

Benefacts

Benefacts
Annual Report
2018

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 benefacts

Funding for Benefacts to build a data infrastructure for Irish nonprofits has been provided under a funding partnership between the Irish Government and philanthropy.



THE IRELAND FUNDS

Chairman's introduction

Enhanced accessibility and transparency are essential requirements for any organisation operating in the public sphere. They are also key strengths for the nonprofit sector, instilling confidence, trust and support from funders and the wider public. Knowledge of, and reliable data concerning, what is still a relatively poorly understood part of Irish public life is of special value to policy makers and ultimately to those who rely on the wide range of services provided by the sector.

While the Report demonstrates progress in attracting visitors to our public website, we recognise that more is needed before Benefacts and the services we offer are fully embedded in the sector and among its stakeholders. In parallel with our public work, engagement with government agencies in devising Benefacts Analytics is allowing us to explore the potential for our data to assist public servants in making government's engagement with nonprofits more fluent and efficient. Greater engagement with users of our data taught us a lot in 2018, and will inform our plans in 2019 and beyond.

On behalf of the Board I want to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of a very small, dedicated and talented team, led by the Managing Director, as well as the unstinting support of the Board members themselves. For a very young organisation, the continuing support of our principal funders, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Ireland Funds is of critical importance. We have a strong belief in the contribution of Irish civil society organisations to our society and economy and we look forward to continuing to support the sector through a service that, in an Irish context, is unique and innovative.



Tom Boland
Chairman

Managing Director's introduction

2018 – our third full year of operation – saw steady growth on a number of fronts, including the use of our free public website, which was provided without interruption 24/7. Direct traffic increased by 90% with 337,000 unique views during the year.

Following consultation with website users, we introduced an advanced search facility improving the user experience - particularly where specific information is required - and we added political parties to our scope.

The digital version of our annual sector analysis was downloaded 1,200 times, and we saw an increase in requests for analysis services, indicating a growing recognition of the value of information that can be generated from regulatory data.

We commenced an action research project, Benefacts Analytics, with six public bodies to explore how Benefacts could provide business intelligence to registered users in a way that would streamline administrative processes. This project has the potential to reduce duplication of effort in grant management processes, providing benefits both for government agencies and for the nonprofits they fund.

More collaboration is needed between the sector, its funders and regulators to agree how the existing burden of filings – which is already heavy – can deliver greater transparency, as well as accountability to the public. We will help in every way we can because ultimately, the success of our project rests on the quality and availability of nonprofit data from public sources.



Patricia Quinn
Managing Director

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General information

Directors	Tom Boland (Chairperson) Rory Coveney Bernie Cullinan Bob Ottenhoff Patricia Quinn (Managing Director) Philip Smith Anna Visser (resigned 21st May 2018) Emma Lane Spollen (appointed 27th September 2018)
Secretary	Geraldine Sweeney
Company Number	553387
Registered Office	6 Merrion Square Dublin D02 FF95
Auditor	KPMG 1 Stokes Place St. Stephen's Green Dublin D02 DE03
Bank	Bank of Ireland St. Stephen's Green Dublin D02 HF62
Solicitors	Beauchamps Solicitors Riverside Two Sir John Rogerson's Quay Dublin D02 KV60 Linda Scales and Associates Castleview House Sandymount Green Dublin D04 DF29

Directors' Report

The directors present their report for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Benefacts' purpose and key objectives

Benefacts was established to make the work of civil society organisations in Ireland more transparent and more accessible – to themselves, to their stakeholders and to the public at large. This means

- improving information about, and understanding of, the work of all Irish nonprofits
 - promoting greater public confidence in the use of the public's money
 - providing decision-makers with timely access to reliable data, collected and classified in a way that facilitates analysis
 - devising and developing web-based services to help reduce bureaucratic overheads and support administrative reform, specifically in line with the Government's public service reform agenda
 - providing the sector with data and informational tools that will support business planning at the level of organisations and sub-sectors
-

Principal activities

The principal activities of the company are the creation, maintenance and deployment of a database derived from the public regulatory disclosures (including the financial statements where available) of all entities within scope, the provision of web services including a free public website and other services derived from the database.

"Year on year annual analysis really helps because it allows us to compare and see how the charity sector is moving, how it's developing, what the weaknesses are, what the challenges are for the future and allows us to learn lessons"

Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience, Belfast City Council, former CEO ISPCC.

Review of 2018

Database of Irish Nonprofits

We enlarged the scope of the database during the year to include political parties, and we began the process of assimilating local clubs, societies and associations listed on the county registers maintained by public participation networks in each of Ireland's 31 local authority areas, and published on their respective websites.

