

# Financial

Law Society of Ireland Reports and Consolidated Financial Statements for  
the financial year ended **31 December 2024**



## **The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries**

### **Finance committee's Responsibilities Statement For the financial year ended 31 December 2024**

The Finance Committee is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The Finance Committee has elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland ("relevant financial reporting framework"). The Finance Committee must not approve the financial statements unless it is satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Group and the Society as at the financial year end date, and of the Group's surplus or deficit for the financial year.

In preparing each of the group and company financial statements, the finance committee is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Group's financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Group will continue in business.

The finance committee is responsible for ensuring that the Group keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Group and Company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Group to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Finance committee's Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The finance committee is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Group's website. Legislation in Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

#### Report on the audit of the financial statements

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries (the 'parent Company') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the financial year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise the Group Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Group and Company Balance Sheets, the Group Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 1. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion:

- the Group financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2024 and of its profit for the financial year then ended;
- the Company Balance Sheet gives a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2024;
- the Group financial statements and Company financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- the Group financial statements and Company financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

##### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group and the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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 Group's or the parent Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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



## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries (continued)

#### Other information

The finance committee is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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 such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in 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 in this regard.

#### Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the members, were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and the Company Balance Sheet is in agreement with the accounting records.

#### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Group and the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of director's remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### Respective responsibilities and restrictions on use

##### Responsibilities of the finance committee

As explained more fully in the Finance committee's Responsibilities Statement on page 1, the finance committee is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the finance committee determines 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 finance committee is responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent 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 management either intends to liquidate the Group or the parent Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries (continued)

#### 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 consolidated financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: [https://iaasa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Description\\_of\\_auditors\\_responsibilities\\_for\\_audit.pdf](https://iaasa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

#### The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the members of the members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the members, those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members, and the members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Stewart Dunne

for and on behalf of

**BDO**

Statutory Audit Firm

Miesian Plaza

50-58 Baggot Street Lower

Dublin 2

D02 Y754

29 May 2025

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income  
For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
Turnover	3	36,756,927	36,355,719
Administrative expenses	4	(36,705,799)	(35,650,945)
<b>Surplus before revaluations, exceptional items and taxation</b>		<b>51,128</b>	<b>704,774</b>
Fair value gain arising on revaluation of investments		1,343,652	1,021,423
Fair value gain/(loss) on revaluation of development land	6,8	2,750,000	(8,750,000)
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before taxation</b>		<b>4,144,780</b>	<b>(7,023,803)</b>
Taxation	7	(844,258)	(93,619)
<b>Surplus/(deficit) after taxation</b>	14	<b>3,300,522</b>	<b>(7,117,422)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Actuarial gain on defined-pension benefit liability	17	2,362,000	202,000
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the financial financial year</b>		<b>5,662,522</b>	<b>(6,915,422)</b>

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2024 or 2023 other than those included in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Consolidated Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	8	30,904,776	27,307,728
		<u>30,904,776</u>	<u>27,307,728</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Investments	9	27,110,110	25,766,457
Stocks	10	46,398	69,253
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	2,807,786	2,674,099
Cash at bank and in hand	11	16,904,050	21,557,805
		<u>46,868,344</u>	<u>50,067,614</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(19,454,555)	(22,639,625)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>27,413,789</u>	<u>27,427,989</u>
Deferred taxation	16	(514,830)	-
		<u>(514,830)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension surplus/(liability)</b>		<u>57,803,735</u>	<u>54,735,717</u>
Pension surplus/(liability)	17	3,873,000	1,279,000
<b>Net assets including pension surplus/(liability)</b>		<u>61,676,735</u>	<u>56,014,717</u>
<b>Accumulated Reserves</b>			
Accumulated reserves		61,676,735	56,014,717
<b>Total</b>	14	<u>61,676,735</u>	<u>56,014,717</u>

The financial statements were approved:

.....  
**Rosemarie Loftus**  
Chairperson of the Finance Committee

.....  
**Eamon Harrington**  
President of the Law Society of Ireland

Date: 29 May 2025

The notes on pages 10 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

Company Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	8	16,704,860	16,051,484
		<u>16,704,860</u>	<u>16,051,484</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Investments	9	27,110,110	25,766,457
Stocks	10	39,042	57,745
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	17,691,250	14,049,460
Cash at bank and in hand	11	16,569,285	21,362,540
		<u>61,409,687</u>	<u>61,236,202</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(19,482,876)	(22,796,824)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>41,926,811</u>	<u>38,439,378</u>
<b>Provisions for liabilities</b>			
Deferred taxation	16	(514,830)	-
		<u>(514,830)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension surplus/(liability)</b>		<u>58,116,841</u>	<u>54,490,862</u>
Pension surplus/(liability)	17	3,873,000	1,279,000
<b>Net assets including pension surplus/(liability)</b>		<u>61,989,841</u>	<u>55,769,862</u>
<b>Accumulated Reserves</b>			
Accumulated reserves	14	61,989,841	55,769,862
<b>Total</b>		<u>61,989,841</u>	<u>55,769,862</u>

The financial statements were approved:

.....  
**Rosemarie Loftus**  
 Finance committee

.....  
**Eamon Harrington**  
 Finance committee

Date: 29 May 2025

The notes on pages 10 to 29 form part of these financial statements.



## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Profit/(loss) for the financial year		4,144,780	(7,023,803)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>			
Depreciation of tangible assets		1,396,193	1,385,822
Interest received		(133,883)	(57,400)
Fair value movements - Investments		(1,343,652)	(1,021,423)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		22,856	18,149
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(133,689)	264,500
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		1,077,743	(102,707)
(Decrease)/increase in amount due to Compensation Fund		(4,263,316)	-
Corporation tax (paid)		(329,428)	(93,619)
Actuarial pension gain		2,362,000	-
(Decrease)/increase in net pension assets/liabs		(2,594,000)	(552,000)
Net fair value (gains)/losses recognised in P&L		(2,750,000)	8,750,000
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>		<b>(2,544,396)</b>	<b>1,567,519</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Interest receivable		133,883	57,400
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	8	(2,243,242)	(982,381)
Purchase of investments	9	-	(1,000,000)
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>		<b>(2,109,359)</b>	<b>(1,924,981)</b>
<b>Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(4,653,755)</b>	<b>(357,462)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		21,557,805	21,915,267
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year</b>		<b>16,904,050</b>	<b>21,557,805</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of financial year comprise:</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		16,904,050	21,557,805
		<b>16,904,050</b>	<b>21,557,805</b>

The notes on pages 10 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

The reduction in the Cash at Bank balance is attributable to the transfer of money collected via the Practising Certificate Fee to the Compensation Fund. This is cash that the Law Society was previously holding on behalf of the Compensation Fund.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Consolidated Analysis of Net Debt For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	At 1 January 2024 €	Cash flows €	At 31 December 2024 €
Cash at bank and in hand	21,557,805	(4,653,755)	16,904,050
Liquid investments	25,766,457	1,343,653	27,110,110
	<u>47,324,262</u>	<u>(3,310,102)</u>	<u>44,014,160</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 1. Accounting policies

##### Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out below.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

##### General Information and Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The Law Society of Ireland is incorporated by Charter and its principal place of business is Blackhall Place, Dublin 7. The Law Society of Ireland's primary business functions are representation, education and regulation of solicitors in the Republic of Ireland.

The functional currency of the Law Society of Ireland is considered to be euro, because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Law Society operates.

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Law Society of Ireland and the financial statements of its subsidiary undertakings, as detailed in note 19.

##### Basis of Consolidation

The Law Society consolidates its interests in subsidiary undertakings as detailed in note 19, which make up the financial statements to 31 December 2024.

##### Going concern

The Law Society's forecasts and projections, taking account of reasonable possible changes in performance, show that the Law Society will be able to operate within the level of its current cash and investment resources. The Finance Committee of the Law Society has a reasonable expectation that the Law Society has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Consequently, it continues to adopt the going-concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

##### Income

Income is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income in the year to which it relates. Course fee income received in advance of course participation is deferred and disclosed as deferred income in the balance sheet.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Development land, which is included in Group tangible fixed assets, is measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value annually, with any change recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Earnings.

All other fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at the rates shown below, which are estimated to reduce the assets to their residual values of nil by the end of their expected useful lives. Land is not depreciated.

