

**THE SPORTS COUNCIL for NORTHERN IRELAND**  
***(known as Sport NI)***

**Annual Report and Accounts**

**For the year ended 31 March 2023**

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*Laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly Under Articles 7 (2)(c) and 8 of the  
Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 by the Department for  
Communities*  
**On 26 March 2024**

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## Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Performance Report</b>	<b>5</b>
Overview	5
Chair's Foreword	5
Chief Executive's Introduction	7
Purpose and Activities of Sport NI	9
Sport NI Performance Analysis	18
<b>Accountability Report</b>	<b>22</b>
Corporate Governance Report	22
Directors' Report	22
Statement of the Accounting Officer's Responsibilities	24
Governance Statement	25
Remuneration and Staff Report	37
Remuneration Report	37
Remuneration and Pension Entitlements (Audited Information)	38
Staff Report	44
Assembly Accountability and Audit Report	50
Assembly Accountability Disclosure Notes	50
The Certificate And Report Of The Comptroller And Auditor General To The Northern Ireland Assembly	51
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	<b>59</b>
Statement Of Comprehensive Net Expenditure	59
Statement Of Financial Position	60
Statement Of Cashflow	61
Statement Of Changes In Taxpayers' Equity	62
Notes To The Accounts	63

## **Performance Report**

The Performance Report focuses on matters relevant to all users of financial statements. Its purpose is to provide information on Sports Council for Northern Ireland (hereafter Sport NI), its main objectives and strategies, and the principal risks it faces. It has two sections: an 'Overview' and a 'Performance Analysis'.

### **Overview**

The purpose of the Overview section of the Performance Report is to give the user a summary which provides sufficient information to understand Sport NI, its purposes, the key risks to the achievement of its objectives, and how it has performed during the year. It consists of the Chair's Foreword, Chief Executive's Introduction, the Purpose and Activities of Sport NI, Key Issues and Risks which could affect Sport NI in delivering its objectives, an explanation of going concern as it affects Sport NI, and a Performance Summary.

### **Chair's Foreword**

The pandemic has taught us what behavioural scientists have long known; times of disruption and trauma also create new opportunities for growth and change. Post pandemic, this is certainly true of Sport NI. During 2022-23, with the pandemic contained, Sport NI started delivery in earnest on our five year Corporate Plan 2021-26 – 'The Power of Sport'. This five-year strategy was launched in March 2022 and directly supports the Department for Communities Active Living Strategy for sport and physical activity. The plan aims to change lives for everyone in society and is rooted in equality, integrity and a strong sporting culture, addressing inequalities within the sports sector to maximise the Power of Sport. By 2026, we want the power of sport to be recognised and valued by all. Sport NI's 2022-23 Business Plan was year one of Sport NI's 5-year Corporate Plan.

*The Power of Sport* is focused on two strategic outcomes, people adopting and sustaining participation in sport and physical activity; and our athletes among the best in world. We are committed to developing sport and physical activity for everyone in society, from grassroots to elite, regardless of race, age, gender, sexuality, disability or background.

It is vital that we celebrate the success of our sports and the people who make them happen. 2022-23 witnessed the welcome return of our annual SportMaker awards for the first time since the pandemic. These awards recognise the unsung heroes of sport, the volunteers, coaches and officials who make sport happen in their local communities every week. Without such unsung heroes, Sport NI and sport's governing bodies cannot be effective or successful. It was inspiring to hear their stories and the impact they have on their sports and clubs. They are a true reflection of the power of sport.

In terms of Outcome Two, NI athletes amongst the best in the world, in 2022-23 we enjoyed some outstanding international performances, so there was much to celebrate. The summer saw Sport NI and Team NI's most successful Commonwealth Games to date. The team, which for the first time had more women than men, returned home from Birmingham with a record 18 medals and numerous personal bests and national records. Team NI's success in Birmingham captured the hearts of the public as they cheered on our athletes on the world stage and has undoubtedly inspired the next generation to participate in sport.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

I would like to thank my fellow Board Members, the Chief Executive (CEO) and the wider team at Sport NI who, in partnership with stakeholders, Governing Bodies and Councils helped the sector to thrive and I look forward to another year of sporting success.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Lucas".

**George Lucas**  
**Chair, Sport NI**

**Date: 22 March 2024**

### Chief Executive's Introduction

As CEO, my enduring memory of 2022-23 will always be one of learning and partnership. Sport NI began implementation in earnest of ***The Power of Sport*** and in particular, the development of a sporting system here that is built on equality, integrity and a sporting culture that always strives for excellence. The learning has further strengthened Sport NI's understanding of sports leadership as we tried new approaches and ways of working that we have not done before. This has required imagination and an acceptance of the risk of failure when we are ambitious to succeed. As we continue to develop the sports system, we have been humbled by the level of support we have received from across the sports sector and we are incredibly grateful that governing bodies, and our sports council partners across these nations have so willingly shared expertise and experience to create a truly diverse and comprehensive system.

During 2022-23, Sport NI engaged with the sport sector in our biggest ever conversation. Thirty sessions with forty governing bodies of sport amounting to almost five hundred hours of engagement has shaped our thinking and how we will invest in sport. We listened to the sector to understand perspectives, aspirations and challenges. We have made a commitment to use this understanding to achieve intended outcomes. This engagement has shaped both our investment and direction of travel as we pursue the objectives laid out in our corporate plan.

I also take this opportunity to thank our colleagues in Sports Branch, Department for Communities (DfC), recognising that we have continued to work closely to build the right conditions for sport and physical activity in NI. We are committed to setting the right outcomes so that everyone can access quality sport, with supporting measures that let us know if positive progress is being made. This has also been a learning and collaborative process that reflects our shared commitment to address the barriers preventing access to sport and the inequalities within sport.

2022-23 has also marked a new beginning in terms of wider strategic partnerships. Sport NI engaged at a strategic level with community planning partnerships given their vital role in delivering sport here. We have strengthened strategic links with health, education, tourism and The Executive Office, recognising the power of sport in building thriving, shared communities; increased health and well-being; increased educational attainment levels; and national pride through attracting major sporting events here, in turn increasing economic growth. Continuing these partnerships will ensure the value of sport is recognised by all. They have shaped our new investment programme to ensure we maximize scant resources to achieve common outcomes.

During the year Sport NI teamed up in a partnership initiative with Sport Ireland to launch the All-Island Physical Literacy Consensus Statement (AIPLCS) to promote a culture of lifelong participation in physical activity and sport for all. This was supported by the Education Authority and Education and Training Inspectorate. We invested in improving the sporting estate through our Building Better Sport Facilities fund and worked directly with governing bodies to support them in improving their governance and equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

Throughout the year we continued to deliver our key programmes that support sports financially through grants and expertise in areas such as governance, facilities, coaching, club development, pathways and high-performance.

Our athletes continue to impress with outstanding international performances. Sport NI staff were integral to Commonwealth Games success last summer. This success does not happen by accident, and it takes the right investment, supported by dedication over a period of years to achieve such results. During the Birmingham Games, Sport NI committed to membership of a CEO-led network of sports councils across the Commonwealth, sharing experience, innovation and leadership to further enhance sport globally.

Another highlight this year was when the Northern Ireland Women's Football Team broke new ground, participating in their first ever European Championships during what was a memorable summer of sport.

Looking forward, as Interim Chief Executive of Sport NI I remain committed to building relationships with people and organisations that add value to sport, so that in turn Sport NI can continue to add value to the sector, providing leadership and skills in a thriving sports system that everyone can access. I am incredibly proud to lead the team of staff at Sport NI who have been relentless in supporting the sector during the pandemic and have continued that pace to ensure the right investment into sport. I wish to thank staff for their commitment to excellence, teamwork, integrity and learning and growth.

Working together to deliver for sport will ensure that our futures are fitter, more connected, more fulfilled, ensuring we maximise the power of sport to change lives.



**Richard Archibald**  
**Interim Chief Executive,**  
**SportNI.**

**Date: 22 March 2024**



## Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23

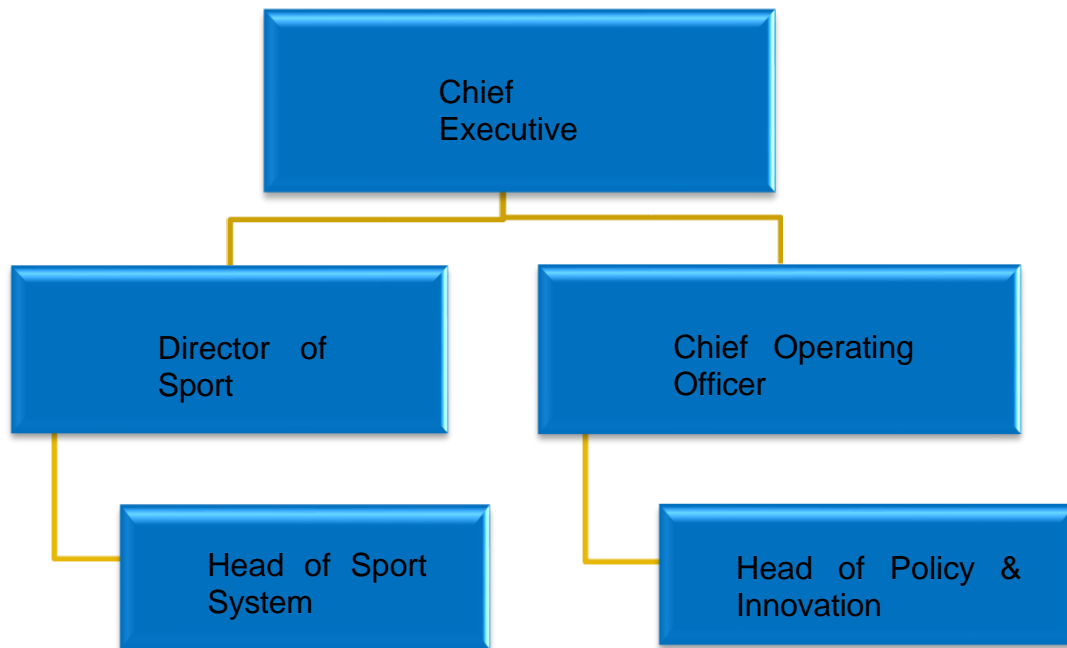
### Purpose and Activities of Sport NI

#### Business Model and Environment

Sport NI is the statutory body through which public funding for sports in Northern Ireland is channelled and is the lead public body for the development of sport here.

#### Organisational Structure

The affairs of Sport NI are managed by the Board, consisting of the members listed in the Directors' Report. The Chief Executive is supported by the Executive Leadership Team including Director of Sport, Chief Operating Officer, Head of Sports System, and Head of Policy & Innovation. The Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer of Sport NI and is supported by professional staff responsible for subject and functional areas of Sport NI's programmes. The current structure has been in place for the full year, including up to certification of the accounts.



## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **Principal Functions Related to Grant-in-Aid Activities**

Sport NI's principal functions are as provided by Article 3 of the Recreation and Youth Service (NI) Order 1986:

- On matters relating to sport and physical recreation, to advise the Department for Communities (DfC) and other government departments, the Education Authority, local Councils and other bodies interested in sport and physical recreation;
- To encourage the provision of facilities for, and participation in, sport and physical recreation; and
- To assist, subject to Paragraph (4) of the Article:
  - the provision of administrative services, equipment, coaching and instruction;
  - the organising or supporting of, or participating in, international or other events, by bodies providing facilities for sport or physical recreation or organising such activities; and
  - bodies providing supportive services in connection with sport and physical recreation.

Article 5 of the 1986 Order provides that DfC may, subject to such conditions as it thinks fit, make grants towards the expenses of Sport NI. These financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Sport NI's activities at the year end and of its net expenditure, changes in taxpayers' equity and cash flows for the financial year. They have also been prepared in accordance with Article 7 of the Order and in a form directed by DfC with the approval of the Department of Finance (DoF). In line with reporting requirements, a draft copy of Sport NI's Annual Report and Accounts was shared with NIAO on 17th July 2023.

### **Review of Grant-in-aid Activities**

Sport NI is partly funded by grant-in-aid from DfC. The level of funding is agreed with DfC as part of a rolling funding agreement. This agreement also includes an agreed set of operational targets as outlined in the business plan. During 2022-23, Sport NI received £11,528,168 (31 March 2022: £9,106,892) of Exchequer funding. Grant-in-aid funds are accounted for in the Sport NI Exchequer Account. Sport NI's other main source of funding is from The National Lottery. Lottery funds are detailed in a separate, stand-alone annual report and accounts.

### **Objectives and Strategies**

Sport NI's mission is "We are passionate about maximising the power of sport to change lives. By 2026, we want the power of sport to be recognised and valued by all.

Sport NI's Corporate Plan 'The Power of Sport' 2021-26 has proposed two outcomes over the next five years:

- Outcome One: People adopting and sustaining participation in sport and physical activity.
- Outcome Two: NI Athletes among the best in the world.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **Key Issues and Risks that could affect the delivery of our Objectives**

The Board manages risk by ensuring that the procedures which are in place to verify risk management are regularly reviewed and reported. The Audit and Risk Committee receive and review quarterly risk reports prepared by senior management. These reports are in turn considered at the subsequent Board meeting. Risk management is fully incorporated into organisation and business planning.

### **Going Concern Basis**

The financial statements of Sport NI are produced on the 'Going Concern Basis'. This was formally considered by the Board at its meeting on 17 May 2023. Sport NI is not aware of any reason to adopt a different basis.

### **Our Performance in 2022-23**

To achieve the outcomes outlined in the Corporate Plan, 'The Power of Sport' contains six broad action areas, and the performance review below shows how our activity during 2022-23 progressed these.

#### **1. Children & Young People**

In October 2022, Sport NI and Sport Ireland collectively launched an All-Island Physical Literacy Consensus Statement (AIPLCS) to promote a culture of lifelong participation in physical activity and sport for all. Minister for Communities, Deirdre Hargey MLA and Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht, Jack Chambers T.D. joined Sport NI and Sport Ireland Chief Executive Officers to launch the Statement. Ireland is now one of only three countries in the world, and the first in Europe, to have a national Consensus Statement for physical literacy. An agreed definition for physical literacy emphasises the importance of learning fundamental skills from a young age, so that citizens can enjoy a lifetime of participating in sport and physical activity.

We also carried out a major piece of research with Sport Ireland and Healthy Ireland on Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity. This will provide rich insights into the experiences of children and adolescents throughout the island around their participation in physical activity, sport and physical education.

#### **2. Connected Communities**

Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) continue to perform a key role in providing more opportunities for more people to get involved in sport and become physically active. CPPs drive public service reform by bringing together local public services with the communities they serve and provide a focus for partnership working, that targets specific local circumstances. Sport NI have worked with partners to improve sport and physical activity services and to ensure that they meet the needs of local people, especially those who need the services most. In Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council we contributed to participatory budgeting that empowers local communities to have a direct say in how public funds are used to address local priorities. Sport NI contributed on sport and physical activity projects that support with policing and community safety, mental health and wellbeing and/or engaging with young people in the council area.

### **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

In Belfast, Sport NI supported Sporting Pride Ireland to introduce 10 LGBTQ individuals to the sport of rowing over six weeks of two-hour lessons on the River Lagan. The project introduced this minority group to the sport of rowing as chosen by participants after a consultation exercise undertaken by Sporting Pride Ireland. The project took place in August 2022 and strategically aligns to a number of government strategies especially Community Planning (Health and Well-Being Theme) and Sport NI Corporate Plan 21-26 (Power of Sport).

Sport NI is also shaping and informing the work of community planning and partners. This year our Head of Sport System has been engaged in shaping a Women in Sport Action Plan at Derry & Strabane District Council, including presenting a 'State of Play' analysis on the visibility of women and girls in sport across Northern Ireland.

### **3. People Development**

Sport NI recognises the power of volunteers. Volunteering in support of sports teams, clubs and other organisations is one of the most commonly undertaken types of volunteering in Northern Ireland. Sports volunteering encompasses a wide range of roles; coach, captain, secretary, chairman, treasurer, administrator, fundraiser, washing the kit, transporting children, and a range of other more niche and sport-specific activities. Our SportMaker Awards returned for the first time since the pandemic giving us the opportunity to celebrate the unsung sporting heroes across Northern Ireland, the volunteers who make sport happen. Nominated by clubs and Governing Bodies, 11 unsung heroes were chosen across seven different sports including Athletics, Hockey, Judo, Karate, Football, Boccia and Gaelic Games.

The awards honoured a wide range of SportMakers including volunteer Aidan O'Neill who won Community Coach of the Year after setting up 'Run Anon Club' whilst being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, or Young Volunteer of the Year Anna Pim who set up a CPR awareness programme to educate young people on the importance of CPR and how to use a defibrillator whilst doing AS Levels. Anna claimed the Project of the Year prize. Each SportMaker had an inspirational story and highlighted the power of sport to change lives.