To facilitate the wider range of data being procured, and to support the growing demand for analysis, we began work on the creation of a data warehouse to augment the databases we have used since 2015.

Free public website

www.benefacts.ie is the free searchable website which provides the public with access to current information on all of the nonprofits listed in the database. Access is free and there is no requirement to register. The website was available 24/7 with no interruption to service all year.

In July, we released an enhanced version of the website, with an advanced search option and new content. Political parties were introduced to the scope of the database, thanks to the publication of their accounts for the first time in 2017 by the Standards in Public Office Commission. Data from the Fingal county register was introduced with the cooperation of Fingal County Council and Fingal Public Participation Network.

During 2018 visitor numbers to the website increased. The number of users coming directly to benefacts.ie in 2018 was up 90% over 2017. Referral traffic also saw impressive growth of 95% compared to the previous year. Organic search referral traffic grew substantially and brought a 54% increase in new users. Page views increased by 87.5% to 556,407.

The average time spent by visitors to the website was up 28% on 2017, with direct referral users' time increasing by 69% (from 4m 18s to 7m 17s). Most visits are made during office hours, on desktop or laptop devices. At the end of the year, we commenced a public consultation process to learn more about users of our free public services.

"We've been relying on anecdotal information over many years and that's not good enough anymore, so I think it's important to have accurate data and figures which provide a true reflection of the scale of the sector and what it delivers"

Andy Heffernan, National Secretary, The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Nonprofit sector analysis

At the end of Q1 each year we publish an analysis derived from the filings of all of the nonprofits for which data is available for the prior year. 2018 was the second report, and it has been accessed as a digital resource downloaded from our website more than 1,200 times.

Besides our own sector-wide analysis, we provided more specific reports at the request of two Government Departments, the research service of the Houses of the Oireachtas, the Housing Agency, two nonprofit organisations, a private consulting firm, and a charitable giving fund.

Open data and data services

We provided four quarterly data extracts to the Central Statistics Office, and maintained a feed to the Government's open data portal (data.gov.ie) providing current extracts from the entire Benefacts database as an open data file. This means that analysts can see statistical data about Ireland's 'Third Sector' in the context of public and private sector data, for the first time.

Webservices

For the first six months of the year, we provided the Charities Regulator with a webservice, publishing the contents of the public register of charities as a searchable database accessible to visitors to their website.

In cooperation with three Government departments (Foreign Affairs and Trade, Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Health), Tusla/the Child and Family Agency and two local authorities (Fingal and Kildare), we commenced a proof of concept project, Benefacts Analytics, to explore the potential for our data to create analysis supports and administrative efficiencies benefitting government bodies and the nonprofits they engage with as funders.

Benefacts Analytics is a trial web-based service for registered users in central and local government, providing structured access to a unique body of compliance, governance and financial data on incorporated nonprofits, derived mainly from their current and prior regulatory disclosures.

During the 12-month project, which began in Q3, we established the register of entities in scope for each partner agency and prepared a benchmark analysis of these including the profile of publicly available records.

"I've closely watched the development of Benefacts in recent years. For me, data taken directly from directors reports and financial statements is a far better source for analysis than the use of economic multipliers. The data produced by Benefacts is unique and can only be further enhanced as financial reporting improves across the sector."

Andrew Hetherington, Chief Executive, Business to Arts.

Future plans

Greater engagement with users of our data, learning more about how we can create value for the nonprofit sector and its stakeholders, will inform our plans in 2019 and beyond.

During 2019, we will migrate the **Benefacts database** to the new data warehouse as the source of our public and specialised web services. We will import, classify and publish all of the local nonprofits listed exclusively on public participation networks, extending the number of nonprofits in the database by at least 35%.

We will promote further organic growth of traffic to the **free public website**. Based on feedback from the public, we will explore ways of facilitating specialised end-users in registering to access self-service trend and comparative data reports, now that the database can provide data for five consecutive years.

Our **sector analysis** in 2019 will be a digital-first production, exploiting the potential for a greater level of interactive access to the trend and comparative analysis. We will continue to respond to requests for bespoke reports from the public, private and third sectors.

Open data and data services will be maintained at current levels and we will actively explore the potential for data feeds to support others in their work.

Our main focus will be on the completion of the Benefacts Analytics proof of concept **webservice**, with the delivery of a trial instance to each of the six partners, and a project appraisal report with agreed next steps to act on the findings of the project.

