



An Oifig Náisiúnta um Fhorbairt Eacnamaíoch agus Shóisialta
National Economic & Social Development Office NESDO

Annual Report

For the year ended 31 December **2020**



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Chapter 1

Chairperson's Statement

Chairperson's Statement

The National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO) was established under the National Economic and Social Development Office Act, 2006.

NESDO is a body corporate for the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) which advises the Taoiseach on strategic policy issues relating to sustainable economic, social and environmental development in Ireland.

NESDO provides full administrative and support services for NESC and submits reports, recommendations and conclusions arising from projects carried out by the NESC to Government and arranges for the subsequent publication of such items.

NESDO's Policies and Procedures Guidelines outline the corporate governance arrangements of the Office, including the functions and responsibilities of the NESDO Board and staff. The Guidelines comply with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and are reviewed on a regular basis. I am satisfied that NESDO is in compliance with the Guidelines.

The NESDO Audit Committee held two meetings during 2020: on 11th June and 17th December. The Committee comprised:

Mr Ray Henry (Chairperson), who passed away in September 2020.

Mr Nigel Clarke, Department of the Taoiseach

Ms Sinéad Nic Coitir, NESC

The Internal Audit Unit (IAU) of the Department of the Taoiseach operates as a resource for the Board and management of NESDO providing assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's system of internal controls including financial, operational and compliance controls and risk management.

The NESDO Internal Financial Control Procedures document sets out the accounting procedures and standards in operation, including those for cash, payroll, receipts, payments, travel and expenses, procurement, fixed assets, information technology security, budgetary controls and record management and retention.

During 2020 the NESDO Audit Committee reviewed the Risk Management Register & IT Risk Register, the Audit Committee Effectiveness Checklist, the Financial Statements (2019), the Internal Audit Charter, the Annual Review of Internal Controls, and the Audit Report on Fixed Assets. No issues of significance were found. The Audit Committee confirmed its satisfaction with the adequacy and appropriateness of the system of internal controls within NESDO.

The positions of Chief Officer of NESDO and Director of the NESC are occupied by the same person, who is paid in respect of his position as Director of NESC and receives no additional remuneration, emoluments or expenses in relation to his role as Chief Officer of NESDO. All staff of NESDO and NESC, including the Chief Officer/Director, are paid in accordance with relevant pay circulars issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. I am satisfied that NESDO is compliant with these circulars.

NESDO is committed to meeting its obligations under the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997. Its policy of settling all invoices within prescribed timeframes was adhered to during the year, with 92.4% of its payments made within 15 days of receipt of invoice. There were no liabilities for interest in respect of the late payments provision.

During 2020, NESDO staff fully complied with the National Health and Safety guidelines in relation to remote working during Covid-19. Strict protocols were developed and applied to manage any on site activities which were deemed necessary by the Administration Manager and Chief Officer.

I confirm that there were no significant post balance sheet events during 2020.

Martin Fraser

Chairperson

National Economic and Social Development Office

Chapter 2

National Economic and Social Council

NESC Work Programme 2020

NESC published the following reports in 2020:

Addressing Employment Vulnerability as Part of a Just Transition in Ireland (NESC Report No.149):

The Government, through the Future of Jobs Strategy (*Future Jobs Ireland 2019: Preparing Now for Tomorrow's Economy*) and Climate Action Plan (*Climate Action Plan 2019: To Tackle Climate Breakdown*) asked NESC to examine the specific issue of the vulnerability for workers, firms and sectors caused by the transition to a low-carbon and more digital, automated future, and to provide recommendations. The report identifies recommendations which will help Ireland address these and embrace the significant the opportunities.

Housing Policy: Actions to Deliver Change (NESC Report No.150)

This report focuses on bridging the supply gap by actively managing land and locational value for public good; and second, bridging the affordability gap by engineering-in permanent affordability. It details the steps necessary to bridge these two gaps by way of institutional adjustments, more effective use of existing policy instruments, and innovation to enhance the policy options available to the State. It lists actions under these headings.

The Future of the Irish Social Welfare System: Participation and Protection (NESC Report No.151)

The Irish social welfare system is not in crisis, but faces profound challenges that arise in the wider social, economic and demographic contexts. These challenges have been compounded by the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on the economy and society. This report asks: Is the Irish social welfare system fit for the 21st century? This report makes suggestions as to how the system might be modernised to reflect current contexts.

The Transition to a Low-Carbon and More Digital Future: Supporting the Needs of Vulnerable Workers and Enterprises (NESC Secretariat Series No.19):

This report sets out in detail the drivers of the Government's response to the employment vulnerability created by climate change and digital automation transitions. It argues that the overarching goal must be a commitment to a high-quality jobs economy. It describes 12 recommendations, and supporting action steps, across three broad areas: continuous, pre-emptive workforce development; building

resilient enterprises; and delivering high-impact targeted funding to support transition.

