



Taighde Éireann
Research Ireland

Annual Report 2025



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

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01.

Introduction

Our Impact in 2025

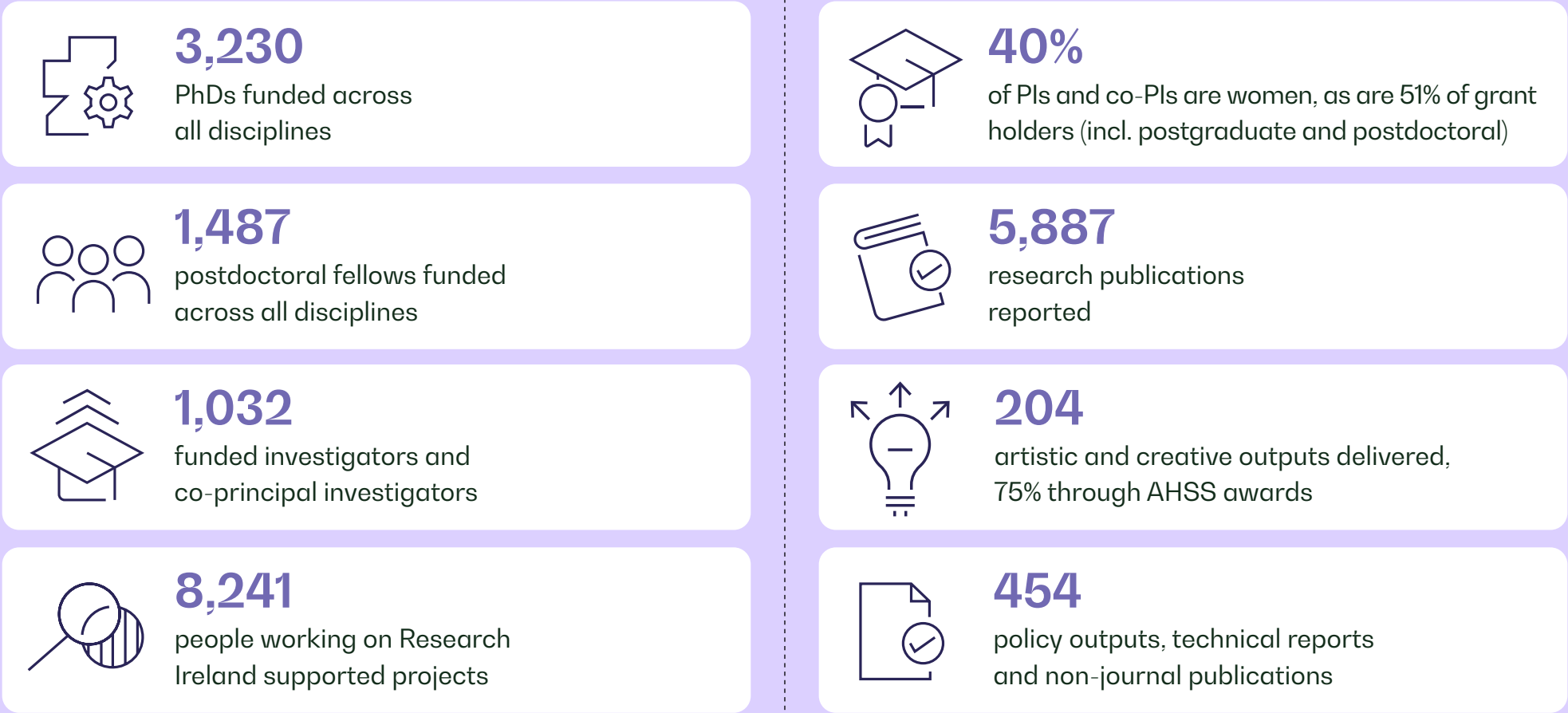
2025 marked the first year of Research Ireland as Ireland’s national research and innovation agency. Our purpose is clear: to develop an internationally renowned research and innovation system for the prosperity of the people of Ireland.



Talent: Empowering People

In 2025, Research Ireland invested in people at every career stage across all disciplines, supporting progression and diversity, building long-term research capacity for the country, including:

- New Investigators Programme, designed for independent researchers across all disciplines to pursue excellent research.
- New Global Talent Ireland initiative developed to attract world-leading researchers to Ireland.
- New INSPIRE Programme to support Ireland’s talent and innovation ambitions by investing in research equipment in the higher education sector.



Society: Driving Solutions

Research and innovation are central to building a strong, inclusive, and resilient society. In 2025, Research Ireland supported work that informed policy, engaged communities and addressed everyday challenges.

- Interdisciplinary research addressing national priorities and societal challenges was supported through co-funded initiatives with Government and industry partners, including the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces, Irish Aid and Gas Networks Ireland.
- AHSS research continues to shape responses to public health challenges in 2025, building on interdisciplinary work supported through the DOROTHY MSCA programme.
- Access to social science data was improved with the launch of the ISSDA Dataverse platform, supported by Research Ireland.

8 winners and 96 teams

supported through the National Challenge Fund

30 years

of public engagement through Science Week

530+ events

held across Ireland

7 projects

awarded

€2.1m

via Research Ireland’s Innovating in Health and Wellbeing Challenge

1,115 engagements

between our funded researchers and government departments and agencies

837 engagements

between our funded researchers and private foundations, charities and NGOs

Value for money from public investment

Public investment in research delivered strong returns, leveraging additional funding and extending impact beyond Exchequer investment.

€310m

leveraged through Research Ireland investments

€227.3m

in non-Exchequer funding secured

14%

increase in non-Exchequer funding

€129m

secured from EU funding

10%

increase in EU funding



Economy: Strengthening Competitiveness

Ireland’s competitiveness relies on research that drives innovation, productivity, and growth.

- Three ARC Hubs were established with support from the ERDF, to accelerate translation and commercialisation.
- New partnerships, including the APC-VLE-NIBRT collaboration, brought researchers and industry together to advance discovery and innovation.

58k+
jobs supported directly and indirectly across Ireland

Ireland is¹ 20th
in the world for university-industry R&D collaboration

70%²
of Research Ireland funded PhD graduates join industry and public sector

1st¹
in knowledge diffusion (how ideas, skills and innovation spread across society and the economy)

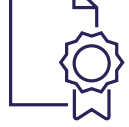
**€76.6m**
funding from industry

**3,755**
industry engagements

**8**
spin-out companies

**167**
invention disclosures

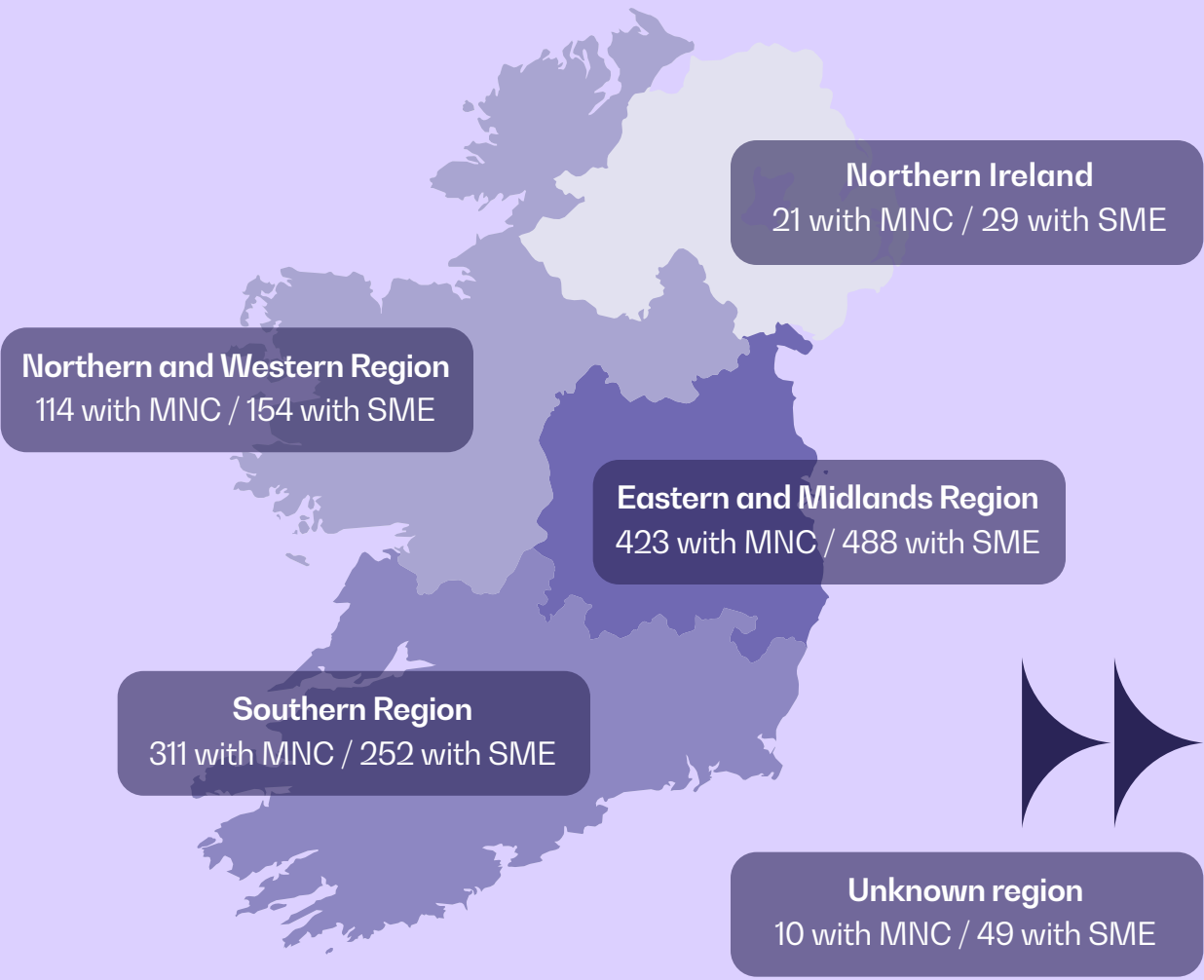
**74**
patents filed

**65**
patents awarded

1,851
regional industry engagements

879
regional industry engagements with MNCs

972
regional industry engagements with SMEs



¹ Global Innovation Index

² Based on longer-term graduate outcomes, not limited to 2025

Connecting Internationally

Research Ireland has supported researchers to collaborate, lead, and compete internationally, connecting Ireland’s research system globally.

- The US–Ireland R&D Partnership Programme delivered joint investment and recognition that deepened trilateral research collaboration.
- Success in Horizon Europe and the European Research Council demonstrated Ireland’s ability to lead and compete in Europe.
- A new UK–Ireland creative industries partnership with the Arts and Humanities Research Council will support a diverse range of projects, deliver innovative research networking activities and promote knowledge exchange between Ireland and the UK.



