

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRADING AS DRCC**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

**Registered Number: 147318
Charity Number: CHY 8529
Charity Registration Number: 20021078**

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**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
COMPANY INFORMATION**

Chair	Ann Marie Gill
Directors	Ann Marie Gill Aibhlin McCrann Carol Keane Grace O'Malley John Fanning Anne Marie James Siona Cahill Madeleine McCarthy Fergus Finlay
Chief Executive	Noeline Blackwell
Company Secretary	Anne Marie James
Company Number	147318
Auditors	JPA Brenson Lawlor Brenson Lawlor House Argyle Square Morehampton Road Dublin 4
Bankers	Permanent TSB 70 Grafton Street Dublin 2 Allied Irish Banks 40/41 Westmoreland Street Dublin 2 Ulster Bank 130 Baggot Street Lower Dublin 2
Solicitors	LK Shields Solicitors LLP 38 Mount Street Dublin 2
Registered Office	70 Lower Leeson Street Dublin 2

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Directors present their annual report and audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102. Although not obliged to comply with the Charities SORP, the organization has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these accounts. The main activities of the organization are charitable.

The content of the director's annual report is set out in the following headings:

- Objectives and activities,
- Achievements and performance;
- Financial review;
- Structure, governance and management;
- Reference and administrative details;
- Exemptions from disclosures and
- Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) exists to provide counselling, psychotherapy and support to victims of sexual violence and strives to eliminate tolerance of sexual violence in Irish society.

We also aim to:

- Provide education and training services for professionals and agencies who encounter sexual abuse in the course of their work.
- Help people who have been traumatised physically and mentally by sexual abuse.

Activities in support of these aims include:

- The operation of a National 24-Hour Helpline in support of people who have experienced sexual violence, including rape and other sexual assault, childhood sexual abuse, or sexual harassment/bullying;
- Offering a webchat support service for online usage, a text service for Deaf contacts, and a Helpline interpreting service for those whose first language is not English;
- Providing therapy and counselling services, including outreach therapy services in Coolock, Tallaght, Dublin Bay North and Dochas Centre women's prison;
- Providing a client support service for vulnerable clients and contacts;
- Providing accompaniment support in forensic/medical settings, in police and other reporting fora, and in court and other settings where legal/quasi-legal hearings take place.
- Advocating on behalf of victims and survivors of sexual violence, to ensure that they have appropriate access to health and justice systems, and that their rights and dignity are respected when accessing these services;
- Providing training services that help to both prevent and deal with sexual violence when it occurs;
- Working to eliminate tolerance of sexual violence through awareness-raising and campaigns, and through education and training activities;
- Collecting & disseminating data to advance understanding of the prevalence and incidence of sexual violence and the services provided to those who suffer it.

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Achievements & performance under strategic goals:

Goal 1: Ensure that victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence receive the supports that they need to heal

- Objective 1: Providing high-quality services to victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence
- Objective 2: Building the capacity of Irish society to better understand and guard against the harm of sexual violence, as well as meet the needs of victims/survivors
- Objective 3: Recognising the diversity of those who are victims/survivors of sexual violence, ensuring our services are available to whoever needs them.

Goal 2: Eliminate tolerance of sexual violence in Irish society and support the rights of victims/survivors

- Objective 4: Building, maintaining and disseminating knowledge and expertise on the topic of sexual violence
- Objective 5: Building greater recognition in the law and throughout society on the key role of consent
- Objective 6: Increasing the incidence of reporting offences of sexual violence
- Objective 7: Facilitating victims/survivors in making their voices heard and promoting innovation in strengthening protection for victims/survivors of sexual violence

Goal 3: Be a strong, sustainable organization

- Objective 8: Maintaining and further developing the sustainable financial base for our work
- Objective 9: Implementing a comprehensive and coherent communications plan
- Objective 10: Maintaining a robust and accountable organisational structure

The 10 objectives are laid out in this report with an account of the organisation's work in each area.

A new strategic plan will be implemented in 2023.

Goal 1: Ensure that victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence receive the supports that they need to heal.

Objective 1: Providing high-quality services to victims/survivors of current and historic sexual violence.

DRCC's services to victims/survivors are delivered through:

- The freephone 24-Hour National Rape Crisis Helpline 1800 778888;
- An online webchat support service;
- An Interpreting Service for those wishing to access the National Helpline in 240+ languages;
- A text service for Deaf and hard-of-hearing callers;
- Face-to-face counselling and psychotherapy;
- A client support/welfare service; and
- Survivor accompaniment support services in the justice and forensic healthcare systems.

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National 24-Hour Rape Crisis Helpline

The freephone 24-Hour National Helpline 1800 77 8888 offers free, confidential listening and support to adult victims/survivors of sexual violence. Trained Telephone Counsellors are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide non-judgmental support to anyone affected by sexual violence. The line can also support families and friends of victims/survivors as well as those who work with victims/survivors in their employment or in volunteering.

2022 trends

There were 18,400 contacts with the National Helpline in 2022, a 31% increase over 2021 when there were 14,012 contacts. As in previous years, most contacts related to rape as an adult (42.2%) followed by Child Sexual Abuse (30.6%) and sexual assault as an adult (13.9%). Sexual harassment was cited by 1.2% of callers.

Not all contacts disclose their age or gender. Of those who did in 2022, some 84% percent were female, 15.7% percent were male and 0.3% identified as other. In terms of age, just over a fifth of contacts (20.3%) were from those aged 18 to 23 years, while just under a fifth (19%) were from people in their 40s. In total just over 40% of contacts were aged under 30. Where known, 70% (9285) were contacting the line for the first time, compared to about half of contacts in 2021.

Age of contacts to National Helpline

Age of victim	% of calls
Under 16	2.53%
16 – 17	2.54%
18 – 23	20.33%
24 – 29	14.96%
30 – 39	16.18%
40 – 49	19.08%
50 – 59	16.04%
60 – 69	6.41%
70 +	1.93%

Based on 46% of contacts who disclosed their age

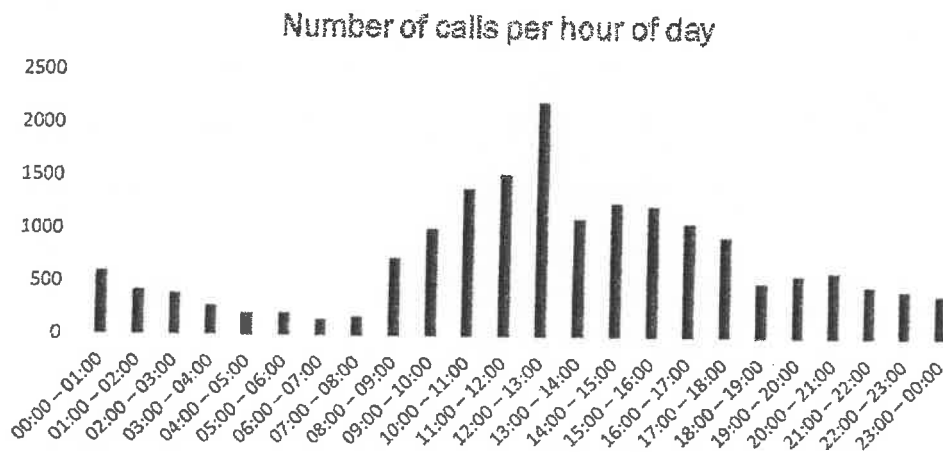
Gender of contacts to National Helpline

Gender	% of calls
Female	84.00%
Male	15.70%
Transgender	0.30%

Based on 75% of contacts who disclosed their gender

Although callers hailed from 64 countries in total, among those who indicated their country of origin, the vast majority (94%) were Irish. Six in ten contacts were located in Dublin and the remaining 41% situated around the country. July was the busiest month for first-time callers, followed by January and August. The busiest time for calls on average covered the three hours from 10am to 1pm.

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Mental health: Continuing the trend of the last years, there has been a marked rise in calls to the helpline from people experiencing a crisis in their mental health. This reflects what they tell us is a reduction in capacity for effective mental health treatment nationwide, exacerbated by the pandemic. These callers are often frustrated and angry, repeatedly seeking solutions that go beyond the remit of DRCC to provide. There has also been a rise in people expressing suicidal ideation, with some callers expressing elevated anxiety about the future. This has led to longer, more complex calls. In some cases, callers are managing symptoms through abuse of alcohol or other substances. Helpline support can help callers manage their feelings of isolation and trauma until they access a more comprehensive support, or to get a referral to an appropriate service.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you, so so much. This service is unbelievably amazing. And to the lady who helped me, I will never know who you are but I am so grateful for you being there ...That lady potentially saved my life"

Gender-based violence: 2022 started with a huge outpouring of grief and anger on the Helpline in the face of the most shocking and tragic killing of a young woman, Ashling Murphy, in Tullamore in January. Many callers were highly triggered by the incident and talked about the safety of women, domestic and sexual violence, and indeed the casual sexual harassment many face daily, whether on the streets or in their workplaces. Call rates doubled at this time with both male and female callers expressing their concern. Women in particular expressed fear, anger and powerlessness. One positive outcome of this tragedy was that some of our callers felt enabled to finally report their own abuse and foster healing.

Recognising sexual violence: With a growing focus on consent in media and national discourse, both consent and coercive control were mentioned frequently on the Helpline during the year. Callers can find it difficult to articulate concerns about intimate relationships. Some sought clarity on something that had happened to them, such as casual harassment or coercive control. Where present, coercive control may likely impact the intimate sexual aspect of a relationship also. Often, they tried to minimise incidents, particularly in the case of younger callers.

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One young adult caller said that while she was unsure of how to put it, she felt completely "overwhelmed" by her partner's constant questioning of where she had been, who she was talking to, who she was friends with on social media, and so on. It was soon clear that this behavior had been going on for some time; ultimately, she disclosed that the intimate part of the relationship was equally controlling and in fact often non-consensual. She described feelings of shame and guilt, and stated she even felt "disloyal" to him by telling us. She noted how "safe" she felt on the Helpline as she had never spoken of this before. We guided her to a resource leaflet on "Healthy Relationships" on our website but also counselled her to be mindful of her own safety. She then decided she would talk to her parent. She said she felt relieved that she "was not alone".

School-based abuse: The year ended in a further surge of calls triggered by stories of past abuse in schools, notably those run by the Spiritan Order but also from other schools. Many callers did not want to report the abuse officially, but just needed to express the pain and shame they had carried for years. Some calls came from family members of victims, who now understood and wanted to help their loved ones; in some cases, they blamed themselves for what their child had gone through. Callers were grateful to have a safe place to speak about what had been deemed unspeakable, and for being met with compassion by helpline workers.

Helpline accreditation

In May, following a highly rigorous examination and validation process, the 24-Hour National Helpline was awarded its three-year Q-Mark accreditation for a second time. Every public point of access of the service was analysed, from calls over the 24-hour cycle to webchat and email support, as well as a virtual on-site audit of calls with staff and volunteers, and the assessment team commented on how empathic and professional the team responded to calls, and indeed how deeply moving they found the process. They also noted how much the organisation had grown in such a short time, how every new and existing policy and procedure had been so well documented, and was a testament to the hard work done across DRCC.

Other Helpline services

Alongside the 24-Hour Helpline, we provide some additional specialist services for those seeking crisis help (note that these services are not 24/7 and are closed on public holidays).

- A **text service** for those who are Deaf or hard of hearing, operating **Mon-Fri from 8am to 6:30pm, at 086-8238443** – in 2022, this service received 1109 texts during 2021.
- A **Webchat Support Service** on our website drcc.ie, offering a written mode of communications, particularly helpful to those who cannot verbally articulate their needs or who don't have a private space in which to speak. In May, we extended the hours of the service to run from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.
- A **live Helpline Interpreting Service** for those who do not speak English, operating **Mon-Fri from 8am to 6:30pm**.

Webchat: The webchat service had 607 contacts during the year, up from 415 in 2021. A lot of callers find our webchat a much easier introduction to support services, with some feeling that they prefer to communicate by webchat for a longer period. Contacts via webchat vary widely in age and gender, from supporters to victims and survivors themselves. In many cases, the person ultimately takes the next step to accessing one or more of our services.

To capture carefully what the caller may need can take a lot of time, with some chats varying from 15 to 50 minutes. It is critical to allow adequate time and space to communicate the type of abuse they have endured, something they say they may never do in their daily lives.

