

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Crowleys DFK Unlimited Company
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
16/17 College Green
Dublin 2

Company Number: 471072
Charity Number: 18698
Charities Regulatory Authority Number: 20072254

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

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Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Liam Twohig Tom O'Brien (Appointed 6 June 2023) Edward Gleeson Turlough O'Donnell (Appointed 19 September 2023) Eamonn Casey (Resigned 9 April 2024) Deirdre Quigley (Resigned 14 February 2023) Dr. Sarah Hamill (Appointed 19 September 2023) Annette O'Donnell (Appointed 27 June 2023) Stewart Reddin (Resigned 12 November 2023) Catherine Dooley (Resigned 2 May 2023) Cara Nagle (Resigned 10 September 2023) Gerry Whyte (Resigned 6 June 2023) Ciara McGrath
Company Secretary	Eamonn Casey (Resigned 9 April 2024) Tom O'Brien (Appointed 9 April 2024)
Charity Number	18698
Charities Regulatory Authority Number	20072254
Company Registration Number	471072
Registered Office and Principal Address	25 Cork Street Dublin 8
Auditors	Crowleys DFK Unlimited Company Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm 16/17 College Green Dublin 2
Principal Bankers	Bank of Ireland 33-34 Arran Quay, Smithfield Dublin 7 Ireland

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial period 31 December 2023.

The charity is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

The charity is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

Mission, Objectives and Strategy

Mission Statement

Charitable purpose and Charitable Objects

The charitable purpose of Mercy Law Resource Centre CLG is:

- Advancement of community welfare including the relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, or disability
- Advancement of conflict resolution or reconciliation
- Integration of those who are disadvantaged, and the promotion of their full participation, in society
- Other purpose that is of benefit to the community

The charitable objects of Mercy Law Resource Centre CLG are:

- (a) To provide free legal advice and assistance, including representation before courts, tribunals and all other such bodies, to persons who are homeless or otherwise marginalized and in need (including but not limited to persons in addiction or prostitution or seeking to move away from same).
- (b) To work by itself and with other organizations to improve access to justice, to achieve better social and economic conditions and generally to promote the welfare of homeless and other marginalized persons in need.
- (c) To use the values of the Christian gospel and the Sisters of Mercy to work for change in laws, policies, practices, attitudes, prejudices and structures in society that will be conducive to the good of persons who are homeless or otherwise marginalized and in need.

Strategically, the following is a statement of the current mission priorities of Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee:

- Provide free accessible legal advice and representation to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Drive legal and policy change to address injustices in social housing and homeless law
- Build social housing and homeless law expertise across the sector

Structure, Governance and Management

Governance

The Board of Mercy Law Resource Centre CLG meets 6 times a year and is supported by a Finance & Risk Committee, which also meets 6 times a year, and a Policy Committee which meets on an ad-hoc basis.

Review of Activities, Achievements and Performance

Mercy Law Resource Centre is an independent law centre providing accessible free legal advice and representation to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in the areas of housing and related social welfare law. We offer 5 key services in delivery of our charitable purpose and objects: free legal advice, free legal representation, legal support and training for those working in the field of homelessness, policy work to advocate broader changes to the laws.

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

With record numbers experiencing homelessness, demand for our service remained high in 2023. We saw a significant increase in the number of clients seeking our help, with new requests for legal assistance increasing 35% from 2022. This increase was not just in volume but also in urgency and seriousness; a major surge in cases concerning refusals of emergency homeless accommodation which had begun in 2022 reached new heights in 2023, as homelessness levels continued to rise throughout the country. We received 750 requests for assistance concerning social housing and homelessness and provided support to nearly 40 organisations.

A critical element of our work is the provision of legal training to people who work at the frontline in supporting people with their housing needs, including those who hold key decision-making functions in local authorities. In 2023, we delivered 10 housing law training sessions to professionals including domestic violence services, lawyers, local authority staff and frontline homeless services. We also remained very active in the policy and advocacy domain, making submissions to the Civil Legal Aid review and the Public Consultation on the Public Sector Duty Code of Practice.