At the beginning of 2022-23, under our commitment to digital transformation Sport NI was awarded capital funding to develop a Digital Hub. The purpose of this project is to develop a high quality, agile, sector-leading and evolving Sport NI digital learning hub. This digital learning hub will be a 'spoke' within the organisation's wider online presence and become the 'go to' home of digital learning for the sport sector in Northern Ireland, supporting athletes/participants, coaches, officials, volunteers, clubs, governing bodies, and those employed within the sector through an innovative learning platform. During the year, Sport NI took an innovative collaborative approach to design, working in partnership with SportScotland. The approach taken resulted in a significant capital saving which was returned to DfC for investment in other capital programmes. Development of the Hub is underway, and the system will become active for users during 2023-24.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **4. Quality Clubs and Effective Governing Bodies**

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) is at the heart of Sport NI's five-year plan, the Power of Sport, with teams across Sport NI working together to improve access to sport for all. We aim to inspire by example and to be recognised across the sector as leading from the front in reducing inequalities and maximising inclusion. We have demonstrated our motivation for positive change through a number of approaches. During 2022-23, Sport NI's Sports Culture and Integrity Team commissioned a review of the EDI policies for Sport NI funded governing bodies. A sample of thirty-one bodies were selected for review and the purpose was to offer robust feedback on the appropriateness and adequacy of existing EDI policy and to identify improvement by providing best practice guidance and resources to address these. Each reviewed sport received an individual EDI policy playback report, an Executive summary report summarising the main areas of good practice and key themes for opportunities to improve EDI.

When we talk about inclusion, we mean equal and fair access to Sport and Physical activity for everyone, regardless of age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, faith, class or income.

During 2022-23 Sport NI drew on the knowledge and experience of our valued partners, grantees and prospective applicants, staff and trade unions, to examine all aspects of our EDI activities. Leading from the front in reducing inequalities and maximising inclusion, Sport NI continued to provide leadership, advice and support to sport on EDI issues, such as transgender inclusion. Recognising that sport at every level required more practical advice and support, Sport NI hosted a series of seminars to educate the sector on Sports Councils' Equality Group (SCEG) guidance for the inclusion of transgender people in sport.

Levelling the playing field for women in Sport is a key priority for Sport NI, and we continued to strongly advocate for equality throughout the year. Our Women in Sport Panel came together to discuss the barriers to greater female participation, and we are delighted to see the first Chair in place to lead this group in challenging and enhancing our work on our Women in Sport Action Plan. We continue to engage with members of our Celebrating Diversity Panel, including drawing on their expertise as we establish a Young Persons Panel to represent all voices across NI.

The benefits of sport are universal for all including those with disabilities. Participation in sport must be open to everyone regardless of physical or learning ability. Participation of disabled people in sport is significantly lower than that of non-disabled people, for all age groups due to physical barriers and logistical reasons. Working with Special Olympics Ireland and Disability Sport NI, during 2022-23 we supported the following positive outcomes:

- 40% of clubs providing a training venue for Special Olympics do so in a deprived area;
- 70 new athletes have joined the Special Olympics programme in the past year;
- Completion of the advancement and selection process for the World Summer Games 2023 where 15 Special Olympics athletes from Northern Ireland will compete;
- Archery NI becoming the 11<sup>th</sup> Governing Body of Sport to achieve the Inclusive Sport Award;

### **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

- All Out Trekking Outdoor Recreation Project with a total of 218 participants;
- Partnership with District Councils, community and disability groups to develop and deliver participation programmes and events in all 11 District Council areas including Antrim wheelie Active Club, Indoor Cycling at South Lakes LC, Panthers Ladies Deaf Basketball sessions and RNIB walking groups around Belfast; and
- Supporting the delivery of Get Out Get Active (GOGA) and Inclusive Sports and Leisure programmes across three local council areas

Sport NI recognises strong governance is the foundation on which successful sports organisations are built, providing a culture of trust, leadership and integrity and helping to ensure a positive experience for participants at all levels. Delivered by the Chartered Governance Institute UK & Ireland (CGIUKI), the Sports Governance Academy (SGA) is a governance support hub for the sport and physical sector, allowing organisations access to resources and expertise to upskill themselves, and those they work for. In November 2022, support from Sport NI, UK Sport, SportScotland, Sport Wales and Sport England confirmed the continuation of the SGA until December 2027, and it underlines our commitment to helping organisations become more transparent, diverse and inclusive, as well as promoting high standards of accountability and integrity.

Adventure Sport continues to grow in popularity with numbers accessing mountains, lakes, rivers, and coast now higher than pre-pandemic levels. Sport NI's Tollymore National Outdoor Centre (TNOC) is at the heart of promoting and improving adventure sport working in partnership with Mountaineering Ireland, the Canoe Association NI, Cycling Ireland, the Irish Association of Adventure Tourism (IAAT), The Outdoor Partnership (TOP) and the Mourne Heritage Trust. The surge in interest in Adventure Sport has resulted in a rise in the number of people attending courses at TNOC and an increase in the number and range of courses delivered at the centre.

During the year, TNOC delivered;

- 264 programmed skills and leadership courses (such as rock climbing / hillwalking / canoe sport skills and leadership training and assessment courses).
- 62 self-programmed events took place (room hire / accommodation etc, with no TNOC input into programme).
- 89 skills and leadership courses were delivered to groups (non-programmed courses, providing skills and leadership training to groups, clubs and organisations – often gov body courses).
- 37 group multi activity skills courses were delivered (residential and non-residential).
- 292 separate swimming sessions were delivered by third party coaches in our kayak pool.
- 74 different groups attended Tollymore during the year.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

- 8,325 participants attended programmes, which does not include the participants on the swimming lessons, in the climbing wall, at the quarry or mountain bike track. Over 14,000 individuals have used the Mountain Bikes Skills Course, Altnadue Quarry and Hotrock Climbing Wall.
- 96% of respondents, rated their overall satisfaction with TNOc as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’.

In September 2022, as sector leaders, TNOc commenced delivery of the adventure sport element of the new Ulster University degree programme, with the first tranche of students receiving training and assessments in a range of land and water-based adventure sports.

Sport NI also delivered skills training and information sessions across NI for new users of stand-up-paddleboards and sit-on-top kayaks, as part of the ‘Get Wet, Stay Safe’ programme. With sessions across all 11 council areas the training was for the three main water sports which have seen the largest uptake since the COVID-19 pandemic: stand up paddleboarding; sit on top kayaking and open water swimming.

Finally, TNOc played a key role in the establishment of AdventureSmart, a campaign to educate people about the skills and knowledge required to undertake journeys in the hills, on the sea and on rivers, in Northern Ireland.

### **5. Infrastructure – Accessible, Quality & Safe**

Sport NI provides expertise in infrastructure investment to support communities to engage in sport and physical activity. We recognise having quality facilities is important to provide opportunities for sport, right across our communities. This year we delivered three capital investment programmes to improve sports facilities.

Our ‘Safety at Sports Grounds’ programme supports Designated Sports Grounds to make physical alterations to improve spectator safety. Sport NI invested in 24 grounds, providing funding of almost £600k. Both Ulster Rugby and St John’s GAC upgraded their CCTV provision whilst Larne Football Club installed two new turnstiles and accessibility ramp, and Glentoran Football Club put in new directional signage, boundary fencing and a first aid room.

Sport NI recognises effective organisations look beyond the current year to ask the big questions about what sustainability means for them and how they can be relevant to their community. We are focused on supporting club and community organisations to operate in a way that means they will be around for the long term. ‘Building Better Sports Facilities’ invested in 37 equipment projects with a programme funding delivered of £851k. The programme delivered much needed investment and reduced some clubs running costs during the Cost-of-Living Crisis. Warrenpoint Town FC installed new solar panels and battery storage pack to aid their sustainability, whilst many sports clubs such as Ballymena Rifle and Pistol Club used a £25k investment to purchase new equipment.

The ‘Your School Your Club’ programme continued to promote community use of school sports facilities. The opening of the school sports estate to community and club use has a major impact on the provision of sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland including Hazelwood Integrated College who introduced basketball in their new indoor sports hall; Rathfriland High School upgraded their tennis surfaces and added CCTV; and St Mary’s CBS who built a 5m x 37m multi sports ball wall with fencing and floodlights.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **6. International Sport**

Sport NI is incredibly proud of our athletes who compete in high performance sport at the highest level of competition. Sport NI's Sports Institute works with high performance athletes competing on the world stage in a range of Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth sports. We would like to reflect on the past year and celebrate the athletes that made it to the international podium during 2022-23.

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of the sporting calendar was our success in the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham. The Games were a resounding success for Team NI, with the team coming back with a record 18 medals placing them 11<sup>th</sup> on the medals table. Many athletes achieved personal bests, season's bests and numerous new records were set.

The Commonwealth Games saw staff and teams from across Sport NI come together to support Team NI and governing bodies in a range of different roles, providing athletes and coaches with the best opportunity for success. The Sport NI Sports Institute prepared athletes for the games utilising our expertise, experience and comprehensive skill base to provide; Strength & Conditioning, Performance Skills, Physiology and Physiotherapy/Sports and Medicine support.

Highlights of the games include helping Para Swimmer and CWG Gold Medallist Bethany Firth overcome injuries in the build up to the games, by utilising Sport NI Strength & Conditioning, Nutrition, Physio and Psychology services. Sport NI also played a pivotal role in helping Silver Medallist Kate O'Connor recover from a foot injury, enabling her to attend the Games.

The Sport NI Pure Winner programme was fully integrated into Team NI preparations for Birmingham 2022. 15 Clean Sport Workshops and 12 Clean Games workshops were organised alongside e-learning opportunities. This ensured that every athlete, coach and member of athlete support personnel knew their Clean Sport responsibilities ahead of the Games. Our Sport NI Anti-Doping consultant continued this support during the CWG as part of the HQ team.

At the Games, Sport NI staff attended to provide varying levels of support to athletes in the role of physios, doctors, and strength & conditioning specialists. The Commonwealth Games was also an opportunity to look to the future and saw the Sports Institute work alongside our People Development Team to put together the CWG Futures Programme.

For this programme, Commonwealth Games NI and Sport NI teamed up to provide opportunities for an identified group of aspiring high-performance coaches to access a range of professional learning and development experiences. 16 CWG sports are represented on the programme with 12 of those selected coaches from nine sports attending the CWG itself. As well as the opportunity for some to attend the Games, there is continuing support for all the coaches including group sessions, led by Commonwealth Games NI, sharing Games relevant content, and developing a peer-to-peer network, access to individual coach developer support and to bespoke coach learning opportunities.



### **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

Also looking ahead to the CWG in 2026, the SINI Head of Physiotherapy has taken up the role of Lead Medical Advisor for the Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland 2022-2026 including preparation for the Youth Commonwealth Games 2023.

As well as supporting athletes at the Games, the Sport NI Sports Institute continued improving sport performance through the provision of science, medicine, and programme support to National Governing Bodies. Institute staff work directly with coaches and athletes to maximise the training gains through the work of seven sections which consist of Performance Nutrition, Performance Management, Performance Analysis, Performance Skills, Strength & Conditioning, Physiology and Sports Medicine.

Teams are integrated to provide the best level of support and expertise to all participants and ensure the best in preparation and after care. This expertise benefitted a wide range of sports to compete at the highest level including judo, swimming, bowls, football, cycling, and boxing.

Institute staff helped athletes perform at their best at a wide range of international competitions, including Football Euro Qualifiers and Nations League games, World and European Amateur Boxing Championships, and Cycling World and European Championships.

As well as athletes, the Sports Institute provides expertise to Governing Bodies including GAA, Ulster Rugby, Irish Football Association and Cricket Ireland.

SINI also has successfully worked collaboratively with a range of partners to provide expert opinion and be involved in important discussions that affect the future of sport competition including Sports Concussion, Female Athlete Health and Mental Health.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **Sport NI Performance Analysis**

The purpose of the 'Performance Analysis' section is to provide a detailed summary of how Sport NI measures its performance and a more detailed integrated performance analysis and long-term income analysis.

#### **Key Performance Indicators, Risk and Uncertainty**

Sport NI is not allowed to over-spend but equally it is expected to spend its budget allocation. This is managed on a monthly basis by having month-end budget meetings and reporting on our expected year-end outturn to the Department in our monthly Resource Consumption return. In this way, we can manage under-spends and overspends in various budget lines and deliver an acceptable year-end outcome. Sport NI implemented a new finance system in April 2022. During the implementation, the normal financial controls did not operate effectively, adversely affecting Sport NI's ability to manage finances. Subsequently SportNI has worked diligently to ensure the successful implementation of the finance system and fully effective financial controls.

#### **Financial Results**

At the end of the year Sport NI realised total net expenditure of £10,102,866 (2021-22: £14,913,184). The taxpayers' equity at the year-end is a surplus of £4,545,091 (2021-22: £10,300,722 deficit) which includes a nil pension reserve (2021-22: £11,693,000 deficit).

Net operating expenditure decreased in 2022-23 compared with 2021-22 levels. The decrease was primarily driven by £4.3m Covid related spend in 2021-22 versus minimal levels in 2022-23. Staff costs decreased by £336k in 2022-23 against 2021-22 costs driven almost entirely by reduced pension costs.

Sport NI has two main financial Key Performance Indicators: Resource outturn and Capital outturn. The resource budget allocation was £9,372,000; Sport NI made in year easements of £823,000 and spent £8,549,000, which represents a year end resource outturn of 87.81%, which is below our key performance target indicator.

Sport NI's capital budget allocation was £1,742,000. Sport NI spent £1,690,000, which represents a capital outturn of 97.0%. This meets our performance target indicator.

#### **Non-Current Assets**

The movement on non-current assets is reported upon in notes 5 and 6 of the accounts. During the year assets increased in value by £339k mainly due to leasehold additions and intangible assets purchased in year.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **Social and community issues**

Sport NI supports generous charitable giving by staff through payroll giving. Sport NI staff administer a "Staff Fund" independently from the operations and objectives of the Lottery account. The Staff Fund is a voluntary social enterprise with an average of 65 contributing members during the year. Its purpose is to provide for a members' fund to finance social, charity and group activities as may from time to time be agreed upon by its committee, which is elected annually by the members.

### **Political and Charitable Donations**

Sport NI made no political or charitable donations during the year (2021-22: nil).

### **Research and Development**

As part of Sport NI's role to lead with a knowledge-based evidenced approach, we commissioned, conducted and contributed towards a range of research projects during 2022-23. This included:

- Children's Sport and Physical Activity Survey;
- Outdoor Sports Participants Motivations Research;
- Coaching UK Survey;
- Kids Life and Times and Young People Life and Times Survey and
- Events Survey.

### **Interest Rate and Currency Risk**

Sport NI has no borrowing, relying primarily on Departmental grant in aid and Lottery funding for its cash requirements. It is therefore not exposed to liquidity risks. It has also no material deposits. Therefore, Sport NI is not exposed to material interest rate risk and as all significant assets and liabilities are determined in sterling it is not exposed to material currency risk.

### **Payment of Suppliers**

Sport NI is committed to the prompt payment of bills for goods and services in accordance with the Confederation of British Industry's Prompt Payment Code. The target for payment of bills is 10 days from receipt of goods or services, or presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand, whichever is later. Targets during 2022-23 were impacted by the in-year implementation of the new Finance system. During 2022-23 Sport NI paid 70% (31 March 2022: 82%) of invoices within 10 working days and 88% (31 March 2022: 97%) of invoices within 30 days. Overall, for the year, the average number of days taken to pay invoices was 21 days (2021-22: 11 days).

### **Pension Fund (Audited Information)**

All assets, liabilities and operating costs of Sport NI's pension scheme are recorded in the accounts of Sport NI Exchequer entity. The salary charges to Lottery in-year include a recharge of employer pension costs of £116,505 (2021-22: £131,585).

### **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

The market value of Sport NI's share of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) pension scheme's assets (excluding Additional Voluntary Contributions) at 31 March 2023 was £30.134m (31 March 2022: £32.914m) and the present value of Sport NI's share of the scheme liabilities was £29.490m (31 March 2022: £44.607m). Sport NI's share of the Scheme recorded net pension liabilities at 31 March 2023 was £NIL (31 March 2022: £11.693m). The asset has not been recognised in Sport NI's accounts due to restriction of surplus. The accounting policy for pensions is disclosed in note 1.15 in the notes to the accounts.

### **Accounts and Appointment of Auditors**

The Accounts of Sport NI are prepared in a form directed by DfC with the consent of Department of Finance in accordance with Articles 7 and 8 of the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

The financial statements are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in accordance with Article 7 of the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. The C&AG is head of the Northern Ireland Audit Office. She and her staff are wholly independent of Sport NI. She reports her findings to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

The fee for the audit of these financial statements is £47,500 (2021-22: £33,000). This cost is included in Operating Expenditure note 3c in the financial statements.