Approaches to Transition (NESC Secretariat Series No.20):

This work looks in detail at how transitions are approached elsewhere and the range of perspectives at play. It reviews practical tools and conceptual approaches being used to support transition, with particular focus on international experience in managing downside risks that disproportionately affect specific cohorts of workers or communities.

Four Case Studies on Just Transition: Lessons for Ireland (NESC Research Paper No.15):

This research paper describes four case studies in Scotland, Germany (two regions) and Australia. In the main country-level examples of transition focus overtly on regional transitions away from coal-based employment. The paper identifies lessons for Ireland.

Modelling the Zero-Carbon Transition: International Approaches and Lessons for Ireland (NESC Research Paper No.16):

This paper examines quantitative models of the economy and energy system. To effectively use modelling in Ireland, the paper outlines a number of steps that will need to be taken, including improving our current modelling capabilities and evaluating the results obtained from modelling in a sophisticated manner.

Energy Transition Pathways and the COVID-19 Pandemic: An analysis of the ‘green recovery’ responses in Denmark and Ireland (NESC Research Paper No.17):

This paper explores current energy policy and practice for Ireland and Denmark, in the context Covid-19.

Covid-19 Working Paper Series

In 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic NESC published a number of working papers:

- Germany: Responding to the Covid-19 Crisis—Protecting Enterprises, Employment and Employees, April
- Covid-19 and Behavioural Change, April
- The Foundations of Behavioural Insights: Overview, April
- Ireland: Responding to the Covid-19 Crisis—Protecting Enterprises, Employment and Incomes, May
- Understanding Covid-19 & Differentiated Sectoral Risk, May
- The Implications of Covid-19 for Housing in Ireland, June
- How We Value Work: The Impact of Covid-19, June
- Progressing Sustainability in the Context of Covid-19: Grasping the Opportunity, July

NESC held two event in 2020:

Knowledge and Policy: Confronting Governance Challenges in the New Decade, 7th January

In collaboration with the Department of Sociology, Maynooth University, NESC hosted a conference to examine how knowledge and policy work together to allow societies to confront governance challenges.

The conference examined how knowledge and policy combine to support public action and the common good in a wide range of areas—including planning, climate and environment, welfare and income supports, human services and quality jobs—in Ireland, across Europe and in a global context.

The conference marked the substantial contribution and work of recently retired Director, Dr Rory O'Donnell, by inviting to Ireland four international scholars with whom he worked closely over the course of his career in NESC:

- Prof Charles Sabel, Maurice T. Moore Professor of Law at Columbia Law School, New York who presented on Governance & Wicked Problems: Environment, Human Services & Quality Jobs.
- Prof John Tomaney, The Bartlett School of Planning, University College London who presented on Regional Planning and Urban Futures.
- Prof Anton Hemerijck, Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute who presented on Welfare State.
- Prof Brigid Laffan, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence who presented on The EU & Public Action.

28th EEAC Annual Conference 'Delivering a Just Transition for All', 27th October 2020

NESC hosted the 28th Annual Conference of the European network of advisory councils on environment and sustainable development (EEAC Network), of which NESC is a member, online over three days. A diverse mix of experts, academics, councils and policy makers contributed to this exciting and unique event with the keynote address, entitled 'Delivering A Just Transition for All', given by the President of Ireland, Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins.

Ireland and the European Union are committed to the transformation to a sustainable, inclusive, thriving net zero economy and society and this conference focused on how the principles of justice, fairness, equality and equity of a just transition can act as a lever and guide to shape policies and practices to deliver the transformation. NESC's recent work on just transition and employment vulnerability was a valuable input to the day.

The conference provided a forum for Irish and European colleagues to share perspectives, experiences and practices, and to develop a common understanding and concrete strategies for making progress. The conference shed light on how other countries are managing the transition process, with special attention paid to managing the impacts of climate policy that might disproportionately impact specific

groups in society. This is required because transitions represent enormous challenges and the ambition of the 2030 Agenda states that no one should be left behind.

International Meetings of the Economic and Social Council (ESCs) of EU Member States

NESC participated in the annual meeting of Economic and Social Councils of the member states of the European Union and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). In 2020, the meeting was hosted virtually on September 9th. As well as sharing information on the work of the councils and the state of social and civil dialogue in each of the member states, the meeting discussed *'The challenges of contemporary participatory democracy in a Europe that is rebuilding itself: an initial contribution from the Economic and Social Councils and similar institutions'*.

International Meetings of the European Network of Sustainable Development Council's (EEAC)

As listed above NESC hosted the 28th Annual Conference of The European Network of Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC). The event was titled: *'Delivering a Just Transition for All'* and was addressed with the keynote contribution by the President of Ireland, Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins.

NESC meetings held during 2020

With the onset of Covid-19 in March, the first meeting of the Council was cancelled. The Council met online three times in 2020; 30th June, 24th September and 17th December.