We published three policy reports in 2023; the first, Making Free Legal and Advocacy Services Accessible – Building a hybrid service delivery model for Mercy Law Resource Centre, examined how services like ours could best adapt to meet the complex needs of our clients. The second and third reports formed part of our series on the barriers faced by vulnerable groups seeking access to housing and homeless services; Mental Health and Social Housing Supports was published in February and Social Housing, Domestic Violence and the Public Sector Duty was published in September. All publications are available on our website at www.mercylaw.ie/publications.

In 2023, we were delighted to receive recognition from our peers in the legal profession in the form of an Irish Law Award for Pro Bono / Community Law Firm of the Year for the second consecutive year. We were also proud to obtain 'Triple Lock' status from the Charities Institute of Ireland confirming our commitment to good governance, best practice fundraising and transparent financial reporting.

Financial Review

The results for the financial year are set out on page 11-12 and additional notes are provided showing income and expenditure in greater detail.

Financial Results

At the end of the financial year the charity had gross assets of €482,324 (2022 - €452,464) and gross liabilities of €33,343 (2022 - €35,221). The net assets of the charity have increased by €31,738.

Future Developments

The company plans to continue its present activities at its current level.

Trustees and Secretary

The trustees who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

Liam Twohig
Tom O'Brien (Appointed 6 June 2023)
Edward Gleeson
Turlough O'Donnell (Appointed 19 September 2023)
Eamonn Casey (Resigned 9 April 2024)
Deirdre Quigley (Resigned 14 February 2023)
Dr. Sarah Hamill (Appointed 19 September 2023)
Annette O'Donnell (Appointed 27 June 2023)
Stewart Reddin (Resigned 12 November 2023)
Catherine Dooley (Resigned 2 May 2023)
Cara Nagle (Resigned 10 September 2023)
Gerry Whyte (Resigned 6 June 2023)
Ciara McGrath

In accordance with the Constitution, the trustees retire by rotation and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The secretary Eamon Casey resigned on 9th April 2024 and Tom O'Brien was appointed on the same date.

Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

The charity engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2014
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)
- Charities Governance Code

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no circumstances or events subsequent to the year end, which require adjustment to, or disclosure in the financial statements.

Research and Development

The charity did not engage in any Research & Development during the year.

Exemptions from Disclosure

There are no omissions of the names of any trustees, executive officers or senior staff members for any extenuating personal circumstances.

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of Others

Mercy Law Resource Centre CLG do not act as Custodian Trustees on behalf of others.

Political Contributions

The charity did not make any disclosable political donations in the current financial year.

The Auditors

The auditors, Crowleys DFK Unlimited Company, (Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm) have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

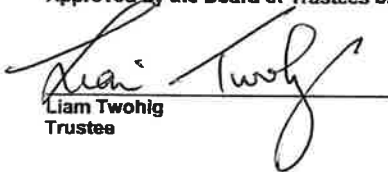
Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the trustees have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at 25 Cork Street, Dublin 8.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 23rd July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Liam Twohig
Trustee


Edward Gleeson
Trustee

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The trustees, who are also directors of Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee for the purposes of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and applicable regulations.

Irish company law requires the trustees as the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the charity as at the financial year end date and of the net income or expenditure of the charity for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

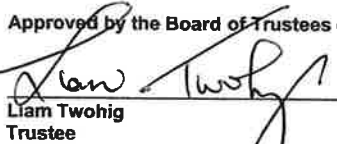
In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:


- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements 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 charity will continue in operation.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that the charity keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the charity, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and net income or expenditure of the charity to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report comply with Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 23rd July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


Liam Twohig
Trustee


Edward Gleeson
Trustee

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the charity financial statements of Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee ('the Charity') for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Charity as at 31 December 2023 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- 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 below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report.

We are independent of the charity 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 the Provisions Available for Audits of Small Entities, in the circumstances set out in note 4 to the financial statements, 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 trustees' 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 charity'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 trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditor's 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 course of 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- in our opinion, the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements;
- in our opinion, the Trustees' Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014; and
- the accounting records of the charity were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of trustees' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not complied with by the charity. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 7, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and 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 trustees are responsible for assessing the charity'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 they either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

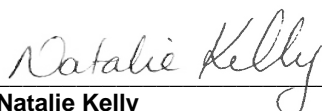
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 Auditor's 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is provided in the appendix to this report, located at page 10, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

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

Our report is made solely to the charity's 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 charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's 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 charity and the charity's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Natalie Kelly

for and on behalf of

CROWLEYS DFK UNLIMITED COMPANY

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm

16/17 College Green

Dublin 2

23rd July 2024

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Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

APPENDIX TO THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- 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 our 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.
- 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 charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- 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.

