,020)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Endowment grant received		107,500	5,000,000
Proceeds from disposal of financial asset	8	-	860,592
Purchase of financial asset	8	(4,613,740)	(13,282)
Net cash (used in)/generated from investing activities		**(4,506,240)**	**5,847,310**
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(5,138,441)	4,333,290
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		16,529,093	12,195,803
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August		**11,390,652**	**16,529,093**
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		11,390,652	16,529,093
Cash and cash equivalents		**11,390,652**	**16,529,093**





NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 General information

The University of Limerick Foundation ("the company") is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in the Republic of Ireland under the registered number 147116. The address of its registered office is Plassey House, University of Limerick, National Technological Park, Limerick. The company's principal activity is the furtherance of education and research, in particular the furtherance of education and research carried out by the University of Limerick and other educational, research and development bodies associated with the University of Limerick.

At 31 August 2023 there were 8 guarantors whose guarantee is limited to €1.27 each. The guarantee continues for one year after membership of the company ceases.

2 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with accounting standards issued by the UK Financial Reporting Council and the Companies Act 2014. The financial statements comply with Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102").

3 Summary of significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies used in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires the use of certain key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the financial year. It also requires the directors to exercise judgement in the process of applying the company's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or areas where assumptions and estimates have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are disclosed in note 4.

(b) Going concern

The company meets its day-to-day working capital requirements from donations received. After making enquiries, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Therefore these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

(c) Income

Income comprises donations and income on investments.

Donations received that have performance obligations attached are accounted for on an accruals basis. Donations are deferred to the balance sheet until such time as the performance related criteria have been met. Uncommitted donations are recognised on a cash receipts basis.

The use of income earned by the permanent endowment fund is restricted to certain types of expenditure. The excess of this income over expenditure is transferred to the permanent endowment fund.

(d) Receipts in kind

No value is attributed to donations received in kind from the University of Limerick and other third parties.

(e) Taxation

There is no charge to taxation as the company has been granted charitable exemption by the Revenue Commissioners.

(f) Financial assets and investments

Financial assets and investments are held at fair value. Changes in fair values are presented in the income and expenditure account.

(g) Foreign currencies

Income and expenses arising in foreign currencies are translated into Euro at the exchange rate ruling on the dates of the transactions.

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into Euro at the rate ruling at the balance sheet date. All exchange differences arising during the year are dealt within the income and expenditure account.

(h) Employee benefits

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

(i) Short term employee benefits

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

(ii) Post-employment benefits

Pension benefits are funded over each relevant employees' service life by way of contributions to a separately administered fund. Annual contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year to which they relate.

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less. Cash and cash equivalents are initially measured at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Bank deposits which have original maturities of more than three months are not cash and cash equivalents and are presented as short term investments.

(j) Financial instruments

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

(i) Financial assets

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

Trade and other debtors, cash and cash equivalents, investments and financial assets from arrangements which constitute financing transactions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

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

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

Financial assets are derecognised when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or (b) substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred to another party or (c) control of the financial asset has been transferred to another party who has the practical ability to unilaterally sell the financial asset to an unrelated third party without imposing additional restrictions.

(ii) Financial liabilities

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

Trade and other creditors and financial liability from arrangements which constitute financing transactions are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade creditors are classified as due within one year if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as falling due after more than one year. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the liability is extinguished, that is when the contractual obligation is discharged, cancelled or expires.

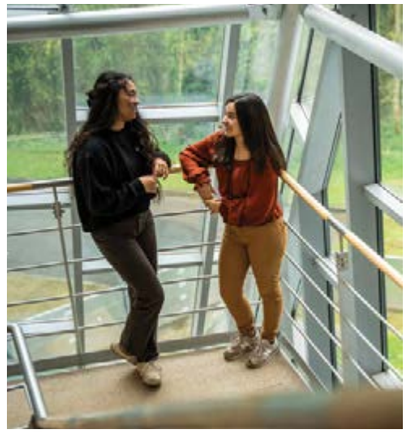
4 Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the entity financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will be definition seldom equate to the related actual results. There are no estimates or assumptions that are considered to have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements.

5 Income

	2023 €	2022 €
Unrestricted	719,200	867,980
Restricted	1,411,034	1,773,948
	2,130,234	**2,641,928**
Income analysis:		
Grants received	1,183,691	2,041,446
Grants deferred	498,843	154,089
Related party contributions (note 14) & other income	447,700	446,393
	2,130,234	**2,641,928**





6 (Deficit)/surplus for the financial year

	2023 €	2022 €
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year is stated after charging:		
Wages and salaries	300,769	349,604
Social insurance	36,056	39,030
Pension costs	42,727	53,524
	379,552	**442,158**
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Auditors' remuneration	11,400	10,300

7 Employee information

	2023 Number	2022 Number
(i) The average number of persons employed during the year (including shared employees), was:		
Management and administration	4	4

(ii) Key management compensation

The compensation paid or payable to key management for employee services is shown below. Compensation paid and payable includes salaries, social insurance costs and post employment benefits.