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Members of the Deaf community have also identified that the webchat platform is a comfortable one for them, whether on past issues or more recent ones.

A very distressed Mum, whose young adult daughter had disclosed past sexual abuse as a child, reached out to the Helpline to find a way for her daughter to express how she was feeling and coping. Her daughter had suffered dreadfully through the COVID19 pandemic, having lost friends and become very isolated. We suggested that she try to use the chat service. She did so and became a little more open to talking about her experience. The young girl found it most helpful that she didn't have to go into the details – she just chatted about how she was feeling at that time. She indicated that webchat was where she felt most comfortable for the moment. For the Helpline support worker, the primary objective is to build trust and allow the caller to feel heard. Some weeks later, she contacted the Helpline and went on to seek individual therapeutic help; she identified she had used our chat service and felt safe enough now to talk to a counsellor one-on-one.

Helpline Interpreting Service: In 2022, we had callers to the National Helpline who needed interpreting assistance to take the call in their own language. Time and space are critical elements in these calls, where the Helpline worker needs to alert the interpreter to allow space for emotion, to be aware of how restrained in expression a caller can present.

Our Helpline Interpreting Service has proven to be a space for callers who may otherwise not have received valuable, critical information in a timely way from a trained Helpline worker, delivered in their own language.

One caller identified how difficult it was to articulate what type of sexual violence had occurred. The Helpline worker needed to take particular care to guide her through the call, acknowledging the courage it took to even make it in the first place.

The caller eventually arrived at a comfortable level to be able to identify what had happened. We could then signpost her to appropriate services. She explained that in her culture, the crime would be placed on her, something our Helpline workers would be keenly aware of. Calls like these can as a result take a considerable amount of time, but the outcome for the caller was extremely positive. She felt heard, telling us that she was so grateful to be able to speak of her pain.

For victims of sexual violence, it can be hugely challenging to work through a third party over the phone, so some cases may involve simply gathering the information required to keep the caller safe and giving them appropriate referrals.

In another challenging call involving recent sexual violence, the caller needed emergency referrals following an assault. She was able to use the Helpline Interpreting Service through a trusted supporter who had called the line in advance. Our Helpline worker first needed to carefully establish what exactly was needed, and the caller identified a need for emergency medical support and counselling, which the support worker could assist with.

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Helpline contact "I want to say thank you."

For a period of about 3 years, I was going through intensive therapy for the effects of my sexual abuse as a child. I was in immense stress. The night times were the worst.

I am a "big strong man", and the people closest to me could not reach me. It wasn't easy for them.

So the abandonment and isolation of being sexually abused as a child becomes a pattern. We don't expect and know how to help someone to reach us. We use all sorts of tactics to avoid intimacy. It's nearly impossible for others to reach us. Sometimes, they prefer the persona too.

During the nights I had horrific nightmares and waves of stress.
That's when you helped me.

I rang your helpline over 20 times.

[...]

What I spoke about was extraordinarily disturbing - what happened to me, the effects on me, the confusion, fear, anger, shame.

No one ever hung up or hushed me up, or lost patience. Some calls went on and on.

I guess the sense of confusion and repetition and extreme helplessness is the hardest to listen to?
Anyhow. I'm good now.

And I want to say thank you. It meant a lot.

Counselling & Therapy

Through our team of dedicated counsellors and psychotherapists, DRCC provides Counselling and Psychotherapy for adult survivors of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment and childhood sexual abuse. We offer a limited counselling & therapy service for 16 and 17-year-olds, with the consent of their parent(s) or guardian, strictly by consultation.

During 2022, DRCC underwent a significant restructuring of our therapy services. We welcomed a new Therapy Services Manager and created two new posts of Therapy Intake Coordinator to manage the waiting list, assess incoming clients and help streamline our client intake process. A new Therapy Framework was devised, including

new and revised procedures and policies, including the Suicide Awareness and Intervention Policy. A substantial training in EMDR was offered to the therapy team which resulted in a number becoming qualified in this modality, which has significant outcomes for those affected particularly by single incidence of trauma. We were able to expand our delivery of service to two late evenings in response to feedback from those on our waiting list. Recruitment of specialist therapists proved extremely challenging during the year, with greater competition from state and other services for skilled psychotherapists. This was especially concerning as the number of therapists declined over the year from 15 to 11.

Overview of therapy services in 2022

In 2022, DRCC provided therapy to 551 clients, as compared to 580 clients in 2021. This comprised 286 new clients (52% percent of total clients) and 265 existing clients (48% of total).

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We delivered 4,170 appointments in 2022, down from 5,314 the previous year. This was out of a total 5,343 appointments offered, indicating a take-up rate of 78%, allowing for cancellations and no-shows. Among these appointments, just over half (51%) were for people who had experienced a recent rape or sexual assault within the previous six months.

Over six in ten clients (62.2%) had experienced sexual violence as adults, with 37.8% abused as children. The majority of clients were female (93.3%) with 6.3% male and 0.4% identifying as other. Some 15 clients disclosed a disability.

Gender of clients

Gender	% of clients
Female	93.3%
Male	6.3%
Transgender	0.4%

Clients ranged in age from 16 to over 70. As in the previous year, the largest age cohort was 18-23 years (making up 27% of clients), followed by those aged 24-29 years (at 20.87% of clients). In total, over half (52.3%) of clients were aged under 30 years.

Age of Clients

Age	% of clients
16 – 17	4.0%
18 – 23	27.4%
24 – 29	20.87%
30 – 39	18.87%
40 – 49	16.88%
50 – 59	9.26%
60+	2.72%

Types of sexual violence

Note that the statistics in this section are divided between sexual violence experienced as adults and as children, and the percentages are of the total client cohort.

Almost four in ten clients (38.4%) reported being raped as an adult, and another 6.93% cited marital or intimate partner rape, 13.4% sexual assault, and 2.26% sexual harassment as adults. Smaller numbers indicated they had suffered aggravated sexual assault.

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Abuse experienced by clients as adults

Type of Abuse	% of all incidents
Rape	38.4%
Sexual Assault	13.4%
Marital Rape	6.93%
Sexual Harassment	2.26%
Aggravated Sexual Assault	1.05%
Suspected Drug Rape	0.15%
	62.2%

Abuse experienced by clients as children

Type of Abuse	% of all incidents
Child Sexual Abuse	37.8%

About one in 15 clients (6.5%) had experienced sexual violence as both a child and an adult.

New clients in 2022

Statistics provided in this section relate only to the 286 clients who entered our therapy services in 2022. The data includes incidents of additional violence disclosed by those clients, as well as information disclosed on the outcome of pregnancies (recent or historic) as a result of rape and on those who had reported the sexual violence to the Gardai at any time, either in 2022 or in previous years.

Sexual violence experienced by new clients: The 286 new clients who commenced therapy in 2022 disclosed 328 abuse incidents. Of these, 143 new clients had experienced other forms of violence in addition to the main abuse type. Collectively these 143 clients report 218 incidents (66.46%) involving other forms of violence.

Category	% of all incidents with additional violence
Adult rape/Sexual Assault	38.72
Child sexual abuse	27.74

Violence experienced by new clients as adults

Type of Violence experienced by adults	% of incidents
Physical Abuse	33.07
Harassment/ Intimidation	33.07
Psychological Abuse	22.84
Stalking	5.51
Attempt to Kill	3.15
Threat to Kill	2.36

Note: A separate incident can have multiple types of violence.

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Violence experienced by new clients as children

Type of Violence experienced by children	% of incidents	Frequency
Psychological Abuse	38.46	35
Harassment/ Intimidation	29.67	27
Physical Abuse	28.57	26
Threat to Kill	1.1	1
Trafficking	1.1	1
Stalking	1.1	1

Note: A separate incident can have multiple types of violence.

Relationship between victim and offender(s): As in other years, the majority of our 2022 intake of clients knew the person who had raped or assaulted them, accounting for over 95% of childhood abuse incidents and three-quarters (74.5%) of sexual violence incidents as adults.

Figures for intimate partner abuse were higher among those subjected to sexual violence as adults (20%) as opposed to children (13.9%)

Relationship	Child Sexual Abuse	Adult Rape/Sexual Assault
Parent	6.48%	0%
Sibling	7.41%	0%
Partner	13.89%	20%
Other relative	17.59%	3.64%
Other known person	44.44%	47.27%
Person in authority	5.56%	3.64%
Stranger	4.63%	25.45%

Pregnancy: In 2022, female clients disclosed 7 pregnancies.

Outcome of pregnancies	Number
Became Pregnant, Parenting	4
Became Pregnant, Termination	1
Became Pregnant, Miscarried	2

New clients: Reporting to Gardai

Of 286 new clients in 2022, some 105 had reported the crimes against them to the Gardai (either in 2022 or previously), a reporting rate of 37%.

Cases reported	% of total cases reported
Recent rape cases	49
Past rape cases	17
Recent Child Sexual Abuse cases	8
Past Child Sexual Abuse cases	26

Case outcome: Outcome information was known for 84 (80%) of the 105 cases reported:

Outcome	Total
Under Garda Investigation	73
Dropped by DPP/ client	9
Went to trial	2

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Outcome not disclosed	21
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There was a conviction in both cases that were tried.

Relationship between victim and offender(s) in reported cases:

Relationship	Child Sexual Abuse	Adult Rape/Sexual Assault
Parent	8.11%	0%
Sibling	5.4%	0%
Partner	18.92%	16.18%
Other relative	16.22%	4.41%
Other known person	45.95%	55.88%
Person in authority	2.7%	5.88%
Stranger	2.7%	17.65%

Accompaniment support

Along with accessing health services including counselling, therapy and medical care, it is very important that victims and survivors of sexual violence are able to seek justice following sexual violence. Wider society benefits from ensuring that those who commit sexual offences are held to account for what they have done and stopped from committing further harm.

However, for someone harmed by sexual violence, it can be daunting to engage with the justice system alone, without any idea of how the system works or where to go next.

DRCC accompaniment support workers are there for victims and survivors of rape and sexual assault attending the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) at Dublin's Rotunda Hospital, reporting sexual violence to An Garda Síochána or responsible institution, and going to court or other hearings in relation to sexual violence. This support is also available to friends and families or others who may be with them.

SATU accompaniment

Our support in the SATU unit of the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin is available 24/7 to those seeking forensic medical attention. In 2022, our accompaniment teams were there for 291 people at the SATU unit, most of whom were female (273) with 15 male and 3 transgender survivors. DRCC also offered emotional and psychological support to 233 friends, family members and other supporters at the unit. DRCC's support at SATU is non-judgmental and confidential. It is available to all victims of sexual assault and rape. It is particularly appreciated by those who are attending alone and have no other support. Family members and friends also find the support invaluable because they are often at a loss when seeking to support those they love.

To further enhance SATU's work, DRCC is part of a liaison committee of the Rotunda Hospital which advises on and monitors services there. DRCC is also represented on the national SATU Implementation Project Team.

Justice system accompaniment

For victims and survivors reporting a sexual offence to the Gardaí or other investigating authority, or who are going through a subsequent trial or other hearing, our psychological support service offers the reassurance of having someone along with them who knows the courts and how they work. It is helpful to have access to a person who can answer specific questions, explain unfamiliar language and structures and help navigate what can be a complex criminal legal process. The service can also include making a visit to a court ahead of the trial to become familiar with the layout and process. For those who are considering making a report to Gardaí or who are already in the process by themselves but need answers, the act of talking through the process or voicing worries may be a first step or a welcome advance. The crime being reported may be recent or have occurred some time ago

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Reporting accompaniment

In 2022, DRCC provided accompaniment support for 246 victims and survivors: accompanying 50 people to report in Garda stations and other settings where sexual violence may be notified, and providing information and support to a further 196 people. This compares with 210 in 2021, and 106 in 2020. In some cases, the person reporting was dealing with very challenging circumstances in addition to the reporting issue and required substantial support from the team. Of these 246 victims and survivors, the majority (222) were female and about a tenth (24) were male. The time devoted to such support rose from 367 hours in 2021 to 502 hours in 2022.

Court & hearing accompaniment

Our main focus is on the criminal courts. In addition, we supported people attending An Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission, the Workplace Relations Commission, the International Protection Office and the Family Courts in 2022, as well as accompanying victims and survivors to college disciplinary hearings and meetings with bodies such as religious orders.