Premises	: 2% per annum
Furniture, fittings, and equipment	: 20% per annum
Leasehold improvements	: 20% per annum
IT equipment	: 20% - 33% per annum
Motor vehicles	: 25% per annum
Land	: No depreciation

#### Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Law Society becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into.

##### **Financial assets and liabilities**

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified at fair value through the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Earnings, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the balance sheet when, and only when, there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Law Society intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, (b) the Law Society transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or (c) the Law Society, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled, or expires.

##### **(i) Investments**

Investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised through the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Earnings. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### Financial Instruments (continued)

##### *(ii) Fair value measurement*

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

#### Publications

Costs relating to the purchase or creation of publications, including books, electronic information, and library additions are written off in the year in which they are incurred.

#### Retirement benefits

For defined-benefit schemes, the amounts charged to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Earnings are the costs arising from employee services rendered during the period and the cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. The net interest cost on the net defined liability is charged to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Earnings. Re-measurement comprising actuarial gains and losses and the return on scheme (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined-benefit liability) are recognised immediately in other comprehensive income.

A defined-benefit scheme is funded, with the assets of the scheme held separately from those of the Law Society, in separate trustee-administered funds. Pension-scheme assets are measured at fair value, and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the prospective benefits method. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance-sheet date.

For the defined contribution scheme, the amount charged to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Earnings in respect of pension costs and other post-retirement benefits is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

#### Exceptional items

Income and expenditure not received or incurred in the normal course of the Law Society's business are charged to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Earnings as exceptional items. Non-operational liabilities assumed by the Law Society during the year are also charged as exceptional items. Where there is an asset to match such a liability, in whole or in part, the net amount is charged to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Earnings.

#### Taxation

Current tax is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance-sheet date.

The Law Society is chargeable to taxation on bank and other interest, investment gains, and on net surpluses arising from certain activities, such as publishing and courses, to the extent that they relate to transactions with non-members.



## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### Taxation (continued)

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance-sheet 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 balance-sheet date. Timing differences are differences arising between the Law Society's taxable profits and its results as stated in the financial statements, and the gains and losses calculated in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that, on the basis of all available evidence, it can be regarded as, more likely than not, that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

#### Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell, which is equivalent to the net realisable value. Cost includes all expenditure that has been incurred in the normal course of business in bringing them to their present location and condition.

#### Grants

Revenue-based grants are credited to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Earnings in the period in which the grant is receivable to match income and expenditure.

## 2. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Law Society of Ireland's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the Finance Committee members are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. 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.

The following are the critical judgements and estimates that the Finance Committee has made in the process of applying the Law Society's accounting policies:

#### Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

The Law Society has a defined-benefit pension scheme in operation for staff who joined the scheme prior to 30 September 2009. There are estimates with respect to certain key assumptions made in calculating the actuarial liability relating to the scheme, including the discount rate, inflation, and mortality rates, as disclosed in note 19 to the financial statements.

#### Development Land

The valuation of development land is based on the outcome of the related calculations of the land's net realisable value. These calculations are based on assumptions relating to future market developments, interest rates, and future cost and price increases. The Group uses external valuations to determine the net realisable value.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 3. Turnover

An analysis of turnover by class of business is as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
Fees and subscriptions	22,787,468	20,458,480
Education activities	12,179,820	14,076,633
Solicitors Services	557,432	627,362
Four courts rooms	925,399	949,058
Interest income	133,883	57,400
Subsidiary Income	109,706	132,768
Sundry income	63,219	54,018
	<b>36,756,927</b>	<b>36,355,719</b>

#### 4. Expenditure

An analysis of expenditure by class of business is as follows:

	2024 €	2023 €
General activities	22,781,292	21,610,794
Education activities	13,279,706	13,481,998
Subsidiaries	644,801	558,153
	<b>36,705,799</b>	<b>35,650,945</b>

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 5. Staff Costs

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	General activities	Subsidiaries	Total	Total
	€	€	€	€
Salaries and wages	12,700,326	63,193	12,763,519	11,953,060
PRSI	1,400,942	5,152	1,406,094	1,282,002
Pension costs	1,265,443	9,374	1,274,817	1,056,069
Total	<u>15,366,711</u>	<u>77,719</u>	<u>15,444,430</u>	<u>14,291,131</u>

The average aggregate number of FTE employees during 2024 was 167 (2023: 154).