7,863

international academic collaborations across 106 countries



72%

of academic collaborations are international



12 AHSS, 8 STEM

major European Research Council awards in 2025



18th

most innovative country globally (Global Innovation Index)



Statement from Chair of the Board Mr Michael Horgan



It is a privilege to present the first annual report of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland, marking our first year as Ireland’s research and innovation agency. This report sets out what we achieved since our establishment and marks the beginning of a national effort to develop a more connected and ambitious research ecosystem for the years ahead.

In addition to fulfilling our statutory responsibilities and being accountable for our actions during the year, this report is also a celebration of the wonderful work of the staff of Research Ireland, whose energy, creativity and willingness to embrace new opportunities made this first year not only possible, but genuinely forward looking.

The establishment of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in 2020 brought research and innovation policy under a dedicated government department for the first time. This recognised the importance of knowledge, talent, and innovation to Ireland’s future. Two years later, Impact 2030: Ireland’s Research and Innovation Strategy committed to creating a single research and innovation funding agency. That commitment was realised with the enactment of the Research and Innovation Act, establishing Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland on 1 August 2024.

It was a landmark moment for the research and innovation community in Ireland and a recognition of the important role that community plays in supporting our competitiveness.

A key focus of our first year has been building the foundations of the organisation. The Board was established and met for the first time in September 2024. Under the terms of the Act, the staff of both Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Irish Research Council (IRC) transferred to Research Ireland on 1 August 2024. Bringing together staff from two different organisations and cultures is a difficult undertaking, but I must pay tribute to all staff members for the professional and gracious attitude they adopted. On behalf of the Board, I thank them sincerely for all their effort and support.

We prioritised continuity for the research community, bringing together the former SFI and IRC programmes to ensure ongoing delivery. This meant that researchers could continue their work and build their careers even as the wider system evolved around them.

Partnership has been central to our first year. Research Ireland has worked closely with our parent department, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), with Government colleagues, the Higher Education Authority (HEA), with higher

education institutions, with industry and enterprise agencies, with civil society organisations, and with international collaborators. These relationships will continue to shape our work.

One of the most important duties of a Board is the appointment of a chief executive and Research Ireland was very lucky to secure the services of Dr Diarmuid O’Brien as chief executive. Diarmuid took on the leadership role from Celine Fitzgerald who had very ably acted as interim chief executive. Together with the Board, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Celine for her leadership and commitment during this transition period.

Under Diarmuid’s leadership, we completed a full public consultation to inform our first strategic plan which will guide us from 2026 to 2030.

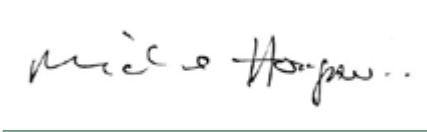
Research Ireland has been constituted to serve a new era: one in which the boundaries between disciplines are shifting, and where research and innovation must respond to fast-moving global developments and complex societal challenges.

We are grateful to Minister James Lawless TD and his Department for their support and to the wider research community for its engagement and patience as we move towards closer integration of our programmes and set out our strategic direction for the future. Thank you to my fellow Board

members for their commitment throughout this formative year. I also want to acknowledge the leadership of our chief executive and senior leadership team, who have guided the organisation with clarity, confidence, and ambition during a period of major transformation. Above all, their commitment has set a strong foundation for the years to come.

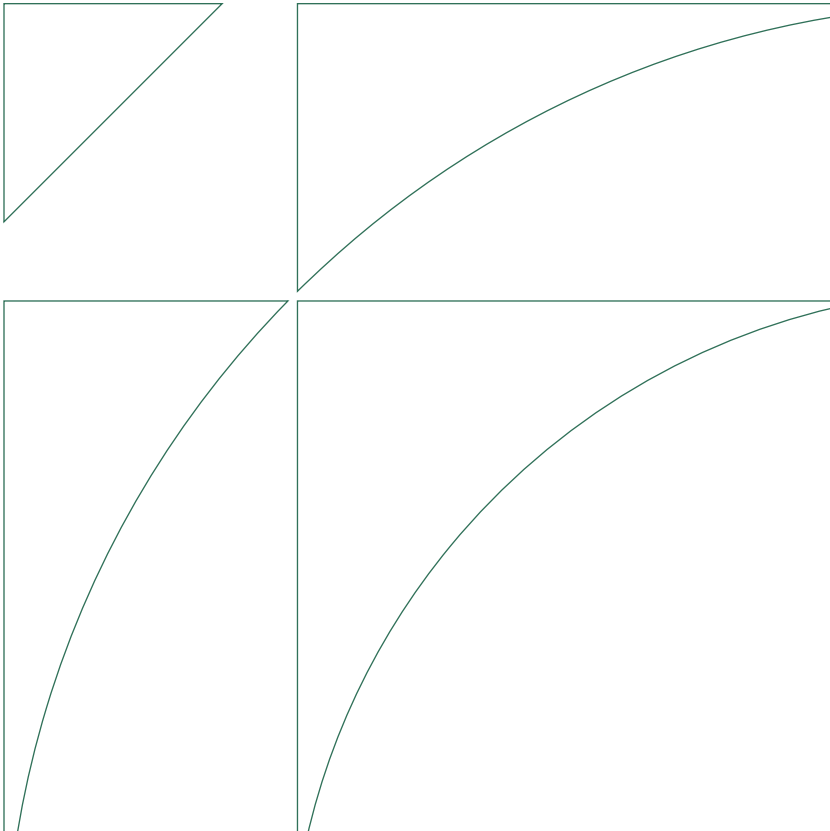
As we look ahead, I am confident that Research Ireland is well positioned to deliver on its mandate. Our first year has been one of transition and foundation building, and the coming years will be defined by delivery, ambition, and impact. Ireland has exceptional research talent and a strong international reputation, and Research Ireland has the responsibility and opportunity to build on these strengths for the benefit of the country.

This annual report highlights and celebrates the talent, creativity and innovation that define our research system, and the contributions that will continue to drive Ireland’s progress in the years to come.



Mr Michael Horgan
Chair of the Board
June 2026

“Research Ireland has been constituted to serve a new era: one in which the boundaries between disciplines are shifting, and where research and innovation must respond to fast moving global developments and complex societal challenges.”



Statement from CEO Dr Diarmuid O'Brien



It is a pleasure to introduce the first Annual Report for Research Ireland, and my first as Chief Executive. Almost a year into this role I can reflect with real optimism on the research and innovation potential for Ireland. I have had the opportunity to meet with many key stakeholders across universities, industry, civic society and government, and there is a tangible sense of ambition for Ireland's research and innovation potential and, importantly, a commitment to delivery.

Research Ireland is an agency focussed on developing an internationally renowned research and innovation system for the prosperity of the people of Ireland. To deliver this system, it is critical we embrace a philosophy of balance.

We have committed to:

- balance in our investment in discovery research through to translational research
- balance in how we invest across all disciplines from Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences to STEM
- balance in how we invest across the career spectrum from PhD researchers to large PI awards

- balance in how we support curiosity driven research and thematically defined large scale centres
- balance in how we support individual PIs and the requirement to strengthen the research and innovation capacity of our universities, and
- balance between programmatic and infrastructural funding.

A leading research and innovation system has all of these elements, and it is important we strive to support this diversity of activity in a manner that enables Ireland to reach its potential from a research, economic and societal perspective. This will be achieved by continuing to place excellence in research and the process of international peer review at the centre of our programmes.

“It has been a busy and productive first year – with a new strategy developed, a new set of programmes and initiatives launched and significant achievements by our research community.”

The new Research Ireland strategy, ‘Curiosity, Capability, Competitiveness – Charting Ireland’s Research and Innovation Future’, positions Research Ireland as a research and innovation development agency. This shift from a funding to a development mindset is of fundamental importance.

“Funding is the primary tool through which we will deliver, but we are also “more than a funder”. We are a strategic partner, a thought leader and a convenor of our national research and innovation ambition.”

The strategy reflects the diverse range of perspectives, objectives, concerns, suggestions and insights that we have heard – and listened to – from the many hundreds of valued stakeholders across the country and internationally, with whom we extensively consulted in formulating the strategy over the preceding 12 months.

The strategy is built around three interconnected impact themes – Talent, Economy, and Society. Together, they reflect our belief that people are at the heart of the system; that research-driven innovation is essential to competitiveness and productivity; and that research must ultimately serve the public good.

These themes will define our strategic priorities, how we invest and the outcomes we wish to achieve over the next five years. These themes will frame the partnerships we establish and guide how we engage with our stakeholders.

This year has seen the launch of new programmes such as Investigators, which for the first time is allowing all disciplines apply on an annual basis for internationally competitive levels of research funding. Over the course of 2026 we will ensure all legacy programmes will be refreshed with a Research Ireland perspective, aligned with our new purpose and strategy.

In addition, we have launched or announced new calls which demonstrate the ambition to continue to grow the competitiveness of the system. Global Talent Ireland is a commitment to attract internationally leading researchers to our universities. INSPIRE is a generational investment in research and innovation infrastructure which will underpin the long-term competitiveness of our universities.

It is critical to highlight that these new approaches and programmes underpin a commitment to enhance the environment in which our research community works. This enhanced environment will enable the community to be imaginative, develop disruptive ideas, partner proactively internationally and build the porosity where ideas and people flow between our universities and cultural institutions, industry, public policy organisations and government.

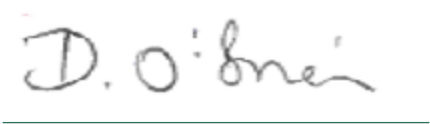
There are of course challenges. Success rates for applications remain too low – both in Ireland and Europe. Public investment in research and innovation remains low compared to other small advanced economies and this is a challenge, as Ireland strives to unlock the full research and innovation potential of the system. The connectivity between our research and innovation ecosystems remains sub-optimal and we need to continue to strive to build enhanced linkages to ensure our research investments achieve the right impacts. Our readiness to leverage the new opportunity of increased European funding needs focus and preparation. Research Ireland is committed to addressing these challenges and to ensuring that Ireland gets the best outcomes from our research and innovation investment.

I would like to thank Taoiseach Michael Martin TD and Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD, and the many elected representatives that supported the vision and mission of Research Ireland in 2025.