We accompanied 60 victims and survivors in the criminal courts and other decision-making fora over the course of 2022, compared with 45 in 2021, and 44 in 2020. We provided information and support to a further 26 people. Most survivors we supported in the courts system were female (79). Notably, the amount of time this involved increased from 348 hours in 2021 to 484 hours in 2022. DRCC now has a dedicated accompaniment support team based in the Dublin courts following a successful pilot project.

Issues: Delay in the court process was again a major factor in 2022, with late requests for information being made by either defence or prosecution teams, as well as court issues such as availability of judges or witnesses failing to attend. Adjournments ranged from periods of a few days up to a year. Where adjournments are short, it is likely the case has been adjourned a number of times already. Our own data on delay in cases where we accompanied survivors in 2022 shows:

- 15 cases adjourned for 9 to 12 months (cases include first time listing as well as adjournments from previous years)
- 11 cases adjourned for 6 to 9 months (cases include first time listing as well as adjournments from previous years)
- 5 cases adjourned for 1 to 6 months (cases that had been adjourned from previous years)

Another issue is that sentencing may take place over a number of days, meaning that the victim/survivor must keep returning.

Training: We held training for staff and volunteers throughout the year, including visits to the courts for familiarisation and advanced training in the Criminal Court of Justice for our experienced court accompaniment support workers. DRCC also provided training and information to other relevant bodies.

Accompaniment information: In the summer, we produced a new accompaniment information card detailing all the ways our service can support survivors. Throughout the year, the accompaniment support team was deeply involved in creating a new online resource that will provide detailed, survivor-centred and trauma-sensitive information about sexual violence, reporting, courts and beyond, to be launched in 2023.

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Client feedback on accompaniment service

- “ This painting is a gift from me to DRCC for all the support given to me on the long, lonely road to healing and trying to navigate my way through the justice system... The work they do is so important and is it a fight in the darkness.
- “ I discovered my self-worth, since my disclosure of the abuse; enabled by the support and confidentiality of the DRCC, to whom I owe a great depth of gratitude... What I found empowering in all of this experience, was I was able to stand up and speak out and tell my story. I realised how strong and resilient I am.”
- “ I thank you sincerely for all the support and guidance you gave me on my journey... Having your support is what got me through, especially towards the end. I had your phone number when everyone else walked away.

Objective 2: Building the capacity of Irish society to better understand and guard against the harm of sexual violence, as well as meet the needs of victims/survivors

Promoting an appropriate response for victims/survivors through frontline training

It is imperative that key services are provided to victims and survivors in a way that does not further traumatise them and that is sensitive to their circumstances. DRCC aims to help frontline services and professionals become more trauma-aware and better able to understand and support victims & survivors and their needs. Towards this goal, we provide specialised training and information to staff and professionals who support those impacted by sexual violence. During 2022, we provided 57 training sessions, some of which ran over a number of days. Approximately 630 people were involved over the year.

Topics included working with victims of childhood sexual abuse, impact of Trauma, and managing disclosures. Our courses were attended by a variety of frontline groups, including sectors such as third-level, disability, refugee/asylum seekers, Traveller community, mental health, addiction, consular, homelessness, policing, prisons, and defence forces.

Tackling Sexual Violence Training Network

Learning from our peers, we coordinated a series of training sessions to a national network consisting of Rape Crisis Centres within the Rape Crisis Centre Forum, One in Four and the Men's Development Network. This group covered such topics as Sexual Trauma in Adolescents, Sex, Gender & Relationships, and Working with the LGBT community, with a variety of skilled and experienced trainers.

A total of 6 workshops/sessions took place in 2022 with a total of 139 participants, and a conference is planned for early 2023.

Tailored training

Different groups and organisations will have different ways of working and intersecting with survivors. DRCC's Education & Training team adapts its programmes to suit those needs. In 2022, we worked with religious groups, justice system bodies, artists, comedy sector actors, consular organisations, support services, security guards, health care staff, social care and homeless sector staff, those working with refugees and asylum seekers, interpreters, student unions, helplines, and college staff from various departments. All of our training is tailored to the needs of the specific organisations.

Feedback on training

“I thoroughly enjoyed the training session from start to finish and I particularly enjoyed hearing the experiences from the two trainers. I feel I would be better equipped to deal with such disclosures more effectively moving forward”

“All elements of the training were extremely valuable and will help my work going forward. From finding your own grounding (i.e. being able to remove yourself from the situation), how the brain processes trauma and how much victims are able to remember.”

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Curriculum reform

DRCC has long advocated for reform of Relationships and Sex Education in second level schools in the face of alarming indicators, such as the rising number of sexual offences, including intimate image abuse, being committed among young people, and the growing availability of hardcore porn to even primary age children via smartphones. At the launch of our annual report in September by Minister for Education Norma Foley TD, we heard from secondary teacher (and BodyRight graduate) Eoghan Cleary about what the adolescents in his RSE classes are saying: In the absence of solid, clear guidance, young people turn to porn – sometimes violent and abusive porn – to learn about sex and relationships, inevitably giving rise to unhealthy expectations and practices from and with each other. Teachers attending our Youth Programmes tell us that they need specialised training to be able to deliver RSE classes, and that there needs to be adequate time and support for this vital topic in timetables if it is to be effective. DRCC contributed to National Council for Curriculum & Assessment consultations on updating Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curricula for Junior and Senior Cycles later in 2022.

Youth Programmes

DRCC prioritises work equipping frontline staff working with young people to understand key issues around sexual violence, healthy relationships and consent. In 2022 we continued to offer training programmes and materials to this end. Alongside our two core programmes below, we also provided tailored training to a number of participants, with a total of 180 individuals attending our youth programmes in 2022. Those who take part in our youth programmes are given access an information portal where they gain access to relevant online resources and can share best practice.

BodyRight Programme

Our flagship training for BodyRight facilitators is a four-day programme designed to equip those working with young people to raise awareness of respect and healthy relationships, consent and online safety and to prevent sexual violence. In 2022, we delivered BodyRight facilitator training on 6 occasions to teachers, guidance counsellors, youth workers, therapists and other youth professionals. In addition, we ran a 2-day BodyRight refresher course.

In total, BodyRight was delivered to 102 individuals, up from 78 in 2021. Thanks to a funding grant, we were able to offer this important instruction to participants free of charge.

#LetsGetReal

With a growing awareness of the need to educate young people to become more critical in their consumption of advertising, popular culture and pornography, DRCC's #LetsGetReal educational resource for youth workers and school staff has become increasingly popular. We were able to offer this programme 6 times in 2022, with 69 people trained.

"A fuller understanding of consent, based on open communication, equality and consideration for others, will build empathy in young people and contribute to healthier relationships."

– Noeline Blackwell, DRCC CEO responding in July to the opening of the NCCA's consultation on SPHE curriculum reform for Junior Cycle

Feedback on Youth Programmes

"I found the information very relevant and easy to follow ... This is information I can use in my everyday practice."

"Very valuable and very needed in schools. This course gave me more confidence to teach students in my class."

"Comprehensive, well run, impactful course designed well and relevant to today's generation and incorporating LGBTQ well."

"The facilitators managed the group well, going into break out rooms is a great learning for participants as we learn from each other."

"Very useful as a teacher, guidance counsellor and parent!"

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Youth Advisory Group

This group of young people aged 18 to 25 years provides invaluable guidance and input on issues relevant to young people for our programme development, as well our campaign work. In August, the group had its first in-person meeting since the pandemic, where we planned its direction, and discussed issues that the group felt are important to young people today.

Work with third-level colleges

Our Education & Training Manager Caitriona Freir is part of the steering group for the 'Speak Out' anonymous reporting tool. This tool allows students, staff and visitors in 18 higher education institutions to report incidents of sexual harassment and misconduct on an anonymous basis. She is also on the National Advisory Committee (NAC) of the ESHE project on ending sexual violence and harassment in third level education. DRCC staff and our Chairperson Ann Marie Gill all sit on consent committees for some of the higher education institutions as they tackle the issue of sexual violence and harassment within their institutions. In addition, CEO Noeline Blackwell is part of an advisory committee to the Higher Education Authority on Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education Institutions and was part of a panel discussion at the launch of its Implementation Plan for Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education Institutions in October 2022.

Tackling sexual violence in society

In February, DRCC hosted and contributed to a webinar on 'What Needs to Change? Preventing male violence against women' which was convened by Ruairi McKiernan and musician and activist Molly Sterling, and featured artist and writer Fiona Whelan, Gary Keegan of theatre group Brokentaklers, academic and researcher Conor Hammersley and Danielle McKenna of Rialto Youth Project. The panel discussed the issue of male violence against women in the wake of several high-profile attacks and suggested several ways to address this issue. In the autumn, we presented on our youth programme work, as well as our clients support service and consent project, at a Listening Session for the Irish Consortium for Gender Based Violence.

Marking International Women's Day

We marked IWD on 8 March with a focus on #EqualConsent, stressing that gender equality was at the heart of consent and of ending sexual violence. Also, on IWD, DRCC was delighted to announce a major anonymous philanthropic donation towards our national consent campaign in partnership with the Community Foundation for Ireland, focusing on robust research foundations, raising awareness and amplifying survivor voices. Our CEO Noeline Blackwell highlighted sexual violence against women at an event outside Dáil Eireann organised by the National Women's Council to mark IWD. Our Consent Project Manager Sarah Monaghan took part in a Community event on gender-based violence organised by Dublin City Council. A group from DRCC were invited to a belated IWD celebration hosted by President Michael D Higgins and Sabina Higgins at Áras an Uachtarán in June, where Noeline gave an address to attendees.

DRCC x Culture Night x WeAct

In September, we teamed up with community campaign WeAct to participate for the first time in Culture Night. DRCC opened its doors to welcome members of the public and explain our services and wider work. Under the title 'Consent, Conversation & Culture', we offered taster workshops on consent and closed the night with a wonderful session of comedy, music, poetry and song featuring Eve Darcy, Sam's Collective & Aoife Wolf.

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Objective 3: Recognising the diversity of those who are victims/survivors of sexual violence, ensuring our services are available to whoever needs them.

Recognising barriers to participation and support

DRCC is aware that due to status, disability, poverty or other discrimination or social inclusion factor, many victims and survivors may find it particularly hard to seek and access support. While we ask our clients to make a contribution towards therapeutic services if they can, those who cannot are welcome to access the service without charge. Our National 24-Hour Helpline has an interpretation facility allowing people to access the service in over 240 languages, alongside the existing text line for Deaf and hard of hearing callers. Other specific services are provided to support those who would benefit from additional supports.

Support for minority & vulnerable groups

People without homes, those who are living with addiction and those who are refugees or seeking asylum are particularly vulnerable as victims of sexual violence, as are those who come from minority ethnic groups. Our support service for women detained in Dóchas, the Women's Prison, was disrupted during 2022 because of a wider shortage of available specialist therapists, and DRCC is working hard to restore this vital support in 2023.

Did you know?

DRCC's website has a built-in translate function that can automatically translate text in a host of other languages.

Visit drcc.ie and go to the bottom of the webpage (any page!) to switch to the language of your choice using the Google Translate tool.

Client Support Service

The impact of trauma can be made worse for victims and survivors when they also face other challenges. In addition, those who have experienced trauma may have their capacity to cope with additional stresses reduced by this impact. Crucially, it can be difficult for those facing significant barriers in their lives to address their trauma through counselling and therapy in an effective way when they are overwhelmed by practical issues.

Our Client Support Service empowers and helps clients to access rights and entitlements, find relevant information and seek referral to other services as appropriate, in a holistic way. This involves working with clients one-on-one and making representations on their behalf to statutory bodies and services around accessing their rights and entitlements or to appeal decisions where they have been refused unfairly. It can cover issues such as housing/homelessness, social welfare, health, immigration, the asylum process, education and employment.

In 2022, DRCC therapy and accompaniment support teams referred 56 clients to the Client Support Service. Our CSS Officer carried out 234 interventions involving 203 agency engagements. There were an additional 12 referrals from the National Helpline (totaling 17 interventions and 14 agency engagements), as a pilot programme.

On average, clients engaged with the Client Support Service for 13 weeks, involving of 4 distinct interventions and requiring 4 agency engagements. During the year, DRCC developed a Holistic Needs Assessment used to better assess vulnerable clients' needs.

Ukrainian Emergency Response:

With the arrival of Ukrainian refugees fleeing conflict in their homeland during the year, DRCC liaised with the Department of Equality on providing information in Ukrainian and Russian on available supports for victims and survivors of sexual violence. We also helped to ensure information was included on SATU services around Ireland. DRCC participated in the Ukraine Civil Response Forum throughout the year providing information and assisting as appropriate.