#### Key Management Remuneration

The total remuneration for key management personnel, who consist of 8 Directors and 9 Section Heads/Managers, for the financial year totalled €2,147,076 (2023: €2,059,307). Remuneration includes salary, social security costs and pension costs.

#### 6. REVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENT LAND

The development land, included in tangible fixed assets, was valued at €14,000,000 by qualified external valuers Mason Owen & Lyons on a fair value basis at 31 December 2024.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 7. Taxation

	2024 €	2023 €
<b>Corporation tax</b>		
Current tax on surplus for the year	141,353	93,619
Tax on disposal of investments	188,075	-
	<u>329,428</u>	<u>93,619</u>
<b>Total current tax</b>	<u>329,428</u>	<u>93,619</u>
<b>Deferred tax</b>		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	514,830	-
<b>Total deferred tax</b>	<u>514,830</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>844,258</u>	<u>93,619</u>

#### Factors affecting tax charge for the financial year/year

The tax assessed for the financial year is higher than (2023 - *higher than*) the standard rate of corporation tax in Ireland of 12.5% (2023 - 12.5%). The differences are explained below:

	2024 €	2023 €
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before tax	<u>4,144,780</u>	<u>(7,023,803)</u>
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities multiplied by standard rate of corporation tax in Ireland of 12.5% (2023 - 12.5%)	518,098	(877,975)
<b>Effects of:</b>		
Capital allowances for financial year in excess of depreciation	42,258	388,692
Higher tax rates on interest and rental income	292,397	12,386
Short-term timing difference leading to an increase in taxation	514,830	-
Non-taxable income less expenses not deductible for tax purposes, other than goodwill and impairment	(523,325)	570,516
<b>Total tax charge for the financial year/year</b>	<u>844,258</u>	<u>93,619</u>

#### Factors that may affect future tax charges

There were no factors that may affect future tax charges.

**The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the financial year ended 31 December 2024**

**8. Tangible fixed assets**

Group	Premises €	Development land €	Leasehold improvements €	Furniture, fittings & equipment €	IT equipment €	Motor vehicles €	Total €
<b>Cost or valuation</b>							
At 1 January 2024	22,787,126	11,250,000	2,319,245	6,870,717	9,374,972	99,450	52,701,510
Additions	146,866	189,631	419,471	449,638	1,037,636	-	2,243,242
Revaluations	-	2,750,000	-	-	-	-	2,750,000
At 31 December 2024	22,933,992	14,189,631	2,738,716	7,320,355	10,412,608	99,450	57,694,752
<b>Depreciation</b>							
At 1 January 2024	8,760,353	-	2,044,883	6,376,985	8,112,112	99,450	25,393,783
Charge for the financial year	458,076	-	65,025	192,241	680,851	-	1,396,193
At 31 December 2024	9,218,429	-	2,109,908	6,569,226	8,792,963	99,450	26,789,976
<b>Net book value</b>							
At 31 December 2024	13,715,563	14,189,631	628,808	751,129	1,619,645	-	30,904,776
At 31 December 2023	14,026,773	11,250,000	274,362	493,732	1,262,861	-	27,307,728

The development land was valued at €14,000,000 by qualified external valuers Mason Owen & Lyons on a fair value basis at 31 December 2024. The original cost of the development land when purchased in 2005 was €21,718,981.



## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

## Company

	Premises €	Leasehold improvements €	Furniture, fittings & equipment €	IT equipment €	Motor vehicles €	Total €
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 January 2024	22,787,126	2,319,245	6,549,659	9,374,973	99,450	41,130,453
Additions	146,866	419,471	445,596	1,037,636	-	2,049,569
At 31 December 2024	22,933,992	2,738,716	6,995,255	10,412,609	99,450	43,180,022
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 January 2024	8,760,353	2,044,883	6,062,171	8,112,112	99,450	25,078,969
Charge for the financial year on owned assets	458,076	65,025	192,241	680,851	-	1,396,193
At 31 December 2024	9,218,429	2,109,908	6,254,412	8,792,963	99,450	26,475,162
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 December 2024	13,715,563	628,808	740,843	1,619,646	-	16,704,860
At 31 December 2023	14,026,773	274,362	487,488	1,262,861	-	16,051,484

## Group and Law Society

Total assets under construction that have not been depreciated in the financial year: Premises: Nil (2023: €25,312).

