



**ombudsman
do leanaí
for children**

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN'S OFFICE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2016

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN'S OFFICE

General Information

For the year ended 31 December 2016

Ombudsman for Children

Dr. Niall Muldoon

Head Office

Millennium House

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Bankers

Ulster Bank

O'Connell Street

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Auditors

The Comptroller and Auditor General

3A Mayor Street Upper

Dublin 1

Ireland

Solicitors

Ronan Daly Jermyn Solicitors

12 South Mall

Cork

Augustus Cullen

7 Wentworth Place

Wicklow

St. John Solicitors

6 Manor Park

Manor Street

Dublin 7

Accountants

Crowleys DPK

16/17 College Green

Dublin 2

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN'S OFFICE

Statement on Internal Financial Control

Responsibility for system of Internal Financial Control

I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated.

The system of internal financial control can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material error or other irregularities are either prevented or would be detected on a timely basis.

Control Environment

The following steps have been taken to ensure an appropriate control environment:

- decisions on expenditure rest with the Ombudsman for Children, Director of Investigations and/or the Director of Corporate Services as appropriate;
- management responsibilities are clearly assigned and communicated between the Ombudsman for Children and the Director of Corporate Services;
- internal reporting relationships are clearly assigned.

Risk Management

The Ombudsman for Children has established processes to identify and evaluate financial risks by:

- identifying the nature and extent of financial risks facing the office;
- assessing the potential of identified risks occurring;
- evaluating and assessing the internal capacity of the office to manage and mitigate the risks that do occur.



Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Ombudsman for Children

I have audited the financial statements of the Ombudsman for Children for the year ended 31 December 2016 under the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002. The financial statements comprise the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and the related notes. The financial statements have been prepared in the form prescribed under Section 17 of the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Responsibilities of the Ombudsman

The Ombudsman is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements, for ensuring that they give a true and fair view and for ensuring the regularity of transactions.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements and to report on them in accordance with applicable law.

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation.

My audit is carried out in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and in compliance with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Ombudsman for Children's circumstances, and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made in the preparation of the financial statements, and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I also seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit.

Opinion on the financial statements

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Ombudsman for Children as at 31 December 2016 and of its income and expenditure for 2016; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

In my opinion, the accounting records of the Ombudsman for Children were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which I report by exception

I report by exception if I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or if I find

- any material instance where money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them, or
- the statement on internal financial control does not reflect the Ombudsman for Children's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, or
- there are other material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I have nothing to report in regard to those matters upon which reporting is by exception.

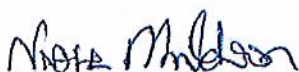
John Crean
For and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General
8 December 2017

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN'S OFFICE

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2016

	Notes	2016 €	2015 €
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Property, plant and equipment	12	46,407	38,109
<u>Current assets</u>			
Receivables and prepayments	13	18,470	28,044
Cash and cash equivalents		<u>124,354</u>	<u>182,145</u>
		142,824	210,189
<u>Current liabilities</u>			
<u>(Amounts falling due within 1 year)</u>			
Payables	14	<u>(140,670)</u>	<u>(94,226)</u>
Net Current Assets		2,154	115,963
Total Net Assets		<u>48,561</u>	<u>154,072</u>
<u>Representing</u>			
Retained revenue reserve		2,154	115,963
Capital Account	15	<u>46,407</u>	<u>38,109</u>
		<u>48,561</u>	<u>154,072</u>

The Statement of Cash Flows and notes 1-19 form part of these financial statements.



Dr. Niall Muldoon
Ombudsman for Children

Date: 04/12/17

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN'S OFFICE

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2016

1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by the Ombudsman for Children's Office are set out below. They have been applied consistently throughout the year and for the preceding year.

General Information

The Ombudsman for Children's Office was set up in 2004 under the Ombudsman for Children Act, 2002, with a head office at Millennium House, 52-56 Great Strand Street, Dublin 1.

Under the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002, the Ombudsman for Children has two main roles; to look into complaints made by or for children and young people about the actions of public organisations and to promote the rights and welfare of children and young people under 18 years old living in Ireland.

Statement of Compliance

The financial statements of the Ombudsman for Children's Office for the year ended 31 December 2016 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities that are measured at fair values as explained in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs with the concurrence of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform under the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002.

The financial statements are prepared in Euro which is the functional currency of the Ombudsman for Children's Office. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Ombudsman for Children's financial statements.

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN'S OFFICE

**Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2016**

Accounting Policies (continued)

Foreign Currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rates ruling at the Balance Sheet date. Revenues and costs are translated at the exchange rates ruling at the dates of the underlying transactions. Profits and losses arising from foreign currency translations and on settlement of amounts receivable and payable are dealt with in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Operating Leases

Rental expenditure under operating leases is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves over the life of the lease. Expenditure is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease period, except where there are rental increases linked to the expected rate of inflation, in which case these increases are recognised when incurred. Any lease incentives received are recognised over the life of the lease.