### **Complaints Handling**

Sport NI operates a complaints procedure to handle general complaints about its service. Complaints can be made informally by telephone or formally in writing. The Complaints Procedures can be found on the Sport NI website at: <http://www.sportni.net/about-us/procedures/>

There were three complaints received in the 2022-23 financial year (2021-22: four). The complaints related to: Sport NI staff members perceived failure to carry out an aspect of Sport NI's service in relation to Governing Body affiliation; dissatisfaction with regards to responses received in relation to queries raised with Sport NI concerning a decision made by a Governing Body; and dissatisfaction with regard to responses to queries regarding working experience opportunities.

### **Impact Of Business on The Environment**

Sport NI is committed to leading the sports sector to make significant progress on reducing its environmental footprint. We will contribute to the delivery of recommendations made in the Environmental Strategy for NI, particularly Outcome Two - Healthy & Accessible Environment & Landscapes everyone can connect with and enjoy. We also recognise the commitment in New Decade New Approach to legislation setting out the route-map to tackling climate change and will drive a sustainability agenda towards the greening of sport. Our corporate plan commits to reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to reduce emissions to become self-sustaining.

### **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

A key enabler and delivery platform for much of this work has been a revised Sport NI Environmental Policy during 2022-23, which aims to:

- Ensure compliance with, and when possible, exceeding of, all legislative and policy requirements in terms of environmental responsibility;
- Ensure that Sport NI minimises impacts on the local and global environment as much as is reasonably practicable while still promoting and developing sport and physical recreation;
- Promote the responsible and efficient use of natural resources among all staff; and
- Where possible enhance local and regional biodiversity when supporting developments.

### **Respect for Human Rights and Equality**

Sport NI is deeply committed to equality, diversity, inclusion and respect for human rights. In carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, Sport NI has due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; between men and women generally encompassing trans inclusion; between persons with a disability and persons without; and between persons with dependents and persons without. Sport NI has also regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Sport NI is a member of the Northern Ireland Sport and Human Rights Forum.

### **Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016**

The Rural Needs Act introduced a duty on public authorities in Northern Ireland to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans. Sport NI remains committed to ensuring that the specific needs of its stakeholders, rural or urban, are taken into account in its programme development. This commitment has now been mainstreamed into Sport NI decision-making processes and is being carried out as part of our 'business as usual' activity.



**Richard Archibald**  
**Accounting Officer,**  
**SportNI**

**Date: 22 March 2024**

## **Accountability Report**

The Accountability Report has three sections: a Corporate Governance Report; a Remuneration and Staff report; and an Assembly Accountability and Audit Report.

### **Corporate Governance Report**

The purpose of the Corporate Governance Report is to explain the composition and organisation of Sport NI's governance structures and how they support the achievement of its objectives. The Corporate Governance Report includes the Directors' Report; the Statement of Accounting Officer's responsibilities; and the Governance Statement.

### **Directors' Report**

Sport NI performed a wide range of functions during the year ending on 31 March 2023. Principally this was providing leadership, engagement and support to the sporting sector (including financial), as it recovers from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also included research, knowledge gathering and advising DfC and other government departments, local government, the Education Authority and other interested bodies on issues relating to sport and physical recreation. It encouraged participation in sport through provision of facilities & equipment, coaching, improving governance and support for sporting structures, and supporting the organisation of sporting events and competitions. Sport NI is also one of the distributing bodies of National Lottery funding.

Sport NI is vested in and administered by a body corporate known as the Board of Sport NI, consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair and seven members (as at 31 March 2023) appointed by the Minister for Communities, as set out in the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. The Board of Sport NI for the year ended 31 March 2023 is shown below:

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **Board Members of Sport NI and members of its Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

Board: 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

George Lucas (Chair)  
Jay Colville (Vice-Chair)  
Richard Bullick  
Wendy Elliott  
Denise Burns  
Kyle Ferguson  
Kieran Harding  
Gavin Boyd  
Alison Nicholl (From 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022)  
Wilma Erskine (Resigned from Sport NI Board August 2022)

The members of the Audit and Risk Committee for the year ended 31 March 2023 were:

Jay Colville (Chair)  
Denise Burns  
Kyle Ferguson  
Gavin Boyd  
Michael Matthews (Co-opted member)  
Alison Nicholl (From 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022)

Several members of the Board of Sport NI and members of key management staff are also involved with other sports organisations in Northern Ireland either directly or indirectly as a result of a family relationship, a close friendship or business relationship. All individuals make an annual declaration of their interests and do not take part in discussions and decisions to make grant awards to those organisations with which they have a declared interest. A list of awards made to the organisations concerned and details of who made the declaration of interest is detailed in note 16. The Register of Interests is also online on Sport NI's website available using the following link: <http://www.sportni.net/about-us/register-of-interests/>. All of the transactions relating to the organisations were conducted at arm's length by Sport NI.

## Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23

### Statement of the Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

Under Article 7 of the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, DfC has directed Sport NI to prepare a statement of accounts in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction for each financial year. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Sport NI and of its net resource outturn, application of resources, changes in taxpayers' equity and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the annual accounts the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and in particular to:

- Observe the Accounts Direction issued by DfC including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- Make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- State whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis; and
- Confirm that the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and take personal responsibility for the Annual Report and Accounts and the judgments required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable.

The Accounting Officer of DfC has designated the Interim Chief Executive as Accounting Officer of Sport NI. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding Sport NI's assets are set out in Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI).

As the Accounting Officer, I have taken all steps that I ought to have taken to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that Sport NI's auditors are aware of that information. So far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.



## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **Governance Statement**

#### **Scope of Responsibility**

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for ensuring Sport NI's business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. In discharging this overall responsibility, I am responsible for ensuring the existence of a robust framework of governance and accountability designed to instil a sound system of internal control, manage risk and support the achievements of Sport NI's objectives whilst safeguarding public funds and departmental assets in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in MPMNI. In November 2022, Sport NI and DfC agreed to set out the partnership arrangements between them. The Partnership Agreement explains the overall governance framework within which Sport NI operates, including the framework through which the necessary assurances are provided to stakeholders. Roles/responsibilities of partners within the overall governance framework are also outlined. I am responsible for ensuring Sport NI is in compliance with the Partnership Agreement.

This responsibility is supported by the Board; Remuneration Committee; Audit and Risk Assurance Committee; internal and external audit; Sport NI's Corporate Risk Register; and partnership meetings with DfC.

I also combine my Accounting Officer role with my responsibilities to DfC including any Ministerial directions. There were no Ministerial directions in the 2022-23 financial year.

#### **Corporate Governance Code**

Sport NI complies with the principles of good practice detailed in corporate governance in central government departments: Code of Good Practice NI 2013 issued by Department of Finance and Personnel (now Department of Finance (DoF)) under cover of their letter DAO (DFP) 06/13.

Two principles were less relevant to Sport NI:

- (a) Board composition, because the DfC Minister makes appointments to the Board. However, the Board has the authority to co-opt to its committees where it deems a skill or experience is required; and
- (b) Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs). This principle has negligible relevance as it was directed towards Departments and their governance arrangements with ALB Boards.

There were no departures in the 2022-23 financial year from the application of relevant principles.

Sport NI's Lottery Accounts remain in audit arrears with the National Audit Office (NAO). Sport NI are working with NIAO and NAO on a timeframe to complete all outstanding Lottery Audits. Progression against agreed completion targets will be monitored by Sport NI Board.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **Conflicts of Interest**

Sport NI has in place a Declaration of Interests Policy. This policy and supporting procedures aim to:

- Safeguard staff and Board Members from real, potential and perceived conflicts of interest;
- Safeguard the integrity of Sport Northern Ireland's business operations;
- Provide clear guidance on expected standards and protocols around the declaration of interests and management of conflicts of interest;
- Ensure transparency and accountability; and
- Provide remedial measures.

Sport NI is committed to maintaining an honest, open and well-intentioned atmosphere within the organisation. Board Members and all staff must complete annual declarations of interests and take all necessary steps to ensure that personal interests do not conflict with the activities of Sport NI, including stepping away from any discussions and decisions on issues for which they have a perceived or actual conflict of interest. The declarations are reported in a Conflicts of Interest Register. A list of awards made to the organisations with perceived conflict and details of the declaration of interest is detailed in note 16. Directors are responsible for managing real, potential and perceived conflicts of interest within their area of responsibility, and the Executive Leadership Team review the register on a regular basis.

### **The Purpose of the Governance Framework**

The term 'Corporate Governance' describes the way in which organisations are directed, controlled and led. The purpose of a Corporate Governance Framework is to facilitate accountability for the effective and efficient delivery of an organisation's statutory responsibilities or aims and objectives. Sport NI is established to deliver on its statutory obligations under the Recreation and Youth Service Order (Northern Ireland) 1986 and is funded by public monies to do so. The corporate governance arrangements provide the framework to ensure that Sport NI delivers on its statutory obligations and that it does so in accordance with the requirements placed on all /publicly funded bodies regarding the stewardship of resources.

Sport NI has an established system of internal control which is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise risks to the effective and efficient achievement of the organisation's key business objectives and priorities. The system of control also provides an assessment of the likelihood of risks being realised and the consequent impact for effective and efficient management of risks. This system of internal control has been designed to manage risk to an acceptable level rather than to eliminate risk entirely and as such does not provide absolute assurance of effectiveness.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **Governance Framework**

There are four key organisational roles and structures defined within the corporate governance arrangements. These are The Executive Leadership Team (ELT); Sport NI Board; Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

### **Executive Leadership Team**

Sport NI's approved Executive Leadership Team (ELT) was structured as follows: Chief Executive Officer, Director of Sport, Chief Operating Officer, (Interim) Head of Sports System, and Head of Policy & Innovation. An organisational chart is shown on page 9. The table on page 38 details in year movement in the ELT. The ELT supports the Board and me, as Interim Chief Executive, by providing collective leadership and corporate collective responsibility for effective management of the organisation and taking ownership of Sport NI performance. Meeting weekly, it oversees how Sport NI plans, sets, communicates and monitors its corporate objectives.

Sport NI has developed systems of internal control and risk management in line with best practice guidelines. Directors have the appropriate and relevant professional skills and competences to provide the assurance that these controls are operating efficiently and effectively, conducive to a good and harmonious work environment.

### **Board**

I am supported by the Board of Sport NI. The Chair and members of the Board have individual and collective responsibility to the Minister as Head of Department to:

- Provide effective leadership for Sport NI, in particular in defining and developing its strategic direction and in setting challenging objectives;
- Act in a way that promotes high standards of public finance, including the promotion of regularity, propriety and value for money;
- Ensure that Sport NI's activities are conducted in an efficient and effective manner;
- Ensure that strategies are developed for meeting Sport NI's overall objectives in accordance with the policies and priorities established by the Minister;
- Monitor Sport NI's performance to ensure that it fully meets its aims, objectives and performance targets;
- Ensure that Sport NI's control, regulation and monitoring of its activities as well as those of any other bodies which it may sponsor or support, ensures value for money within a framework of best practice, regularity and propriety;
- Participate in the corporate planning process; and
- Appoint a Chief Executive.

## Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23

The Board held 12 meetings during the 2022-23 year to determine policy for Sport NI and make decisions in line with that policy. The Accounting Officer (AO) in place during 2022-23 attended all 12 Board meetings. Directors, managers and the AO produced papers and information to assist Board decision making. The Board met four times in closed session.

The Board has a rolling work-plan and achieved its objectives, which were set out during the year. The overall average attendance rate of members was 81%.

### 2022-23 Board/Committee Attendance

	Board Meetings			ARAC Meetings			Total Meetings		
	Attended	Held	%	Attended	Held	%	Attended	Held	%
George Lucas (Chair)	12	12	100	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	12	100
Jay Colville (Vice Chair)	11	12	92	6	6	100	17	18	94
Richard Bullick	10	12	83	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	12	83
Wilma Erskine	5	6	83	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	6	83
Kyle Ferguson	8	12	67	2	6	33	10	18	56
Kieran Harding	10	12	83	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	12	83
Gavin Boyd	10	12	83	6	6	100	16	18	89
Wendy Elliott	8	12	67	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	12	67
Alison Nicholl	10	12	83	2	6	33	12	18	67
Denise Burns	8	12	67	4	6	67	12	18	67
Michael Matthews (Co- opt to ARAC)	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	6	67	4	6	67

Members of the Board have delegated some of their tasks to two sub-committees which oversee the activities of management and provide support:

- Audit and Risk Assurance; and
- Remuneration

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **Audit and Risk Assurance Committee**

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee comprises five members and one co-opted member and is chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Board. It met six times during the year. The AO in place during 2022-23 attended all six of those meetings. The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee has a rolling workplan and measures its performance by the achievement of its objectives.

Its terms of reference include supporting the Board and Accounting Officer by reviewing the comprehensiveness of assurances in meeting the Board and Accounting Officer's assurance needs, and by reviewing the reliability and integrity of these assurances; the activities of the internal and external auditors and overseeing the risk culture of Sport NI; and also reviewing its own effectiveness, constitution and terms of reference and reporting the results of that review to the Board.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee Handbook (NI) 2018, issued under cover of DAO (DFP) 03/18, sets out five principles to be followed. These principles are:

- Principle 1: Membership, independence, objectivity and understanding;
- Principle 2: Skills;
- Principle 3: The role of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee;
- Principle 4: Scope of work; and
- Principle 5: Communication and reporting.

The Board has formally considered these and confirmed it complied with the principles. The Committee makes regular reports to the Board. Board Members are satisfied that the Committee is providing them with assurance.

### **Remuneration Committee**

The Remuneration Committee comprises four members. Following the resignation of Wilma Erskine as appointed Chair of the Committee in August 2022, Board Member, Richard Bullick, was appointed as Chair of the Remuneration Committee by the Chair of the Board. Its remit covers only remuneration and not functional staffing matters. The Committee has specific responsibility for:

- The appointment of the CEO;
- Terms and conditions of the CEO;
- Approving the appraisal of the CEO as recommended by the Chair; and
- Approval of performance appraisal of directors as recommended by the CEO.

The Remuneration Committee meets as required. The Remuneration Committee met on 10th August 2022 and 28th July 2023.

### **Temporary Changes to ELT and a new vice-chair**

With the recent resignation of the COO and unexpected recent absence of the CEO, there have been temporary management arrangements put in place, including an Interim CEO, an interim COO, support from the Department and support from Board Members on an ongoing basis.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

The Vice-Chair, Jay Colville, resigned in June 2023 and Gavin Boyd, an existing Board and ARAC member, was appointed as Vice Chair to the Board and Chair of ARAC in September 2023.

### **Business Planning**

Each year of the five-year strategic plan, forms the basis of the business plan for the forthcoming year. The business plan includes business actions, key performance indicators, milestones and targets linked to the Programme for Government and Public Service Agreements for the forthcoming year. It also links to budgeting information so that resources allocated to achieve specific objectives can readily be identified by DfC. The five-year strategy and annual business plan take into account DfC's priorities and is framed in that context.

Sport NI's business plans are submitted to DfC for approval and include measures of performance and annual targets in respect of each of those measures and the proposed annual efficiency. The business planning system incorporates the key Sport NI objectives and the associated targets to meet those objectives. The ELT reports on these targets formally on a quarterly basis to me, and I in turn report to the Board and to DfC's Sponsor Team at the Partnership governance and accountability meetings.

Sport NI includes Key Performance Indicators against our planned business activity as measures indicating success by a Red, Amber, Green metric. Performance is measured by looking at activity in a rolling 12 months. By the end of the reporting year out of 19 listed actions, Sport NI achieved 9 Green, 1 Amber and 9 Red. Progress against some operational business plan targets was impacted by the in-year development of a Governance Action Plan (refer to page 34).

### **Budget and Authority**

The Northern Ireland Budget (No. 2) Act 2023, which received Royal Assent on 18 September 2023, provides the statutory authority for the 2023-24 Northern Ireland Budget which the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland set in his Written Ministerial Statement on 27 April 2023.

### **Risk Management**

Sport NI assesses how the achievement of its policies, aims and objectives might be affected by the risks it faces, and a system of internal control is designed which mitigates those risks. The system is not designed to eliminate all risk but to strike a balance between control, cost of control and appropriate risk taking.

Sport NI's approach to risk management is guided by HM Treasury and other professional best practice and takes full cognisance of the context and environment in which it operates. Sport NI has in place a risk management strategy which sets out roles and responsibilities and determines procedures for risk identification, monitoring, reporting and escalation of issues. It addresses risk appetite and tolerance across the breadth of business activities. Sport NI reviewed the Risk Appetite statement during 2022-23.

The Corporate Risk Register is reviewed by the Sport NI Executive Leadership Team and ARAC on a quarterly basis. This involves reviews of risk scoring, controls and actions; this also includes the consideration of any new emerging risks. No new, separate risks were

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

identified in 2022-23. During 2022-23, the Corporate Risk Register was a standing item at each meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and the Board.