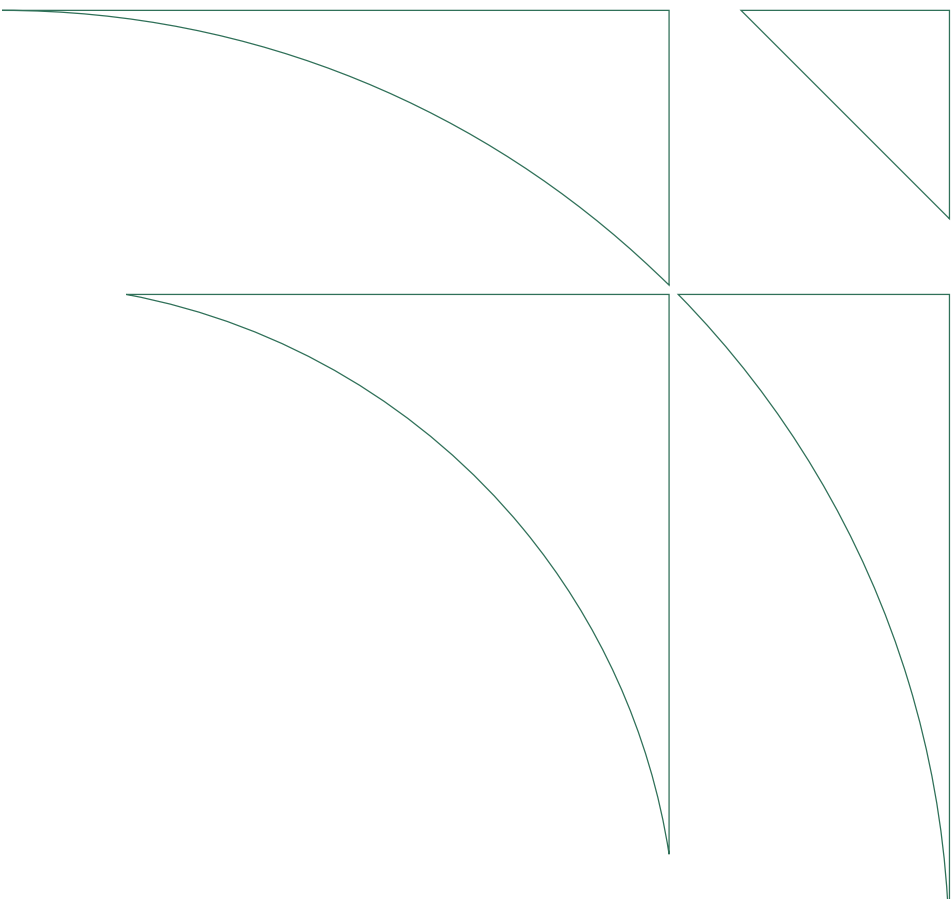
I would like to recognise and thank all Research Ireland employees for their continued commitment and support in delivering our goals. It has been a challenging period of change and opportunity for Research Ireland’s staff, and they have embraced our purpose and new approach to delivery. Research Ireland has staff members who live and breathe our mission, and this is a real superpower for the agency. I would like to thank the Research Ireland Board for their support, expertise and commitment to establishing the new agency and helping to shape our ambition and focus.

I thank the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and other Government Departments and Agencies, especially Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, the Higher Education Authority, the Health Research Board and many others for their continued support and collaboration.

I acknowledge the valuable contribution of Ireland’s Higher Education Institutions. I also thank our collaborating international funders and industry partners for their engagement and support in co-funding our partnership programmes and awards. I close by recognising that researchers are the bedrock of the entire system, and thank them for their dedication, passion and vision.



Dr Diarmuid O’Brien
Chief Executive Officer
June 2026





02.



2025 Highlights

UK–Ireland creative industries research

A landmark UK–Ireland scoping workshop in Birmingham brought together 60 stakeholders from both countries to explore new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration in creative industries research.

Co-hosted by Research Ireland and the UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), the workshop brought together experts from across the creative industries to identify priority research themes and review existing evidence.

Building on the success of the UK–Ireland digital humanities collaboration, the workshop marked the first step towards a new bilateral initiative designed to deliver significant impact and strengthen creative industries research capacity across both countries.

Deepening international research links

Strengthening trilateral research collaboration across the United States, Ireland and Northern Ireland was enhanced with a €7 million joint investment through the US–Ireland R&D Partnership Programme, supporting four collaborative research awards across 10 higher education institutions and advancing work in areas such as communications networks and healthcare. The programme continues to strengthen research and industry collaboration, having funded 98 partnership projects since 2006.

In the same week, Taoiseach Micheál Martin presented the Research Ireland St. Patrick’s Day Science Medal in Washington D.C. to Prof Richard Kearney and Mr Michael Dowling, recognising their exceptional contributions to the research ecosystem and to US–Ireland collaboration.

Together, the investment and recognition deepen Ireland’s international research links and will help foster even stronger partnerships in the years ahead.



Pictured (l-r): President and CEO of Northwell Health, Mr Michael Dowling (industry medal recipient), Charles B Seelig Professor in Philosophy at Boston College, Prof Richard Kearney (academic medal recipient), and Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD at the prestigious Research Ireland St. Patrick’s Day Medal event in Washington D.C.

Image: John Harrington Photography

Accelerating research to commercialisation hub

Research Ireland introduced the Accelerating Research to Commercialisation (ARC) Hub Programme to address a long-identified gap in Ireland’s support for commercialising breakthrough research. Co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF regional programmes, the initiative established three national Hubs to guide high-potential research towards commercial and societal impact.

The ARC Hub for Therapeutics at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) is advancing novel therapies and biomaterials, while TU Dublin’s ARC Hub for ICT is accelerating translational research in ICT and AI. The ARC Hub for HealthTech at University of Galway is supporting medtech and connected health projects on a national scale.

Collectively, the Hubs strengthen Ireland’s capacity for research-driven innovation by supporting teams to translate ideas into solutions with real-world impact.



Pictured (l-r): Marie Harnett, EU Division, Southern Regional Assembly; David Kelly, Director of Southern Regional Assembly; Michael McGrath, National Communications Officer, Member State; Prof Sarah Jane Delany, ARC Hub for ICT Lead (TU Dublin); Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD; Prof Vincent Kelly, ARC Hub for Therapeutics lead (TCD); Michael Horgan, Chair, Research Ireland; and Helen Kearns, Head of Media, Communication, European Commission Dublin Representation, at the ARC Hub Programme launch.

Image: Jason Clarke Photography

Mini-brain breakthrough at Research Ireland centre

Researchers at the CÚRAM Research Ireland Centre for Medical Devices announced a significant breakthrough in lab-grown “mini-brains”, or cerebral organoids, enabling them to survive longer and better model human brain function and disease.

Led by Dr Mihai Lomora, the interdisciplinary team used a soft, biologically compatible hydrogel and an adapted growth protocol to encourage blood-vessel-forming cells to penetrate deep into the organoids. This approach resulted in three times less cell death and the emergence of features resembling the blood–brain barrier.

Published in Advanced Science, the breakthrough enhances the physiological relevance of cerebral organoids and strengthens their potential as tools for studying conditions such as stroke, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease.

Global Talent Ireland

The Government launched Global Talent Ireland, a new programme designed to attract world-class research leaders and rising stars to Ireland. Managed by Research Ireland on behalf of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, the €8 million a year initiative will support up to 15 researchers annually, including the costs of the relocation of their research activities and establishing their research teams.

Global Talent Ireland offers researchers the chance to build their work within one of Europe’s most collaborative research environments, strengthened by industry links and access to European funding. This investment will expand Ireland’s knowledge base and enhance its ability to attract high-calibre researchers in the years ahead.

Research Ireland Forum

The Research Ireland Forum took place on 5 June, marking one year since the Research and Innovation Act establishing Research Ireland was signed into law. More than 250 people joined the one-day hybrid event, which brought together stakeholders from across the research and innovation system.

Minister James Lawless addressed participants and joined Dr Eoin O’Sullivan from the University of Cambridge for an in-depth discussion on Ireland’s future research and innovation priorities. Panel sessions explored excellent research, collaboration for innovation, and co-creation, with contributions from speakers across higher education, government, enterprise and the research community. The programme also featured Research Shorts showcasing work from researchers at different career stages.

The forum strengthened connections across the research and innovation community, supporting shared perspectives and helping shape future priorities.



Pictured (l-r): Prof Eoin O’Sullivan, University of Cambridge, with Minister James Lawless TD at the 2025 Research Ireland Forum.

Image: Jason Clarke Photography

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Investigators Programme supports all disciplines

The Investigators Programme, a new flagship initiative that funds excellent research across all disciplines, opened in July 2025. It supports work ranging from curiosity-driven research that generates new knowledge, to applied research that develops solutions and innovations, including in social and cultural areas.

The call was open to established and emerging independent researchers whose proposals met the programme’s objectives: enabling cutting-edge research, supporting training and development (including PhD and postdoctoral researchers), strengthening Ireland’s capacity and reputation for excellent research, leveraging European and international funding, fostering collaborative partnerships, and promoting impact across social, cultural, economic and environmental domains.

The Investigators Programme provides a strong foundation for advancing excellent research and supporting the next generation of talent. It helps ensure Ireland remains globally competitive across all disciplines.

€200 million Horizon Europe milestone

Research Ireland reached a significant milestone, securing €200 million in European Research Council (ERC) funding under Horizon Europe (2021–2027), highlighting the strength of Ireland’s research community and its growing impact in Europe. The European Research Council (ERC) is the premier European funding organisation for frontier research, and Research Ireland acts as ERC National Delegate and National Contact Point. In addition, in 2025, Ireland reached a €1 billion Horizon Europe funding milestone.

The strength of this impact was also evident in April, when Research Ireland welcomed Prof Maria Leptin, President of the ERC, for a national ERC Impact Forum. The event brought together ERC awardees, researchers, policymakers and higher education leaders. They discussed Ireland’s achievements and future potential in Europe. Discussions highlighted Ireland’s strong foundation in talent and collaboration and the importance of sustained support for frontier research.

The event highlighted Ireland’s growing contribution to European research and the importance of deeper engagement with EU partners.



Pictured: ERC President, Prof Maria Leptin, at Research Ireland’s ERC Impact Forum.
Image: Finbarr O’Rourke Photography

Recognising excellence in architectural history

Architectural and craft history expert Prof Christine Casey, Professor of Architectural History at TCD, was named Researcher of the Year in January 2025.

An international authority on the City of Dublin and on the early modern interior in Europe, Britain and Ireland, she has published widely on Irish architecture, including two volumes in the Yale University Press *Buildings of Ireland* series. Her landmark study *Making Magnificence* (Yale, 2017) received the Alice Davis Hitchcock Medallion.

Her research has brought attention to craft practice in eighteenth-century architecture and underpins the ERC-funded STONE-WORK project she leads. Her interdisciplinary work across architectural, craft and socio-economic history and geology has the potential to set a new benchmark for historical research.

This award was made as part of the Researcher of the Year (IRC legacy) Awards.



Pictured: Researcher of the Year Award recipient Christine Casey, Professor of Architectural History at TCD. Since this story was written, Research Ireland learned of the passing of Professor Christine Casey in August 2026. We extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, colleagues and students. She will be remembered for her exceptional contribution to architectural history and scholarship.

HERA-funded humanities research

Three projects supported by Research Ireland in 2025 under the HERA “Crisis – Perspectives from the Humanities” call highlight the vital role of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) in addressing contemporary societal challenges. HERA is a long-standing European partnership supporting humanities-led, transnational research, with Ireland participating for over 20 years.

CoastARTS (University of Galway) works with artists and coastal communities to explore links between past crises and environmental change. CHRYSES (UCC) combines myths, storytelling and scientific data to improve public understanding of environmental and health crises. Home in Crisis (UCC) examines how climate change is reshaping experiences of home, belonging and displacement across Europe.