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JUSTISIGNS II Project

DRCC is part of this collaboration of experts from Ireland, Belgium, Spain and the UK undertaking research within the Deaf, migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking communities to investigate experiences of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence as well as their interactions with victim support agencies. It seeks to improve access to support services and the legal process through raising awareness and providing accessible information and resources and training for key actors such as police, interpreters and health workers.

During 2022 we continued to work on developing training and resources for those from the deaf and migrant communities who are impacted by sexual violence. This included two half-day trainings for sign and spoken language interpreters in February, and two half-days in November, on working with vulnerable groups impacted by sexual violence. We also completed work on a handbook for interpreters working with issues of domestic, sexual and gender-based violence, and developed a Toolkit of Resources for those impacted by, and working with the issue of sexual violence. We contributed a chapter to a Training Manual for Interpreters and Service Providers around DSGBV. We also attended a transnational meeting in Vigo, Spain, and took part in a conference at the European Union of the Deaf in Brussels.

Training to support survivors from minority groups

DRCC aims to ensure that frontline staff supporting vulnerable and minority groups have appropriate training on the impacts of sexual violence. During 2022, we provided training to 190 professionals working with minority and vulnerable groups, including Traveller groups, homeless support organisations and refugees and asylum-seekers support bodies, made possible through grant funding.

Working with peer organisations & groups

Over the year, DRCC took part in a variety of information and awareness events aimed at minority groups, including those organised by the International Organisation of Migration, the Muslim Sisters of Eire, Amal Women. DRCC has also engaged with a wide variety of groups through our Consent Project.

National Helpline Interpreting Service

DRCC operates the **24-hour freephone National Helpline 1800 778888** in English, but if you prefer to engage in another language, the Helpline Interpreting Service can help. It runs Monday to Friday, 8am to 6:30pm except holidays. It also operates midnight to 8am seven days a week.

The service is free, non-judgmental and confidential – you can read more on our website at drcc.ie

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Goal 2: Eliminate tolerance of sexual violence in Irish society and support the rights of victims/survivors

Objective 4: Building, maintaining and disseminating knowledge and expertise on the topic of sexual violence

Third National Strategy against Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence

On Tuesday 28 June, the Third National Strategy on DSGBV 2022-2026 was launched jointly by An Taoiseach Michel Martin, Minister for Justice Helen McEntee and Minister for Equality Roderic O'Gorman. DRCC welcomed the new plan, which also has a detailed timetable for implementation, saying "today is the day when our government undertakes to step up to its responsibilities to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights obligations to the people of this land by declaring zero tolerance of all domestic, sexual and gender-based violence." With four pillars – prevention, protection, prosecution and policy – the strategy mandates a much-needed but hitherto absent cross-government approach and will involve establishing a new agency to drive actions and progress among multiple departments.

The plan also prescribes a focus on increasing awareness of consent in society including Relationships and Sex Education in schools, as well as better provision of information on available supports to people using state services, an increase in the number of refuges for victims of domestic violence and an increase in the maximum sentence for assault causing harm from 5 to 10 years. The strategy also recognises children in domestic violence situations as witnesses and victims/survivors in their own right for the first time. For the past number of years, DRCC has contributed substantially to the development of this strategy and look forward now to supporting its full and speedy implementation.

Ahead of Budget 2023 being announced in September, we called on government to ensure that it would provide adequate sustainable funding to deliver the Third National Strategy, but also that the organisations who part-deliver this strategy – rape crisis centres - are also adequately resourced.

Young people & sexual violence

In March, our Education & Training team took part in a Seminar organized by An Garda Síochána for about 100 secondary school students, talking about DRCC services and on consent, myths & attitudes about sexual violence and sharing intimate images. In May, we co-hosted a webinar on *Judicial Discretion and the Justice and Welfare Dichotomy: The Sentencing of Child & Adolescent Sexual Offences in the Irish Youth Justice System* with the Children's Rights Alliance. His Hon Dr John Connor presented on how juvenile offenders charged with sexual offences are treated in the Irish criminal justice system. A panel chaired by Mary Carolan, *Irish Times* Legal Affairs Correspondent, included responses from DRCC, Children's Rights Alliance, Irish Penal Reform Trust and the Department of Justice. A recording is available on DRCC's YouTube account and on our website at drcc.ie

Cooperating with international partners

In July, DRCC hosted a visit from representatives of Swedish women's rights organisation Kvinna till Kvinna and its partner organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina who were on a study visit to Ireland to learn more about rape crisis centres. After a rewarding exchange of information and ideas, Our Policy Manager Shirley Scott then presented on our work at a conference in Sarajevo in November aimed towards establishing the first-ever Rape Crisis Centre in Bosnia.

Marking 20 years since SAVI: In December, we marked two decades since the publication of the ground-breaking report on 'Sexual Abuse and Violence in Ireland' with a webinar. What became known simply as the SAVI report was the first population-wide prevalence survey on sexual violence in Ireland and was commissioned by DRCC, capturing public attitudes towards and experience of all forms of sexual violence, both as adults and as children. Our webinar featured as keynote speaker the original lead author of SAVI, Prof Hannah McGee of Royal College of Surgeons Ireland.

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In addition, Helen McGrath of the Central Statistics Office provided an input on the CSO's forthcoming Sexual Violence Survey which will finally give an update to SAVI, Philip McCormack* of the

Department of Justice spoke on the influence of SAVI on the Department's work over the past two decades, and Adam May of Language & DRCC Consent Project Manager Sarah Monaghan introduced DRCC's new consent research & the impact of SAVI on it. A recording of the event is on DRCC's YouTube and on our website at drcc.ie.

(*Sadly, Philip passed away in February 2023; we extend our deepest sympathies to his family and colleagues.)

Promoting gender equality

DRCC appeared before the Joint Committee on Gender Equality at the end of March to discuss the recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on Gender Equality. We offered comment on some specific recommendations of the Assembly, particularly around a new statutory agency that would coordinate a whole-of-government approach to tackling gender-based violence, as well as supporting justice for victims and survivors through courts reform, judicial training, better sentencing, better data collection, a Victims/Survivors Commissioner and more trauma-sensitive, survivor-centred services. The wide-ranging recommendations of the committee were published in December as 'Unfinished Democracy: Achieving Gender Equality' and include many issues identified by DRCC, a long-overdue updating of overhaul of sex education curricula in our schools.

Working with others

Joining forces to increase impact: While we aim to build our own organisational capacity and expertise, we recognise that we gain in knowledge and impact when we collaborate with colleagues in other organisations in the community and voluntary sector and beyond.

- ▶ DRCC is a committed member of the **National Women's Council** and also of the **Observatory against Violence against Women**, which NWC chairs. DRCC is one of 14 members of the **Beyond Exploitation** civil society campaign for equality and freedom from sexual exploitation, led by the NWC.
- ▶ We are a member of the **Rape Crisis Centre Forum Ireland**, a collective of nine of the country's 16 Rape Crisis Centres, which meets regularly for information sharing, pooling of experience, training and expertise and development of mutual objectives.
- ▶ We are involved in the **Victims' Rights Alliance** and of the advisory committee to the **Familicide Review** commissioned by the Department of Justice.
- ▶ In addition, DRCC is part of the **Strategic Human Rights Advisory Committee** of An Garda Síochána and in the **National Advisory Committee to the Sex Offender Risk Assessment and Management group, SORAM**.
- ▶ DRCC is a member of the **Children's Rights Alliance**, offering feedback and other input to its annual **Score Card** which evaluates the state's performance in upholding children's rights in Ireland. Over the past number of years, DRCC has worked with CRA and others in the **123 Online Safety** campaign for more safety in online communications. We co-organised a webinar with CRA in May – more above.
- ▶ DRCC is also a member of **The Wheel**, which represents community & voluntary organisations around Ireland and engages with a wide range of organisations on an ad-hoc basis. In 2022 DRCC was part of its 'WeAct' campaign to celebrate the impact of Ireland's charities and community groups as well as engaging in various specialist forums of The Wheel.

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Objective 5: Building greater recognition in the law and throughout society on the key role of consent

Further building a national consent project in Irish society

DRCC's Consent Project is a long-term cultural reframing to support healthier, happier relationships & to reduce sexual violence. The project has four long-term objectives:

1. Cultural norms around sex, consent and gender equality will be challenged.
2. Nobody will believe that sexual activity without consent is OK.
3. Consent is understood & valued.
4. DRCC & partners, are better equipped to communicate and engage with the public about consent.

Building on work done over the previous year, and with investment from the Department of Justice and via Community Foundation in Ireland, DRCC recruited a skilled and dedicated Consent Project team. This comprises an experienced Project Manager with senior leadership positions in several national campaigns behind her, an Outreach and Engagement Officer with responsibility for survivor engagement and roll out of consent workshops countrywide, and a skilled Communications and Events Officer with responsibility for social media, design, digital strategy and event management.

A key aspect of the project development was the formation of the Consent Project Advisory group - survivors, campaigners, sectoral organisations and representatives from marginalised communities who all brought immense experience and expertise. Its first meeting in July was an important milestone for the Consent Project in including external parties in the project and this group is an immense asset to its work. In addition, we established a Survivor Council - a small group of survivors who review the Project's approach and materials and feed directly into campaign plans drawing on their lived experience as victims and survivors of sexual violence.

Following on from ground-breaking quantitative and qualitative research into consent in Ireland in 2021, we completed a second phase of research in 2022 delving into public understanding and opinions around consent and also testing the coming campaign identity and messaging with various audiences. This phase of research included focus groups with marginalised communities to ensure a diverse range of opinion and experience was built into the campaign foundations. In 2022, we also commenced a series of new and innovative nationwide consent workshop events with an external facilitator. These focus on teaching people about consent, bias and acquiring skills needed to have the conversations about sex, consent and relationships that we can find difficult. The Consent Project embarked on early outreach work ahead of launch by hosting Consent stalls at UCD and speaking on panels at Femfest and the launch of the Shadow Report to Greivio by the National Observatory on Violence Against Women and Girls. The Project ended 2022 in a great position for the launch of a public-facing campaign in early 2023.

Putting a spotlight on consent: In February DRCC was chosen as one of 3 charities to take part in in the Irish leg of the international Cannes Young Lions competition among young advertising/PR executives. The winning teams get to design a media campaign and short film on our chosen topic, which was consent, and would represent Ireland in the Cannes Film Festival side event in June. The DRCC campaign team worked with our board member John Fanning on presenting our consent work to the young creatives competing, and then on shortlisting their campaign pitches for final judging. The two victorious 'Young Lions' were both from Rothco (now Accenture Song). Part of the film category prize included a TV ad for future airing on Sky Ireland, which will dovetail with the wider consent campaign development.

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Our focus on International Women's Day 2022 was #EqualConsent, looking at the intersection between consent, equality and ending sexual violence. We were also lucky to have a video with Irish Sign Language produced by our JUSTISIGNS partners. In November, we marked the Global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence against women with a campaign using art to highlight the importance of consent and celebrate activism, women and community, called #unite4consent. We were supported by six wonderful young Irish artists who contributed to the campaign with some gorgeous prints, where they contributed a percentage of sales to support our work and services.

Objective 6: Increasing the incidence of reporting offences of sexual violence

Providing information to victims & survivors

With state funding, in 2022 we began work on an online guide offering information to victims and survivors of sexual violence on options and supports available to them, including engagement with the criminal justice system and reporting sexual crimes. We worked with e-learning organisation Learning Pool on digital content for the guide which will offer trauma-sensitive, victim-centred information in a variety of formats. The guide will launch in early 2023.

Supporting a Victim's Journey

The aptly-named Department of Justice plan to improve reporting and criminal justice systems for victims and vulnerable witnesses in sexual violence cases continued in 2022, with DRCC and other groups providing input to its implementation. We are part of a number of sub-groups to help implement particular recommendations of *Supporting a Victim's Journey*, notably on advancing specialist training programmes for all those who deal with victims in sexual offence cases, and on mapping the journey faced by victims as they navigate the reporting and legal system. During the year we saw the commencement of the Criminal Procedures Act 2021 to allow for the introduction of pre-trial hearings which has the potential to reduce delay and improve efficiency in case management.