The Corporate Risk Register includes the following risks:

1. Failure to manage expectations and / or gain alignment with priorities of the Department
2. Failure to maximise the publicity opportunity relating to the benefits of sport
3. Unable to achieve and sustain the right organisation structure and culture
4. Unable to achieve digital transformation required (internally and externally)
5. Failure to protect the health, safety and well-being of our staff and service users
6. Sub-optimal partnerships and collaborations
7. Failure to develop inclusivity for all in Sport
8. Failure to develop operational continuity and resilience plans.
9. Not understanding / preparing for the implications of climate change on sport, both positive and negative.

All policy papers put to the Board for decision contain a discussion of the risks associated with taking the possible courses of actions. The Board also regularly discusses the risks on the Corporate Risk Register with the risk owners.

### **Legal Action**

Sport NI is continuing to defend an Industrial Tribunal claim relating to holiday pay and launched against Sport NI in 2019-20. No date has been set.

A collective Employment Tribunal Claim was received by Sport NI in September 2022. The claim relates to NILGOSC pensions held by NIPSA members. The collective claim is for 'injury to feelings' resulting from 2015 government pension reform and subsequent McCloud ruling on age discrimination in those schemes. This has issued to all employers of NILGOSC pension (NIPSA) members in the public sector. Sport NI has been listed as a respondent for Sport NI NIPSA NILGOSC scheme members (employees).

### **Information Assurance**

Sport NI's IT and Information Team safeguards business and personal data. Sport NI adheres to the measures of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). All staff received GDPR online training. Sport NI maintains an Information Asset register which is updated annually. As part of the 2021-22 Internal Audit Plan, RSM conducted an advisory report on GDPR compliance (final report June 2022). Sport NI have accepted recommendations from the report and management actions will be taken forward to ensure implementation and adherence to best practice with regards to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

There were no reportable incidents of a loss of data or information during the year.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

### **Anti-corruption, Anti-fraud and Anti-bribery Matters**

Sport NI has a number of policies in place which are designed to minimise the risk of fraud. These are: Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy & Procedures, Conflicts of Interest Policy & Procedures, Whistleblowing Policy & Procedures and Gifts and Hospitality Policy & Procedures.

During the 2022-23 year there were no new whistleblowing/raising concern cases referred to the Chief Operating Officer (2021-22; one). There were no reported incidents of suspected fraud. (2021-22: none).

### **Governance & Accountability**

The annual internal audit plan is created on a risk basis. Our internal auditors, RSM, who were reappointed in 2021, evaluated our risk management processes and considered that they could place reliance on our risk register to inform the audit plan. They used various sources of information and discussed priorities for internal audit coverage with senior management and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

The sources of information included:

- Previous internal audit plan and Annual Assurance report;
- Requests from the senior management team;
- Draft Corporate Plan 2021-26;
- ARAC requests;
- Board and ARAC minutes;
- Corporate Risk Register;
- Annual report and financial statements; and
- Specific areas requested by DfC for inclusion.

### **Sources of Independent Assurance**

In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), the Head of Internal Audit is required to provide an annual opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of Sport NI's system of internal control. This opinion is based upon and is limited to the work performed during the year.

RSM is the Internal Auditor for Sport NI and issued an internal audit assurance statement to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee of Sport NI in respect of the year ended 31 March 2023. For the 12 months ended 31 March 2023, the head of internal audit opinion for Sport Northern Ireland is based on four internal audit reviews and a follow up review. The opinion is 'Satisfactory' (2021-22 Limited). This opinion would indicate a significant improvement and no significant weaknesses identified within the governance, risk management and control framework.



### Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee reviewed and approved the Internal Audit Plan 2022-23 at a meeting on 17 October 2022. The Chief Executive Officer ensured that there was sufficient flexibility in the plan to allow for changes to be made during the year to reflect any significant changes in the risk environment and the emergence of new risks. During 2022-23, given challenges encountered with implementation of a revised Finance system, Sport NI commissioned RSM to provide an additional advisory report on the transfer of balances between the old and new finance system. The 2022-23 Internal Audit exercises undertaken identified 15 recommendations for management action. This demonstrates a significant improvement on the 2021-22 Internal Audit position, where the exercises identified 33 recommendations.

During 2022-23 Internal Audit reviewed the following areas:

Area	Rating	High priority recommendations/concerns
Programme Delivery: Sporting Clubs & Winners	Satisfactory	-
Sport NI Payroll	Satisfactory	-
Procurement & Contract Management	Satisfactory	-
Programme Funding: Building Better Sports Facilities	Limited	<p><b>One</b> high priority recommendation relating to the management and lack of evidence of segregation of duties.</p> <p>Concern - Management should not be involved during any phase of the grant decision making process when they have an independence threat. Segregation of duties should be evidenced during all stages of the grant approval process.</p> <p>Sport NI have issued a reminder to staff of process that must be followed to ensure segregation of duties are adequately evidenced. Sport NI have committed to review management of declaration of interest as part of programme delivery.</p>

Internal audit reports outline the actions to resolve control weaknesses, agreed with management, which when implemented, will further enhance the system of internal control. All reports of the internal auditors were discussed by ARAC and with senior members of staff in attendance. This gave them and members of the Committee the opportunity to discuss, in detail, the findings, recommendations and proposed management actions.

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

Governance issues raised in the Governance Statement for the year 2021-22 were highlighted in the appropriate risk registers, risk owners were allocated, and actions put in place to address them. Progress in terms of managing these issues was monitored with the introduction of a Governance Action Plan (August 22) and through the risk reporting process, including appropriate reporting to the ARAC and the Board.

The Governance Action Plan outlined a series of 18 actions identified by management to take forward to prevent reoccurrence of issues that presented during the 2021-22 financial year. The plan also included other pertinent operational issues with a RAG status Red per the Risk Register. The Plan included actions on reporting timeframes, IT resources, Internal Audit, Staff Engagement, Health and Safety and progress on Lottery Accounts audits.

At year end, 14 actions have been completed (78%), a further two (11%) have been partially completed and two actions have not been completed (11%). One 'not completed' action related to Lottery Accounts and will not be demonstrated as complete until 2026. Other in year governance improvements have been evidenced that were not included in the action plan developed. The backlog of lottery accounts audits, issues associated with the new Finance system (April 2022) and specialist resourcing for IT continues to be a challenge for Sport NI. Associated management actions are continuing under business as usual.

The quality of financial information provided during the year has caused concern to both Board and ARAC. As a result, an additional Grade 7 Accountant has been engaged to review financial management and reporting processes and improve the quality.

As part of this year's Governance Statement and taking account of the views of internal and external assurance providers, I wish to declare there were no significant governance issues not already addressed in this statement. Whilst the Audit and Risk Committee did not provide an Annual Report this year due to a change in Chairmanship, I have obtained assurance over the internal control framework from the Head of Internal Audit Annual Opinion along with the stewardship reports process that takes place and the bi-annual assurances that are provided to the Board, the Audit and Risk Committee and the Department.

Sport NI is in the process of commissioning an independent review of Tollymore National Outdoor Centre and The Sports Institute. These reviews are being commissioned by the Chief Executive Officer and are endorsed by Sport NI Board. The reviews will be carried out during 2023-24. The reports will provide an independent examination of the challenges facing these business areas and will include further consideration of recent audit findings.

The Comptroller and Auditor General to the Northern Ireland Assembly certifies the accounts and provides an opinion whether, in all material respects, the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern Sport NI. The Comptroller and Auditor General also provides an opinion on the truth and fairness of the attached financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2023, and their supporting notes.

### **Review of Effectiveness of the Governance Framework**

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review is informed by the work of the internal auditors and senior management within Sport NI who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

management letter and other reports. As detailed above, as a result of their work during the year, the internal auditors have produced an annual certificate of assurance with a 'satisfactory' assurance opinion with regards to the adequacy of the systems and the operation of internal controls within Sport NI.

### **Department for the Communities Partnership Arrangements**

There were four Partnership meetings held during the year between the sponsor division of DfC and Sport NI in line with the provisions of the Partnership Agreement to discuss and monitor performance against the 2022-23 Business Plan throughout the year. In addition, Sport NI responded to requests for information and to the requirements to submit returns to DfC on a regular basis on a range of matters to satisfy the governance requirements of DfC. Sport NI engaged extensively with the Department during 2021-22 and 2022-23 on the development of a new Partnership Agreement, to replace the existing Management Statement and Financial Memorandum (MSFM). Significant progress was made during the year in developing the partnership approach, building on the mutual trust and confidence between Sport NI and the Department and the new partnership agreement was approved in November 2022.

### **Quality of Information**

The Board of Sport NI has reviewed the quality of the information made available by the Executive Leadership Team for the purpose of effective decision making. A number of specific instances occurred during the 2022-23 financial year where the financial information presented to ARAC and the Board was both incomplete and delivered late, negatively impacting effective and timely decision making. The Board considers this unacceptable and in response a 'Task and Finish' Board sub-group has been formed to review Sport NI's internal financial processes and controls to ensure that, going forward, relevant, reliable financial information is provided on a timely basis to all levels of management, including ARAC and the Board.

### **Approval of Expenditure**

After an internal review of procurement documentation, SportNI identified projects where baseline activity had taken place without the necessary approvals laid out in the Management Statement / Financial Memorandum (Partnership Agreement from 2022) with DfC and the organisation's Scheme of Delegation. Retrospective approval was sought and provided for one IT Project where resulting expenditure had been incurred. DfC are also currently considering a second retrospective approval application from Sport NI on a separate IT Project. However, no payments were made in 2022-23 on this project.

Additionally, consultancy support in respect of VAT and Tax treatments was procured and approved in line with delegated authority limits. However, due to higher than initially anticipated costs, retrospective approval also needed to be obtained from DfC.

Management is currently working with DfC to review the process to ensure that adequate controls are in place and that staff are fully aware of expenditure approval requirements going forward.

### **Departmental Strategic Review**

The Department for Communities (DfC) has employed Deloitte to conduct a strategic review

## **Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23**

of Sport NI to identify and understand the cause of the governance and control issues, with a focus on the roles and responsibilities of the Sport NI Board and Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

### **Events after the Reporting Period**

Events after the reporting period are disclosed in note 18 of the accounts.

### **Conclusion**

As a result of the above, I believe that Sport NI's internal control and governance framework provides me with the level of assurance that I require. There is nothing of which I am aware that leads me to believe that our systems for detecting and responding to inefficiency, for preventing conflicts of interest, for preventing and detecting fraud and for minimising losses of grant-in-aid are not adequate. I believe that Sport NI's governance structure has operated successfully in 2022-23.



**Richard Archibald**  
**Accounting Officer,**  
**SportNI**

**Date: 22 March 2024**

### Remuneration and Staff Report

#### Introduction

The Remuneration and Staff Report sets out Sport NI's remuneration policy, reports on how it has been implemented and sets out the amounts awarded to the senior officers and members of the Management Committee. In addition, details are provided on remuneration and staff that are key to Sport NI's accountability as a Non-Departmental Public Body.

#### Remuneration Report

##### Remuneration Policy

Sport NI annual pay awards are made in the context of the wider public sector pay policy. The pay remit for the Northern Ireland Civil Service, including senior civil servants (SCS), is normally approved by the Minister of Finance. Following the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland's 24th November 2022 Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) on the Budget and the NI (Executive Formation) Act receiving Royal Assent on the 6th of December 2022, the NI public sector pay policy guidance was published on 8th December 2022. Sport NI aligns to NICS pay policy. The pay award for Sport NI staff for 2022-23 has been finalised and paid during summer 2023. Staff pay is based on a system of pay scales for each grade, containing a number of pay points from minimum to maximum, allowing progression towards the maximum based on performance.

Within Sport NI, the Chief Executive is employed on terms similar to those of the Senior Civil Service. A pay remit for the Chief Executive's pay from 2014 to 2021 was approved by the Department of Finance during 2022-23. All Executive Leadership Team (ELT) members are employed analogous to Grade 6 or 7. The Chief Executive assesses the performance of Directors. The Remuneration Committee is responsible for approving the Chief Executive's salary and assessing performance.

All staff costs are incurred by Sport NI Exchequer Account and an appropriate amount is recharged to Sport NI Lottery Account. The apportionment is made at full economic costs and calculated on the basis of full-time equivalent staff.

##### Service Contracts

Sport NI staff appointments are made in accordance with the Sport NI Recruitment and Selection Policy and Procedures, which require appointment to be on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments, which are open-ended. The notice period or compensation for early termination (other than for misconduct) of a contract is three months for the Chief Executive. Policy relating to notice periods and termination payments is contained in the Sport NI Staff Handbook and individual Terms and Conditions of Employment.

## Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23

### Remuneration and Pension Entitlements (Audited Information)

The following section provides details of the remuneration and pension entitlements of the Chief Executive and Directors of Sport NI.

Employee	2022-23				2021-22			
	Salary* £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	Pension Benefits** (to nearest £'000)	Total £'000	Salary* £'000	Benefits in kind (To nearest £100)	Pension Benefits** (to nearest £'000)	Total £'000
Antoinette McKeown Chief Executive	110-115 (full year equivalent 90-95)	-	18	130-135	80-85	-	20	100-105
Adrian Doherty Chief Operating Officer (Until 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2022)	0-5 (60-65 full year equivalent)	-	0	0-5 (60-65 full year equivalent)	60-65	-	0	60-65
Richard Archibald Director of Sport	65-70	-	4	65-70	60-65	-	44	105-110
Orlagh Watters Head of Sports System	55-60	-	3	55-60	30-35 (50-55 full year equivalent)	-	22	50-55 (70-75 full year equivalent)
John Hart Head of Policy and Innovation	50-55	-	13	65-70	45-50 (50-55 full year equivalent)	-	44	90-95 (95-100 full year equivalent)
Rebecca Morgan Chief Operating Officer (Appointed 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022)	50-55 (60-65 full year equivalent)	-	16	65-70 (75-80 full year equivalent)	15-20 (55-60 full year equivalent)	-	0	15-20 (55-60 full year equivalent)

\*Salary costs include salary arrears from previous financial years. The CEO salary includes arrears from Aug 14 to date.

\*\*The value of pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) plus (the real increase in any lump sum) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increases exclude increases due to inflation or any increase or decreases due to a transfer of pension rights.

## Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23

### Salary

'Salary' includes gross salary; overtime; recruitment and retention allowances; private office allowances and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation and any gratia payments.

### Benefits in kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument. Benefits in kind of £NIL were paid in 2022-23, (2021-22: £NIL).

### Payments to Past Directors

During 2022-23 there was £NIL paid to past directors for backdated pay awards (2021-22: £NIL).

### Fair Pay Disclosures (Audited Information)

	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Percentile 2021-22</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Percentile 2022-23</b>	<b>Median 2021-22</b>	<b>Median 2022-23</b>	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Percentile 2021-22</b>	<b>75<sup>th</sup> Percentile 2022-23</b>
<b>Pay Point</b>	£25,299	£26,575	£33,096	£33,459	£42,620	£42,078
<b>Ratio</b>	3.27	3.43	2.49	2.72	1.94	2.16

Reporting bodies are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest-paid director in their organisation and the lower quartile, median and upper quartile remuneration of the organisation's workforce.

The banded remuneration of the highest-paid director in Sport NI in the financial year 2022-23 was £90,000- £95,000 (2021-22: £80,000-£85,000). This was 2.72 times (2021-22: 2.49) the median remuneration of the workforce.

In 2022-23, no employees received remuneration in excess of the highest-paid director (2021-22: NIL).

Remuneration ranged from £3,500 to £91,090 (2021-22: £3,500 to £84,760).

Total remuneration includes salary, non-consolidated performance-related pay and benefits-in-kind. It does not include severance payments, employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

## Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23

### Percentage Change in Remuneration

Percentage change for	2022-23 v 2021-22	2021-22 v 2020-21
Average employee salary and allowances	-0.15%	-2.06
Highest paid director's salary and allowances	6.95%*	Zero**

No performance pay or bonuses were payable to the highest paid director in these years.

\*Noted that this included seven years pay award increase.

\*\* Legacy pay award issue no increase since 2014

### Compensation for Loss of Office (Audited Information)

No directors of Sport NI received any compensation for loss of office during the year 2022-23 (2021-22: Nil).

### Board Members' Honoraria (Audited Information)

The Chair received honorarium during 2022-23 totalling £26,880 (2021-22: £26,880). The Vice-Chair received £3,500 (2021-22: £3,500). No emoluments were paid to other Sport NI Board members in respect of Exchequer activities. Sport NI does not pay any pension contributions on behalf of the Chair or Vice-Chair.

All Board Members are recompensed for their vouched expenses incurred in carrying out their duties.



## Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23

### Pension Entitlements (Audited Information)

Employee	Accrued pension at pension age as at 31/3/23. and related lump sum	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age	CETV at 31/3/23	CETV at 31/3/22	Real increase in CETV
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Antoinette McKeown Chief Executive	15-20 plus NIL lump sum	0-2.5 plus NIL lump sum	248	204	14
Adrian Doherty Chief Operating Officer (Until 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2022)	NIL plus NIL lump sum	NIL plus NIL lump sum	0	0	0
Richard Archibald Director of Sport	10-15 plus 0-2.5 lump sum	0-2.5 plus 0-2.5 lump sum	162	140	2
Orlagh Watters Head of Sports System	10-15 plus NIL lump sum	0-2.5 plus NIL lump sum	112	96	1
John Hart Head of Policy and Innovation	0-5 plus NIL lump sum	0-2.5 plus NIL lump sum	33	22	5
Rebecca Morgan Chief Operating Officer (Appointed 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022)	0-5 plus NIL lump sum	0-2.5 plus NIL lump sum	10	0	5

## Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee Scheme

Sport NI participates in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund (LGPS) and made contributions for 123 employees (this includes leavers during 2022-23 and casual workers with pension membership. The pension scheme is administered by the Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC). The pension scheme is a funded multi-employer defined benefit scheme. The Scheme Actuary, AON, is responsible for carrying out full valuations every three years. The latest full actuarial valuation was 31 March 2022. The outcome of this valuation was used as the basis for the valuation at 31 March 2023 and to set the level of contributions for employers from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023.

The benefits paid under the Scheme are based on length of membership and final salary. NILGOSC maintains a fund to provide for the payment of current and prospective benefits to members of the Scheme. In order to ensure that this objective is achieved, the Committee must determine a suitable investment strategy, which provides both a high return on investments and an acceptable level of risk.

For any membership accrued before 1 April 2009, benefits will accrue at a rate of 1/80th of the employee's final year pensionable pay and an automatic tax-free lump sum of three times their pension. For all membership accrued from 1 April 2009, benefits accrue at a rate of 1/60th of final pensionable pay for each year of service but with no automatic lump sum (members can choose to give up some of their pension to provide a lump sum). Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC) can be paid through the NILGOSC in-house AVC provider, Prudential.

All assets, liabilities and operating costs relating to the pension scheme are processed through Sport NI Exchequer Account, and a recharge is made to Sport NI Lottery Account for any pension costs incurred on its behalf. During the year 16 staff were recharged to Lottery (2021-22: 21).

Employee contribution rates for all members for the period 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024 were as follows:

Band	Range	Contribution Rate
1	£0 - £16,900	5.5%
2	£16,901 - £26,000	5.8%
3	£26,001 - £43,400	6.5%
4	£43,401 - £52,800	6.8%
5	£52,801 - £104,700	8.5%
6	>£104,700	10.5%

The employer contribution rate for 2022-23 was 19.5%. Further details about the NILGOSC pension scheme can be found in note 11 and at [www.nilgosc.org.uk](http://www.nilgosc.org.uk).

Secondes are members of the PCSPS (NI). Further details on this scheme can be found at [www.finance-ni.gov.uk](http://www.finance-ni.gov.uk).

## **Cash Equivalent Transfer Values**

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme.

The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The CETV figures, and from 2003-04 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the NILGOSC pension arrangements. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETVs are calculated in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

## **Real increase in CETV**

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period. However, the real increase calculation uses common actuarial factors at the start and end of the period so that it disregards the effect of any changes in factors and focuses only on the increase that is funded by the employer.

## **Pension scheme triennial valuations**

Details regarding formal triennial valuations of the pension scheme are included in note 11.

## Staff Report

### Staff Costs and Numbers (Audited Information)

#### Staff Costs

Staff costs are incurred by Sport NI Exchequer account and amounts recharged to Sport NI Lottery Account for work on Lottery activities.

	2022-23 £	2022-23 £	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
	<b>Permanently Employed Staff</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
Wages and Salaries	3,411,494	-	3,411,494	3,495,982
Social Security Costs	346,078	-	346,078	307,716
Pension Costs	1,741,680	-	1,741,680	2,083,681
Agency Costs	-	858,267	858,267	805,919
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5,499,252</b>	<b>858,267</b>	<b>6,357,519</b>	<b>6,693,298</b>
Less: Staff Costs Recharged to Sport NI Lottery Account	(814,863)	-	(814,863)	(1,017,042)
Less: Recoveries in Respect of Outward Secondments	(36,302)	-	(36,302)	(69,669)
<b>Total Net Costs</b>	<b>4,648,087</b>	<b>858,267</b>	<b>5,506,354</b>	<b>5,606,587</b>

### Average Number of Persons Employed (Audited Information)

The average number of whole-time equivalent persons employed during the year was as follows.

#### Sport NI

	2022-23			2021-22
	Permanently Employed	Others	Total	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Directly employed	79	6	85	79
Seconded In	-	-	-	1
Seconded Out	1	-	1	1
Agency	-	19	19	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>106</b>

All of the staff were employed by Sport NI and the proportion in relation to Sport NI Lottery Account is based on percentage of Officer's time spent on Lottery work activities.

**Sport NI Lottery**

	2022-23			2021-22
	Permanently Employed	Others	Total	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Directly employed	16	-	16	16
Seconded In	-	-	-	-
Seconded Out	-	-	-	-
Agency	-	5	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>

**Number of Directors (Audited Information)**

Director's Salary (Actual)	2022-23	2021-22
£0-£5,000	1	2
£5,000-£10,000	-	-
£10,000-£15,000	-	-
£15,000-£20,000	-	1
£20,000-£25,000	-	-
£25,000-£30,000	-	1
£30,000-£35,000	-	-
£35,000-£40,000	-	-
£45,000-£50,000	-	-
£50,000-£55,000	2	1
£55,000-£60,000	1	-
£60,000-£65,000	-	2
£65,000-£70,000	1	-
£70,000-£75,000	-	-
£75,000-£80,000	-	-
£80,000-£85,000	-	1
£85,000-£90,000	-	-
£90,000-£95,000	1	-
£95,000-£100,000	-	-
£100,000-£105,000	-	-
£105,000-£110,000	-	-
£110,000-£115,000	-	-
<b>Total Number of Directors</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

Only a proportion of each director's salary is recharged to Lottery.

**Chief Executive's Remuneration (Audited Information)**

The remuneration received by the Chief Executive during the year was £90-95k (annual salary) (£110-115k including arrears, 2021- 22: £80-85k). The Chief Executive is an ordinary member of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) pension scheme.

## Staff Composition

The actual composition of staff employed by Sport NI at 31 March was as follows:

	<b>Male Directors</b>	<b>Male Employees</b>	<b>Female Directors</b>	<b>Female Employees</b>
2022-23				
Directly Employed	2	42	3	44
Board*	-	-	-	-
Agency/Secondments	-	9	-	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>54</b>

	<b>Male Directors</b>	<b>Male Employees</b>	<b>Female Directors</b>	<b>Female Employees</b>
2021-22				
Directly Employed	5	41	2	42
Board*	-	-	-	-
Agency/Secondments	-	14	-	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53</b>

\*Board Members are employed by DfC. The Chair and Vice Chair are the only Members to receive honorarium from Sport NI.

## Staff Turnover

Sport NI had 15 leavers during 2022-23 and 16 new starts (2021-22: 17 leavers and 14 new starts).

## Sickness Absence Data

The number of sick days reported in 2022-23 was 824 (2021-22: 1,251). Sport NI had an average of 9.93 days absence per full time equivalent person in 2022-23 (2021- 22: 15.89). Sport NI management are committed to managing sickness absence to support staff in line with the organisation's policy.

## Staff Engagement Scores

Following the 2022 Employee Engagement Survey and Report, Sport NI set up a Staff Engagement Working Group to consider and action the recommendations laid out in the report. The report made recommendations on five areas, Leadership and managing change, Sport NI Board, Learning and Development, Communication and Connection and Organisation culture. The Working Group has a cross section of team representatives from across Sport NI and all staff are encouraged to provide feedback via Group representatives. The group met six times in 2022-23 and made progress on eight of the 13 recommendations.

## **Staff Policies Applied During the Financial Year**

### **Performance Management**

Sport NI has in place a Performance Management Policy. This provides a framework for managing staff performance, including the application of Sport NI's Competency Framework and implementation of the annual Performance Cycle.

The policy adds value through a consistent approach to performance management in the organisation, ensuring staff at all levels understand their roles and responsibilities in managing their own and others' performance.

### **Employment, training and advancement of disabled persons**

Sport NI values and welcomes diversity and is committed to creating a truly inclusive workplace for all and appoints candidates based on merit through fair and open competition. Panel members must complete mandatory recruitment and selection training prior to participating on any selection panel. This training includes specific learning on equality and diversity, relevant legislation and reasonable adjustments for disabled candidates. Unconscious bias training is available to all staff.

To maintain and promote a disability inclusive workplace, Sport NI has policies in place to support reasonable adjustments to working practices or the work environment as required by disabled persons.

### **Learning & Development**

Sport NI recognises the importance of having skilled and engaged employees and continues to invest in learning and development. Development and delivery of generic staff training is centralised under LInKS Training Management System. Training is delivered using a variety of learning delivery channels (including on-line, webinars), providing flexible access to learning. Coherent learning pathways are aligned to both corporate need and the Sport NI Competency Framework.

Talent management is a key theme of the Sport NI strategy and highlights the importance of the development conversation between managers and staff, with a number of resources already available. Sport NI offers a wide range of career development opportunities through mentoring, secondment and interchange opportunities, elective transfers, temporary promotion, job rotation and job shadowing.

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

Sport NI values and welcomes diversity and is committed to creating a truly inclusive workplace for all. We deliver an ambitious diversity and inclusion programme of work through the implementation of our Diversity Action Plan, which sets out our priorities for action by diversity and inclusion theme and cross-cutting priorities.

Equality is a cornerstone consideration in the development and review of all HR policies which determine how staff are recruited and appointed, their terms and conditions, how they are managed and developed, assessed, recognised and rewarded. Sport NI continues to meet its statutory obligations under the Fair Employment & Treatment (NI) Order 1998, which includes submission of an annual Fair Employment Monitoring Return and a tri-annual Article 55 Review to the Equality Commission for NI (ECNI), both of which assess the composition of Sport NI’s workforce and the composition of applicants and appointees. As a public authority, Sport NI has due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard to the desirability of promoting good relations across a range of categories outlined in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 in carrying out its functions.

### **Employee Consultation and Trade Union Relationships**

At Sport NI, we believe that a strong and positive relationship with our employees and their representatives is essential for achieving our goals and delivering high-quality services. As a recognised trade union, NIPSA plays an important role in representing the views and interests of our employees. We are committed to working in partnership with NIPSA to ensure that our HR policies and practices are fair, transparent, and responsive to the needs of our workforce. Through our Joint Negotiating and Consultative Committee (JNCC), we engage in regular and constructive dialogue with NIPSA representatives, discussing issues of mutual concern and identifying opportunities for improvement. We are proud of the productive and collaborative relationship we have built with NIPSA and look forward to continuing to work together to create a positive and inclusive workplace culture at Sport NI.

### **Health and Safety**

Sport NI is committed to sensibly managing risks to protect our staff and business users. Sport NI recognises good health and safety management is characterised by strong leadership involving the Board, ELT, workers, suppliers, contractors and customers. In accordance with this commitment, during 2022-23, Sport NI CEO commissioned a wide-ranging review of health and safety arrangements across the organisation, making comparison with relevant statute, standards and guidance. The review included consideration of risks and an assessment of supporting policy documents and mechanisms for management and monitoring of health and safety performance. A preliminary report outlined key findings and recommendations arising from the initial review. Under the terms of the contract, Sport NI is provided with access to the competent health and safety adviser during 2023-24 in order to assist with implementation of improvement.

### **Expenditure on Consultancy**

The following costs were incurred during the year for consultancy (excluding managed service).

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Actuary Report and Tax Advice	14,600	2,106
<b>Total Expenditure on Consultancy</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>2,106</b>



### **Off-Payroll Disclosures**

Off-payroll engagements are those where individuals, either self-employed or acting through a personal service company, are paid gross by the employer. In line with HM Treasury requirements, the Department of Finance requires disclosure of such engagements that cost more than £245 per day and that last for longer than six months. Sport NI had no such off-payroll engagements commencing or operating during 2022- 23 (2021-22: NIL).

### **Reporting of Exit Packages (Audited Information)**

No voluntary exit packages were offered during 2022-23, therefore the cost of exit packages in 22-23 was NIL (2021- 22: £206,783).



**Richard Archibald**  
**Accounting Officer,**  
**SportNI**

**Date: 22 March 2024**

## **Assembly Accountability and Audit Report**

The Assembly Parliamentary Accountability and Audit Report brings together the key Assembly accountability documents. It includes:

- Assembly Accountability Disclosure Notes; and
- The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

## **Assembly Accountability Disclosure Notes**

### **Losses and Special Payments (Audited Information)**

There was a loss of £1,155 reported for the year (2021-22: Nil) There were no special payments in the year ended 31 March 2023 (2021-22: Nil).

### **Fees and Charges (Audited information)**

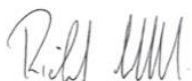
Tollymore National Outdoor Centre (TNOC) is the only operation within Sport NI that would have a significant level of income generation (see further details below). For all other areas a detailed analysis of fees and charges information is not provided as the income and full costs of each service are immaterial.

Skills and Leadership course provision at the Centre in TNOC are subsidised by funding received from DfC. TNOC activities where no market value exists, full cost recovery is applied to prevent direct competition.

TNOC income is mainly generated through booking of courses; climbing wall use; accommodation; venue hire; and catering. During the year, TNOC generated £249,188 of income (2021-22: £167,731) against costs of £978,295 (2021-22: £831,534) .

### **Remote Contingent Liabilities (Audited information)**

Sport NI is also required to report liabilities for which the likelihood of a transfer of economic benefit in settlement is too remote to meet the definition of contingent liability. There were no remote contingent liabilities for the year ended 31 March 2023 (2021-22: Nil). Contingent liabilities are disclosed in note 15 of the Financial Statements.



**Richard Archibald**  
**Accounting Officer,**  
**SportNI**

**Date: 22 March 2024**

## **Sport Council for Northern Ireland Exchequer Account 2022-23**

# **THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY**

### **Opinion on financial statements**

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland Exchequer Account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 under the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. The financial statements comprise: the Statements of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Financial Position, Cash Flows, Changes in Taxpayers' Equity; and the related notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting standards.

I have also audited the information in the Accountability Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of Sports Council for Northern Ireland's Exchequer Account's affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland's Exchequer Account's net expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 and Department for Communities directions issued thereunder.

### **Opinion on regularity**

In my opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

### **Basis for opinions**

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK), applicable law and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements and Regularity of Public Sector Bodies in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this certificate.

My staff and I are independent of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

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

## **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the Sports Council for Northern Ireland's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

The going concern basis of accounting for the Sports Council for Northern Ireland is adopted in consideration of the requirements set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual, which require entities to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements where it anticipated that the services which they provide will continue into the future.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## **Other Information**

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements, the parts of the Accountability Report described in that report as having been audited, and my audit certificate and report. The Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

## **Opinion on other matters**

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the parts of the Accountability Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with Department for Communities directions made under the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986; and
- the information given in the Performance Report and Accountability Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

## **Matters on which I report by exception**

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Performance Report and Accountability Report. I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or

- the financial statements and the parts of the Accountability Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of remuneration specified by the Government Financial Reporting Manual are not made; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with the Department of Finance's guidance.

### **Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view;
- such internal controls as the Accounting Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- ensuring the annual report, which includes the Remuneration and Staff Report is prepared in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; and
- assessing the Sports Council for Northern Ireland's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Accounting Officer anticipates that the services provided by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland will not continue to be provided in the future.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue a certificate that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) 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.

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulation, including fraud.

My procedures included:

- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Sports Council for Northern Ireland through discussion with management and application of extensive public sector accountability knowledge. The key laws and regulations I considered included Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.
- making enquires of management and those charged with governance on the Sports Council for Northern Ireland's compliance with laws and regulations;

- making enquiries of internal audit, management and those charged with governance as to susceptibility to irregularity and fraud, their assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and irregularity, and their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and irregularity;
- completing risk assessment procedures to assess the susceptibility of Sports Council for Northern Ireland's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. This included, but was not limited to, an engagement director led engagement team discussion on fraud to identify particular areas, transaction streams and business practices that may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition, expenditure recognition, and posting of unusual journals;
- engagement director oversight to ensure the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework throughout the audit;
- documenting and evaluating the design and implementation of internal controls in place to mitigate risk of material misstatement due to fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- designing audit procedures to address specific laws and regulations which the engagement team considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements in terms of misstatement and irregularity, including fraud. These audit procedures included, but were not limited to, reading board and committee minutes, and agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and approvals as appropriate;
- addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls by:
  - performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships or movements;
  - testing journal entries to identify potential anomalies, and inappropriate or unauthorised adjustments;
  - assessing whether judgements and other assumptions made in determining accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
  - investigating significant or unusual transactions made outside of the normal course of business.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of my certificate.