Employee Benefits

Short-term Benefits

Short term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the year, and benefits that are accrued at year-end are included in the Payables figure in the Statement of Financial Position.

Pensions

The employees of the Office of the Ombudsman for Children are civil servants and are members of a defined benefits scheme which is unfunded and is administered by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

The Ombudsman for Children Act 2002 provides that the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, may make and carry out a superannuation scheme in respect of the Ombudsman for Children. Pending finalisation of the scheme by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, a scheme based on the civil service model is being operated on an administrative basis. Accordingly, the financial statements do not recognise pension costs and liabilities in respect of the Ombudsman.

The Office of the Ombudsman for Children also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN'S OFFICE

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2016

2. Grant

	2016	2015
	€	€
Grant towards Administration – Department of Children and Youth Affairs - Vote 40; Subhead C.7.	<u>1,800,000</u>	<u>1,650,000</u>

3. Superannuation Contributions

The €27,311 brought to account in 2016 is in respect of deductions made in the accounting year. The €23,456 brought to account in 2015 is in respect of deductions made in 2015. By direction of the Minister the superannuation deductions of staff who commenced prior to 1 January 2013 are retained by the Ombudsman for Children's Office. €27,311 was retained in 2016 (€ 23,456 in 2015). Staff who commenced after 1 January 2013 are members of the Single Public Sector Pension Scheme and their contributions are remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The amounts to be remitted in respect of 2016 was €7,725 (2015 €528).

4. Other Income

	2016	2015
	€	€
Secondment Income	<u>-</u>	<u>56,782</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>56,782</u>

5. Staff Costs and Employee Information

	2016	2015
	€	€
Staff Payroll Costs		
Staff costs	830,098	681,560
Temporary Staff Costs	31,612	34,774
Staff Related Expenses		
Domestic Travel and Subsistence	15,416	10,086
Foreign Travel and Subsistence	9,399	6,538
Total Staff Costs	<u>886,525</u>	<u>732,958</u>

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN'S OFFICE

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2016

8. Office Administration Expenses	2016	2015
	€	€
Depreciation	15,942	17,860
Legal and Compliance	25,189	28,832
Public Relations	27,134	87,977
Postal and Telephone Costs	29,085	22,737
IT and Website Costs	10,991	20,012
Advertising	2,140	4,201
Office Supplies and Machinery	3,849	3,125
Other Miscellaneous Expenses	1,551	1,901
Accountancy and Payroll	74,865	62,326
Internal audit and risk management	9,552	-
Audit	7,500	7,500
Cleaning and Catering	19,347	18,856
Training and Staff Development	17,588	8,148
Translators and Interpreter	334	593
Light and Heat	19,878	18,606
Membership Subscriptions	9,743	12,217
Bank Charges	414	339
	<u>275,102</u>	<u>315,230</u>

Included in office administration expenses are hospitality costs of €5,210 (2015: €426) of which €3,751 related to external events held by the Ombudsman.

9. Research and Policy	2016	2015
	€	€
Research Costs	<u>9,225</u>	<u>12,585</u>
	<u>9,225</u>	<u>12,585</u>

Research costs comprise of research projects and surveys initiated by the Ombudsman for Children's Office, carried out by external parties.

10. Complaints and Investigations	2016	2015
	€	€
Investigations/complaints	324,049	241,053
Complaints and investigations process review	<u>12,300</u>	-
	<u>336,349</u>	<u>241,053</u>

Costs comprise of fees paid to a panel of subject matter specialists, assembled to support the Ombudsman for Children in carrying his/her statutory investigatory functions.

OMBUDSMAN FOR CHILDREN'S OFFICE

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2016

13. Receivables and Prepayments

	2016 €	2015 €
Prepayments	18,470	13,318
Accrued Income	-	14,726
	<u>18,470</u>	<u>28,044</u>

14. Payables and Accruals

	2016 €	2015 €
Amounts falling due within one year		
PAYE/PRSI	32,471	28,453
PSWT	18,868	11,297
Accrued expenses (Pay)	12,970	9,224
Accrued expenses (Non-Pay)	67,794	35,824
Other creditors	8,567	9,428
	<u>140,670</u>	<u>94,226</u>

Interest accrues on late payment. No interest was due at the financial year end date.

15. Capital Account

	2016 €	2015 €
As at 1st January	38,109	46,127
Allocated to purchase fixed assets	24,240	9,842
Amount amortised in line with asset depreciation	(15,942)	(17,860)
Transfer (to)/ from Income and Expenditure account	8,298	(8,018)
	<u>46,407</u>	<u>38,109</u>
Balance at 31 December		