"The Benefacts project represents a joined up approach in relation to data, and the analysis of that data, for the nonprofit sector in Ireland that has not been available before".

Peter O'Brien, General Manager - Financial Accounting, Tusla, Child and Family Agency.

Governance and Organisation

Company Information

Benefacts is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee without share capital. It operates from its registered address in central Dublin. Its directors are appointed by the members of the company under the provisions of its constitution.

Directors' service on the board is voluntary (unpaid). The managing director is remunerated in her capacity as chief executive officer (Note 6) and no other executive serves as a director. Senior managers regularly attend meetings of the Board and its sub-committees as required. The Company Secretary is Ger Sweeney.

Directors of the company

The current directors are listed on page 3 in General information. Non-executive directors serve for a three-year term and for up to three successive terms.

Anna Visser resigned, and Emma Lane Spollen was appointed during 2018 following public advertisement. Another director (Bob Ottenhoff) having reached the end of his first three-year term was appointed for a second term.

Biographical information on all directors is published on the company's website.

Competencies

Directors of Benefacts are recruited in line with a competency framework that takes account of the company's mission and values. Specifically, the company seeks to ensure that its Board has expertise in information technologies especially in the context of start-ups; in the work of nonprofits and philanthropies; in public communications; and in public governance with particular reference to the current policy and regulatory environment.

On appointment, each director receives a copy of the governance handbook as well as a detailed briefing on the work of the company, and meets team leads to familiarise themselves with its technologies and processes.

Company Information

(continued)

Meetings

During 2018 the Board of Benefacts met 7 times; a table setting out the attendance of directors at meetings of the Board is given below.

	Joined the Board	Retired from the Board	Meetings attended in 2018 (possible meetings)
Tom Boland	19th Dec 2016		7 (7)
Rory Coveney	4th May 2016		6 (7)
Bernie Cullinan	1st Dec 2015		4 (7)
Bob Ottenhoff (US)	2nd April 2015		3 (7)
Patricia Quinn	28th Nov 2014		7 (7)
Philip Smith (UK)	28th Nov 2014		7 (7)
Anna Visser	5th October 2016	21st May 2018	3 (3)
Emma Lane Spollen	27th Sept 2018		3 (3)

Governance standards

The company complies on a voluntary basis with the provisions of the Governance Code – a governance standard for nonprofit organisations, promulgated by sector leaders. This provides, among other things, for Directors to provide the company with an annually updated statement of interests, and a statement of compliance with the company's ethical and business codes of conduct. A statement of compliance is published on the company's website.

In addition, also on a voluntary basis (because it is not a State body), Benefacts complies with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. This is a condition of a funding oversight agreement agreed during 2018 with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, augmenting its multi-annual funding agreement with the company.

Audit, Governance and Risk

The Audit, Governance and Risk committee met 4 times during the year. The work of the committee is chiefly concerned with financial strategy and oversight, review of management accounts, approval of financial and other business procedures, governance standards, and the review of business risk and mitigation. The committee also monitors governance compliance reporting.

The Committee includes one non-Director with senior audit experience in the nonprofit sector, John McNamara. The other members are Bernie Cullinan (Chair), Philip Smith and Patricia Quinn. All save John McNamara (who participated in two) participated in all of the meetings during the year.

In her capacity as Head of Finance and Operations, Paula Nyland attended every meeting of the committee.

Company Information

(continued)

People

During 2018, Benefacts had an average of 16 full-time equivalent staff:

- four with specialist data management, programming and IT skills, who are responsible for the design and quality of the database, the production and maintenance of the website and web-based services;
- eight full-time equivalents (15 people of which 14 working part-time) with financial accounting expertise, who are responsible for harvesting information from financial statements and analysing the data;
- four with sectoral, general management, external engagement and project governance experience, who manage the project and deliver on its accountabilities to funders and other stakeholders.

Staff are encouraged to maintain their skills and professional networks, and are supported to do so. Staff performance is reviewed and managed through a formal process.

Funding

Core funding

The first phase of three year co-funding agreements between Benefacts, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), The Ireland Funds and Atlantic Philanthropies respectively came to an end in December 2017. A new three year funding agreement was signed with DPER committing €2.85m between 2018 to 2020 at €0.95m per annum. The Ireland Funds continued to provide support at the same level as before, with €140,000 in 2018.

Project funding

Six government partners provided co-funding for a proof of concept project (Benefacts Analytics) as detailed in Note 3. This involved a commitment to provide €150,000 in grant aid in 2018 and a further €150,000 in the first half of 2019.