In addition, I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

## **Report**

I have included a short report which outlines a number of concerns that I have over the Sport Council for Northern Ireland's governance.



*Dorinnia Carville*  
*Comptroller and Auditor General*  
*Northern Ireland Audit Office*  
*106 University Street*  
*BELFAST*  
*BT7 1EU*

*22 March 2024*

## **Sports Council for Northern Ireland Exchequer Account 2022-23**

# **Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Northern Ireland Assembly**

### **Introduction**

1. The Sports Council for Northern Ireland (Sport NI) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Communities (DfC). I have given an unqualified audit opinion on both the regularity and the true and fair state of the Exchequer Account financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

### **Purpose of this Report**

2. I previously reported on the governance issues within Sport NI in March 2020. While the issues in that report were specific to that time, I remain concerned about the governance of Sport NI and a number of associated issues that were identified from my audit of this year's financial statements. I have highlighted these in this report.

### **New Finance System**

3. A new finance system was implemented on 1 April 2022. However, there were significant weaknesses in how this was managed. These failings included a lack of a proper project specification, a number of key Sport NI staff changes in the project team during the preparation period, important user-testing issues identified which had not been resolved by the 'go-live' implementation date, and thereafter, the need to use considerable manual workarounds in order to obtain useful information from the system.
4. I also note that nearly two years after the system was implemented, a post-project evaluation has not yet taken place. As a result of the problems encountered with the new system, additional support days had to be purchased from the supplier at a cost of over £50,000. I hold the view that these should not have been needed had the procurement and contract management of the project been more robust.

### **Quality of financial management information**

5. Sport NI have disclosed in the 2022-23 Exchequer account that the financial management information provided on a regular basis to the Board has not proved to be reliable. Recent discussions at the audit and risk committee also identified that normal monthly management accounts had not been operating over the past year. A key outworking of these issues was the late notification of a substantial underspend (£875,000) at the end of the financial year. Sport NI told us that this situation arose due to deficiencies in the implementation of the new finance system and associated internal financial controls, as referred to above.
6. To help resolve the issue, Sport NI have commenced a significant exercise to address the systemic issues in the provision of quality financial management information from the new finance system, including the establishment of a task and finish group consisting of senior management and Board members.



## Departmental approvals of expenditure

7. As outlined in the partnership agreement between Sport NI and DfC (formerly known as the Management Statement / Financial Memorandum), IT and consultancy expenditure over agreed threshold amounts need to have business cases prepared for and approved by the Department in advance of the expenditure being incurred.
8. During the year, Sport NI identified that tax and VAT consultancy expenditure of £13,800 was not properly approved although on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, the Department provided the necessary retrospective approval for this. Sport NI also found that the actual expenditure on the new finance system was £81,700 more than what had originally been approved by DfC. To address this, another retrospective application was made to the Department which was subsequently approved on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024. To provide the necessary assurance over regularity to the Sport NI Accounting Officer and Board, a 'deep dive' investigation was then conducted on a range of IT and consultancy expenditure which identified one further case, relating to IT infrastructure equipment, that had exceeded delegated approval limits. DfC are currently considering a similar retrospective approval application in relation to this amount of £101,200.
9. It is concerning that these issues have arisen as there should be procedures in place to ensure the requirements of the partnership agreement are met. In each of the above instances, expenditure should not have been incurred until the necessary approvals were obtained.

## Staffing issues

10. There has been a significant turnover of senior staff within Sport NI in the last few years. More recently, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has been absent since June 2023, whilst the Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Finance Manager both resigned and left the organisation in July and December 2023 respectively.
11. An Interim CEO and Interim COO are both now in post, which is providing some much-needed leadership stability although the Finance Manager position is currently vacant. This turnover of key staff has undoubtedly added to the instability within Sport NI and in my view contributed to some of the governance concerns outlined in this report.

## Sport NI Lottery accounts

12. Sport NI is partly funded by grant-in-aid from DfC. The level of funding is agreed with DfC as part of a rolling funding agreement. Grant-in-aid funds are accounted for in the Sport NI Exchequer Account. Sport NI's other main source of funding is from The National Lottery, with the associated lottery funds being accounted for in a separate, stand-alone annual report and accounts.
13. These Sport NI Lottery accounts are audited by the National Audit Office. After significant time had been invested by Sport NI and the respective audit teams, on 11 September 2023 the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) of the National Audit Office [qualified his audit opinion on the 2015-16 Sport NI Lottery Accounts](#) as he was unable to obtain sufficient, appropriate audit evidence that the grants de-committed in the year and grants payable as at 31 March 2016 were free from material error. As a result of these issues, the Sport NI Lottery accounts remain in significant backlog,

with the 31 March 2016 accounts being the latest certified. This is an unacceptable length of time for the accounts process not to be completed and is cause for concern. Sport NI told me that the arrears can be partly explained by the staffing issues that the organisation has faced over the past number of years.

14. More positively however, I am aware that provisional plans are now in place with all key stakeholders to recover this backlog. It is essential that this work is now prioritised.

### **Governance review**

15. In November 2023, DfC engaged Deloitte to conduct a strategic review of Sport NI to identify and understand the cause of the governance and control issues that the organisation currently faces, with a focus on the roles and responsibilities of the Sport NI Board and Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

16. We will consider the outworking of this report once it is available.

### **Conclusion**

17. All of the issues outlined above, coupled with the history of governance issues within Sport NI including those I reported on in 2020 have led me to be concerned as to the current position regarding governance and to raise these issues in this report. However, I have not qualified my audit opinion on the truth and fairness or regularity of the 2022-23 Sport NI Exchequer Account financial statements.

18. I am aware that significant steps are already underway within Sport NI to address my concerns and I will closely examine the situation during my audit of the 2023-24 financial statements.



*Dorinnia Carville*  
*Comptroller and Auditor General*  
*Northern Ireland Audit Office*  
*106 University Street*  
*BELFAST*  
*BT7 1EU*

*22 March 2024*

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE NET EXPENDITURE  
FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023**

		<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
	Notes	£	£
Income from sale of goods and services	4A	2,156,311	2,239,574
Other operating income	4B	11,807	9,899
<b>Total Operating Income</b>		<b>2,168,118</b>	<b>2,249,473</b>
Staff costs	3A	(6,357,519)	(6,693,298)
Expenditure on Sports	3B	(3,925,724)	(8,569,874)
Other operating expenditure	3C	(1,364,222)	(1,363,179)
Depreciation and impairment charges	5/6	(621,773)	(536,306)
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>(12,269,238)</b>	<b>(17,162,657)</b>
<b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>(10,101,120)</b>	<b>(14,913,184)</b>
Finance Expense		(1,746)	-
<b>Net Expenditure for the Year</b>		<b>(10,102,866)</b>	<b>(14,913,184)</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Net Expenditure</b>			
Items that will not be reclassified to net operating expenditure:			
Net gain/loss on revaluation of Property, Plant and Equipment	5	614,008	438,908
Net gain/loss on revaluation of Intangible Assets	6	2,257	196
Actuarial gain/(loss) on pension scheme	11e	12,755,000	6,073,000
<b>Comprehensive Net Expenditure for the Year</b>		<b>3,268,399</b>	<b>(8,401,080)</b>

The notes on pages 63 to 88 form part of these accounts.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
<b>Non-current assets:</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	6,453,814	6,144,032
Intangible assets	6	105,827	76,273
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>6,559,641</b>	<b>6,220,305</b>
<b>Current assets:</b>			
Trade and other receivables	7	644,062	936,463
Cash and cash equivalents	8	602,378	370,123
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,246,440</b>	<b>1,306,586</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>7,806,081</b>	<b>7,526,891</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Leasehold Liabilities	9	(56,243)	-
Trade and other payables	9	(1,077,646)	(1,014,645)
Grants Payable	9	(2,013,678)	(5,119,968)
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>(3,147,567)</b>	<b>(6,134,613)</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>4,658,514</b>	<b>1,392,278</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Leasehold Liabilities	9	(113,423)	-
Retirement benefit asset/(obligation)	11	-	(11,693,000)
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>(113,423)</b>	<b>(11,693,000)</b>
<b>Total assets less total liabilities</b>		<b>4,545,091</b>	<b>(10,300,722)</b>
General reserve		1,537,325	(1,225,942)
Revaluation reserve		3,007,766	2,618,220
Pension reserve		-	(11,693,000)
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>4,545,091</b>	<b>(10,300,722)</b>

The notes on pages 63 to 88 form part of these accounts.

The financial statements on pages 59 to 62 were approved by the Board on 15 February 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



**Richard Archibald**  
**Accounting Officer,**  
**SportNI**

**Date: 22 March 2024**

**STATEMENT OF CASHFLOW  
FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023**

	Notes	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net operating expenditure		(10,101,120)	(14,913,184)
Adjustments for non-cash transactions	3C	672,951	572,535
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other receivables	7	292,401	(639,978)
Increase/(Decrease) in payables	9	(2,924,171)	(2,038,608)
Increase/(Decrease) in pension fund payable less actuarial losses		1,062,000	1,440,000
<b>Net cash outflow from operating activities</b>		<b>(10,997,939)</b>	<b>(15,579,235)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of non-financial assets	5/6	(348,522)	(178,454)
Proceeds from disposal of non-financial assets		-	-
<b>Net cash outflow from investing activities</b>		<b>(348,522)</b>	<b>(178,454)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Capital element of payments in respect of leases		50,548	-
Grants from sponsoring department	SCTE	11,528,168	9,106,892
<b>Net financing</b>		<b>11,578,716</b>	<b>9,106,892</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period</b>		<b>232,255</b>	<b>(6,650,797)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		370,123	7,020,920
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>		<b>602,378</b>	<b>370,123</b>

The notes on pages 63 to 88 form part of these accounts.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN TAXPAYERS' EQUITY  
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	General Fund £	Pension Reserve £	Revaluation Reserve £	Taxpayers' Equity £
Balance at 31 March 2021	2,891,443	(16,326,000)	2,395,023	(11,039,534)
Grants from Sponsoring Department	9,106,892	-	-	9,106,892
Comprehensive Net Expenditure for the Year	(13,473,184)	(1,440,000)	-	(14,913,184)
Actuarial Gain and Losses	-	6,073,000	-	6,073,000
Net Loss on Revaluation of Non-Current Assets	-	-	439,104	439,104
Auditors Remuneration	33,000	-	-	33,000
Other reserves movements including transfers	215,907	-	(215,907)	-
<b>Balance at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>(1,225,942)</b>	<b>(11,693,000)</b>	<b>2,618,220</b>	<b>(10,300,722)</b>
Grants from Sponsoring Department	11,528,168	-	-	11,528,168
Comprehensive Net Expenditure for the Year	(9,039,120)	(1,062,000)	-	(10,101,120)
Actuarial Gain and Losses	-	12,755,000	-	12,755,000
Net Loss on Revaluation of Non-Current Assets	-	-	616,265	616,265
Auditors Remuneration	47,500	-	-	47,500
Other reserves movements including transfers	226,719	-	(226,719)	-
<b>Balance at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>1,537,325</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,007,766</b>	<b>4,545,091</b>

The notes on pages 63 to 88 form part of these accounts.

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2022-23 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by Department of Finance. The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context. Where FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of Sport NI, for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The particular policies adopted by Sport NI are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items considered material to the accounts.

#### **1.1 Accounting Convention**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention modified to account for the revaluation of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets.

The financial statements are stated in Sterling, which is the functional and presentational currency.

#### **1.2 Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets**

Sport NI applied a capitalisation limit of £1,000 to individual items. Items below the £1,000 threshold were charged directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

#### **1.3 Depreciation**

Depreciation/amortisation has been provided using the straight line method so as to write off each asset over its estimated useful life. Depreciation/amortisation is charged from the month acquired/coming into use, and not in the month in which it is disposed.

Assets are depreciated over their useful lives as follows:

Buildings	10-25 Years
Computer Equipment	2-10 Years
Furniture and Fittings	2-10 Years
Specialist Sports Equipment	7-10 Years
Motor Vehicles	4-10 Years
Intangible Assets – Computer Equipment	2-10 Years

An impairment review is carried out annually, any loss in value which exceeds the credit in the revaluation reserve is then charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

## **1.4 Intangible assets**

Expenditure on intangible assets is recognised when Sport NI controls the asset; is probable that future economic benefits attributable to the asset will flow to Sport NI; and the cost of the asset can be reliably measured. Purchased software and licenses lasting for more than one year are capitalised as intangible assets where expenditure of £1,000 or more is incurred.

Intangible assets are revalued annually using appropriate indices compiled by the Office for National Statistics. Any surplus/loss on revaluation is treated as follows:

- Unrealised surplus arising from revaluation of intangible assets is credited to the Revaluation Reserve unless it reverses a decrease of the same asset previously recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, to that extent.
- Losses arising from the revaluation of intangible assets are debited to the Revaluation Reserve to the extent that gains were recorded previously, and otherwise to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

Amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the term of the licence and the useful economic life. Intangible assets are reviewed annually for impairment.

## **1.5 Revaluation of non-current assets**

Non-current assets included in the Statement of Financial Position are reviewed annually to ensure that they are stated at fair value. This is carried out through applying indices. Increases in valuations are credited to the Revaluation Reserve. Downward movements are accounted through the revaluation reserve to the extent that there is a credit in that reserve that relates to the revalued asset.

Tollymore National Outdoor Centre is formally valued by Land and Property Services every five years, supplemented by annual desktop valuations. The last full valuation was undertaken at 31 March 2023.

## **1.6 Operating Income**

### **Government Grants**

Grant-in-Aid received used to finance activities and expenditure which support the statutory and other objectives of the entity is treated as financing, and credited to the General Reserve, because it is regarded as contributions from a controlling party which give rise to a financial interest in the residual interest of NDPBs.

### **Lottery Recharges**

Administrative overheads and salaries are apportioned to the Lottery Distribution fund and comprise administrative costs and salaries incurred by Sport NI from which the Lottery benefited indirectly. The apportionment is made at full economic cost and calculated on appropriate bases. Recharges of expenses and salaries are shown in other income.



### Other Operating Income

All other operating income received is credited to income in the year in which it is receivable. Fees and charges for services provided by Sport NI are determined in accordance with HM Treasury's "Fees and Charges Guide".

## 1.7 Leases

IFRS 16 Leases, as adapted for the public sector was implemented with effect from 01 April 2022, replacing IAS 17 Leases. The existing Sports Institute (UUJ) premises lease was identified as a contract conveying the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration. On transition a right-of-use asset and corresponding lease liability was recognised on the Statement of Financial Position. The right-of-use asset is measured at cost, which is made up of the initial measurement of the lease liability which is the outstanding value of lease payments due measured in accordance with HM Treasury published discount rates. The asset is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the remaining lease term. The lease liability is reduced for payments made and increased for interest. Previously under IAS 17 lease payments were expensed as rental charges.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are not recognised as right-of-use assets and lease liabilities, payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure as incurred. On the Statement of Financial Position, right-of-use assets have been included in property, plant and equipment and lease liabilities have been shown separately.

## 1.8 Financial Instruments

Sport NI is not exposed to the same degree of financial risk faced by business entities. This is due to the organisation being essentially a non-trading entity and financed as a Non-Departmental Public Body. It has no powers to borrow or invest in surplus funds and has limited year-end flexibility. It is therefore exposed to little liquidity, currency or market risks. Sport NI does not hold any complex financial instruments and there is no impact on the financial risk of the organisation.

### 1.8.1 Financial Assets

#### Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables mainly arise from regular users of services at the House of Sport and Tollymore National Outdoor Centre. Bad debt provision is assessed annually. Receivables do not carry any interest and are recognised at their recoverable amount, which equates to their fair value.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and current balances with banks which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value and have an original maturity of three months or less.

## **1.8.2 Financial Liabilities**

### **Trade and other payables**

Trade payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Sport NI prior to the end of the reporting period, which are unpaid. Purchase orders are not included as trade payables. Payables are not interest-bearing and are recognised at their nominal value, which equates to their fair value.

### **Grant Payables**

Grant payables relate to any amounts of unpaid grant at 31 March where the underlying activity took place no later than 31 March and have been included in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

## **1.9 Payment of Grants**

Sport NI pays grants in accordance with the terms and conditions inherent in the respective funding agreement. Grants awarded to organisations and individuals are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure in the year in which the underlying activity giving entitlement to the grant occurs. Any amounts of unpaid grant at 31 March each year are included as liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position.

## **1.10 Provisions**

Sport NI provides for legal or constructive obligations which are of uncertain timing or amount at the reporting period date on the basis of the best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation.