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 9. Investments

Group and Law Society	2024	2023
	€	€
Balance at 1 January	25,766,457	23,745,034
Additions	-	1,000,000
Disposals	-	-
Fair value (loss)/gain	1,343,653	1,021,423
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>27,110,110</b>	<b>25,766,457</b>

The investments are comprised of the following:

- (a) JP Morgan Money Market Fund ('JPMMF')
- (b) Davy Defensive Growth Fund ('DDGF')
- (c) Davy Passive Growth Fund ('DPGF')
- (d) BNP Paribas
- (e) SRI (ESG) Global Funds ('ESGGF')

The Law Society's investments are monitored by the Investment Sub-Committee and managed in line with its Treasury and Investment Policy which is updated regularly.

#### 10. Stocks

	Group 2024 €	Group 2023 €	Company 2024 €	Company 2023 €
Finished goods and goods for resale	46,398	69,253	39,042	57,745
	<b>46,398</b>	<b>69,253</b>	<b>39,042</b>	<b>57,745</b>

There are no material differences between the replacement cost of stock and the Consolidated Balance Sheet amounts.

#### 11. Cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2024 €	Group 2023 €	Company 2024 €	Company 2023 €
Cash at bank and in hand	16,904,050	21,557,805	16,569,285	21,362,540
	<b>16,904,050</b>	<b>21,557,805</b>	<b>16,569,285</b>	<b>21,362,540</b>

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 12. Debtors

	<b>Group 2024 €</b>	<b>Group 2023 €</b>	<b>Company 2024 €</b>	<b>Company 2023 €</b>
Debtors & Prepayments	<b>2,786,265</b>	2,653,738	<b>1,957,088</b>	2,398,288
Amounts due from Law Society of Ireland Scholarship Fund	<b>21,521</b>	20,361	<b>21,521</b>	20,361
Amounts due from the Law Club of Ireland	-	-	<b>50,520</b>	-
Amounts due from Blackhall Technologies Limited	-	-	<b>705,111</b>	255,451
Amounts due from Benburb Street Property Company Limited	-	-	<b>14,957,010</b>	11,375,360
	<b>2,807,786</b>	2,674,099	<b>17,691,250</b>	14,049,460

#### 13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	<b>Group 2024 €</b>	<b>Group 2023 €</b>	<b>Company 2024 €</b>	<b>Company 2023 €</b>
Trade creditors and accruals	<b>11,177,136</b>	10,510,511	<b>11,165,368</b>	10,587,021
Amounts due to Law Society of Ireland Compensation Fund	<b>820,724</b>	5,084,040	<b>820,724</b>	5,084,040
Amounts due to the Law Club of Ireland	-	-	-	40,661
Deferred income	<b>6,729,105</b>	6,300,836	<b>6,729,105</b>	6,300,836
PAYE/PRSI	<b>623,198</b>	668,491	<b>623,198</b>	668,491
VAT	<b>104,392</b>	75,747	<b>144,481</b>	115,775
Income tax	-	-	-	-
	<b>19,454,555</b>	22,639,625	<b>19,482,876</b>	22,796,824

Deferred income represents fees for the 2025 financial year received in the financial year to 31 December 2024.