Other grants and earned revenues

The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection provided €25,000 in funding for a standalone analysis report. Service fees and cost recovery from a range of customers - mainly in the public sector - provided €55,000 in revenues. Details of these funding arrangements are provided in Note 3.

Financial review

Income

During 2018, Benefacts received core grants from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (€0.95m) and the Ireland Funds (€140,000). Project funding was provided by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (€50,000); the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (€25,000); the Department of Health (€25,000); Tusla (€25,000); Fingal County Council (€25,000); and Kildare County Council (€25,000). Other revenue totaled €55,000.

Financial review

(continued)

Expenditure

The expenditure of €1.34m in 2018 detailed in Note 4 was mainly associated with the costs of keeping the database up to date during the year; maintaining and developing the free public website; developing a data warehouse; and developing, testing and providing a range of data and web services as described in the strategic review.

Risk profile, reserve policy

Aside from the business risks associated with data production and publication, the main financial risks to the company in 2018 were associated with identifying projects and funding to ensure continued development of analysis services derived from the database.

Quality assurance and verification processes mitigated operational risk, and in relation to financial risk Benefacts agreed detailed performance/reporting arrangements and payment schedules with all of its funders, and made provision for a prudent cash reserve at the level of an average of three months expenditure.

Future planning

As a young nonprofit company, Benefacts funding model is to recover its costs through a hybrid of core grant, project grant and earned revenues.

To augment its core funding, the company has entered into two year funding agreements with six partners in central and local government for 2018/19 to support their appraisal of the value of Benefacts data for their respective administrative purposes. Based on the outcome of the proof of concept pilot, Benefacts hopes to generate further revenues from this source, augmenting the core funding provided by DPER and philanthropies in 2019/20. Migration to the data warehouse, with enhanced data analytic capability is key to ensuring the future potential for Benefacts to grow revenues from the provision of data and web-based services targeted on users in the public, nonprofit, philanthropic, media, research and other sectors.

Results for the year

The financial results of the company for the reporting period are set out in the income and expenditure account and in the related notes.

Research and development

The company conducted development of systems and data analytical tools.

Events since the balance sheet date

No significant events have occurred since the year end.

Financial review

(continued)

Accounting records

The directors believe that they have complied with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to maintaining adequate accounting records by employing accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and by providing adequate resources to the financial function.

The accounting records of the Company are maintained at 6 Merrion Square, Dublin D02 FF95.

Disclosure of Relevant Audit Information

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware. Having made enquiries of fellow directors and the company's auditor, each director has taken all the steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

In accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, KPMG, Chartered Accountants, will continue in office.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf by:

**Tom Boland (Chair)****Philip Smith (Director)**

28 February 2019

Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the directors' report and the financial statements

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

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company and of its profit or loss for that year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assess the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2014. They are responsible for such internal controls as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. The directors are also responsible for preparing a directors' report that complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

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

On behalf of the board



Tom Boland (Chair)



Philip Smith (Director)

28th February 2019

Independent auditor's report to the members of Benefacts

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Benefacts ('the Company') for the year ended 31 December 2018 set out on pages 16 to 25, which comprise the Statement of Income and Expenditure; the Statement of Financial Position; and the Cash Flow and related notes, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2018 and of its results for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

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

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

We have nothing to report on going concern

We are required to report to you if we have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting is inappropriate or there is an undisclosed material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt over the use of that basis for a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We have nothing to report in these respects.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information presented in the Annual Report together with the financial statements. The other information comprises the information included in the directors' report. The financial statements and our auditor's report thereon do not comprise part of the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work we have not identified material misstatements in the other information.

Based solely on our work on the other information:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report;
- in our opinion, the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements;
- in our opinion, the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Benefacts (continued)

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities and restrictions on use

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements including being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; 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; assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern; disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on IAASA's website at https://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf

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

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

**David Meagher
for and on behalf of KPMG
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Audit Firm**

1 Stokes Place
St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2

28 February 2019

Statement of Income and Expenditure

for year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	Year ended 31 Dec 2018	Year ended 31 Dec 2017
		€000	€000
Income	3	1,338	1,265
Cost of operations		(948)	(994)
Gross surplus		390	271
Administrative expenses		(390)	(270)
Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation	4	-	1
Tax on surplus on ordinary activities		-	(1)
Surplus for the financial year		-	-

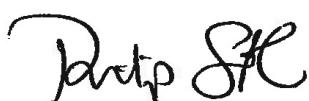
Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2018