## **1.11 Contingent liabilities**

In addition to contingent liabilities disclosed in accordance with IAS 37, Sport NI discloses for Assembly reporting and accountability purposes certain statutory and non-statutory contingent liabilities where the likelihood of a transfer of economic benefit is remote, but which have been reported to the Assembly in accordance with the requirements of Managing Public Money Northern Ireland.

Where the time value of money is material, contingent liabilities which are required to be disclosed under IAS 37 are stated at discounted amounts and the amount reported to the Assembly separately noted. Contingent liabilities that are not required to be disclosed by IAS 37 are stated at the amounts reported to the Assembly.

## **1.12 Critical accounting estimates and key judgements**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of accounting estimates and assumptions. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying Sport NI's accounting policies. Sport NI continually evaluate the estimates, assumptions and judgements based on available information and experience. As the use of estimates is inherent in financial reporting, actual results could differ from these estimates. The estimates and assumptions which have the most significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities are discussed below:

### **Depreciation of property, plant and equipment**

Depreciation is provided in the accounts so as to write down the respective assets to their residual values over their expected residual lives and as such the selection of the estimated useful lives and the expected residual values of the assets require the use of estimates and judgements. Details of the estimated useful lives are shown above in note 1.3.

### **Impairment of property, plant and equipment**

Where there is an indication that the carrying values of items of property, plant and equipment may have been impaired through events or changes in circumstances, a review will be undertaken of the recoverable amount of that asset.

### **Recharge to Lottery**

The apportionment of staffing and indirect costs transferred from the Sport NI Exchequer Account to Sport NI Lottery Account is based on a Service Level Agreement. This is reviewed annually to ensure recharges are appropriate and reflect the time which staff spend on Sport NI Lottery Account activities and the proportion of indirect costs which relate to Sport NI Lottery Account activities.

## **1.13 Value Added Tax**

Sport NI is registered for Value Added Tax (VAT) but cannot reclaim VAT on purchases. All purchase transactions are therefore stated inclusive of VAT.

## **1.14 Employee Benefits**

Under IAS 19 an employing entity should recognise the undiscounted amount of short-term employee benefits expected to be paid in exchange for the Service. Sport NI has recognised flexi balances and annual leave entitlements that have been earned by year end but not yet taken. These are included in current liabilities.

### **1.15 Pension Costs**

Past and present employees are covered by the provisions of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) Scheme. In accordance with IAS 19 the Scheme Managers / trustees are required to undertake a sensitivity analysis for each significant actuarial assumption as at the end of the reporting period, showing how the defined benefit obligation would have been affected by changes in the relevant actuarial assumption that were reasonably possible at that date. This analysis, including details of the methods and assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis, the limitation of these methods, and the reasons for any changes in methods and assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis, are set out in Note 11 to the Accounts.

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries using the market-led approach. The latest actuarial valuation of the scheme was at 31 March 2023.

Pension scheme assets are measured using market value. Pension scheme liabilities are measured using the projected unit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term to the liability. Pension scheme assets are only recognised on the balance sheet if there are expected future economic benefits to Sport NI.

The increase in the present value of the liabilities of Sport NI's defined benefit pension scheme arising from employee service in the period is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure so as to recognise the cost of pensions over the employees' working lives.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised in Other Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

### **1.16 Reserves**

#### **General Reserve**

This is the balance arising from recurrent grants provided by the sponsor department (DfC) through grant-in-aid and the net expenditure as reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure for the year.

#### **Revaluation Reserve**

The revaluation reserve reflects the unrealised element of the cumulative balance of indexation and revaluation adjustments to assets.

#### **Pension Reserve**

This is the balance required by Sport NI to meet the current deficit in its share of the NILGOSC pension scheme.

### **1.17 Accounting standards, interpretations and amendments to published standards adopted in the year ended 31 March 2023**

Additional or revised accounting standards and new (or amendments to) interpretations contained within FReM 2022-23 have been considered. The adoption of these standards has not had a significant impact on Sport NI's financial position or results.

IFRS 16 Leases replaces IAS 17 Leases and is effective with EU adoption from 01 January 2019. In line with the requirements of the FReM, IFRS16 was implemented as, interpreted and adapted for the public sector, with effect from 01 April 22. The impact of IFRS 16 Lease is detailed in note 1.7 of these accounts.

### **1.18 Accounting standards, interpretations and amendments to published standards not yet effective**

Sport NI has reviewed new accounting standards that have been issued but are not yet effective, nor adopted early for these accounts.

IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts will replace IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts and is effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 01 January 2023. In line with the requirements of the FReM, IFRS 17 will be implemented, as interpreted and adapted for the public sector, with effect from 01 April 2025.

## **2. Operating Costs by Operating Segment**

In line with IFRS 8, Sport NI does not have any segmental data to disclose. The Board Members review the financial performance on a bi-monthly basis, based on similar information contained within the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure of the financial statements.

**3A Staff Costs**

	<b>Directly Employed</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>2022-23 Total</b>	<b>2021-22 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and Salaries	3,411,494	-	3,411,494	3,495,982
Social Security Costs	346,078	-	346,078	307,716
Pension Costs	1,741,680	-	1,741,680	2,083,681
Agency Costs	-	858,267	858,267	805,919
	<b>5,499,252</b>	<b>858,267</b>	<b>6,357,519</b>	<b>6,693,298</b>
Less: Staff Costs Recharged to Sport NI Lottery Account	(814,863)	-	(814,863)	(1,017,042)
Less: Recoveries in Respect of Outward Secondments	(36,302)	-	(36,302)	(69,669)
	<b>4,648,087</b>	<b>858,267</b>	<b>5,506,354</b>	<b>5,606,587</b>

**3B Expenditure on Sports**

	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Other Programme</b>	<b>2022-23 Total</b>	<b>2021-22 Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Outcome 1*	1,467,033	589,921	2,056,954	1,782,382
Outcome 2**	-	346,029	346,029	473,703
COVID Support	(53,456)	(1,760)	(55,216)	4,274,334
Capital Programme	1,569,965	7,992	1,577,956	2,039,455
	<b>2,983,542</b>	<b>942,182</b>	<b>3,925,724</b>	<b>8,569,874</b>

\* **Outcome 1:** People adopting and sustaining participation in sport and physical activity.

\*\***Outcome 2:** Our athletes among the best in the world.

**3C Other Operating Expenditure**

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Computer Software and Support	263,841	604,688
Managed Services	423,090	195,660
Rent and Rates	160,614	156,959
Caretaking and Cleaning	89,396	49,150
Recruitment, Training and Restructure	21,992	42,659
Legal Fees	14,719	40,112
Telephones and postage	18,649	36,071
Heat and Light	54,236	28,688
Research	75,798	27,544
Insurance	31,668	23,852
Courses, Meetings and Seminars	8,708	18,584
Sundry Expenses	17,642	17,355
Publicity and Publications	44,418	16,438
Repairs & Maintenance	1,566	14,354
Memberships and Subscriptions	11,048	13,939
Printing & Stationery	6,680	12,557
Travel and Subsistence	15,212	10,902
Internal Audit	33,004	9,648
Losses / Bad Debt Write Off	1,155	3,962
Consultancy	14,600	2,106
Hospitality & Networking	3,249	1,722
Fees and Bank Charges	1,759	-
<b><u>Non-Cash Items:</u></b>		
Auditors' remuneration	47,500	33,000
Loss/(Profit) on disposal	8,841	1,718
Permanent Diminution	(5,163)	1,511
<b>Other Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>1,364,222</b>	<b>1,363,179</b>

**4. Income**

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>4A Income from goods and services</b>		
Lottery recharges	1,797,128	1,936,062
TNOC income from services	249,188	167,731
Staff Seconded to other parties	36,302	69,669
Other service charges	73,693	66,112
	<b>2,156,311</b>	<b>2,239,574</b>
<b>4B Other Operating Income</b>		
EU funding	11,807	9,899
	<b>11,807</b>	<b>9,899</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,168,118</b>	<b>2,249,473</b>

## 5. Property, Plant and Equipment

2022-23	Buildings & Leasehold	Specialist Sports Equipment	Furniture and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Information Technology	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>						
At 1 April 2022	5,718,352	1,102,015	268,019	119,476	533,857	7,741,719
Additions	219,968	19,969	28,278	-	30,532	298,747
Disposals	(765)	(34,039)	(3,453)	-	(9,653)	(47,910)
Revaluation	125,126	-	-	-	-	125,126
Indexation	4,556	41,044	2,294	516	4,519	52,929
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>6,067,237</b>	<b>1,128,989</b>	<b>295,138</b>	<b>119,992</b>	<b>559,255</b>	<b>8,170,611</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 April 2022	101,794	720,158	187,098	87,959	500,678	1,597,687
Charged in year	528,155	49,148	11,157	333	12,715	601,508
Disposals	(137)	(28,038)	(3,453)	-	(9,653)	(41,281)
Revaluation	(460,059)	-	-	-	-	(460,059)
Indexation	1,500	14,871	358	98	2,115	18,942
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>171,253</b>	<b>756,139</b>	<b>195,160</b>	<b>88,390</b>	<b>505,855</b>	<b>1,716,797</b>
Carrying amount at 31 March 2022	5,616,558	381,857	80,921	31,517	33,179	6,144,032
<b>Carrying amount at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>5,895,984</b>	<b>372,850</b>	<b>99,978</b>	<b>31,602</b>	<b>53,400</b>	<b>6,453,814</b>
Asset Financing:						
Owned	-	372,850	99,978	31,602	53,400	557,830
Short Leasehold	5,895,984	-	-	-	-	5,895,984
<b>Carrying amount at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>5,895,984</b>	<b>372,850</b>	<b>99,978</b>	<b>31,602</b>	<b>53,400</b>	<b>6,453,814</b>



**5A Property, Plant and Equipment continued**

<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Buildings &amp; Leasehold</b>	<b>Specialist Sports Equipment</b>	<b>Furniture and Fittings</b>	<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>Information Technology</b>	<b>Total</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>						
At 1 April 2021	5,716,985	1,063,369	253,643	119,168	534,871	7,688,036
Additions	-	69,526	4,873	-	45,855	120,254
Disposals	-	(35,861)	(1,793)	-	(47,517)	(85,171)
Revaluation	(25,280)	-	-	-	-	(25,280)
Indexation	26,647	4,981	11,296	308	648	43,880
<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	<b>5,718,352</b>	<b>1,102,015</b>	<b>268,019</b>	<b>119,476</b>	<b>533,857</b>	<b>7,741,719</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 April 2021	85,876	727,743	161,303	81,788	521,495	1,578,205
Charged in year	441,597	45,195	21,287	6,141	7,514	521,734
Disposals	-	(53,668)	(1,793)	-	(28,201)	(83,662)
Revaluation	(425,959)	-	-	-	-	(425,959)
Indexation	280	888	6,301	30	(130)	7,369
<b>At 31 March 2022</b>	<b>101,794</b>	<b>720,158</b>	<b>187,098</b>	<b>87,959</b>	<b>500,678</b>	<b>1,597,687</b>
Carrying amount at 31 March 2021	5,631,109	335,626	92,340	37,380	13,376	6,109,831
<b>Carrying amount at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>5,616,558</b>	<b>381,857</b>	<b>80,921</b>	<b>31,517</b>	<b>33,179</b>	<b>6,144,032</b>
Asset Financing:						
Owned	-	381,857	80,921	31,517	33,179	527,474
Short Leasehold	5,616,558	-	-	-	-	5,616,558
<b>Carrying amount at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>5,616,558</b>	<b>381,857</b>	<b>80,921</b>	<b>31,517</b>	<b>33,179</b>	<b>6,144,032</b>

Tollymore National Outdoor Centre (TNOC) buildings was valued at £5,530,821 (31 March 2022: £5,405,695) by Land and Property Service (LPS), an independent MRICS qualified valuer, at 31 March 2023. Sport NI requested LPS Services to value the building on the assumption that the life of the building and its useful life to Sport NI should be restricted to the term of the operating lease of the land on which the building resides. The building is revalued annually.

All other buildings, property, plant and equipment were valued at 31 March 2023 through application of indices (where possible) as published by the Office for National Statistics.

The leases entered into in respect of the land at TNOC and Altnadue Quarry have been treated under IFRS 16 (see Note 12).

## 6. Intangible Assets

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>		
At 1 April	149,668	95,617
Additions	49,775	58,200
Disposals	(34,213)	(4,993)
Indexation	3,497	844
<b>At 31 March</b>	<b>168,727</b>	<b>149,668</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 April	73,395	63,168
Charged in year	20,265	14,572
Disposals	(32,000)	(4,993)
Indexation	1,240	648
<b>At 31 March</b>	<b>62,900</b>	<b>73,395</b>
Carrying amount at 1 April	76,273	32,449
<b>Carrying amount at 31 March</b>	<b>105,827</b>	<b>76,273</b>
Asset Financing:		
Owned	105,827	76,273
<b>Carrying amount at 31 March</b>	<b>105,827</b>	<b>76,273</b>

Intangible assets comprise of purchased software and licenses.

**7. Receivables**

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade Receivables	96,391	48,494
Owed by Sport NI Lottery Account	491,442	787,393
Prepayments and Accrued Income	53,127	100,344
Other Debtors	3,102	232
	<u><b>644,062</b></u>	<u><b>936,463</b></u>

**8. Cash & Cash Equivalents**

The following balances were held at Commercial Banks and Cash in Hand

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
	£	£
Balance at 1 April	370,123	7,020,920
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalent Balances	232,255	(6,650,797)
<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<u><b>602,378</b></u>	<u><b>370,123</b></u>

In line with the Partnership Agreement with the DfC, cash balances accumulated during the course of the year were kept at the minimum level consistent with the efficient operation of Sport NI.

In line with this agreement, DfC makes available in the current financial year (subject to approval by the Assembly of the relevant estimates provision) any such grant-in-aid required to meet any liabilities at year end, such as accruals.

Sport NI has no borrowings and no financing activities, relying primarily on Exchequer funding for its cash requirements.

**9. Payables**

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade Payables	254,236	362,147
VAT Payable	5,103	7,865
PAYE Payable	-	107,707
Lease Liability	56,243	
Accruals and Deferred Income	818,307	536,926
<b>Total Trade and Other Payables</b>	<u><b>1,133,889</b></u>	<u><b>1,014,645</b></u>
Grants Payable	2,013,678	5,119,968
<b>Total Payables</b>	<u><b>3,147,567</b></u>	<u><b>6,134,613</b></u>
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Lease Liability	113,423	-
<b>Total Payables After One Year</b>	<u><b>113,423</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>

## 10. Provisions

Sport NI had no provisions as at 31 March 2023 (31 March 2022: Nil).

## 11. Retirement Benefit Obligation

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Pension (Gain)/Deficit	<u>-</u>	<u>11,693,000</u>

### Introduction

The disclosures below relate to the funded liabilities within the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Pension Fund (the "Fund") which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (the "LGPS").

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit plan with benefits earned up to 31 March 2015 being linked to final salary. Benefits after 31 March 2015 are based on a Career Average Revalued Earnings scheme. Details of the benefits earned over the period covered by this disclosure are set out in 'The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014' (as amended) and 'The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014' (as amended).

### Funding/Governance Arrangements

The funded nature of the LGPS requires Sport NI and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. For 2022-23 the contribution rates were 19.5% employers' and ranging between 5.5% and 10.5% employees' (2021-22: 19.5% employers' and ranging between 5.5% and 10.5% employees').

The last actuarial valuation was at 31 March 2023 and the contributions to be paid until 31 March 2023 resulting from that valuation are set out in the Fund's Rates and Adjustment Certificate.

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee is responsible for the governance of the Fund.

### Assets

The assets allocated to the Employer in the Fund are notional and are assumed to be invested in line with the investments of the Fund for the purposes of calculating the return over the accounting period. The Fund holds a significant proportion of its assets in liquid investments. As a consequence, there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if a large payment is required to be paid from the Fund in relation to an employer's liabilities. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split of assets for the Fund as a whole (based on data supplied by the Committee) is shown in the disclosures.

The Committee may invest a small proportion of the Fund's investments in the assets of some of the employers participating in the Fund if it forms part of their balanced investment strategy.

**Risks**

*Asset Volatility* – The liabilities used for accounting purposes are calculated using a discount rate set with reference to corporate bond yields at the accounting date. If assets underperform this yield this will create a deficit in the accounts. The Fund holds a significant proportion of growth assets which, while expected to outperform corporate bonds in the long term, creates volatility and risk in the short term in relation to the accounting figures.

*Changes in Bond Yield* – A decrease in corporate bond yields will increase the value placed on the liabilities for accounting purposes although this will be marginally offset by the increase in the assets as a result (to the extent the Fund invests in corporate bonds).