During 2020, the Secretariat made numerous presentations on NESC work, contributed to a range of conferences, seminars and workshops and served on a number of committees and working groups. A number of these activities are listed below.

Dr. Larry O'Connell, Director was a member of;

- Rural Development Programme (RDP) Monitoring Committee 2014-2020;
- Gas Innovation Advisory Group;
- BioEconomy Implementation Group;
- Marine Spatial Planning Advisory Group;
- EPA/IPA Research Programme on Experimental Governance;
- Climate Research Coordination Group; and
- Earth Institute Advisory Board (Deputy Chair)

He was an invited speaker at the following events:

- National Skills Council, February
- Citizens' Assembly Gender Panel Discussion, September

- Climate Action Committee, November
- OPS2030 Strategic Foresight Group, November
- Martin McEvoy Conference, December

Dr. Helen Johnston (Senior Policy Analyst):

During 2020 Dr Johnston was a member of;

- The Centre for Cross Border Studies (Chairperson);
- The Technical Advisory Group on Poverty Indicators and Data;
- The Tallaght West Child Development Initiative Board and Research Advisory Committee;
- The Department of Expenditure and Public Reform’s Equality Budget Proofing Expert Advisory Group;
- The Centre for Effective Services Implementation Network and Steering Group;
- Katharine Howard Foundation Board;
- Focus Ireland’s Research Advisory Group; and
- Embedding Wellbeing in Northern Ireland Advisory Group.

She was an invited speaker at the following events;

- The Institute of Public Administration Doctorate in Governance Programme on ‘Implementation’, Dublin, January.
- Chaired session at the Implementation Network meeting on ‘Local Implementation at a time of Crisis’, virtually, October; and
- Basic Income Ireland Annual Conference, virtually, November.

Dr. Damian Thomas (Senior Policy Analyst):

During 2020 Dr Thomas presented at the following events;

“Platform Mediated working: Employment and Welfare Issues”, NERI Research Series, February;

“Protecting Employees and Enterprises in The Transition To A Low Carbon Economy”, Chambers Ireland and the Green Deal: Skills and Jobs for the Net Zero Transition, December;

“The Voluntary Sector and Covid-19 in Health and Social Care: Building Collaborative and Productive Relationship[s]”, The Wheel HSE Network Seminar, December.

He was invited to Chair the following event;

Spotlight Session: Just Transition, Vulnerability and Policy Responses, EEAC Conference, Dublin, October.

Dr. Anne Marie McGauran (Policy Analyst):

During 2020 Dr. McGauran was;

- A visiting research fellow with the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies, TCD;

She was an invited speaker at the following event:

- Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality, Dublin, February.

Dr. Jeanne Moore (Policy Analyst):

During 2020 Dr. Moore was a member of;

- EPA research project steering group for 'Greening the City'.

She was an invited speaker at the following events/meetings;

- Guest lecture to M.Sc. course in Climate Politics and Policy in the UCD Environmental Policy Programme, February
- Evaluator for Just Transition Fund in the Midlands, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Rapporteur on the National Economic Plan Stakeholder Engagement, October
- NESCI Secretariat support to the Political Bilateral talks on Climate Change, February.

Dr. Cathal FitzGerald (Institutional Research Analyst):

During 2020 Dr. FitzGerald was a member of;

- National Planning Knowledge Group;
- Just Transition Fund Evaluation Group;
- North East Inner City Mentors Group; and
- PSAI Specialist Group on Public Policy.

He was an invited speaker at the following events/meetings;

- Senior Management Forum, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Dublin, January.
- Housing Taskforce, Chambers Ireland, Dublin, May.
- National Economic Plan Consultation Sessions, Department of the Taoiseach, Dublin, October.
- EEAC Annual Conference, European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils Network, Dublin, October.

Mr Noel Cahill (Economist):

During 2020 Mr. Cahill was a member of;

- Supply & Affordability Advisory Panel of the Housing Agency;
- Sustainable and Affordable Housing Group of the Union of the Mediterranean (UfM).

Chapter 3

NESDO Accounting Policies

Accounting Policies

3.1.1 Historical Cost Convention

The Financial Statements are prepared on an accruals basis under the historical cost convention in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles except where otherwise stated.

3.1.2 Income Recognition

A Grant received from the Department of the Taoiseach is recognised in the Financial Statements on a cash receipts basis.

Income from Conferences is recognised when it is invoiced. If it becomes apparent that the monies may not be received, a provision is made for doubtful debts.

NESDO enters into co-funding projects with other organisations that may last greater than one year. This income is recognised on a cash receipts basis.

3.1.3 Foreign Currencies

Transactions in currencies other than euro are recorded at the rates ruling at the date of the transactions or at a contracted date. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into euro at the balance sheet date or at a contracted date. Exchange differences are dealt with in the Statement of Income and Expenditure Account.