We 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 we identify during our audit.

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2023 €	Restricted Funds 2023 €	Total Funds 2023 €	Unrestricted Funds 2022 €	Restricted Funds 2022 €	Total Funds 2022 €
Income							
Charitable activities							
- Grants from governments and other co-funders	5.1	190,525	220,052	410,577	235,679	50,590	286,269
Expenditure							
Charitable activities	6.1	158,787	220,052	378,839	247,813	50,590	298,403
Net income/(expenditure)		31,738	-	31,738	(12,134)	-	(12,134)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the financial year		31,738	-	31,738	(12,134)	-	(12,134)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds beginning of the year	17	417,243	-	417,243	429,377	-	429,377
Total funds at the end of the year		448,981	-	448,981	417,243	-	417,243

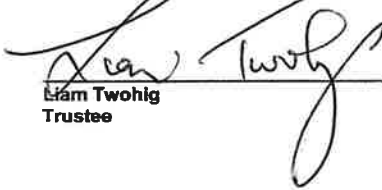
The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the financial year. All income and expenditure relate to continuing activities.

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	12	1,314	2,171
Current Assets			
Debtors	13	5,912	7,704
Cash at bank and in hand		475,098	442,589
		481,010	450,293
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(33,343)	(35,221)
Net Current Assets		447,667	415,072
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		448,981	417,243
Funds			
General fund (unrestricted)		448,981	417,243
Total funds	17	448,981	417,243

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 23rd July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:


 Liam Twohig
 Trustee


 Edward Gleeson
 Trustee

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee is a company limited by guarantee (registered under Part 18 of the Companies Act 2014) incorporated in the Republic of Ireland (CRO Number 471072). The registered office of the company is 25 Cork Street, Dublin 8 which is also the principal place of business of the charity. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the charity.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis in accordance with the Companies Act 2014, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charitable company's financial statements.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the charity for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland FRS 102".

Cash flow statement

The charity has availed of the exemption in FRS 102 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement because it is classified as a small charity.

Fund accounting

The following are the categories of funds maintained:

Restricted funds

Restricted funds represent income received which can only be used for particular purposes, as specified by the donors. Such purposes are within the overall objectives of the charity.

Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds consist of General and Designated funds.

- General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the board, in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

- Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that the board has, at its discretion, set aside for particular purposes. These designations have an administrative purpose only, and do not legally restrict the board's discretion to apply the fund.

Income

Income is recognised by inclusion in the Statement of Financial Activities only when the charity is legally entitled to the income, performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, the amounts involved can be measured with sufficient reliability and it is probable that the income will be received by the charity.

Income from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities include income earned from the supply of services under contractual arrangements and from performance related grants which have conditions that specify the provision of particular services to be provided by the charity. Income from government and other co-funders is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to the income because it is fulfilling the conditions contained in the related funding agreements. Where a grant is received in advance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, it is accrued in debtors.

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Grants from governments and other co-funders typically include one of the following types of conditions:

- Performance based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding only to the extent that the core objectives of the grant agreement are achieved. Where the charity is meeting the core objectives of a grant agreement, it recognises the related expenditure, to the extent that it is reimbursable by the donor, as income.

- Time based conditions: whereby the charity is contractually entitled to funding on the condition that it is utilised in a particular period. In these cases, the charity recognises the income to the extent it is utilised within the period specified in the agreement.

In the absence of such conditions, assuming that receipt is probable, and the amount can be reliably measured, grant income is recognised once the charity is notified of entitlement.

Grants received towards capital expenditure are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when received or receivable, whichever is earlier.

Expenditure

Expenditure is analysed between costs of charitable activities and raising funds. The costs of each activity are separately accumulated and disclosed and analysed according to their major components. Expenditure is recognised when a legal or constructive obligation exists as a result of a past event, a transfer of economic benefits is required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but cannot be attributed to one activity. Such costs are allocated to activities in proportion to staff time spent or other suitable measure for each activity.

Reserves Policy

At a minimum, MLRC aims to have at least three months of operating costs, estimated at €80,000.