Together, the funded projects show how humanities research helps people understand and respond to crises.

Partnership to advance gene therapy

Research Ireland and APC Ltd. co-funded TRANS-AM, a €2 million, five-year strategic partnership focused on transforming how advanced gene therapies are manufactured. Led by Prof Niall Barron at National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT) and UCD, the project supports eight research positions and brings together co-investigators across both institutions. The team is working to develop more efficient, scalable and cost-effective approaches to producing and analysing gene therapies, which remain complex and expensive to manufacture.

APC Ltd., a global leader in process development and a successful spin-out from SSPC, the Research Ireland Centre for Pharmaceuticals, will work closely with academic partners to accelerate innovation and support the translation of research into industrial practice.

Strategic partnerships such as TRANS-AM deepen enterprise-academic collaboration and support research that strengthens Ireland’s position in advanced biotherapeutics while delivering real benefits for patients and industry.



Pictured (l-r): Mark Barrett, CEO and Co-Founder, APC Ltd. and VLE Therapeutics; Minister James Lawless TD, Dr Siobhan Roche, Director of Research for the Economy, Research Ireland, and Brian Glennon, Group CTO and Co-Founder, APC Ltd. and VLE Therapeutics.

Image: Jason Clarke Photography

INSPIRE – transforming research infrastructure

Two significant developments advanced Ireland’s national research infrastructure in 2025. The Government launched INSPIRE, a landmark €750 million investment to transform research infrastructure across the higher education sector between 2026 and 2031. Research Ireland will jointly manage INSPIRE with the Higher Education Authority, ensuring the coordinated delivery of cutting-edge equipment and shared facilities.

In March, nine projects received €17.7 million through Research Ireland’s Research Infrastructure Programme, supporting new capabilities in areas such as marine science, advanced imaging, and materials research.

The initiatives reflect a strengthened, long-term commitment to equipping Ireland’s research community with the tools and environments needed to pursue excellent research across all disciplines.

National Challenge Fund showcase

The National Challenge Fund advanced solution-focused, mission-driven research throughout 2025, supporting teams addressing Ireland’s green transition and digital transformation.

In March, a final group of teams were awarded Grow Phase funding for projects in transportation infrastructure, waste recycling, sustainable construction, aquaculture and decision support systems for food production, with EU Commissioner Michael McGrath welcoming their progress.

On 30 April, Research Ireland hosted a showcase at Croke Park, highlighting 34 Grow Phase projects, each receiving €500,000 for 12 months. In December, a second cohort of prize-winning teams was announced, recognising projects in energy, digital resilience, community safety and environmental sustainability.

These developments across 2025 demonstrate how the National Challenge Fund supports research with strong potential to deliver meaningful social, economic and environmental benefits for Ireland.



Pictured (l-r): Dr Christina Thorpe, TU Dublin, GroSafe project; Dr Ruth Freeman, Director of Research for Society at Research Ireland; Michael McGrath, EU Commissioner; Dr Indiana Olbert, University of Galway, StopFloods project; Dr Yuanyuan Chen, Technological University Shannon (TUS), Traceless Project; and Prof Fabiano Pallonetto, Maynooth University, RENEW project.

Image: Jason Clarke Photography

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Science Week marks 30 years

Science Week celebrated its 30th anniversary in November, with 14 festivals and 532 events taking place across Ireland, reaching an audience of nearly 125,000. Coordinated by Research Ireland, the campaign invited people to explore the theme “Then. Today. Tomorrow.”, reflecting on how research has shaped our lives and how past insights can guide decisions about the future.

The anniversary year highlighted Research Ireland’s longstanding commitment to education and public engagement, bringing communities, schools and families together through accessible and creative science activities. Showcase events included Macnas at Marina Market in Cork and Luke Jerram’s Museum of the Moon in Dublin.

Science Week’s reach demonstrates Research Ireland’s commitment to ensuring that people across Ireland can access, understand and engage with research.

Pictured at Science Week 2025 in Cork, spectacular theatre company Macnas showcased a powerful new production exploring the theme of biodiversity loss. Audiences were immersed in a vivid experience featuring drummers, stilt-walkers, a giant puppet and a Moon tower installation, all woven into a narrative highlighting the urgent need to protect Ireland's natural habitats.

Image: Emilija Jefremova

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03.

Talent: Empowering People

Talent: Empowering People

Ireland is renowned for its talent. A thriving society and economy, an innovative public service and a competitive higher education system require a diverse pipeline of trained researchers who are motivated, supported and have the space to pursue new knowledge, collaborate and realise their ambitions.

Research Ireland plays a crucial role in strengthening Ireland’s research and innovation system by investing in national and world-class talent at every career stage, from postgraduate researchers and early-career investigators to established research leaders.

By championing interdisciplinary approaches, discovery, creativity and innovation across all disciplines, we are translating new knowledge and ideas that can benefit people and communities in every part of the country, while strengthening Ireland’s long-term competitiveness.

What follows are examples from across the system, reflecting the strength of continued investment in talent, career pathways, skills, leadership and impacts, supporting long-term resilience and research capacity.



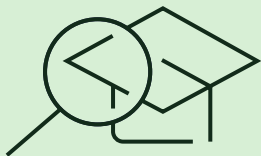
8,241
people working on Research Ireland-supported projects



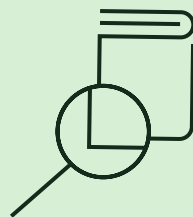
1,032
funded investigators and co-principal investigators



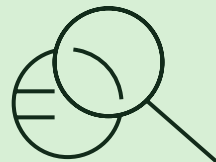
3,230
PhDs funded across all disciplines



1,487
postdoctoral fellows funded across all disciplines



5,887
research publications reported



9
projects received €17.7m through Research Ireland’s Infrastructure Programme

Snapshot

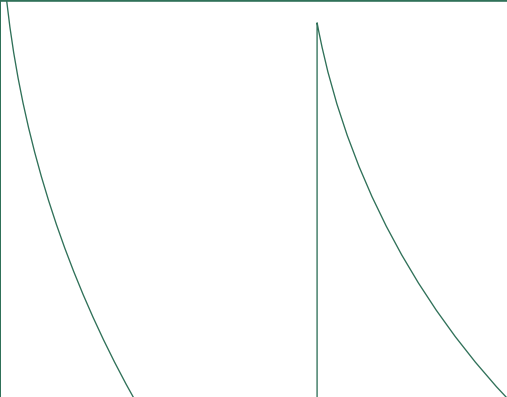
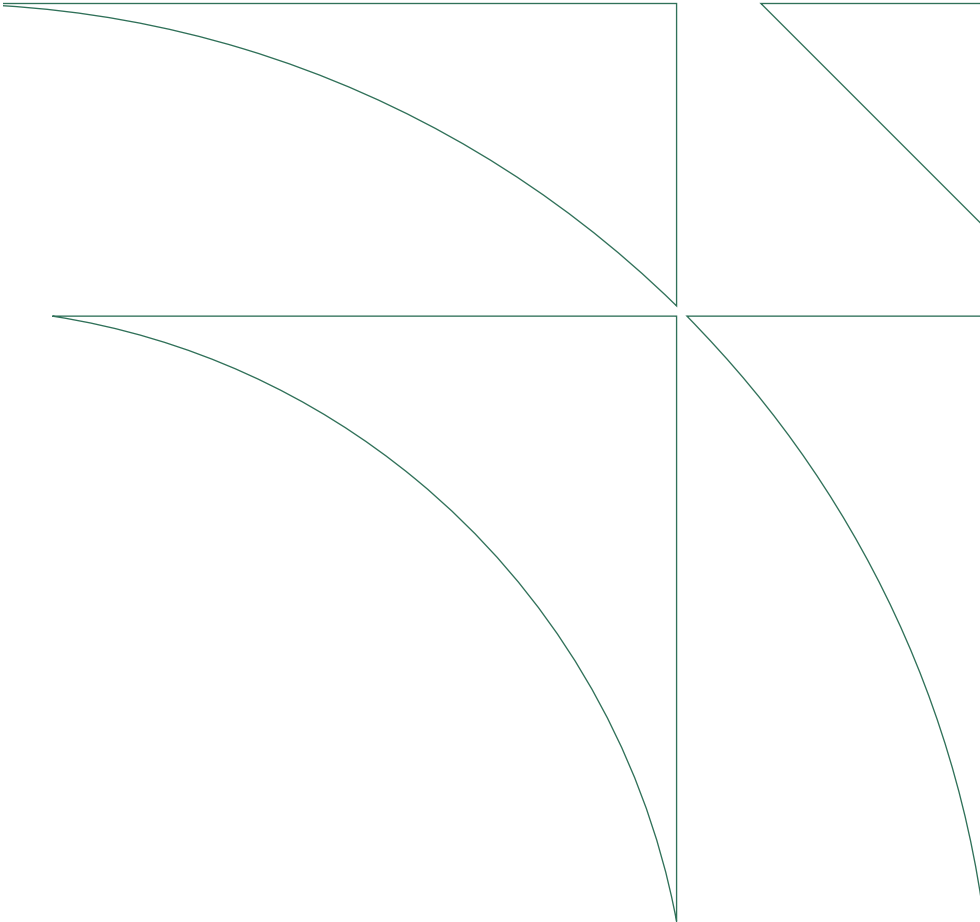
Attracting outstanding research talent

The **Global Talent Ireland Programme** was launched in July 2025 by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD to bring outstanding mid-career rising stars and established research leaders to Ireland.

It received exceptional international interest and highlighted Ireland’s growing appeal as a place to build a research career across all disciplines. With over 170 expressions of interest received from across the globe, it demonstrated that researchers across the world view Ireland as a stable and collaborative environment in which to carry out their work.

As a strategic leader in building active partnerships across the research and innovation system, Research Ireland is managing the programme with an annual budget of €8 million and expects to fund approximately 15 researchers over its first six years, including support for their research activities and the establishment of their research teams. The programme will fund research across all disciplines within Research Ireland’s remit, with a focus on strategic areas of importance to Ireland.

This work will deepen our national capability and support Ireland’s goal to strengthen a competitive and knowledge-driven economy.



Snapshot

Pushing the frontiers of Irish research

The **Frontiers for the Future Programme** delivered two major funding announcements in 2025, backing curiosity-driven ideas with high potential.

Minister James Lawless announced €23.6 million for 23 grants across artificial intelligence (AI), healthcare, agriculture, energy and transport. Examples included an AI-powered cardiac MRI at Dublin City University (DCU); an RCSI study investigating the long-term effects of Covid-19 on children’s gut bacteria, social skills and language development; research at the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) exploring microorganisms in seaweed to identify compounds that could improve crop yields; and work at the University of Limerick (UL) applying machine learning to datasets while prioritising privacy and clear communication. These awards supported 86 research positions including postdoctoral researchers, PhD students, research assistants and support staff.