3.1.4 Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated in order to write off the cost of tangible assets to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives by equal annual instalments.

The estimated useful lives of tangible assets by reference to which depreciation has been calculated are as follows:

- Furniture: 5/10 years;
- Equipment: 5 years.

Superannuation

NESDO staff are members of the pension scheme for Non-Established State Employees. This is a non-contributory scheme for an officer's own retirement pension

and lump sum benefits. Contributions are payable for the Spouses' and Children's Scheme. NESDO remits these contributions to the Department of Finance via the Department of the Taoiseach. Accordingly, NESDO has no liability in respect of the superannuation arrangements of these staff.

During 2020, the Department of the Taoiseach seconded two staff members to NESDO. These staff were covered by the superannuation schemes in operation in their respective Department. The Departments were reimbursed by NESDO in respect of salary, employer's PRSI and superannuation for the particular staff. Reimbursements accrued on a monthly basis and were charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves. The relevant Department takes responsibility for the payroll and superannuation in respect to its seconded staff to NESDO.

Appendices

Appendix 1 NESDO Board Membership

- Mr Martin Fraser, Department of the Taoiseach (Chairperson)
- Ms Elizabeth Canavan, Department of the Taoiseach
Chief Officer NESDO, Dr Larry O'Connell

Appendix 2 NESC Council Membership

The membership of the Council for 2016-2022 was nominated as follows:

- Mr Martin Fraser (Chairperson)
- Ms Elizabeth Canavan (Deputy Chairperson)

Three members from Business and Employers:

- Ms Maeve McElwee, Director of Employer Relations, Ibec
- Mr Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF
- Mr Ian Talbot, Chief Executive Officer, Chambers Ireland

Three members from Trade Unions:

- Ms Patricia King, General Secretary, ICTU
- Mr Shay Cody (retired October) was replaced by Mr Joe Cunningham, General Secretary, Fórsa
- Mr Kevin Callinan, General Secretary, IMPACT

Three members from Farming and Agricultural:

- Mr Damian McDonald, Director General, IFA
- Mr John Enright, General Secretary, ICMSA was replaced (October) by Mr TJ Flanagan, Chief Executive Officer, ICOS
- Mr Denis Duggan, Chief Executive Officer, Macra na Feirme

Three members from Community and Voluntary:

- Dr Seán Healy, Social Justice Ireland
- Ms Brid O'Brien, Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed
- Mr James Doorley, Assistant Director, National Youth Council of Ireland

Three members from Environment:

- Ms Karen Ciesielski, Coordinator, Environmental Pillar
- Ms Kate Ruddock, Deputy Director, Friends of the Earth Ireland
- Ms Oonagh Duggan, Assistant Head of Division: Policy and Advocacy, Bird Watch Ireland

Four members from the Public Service:

- Mr Derek Moran, Secretary General, Department of Finance
- Dr Orlaigh Quinn, Secretary General, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
- Mr John McCarthy, Secretary General, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
- Mr Robert Watt, Secretary General, Department of Public Expenditure & Reform

Seven independent members nominated by the Taoiseach:

- Mr Philip Hamell, Retired Civil Servant
- Prof Edgar Morgenroth, DCU
- Prof Michelle Norris, School of Applied Social Science, UCD Geary Institute
- Prof Paul Donnelly, Technology University Dublin
- Prof Sinead O'Flanagan, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- Prof Eleanor Denny, Trinity College Dublin
- Prof Geraint Ellis, Queens University Belfast

Director NESD, Dr Larry O'Connell

Appendix 3 Financial Statements as Signed by NESDO Board

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

**Financial Statements
For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

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National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Board Members and Other Information

Board Members: Mr. Martin Fraser (Chairman)
Ms. Elizabeth Canavan

Bankers: Allied Irish Bank
7/12 Dames Street
Dublin 2

Head Office: 16 Parnell Square
Dublin 1

Auditor: Comptroller and Auditor General
3A Mayor Street Upper
Dublin 1

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Chairman's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2020

The National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO) was established under the terms of the National Economic and Social Development Office Act, 2006 and is governed by a Board which was appointed by the Taoiseach.

NESDO is the body corporate for the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) which advises the Taoiseach on strategic policy issues relating to sustainable economic, social and environmental development in Ireland.

The Board of NESDO is committed to the highest standards of Corporate Governance and has implemented the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform's Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

NESDO has extensive policies and procedures guidelines in place for all staff, committees and Board members. NESDO applies the highest standards of disclosure and transparency in respect of interests held by staff, committees and Board members.

Remuneration Policy - Board Members and Executive Directors

The positions of Chief Officer of NESDO and Director of the NESC are occupied by the same person. He is paid in respect of his position as Director of NESC and receives no additional remuneration, emoluments or expenses in relation to his role as Chief Officer. All staff of NESDO and NESC, including the Chief Officer/Director are paid in accordance with relevant pay circulars issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The Board members of NESDO and the Council members of NESC do not receive any remuneration/fees.