**The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For the financial year ended 31 December 2024**

**14. Accumulated Reserves**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Law Society accumulated reserves</b>	<b>Law School accumulated reserves</b>	<b>Litigation Fund</b>	<b>Capital Expenditure Fund</b>	<b>Capital Reserve Fund</b>	<b>Pension Reserve Fund</b>	<b>LSRA Levy Fund</b>
	<b>Total €</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Balance as at 01/01/2024	56,014,213	34,525,511	13,566,739	1,146,698	1,720,188	4,577,468	1,279,000
Surplus/(loss) for year	5,662,522	5,111,280	(1,293,002)	(349,595)	116,466	932,324	2,594,000
Transfers	-	(115,534)	-	406,972	(291,438)	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31/12/2024</b>	<b>61,676,735</b>	<b>39,521,257</b>	<b>12,273,737</b>	<b>1,204,075</b>	<b>1,545,216</b>	<b>5,509,792</b>	<b>3,873,000</b>
							<b>(2,250,342)</b>

<b>Law Society</b>	<b>Law Society accumulated reserves</b>	<b>Law School accumulated reserves</b>	<b>Litigation Fund</b>	<b>Capital Expenditure Fund</b>	<b>Capital Reserve Fund</b>	<b>Pension Reserve Fund</b>	<b>LSRA Levy Fund</b>
	<b>Total €</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Balance as at 01/01/2024	55,769,862	34,020,976	13,826,923	1,146,698	1,720,188	4,577,468	1,279,000
Surplus/(loss) for year	6,219,979	5,668,737	(1,293,002)	(349,595)	116,466	932,324	2,594,000
Transfers	-	(115,534)	-	406,972	(291,438)	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31/12/2024</b>	<b>61,989,841</b>	<b>39,574,179</b>	<b>12,533,921</b>	<b>1,204,075</b>	<b>1,545,216</b>	<b>5,509,792</b>	<b>3,873,000</b>
							<b>(2,250,342)</b>

**Group and Law Society**

The Finance Committee established the above funds to make prudent allocation of reserves for anticipated expenditure in these areas. On an annual basis, monies from fees and subscriptions income and interest income are allocated to these funds. Transfers between the funds represent internal transfers for projects and other income and expenditure identified by the Finance Committee as being more appropriate to particular funds or reserves.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 15. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

##### Group

The carrying value of the financial assets and liabilities are summarised by the categories below:

	2024	2023
	€	€
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
<i>Measured at fair value through the income statement Listed investments</i>		
Listed investments	27,110,110	25,766,457
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts receivable</i>		
Debtors and prepayments	2,786,265	2,653,738
Amounts owed from related undertakings	21,521	20,361
	<u>29,917,896</u>	<u>28,440,556</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts payable</i>		
Creditors and accruals	11,177,136	10,510,511
Amounts owed from related undertakings	820,724	5,084,040
	<u>11,997,860</u>	<u>15,594,551</u>

##### Law Society

The carrying value of the financial assets and liabilities are summarised by the categories below:

	2024	2023
	€	€
<b>Financial Assets</b>		
<i>Measured at fair value through the income statement</i>		
Listed investments	27,110,110	25,766,457
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts receivable</i>		
Debtors and prepayments	1,957,088	2,398,288
Amounts owed from subsidiaries	15,712,641	11,630,811
Amounts owed from related undertakings	21,521	20,361
	<u>17,691,250</u>	<u>14,049,460</u>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
<i>Measured at undiscounted amounts payable</i>		
Creditors and accruals	11,165,368	10,587,021
Amounts owed to related undertakings	820,724	5,084,040
Amounts owed to subsidiaries	-	40,661
	<u>11,986,092</u>	<u>15,711,722</u>



## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

## 16. Deferred taxation

## Group

	2024 €
At beginning of year	-
Charged to profit or loss	(514,830)
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>(514,830)</b>

## Company

	2024 €
At beginning of year	-
Charged to profit or loss	(514,830)
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>(514,830)</b>

The deferred taxation balance is made up as follows:

	Group 2024 €	Company 2024 €
Temporary differences on fair value adjustments of investments	(514,830)	(514,830)
	<b>(514,830)</b>	<b>(514,830)</b>

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 17. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Law Society operates a defined benefit pension scheme and a defined contribution pension scheme. The information set out in this note relates to the defined benefit pension scheme. The scheme is funded by the payment of contributions to a separately administered trust.

##### Determination of contributions and funding

The contributions are determined by a qualified actuary on the basis of valuations every three years, using the prospective benefits method. The most recent valuation was completed as at 31 December 2021. The assumptions which have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the discount rate, the rates of increase in salaries and the rate of increase in pensions in payment. In preparing that valuation, it was assumed that the discount rate would be 3.00% per annum pre retirement and 1.00% per annum post retirement, that future salary increases would average 2.50% per annum, and that pensions in payment will increase at 1.20% per annum on average (60% of inflation). In effect, this means that the investment return pre retirement would be 0.50% higher per annum than future salary increases and the investment return post retirement would be 0.20% lower per annum than pension increases.

