

## Report of Outgoing Executive Director

10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022

As the changing of the guard is well under way, I am presenting my report as the outgoing Executive Director and will update you on what has happened since the full Committee last met (via Zoom) and will hand over then to Karen Martin, my successor, who will set out her plans to take the Society forward.

*So, firstly, I would like to formally welcome Karen to the post of Executive Director and hope that she will derive as much satisfaction from working in the Society as I have had over the last two decades.*

Karen, I am glad to say, has already hit the ground running since taking on the post and she will fill you in on all of this and her plans once I have updated you.

### Handover

Karen arrived into the Society on April 5<sup>th</sup>

The handover began in earnest by setting up face-to-face meetings with the Society's stakeholders.

These include;

- *Trustees,*
- *Cases Committee,*
- *Supervisory Committee,*
- *Consultus (external auditor/accountants),*
- *Employee Assistance Officer Network,*
- *Public Service Credit Union and CANA,*
- *Lyons Financial Services,*
- *Digilogue (our web designer),*
- *our database analyst and*
- *Cantor Fitzgerald (our investment broker).*

And we have kept the best till last, the Committee of Management.

Aside from this schedule of meetings, we have concentrated on the main focus of our work which is case work.

With the uncertainty in the world economy currently resulting in soaring inflation and higher energy and utility bills, we expect that the applications will ramp up in the immediate future.

As the stats will show toward the end of this report, we are already up on 2021 figures.

We have also concentrated on the various other aspects of the job which include accounts management, promotion of the Society along with all the other elements of the work.

## Stats for 2022

So, for the last time, I will present the statistics up to the end of April and how they compare to the same time last year.

	<b>Jan – Apr 2022</b>	<b>Jan – Apr 2021</b>	<b>Diff (%)</b>
<b>Overall Approved</b>	<b>€184,851</b>	<b>€158,236</b>	<b>+ 7%</b>
Of which <b>Grants</b>	€122,672	€91,957	+33%
Of which <b>Loans</b>	€62,179	€66,279	-6%
<b>Applications</b>	131	122	7%
Of which <b>Grants</b>	€1,410 (87 cases)	€1,226 (75 cases)	
Of which <b>Loans</b>	€1,413 (44 cases)	€1,410 (47 cases)	
<b>New Members</b>	65	35	+85%
Contributions	€221,000	€217,038	+2%

Aside from the increase of 7% in overall assistance, you will note that grant aid has increased by 1/3<sup>rd</sup> over the 2021 equivalent while loans have gone down slightly.

While it is off a low base, it is encouraging to see that new member application have almost doubled over and above the 2021 figure.

Equally, it is refreshing to see an increase, albeit a small one of 2% in membership contributions, as the trend had been in the opposite direction for some time now.

## Accounts and Audit for 2021

The audited accounts which we will present at the AGM shortly show the Society to be in a strong position.

If you have any questions on the accounts or the management report I would have sent, I'll do my best to answer them.

There is a suggestion regarding an accounts software package and I know Karen will be discussing this in more detail as she settles into the role.

### **And Finally**

In closing, I wish to thank the present Committee of Management and all the various committee members over the last 20 years for their support.

I would especially like to thank the Cases Committee of *Joan, Frances and John*. It is hard to overestimate their importance to the Society. They are integral to the work of the Society as they deliberate, in their own time, on each and every application that we receive into the Society.

They do so without reward. The only purpose is to be of service to colleagues, both active and retired, in the civil service who experience financial troubles.

And of course, I wish to thank my colleagues in HQ. Karen, of course, who has settled so well and to Barbara who has worked tirelessly over the past 5 years with me and is simply a brilliant Cases Officer.

I hope nobody minds if I make special mention of Carmel who has worked alongside me for the last 18 years.

We have shared many ups and downs through those years. We are a bit like an old married couple at this stage (*in that I don't get a word in*). Carmel is the first voice our members hear and it is she who puts the most nervous at their ease.

Whatever about my leaving, Carmel's departure toward the end of the year will be a huge loss for the Society.

So, without further ado, I will pass you on to my colleague and the new Executive Director, Karen.