Going Concern

The Board has a reasonable expectation of continued Departmental funding. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Financial Statements. The first instalment of the 2021 Grant Income was received in January 2021.

Following a review undertaken by the Department of the Taoiseach, as part of the programme of rationalisation of State agencies, the Government agreed that NESC should become a statutory body and to dissolve the NESDO (corporate body). This work is ongoing in the Department. The NESDO Act is still effective and as such the Office is a going concern.

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Governance

The Board of the National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO) was established under the National Economic and Social Development Act, 2006. The Board is accountable to the Taoiseach and is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business decisions. The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of NESDO are the responsibility of the Chief Officer (CO) and NESDO management. The CO must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board and must ensure that the Board members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The CO acts as a direct liaison between the Board and the management of NESDO.

Board Responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the NESDO Policies and Procedures document which also contain matters specifically reserved for Board decision. Standing items considered by the Board include:

- declaration of interests,
- reports from committees,
- financial reports/management accounts,
- performance reports, and
- reserved matters.

Section 31(1) of the National Economic and Social Development Act, 2006 requires NESDO to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Taoiseach with the concurrence of the Minister for Finance, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it.

In preparing these Financial Statements, the Board is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation; and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that adequate accounting records are kept which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with Section 31(2) of the National Economic and Social Development Act, 2006. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the NESDO's website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving an annual plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of NESDO by reference to the annual plan and budget was carried out on 22 June 2020.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the assets of NESDO are adequately safeguarded and that reasonable steps are in place for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board considers that the Financial Statements of NESDO give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of NESDO at 31 December, 2020.

Board Structure

The Board consists of a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson who are appointed by the Taoiseach. Board meetings are held annually or more frequently as required. The members of the Board were appointed for a period coterminous with the term of the National Economic and Social Council (NESC). The table below details the appointment period for current members:

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Board Member	Role	Date Appointed
Martin Fraser	Chairperson	24 May 2017
Elizabeth Canavan	Deputy Chairperson	24 May 2017

The Board has established an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), comprising three members, including two external members. The role of the Audit and Risk Committee is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARC is independent from the financial management of the organisation. In particular, the Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The Committee reports to the Board annually, or as required. The ARC reports to the Board after each meeting, and formally in writing annually.

The members of the Audit and Risk Committee are: Mr Ray Henry (Chairperson), up to June 2020; Mr Nigel Clarke, Department of the Taoiseach, Ms Sinead Nic Coitir, NESD. There were 2 meetings of the ARC in 2020.

Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance at the Board and Committee meetings for 2020 is set out below including the fees and expenses received by each member:

	Board	Audit & Risk Committee	Fees & Expenses (€)
Number of Meetings:	1	2	
Martin Fraser	1	-	0
Elizabeth Canavan	1	-	0
Ray Henry	-	1	0
Nigel Clarke	-	2	0
Padraig O'Conaill	-	-	0
Sinead Nic Coitir	-	2	0

The Board members receive no fees or expenses.

Disclosures Required by Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

The Board is responsible for ensuring that NESDO has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code"), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code:

Employee Short-Term Benefits Breakdown

Employee Short-Term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands:

Range of total employee benefits	Number of Employees 2020	Number of Employees 2019
€60,000-€69,999	1	0
€70,000 - €79,999	0	3
€80,000 – €89,999	4	3
€90,000 - €99,999	1	0
€100,000 - €109,999	2	3
€110,000 - €119,999	1	1
€120,000 - €129,999	0	0
€130,000 - €139,999	1	0
€140,000 - €149,999	0	0

Note: For the purposes of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the reporting period include salary, overtime allowances and other payments made on behalf of the employee, but exclude employers' PRSI.

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence Expenditure is categorised as follows:

Employees	2020 (€)	2019 (€)
Domestic	-	1,541
International	-	4,719
Non-Employees		
Domestic	852	2,695
Foreign	-	2,513
Total	852	11,468

Consultancy Costs

NESC are engaged in sustainable development research projects supported by funding from the Environment Fund.

Project	2020 (€)	2019 (€)
Sustainable Development Research Consultancy	13,575	38,371

Legal Costs and Settlements

2020 (€)	2019 (€)
Nil	Nil

Hospitality Expenditure

Expenditure Analysis	2020 (€)	2019 (€)
Employees	527	644
Non-Employees	-	953
Total	527	1,597

Statement of Compliance

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Code. NESDO was in full compliance with the Code for 2020.

Signed: 
Martin Fraser
Board Chairman

Date: 29th November 2021

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Statement on Internal Control

For the year ended 31st December 2020

Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of the Board of the National Economic and Social Development Office, I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated in the Office. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, has been in place in NESDO for the year ended 31 December, 2020 and up to the date of approval of the Financial Statements.