A further €34.5 million was announced in November, to support 39 grants across 12 research institutions. Projects included developing new materials for longer-lasting, more sustainable batteries; an RCSI designed biodegradable 3D-printed stent material to help heal spinal fractures caused by osteoporosis; and a UCC developed computer model to better predict long term outcomes for babies affected by birth-related oxygen loss.

These awards included co-funding by Children’s Health Foundation, Breakthrough Cancer Research and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, supporting 66 PhD students, 47 postdoctoral researchers and 13 additional roles.

Together these awards reflect a strong commitment to discovery research with the potential for significant positive benefits. In the future, the programme will be open to all disciplines.



Pictured (l-r): Dr Aamir Hameed, Dr Ciara Murphy, Minister James Lawless TD and Dr Jennifer Dowling, at RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences at the Frontiers for the Future announcement.**Image:** Finbarr O’Rourke Photography

Bringing a forgotten filmmaker back into focus

While Ireland’s filmmaking and acting talent continues to captivate audiences around the world, two Irish researchers have shone a spotlight on a filmmaker whose work had almost slipped out of national memory.

That filmmaker was Flora Kerrigan, a Cork artist active in the late 1950s and early 1960s whose films once drew considerable national and international attention. Her animations and live-action shorts were broadcast on RTÉ and screened at international amateur film festivals, earning press coverage in Irish newspapers and specialist film magazines. However, her work gradually faded from Ireland’s film history, leaving a notable gap in the record of women’s contributions to Irish film.

Decades later, Kasandra O’Connell and Dr Sarah Arnold came across surviving reels during their research on women’s amateur filmmaking, kept safe by Kerrigan’s family. Kasandra has led the Irish Film Archive (IFA) at the Irish Film Institute (IFI) for more than 20 years and is now completing a PhD at UCC with a **Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship**. She is examining the history and politics of film preservation, and how institutional decisions and cultural attitudes have historically shaped what media was saved.

This has highlighted how easily women’s creative work can disappear from the historical record, and how preservation policies and practice shape cultural memory.

The research of Dr Arnold, Associate Professor of Media Studies at Maynooth University (MU) shows that, despite her youth, Kerrigan was an artist ahead of her time, exploring themes such as death, destruction and desire, placing her at the forefront of creative shifts in mid-20th-century Ireland.

Supported by a **New Foundations** award, they have been working to catalogue and contextualise Kerrigan’s films, restore much of her work and help bring her films to new audiences through the IFI Archive Player. In doing so, they are providing Ireland with a richer and more accurate understanding of its creative past.

Read more:
[RTÉ Brainstorm - Flora Kerrigan](#) →
[Flora Kerrigan History Ireland](#) →



Pictured: Examining documents in the IFA.
Image: Al Higgins

Pictured (l-r): Dr Sarah Arnold and Kasandra O'Connell in the Irish Film Institute's Irish Film Archive (IFA).

Image: Al Higgins



Snapshot

Shaping tomorrow’s research leaders

The **Research Ireland Centres for Research Training (CRT) Programme** was designed to develop the highest-level PhD skills and excellence in areas of strategic importance to Ireland, such as AI, data science, genomics, digitally enhanced reality and advanced networks for sustainable societies.

As a cohort-based PhD model, it has trained 740 students across Ireland, with 308 having successfully completed their PhD to date. This programme ensures we can meet the demand for industry-ready research talent in critical areas, where 27% of PhD graduates have transitioned directly into private sector roles, as their first destination. Women make up 41% of students, and close to 50% have completed industry placements.

Host institutions span the country from MU, UCC, UCD, UL, TCD and University of Galway, while non-academic collaborations have included partners in enterprise, charities and the public sector. Phase two of the CRT Programme is now in development.

In October 2025, TU Dublin-based PhD researcher, Moazzam S. B. Syed from the ADVANCE CRT for Sustainable Societies, won the Digital Green Tech Award for High Potential in Sustainable Development, presented by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR). This highly competitive international award recognises outstanding early-career researchers.

Moazzam’s research focuses on leveraging digital innovation and information systems to support data-driven decision-making and policy for environmental sustainability. He was listed in Ireland’s 30 Under 30 Top Tech Innovators 2025 by the Business Post.



Pictured: TU Dublin-based PhD Researcher, Moazzam S. B. Syed from the ADVANCE CRT.

Image: Moazzam S.B. Syed

Snapshot

Advancing epilepsy care

PhD researcher Francesca Lembo, based within the Forster Research Group at DCU and part of the FutureNeuro Research Ireland Centre for Translational Brain Science, is investigating how biosensor technologies could support earlier and more accurate diagnosis of epilepsy.

Epilepsy diagnosis often depends on capturing an unpredictable seizure during clinical monitoring, leaving many people in a prolonged period of uncertainty where symptoms are real, but answers are not.

Francesca’s research focuses on biological signals in the blood, including microRNAs that may change in predictable ways as epilepsy develops or responds to treatment. By integrating these biomarkers into a point-of-care biosensor platform, her work aims to complement clinical expertise with objective biological data rather than relying solely on witnessing seizures. Alongside being a multifaceted diagnostic tool, affordability and accessibility are at the forefront of her research, given that around 80% of people living with epilepsy globally are in low- and middle-income countries.

Her work also demonstrates the importance of developing strong research talent across the system. By supporting researchers at early-career stages, we can build the expertise needed to advance new diagnostics and technologies, while translating emerging scientific insight into meaningful improvements in care.

This work builds on more than a decade of collaborative research within FutureNeuro and its partner institutions. Early studies led by Prof David Henshall, Prof Robert Forster and clinical collaborators, including Prof Norman Delanty and colleagues at Beaumont Hospital, demonstrated that electrochemical sensors could detect epilepsy-related microRNAs, including miR-134, at ultra-low concentrations in patient plasma, with initial findings published in 2015.

Since then, the focus has shifted from detecting single biomarkers to reliably capturing weak biological signals in very small volumes of biofluids such as plasma and cerebrospinal fluid, driving the development of integrated, sample-to-answer microfluidic platforms. Francesca’s research represents the next step in this journey, advancing multianalyte sensing, an important step in complex neurological conditions where no single biomarker can capture the full biology.

By enabling richer diagnostic information through faster, less invasive and more scalable approaches, this work brings the field closer to practical, point-of-care tools with real potential to impact clinical decision-making.



Pictured: PhD researcher Francesca Lembo, part of the FutureNeuro Research Ireland Centre for Translational Brain Science.

Training Ireland’s next generation of space talent

Ireland’s first space satellite, EIRSAT-1, re-entered Earth’s atmosphere in September 2025, having successfully completed its two-year historic mission. Launched in 2023, the UCD-built satellite’s success demonstrated the country’s ability to design, build and operate a satellite, strengthening national expertise and laying the foundation for future growth in the Irish space sector. During its time in orbit, the Gamma-ray Module (GMOD) instrument on-board successfully detected 12 cosmological gamma-ray bursts and two solar flares, demonstrating the performance of the novel in-house developed technology led by EIRSAT-1 system engineer and GMOD instrumentation expert, Dr David Murphy.

The mission has trained more than 50 students, many under the supervision and mentorship of Profs Lorraine Hanlon and Sheila McBreen, helping to train a new generation of Irish space scientists. Primarily postgraduate researchers in physics, engineering, computer science and mathematics, the cohort included 13 PhD students funded by IRC scholarships, and the mission was also supported by the Education Office of the European Space Agency (ESA).

Prof Lorraine Hanlon’s €998k **Frontiers for the Future** grant has focused on building on EIRSAT-1, using nanosatellites as a disruptive technology platform for innovation and research in the global space sector. Director of UCD’s Centre for Space Research and EIRSAT-1, she is a former Chair of ESA’s Astronomy Working Group and is an advisor to Ireland’s ESA Science Programme delegate.

Prof Sheila McBreen, an astrophysicist at UCD’s School of Physics, was the Science Lead on the mission and GMOD. Prof McBreen, who has worked in ESA and the Max Planck Institute and held a Marie Curie Fellowship, has built upon a Career Development Award with a €1 million **Frontiers for the Future** award to further explore gamma-ray bursts. She has a long-standing commitment to gender equality in science.

The result of more than a decade of research, Profs Hanlon and McBreen have supported a significant pipeline of space talent and skills, ensuring graduates are working at the frontiers of next-generation technologies and bringing that expertise to industry.



Pictured (l-r): Profs Lorraine Hanlon and Sheila McBreen, UCD.
Image: Al Higgins

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Pictured (l-r): Profs Lorraine Hanlon and Sheila McBreen, UCD.
Image: Al Higgins

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Snapshot

Strengthening climate communication

Dr Sarah Josefine Schaefer, at the University of Limerick’s School of Modern Languages and Applied Linguistics, is leading a research project that examines how journalists talk about climate change and how newsroom practices shape this reporting.

With a **Research Ireland Pathway** award cofunded with the Environmental Protection Agency, her work focuses on what happens behind the scenes in newsrooms. This includes the language practices that influence how journalists report on climate issues and engage their audiences. Drawing on a comparative study of Irish and German media and an analysis of media coverage over time, the project explores the factors that lead to misrepresentations, insufficient coverage and human-centred portrayals of the climate crisis.

A key element of the project is knowledge exchange with media practitioners to understand the challenges journalists face when reporting on climate change and to support greater awareness of how language shapes climate communication.



Watch video →



Pictured: Dr Sarah Josefine Schaefer, University of Limerick.
Image: Sarah Schaefer

Snapshot

Strengthening leadership in quantum research

Prof J. C. Séamus Davis returned to Ireland from Cornell University in 2019, having taken up a **Research Professorship** award at UCC under a joint appointment with the University of Oxford, where he is also supported through an ERC Advanced Grant and Royal Society Professorship.

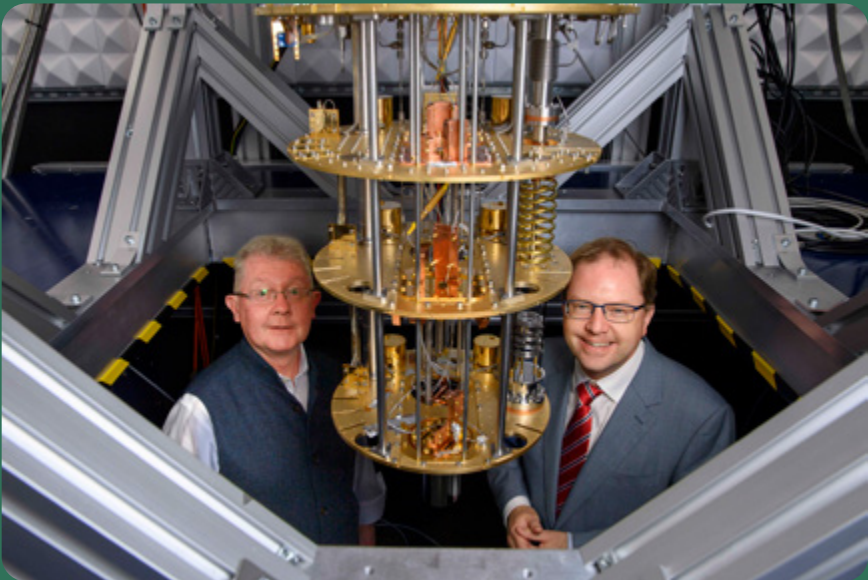
Since then, he has achieved several world-leading discoveries in the physics of quantum matter, working at the interface between discovery and innovation. His pioneering work allows researchers to extract direct atomic-scale imaging of even the most complex electronic structures, giving them an almost instant and complete profile of quantum materials.