Advocating for adequate compensation for victims of crime

In early 2022, the Law Reform Commission announced that it planned to examine the way in which state compensation for victims of criminal injuries operates in Ireland, with a particular focus on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, and whether Ireland is meeting its international and EU law obligations with regard to compensation for victims of violent crime. The focus of DRCC's submission to the Commission's consultation paper on this issue was informed by our experience supporting victims and survivors of sexual violence. We suggested changing the three-month time limit which is entirely inadequate in the context of sexual violence; providing sufficient supports including legal advice and representation; ensuring the scheme is managed in an efficient but trauma-aware way; understanding the needs of survivors in a holistic way; ensuring that compensation for pain and suffering includes non-physical injuries; provision for emergency awards and for long-term needs.

Fostering reporting of sexual misconduct at third level

DRCC assisted in developing an online anti-harassment/sexual misconduct training module at University College Dublin by providing feedback and contributing a video clip to the module, which was put in operation from September. We also supported UCD staff in establishing a 'report and support' team and related resources by providing training and feedback.

Creating a safer internet

DRCC is part of the 123 Online Safety campaign to increase protections online, led by Children's Rights Alliance (CRA). The year started with the long-awaited publication of Online Safety and Media Regulation Bill, but while the Bill contained some provisions DRCC and others had sought, it did not have provision for an individual complaints mechanism that would offer everyone an accessible solution when online services and platforms fail to protect them.

We provided comment to the online safety expert group convened to examine practicalities and potential operation of an individual complaints' mechanism. CRA hosted an online discussion with members of various political parties to hear their views on how to ensure the OSMR Bill is fit for purpose.

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DRCC was pleased to note that the Online Safety and Media Regulation Act of 2022 provides for a specific post of Safety Commissioner and there is provision for the gradual adoption of that essential element of an individual complaint mechanism.

Advocating for an Improved Police Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence:

In spring, we were invited by the Garda Inspectorate to make a submission on the effectiveness and efficiency of An Garda Síochána's response to domestic abuse, including sexual violence. This is in the context of a wider inspection into the force's response and a report is expected in due course.

Objective 7: Facilitating victims/survivors in making their voices heard and promoting innovation in strengthening protection for victims/survivors of sexual violence

Towards a more victim-centred justice system

Many aspects of our criminal justice system cause needless re-traumatising of victims and survivors in rape and sexual assault proceedings. February saw the introduction of a new Private Members Bill in the Seanad to limit the use of character references in mitigating sentences of those found guilty of violent and sexual crimes. The Bill was created by Senator Regina Doherty and sponsored by her, Senator Lisa Chambers and Senator Pauline O'Reilly having discussed it in some detail with DRCC. It aims to require such character references to be submitted under oath and to allow the prosecution to cross-examine those submitting character references for a defendant. The Criminal Justice (Amendment) Bill 2022 was passed by the Seanad in December 2022 and is awaiting discussion by Dáil Éireann.

During the year, DRCC's Accompaniment Manager delivered talks in Garda Divisional Protective Services Units (DPSU) in Dublin to raise awareness of our accompaniment work and the services available to victims after sexual violence. We were also invited to address the annual conference organised by District Court judges on the importance of empathetic and respectful communication when dealing with survivors in court.

Recognising the intersection of legal jurisdictions

One frustrating aspect of the justice system for victims is the multiplicity of proceedings that they may be facing. People who are witnesses in criminal sexual offences proceedings may also be involved in private law proceedings relating to separation, divorce, maintenance or child custody in the Family Courts and may also be involved in proceedings brought by Tusla relating to child care. These courts operate independently, with different standards of evidence and different rules and can leave victims of sexual violence confused and tied up in inexplicable procedural knots.

In 2022 the National Women's Council, funded by the Department of Justice commissioned research on the intersection of the three justice systems. It will include recommendations on how the different arms of the justice system can better work in tandem to ensure that victims' rights are upheld and respected throughout the justice system. DRCC contributed information to the researchers and was represented on the NWC Advisory committee to the research,

Amplifying the voices of victims and survivors

A key tenet of how we fulfil our dual mission is that we aim to amplify and promote the voice of victims and survivors of sexual violence as the true Experts by Experience in combating sexual violence in all its forms. Indeed, it is essential that victims and survivors are at the centre of our work so it can be relevant and authentic to our vision of an Ireland free from sexual violence.

In 2022, we have been privileged to work directly with victims and survivors in a number of ways: our Consent Project Survivor Panel helped guide the development of our new campaign in the second half of the year; we provided support to survivors who waived their anonymity following court proceedings; we included first-hand survivor testimonies and experiences with the reporting and legal systems in our forthcoming online information guide, as well as other information resources; and we included survivor feedback in our policy and research outputs throughout 2022. We are deeply grateful to each and every person for their generosity in sharing their invaluable insights.

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Building a safe and respectful working environment in the Arts

In April, DRCC responded to an invitation from the Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sports & Media to provide commentary on the delivery of a safe and respectful working environment in the Arts. DRCC called for the implementation of recommendations by the Irish Theatre Institute's *Speak Up: A Call for Change* report; for shifts in culture to ensure safe and respectful working environments; for reform of existing policies, frameworks and procedures and for the introduction of governance standards. In September the Committee issued its *Report on Safe and Respectful Working Conditions in the Arts* in which it made a series of recommendations. This report comes on foot of research commissioned by the Irish Theatre Institute which found several issues relating to harmful workplace behaviours across the arts sector.

Combatting sexual harassment in the workplace

In 2022, DRCC continued its exploration into whether the tools and systems available to counter sexual harassment in the workplace were adequate. We suspect not, as the numbers disclosing such harassment in surveys, is far greater than those reporting it and taking steps to hold abusers to account. In addition to supporting University College Dublin as they developed a wide range of reporting tools, DRCC contributed to the 'Dignity Matters' training video created by the Law Society for its member solicitors about the impact of harmful behaviour in the workplace. DRCC's research work on this topic will continue into 2023.

Following numerous calls for review of how the Defence Forces handle allegations of sexual misconduct and sexual violence within their ranks, the government established an Independent Review Group in March 2022. The group subsequently invited inputs on the relevant mechanisms and structures within the Defence Forces, and DRCC contributed recommendations on what is needed to underpin a workplace based on dignity and respect as well as providing training support to the Review personnel. The Report of the group is due early in 2023.

In early 2023, Ireland will ratify the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention 2019, only the 24th country to do so. This is the first international treaty to recognise the right of everyone to a world of work free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment. In September, DRCC contributed to a public consultation supporting the proposed ratification because the adoption of this Convention would signal a positive commitment to protect workers generally and in particular in relation to workplace sexual harassment and abuse issues that arise. Our submission noted that women are disproportionately affected by such abuse. We also noted that following ratification, further work needed to be done on existing systems to make them effective in supporting the principles of the Convention.

Holding the state to account on obligations to eliminate gender-based violence

The Istanbul Convention is an international human rights treaty ratified by Ireland in March 2019. It maintains a Europe-wide legal framework to protect women against all forms of violence, and prevent, prosecute and eliminate violence against women, based on a victim-centred approach and linked to a wider goal of achieving gender equality.

The convention places obligations on the Irish state across a range of targets. Ireland will be assessed for the first time on how it is meeting these obligations in 2023 by the independent expert body called GREVIO which monitors how the Convention is implemented. In 2022, DRCC submitted its own observations on how the state is performing, as well as contributing to the joint Shadow Report of the Irish Observatory on Violence Against Women.

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Policy submissions in 2022

	Month	Submission
1.	January	Submission to the Commission on Taxation & Welfare's public consultation on Your Vision, Our Future.
2.	January	Submission to the Garda Inspectorate on effectiveness and efficiency of Garda Síochána response to domestic abuse including sexual violence.
3.	March	Submission to Joint Dáil Committee on Gender Equality on recommendations from the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality.
4.	March	Individual submission and support for a Children's Rights Alliance submission to the online safety expert group regarding an individual complaints' mechanism in the Online Safety and Media Regulation bill.
5.	March	Submission to Department of Justice on Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
6.	April	Submission to the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sports & Media in relation to the delivery of a safe and respectful working environment in the arts.
7.	April	Submission to the Independent Review set up to examine allegations of sexual harassment and bullying in the Defence Forces.
8.	April	Submission to the Law Reform Commission's consultation paper on compensating victims of crime.
9.	July	Joint Pre-Budget 2023 Submission with 4 other Rape Crisis Centres – Athlone, Kilkenny, Tullamore and Wexford.
10.	August	Individual submission and collaboration on a Joint National Observatory Shadow Report to GREVIO (the independent expert body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Istanbul convention).
11.	September	Submission to the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment on Ireland's ratification of the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No 190).
12.	October	Submission on General Scheme of Criminal Justice (Sexual Offences & Human Trafficking) Bill 2022
13.	October	Submission to National Council for Curriculum & Assessment on draft specification for its Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum for Junior Cycle
14.	November	Submission to National Council for Curriculum & Assessment on the redevelopment of its Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) curriculum for Senior Cycle

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Goal 3: Be a strong, sustainable organisation

Objective 8: Maintaining and further developing the sustainable financial base for our work

DRCC is reliant on fundraising to be there for the many victims and survivors who come to us for the support they need to recover from the trauma of sexual violence. In 2022, the support we offered to 1 in 5 survivors was financed by public fundraising.

These dedicated individuals and organisations raised a total of €840,000 in 2022 to prevent the harm and heal the trauma of rape and sexual violence. The year saw an array of campaigns, challenges, sports achievements and fun events being organised to benefit DRCC. We had groups and individuals participating in a multitude of sporting events, notably the VHI Women's Mini Marathon in Dublin in June, sky dives and sea swim challenges. Trinity College Law Society and DCU raised funds for DRCC over the academic year and other amazing individuals organised events as diverse as a Bond themed ball, jewelry sales and raffles, and a writing competition with Sonder Magazine.

We organised or co-organised a number of fundraising events in 2022, which the public again supported wholeheartedly. September saw the return of one of our annual calendar fixtures - Pluto events & marketing agency organised the dazzling WomanKind Fashion Show in the InterContinental Hotel, curated by Irene O'Brien and compèred by broadcaster Claire Byrne. We also held DRCC's Annual Golf Classic in September with an array of teams competing for glory in the Joe Carr Perpetual Trophy. In October, the divine Miss Candy hosted her final international Fashion Lunch in the Westin Hotel; we must say a very special thank you to Miss Candy for her unstinting support over the past 25 years and for so many wonderful memories – but importantly for the vital funds she has helped to raise for survivors of sexual violence.

We continued to put the spotlight on the need for #Support4Survivors, running a week of awareness and virtual fundraising in October. We also continued to highlight the impact of leaving a legacy in your will through DRCC's membership of My Legacy.

DRCC is deeply grateful to the companies, trusts and philanthropists who wished to support our work and who stood behind the issues we champion and the values we stand for. In particular, the Community Foundation Ireland and its donors who championed DRCC's We-Consent campaign in its earliest days. In addition, we benefitted from pro bono support in areas like legal assistance and advice.

It is critical that DRCC raises funds from diverse sources to sustain our work and services. Our fundraising never stops; Each year we work hard to make sure the Centre has the funds it needs to run our clinical support services, education programmes, awareness-raising and communications, advocacy, research and policy work.

Alongside the fantastic public donations, events and corporate partnerships that we were delighted to benefit from in 2022, the State continued to part-fund DRCC. We are very grateful to Tusla and the Department of Justice, as our main state funders, for their partnership approach and significant part-funding of our core work. Nonetheless, a difficulty still remains where it seems to be the case that even when our direct funders are aware of under-funding, the financial arm of government continues to ignore its long-standing neglect of voluntary organisations including rape crisis centres that provide essential services which the State is duty bound to provide to those who need it.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who chooses to contribute in any way to DRCC's work and mission of preventing the harm and healing the trauma of sexual violence in Ireland. The support we offered to 1 in 5 survivors was funded by the public; simply put – we couldn't be there for people in their darkest moments without you.

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Objective 9: Implementing a comprehensive & coherent communications plan

Communications underpin and support how DRCC meets its strategic objectives and transmits our values. We use communications tools and channels to broaden understanding of sexual violence and its impacts, to promote our services and supports to victims and survivors, and to campaign for a society with zero tolerance for sexual violence and that understands and values sexual consent. It is also important that we share our insights, learnings and trends from across all facets of our work, both internally and externally, with a variety of stakeholders. Finally, the voice of victims and survivors is at the heart of our communications work and we seek to support and amplify survivors' voices wherever possible.