- **Capacity to Handle Risk**

- NESDO has an Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) comprising three members two of whom, including the Chairman, are external members with wide corporate and financial experience in public sector organisations. The ARC has access to professional accountancy services as required. The ARC met twice in 2020.

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- The internal audit function at NESDO is carried out by the Internal Audit Unit of the Department of the Taoiseach on behalf of the NESDO ARC. The Unit is adequately resourced and conducts a three-year programme of work agreed with the Audit Committee covering a wide range of areas of the organisation including internal controls.

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- The ARC has developed a risk management policy which sets out its risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within NESDO risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

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- **Risk and Control Framework**

- NESDO has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing NESDO and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the ARC on a quarterly basis. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff. I confirm that a control environment is in place containing the following elements:

- procedures for all key business processes have been documented,
- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability,
- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management,
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems, and
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Board, where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.
- reporting arrangements are in place at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned, and
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budget/forecasts.

Procurement

I confirm that NESDO has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that there is appropriate focus on good practice in purchasing. During 2020, 2 contracts to a value of €23,854 are considered to be non-competitive and non-compliant as the contracts were extended beyond the original contract date without competitive procurement. NESDO has taken steps to address this non-compliance by finalising a competitive process for these services. This process will be finalised in 2021.

Impact of Covid-19 on the Control Environment

I confirm that NESDO has prepared a report to provide Senior Management and the Audit Committee with an overview of the impact of Covid-19 on the control environment in response to the pandemic. The following was noted:

- No enforced changes to financial control processes including procurement compliance and existing segregation of duties and approval authorisations
- No changes to the security, access or monitoring of assets
- No additional risks to the capacity or security of the ICT infrastructure
- No impact on the work of the Audit Committee and Internal Audit Unit
- A range of additional measures put in place including regular communications to all staff, well-being and remote working supports, access to online training and information sessions.

Review of Effectiveness

I confirm that NESDO has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. NESDO's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the systems of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the ARC which oversees their work, and the senior management within NESDO responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2020 on the 14th June 2021.

Internal Control Issues

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in relation to 2020 that require disclosure in the Financial Statements.

Signed:



Martin Fraser
Board Chairman

Date: 29th November 2021



Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste **Comptroller and Auditor General**

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas National Economic and Social Development Office

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the National Economic and Social Development Office for the year ending 31 December 2020 as required under the provisions of section 31 of the National Economic and Social Development Office Act 2006. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the National Economic and Social Development Office at 31 December 2020 and of its income and expenditure for 2020 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 — *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the National Economic and Social Development Office and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

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

Report on information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

The National Economic and Social Development Office has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement and Board members' report, and the statement on internal control. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.

Mary Henry
For and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General
2 December 2021

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of Board members

As detailed in the governance statement and Board members' report, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of financial statements in the form prescribed under section 31 of National Economic and Social Development Office Act 2006
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 31 of the National Economic and Social Development Office Act 2006 to audit the financial statements of the National Economic and Social Development Office and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.
- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the National Economic

and Social Development Office's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the National Economic and Social Development Office to cease to continue as a going concern.

- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. 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.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

For the year ended 31 December 2020

Income	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Oireachtas Grant	2	1,761,233	1,875,979
Other Income	3	75,645	67,987
Total Income		1,836,878	1,943,966
Expenditure			
Staff Costs	4	1,292,432	1,344,128
Consultancy		13,575	38,371
Printing and Publications		4,815	3,947
Travel & Subsistence	6	852	11,468
Conferences and Seminars		55,706	11,500
Training		14,613	11,892
Post, Taxis & Couriers		1,207	988
Library Services		13,892	18,385
Administration		535	712
Professional Fees		4,588	5,904
Audit Fee		9,700	8,800
Telephone		6,914	6,538
Stationery		6,309	6,174
IT and Website costs		41,110	51,490
Rent & Service Charges		381,782	361,616
Depreciation	7	12,071	11,351
Total Expenditure		1,860,101	1,893,264
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year before Appropriations		(23,223)	50,702
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	11	1,027	2,225
(Deficit)/ Surplus for the year after Appropriations		(22,196)	52,927
Balance at 1 January		125,368	72,441
Balance at 31 December		103,172	125,368

The Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The Statement of Cash Flows on page 12 and the notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of the Financial Statements.

Signed:


 Martin Fraser
 Board Chairman

Date: 29th November 2021

Signed:


 Larry O'Connell
 Chief Officer

Date: 29th November 2021

National Economic & Social Development Office (NESDO)

Statement of Financial Position

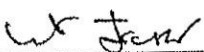
As at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020	2019
		€	€
Fixed Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	19,775	20,801
Current Assets			
Receivables	8	22,825	43,846
Cash and Cash Equivalents	10	145,556	131,507
		<u>168,381</u>	<u>175,353</u>
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)	9	<u>(65,210)</u>	<u>(49,985)</u>
Net Current Assets		103,171	125,368
Total Net Assets		<u>122,946</u>	<u>146,169</u>
Representing			
Capital Account	11	19,774	20,801
Retained Reserves		103,172	125,368
		<u>122,946</u>	<u>146,169</u>

The Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The Statement of Cash Flows on page 12 and the notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of the Financial Statements.