Quantum computers are anticipated to be thousands or millions of times more powerful than silicon-based semiconductor computers, with the world’s leading companies racing to gain leadership in the field. The Nobel Prize in Physics 2025 was awarded for superconducting quantum computers, and it is at the frontier of superconductivity research that Prof Davis concentrates much effort.

Prof Davis’ outstanding research achievements include the design and demonstration of the first spectroscopic imaging scanning tunnelling microscope and the first scanned Josephson tunnelling microscope, and the discovery of several new phases of electronic matter. In 2023, he received the Oliver E. Buckley Prize in Condensed Matter Physics from the American Physical Society, becoming the first Irish winner of this highly prestigious award.

In 2025, Prof Davis secured second-term Research Ireland funding to continue his joint appointment at UCC. His lab is training early-career researchers who are growing Ireland’s strong reputation for creating quantum materials, inspiring new quantum technologies and driving European research excellence.

His work is helping us to better understand the universe in which we live, with the potential to accelerate truly transformative advances in science, industry, the economy and society.



Pictured: Prof Séamus Davis with Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD, at the Quantum Spin Noise Microscope in UCC.

Image: Daragh Mc Sweeney/Provision



04.

Society: Driving Solutions

Society: Driving Solutions

Research and innovation play a central role in supporting a strong, inclusive and resilient society. Across disciplines, researchers delivered insight and practical evidence that helped address issues affecting everyday life, from health and wellbeing to climate resilience, education and social cohesion.

Ireland continues to face complex and interconnected challenges, including environmental change, public health pressures, housing, demographic shifts and trust in public institutions. Responding to these challenges requires research that draws on diverse expertise and is grounded in lived experience. Research Ireland’s funding portfolio reflects this breadth, supporting work that improves understanding, informs policy and supports better decision-making.

Collaboration is central to this approach. In 2025, researchers worked closely with policymakers, public bodies, civil society organisations and communities to ensure research is relevant and useful. The examples in this chapter show how research, delivered in partnership, can contribute to positive change and improved outcomes for people and communities across Ireland.

**8 winners,
and 96 teams**

supported through the National
Challenge Fund

30 years

of public engagement at Science Week, with

532 events

held across Ireland

**7 projects awarded
€2.1 million**

funding under the Research Ireland –
Innovating in Health and Wellbeing Challenge

1,115 engagements

between Research Ireland-funded
researchers and Government Departments
and agencies

837 engagements

between Research Ireland-funded
researchers private foundations, charities
and NGOs

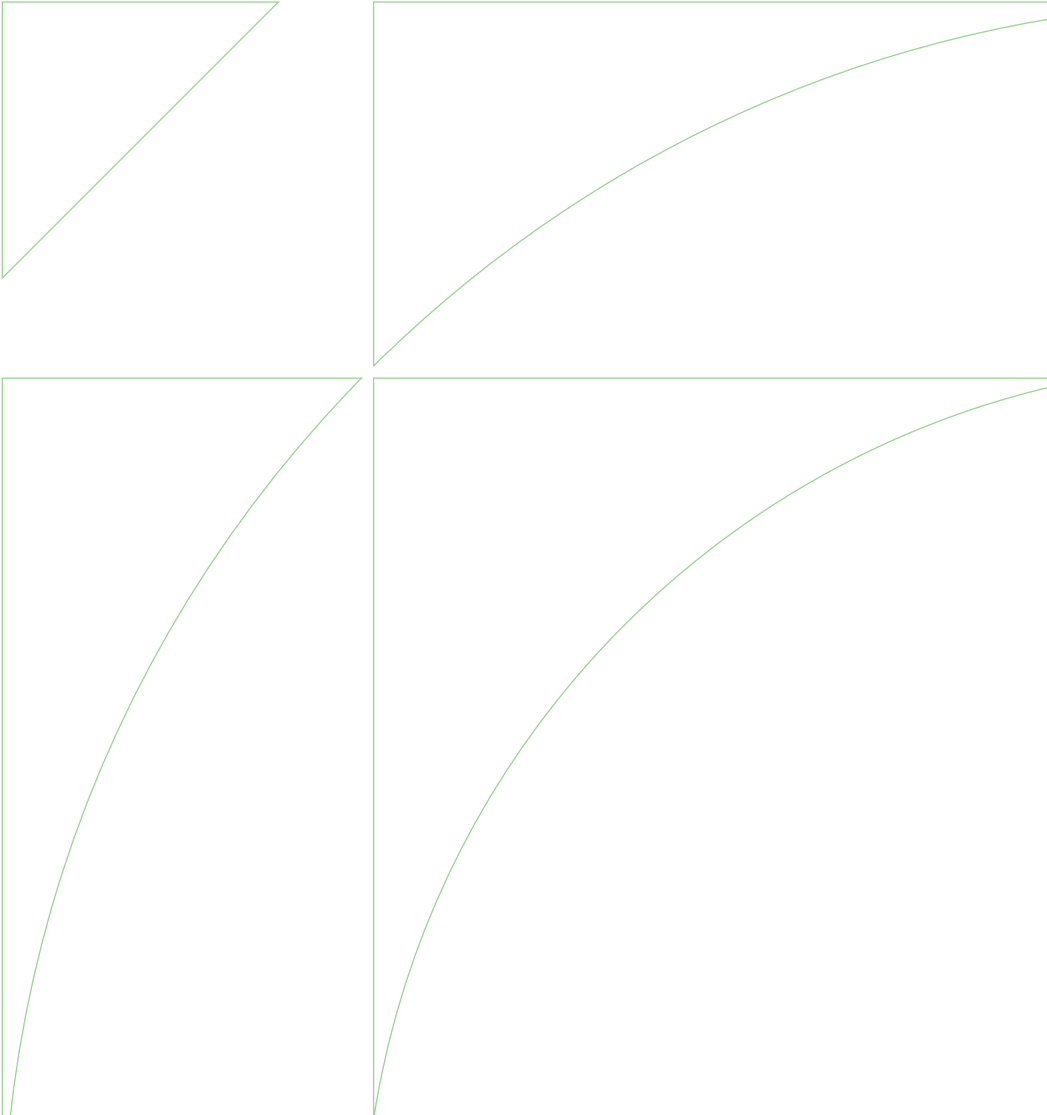
Supporting Public Policy and Government Strategy

Research Ireland contributed to the development of new government strategies such as the Digital and AI Strategy, and the implementation of existing strategies such as the Climate Action Plan, Quantum 2030 and Impact 2030 by participating in cross-government implementation and working groups.

In 2025, the Science Policy Research Programme, which focuses on projects to better understand the research and innovation system and provides tangible recommendations to improve policies and practices in Research Ireland and the wider system, supported six new projects. Research Ireland hosted a workshop in May 2025 which focused on increasing Ireland’s national and international collaboration on meta research. The meeting was opened by Prof James Wilsdon, Professor of Research Policy, University College London and Executive Director of the Research on Research Institute (RoRI), and featured panel discussions and international perspectives from Japan, Canada, Poland, the Netherlands and Czechia, as well as talks from previous Science Policy Research award holders, Prof Helena Lenihan (UL) and Prof Dieter Kogler (UCD).

Oireachtas Committee

Research Ireland presented at the first meeting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Artificial Intelligence on 10 June, providing an opening statement and answering questions on the topic of AI and its societal implications. The agency was represented by senior leadership and supported by expert contributors in the field, including Prof Alan Smeaton and Dr Susan Leavy from the Insight Research Ireland Centre for Data Analytics. The engagement allowed Research Ireland to share evidence-based insights on AI research, governance and skills development, and to support the Committee’s consideration of the opportunities and challenges arising from AI in Ireland.



Collaboration at the heart of challenge-based research

Challenge-based research funding is a solution-focused approach that directs funding towards solving specific societal, economic, or technological problems. It empowers researchers to tackle real-world problems by co-developing solutions directly with those most affected. Through co-funded challenge programmes, delivered in partnership with Irish Aid (Department of Foreign Affairs), the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces, and Gas Networks Ireland (GNI), Research Ireland has directed funding towards targeted national and international challenges.

The **Sustainable Development Goals Challenge** Programme, delivered in partnership with Irish Aid, uniquely enables collaboration between researchers based in Ireland and in Irish Aid partner countries. In 2025, six research teams were awarded €2.2 million to advance SDG 2: Zero Hunger. Funded projects focus on practical innovation, including strengthening digital health systems in Uganda to tackle hunger and malnutrition, using AI in Vietnam to support high-yield rice production under climate pressure, and developing solar-powered crop-processing technologies in Zimbabwe to reduce post-harvest losses for smallholder farmers.

Projects funded in earlier rounds of this programme are now delivering meaningful impact on the ground. **SURG-Water**, led by Prof Kevin McGuigan and Dr Jakub Gajewski, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, with Prof Christabel Yollanda Kambala, Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) is addressing the chronic lack of safe water in rural maternal healthcare facilities in Malawi, where only around 3% of facilities meet WHO basic sanitation standards. The SURG-Water system collects rainwater from healthcare facility roofs, treats it using solar-driven disinfection, supplying safe drinking water directly to maternity wards. Developed in close partnership with local health workers and communities, the project exemplifies the programme’s focus on solutions shaped in partnership with those most affected by the problem.

The co-funded **Research Ireland - Defence Innovation Challenge** supports research aligned with Ireland’s defence and security needs. In 2025, €3.2 million was awarded to 10 research teams working on challenges identified by the Defence Forces, including maritime situational awareness, search and rescue, aeromedical emergency dispatch, and advanced shelter concepts. Members of the Defence Forces, Civil Defence and the Office of Emergency Planning are embedded in each research team, bringing frontline experience and operational knowledge into the design and development of the projects.

The **Research Ireland–Gas Networks Ireland Innovation Challenge**, co-funded with GNI, is a new €2.7 million partnership which will support research on renewable gas, energy system integration, and intelligent network technologies. The programme is focused on developing practical solutions that can accelerate Ireland’s transition to a low-carbon energy system.

Together, these partnerships underpin Research Ireland’s challenge-based approach to funding, using defined phases and stage-gated funding, in which stakeholders are not passive beneficiaries but active co-creators, helping to drive decisions, shape outcomes, and ensuring that innovation delivers real and meaningful benefits.