The actuarial valuation at 31 December 2021 indicated that the market value of the assets of the scheme was €49,384,000 and that the assets were sufficient to cover 93% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for expected future increases in pensionable salaries and increases to pensions in payment which are discretionary.

It was agreed to continue the existing contribution rate at 20% of pensionable salaries in 2022 and to pay 25% of pensionable salaries in 2023 and 2024. The new rate broadly reflects the material change in interest rates and inflation expectations in 2022. The next actuarial valuation of the scheme to determine the contributions will be carried out as at 31 December 2024.

The defined benefit section has been closed to new entrants since 30 September 2009 and was replaced by a hybrid arrangement with the defined benefit element capped at a salary of €45,000 (now €45,500).

The Trustees obtain the consent of the Law Society to, on a discretionary basis, index pensions in payment on an annual basis. Increases have been equal to the lesser of the CPI increase or 3%. As mentioned above, the Law Society decided to continue to fund for increases equal to 60% of inflation at the most recent valuation and will review this decision at the next actuarial valuation. Members of the Scheme who wish to be considered for indexation pay a higher contribution rate of 8% of pensionable salary.

The actuary carries out an annual update of the Funding Standard position of the scheme. The scheme met the Funding Standard at 31 December 2024.

##### Requirements

The Law Society is the sponsoring employer of the scheme and has the legal responsibility for the scheme. The Law Society of Ireland Compensation Fund also participates in the scheme.

There is no stated policy for charging the net defined benefit cost of the scheme to either entity as both entities availed of an exemption under the previous accounting standard, Financial Reporting Standard 17. Under Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Law Society has decided that it will recognise the entire net defined benefit cost and the relevant net defined benefit liability in its financial statements. Pension costs for the defined benefit scheme are assessed in accordance with the advice of an independent qualified actuary using the projected unit method. Below are the relevant disclosures together with the comparative figures for the previous year.

**The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the financial year ended 31 December 2024**

**17. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation in the year were as follows:**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Opening defined benefit obligation	45,632	41,400
Service cost (including employee contributions)	1,756	1,603
Interest cost	1,612	1,720
Benefits paid	(1,778)	(1,013)
Actuarial losses/(gains)	(1,939)	1,922
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing defined benefit obligation	45,283	45,632
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**Changes in the fair value of plan assets in the year were as follows:**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Opening fair value of plan assets	46,911	42,127
Contributions (including employees)	1,909	1,885
Benefits paid	(1,778)	(1,013)
Interest income	1,691	1,788
Actuarial gains/(losses)	423	2,124
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Closing fair value of plan assets	49,156	46,911
	<hr/>	<hr/>

**The principal actuarial assumptions at the balance sheet date:**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
Rate of general increase in salaries	2.60	2.75
Discount rate of scheme liabilities	3.60	3.60
Rate of pension increase	2.10	2.25
Inflation/Revaluation/State pension increase	2.10	2.25
Future increases to hybrid cap	2.10	2.25
Post retirement mortality		
Current pensioners at 65 - male	22.7	22.6
Current pensioners at 65 - female	24.5	24.4
Future pensioners at 65 - male	24.4	24.3
Future pensioners at 65 - female	26.3	26.2
% of pension commuted for cash at retirement	12.5%	12.5%

The post retirement mortality assumptions allow for expected increases in longevity. The 'current' disclosures above relate to the assumptions based on longevity (in years) following retirement at the balance sheet date, with 'future' being that relating to an employee retiring in 2044.

## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 17. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)

The market value of the scheme's assets at the year end were as follows:

	At Year End 31 December	
	2024	2023
	€'000	€'000
Equities	17,329	14,220
Bonds	22,045	26,773
Cash	146	275
Other	9,636	5,643
Total	49,156	46,911

	2024	2023
	€'000	€'000
The actual return on plan assets	2,114	3,912

The amounts recognised in the balance sheet are as follows:

Fair value of plan assets	49,156	46,911
Present value of funded obligations	45,283	45,632
Surplus/(Deficit) in the scheme	3,873	1,279
Deferred tax asset	-	-
Net liability		

The amounts included in the performance statements are as follows:

	2024	2023
	€'000	€'000
Current service cost	1,316	1,177
Interest income on pension scheme assets	(1,691)	(1,788)
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	1,612	1,720
Net interest (income)/charge included in investment income	(79)	(68)
Actual return less expected return on pension scheme's assets	423	2,124
Experience gains and losses arising on the scheme's liabilities	819	1,334
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of the scheme's liabilities	1,120	(3,256)
Actuarial gain/(loss) included in Income and Expenditure Account	2,362	202

**The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries**

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the financial year ended 31 December 2024**

**17. PENSION COMMITMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**The movements in the deficit in the scheme during the year arose as follows:**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) at beginning of year	1,279	727
Current service cost	(1,316)	(1,177)
Past service cost	-	-
Net interest cost	79	68
Contributions (excluding employees)	1,469	1,459
Actuarial gain/(loss)	2,362	202
Surplus/(Deficit) at end of year	<u>3,873</u>	<u>1,279</u>

**History of defined benefit obligations, assets and experience gains/losses for the year ended 31 December:**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Defined benefit obligation	45,283	45,632
Fair value of plan assets	49,156	46,911
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>3,873</u>	<u>1,279</u>

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
<b>Difference between the expected and actual return on plan assets:</b>		
Amount	423	2,124
<b>Experience gains/(losses) on plan liabilities:</b>		
Amount	819	1,334

**Future contributions:**

The Law Society expects to contribute €1,510,000 to the defined benefit pension scheme in 2025.



## The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 18. Related Party Transactions

<b>Law Society Compensation Fund</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	€	€
Opening balance at 1 January	(5,084,040)	(9,068,630)
Charges	12,774,161	12,185,166
Receipts	(8,510,844)	(8,200,576)
<b>Closing balance at 31 December</b>	<b>(820,723)</b>	<b>(5,084,040)</b>

<b>Law Society of Ireland Scholarship Fund</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	€	€
Opening balance at 1 January	20,361	26,021
Charges	17,160	22,840
Receipts	(16,000)	(28,500)
<b>Closing balance at 31 December</b>	<b>21,521</b>	<b>20,361</b>

The related undertakings are controlled by the Law Society of Ireland.

The Law Society, in the normal course of its business, is provided with legal services by solicitor firms, some of whose partners may also be members of the Law Society Council. The legal firms the Law Society procures services from are typically part of a panel that is selected through a tender process, in line with the Law Society's procurement process.

Transactions with Council Members during 2024 totalled €372,624 (2023: €412,126).

#### 19. Subsidiary and Related Undertakings

The Law Society holds investments in subsidiaries, and controls related undertakings as follows:

##### **Subsidiary undertakings:**

- Benburb Street Property Company Limited
- Law Club of Ireland\*
- Blackhall Technologies Limited.

\*The Law Club of Ireland is considered a subsidiary, as it is controlled by the Law Society of Ireland.

##### **Related undertakings:**

- Law Society of Ireland Compensation Fund
- Law Society of Ireland Scholarship Fund

The Law Society of Ireland and its Subsidiaries

Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

20. Capital Commitments

	2024	2023
	€	€
At the end of the year, the following expenditure had been authorised by the Finance Committee:		
Contracts agreed	728,617	232,000
	<u>728,617</u>	<u>232,000</u>

21. Contingent liabilities

The Law Society is, from time to time, a party to legal proceedings and claims, which arise in the ordinary course of its activities. The Finance Committee is satisfied that there are no additional claims that require provision by the Law Society at 31 December 2024. Legal costs incurred by the Law Society to 31 December 2024, in connection with these matters, have been charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Retained Earnings.

The Benburb Street Property has been identified by Dublin City Council as potentially liable for Residential Zoned Land Tax and therefore a liability may arise in the future.

22. Subsequent events

There have been no subsequent events after the year end to be disclosed.

23. Comparative amounts

The comparative figures have been regrouped on a basis consistent with the current period.