	Note	31 Dec 2018 €000	31 Dec 2017 €000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	7	8	5
Current assets			
Debtors	8	47	83
Cash at bank and in hand	9	415	394
		462	477
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	470	482
Net current liabilities		(8)	(5)
Net assets		-	-
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		-	-
		-	-
On behalf of the board			



Tom Boland (Chair)



Philip Smith (Director)

28 February 2019

Cash Flow Statement

for year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	Year ended 31 Dec 2018	Year ended 31 Dec 2017
		€000	€000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Surplus for the year		-	-
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Depreciation	4	6	
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other debtors	36	(18)	
(Decrease) in trade and other creditors	(12)	(202)	
Net cash from operating activities	28	(214)	
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of tangible assets	7	(7)	(2)
Net cash from investing activities	(7)	(2)	
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	21	(216)	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	394	610	
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	415	394	

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

1. Basis of preparation

Benefacts (the 'company') is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated and domiciled in Ireland. The registered number of the company is 553387 and the registered address of the company is 6 Merrion Square, Dublin. These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"). There have been no material departures from the Standards. The presentation currency of these financial statements is Euro. All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest €1,000.

Going Concern

After reviewing the company's forecasts and projections, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company will have resources to enable the company to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Income

Income is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure when the effect of the transaction or other event results in an increase in the company's assets. Income from grant agreements is recognised when the activity has been undertaken. Income already received in relation to future years but not yet expended is shown in creditors as deferred income.

2.2 Operating leases

Rentals in respect of operating leases are charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure as incurred.

2.3 Taxation

Taxation on income and expenditure is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure. Corporation taxation for the period is up to date. The company is in compliance with Circular 44/2006 "Tax Clearance Procedures Grants, Subsidies and Similar Type Payments".

2.4 Basic financial instruments

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits.

2.5 Employee benefits

Pension benefits for members of the company's defined contribution scheme are funded over employees' period of service by way of contributions which are charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure as they become payable.

2.6 Government grants

Government grants are credited to the income and expenditure account in periods in which the related costs are incurred. Because the company is in receipt of government funding, these financial statements have been presented according to the standards set out in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform Circular 13/2014 "Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds".

2.7 Tangible assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost less estimated residual value of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives using the straight-line method. The rate applicable for computer hardware is 3 years and the rate applicable for furniture is 10 years.

2.8 Impairment of assets

At each reporting period fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If the estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying value is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

3. Income

Income was derived from government and philanthropic grants, and from fees for services. All Government grants are restricted to the delivery of the project goals as specified within the contracts between the company and its respective funders.

Eight separate government grants were received in 2018; according to the terms of respective funding agreements:

- 1) the grant from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform funded the maintenance and development of a database of Irish civil society organisations; the design, creation, production and maintenance of web-based services including a free public website and uploads to www.data.gov.ie; services for institutional users including the Central Statistics Office.
- 2) grants from six funders (Department of Health, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Tusla, Fingal County Council, Kildare County Council) funded the Benefacts Analytics pilot.
- 3) the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection funded a data analysis project.

			2018 €'000	2018 €'000	2018 €'000	2018 €'000	2018 €'000	2017 €'000	2017 €'000
Funder	Term of funding	Purpose	Full Commitment	Opening Balance	Funding Received	Closing Balance	Total Income	Total Income	Total Income
Grants									
Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER)	2018-2020	Nonprofits DB and Website	2,850	329	950	311	968	621	
Department of Health	2018-2019	Analytics Pilot	50	-	25	-	25	-	
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	2018-2019	Analytics Pilot	50	-	25	-	25	-	
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2018-2019	Analytics Pilot	50	-	25	-	25	-	
Tusla	2018-2019	Analytics Pilot	50	-	25	-	25	-	
Kildare County Council	2018-2019	Analytics Pilot	50	-	25	-	25	-	
Fingal County Council	2018-2019	Analytics Pilot	50	-	25	-	25	-	
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	2018	Analysis Project	25	-	25	-	25	-	
Philanthropic and Corporate Donations									
The Atlantic Philanthropies			-	-	-	-	-	571	
The Ireland Funds			60	140	60	140	53		
Corporate Donations			-	8	-	8	8	-	
Fees for Services									
Department of Justice and Equality			-	20	-	-	20	-	
Charities Regulator			-	17	-	-	17	-	
Oireachtas Library and Research Service			-	2	-	-	2	-	
Housing Agency			-	2	-	-	2	-	
Other Earned Income			-	6	-	-	6	20	
	3,175		389		1,320		371	1,338	1,265

4. Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation

The surplus on ordinary activities is stated after:

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Cost of Operations		
Database production	441	479
Website and Database development	300	233
Data analysis	207	282
	948	994
Administrative Expenses		
Core management & governance	176	76
Communications & engagement	89	108
Fixed overheads	119	80
Auditor's remuneration	6	6
	390	270
	1,338	1,264

5. Directors

No director received or is due fees for services as a director. In respect of the costs of participating in meetings, expenses of €2,535 were reimbursed to one director.