	2023 €	2022 €
Senior management	138,659	244,970
Total key management compensation	**138,659**	**244,970**

8 Financial assets

	Managed funds €	BOI seed funds €	Total €
Financial year ended 31 August 2022			
At 1 September 2021	7,445,494	378,668	7,824,162
Divested	(750,000)	(110,592)	(860,592)
Invested	-	13,282	13,282
Fair value gain/(loss) on investments	216,633	(2,961)	213,672
At 31 August 2022	**6,912,127**	**278,397**	**7,190,524**
Financial year ended 31 August 2023			
At 1 September 2022	6,912,127	278,397	7,190,524
Invested	4,607,500	6,240	4,613,740
Fair value gain on investments	140,763	33,041	173,804
At 31 August 2023	**11,660,390**	**317,678**	**11,978,068**

Financial assets represent an investment in the Bank of Ireland Seed and Early Stage Equity Fund together with managed funds, which include investment in equity and bonds, operated by Davy Private Clients and IQ EQ Fund Management. The carrying values of the investments are as follows:

	2023 €	2022 €
BOI Seed and Early Stage Equity Funds	317,678	278,397
Davy Fund	7,122,194	6,912,127
IQ EQ Fund Management (Ireland) Limited	4,538,196	-
	11,978,068	**7,190,524**

The company together with a number of project partners, entered into a Limited Partnership Agreement in respect of the Bank of Ireland Seed and Early Stage Equity Fund in 2009, whereby it committed €1 million to the fund. The fund consists of investments in a number of high potential start-up unlisted entities.

9 Debtors - amounts falling due within one year

	2023 €	2022 €
Debtors and other receivables	97,246	72,365
Value added tax recoverable	-	920
Amounts due from related party	25,000	29,357
	122,246	**102,642**

10 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2023 €	2022 €
Deferred income (note 11)	8,489,013	8,987,856
Accruals	62,532	82,127
Trade creditors	20,932	65,397
Amounts owed to related parties (note 14)	174,633	54
Other creditors including tax and social insurance	6,113	11,773
	8,753,223	**9,147,207**
Other creditors including tax and social insurance comprise:		
Income tax deducted under PAYE	3,489	7,726
Pay related social insurance	2,624	4,047
	6,113	**11,773**

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

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

Amounts owed to related parties are unsecured, interest free, have no fixed repayment date and are repayable on demand.

11 Deferred income

	2023 €	2022 €
At 1 September	8,987,856	8,944,964
Additions during the year	910,842	1,618,560
Released during the year	(1,409,685)	(1,575,668)
At 30 August	**8,489,013**	**8,987,856**

Deferred income represents performance related donations received and paid during the year.

12 Cash from operations

	2023 €	2022 €
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year	(44,809)	162,511
Tax	-	-
(Deficit)/surplus before tax	**(44,809)**	**162,511**
Working capital movements		
– decrease in creditors	(393,984)	(1,487,753)
– (increase)/decrease in debtors	(19,604)	24,894
Gain on investments	(173,804)	(213,672)
Cash flow (used in) operating activities	**(632,201)**	**(1,514,020)**

13 Total equity

A description of the nature of each component of equity is provided below.

The movement in each component of equity in the current and previous financial year is provided in the Statement of Changes in Equity.

Venture capital fund
This represents funds allocated specifically for investment in domestic start up operations. Movements represent additional amounts invested, gains or losses on market value and/or on disposals of any of these investments.

Permanent endowment fund
This represents monies received to provide for a permanent endowment to fund scholarships and other activities in the University of Limerick on an annual basis.

Income and expenditure account
This represents the accumulated unrestricted surplus from the entity's operations.

14 Related party transactions

During the year the company received donations and other income in respect of fundraising events in the amount of €447,700 (2022: €446,393) from directors of the company and related parties. Amounts of €174,633 (2022: €54) were recorded as owed to University of Limerick at 31 August 2023 and amounts of €25,000 (2022: €29,357) were recorded as being owed from University of Limerick at 31 August 2023.

15 Events since the end of the financial year

There have been no significant events since the balance sheet date.

16 Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 20 May and were signed on its behalf on that date.





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