Watch video →

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Pictured (l-r): Bobby Gleeson, Chief Operating Officer, Gas Networks Ireland with Dr Ruth Freeman, Director, Research for Society at Research Ireland at the announcement of the Research Ireland–Gas Networks Ireland Innovation Challenge.
Image: Fintan Clarke

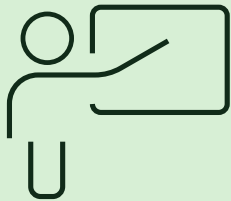


Education and public engagement

Research Ireland supports and delivers education and public engagement (EPE) activities across Ireland, bringing research to life to ensure it is accessible in all corners of society across the country. Our public engagement programmes do this through a variety of imaginative and innovative formats, with a particular focus on improving access for underrepresented groups. Our education programmes promote curiosity and hands-on learning, supporting the development of research skills for the 21st century.

Research Ireland promotes an engaged research model in its EPE funding programmes. This is a collaborative approach where researchers work alongside community and stakeholder partners throughout the research process. This aims to maximise societal impact by combining lived experiences with academic knowledge to address real-world issues.

1,796



primary and second level school teachers received CPD training through Curious Minds and ESERO Ireland programmes

1,162



primary school students participated in an online workshop for World Space Week with ESERO Ireland and Dream Space

1,852



schools tuned in to the Curious Minds Science Week online school show, reaching over 46,000 students

3,777



students met scientists and engineers through the ESERO Space Goes to School Programme

1,352



second level school students and Youthreach centres tuned in to the ESERO Ireland Inspiring Space Career Chats during Science Week

Supporting space education

ESERO Ireland, co-funded by Research Ireland and the European Space Agency (ESA), delivered a range of education and engagement activities in collaboration with partners across the country. These included events during Space Week and Science Week – a Space Education Confluence for Junior Cycle teachers, a Space Careers Roadshow and Inspiring Career Chats live stream for second-level students, Space Goes to School with MTU Blackrock Castle Observatory for primary students, and a collaboration with Dream Space for a World Space Week online workshop.

ESERO Ireland also collaborated with partners funded through the **Research Ireland Discover Programme** including Dr Niamh Shaw with Town Scientist and Baking in Space, DIAS Dunsink Observatory with Space Crafts, and 5*S in Maynooth University.

As part of the ongoing career inspiration strand, the ESERO Ireland team interviewed ESA astronaut Rosemary Coogan who was in Dundalk for a ‘Baking in Space’ event during Science Week 2025.



Pictured: Youthreach and secondary school students hearing from three Irish space professionals at ESERO’s Science Week Career Chats at Microsoft Dream Space.

Image: Research Ireland



Pictured (l-r): Dr Niamh Shaw with ESA Astronaut, Rosemary Coogan, at the Science Week Baking in Space event, Dundalk.

Image: Niamh Shaw Ltd.

Pictured: Renowned artist Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon came to Merrion Square Park, Dublin, for Science Week 2025.
Image: Julian Behal Photography



Breaking barriers to STEM education nationwide

The All Ireland STEM Passport for Inclusion expands access to STEM education for learners from underserved and working-class communities. The initiative is supported through the **Discover Programme**, including two co-funded awards with the Department of Education. Early support has enabled a focused pilot to scale to national delivery across 23 counties and 117 schools.

Created at Maynooth University and co-designed with Microsoft Ireland’s Dream Space team, the programme addresses unequal access to STEM pathways. It provides a university-accredited Level 6 qualification that can award up to 60 Leaving Certificate bonus points. Participants also receive structured mentoring from industry professionals.

A broad partnership underpins delivery. Research Ireland, the Department of Education, Microsoft, AMD, Optum, Fexco, Intel, Designer Group, Murtagh, the Construction Industry Federation, John Paul Construction, KPMG, Mastercard, Clonmel Enterprises, Bennett Construction, CS Consulting and Mastertech have all contributed more than 2,524 mentoring hours, work-based learning opportunities and over €3.3 million in funding to scale the programme.

The programme has reached 6,370 students, most of whom are Transition Year girls in DEIS and rural schools and evaluation findings show measurable change. Awareness of STEM rose by 50% and 79% of students are now considering studying STEM at third level.

Partner institutes include Maynooth University, MTU, ATU, TU Dublin and TUS, to deliver the accredited learning. The programme has trained 966 mentors and engaged 324 teachers in equity based practice and it is referenced in the Gender Balance in STEM Education Implementation Plan and in Ireland’s Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Early-stage Discover funding helped catalyse this progress, enabling collaboration across education, government, industry and community partners, and translating research evidence into practical opportunities and equity for learners.



Pictured (l-r): Prof Katriona O’Sullivan, Maynooth University and STEM Passport for Inclusion Project Lead, with students Naserine Hassaine, Josephine Fagbemi and Alice Adeyem, at Coláiste Chú Chulainn, Dundalk.

Image: Aishling Conway, Maxwell Photography

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Snapshot

Young people with vision loss discover coding

In 2025, the VisionCode project marked an important step forward in expanding equitable access to digital skills for young people who are blind or have low vision. Supported through the **Research Ireland Discover Programme**, the project brought together TCD and Fighting Blindness to deliver a hands-on coding experience using Micro:bit kits and Python. Delivered through a blend of online sessions and an in-person family-based workshop, the programme built on an earlier pilot.

Through collaborative teaching and accessible design, learners gained practical coding skills and confidence to improve their skills and potential future career paths. Of the 27,000 young people aged 10–20 in Ireland with sight loss, only 55 currently study STEM at university. By addressing barriers, VisionCode is helping to broaden a diverse pipeline of talent.



Pictured: VisionCoder Hanna Ciesielka weaves a programmable e-textile patch with encouragement from her dad.

Image: Michael Foley

Reconnecting communities through heritage

The Archaeology of the Irish Revolution project examined the rural landscape of East Limerick to document the material traces of the War of Independence and the Civil War. Led by Prof Joanna Brück at UCD, the work formed part of the **COALESCE** INSTAR+ strand and was funded by the National Monuments Service in partnership with the Heritage Council. The INSTAR+ strand provides opportunities to realise the potential of Ireland’s archaeological record, transforming our understanding of Ireland’s past and present.

A team of field archaeologists and historians collaborated with local communities and museums to record the physical remains of the revolutionary period, a fragile and at-risk heritage resource. They identified, mapped, and recorded several hundred sites linked to Republican activity, including safe houses, dugouts and arms dumps. Each site helped to reconnect East Limerick to the people, events and memories of its revolutionary past, an important component of placemaking in the present.

The project produced an immersive story map presenting detailed information, maps and images of the recorded sites as well as academic papers and an Archaeology Ireland Heritage Guide. A database of revolutionary sites and features will also be submitted to the National Monuments Service for inclusion in the Archaeological Survey of Ireland as part of the project archive, and to the Heritage Council for its Heritage Maps viewer.

This work ensures that the research will inform heritage policy, local engagement and future scholarship across multiple disciplines. It demonstrates how an archaeological perspective can illuminate Ireland's complex recent history, with research grounded in the arts, humanities and social sciences.



Pictured: A researcher records a dugout which served as the headquarters of the East Limerick Brigade of the IRA during the War of Independence.
Image: Joanna Brück

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Snapshot

GeoFib: optical fibre earth sensing suite

Researchers at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) are transforming how Ireland monitors its environment by repurposing ordinary fibre-optic cables into super-sensitive sensors. The GeoFib infrastructure employs advanced Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS) and emerging Microwave Frequency Fibre Interferometry (MFFI) technologies to continuously monitor and detect changes in the Earth’s ground and crust, metre by metre, over lengthy distances covered by existing fibre-optic routes. This represents the first DAS system made openly available to the academic community in Ireland.

The technology senses subtle environmental changes with extraordinary precision and detail, capturing microseism signals influenced by ocean and weather patterns. This increases our understanding of Earth’s systems, empowers researchers to study Earth’s processes at new scales, and helps communities anticipate risks with greater confidence.

The project directly advances Ireland’s national climate resilience priorities by delivering cost-efficient, high-resolution sensing, enabling the generation of long-term, continuous datasets across wide areas. This enhances response plans to both rapid-onset events and slower, climate-driven environmental changes. Additionally, GeoFib reinforces national resilience by contributing to the development and protection of critical infrastructure.

By partnering with government departments and other stakeholders, GeoFib can be used on a national scale to support transport planning, environmental oversight and offshore dynamics. It enables timely, detailed insight about ground movements or structural stress, supporting safer infrastructure management. Crucially, GeoFib leverages existing public optic fibre infrastructure with minimal disruption or cost.

This project was funded under the **Research Ireland Research Infrastructure Programme 2023: Decarbonisation.**



Pictured (l-r): The GeoFib team - Dr Georgios Aias (University of West Attica, Greece), Prof Adonis Bogris (University of West Attica, Greece), Prof Chris Bean (DIAS), Dr Nicolas Luca Celli (DIAS) and Dr David Craig (DIAS) - working on Microwave Frequency Fibre Interferometry (MFFI) in Galway.

Image: Louise Collins

From flood forecasting to child safety

The **National Challenge Fund** is an ambitious, competitive funding programme established under the Government’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), funded by the EU’s Recovery and Resilience Facility. It supports researchers to work directly with government departments, enterprise partners, the academic community and societal stakeholders to identify priority issues and shape solutions to national challenges. The breadth of projects supported also highlights how challenge-based funding enables targeted innovation across diverse areas.

StopFloods

Floods are among the most common and deadly weather-related natural disasters. StopFloods, led by Dr Indiana Olbert and Dr Thomas McDermott, at the University of Galway, with Dr Ciaran Broderick from Met Éireann, is developing an AI-powered, real-time flood forecasting system that integrates meteorological, tidal and river flow data. By turning fragmented data into clear and actionable insights, the team aims to help emergency managers and communities anticipate, prepare for and respond to flood threats more effectively.

GroSafe

Digital environments have become common settings for child grooming, increasing risks for children and young people who are vulnerable to manipulation, exploitation and abuse by individuals who seek to build trust with the intent to harm. The GroSafe project, led by Dr Christina Thorpe and Dr Matt Bowden of TU Dublin, with Fiona Jennings from the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, has developed a technology-enabled safeguarding platform to equip children and caregivers with practical tools to reduce exploitation, encourage safe disclosure and build societal resilience.

Traceless

Forests are crucial to environmental health and human well-being, yet the use of plastic tree supports during tree plantation undermines the ecological benefits and contributes plastic pollution to forests and waterways. The Traceless project, led by Dr Yuanyuan Chen from TUS and Prof Maurice Collins from UL, along with Maurice Ryan from Green Belt Ltd., has developed fully biodegradable, durable, tree-supporting products. This can help position Ireland as an innovative leader in green forestry practices, while enabling compliance with EU regulations on plastic reduction and improving soil health.



Pictured (l-r): Dr Ke Gong, Post-Doctoral Researcher, TUS; Dr Yuanyuan Chen, Traceless Team Lead, TUS.