Signed:



Martin Fraser
Board Chairman

Date: 29th November 2021

Signed:



Larry O'Connell
Chief Officer

Date: 29th November 2021

National Economic & Social Development Office (NESDO)

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020 €	2019 €
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
(Deficit)/surplus for year		(22,196)	52,927
Depreciation		12,071	11,351
(Decrease)/increase in receivables		21,021	(17,442)
Increase/(decrease)/increase in payables		15,225	(49,590)
Transfer to/(from) capital account		(1,027)	(2,225)
Bank interest received		(18)	(16)
Net Cash Inflow/(outflow) from Operating Activities		25,076	(4,995)
Cash flow from Investing Activities			
Payment to acquire property, plant & equipment	7	(11,045)	(9,126)
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		(11,045)	(9,126)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Bank interest received		18	16
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities		18	16
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		14,049	(14,105)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		131,507	145,612
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December	10	145,556	131,507

The Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The Statement of Cash Flows on page 12 and the notes on pages 13 to 18 form part of the Financial Statements.


Signed:



 Martin Fraser
 Board Chairman

Date: 29th November 2021

Signed:



 Larry O'Connell
 Chief Officer

Date: 29th November 2021

National Economic & Social Development Office (NESDO)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2020

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by NESDO is set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year and for the preceding year.

General Information

NESDO was set up under the National Economic and Social Development Act 2006, with a head office at 16 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

NESDO's primary objective as set out in Section 8 of the National Economic and Social Development Act 2006 is as follows:

To advise the Taoiseach on all strategic matters relevant to economic and social development in the State.

NESDO is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

Statement of Compliance

The Financial Statements of NESDO for the year ended 31 December 2020 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

Basis of Preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities that are measured at fair values as explained in the accounting policies below. The Financial Statements are in the form approved by the Taoiseach with the concurrence of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform under the National Economic and Social Development Act, 2006. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to NESDO's Financial Statements.

Revenue

Oireachtas Grant

Grant received from the Department of the Taoiseach is recognised in the Financial Statements on a cash receipts basis.

Other Income

NESC are engaged in research projects supported by funding from The Environment Fund. This income is recognised when it is invoiced.

NESDO enters into co-funding projects with other organisations that may last greater than one year. This income is recognised on a cash receipts basis.

National Economic & Social Development Office (NESDO)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2020

Foreign Currencies

Transactions in currencies other than euro are recorded at the rates ruling at the date of the transactions or at a contracted date. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into euro at the balance sheet date or at a contracted date. Exchange differences are dealt with in the Statement of Income and Expenditure Account.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation, adjusted for any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment, other than freehold land and artwork, at rates estimated to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

- (i) Furniture: 10 years
- (ii) Equipment: 5 years

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of an asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves in the year.

Employee Benefits

Short-term Benefits

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

Retirement Benefits

With the approval of the Departments of the Taoiseach and Public Expenditure and Reform by 2015 all staff had become members of the pension scheme for Non-Established State Employees. This is a non-contributory scheme for an officer's own retirement pension and lump sum benefits. Contributions are payable for the Spouse and Children's Scheme. NESDO remits these contributions to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. Accordingly, NESDO has no liability in respect of the superannuation arrangements of these staff.

During 2020, the Department of the Taoiseach seconded two staff members to NESDO, An Garda Síochána seconded one member of staff to NESDO and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation seconded one staff member to NESDO. These staff were covered by the superannuation schemes in operation in their respective Department. The Departments were reimbursed by NESDO in respect of salary, employer's PRSI and superannuation for the particular staff. Reimbursements accrued on a monthly basis and were charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves. The relevant Department takes responsibility for the payroll and superannuation in respect to its seconded staff to NESDO.

Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the Financial Statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgement has had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the Financial Statements.

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2020

Depreciation and Residual Values

The Director has reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes, and in particular, the useful economic life and residual values of fixtures and fittings, and has concluded that asset lives and values are appropriate.