6. Employees

In respect of services as an executive, the total remuneration of the managing director for the year ended 31 December 2018 was €135,759 (2017: €116,030), including a pension contribution of €7,077 (2017: €6,049). Total staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Wages and salary costs	773	795
Social security costs	82	83
Retirement benefit costs	34	24
	889	902

6. Employees (continued)

The number of staff whose total remuneration was in excess of €60,000 was as follows:

	2018	2017
	Number	Number
€60,000- €70,000	1	2
€70,001 - €80,000	2	-
€80,001 - €90,000	-	-
€90,001 - €100,000	-	-
€100,001 - €110,000	-	1
€110,001 - €120,000	-	-
€120,001 - €130,000	1	-
	4	3

Benefacts operates a defined contribution scheme for its employees, to which the company makes an employer contribution. The assets of the scheme are invested with an independent pensions provider which is also the scheme's registered administrator. Pension payments recognised as an expense during the year amount to €34,489 (2017: €24,107) and no amounts were due to the scheme at 31 December 2018.

Total compensation of two key management personnel (including pension benefits) in 2018 amounted to €210,253 (2017: €291,919 in relation to four key management personnel).

The number of full-time and part-time employees ranged between 17 and 23 during the year.

The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2018	2017
	Number	Number
Full-time	7	7
Part-time	9	8
	16	15

7. Tangible assets

	Computer hardware €'000	Furniture €'000	Total €'000
Cost			
At 1 January 2018	18	-	18
Additions	6	1	7
At 31 December 2018	24	1	25
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2018	13	-	13
Charge for the period	4	-	4
At 31 December 2018	17	-	17
Net book amount			
At 31 December 2018	7	1	8
Net book amount			
At 1 January 2018	5	-	5

8. Debtors

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Prepayments	45	83
Other Debtors	2	-
	47	83

9. Cash and cash equivalents

The cash balance held on the Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2018 largely reflects the cash reserve policy of three months average expenditure as considered prudent from a going concern perspective.

10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2018	2017
	€'000	€'000
Trade Creditors	19	10
Other Creditors	24	23
Accruals	56	60
Deferred Income	371	389
	470	482

The deferred income represents grant income received which exceeded the costs incurred in the reported period. This deferred income will be fully released to the Statement of Income and Expenditure in 2019.

11. Operating leases

Non-cancellable operating lease rentals are payable as follows:

	2018	2017
	€'000	€'000
Less than one year	37	38
Between one year and five years	-	73
	37	111

12. Contingent liabilities

Grant income could be repayable to the funders, were the company to fail persistently to comply with the terms of the funding agreements in any material respect.

13. Related parties/ transactions with key management personnel

FRS102 Section 33.2 (iii), requires the company to disclose transactions with "related parties", the definition of which includes key management personnel.

In 2018, the company's key management personnel comprised the non-executive directors of the Board and two employees of the company namely the managing director and the head of finance and operations. In the previous year, there were two additional key management personnel namely the head of operations and the head of IT, both of whom left the company during 2017 following which their roles were restructured. As set out in Note 5, no fees were paid to directors for services as directors, and none of the employees received any compensation outside of the remuneration set out in Note 6.

In other related party transactions, the company received a corporate donation of €7,500 from Arthur Cox during 2018. The company and Arthur Cox are related parties because Philip Smith is a board member of Benefacts and a partner in Arthur Cox. There were no other related party transactions during the reporting period to 31 December 2018 (2017: nil).

14. Approval of financial statements

The directors approved the financial statements on 28 February 2019.

Data for social good

Benefacts Database of Irish Nonprofits has been created using public data harvested from many sources and is a unique and authoritative source of regulatory, financial and governance data on Ireland's Third Sector.

Extracts from the database including a profile of every listed nonprofit and an analysis of the sector are freely available on www.benefacts.ie

Working with partners in all sectors, Benefacts provides data, information and analysis to meet the needs of Irish nonprofits and their stakeholders.

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