*Inflation Risk* –The majority of the pension liabilities are linked to either pay or price inflation. Higher inflation expectations will lead to a higher liability value. The assets are not perfectly correlated with inflation meaning that an increase in inflation will increase the deficit.

*Life Expectancy* – The majority of the Fund’s obligations are to provide benefits for the life of the member following retirement, so increases in life expectancy will result in an increase in the liabilities.

*Exiting Employers* – Employers which leave the Fund (or their guarantor) may have to make an exit payment to meet any shortfall in assets against their pension liabilities. If the Employer (or guarantor) is not able to meet this exit payment the liability may in certain circumstances fall on other employers in the Fund. Further, the assets at exit in respect of ‘orphan liabilities’ may, in retrospect, not be sufficient to meet the liabilities. This risk may fall on other employers. ‘Orphan liabilities’ are currently a small proportion of the overall liabilities in the Fund.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary in updating the latest valuation of the Fund for IAS19 purposes were:

**a. Principal Financial Assumptions (% per annum)**

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
	<b>Years</b>	<b>Years</b>
Duration of liabilities (years)	21.7	24.3
	<b>%PA</b>	<b>%PA</b>
Discount rate	4.6	2.7
CPI Price Inflation (Pension Increase)	2.6	2.9
Salary increases	4.1	4.4

### b. Mortality Assumptions

The mortality assumptions are based on actual mortality experience of members within the Fund based on analysis carried out as part of the 2022 Actuarial Valuation and allow for expected future mortality improvements. Sample life expectancies at age 65 resulting from these mortality assumptions are shown below.

	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
<b>Males</b>		
Pensioner Member aged 65 at accounting date	22.2	21.8
Active Member aged 45 at accounting date	23.2	23.2
<b>Females</b>		
Pensioner Member aged 65 at accounting date	25.0	25.0
Active Member aged 45 at accounting date	26.0	26.4

### c. Asset Allocation

The approximate split of assets for the Fund as a whole is shown in the table below.

	Asset split at 31 March 2023 (%)			Asset split at 31 March 2022 (%)
	Quoted	Unquoted	Total	Total
Equities	39.9	0.1	40.0	40.6
Property	0	11.2	11.2	10.9
Government	20.6	0	20.6	24.1
Corporate Bonds	3.0	0	3.0	1.8
Multi Asset Credit	13.3	0	13.3	12.9
Cash	6.5	0	6.5	6.2
Other	0.6	4.8	5.4	3.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### d. Reconciliation of Funded status to Statement of Financial Position (SoFP)

Reconciliation of Funded status to Statement of Financial Position	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
	£000s	£000s
Fair value of assets	30,134	32,914
Present value of funded defined benefit obligation	29,290	44,607
Funded status	644	(11,693)
Unrecognised asset*	644	-
<b>Asset/(Liability) recognised on the SoFP</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(11,693)</b>

\*Asset not recognised under IFRIC 14 as it is not anticipated that there will be any economic benefits to Sport NI from the asset.

The split of the liabilities at the last valuation date between the various categories of members was as follows:

Active Members	45%
Deferred Pensioners	29%
Pensioners	26%

**e. Breakdown of Amounts Recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure (SoCNE) and Other Comprehensive Expenditure (OCE)**

Amount Charged to Net Expenditure Account	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
	£000s	£000s
<b>Operating Cost</b>		
Current Service Cost *	1,377	1,722
Past Service Cost (including curtailments)	0.019	-
Settlement Cost	-	-
<b>Financing Cost</b>		
Interest on net defined benefit liability	307	336
Total Pension Expense Recognised in the SoCNE	1,703	2,058
<b>Re-measurements in Other Comprehensive Expenditure</b>		
Return on plan assets (in excess of)/Below that recognised in net interest	4,031	(608)
Actuarial losses due to change in financial assumptions	(19,421)	(5,140)
Actuarial (gains) due to change in demographic assumptions	131	(451)
Actuarial (gains)/losses due to liability experience	1,860	126
Adjustment in respect of unrecognised asset	644	-
Total Amount Recognised in Other Comprehensive Expenditure	(12,755)	(6,073)
<b>Total Amount Recognised</b>	<b>(11,052)</b>	<b>(4,015)</b>

\* The current service cost includes an allowance for the administration expenses of £0.16m (31 March 2022: £0.016m).

**f. Changes to Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation During the Accounting Period**

	<b>31-Mar-23</b>	<b>31-Mar-22</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Opening defined benefit obligation	44,607	47,796
Current service cost	1,377	1,722
Interest expense on defined benefit obligation	1,201	999
Contributions by participants	238	225
Actuarial losses due to changes in financial assumptions	(19,421)	(5,140)
Actuarial (gains) due to changes in demographic assumptions	131	(451)
Actuarial (gains)/losses due to liability experience	1,860	126
Net benefits paid out	(522)	(670)
Past service costs (including curtailments)	0.019	-
Net increase in liabilities from disposals/acquisitions	-	-
Settlements	-	-
<b>Closing defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>29,490</b>	<b>44,607</b>

**g. Changes to the Fair Value of Assets During the Accounting Period**

	<b>31-Mar-23</b>	<b>31-Mar-22</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Opening fair value of assets	32,914	31,470
Interest income on assets	894	663
Re-measurement gains/(losses) on assets	(4,031)	608
Contributions by the employer	641	618
Contributions by participants	238	225
Net benefits paid out	(522)	(670)
Net increase in liabilities from disposals/acquisitions	-	-
Settlements	--	-
<b>Closing fair value of assets</b>	<b>30,134</b>	<b>32,914</b>

**h. Actual Return on Assets**

	<b>31-Mar-23</b>	<b>31-Mar-22</b>
	<b>£000s</b>	<b>£000s</b>
Interest income on assets	894	663
Re-measurement gain/(loss) on assets	(4,031)	608
Actual return on assets	(3,137)	1,271



## i. Sensitivity Analysis

The results shown above are sensitive to the assumptions used. The approximate impact of changing the key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2023 and the projected services cost for the year ending 31 March 2024 are set out below. In each case, only the assumption mentioned is altered, all other assumptions remain the same and are summarised in the notes above. Sensitivity of unfunded benefits (where applicable) are not included on materiality grounds.

<b>Discount rate assumption</b>			
<b>Adjustment to discount rate</b>	<b>+0.1 p.a.</b>	<b>Base Figure</b>	<b>-0.1 p.a.</b>
Present value of total obligation (£M)	28.871	29.490	30.139
% change in present value of total obligation	-2.1%		2.2%
Projected service cost (£M)	0.614	0.642	0.670
Approximate % change in projected service cost	-4.3%		4.4%
<b>Rates of general increase in salaries</b>			
<b>Adjustment to salary increase rate</b>	<b>+0.1 p.a.</b>	<b>Base Figure</b>	<b>-0.1 p.a.</b>
Present value of total obligation (£M)	29.578	29.490	29.402
% change in present value of total obligation	0.3%		-0.3%
Projected service cost (£M)	0.642	0.642	0.642
Approximate % change in projected service cost	0%		0%
<b>Rate of increase to pensions in payment and deferred pensions assumption, and rate of revaluation of pension accounts assumption</b>			
<b>Adjustment to pension increase rate</b>	<b>+0.1 p.a.</b>	<b>Base Figure</b>	<b>-0.1 p.a.</b>
Present value of total obligation (£M)	30.050	29.490	28.959
% change in present value of total obligation	1.9%		-1.8%
Projected service cost (£M)	0.670	0.642	0.614
Approximate % change in projected service cost	4.4%		-4.3%
<b>Post retirement mortality assumption</b>			
<b>Adjustment to mortality assumption *</b>	<b>+0.1 p.a.</b>	<b>Base Figure</b>	<b>-0.1 p.a.</b>
Present value of total obligation (£M)	30.286	44.607	43.090
% change in present value of total obligation	2.7%		-2.7%
Projected service cost (£M)	0.666	1.522	0.618
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.7%		-3.8%

\* A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table for an individual that is 1 year older than them.

**j. Estimated Profit and Loss/Surplus or Deficit in Future Periods**

The figures below are provided based on the assumption as at 31 March 2023 outlined above.

<b>Funded LGPS Benefits - Expected Amounts Charged to SoCNE</b>	<b>31-Mar-23</b>
	<b>£000s</b>
Current service cost *	642
Interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	(15)
<b>Total</b>	<b>627</b>

\* The projected service cost includes an allowance for administration expenses of £0.017m and estimated payroll costs of £3.320m in the period ending 31 March 2023.

The pension cost shown in next year's accounts might be different to that shown above for the following reasons:

- (A) Actual payroll may be different to that used in the calculations. The difference in payroll will particularly affect the current service cost;
- (B) Past service costs may not be zero (this cost is that resulting from benefit augmentations or unreduced early retirement of individual members before age 60 or on the grounds of efficiency);
- (C) Curtailment/settlement events may occur; and
- (D) Actual cash-flows over the next year may differ from those assumed.

**k. Funded Benefits**

The following data has been used in evaluating the figures noted above:

<b>Active Members as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total Pay (£M)</b>
Total	104	3.038

<b>Pensioner &amp; deferred pensioner members as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Total Pension (£M)</b>
Deferred members	135	0.525
Pensioner and dependants	53	0.464

<b>Funded cash-flow data provided</b>	<b>Months Provided</b>	<b>Amount Provided (£M)</b>	<b>Amount Used (£M)</b>
Employer - Normal contributions	11	0.570	-
Employer - Additional capital contributions	12	-	-
Employer - Early retirement strain on fund payments	11	0.019	-
Total contributions by the Employer			0.641
Employee - Normal contributions	11	0.218	
Employee - Added years contributions	11	-	
Total contributions by Participants			0.238
Transfers in		-	-
Other income		-	-
Transfers out		-	-
Retirement lump sums		-	-
Other outgo		-	-
Death in service lump sums *		-	-
Benefits paid (i.e. pension paid)		-	-
Net benefits paid out **		-	0.522

\* Calculated over the year to be £0.004m.

\*\* Figure includes an allowance for expenses of £0.016m.

<b>Annualised pensionable payroll over the accounting period</b>	<b>(£M) *</b>
Period ending 31 March 2023	3.189
Period ending 31 March 2022	3.169

\* These figures have derived from the contributions paid over the relevant accounting period.

## I. Fund Return

The investment return used to roll forward the notional share of assets from the last formal valuation of the fund to the accounting date has been calculated using returns provided by the Fund Administering Authority, where known. Where necessary, index returns appropriate to the mix of assets have been used for any remaining period to obtain an estimate of the total return over the period to the accounting date.

An allowance was made for investment management expenses by reducing the provided Fund returns by 0.3% p.a. based on the fund's experience.

## 12. Leases

Note 1.7 outlines the changes to account resulting from IFRS 16 implementation and effect from 01 April 2022, replacing IAS 17 Leases. Total future minimum lease payments under operating leases are given in the table below, for each of the following periods:

### 12.1 Right of Use Assets

	Land £	Buildings £	Total £
At 1 April 2022	-	-	-
Additions	27,486	187,497	214,983
Depreciation Expense	(2,513)	(51,108)	(53,621)
<b>At 31 March 2023</b>	<b>24,973</b>	<b>136,389</b>	<b>161,362</b>

### 12.2 Obligations Under Finance Leases

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Land and Buildings		
Not later than one year	53,242	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	101,898	-
Over Five Years	11,525	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,665</b>	-
Less Interest	(2,059)	-
<b>Present Value</b>	<b>164,606</b>	-
Current Portion	51,442	-
Non-Current Portion	113,164	-

### 12.3 Lease Elements within SoCNE

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Sub-leasing income	-	-
Expense related to short-term lease	90,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,000</b>	-

### 12.4 Lease Cashflow

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Total cash outflow for leases	144,498	-

The land which TNOC resides on is leased and is subject to rent reviews every five years. Sport NI also leases land for outdoor activities. The low value exemption for the Altnadue Lease has been applied due to the lease being prepaid for five years in advance.

The House of Sport rental agreement with DfC is on a rolling basis, cancellable with six months prior notice. As it is a rolling contract with a 6-month cancellable period and no end date or break period the House of Sport lease has been deemed a short-term lease and has not been capitalised under IFRS16 (Note 1.7). There are no specific rent reviews contained within the lease. This treatment will be revisited when the lease is renegotiated with DfC.

Sports Institute facilities are rented from Ulster University. The current 20-year agreement is valid until 31 December 2025.

### **13. Capital Commitments**

Sport NI had NIL capital commitments as at 31 March 2023 (31 March 2022: £NIL).

### **14. Other Financial Commitments**

Sport NI had £7.445m of other financial commitments at 31 March 2023 (31 March 2022: £3.57m).

### **15. Contingent Liabilities Disclosed Under IAS 37**

Sport NI is aware of one contingent liability at 31 March 2023 in respect of backdated holiday pay. (31 March 2022: one). The liability came to light following a Court of Appeal judgment on backdated PSNI Holiday Pay. On 17 June 2019 the Court of Appeal ruled in respect of Northern Ireland Industrial Tribunal's November 2018 decision on cases taken against the PSNI on backdated Holiday Pay. A final Supreme Court judgement was provided on 4 October 2023 which dismissed the Chief Constable's appeal against this judgement. Sport NI has also received an industrial tribunal claim in respect of this.

This is an extremely rare and complex case with a significant number of issues that still need to be resolved, including further legal advice with regards to the Judgement; accessibility of relevant data and engagement with Trade Unions. The legal issues arising from this judgment and the implications for the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) and wider public sector will need further consideration. The Department of Finance is leading a piece of work across the NICS, reviewing the implications for each of the major staffing groups across the public sector.

Until there is further clarity when this work has concluded, and based on the inherent uncertainties in the final decision that will be made, a reliable estimate cannot be provided at this stage.

**16. Related Parties**

Individual	Organisation	Relationship	Other Expenditure in Year	Grant Payments in Year	Grants Awarded in Year	Balance at 31 March 2023	In Kind
George Lucas	UK Sport	Board Member UK Sports Council	225				
Jay Colville	Chartered Institute of Personnel Development	Associate Member	168				
Denise Burns	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council	Employee		30,055	29,511	29,511	
Richard Bullick	Netball NI	Non-executive Director					3,667
Wendy Elliott	Ulster Rugby	Season ticket holder - self & person connected		6,765	29,992	29,922	
Kyle Ferguson	IFA Stadium Development Co	Educational partnership with IFA	1,401				
	Irish Football Association	Educational partnership			11,488	15,502	
	University of Ulster	Reader	249,774				
Kieran Harding	Glentoran FC	Employee		18,867	29,853	30,262	
	Glentoran Recreation Co	Employee of Glentoran FC			22,655	22,766	
	IFA Stadium Development Co	Coach for IFA	1,401				
	Irish Football Association	Coach			11,488	15,502	
	Queen's University Belfast	Queen's Basketball - family member	15,600				
Alison Nicholl	Coleraine FC	Coach & member		23,388	27,260	27,260	

Sport NI Exchequer Account 2022-23

Individual	Organisation	Relationship	Other Expenditure in Year	Grant Payments in Year	Grants Awarded in Year	Balance at 31 March 2023	In Kind
Antoinette McKeown	Institute of Directors	Member	1,123				
	Portadown FC	Person connected - player		10,194			
	Portadown Football & Athletic Co Ltd	Person connected - player			25,000	25,000	
	The Chief Executives Forum	Member	1,664				
John Hart	Tir-na-nOg GAC	Persons connected - members		25,000			
Rebecca Morgan	Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland	ICAI Accountant	2,711				
	Netball NI	Person connected - member					3,667

Other related parties include:

Sport NI is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by DfC. DfC is regarded as a related party and during the year Sport NI had various material transactions with it including lease payment as referred to in Note 12 above and Grant in Aid as shown in the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers Equity.

The Sport NI's Lottery Account is also regarded as a related party to the Sport NI Exchequer Account. At 31 March 2023 £491,442 (2021-22 £787,393) was owed by the Sport NI Lottery Distribution Account to this account in respect of salary and other administrative costs incurred.

As a matter of policy and procedure, Sport NI maintains a publicly available register of interests where Council Members and staff declare any direct interest in grant applications made to Sport NI or any commercial relationships of Sport NI. In addition, Exchequer grants were paid during the year to a number of organisations in which Council Members declared an interest. Having declared an interest Council Members are required to leave the meeting while the relevant application is discussed, and a decision is made.

Staff across the organisation have interests in a wide range of sporting clubs and other organisations that Sport NI may do business with. Sport NI have adequate procedures in place to ensure that staff are removed from any decision-making process where they may be, or be perceived to be, conflicted.

### **17. Third Party Assets**

There were no third-party assets as at 31 March 2023 (31 March 2022: Nil).

### **18. Events After the Reporting Period**

Events after the balance sheet date are those material events, both favourable and adverse, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the accounts are authorised for issue. There have been no such events.

### **Date of Authorisation for Issue**

The Accounting Officer authorised the issue of these financial statements on the date of certification.