2	<u>Oireachtas Grant Income Drawdown</u>	2020	2019
		€	€
	Oireachtas Grant Income Drawdown ¹	<u>1,761,233</u>	<u>1,875,979</u>
	¹ Source of Income – Allocation from Vote 2 Department of the Taoiseach Subhead A3 to NESDO. As a constituent body of NESDO (as set out in the National Economic and Social Development Office Act, 2006), NESDO's expenditure is met by NESDO.		
3	<u>Other Income</u>	2020	2019
		€	€
	Project Income ²	75,627	67,971
	Bank Interest	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>
		<u>75,645</u>	<u>67,987</u>
	² The sum of €75,627 was received from The Environment Fund in 2020.		
4	<u>Staff Costs</u>	2020	2019
		€	€
	Wages and Salaries	1,189,171	1,242,723
	Social Welfare Costs	<u>103,261</u>	<u>101,405</u>
		<u>1,292,432</u>	<u>1,344,128</u>
	The average number of employees and ECF allocation during the year were:	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>

A total of € 57,252 (2019: €62,598) of pension levy has been deducted from staff and paid over to the Department of the Taoiseach. The Chief Officer of NESDO, who is also the Director of NESC received €135,209 (2019: €141,352) as remuneration in respect of his role as Director of NESC for the year ended 31 December 2020. The Chief Officer was not in receipt of remuneration, emoluments or expenses in respect of his role as Chief Officer of NESDO. As Director of NESC he received €103 (2019: €3,329) in respect of official travel and subsistence as per Department of Finance Circular 07/2009.

Included in Wages and Salaries is Holiday Pay accrual amounting to €44,972 (2019:€24,298).

National Economic & Social Development Office (NESDO)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2020

5 Retirement Benefits	2020	2019
	€	€

Included in wages and salaries in note 4 is the following:

Employee contributions to the Department of the Taoiseach in respect of staff	23,983	26,113
---	--------	--------

6 Travel & Subsistence	2020	2019
	€	€
Travel and Subsistence ³	852	11,468
	852	11,468

3. Includes reimbursement of expenses to Council members of NESC associated with attending Council meetings.

7 Property, Plant and Equipment	Equipment	Furniture	Total
	€	€	€
Cost			
Balance at 1 January 2020	240,932	179,292	420,224
Additions	8,634	2,411	11,045
Disposals	-	(2,709)	(2,709)
Balance at 31 December 2020	249,566	178,994	428,560

Depreciation

Balance at 1 January 2020	224,586	174,837	399,423
Charge for year	11,335	736	12,071
Disposals	-	(2,709)	(2,709)
Balance at 31 December 2020	235,921	172,864	408,785

Net Book Value

At 31 December 2020	13,645	6,130	19,775
At 31 December 2019	16,346	4,455	20,801

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Notes to Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2020

8	<u>Receivables</u>	2020	2019
		€	€
	Prepayments	22,298	24,791
	Other debtors	527	-
	Debtors control	-	19,055
		<u>22,825</u>	<u>43,846</u>
9	<u>Payables</u>	2020	2019
		€	€
	Trade creditors	4,767	5,082
	Taxes and social costs	934	195
	Accruals	59,509	44,708
		<u>65,210</u>	<u>49,985</u>
10	<u>Cash and Cash Equivalents</u>	2020	2019
		€	€
	Current account	35,062	11,218
	Deposit account	110,287	120,168
	Cash on hand	207	121
		<u>145,556</u>	<u>131,507</u>
11	<u>Capital Account</u>	2020	2019
		€	€
	Balances at 1 January	20,801	23,026
	<i>Transfer to Income and Expenditure</i>		
	Income used to purchase Fixed Assets	11,044	9,126
	Amortisation in line with depreciation	(12,071)	(11,351)
		<u>(1,027)</u>	<u>(2,225)</u>
	Balance at 31 December	<u>19,774</u>	<u>20,801</u>

National Economic and Social Development Office (NESDO)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31st December 2020

12 Premises occupied by NESDO

NESDO occupies one premises which is located at 16 Parnell Square, Dublin 1. It rents this premises on a year to year basis from the Office of Public Works and is not tied into a lease. Rent of € 322,329 and service charges of €59,453 were paid in respect of 2020.

13 Related Party Disclosures

The Board members of NESDO adopted procedures in accordance with procedures issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the disclosure of Interests by Board members and these procedures have been adhered to during the year. I confirm that there were no transactions in the year in relation to the Board's activities in which a Board member had any beneficial interest.

The Council of NESD (the constituent body of NESDO) is solely an advisory body with no executive functions and is specifically structured in order that key sectoral interests are represented.

Key management personnel in NESDO consist of the Chief Officer and members of the Board. Key management personnel were not in receipt of remuneration, emoluments or expenses in respect of their role in NESDO.

Both NESDO and NESD operate under the NESDO Act, 2006 which provides for disclosure of interests.

14 Covid 19 Pandemic

The National Economic and Social Development Office recognises that the Covid-19 pandemic is a significant event. NESDO assesses this event to be a non-adjusting post balance sheet event in relation to its 2020 Financial Statements and has factored the Covid-19 pandemic into its overall risk management processes and operations in 2021 and for estimates into 2022.

NESDO is satisfied that it can continue to discharge its functions and that it will continue to have the necessary funding to enable that. NESDO is of the view that its operations can continue on a going concern basis covering the twelve-month period from the date of the signing of the 2020 Financial Statements.

15 Approval of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of NESDO on the 14th June 2021.