Every effort will be made to anticipate any possible shortfall in funding and/or income, or any unexpected expenditure upcoming and the Finance and Risk Committee appraised of such circumstances.

Reserves may only be accessed with approval by the Board and on the recommendation of the Finance and Risk Committee.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 20% Straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% Straight line

Leasing

Rentals payable under operating leases are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the period of the rental agreement.

Debtors

Debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Income recognised by the charity from government agencies and other co-funders, but not yet received at financial year end, is included in debtors.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprises cash on deposit at banks requiring less than three months notice of withdrawal.

Taxation

No current or deferred taxation arises as the charity (CHY No. 18698) has been granted charitable exemption. Irrecoverable valued added tax is expensed as incurred.

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Research and development

Research expenditure is written off to the income and expenditure account in the financial year in which it is incurred.

Research expenditure is written off to the income and expenditure account in the financial year in which it is incurred. Development expenditure is written off in the same financial year unless the trustees are satisfied as to the technical, commercial and financial viability of individual projects. In this situation, the expenditure is deferred and amortised over the period from which the charity is expected to benefit.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Accounting for depreciation

The charity provides for depreciation on its tangible fixed assets. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives. The trustees review on an on-going basis the charge to depreciation to ensure it is consistent with the expected residual value applicable to the different categories of tangibles. The total amount of assets subject to depreciation is €1,314 (2022: €2,171).

Accounting for amortisation

The charity provides for amortisation its intangible fixed assets. Intangible fixed assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated amortisation. The charge to amortisation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of intangible fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives. The trustees review on an on-going basis the charge to amortisation to ensure it is consistent with the expected residual value applicable to the different categories of intangibles.

Useful Lives of Tangible and Intangible Fixed Assets

Long-lived assets comprising primarily of property, fixtures and fittings, and office equipment represent a significant portion of the total assets. The annual depreciation and amortisation charge depends primarily on the estimated lives of each type of asset and, in certain circumstances, estimates of residual values. The trustees regularly review these useful lives by considering technological change, patterns of consumption, physical condition and expected economic utilisation of the assets. Changes in the useful lives can have a significant impact on the depreciation and amortisation charge for the financial year.

Going Concern

In common with other charities operating in Ireland in this sector, the charity is dependent on voluntary income donations. The trustees have indicated they will continue to place strong emphasis on cost control, the management of the charity's cashflow and to regularly review their management accounts. The trustees of the organisation are confident of obtaining sufficient funding to continue to financially support the organisation and that the charity is well positioned to manage the costs of running the company. For these reasons, they will continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

4. PROVISIONS AVAILABLE FOR AUDITS OF SMALL ENTITIES

In common with many other charitable companies of our size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

5.	INCOME			2023	2022
5.1	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds		
		€	€	€	€
	Grants from governments and other co-funders:				
	Income to provide Legal Advice & Representation	176,134	143,899	320,033	231,254
	Policy Work	-	76,153	76,153	42,340
	Legal Training	14,391	-	14,391	11,425
	Befriending Service	-	-	-	1,250
		<u>190,525</u>	<u>220,052</u>	<u>410,577</u>	<u>286,269</u>

The total of the income derived by the charity relates from its activities in the Republic of Ireland.

6.	EXPENDITURE				2023	2022
6.1	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Direct Costs	Other Costs	Support Costs	€	€
		€	€	€		
	Legal Advice & Representation	95,922	190,674	15,618	302,214	254,480
	Befriending Service	-	-	-	-	1,250
	Policy Work	124	57,966	18,062	76,152	42,344
	Legal Training	-	-	473	473	329
		<u>96,046</u>	<u>248,640</u>	<u>34,153</u>	<u>378,839</u>	<u>298,403</u>

7.	ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS	2023	2022
		€	€
	Support	<u>34,153</u>	<u>20,497</u>

8.	NET INCOME	2023	2022
		€	€
	Net Income is stated after charging/(crediting):		
	Depreciation of tangible assets	2,224	4,385
	Research and development		
	- expenditure in current financial year	14,832	3,437
	Operating lease rentals		
	- Office equipment	1,107	1,492
	Auditor's remuneration:		
	- audit services	<u>3,905</u>	<u>4,000</u>

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

9. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

Number of employees

The average number of persons employed during the financial year was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Solicitors and Support Staff	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
The staff costs comprise:	2023	2022
	€	€
Wages and salaries	220,250	218,738
Social security costs	19,749	19,873
	<u>239,999</u>	<u>238,611</u>

10. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

There is 1 employee during the year whose salary was above €60,000 (2022: Nil).