Communications channels

Our website drcc.ie hosts updates on our work, news and press releases as well as campaigns and events. It is also the access point for our webchat support service which allows people to receive crisis support via online chat with a webchat support worker. The site also houses downloadable resources, focused on offering survivors information and tools to understand and manage trauma impacts. In 2022, there were over 4,500 downloads, 2,830 telephone calls and almost 800 emails sent from the site.

We used our social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube to highlight various aspects our work and draw attention to issues of concern. (Our Consent Project established its own set of social channels in 2023.) We issued quarterly online newsletters throughout 2022 to update subscribers on our work, campaigns and other relevant developments. Our Education & Training team issues an occasional newsletter to past attendees of training courses to alert them to training opportunities.

Media

DRCC works with media to share insights and evidence from our work, flag issues of concern and provide comment on relevant matters. We landed over 500 briefings and/or pieces of coverage across media outlets at local and national level in 2022. We assisted a number of survivors who were preparing to speak to media or otherwise address the public about their experience as a survivor, either in the courts or reporting process or to highlight supports or impacts of sexual violence on their lives.

Raising awareness & creating change

As well as further developing our large-scale national campaign on consent, DRCC created a number of smaller-scale campaigns highlighting equality, online safety and support for survivors and to mark International Women's Day and the 16 Days of Action against Gender-Based Violence. Our award-winning #100consent campaign created with Pluto events and marketing agency continued to garner awards in 2022, winning a silver in the European IMC awards in the non-profit/charity cause a Golden Spider awards for digital media in March.

We published our annual report and statistical supplement for 2021 in October, with Minister for Education Norma Foley TD kindly launching the report. DRCC Chairperson Ann Marie Gill welcomed attendees online and in person, and our CEO Noeline Blackwell profiled the year as one in which more people availed of rape crisis supports as lockdown eased, and where we again highlighted key prevention tools such as awareness of and education on consent. The event saw inputs from staff members on our work in accompanying survivors, therapy and counselling services and education.

In 2022, we had the opportunity to promote our services and supports via occasional street-level advertising in Dublin and a number of other locations in Ireland, in cooperation with Dublin City Council and Clear Channel Communications. These digital pedestals also contain telephones with free access to emergency telephone numbers, including the National Rape Crisis Helpline 1800 77 8888.

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Providing resources for victims and survivors of sexual violence

Over the year, we created survivor resources on issues such as coping with nightmares and panic attacks, healthy relationships, and abdominal breathwork, which we shared on social media and via our website. In conjunction with our policy and accompaniment teams, the communications team worked over most of 2022 on writing and preparing an online guide for victims and survivors on their options and supports, forthcoming in 2023. This included liaising with other agencies such as An Garda Síochána, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit as well as legal and other subject matter experts on content, and also with e-learning organisation Learning Pool which was creating digital content.

It was a privilege during the year to integrate texts and quotes from survivors into the resource, and towards the end of the year to involve a host of volunteers in creating audio voiceovers for some texts on the site. Thanks to funding support, DRCC was able to hire a communications assistant to coordinate this work and to ensure it is disseminated widely and stays updated into the future.

Objective 10: Maintaining a robust and accountable organisational structure

DRCC Staff

The day-to-day fulfilment of DRCC's mission and goals falls primarily to our dedicated staff, managed by our CEO and senior management team and overseen by our voluntary Board. In 2022, our staff resumed ways of working that had been suspended over the pandemic but maintained some useful practices and platforms adopted during the crisis period, setting up hybrid working arrangements to deliver our services smoothly and at the highest level. In the face of easing restrictions, our main focus was safety for staff and clients alike. In particular, it was very welcome to finally be able to regularly meet clients and colleagues in person again.

Again in 2022, and like many others in our sector and more widely, we experienced a significant turnover of staff. With demand for our services as strong as ever, but in competition with a host of other state and private sector services, it was a constant challenge to recruit new staff across all areas but especially in our therapy services. Another challenge during the year was our premises, which is now inadequate to accommodate the range of work and number of staff needed, which meant reliance on hybrid working practices and required the rental of additional therapy spaces.

Nonetheless, DRCC's staff worked diligently to maintain and improve internal structures, policies and systems, including our IT, data security and internal communications processes. We prioritised contact with clients including those waiting to attend services. Towards the end of the year, we began preparation for a new strategic plan which will be launched in 2023.

DRCC Volunteers

For decades, volunteers have been an integral, vital part of how DRCC delivers its supports and services to survivors of sexual violence, in particular on the National 24-Hour Helpline and in accompanying victim/survivors in the justice system as well as to the Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) in the Rotunda Hospital.

In addition, our Board comprises volunteer members who provide leadership and governance oversight for the organisation. And we benefit enormously from the scores of people who share their expertise with us and who raise funds to support our work across all areas.

Celebrating our Volunteers

In March, our long-serving volunteer Kay Lynch was featured as part of the national We Act civil society campaign around the role of the sector in International Women's Day.

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

In May we marked **National Volunteering Week** with a range of activities including a social media focus highlighting the contribution of our volunteers across a variety of areas, a special edition of our *Volunteer Update* newsletter, and a lunchtime session with staff as well as a graduation ceremony for volunteers who had reached their two-year commitment.

On 20 May, DRCC took part in a Volunteer / Charity Night organised by the Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland at the Mansion House, where we received a certificate to recognise our work. On the same night our CEO Noeline Blackwell chaired the national Volunteering Ireland awards.

Later in the year, we marked International Volunteering Day with a special Volunteer Appreciation event on 5 December.

Volunteer Recruitment

Our recruitment of volunteers was heavily impacted by the pandemic and our induction and training conducted largely online. We maintained an online element for our recruitment information sessions in 2022 and also for the ongoing communications with our volunteers, who meet regularly with peers and our Volunteer Support team for advice, debriefing and support sessions.

DRCC is incredibly lucky to have an exceptionally committed and skilled body of volunteers of all ages and genders. Among our Helpline and SATU volunteers, many choose to stay on after marking their two-year commitment and even take on further duties, given the great demand for support.

Likewise, we salute the volunteers who pour enormous time and energy into fundraising for our work time and time again, ensuring services can continue and other work can be done.

In common with the entire charity sector, it is increasingly difficult for people to find the time and capacity to commit to volunteer roles, especially those as challenging – if equally as rewarding – as those we offer in DRCC. For that reason and many others, we are extremely grateful to each and every volunteer for giving their time, inspiration and energy to our cause.

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

DRCC Board

DRCC is led by a voluntary Board which met 8 times in 2022, in 7 board meetings and an AGM. There are three board committees: Audit Finance & Risk; Human Resources & Remuneration; and Fundraising, which all met as required during the year.

Board member	Meetings attended (Total=8)
Ann Marie Gill (Chair)	8
Siona Cahill	8
John Fanning	7
Fergus Finlay	3 (joined in Sept 22)
Keith Herman	5 (resigned in Jan 23)
Philip Hyland	1 (resigned in Mar 22)
Anne-Marie James	6
Neasa Kane-Fine	4 (resigned in Jan 23)
Carol Keane	5
Madeleine McCarthy	6
Aibhlin McCrann	7
Cathy O'Donohoe	3 (resigned in Jan 23)
Grace O'Malley	6

Note: Board members are not remunerated for their services to DRCC, nor are any expenses reimbursed for travelling to/from board meetings.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The directors report the following financial events during the year.

The financial results for the year ended 31 December 2022 are shown in the Statements of Financial Activities on page 39 and are considered satisfactory by the Board.

Income has increased by 12% to €3,344,030 (2021: €2,995,922). An analysis of the various income streams is included with the accounts as a supporting schedule.

In accordance with the results, expenditure is up by 16% to €3,328,652 (2021: €2,881,253). Apart from normal expenditure increases, the principal items relating to this increase are wages and salaries increase of €317,401 from last year due to an increase in the level of employees and activities, professional fees increase of €91,761 from last year and therapy room rent cost increase of €38,806 from last year.

RESERVES STRATEGY

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre has a responsibility to ensure that it uses the funds and resources it receives for its charitable purpose of supporting the services it provides. There are uncertainties around most sources of funding and resources. To this end, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre has a reserves policy in place where reserves are to be maintained at a level which ensures that Dublin Rape Crisis Centre core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form.

As at 31 December 2022, the directors have designated reserves of €2,640,421 for specific purposes. An amount of €1,468,739, representing approximately five months day-to-day expenditure, has been reserved to ensure we can continue our core activity during a period of unforeseen difficulty. A sum of €900,000 has been allocated to a capital project regarding the charity's premises. A total of €271,682 has been set aside to cover the Centre's outstanding mortgage balance.

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANGEMENT

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, registered CRO 147318. DRCC holds charitable tax exemption from the Revenue Commissioners (CHY 8529) and is also registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority (RCN 20021078). The organisation has a constitution. The directors are volunteers to Dublin Rape Crisis Centre.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is committed to openness and transparency both within the organisation and externally with donors, funders, supporters and the public.

DRCC complies with the Charities Governance Code published by the Charities Regulatory Authority. We met legal requirements throughout the year, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Children First, providing relevant training to staff and ensuring all requirements were incorporated in organisational policies. Lobbying returns were submitted in a timely way to the Standards in Public Office Commission.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is signed up to the Governance Code and to the Guiding Principles for Fundraising, as first developed by ICTR. New guidelines for fundraising practice and the Charities Governance Code were published by the Charities Regulator in September 2017 and November 2018 respectively. Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is on the journey to full compliance with these new guidelines in addition to the original code.

The Board of Directors are responsible for governance and developing and approving policies and strategies. The directors have responsibility for managing risk and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of the organisation. The key risks include operational and safety risks; financial risks; the ability of the organisation to guarantee sufficient funding from voluntary and other sources to maintain its activities; general economic factors and compliance with a range of legislation and regulations. The directors review these risks on a regular basis. The directors are satisfied that adequate systems of governance, supervision and internal controls are in place and that these controls provide reasonable assurance against such risks.

The internal control systems aim to ensure compliance with laws and policies and efficient and effective use of the Company's resources. They also safeguard the Company's assets and maintain the integrity of the financial information produced. Financial information is subject to detailed review allowing for continuous monitoring of the organisations operations and financial status.

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, and not having a share capital incorporated in the Republic of Ireland under the Companies Acts 2014. As the company does not have a share capital and consequently the liability of members is limited, subject to an undertaking by each member to contribute to the net assets or liabilities of the company on winding up such amounts as may be required not exceeding one Euro (€1).

The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its constitution and managed by a board of directors.

Directors and secretary and their interests

The directors do not hold any beneficial interest in the charity.

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Recruitment and appointment of new directors

Directors are required to stand down at their third Annual General Meeting but may stand for re-election. However, no Director can serve for more than nine consecutive years. During 2020, the board passed a special resolution that provided always that in special circumstances those directors who would ordinarily be required to retire, under Article 46 of the Constitution, shall be eligible for re-election for a further three years. The decision as to what constitutes special circumstances shall be at the discretion of the Board.

Directors may appoint any person to be a Director so long as the total number of Directors shall not at any time exceed 15. Any Director appointed shall hold office until the next annual general meeting, at which point he or she will be eligible for re-election.

Induction and training of new directors

There is an induction pack for new Directors, which includes copies of the governing document and strategic plan, introduction of Board vision and remit, Board Director job description, Board Director declaration and confidentiality agreement, conflict of interest policy and Board Director code of conduct.

Organisational structure

The Directors of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, who are also the organisation's only members, are responsible for the running of the organisation. The day-to-day running of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre operations is overseen by the Chief Executive Officer, Noeline Blackwell, to whom all staff report and who, in turn, reports to the Board of Directors.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The directors have identified that the key risk and uncertainty the charity faces is the risk of its funding being reduced and the consequent impact that this would have on the ability of the charity to provide its services.

The charity mitigates these risks as follows:

- The charity continually monitors the level of activity, and prepares and monitors its budgets, targets and projections.
- The charity closely monitors emerging changes to regulations and legislation on an ongoing basis.

Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of financial policies and procedures which controls the authorisation of all transactions and projects.

The charity has no currency risk and no credit risk. The charity has interest rate risk due to the fact that the charity has borrowings but the charity continues to work with its bankers to manage this risk.

The directors are aware of the key risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that there are appropriate systems in place to mitigate these risks appropriately.

Satisfying Funder Duties

DRCC fulfilled its targets and reporting obligations for all funders during the course of the year. The financial accounts give a detailed picture of the income, expenditure and activities of the organisation in 2022.

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Commitment to Best Practice

DRCC complies with the standards contained in the Charity Regulator's Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public. The organisation is compliant with the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland (The Governance Code). Our Board and Staff abide by a conflict of interest policy.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of charity	The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Charity number	CHY 8529
Charity registration number	20021078
Company Number	147318
Address	70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2

The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as follows:

Ann Marie Gill
Aibhlin McCrann
Carol Keane
Grace O'Malley
Cathy O'Donoghue (Resigned 26 January 2023)
Keith Herman (Resigned 26 January 2023)
Neasa Kane Fine (Resigned 26 January 2023)
John Fanning
Anne Marie James
Siona Cahill
Madeleine McCarthy
Philip Hyland (Resigned 31 March 2022)
Fergus Finlay (Appointed 1 September 2022)

The Chief Executive and senior management to whom responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Charity during 2022 was delegated are:

Chief Executive	Noeline Blackwell
Head of Clinical Services	Angela McCarthy
Head of Operations and Administration	Suzanne McMullen
Head of Fundraising	Kirsty Cawthron
Communication and Campaigns Manager	Yvonne Woods
Finance and HR Manager	Naomi Patton
Policy Manager	Shirley Scott
Education and Training	Caitriona Freir

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Professional Advisors

Auditors:

JPA Brenson Lawlor,
Brenson Lawlor House,
Argyle Square,
Morehampton Road,
Dublin 4.

Solicitors:

LK Shields Solicitors LLP

EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE

The charity has availed of no exemptions, it has disclosed all relevant information.

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The charity does not hold any funds or other assets by way of custodian arrangement.

Likely future developments

The charity plans to continue the activities outlined above in its objectives and activities in forthcoming years subject to satisfactory funding arrangements.

Post balance sheet events

There were no post reporting date events which require disclosure

Political donations

The charity did not make any political donations during the year.

Accounting Records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at the charity's premises, 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

The Board of Directors acknowledge that they have a responsibility to ensure that the organisation is fully compliant with their obligations under the Companies Act 2014. To this end, the audit and finance subcommittee review the internal controls in place on an annual basis. They confirm that:

- Adequate controls are in place in order to meet the obligations of the company,
- Appropriate arrangements and structures are in place that is, in their opinion, designed to secure material compliance with the company's relevant obligations.

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
DIRECTORS' REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Statement on relevant audit information

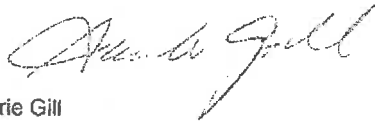
In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

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

Auditors

In accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, the auditors, JPA Branson Lawlor, will continue in office as auditors of the charity.

Approved by the board of directors and signed on its behalf by



Ann Marie Gill
Director

Date: 15/06/23



Carol Keane
Director

Date: 15/06/23

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

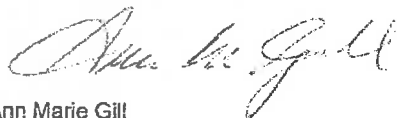
Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (Generally accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland) issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors 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 company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

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

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, 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 company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' 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 company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board



Ann Marie Gill
Director



Carol Keane
Director

Date: 15/06/23

15/06/23

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre ('the company') for the year ended 31 December 2022, which comprise the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of financial position, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including the 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 FRS 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 financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2022 and of its profit for the 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 in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard 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 directors' 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 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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information in the annual report. 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.

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

Opinions 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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 company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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 directors' remuneration and transactions, are not complied with by the company. We have nothing to report in this regard

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors 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 the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the company 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 company's 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 company's financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: <https://www.iaasa.ie/Publications/Auditing-standards/Standards-Guidance-for-Auditors-in-Ireland/Description-of-the-auditor-s-responsibilities-for>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DUBLIN RAPE
CRISIS CENTRE**

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

This report is made solely to the company'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 company'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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Thomas Mc Donald
For and behalf of JPA Brenson Lawlor

Chartered Accountants
Statutory audit firm

15/06/23

Date:.....

Argyle Square
Morehampton Road
Donnybrook
Dublin 4
D04 W9W7

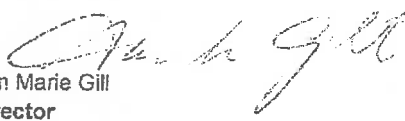
**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Designated Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total 2022 €	Total 2021 €
Income					
Donations & Legacies					
Donations	-	337,216	26,410	363,626	373,994
Fundraising income	-	261,039	-	261,039	262,803
Income from charitable activities					
Government grants	-	1,000	2,362,004	2,363,004	1,706,167
Education, counselling & other services	-	107,286	249,075	356,361	652,958
Total income	-	706,541	2,637,489	3,344,030	2,995,922
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	-	198,016	-	198,016	184,667
Expenditure on charitable activities	-	197,545	2,637,749	2,835,294	2,443,149
Administration & other expenditure	-	295,342	-	295,342	253,437
Total expenditure	-	690,903	2,637,749	3,328,652	2,881,253
Net income/(expenditure)	-	15,638	(260)	15,378	114,669
Transfer to between funds	-	(260)	260	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	-	15,378	-	15,378	114,669
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	2,640,421	497,935	-	3,138,356	3,023,687
Total funds carried forward	2,640,421	513,313	-	3,153,734	3,138,356

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	2022 €	€	2021 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10		1,114,354		1,157,027
Current assets					
Debtors	11	7,405		23,005	
Cash at bank and in hand	12	3,591,985		3,639,600	
		<u>3,599,390</u>		<u>3,662,605</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,316,440)		(1,409,085)	
Net current assets			<u>2,282,950</u>		<u>2,253,520</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>3,397,304</u>		<u>3,410,547</u>
Creditors: amounts falling after more than one year	14		(243,570)		(272,191)
Net assets			<u>3,153,734</u>		<u>3,138,356</u>
Funds of the charity	17				
Accumulated- unrestricted			513,313		497,935
Accumulated-designated			2,640,421		2,640,421
Total			<u>3,153,734</u>		<u>3,138,356</u>

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 15/06/23 and are signed on its behalf by:


Ann Marie Gill
Director


Carol Keane
Director

Date: 15/06/23

15/06/23

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 €	€	2021 €	€
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	24		7,542		963,369
Interest paid			(11,701)		(12,210)
Net cash (outflow)/ inflow from operating activities			<u>(4,159)</u>		<u>951,159</u>
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible assets		(14,005)		(42,345)	
Net cash used in investing activities			<u>(14,005)</u>		<u>(42,345)</u>
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		(28,112)		(27,603)	
Net cash used in financing activities			<u>(28,112)</u>		<u>(27,603)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents			<u>(46,276)</u>		<u>881,211</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			<u>3,636,951</u>		<u>2,755,740</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u><u>3,590,675</u></u>		<u><u>3,636,951</u></u>
Relating to:					
Cash at bank and in hand			3,591,985		3,639,600
Bank overdrafts included in creditors payable within one year			(1,310)		(2,649)

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE) NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. General Information

These financial statements comprising the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes constitute the individual financial statements of Dublin Rape Crisis Centre for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre Ireland is a Charity limited by guarantee and having no share capital, incorporated in the Republic of Ireland. The Registered Office is 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2, which is also the principal place of business of the Charity. The nature of the Charity's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Director's Report on pages 1-34.

2. Going Concern

The charity is substantially dependent on discretionary income to cover its operating expenses and to meet its stated objectives as stated in the director's report. Such income normally takes the form of grants, donations and other funding. The company has secured commitments for most of its funding for 2022. The directors believe that income will continue at an adequate level for the foreseeable future so that the company can continue in operational existence. In these circumstances the financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis.

3. Accounting Policies

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

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2014, although not obliged to comply with the Charities SORP, the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Currency

The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company

Fund Accounting

The following funds are operated by the charity:

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for the specified purposes as laid down by the donor/grantor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is allocated to the fund.

Unrestricted Funds

General funds represent amounts which are expendable at the discretion of the directors in furtherance of the objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital or capital expenditure.

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

3. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Designated Funds

Directors can designate part or all, of the unrestricted funds for specific purposes. These designations have an administrative purpose only, and do not legally restrict the board's discretion to apply the fund.

Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Donations and fundraising income

Donations and fundraising income are credited to income in the period in which they are receivable. Donations received in advance for specified periods are carried forward as deferred income.

Grants and Donations

The charity receives government grants in respect of certain projects. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred income.

Fundraising, education & counselling

Income is recognised when the event or service has taken place or been provided and the amounts can be reliably measured.

Investment income

Interest and investment income is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably, this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

Donated Services and facilities

Where practicable, donations of goods and services are included in donations in the financial statements at their fair value. If it is impracticable to assess the fair value at receipt or if the costs to undertake such a valuation outweigh the benefits, then the income and associated expenditure is not recognised.

Expenditure recognition

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met. The receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market, a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

3. Accounting policies (Continued)

Expenditure Recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds;
- Expenditure on charitable activities; and
- Administration & other expenditure.

Costs of raising funds

Cost of raising funds includes expenditure directly associated with generating fundraising income, including attracting voluntary income and grant income.

Expenditure on charitable activities

Expenditure on charitable activities comprise those costs incurred by the charity in the pursuit of the charities objectives and in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly such as wages and salaries and costs of an indirect nature necessary to support the delivery of its activities and services.

Administration & Other expenditure

Other expenditure represents the costs of administering the charity and those items not falling into the categories above.

Income

Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, payroll, and governance costs which support the activities and services of the charity. Support costs are allocated to expenditure on charitable activities. Costs relating to a particular project are allocated directly others are apportioned on an appropriate basis such as staff time.

Retirement benefit costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme. Retirement benefit contributions in respect of the scheme for employees are charged to the income and expenditure account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. Differences between the amounts charged in the income and expenditure account and payments made to the retirement benefit scheme are treated as assets or liabilities.

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

3. Accounting policies (Continued)

Tangible fixed assets

All tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at historic cost. This includes legal fees, stamp duty and other non-refundable purchase taxes, and also any costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management, which can include the costs of site preparation, initial delivery and handling, installation and assembly, and testing of functionality.

A review for impairment of tangible fixed asset will be carried out if events or changed in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any tangible fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of tangible fixed assets and their recoverable amounts will be recognised as impairments. Impairment losses will be recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, of each asset systematically over its expected useful life, on a straight line basis, as follows:

Freehold buildings	-	2% Straight line
Computer equipment	-	20% Straight line
Furniture & equipment	-	20% Straight line

An amount equal to the excess of the annual depreciation charge on revalued assets over the notional historical cost depreciation charge on those assets is transferred annually from the revaluation reserve to the income and expenditure reserve.

The residual value and useful lives of tangible assets are considered annually for indicators that these may have changed. Where such indicators are present, a review will be carried out of the residual value, depreciation method and useful lives, and these will be amended if necessary. Changes in depreciation rates arising from this review are accounted for prospectively over the remaining useful lives of the assets.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price (including transaction costs) unless a financing arrangement exists, in which case they are measured at present value of future receipts discounted at a market value. Subsequently these are measured at amortised costs less any provision for impairment.

A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the agreement.

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount.

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

3. Accounting policies (Continued)

Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in statement of financial activities unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash consists of cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents consist of short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade and other creditors

Trade creditors are measured at invoice price, unless payment is deferred beyond normal business terms or is financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate. In this case the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, and the financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Loans and borrowings

All loans and borrowings, both assets and liabilities are initially recorded at the present value of cash payable to the lender in settlement of the liability discounted at the market interest rate. Subsequently loans and borrowings are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate model. The computation of amortised cost includes any issue costs, transaction costs and fees, and any discount or premium on settlement, and the effect of this is to amortise these amounts over the expected borrowing period. Loans with no stated interest rate and repayable within one year or on demand are not amortised. Loans and borrowings are classified as current assets or liabilities unless the borrower has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the financial year end date.

Deferred Income

The charity recognised deferred income, where the terms and conditions have not been met or uncertainty exists as to whether the charity can meet the terms or conditions otherwise within its control, income is then deferred as a liability until it is probable that the terms and conditions imposed can be met.

Some of the grants received are subject to performance related conditions or time periods, when these performance related or other conditions are met the deferred income is released to income in the statement of financial activities.

Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits for example holiday pay to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

3. Accounting policies (Continued)

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The directors consider the accounting estimates and assumptions below to be its critical accounting estimates and judgements:

Going Concern

The directors have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements which demonstrate that there is no material uncertainty regarding the company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. On this basis the directors consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the company was unable to continue as a going concern.

Comparative Figures

Where necessary comparative figures have been regrouped on a basis consistent with the current year.

Taxation

No charge to current or deferred taxation arises as the charity has been granted charitable status under Section 207 and 208 of the Tax Consolidation Act 1997.

4. Income

An analysis of the charity's income is as follows:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Tusla grants	1,782,372	1,593,046
Department of Justice grants	580,632	113,121
Fundraising activities	261,039	262,803
Donations	363,626	373,994
Education, counselling, and other activities	356,361	652,958
	<u>3,344,030</u>	<u>2,995,922</u>

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

5. Operating surplus

	2022	2021
	€	€
Operating surplus for the year is stated after charging:		
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's financial statements	12,600	15,375
Depreciation of owned tangible assets	56,678	87,885
	<u>69,278</u>	<u>103,260</u>

6. Directors' remuneration and transactions

The directors did not receive any remuneration or expenses from the charity.

Key Management Personnel

The aggregate total of Key Management Personnel salaries for the year was €283,647 (2021: €302,060), ER PRSI €12,707 (2021: €24,335) and €32,594 (2021: €18,890) employer's pension contributions. Key management personnel include the Chief Executive Officer and heads of all departments.

7. Staff costs

The average monthly number of persons, full and part-time, employed by the company (excluding directors) during the financial year analysed by category, was as follows:

	2022	2021
Administration	10	6
Reception	2	2
Policy and communications	4	2
Therapists	17	22
Volunteer services	5	5
Telephone counsellors	11	8
Education	4	4
Fundraising	3	3
	<u>56</u>	<u>52</u>

Their aggregate remuneration comprised:

	2022	2021
	€	€
Wages and salaries	2,057,218	1,782,205
Employer's PRSI	191,836	161,487
Pension costs	90,493	78,455
Death in service	7,844	7,843
	<u>2,347,391</u>	<u>2,029,990</u>

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

7. Staff costs (continued)

All the amounts stated above were treated as an expense of the company in the financial year. Holiday pay is not provided for as a liability at the end of the year as annual leave is not allowed to be carried forward unless exceptional circumstances arise.

The CEO's gross salary for the year (excluding employer pension and social security costs) was €97,786 (2021: €92,640). Total pension costs for the year for the CEO were €19,634 (2021: €16,442).

Including the CEO, the following number of employees received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than €60,000:

Salary Band

	2022	2021
€60,000- €70,000	2	2
€70,001- €80,000	1	1
€80,001- €90,000	-	-
€90,001- €100,000	1	1

8. Retirement benefit schemes

	2022	2021
	€	€
Defined contribution schemes		
Charged to the statement of financial activities	98,337	86,298
	<u>98,337</u>	<u>86,298</u>

The company operates a defined contribution scheme, 'Pension Scheme Fund', for its employees. The scheme is externally financed in that the assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

9. Interest payable and similar expenses

	2022	2021
	€	€
Interest on financial liabilities measured at amortised cost:		
Interest on bank loans	11,701	12,210
	<u>11,701</u>	<u>12,210</u>

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings €	Leasehold land and buildings €	Fixtures and Fittings €	Total €
Cost				
At 1 January 2022	1,214,833	477,234	537,930	2,229,997
Additions	-	-	14,005	14,005
	<u>1,214,833</u>	<u>477,234</u>	<u>551,935</u>	<u>2,244,002</u>
Depreciation and impairment				
At 1 January 2022	145,797	470,833	456,340	1,072,970
Depreciation charged in the year	24,300	6,401	25,977	56,678
	<u>170,097</u>	<u>477,234</u>	<u>482,317</u>	<u>1,129,648</u>
Carrying amount				
At 31 December 2022	<u>1,044,736</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,618</u>	<u>1,114,354</u>
At 31 December 2021	<u>1,069,036</u>	<u>6,401</u>	<u>81,590</u>	<u>1,157,027</u>

The freehold property relates to the property from which the charity operates from at 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. The charity purchased this property in December 2015 at a cost of €1,214,833 and was part financed by a loan from its bankers in the amount of €450,000. The loan attracts an interest rate of 5.6%. The loan is repayable by way of 180 monthly instalments and is secured by way of fixed charge over the property at 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

11. Debtors

	2022 €	2021 €
Other debtors	-	9,408
Prepayments	7,405	13,597
	<u>7,405</u>	<u>23,005</u>

12. Components of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 €	2021 €
Cash at bank and cash in hand	3,591,985	3,639,600
	<u>3,591,985</u>	<u>3,639,600</u>

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Bank loans and overdrafts	15	29,422	30,252
Trade creditors		110,950	33,924
PAYE and employer's PRSI		59,592	-
Deferred income	16	1,074,782	1,253,157
Other creditors		6,343	19,801
Accruals		35,351	71,951
		<u>1,316,440</u>	<u>1,409,085</u>

14. Creditors: amounts falling due after more one year

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Bank loans and overdrafts	15	243,570	272,191
		<u>243,570</u>	<u>272,191</u>

15. Loans and overdrafts

	2022 €	2021 €
Bank loans	271,682	299,794
Bank overdrafts	1,310	2,649
	<u>272,992</u>	<u>302,443</u>
Payable within one year	29,422	30,252
Payable between two and five years	159,250	159,226
Payable after 5 years	84,320	112,965
	<u>272,992</u>	<u>302,443</u>

In December 2015, the company obtained a loan from its bankers in the amount of €450,000 in order to part-finance the purchase of its registered office. The loan attracts an interest rate of 5.6%. The loan is repayable by way of 180 monthly instalments and is secured by way of fixed charge over the property at 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

16. Deferred income

	1 January 2022	Amount taken to income	Amount received	31 December 2022
	€	€	€	€
Department of Justice				
• Support and accompaniment services	198,863	(145,784)	180,000	233,079
• National conversation on consent	849	-	215,000	215,849
• Consent Language research	200,000	(150,647)	60,000	109,353
• BodyRight Programme activities	-	(70,630)	120,000	49,370
• Specialised focus groups with marginalised communities	-	-	45,000	45,000
• Learning pool- Court accompaniment and communications	150,000	(109,814)	-	40,186
• Consent Campaign	108,000	(92,967)	12,000	27,033
• Recruitment of Junior policy officer	9,789	(9,789)	-	-
• RCC Forums	5,620	(5,620)	-	-
Tusla - Child and Family Agency				
• Moving forward- Administration costs	66,334	-	-	66,334
• Covid-19 costs	10,232	(5,344)	-	4,888
• Staffing Grant	144,073	(144,073)	-	-
• Administration costs	7,177	(7,177)	-	-
• IT Grant	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
Other Income				
	312,220	(316,734)	288,204	283,690
	<u>1,253,157</u>	<u>(1,098,579)</u>	<u>920,204</u>	<u>1,074,782</u>

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

17. Reserves and funds

	Designated Funds €	Unrestricted Funds €	Restricted Funds €	Total €
Balance at 1 January 2022	2,640,421	497,935	-	3,138,356
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	-	15,638	(260)	15,378
Transfer between funds	-	(260)	260	-
Balance at 31 December 2022	2,640,421	513,313	-	3,153,734

- Restricted funds refer to income received which is restricted for a specific purpose.
- Designated funds refer to designated reserves of €2,640,421 for specific purposes. An amount of €1,468,739 representing approximately five months day-to-day expenditure, has been reserved to ensure the Charity can continue its core activity during a period of unforeseen difficulty. A sum of €900,000 has been allocated to a capital project regarding the charity's premises. A total of €271,682 has been set aside to cover the Centre's outstanding mortgage balance.

18. Restricted Funds

At 31 December 2022	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfer €	Surplus/(Deficit) €
Tusla - Child and Family Agency	1,782,372	(1,782,541)	169	-
Department of Justice				
BodyRight	70,630	(70,630)	-	-
Consent Campaign Project - Language +	150,647	(150,647)	-	-
Court Accompaniment/ SATU	145,784	(145,784)	-	-
Campaign on Consent	92,967	(92,967)	-	-
Accompaniment Communications Policy Officer	109,814	(109,814)	-	-
	9,789	(9,789)	-	-
Others	275,486	(275,577)	91	-
	2,637,489	(2,637,749)	260	-

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18. Restricted Funds (continued)

At 31 December 2021	Income €	Expenditure €	Transfer €	Surplus/(Deficit) €
Tusla - Child and Family Agency	1,593,046	(1,593,124)	78	-
Department of Justice				
Victims of Crime	81,970	(81,970)	-	-
Consent	57,500	(57,500)	-	-
BodyRight	51,925	(51,925)	-	*
Policy Officer	20,211	(20,211)	-	-
				-
Others	419,256	(419,238)	(18)	-
	<u>2,223,908</u>	<u>(2,223,968)</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>-</u>

19. Membership

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is a company limited by guarantee not having share capital. Every member is liable for the debts and liabilities of the company in the event of a winding up, for such amounts as may be required but not exceeding €1 each.

20. Events after the end of the financial year

There were no post reporting date events which require disclosure.

21. Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties that require disclosure.

22. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments by the company as at the 31st December 2022 which require disclosure. (2021: Nil).

23. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at the 31st December 2022 (2021: Nil).

THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
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24. Cash generated from operating activities

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Surplus for the year		15,378	114,669
Adjustments for:			
Finance costs		11,701	12,210
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		56,678	87,885
Movements in working capital			
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		15,600	(7,487)
Increase in creditors		86,560	13,850
(Decrease) in deferred income		(178,375)	742,242
		<u>7,542</u>	<u>963,369</u>

25. Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 January 2022	Cash flows	31 December 2022
		€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	3,639,600	(47,615)	3,591,985
Bank overdrafts	(2,649)	1,339	(1,310)
	<u>3,636,951</u>	<u>(46,276)</u>	<u>3,590,675</u>
Borrowings	(299,794)	28,112	(271,682)
	<u>3,337,157</u>	<u>(18,164)</u>	<u>3,318,993</u>

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26. Grant disclosures

The charity receives the following grants and are disclosed in line with the circular 13/2014:

	Name of Grantor	Actual Name of Each Individual Grant	Purpose for Which Funds Are Applied	Amount and Term of the Total Grant Awarded	The Amount of the Grant taken to final Income in Financial Statements	Amount of Grant deferred to 2023
1	TUSLA Child and family agency	Service Level Agreement	Funding for the provision of the ongoing services of the charity.	€1,585,779 Received in 2022 Term: 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022	€1,585,779	-
2	Department of Justice	Sparking a National Consent Conversation	To support healthier, happier relationships and to reduce rates of sexual violence	€215,000 Received in 2022 Term 1s September 2022 to 31 August 2024	-	€215,000
3	Department of Justice	BodyRight Program	For the further development of the BodyRight program	€120,000 Received in 2022 Term Ongoing	€70,630	€49,370
4	Department of Justice	Provision of services supporting victims of crime in the criminal Justice System	Support and accompaniment services for victims of crime through the criminal Justice System via Sexual assault treatment unit, An Garda Siochana and witness in court.	€180,000 Received in 2022 Term: Ongoing	-	€180,000
5	Department of Justice	Consent Research Language	Support for Consent Research	€60,000 Received in 2022 Term: Ongoing	-	€60,000

**THE DUBLIN RAPE CRISIS CENTRE (A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
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26. Grant disclosures (continued)

	Name of Grantor	Actual Name of Each Individual Grant	Purpose for Which Funds Are Applied	Amount and Term of the Total Grant Awarded	The Amount of the Grant taken to final Income in Financial Statements	Amount of Grant deferred to 2023
6	Department of Justice	Specialised Focus Groups with Marginalised Communities	To run additional and distinct focus groups to gather data on consent within marginalised communities.	€45,000 Received in 2022 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023	-	€45,000
7	Department of Justice	Consent Campaign	Support activities for campaign on consent.	€12,000 Received in 2022 Term: 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2024	-	€12,000

No capital grants were received during the year ended 31 December 2022. Dublin Rape Crisis Centre is compliant with relevant Circulars, including Department of Finance Circular 44/2006 "Tax Clearance Procedures Grants, Subsidies and Similar Type Payments.

27. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements and authorised them for issue on..15/06/2023....