Trustees are not remunerated for their role on the board. No expenses were paid to Trustees during the year.

11. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Development Costs €
Cost	
At 31 December 2023	<u>3,897</u>
Provision for diminution in value	
At 31 December 2023	<u>3,897</u>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2023	<u><u>-</u></u>

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment €	Computer equipment €	Total €
Cost			
At 1 January 2023	19,136	31,505	50,641
Additions	-	1,367	1,367
At 31 December 2023	<u>19,136</u>	<u>32,872</u>	<u>52,008</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2023	18,725	29,745	48,470
Charge for the financial year	411	1,813	2,224
At 31 December 2023	<u>19,136</u>	<u>31,558</u>	<u>50,694</u>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>1,314</u>	<u>1,314</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>411</u>	<u>1,760</u>	<u>2,171</u>

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

13. DEBTORS	2023	2022
	€	€
Trade debtors	(95)	2,170
Prepayments	6,007	5,534
	<u>5,912</u>	<u>7,704</u>
	<u><u>5,912</u></u>	<u><u>7,704</u></u>
14. CREDITORS	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year	€	€
Trade creditors	351	563
Taxation and social security costs	14,064	18,670
Other creditors	-	7
Pension accrual	780	715
Accruals	4,000	4,000
Deferred Income	14,148	11,266
	<u>33,343</u>	<u>35,221</u>
	<u><u>33,343</u></u>	<u><u>35,221</u></u>

15. STATE FUNDING

In accordance with Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 13/2014, the following details the core funding grants of the organisation applicable to 2023.

Agency	Pobal
Sponsoring Government Department	Department of Rural and Community Development
Grant Programme	Scheme to support National Organisations in the Community and Voluntary Sector 2022 - 2025
Purpose of the Grant	To fund two roles – the Managing Solicitor role (part funded) and the Communications and Fundraising Officer role. Overhead costs for ICT is aimed at increasing efficiency, modernising the office and promoting the centre to increase profile.
Term	July 2022 - June 2025
Total Grant	Up to €176,085
Received in the financial year	€58,748
Expenditure in the financial year	Pay: €55,969 and Non-Pay: €2,730
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€49 deferred

16. RESERVES

	2023	2022
	€	€
At the beginning of the year	417,243	429,377
Surplus/(Deficit) for the financial year	31,738	(12,134)
	<u>448,981</u>	<u>417,243</u>
	<u><u>448,981</u></u>	<u><u>417,243</u></u>

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

17. FUNDS

17.1 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds €	Total Funds €
At 1 January 2022	429,377	429,377
Movement during the financial year	(12,134)	(12,134)
At 31 December 2022	417,243	417,243
Movement during the financial year	31,738	31,738
At 31 December 2023	448,981	448,981

17.2 ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS ON FUNDS

	Balance 1 January 2023 €	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfers between funds €	Balance 31 December 2023 €
Restricted	-	220,052	220,052	-	-
Unrestricted funds					
Unrestricted General	417,243	190,525	158,787	-	448,981
Total funds	417,243	410,577	378,839	-	448,981

17.3 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Fixed assets - charity use €	Current assets €	Current liabilities €	Total €
Restricted trust funds	-	14,148	(14,148)	-
Unrestricted general funds	1,314	466,862	(19,195)	448,981
	1,314	481,010	(33,343)	448,981

18. STATUS

The charity is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one financial year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding € 1.

19. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no circumstances or events subsequent to the year end, which require adjustment to, or disclosure in the financial statements.

Mercy Law Resource Centre Company Limited by Guarantee
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

20. OUR FUNDERS

The main contributors for donations and grant aid in 2023 are as follows:

Sisters of Mercy
Religious of Christian Education
Archdiocese of Dublin
Pobal – SSNO
Mason Hayes & Curran
A & L Goodbody
IHREC
Administered by Community Foundation of Ireland

- RTE Toy Show Appeal
- Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
- Donor Scheme

Mental Health Ireland
The Ireland Funds

21. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on

23rd July 2024