Image: Johnny Mallin

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Snapshot

Witnessing War, Making Peace

Despite a war of independence (1919-21) and civil war (1922-23), Ireland’s experience of violence was relatively restrained compared to much of inter-war Europe, and it returned to stability remarkably quickly.

Research Ireland **Advanced Laureate Award** recipient, Anne Dolan, Professor in Modern Irish History at TCD, leads Witnessing War, Making Peace, investigating how people in Ireland experienced the War of Independence and Civil War, focusing on bystanders and ordinary women and men whose testimonies formed some of the earliest written accounts of events.

Drawing on thousands of inquests and court records, the research builds the first qualitative analysis of violence and restraint in Ireland from 1912 to 1923. Pension records, court files and compensation claims provide further insight into how individuals adapted to new institutions after the conflict. The research is uncovering experiences of conflict, blending methodological approaches to write a new history of violence and restraint.



Pictured (l-r): The Witnessing War, Making Peace research team, Dr Susan Byrne, Prof Anne Dolan, Dr Anna Devlin, and Gregory Walls.
Image: Joseph Clarke

Snapshot

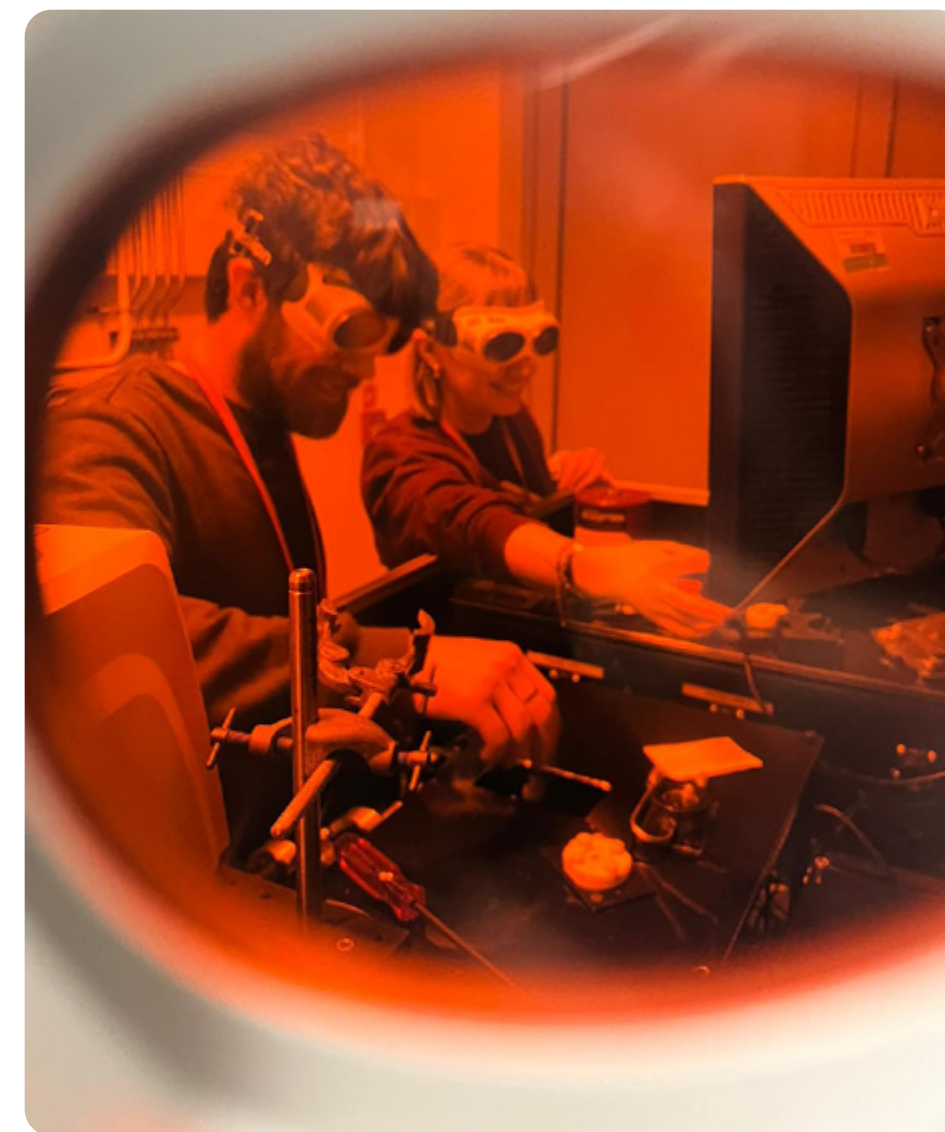
Sustainable pathways for medicines of the future

Prof Gerard McGlacken at UCC is advancing research to make pharmaceutical manufacturing more sustainable. Supported through the **Frontiers for the Future** Programme, his work focuses on developing new chemical processes that avoid the use of palladium, a precious metal widely used in drug production, and replace it with earth-abundant manganese.

Manganese is widely occurring and affordable and Prof McGlacken's team is developing tailored reaction conditions that enhance manganese's performance, supporting more resilient, environmentally responsible pharmaceutical manufacturing in Ireland and beyond.

Early findings from the project highlight the potential of manganese-based catalysis. The team has shown that [manganese performs particularly well](#) when supported on a solid material, enabling efficient, well-controlled reactions relevant to pharmaceutical manufacturing. The researchers are [providing insights](#) into its viability as a practical and sustainable alternative to precious metal systems.

Prof McGlacken's work contributes to wider efforts to reduce reliance on scarce materials, especially those mined in geopolitically sensitive areas, and advance more sustainable chemical processes across the sector.



Pictured (l-r): PhD student Ben O'Donoghue with Dr Abigail Firth work on manganese at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire.

Image Dr Jonny Eastwood

Snapshot

Predicting seizures before they happen

The PAWSENSE research project is exploring whether assistance dogs equipped with wearable technology can detect epileptic seizures before they happen. Led by Profs Alan Smeaton and Tomás Ward at the Insight, Research Ireland Centre for Data Analytics at DCU, the project builds on evidence that dogs can sense subtle changes in human scent linked to shifts in volatile organic compounds, which may happen before a seizure.

Dr Shelley Brady, a Postdoctoral Researcher at Insight DCU, works on the project. Her expertise in animal behaviour analysis, assistive technology, epilepsy and seizure-alert dog research, strengthens the team’s multidisciplinary approach.

Dogs are trained to recognise these scent cues and to respond with a specific alert behaviour. A collar, fitted with motion sensors, can automatically notify a designated contact with the individual’s GPS location. This early warning offers people valuable time to reach safety and ensure that support is available when needed. Dogs for the Disabled manages the matching, training and ongoing support for the dogs involved.

More than 45,000 people in Ireland live with epilepsy, and many experience seizures without warning. A dependable alert system may reduce risk and ease daily anxiety. Although still in development, PAWSENSE shows how technology and behavioural insight can work together to improve safety and confidence in everyday life, while maintaining a strong focus on dog welfare throughout the process.



Pictured (l-r): Halin Song, Research Assistant at Insight with Prof Alan Smeaton.

Image: Louise Holden



Pictured (l-r): Amy Barter and Cheryl Nolan, members of the Insight DCU team with dogs from project partner, Irish Dogs for the Disabled.

Image: Louise Holden



Pictured: Prof Gilmartin's team at Maynooth University exploring community responses to migration.

Image: Mary Gilmartin

Migration insights from an advanced laureate awardee

Migration is one of the most pressing global, national and local challenges of our time.

Under a **Research Ireland Advanced Laureate Award**, Professor of Geography at Maynooth University, Mary Gilmartin, is examining how societies respond to migration and how care can offer a more constructive way forward. Finding that responses to migration are often short-term, reactive and defensive, her work is informed by feminist, decolonial and intersectional perspectives. It investigates how care is already practised and how it can guide wider social and policy thinking.

The project uses spatial ethnography to map local responses to recent migration, with a focus on the care work carried out by individuals and groups in particular places. The research team are studying national and transnational advocacy groups

and how they mobilise care to influence policy and practice, and interviewing staff of migrant-supporting organisations about their motivations, and the challenges they face in influencing policy and practice.

They have worked with the Irish Refugee Council to update their online support maps and also examined how communities across the country mobilised at short notice to provide shelter and opportunities to people displaced by the war in Ukraine.

The team has found that support and care for migrants in Ireland is widespread and ongoing, despite anti-migrant and anti-migration protests. With detailed fieldwork, they are learning about and making visible the rich tapestry of care that features in communities across Ireland, and are focused on telling these stories, based on research and in conjunction with artist collaborators.

Research Policy Updates

External equality, diversity and inclusion strategy 2023–2028

During 2025, Research Ireland, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and in collaboration with LaunchPAD, developed and implemented a [Disability Policy](#). The policy aims to provide Research Ireland-funded grant holders and their team members with supplementary budget for the costs of required, eligible reasonable accommodations, where those costs are not available via other existing funding mechanisms.

This action forms part of our commitment to **equality, diversity and inclusion**. Specifically, we commit to increasing the engagement of Historically Underserved Communities in the design, conduct, and evaluation of research, as well as minimising barriers to participation in the research endeavour. To ensure that its disability policy is providing the supports anticipated, Research Ireland will engage in iterative consultation with all stakeholders.

Promoting gender diversity

Research Ireland launched a new [Gender Dashboard](#) providing an analysis of gender-disaggregated data across a cohort of funding programmes since 2011. One of several actions undertaken to address the underrepresentation of women in grant funding, it enables an open and transparent analysis of data arising from different programme funding calls.

The analysis aims to expose unintended biases that may exist in Research Ireland’s grant review processes by examining application success rates and funding amounts across different funding programmes by gender (binary). The Agency has been collecting applicants’ gender (binary) data since 2011. Identifier options for applicants currently extend beyond binary, however, those data are excluded from the analysis due to privacy considerations. The dashboard indicates that there are no apparent biases in Research Ireland’s review process. Specifically, the overall year-on-year success rates for men and women are comparable.

Supporting research excellence

Research Ireland continued to engage with the global research community as a member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA). The Coalition’s vision is that the assessment of research, researchers and research organisations recognises the diverse outputs, practices and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research.

Realising this vision requires basing assessment primarily on qualitative judgement, for which peer review is central, supported by the responsible use of quantitative indicators. As part of its commitment, Research Ireland has published its first CoARA Action Plan, which is available [here](#).

During 2025, Research Ireland continued its participation in several **CoARA Working Groups**, supporting the implementation of CoARA’s ten core commitments, including Experiments in Assessment, which is piloting an Ideas Catalogue Platform resource for trialling ‘experimental’ research assessment initiatives such as lotteries and Narrative CVs. This catalogue will provide resources and implementation guidance and is expected to launch in 2026.

Research Ireland continues to advance the use of the **narrative CV** in grant evaluation processes, highlighting the broader impacts of an applicant's research history, for a more holistic review of an applicant's achievements. During 2025, policies and processes promoting good research practice, research integrity and reproducibility, continued to be reviewed, some of which have been incorporated into our grant management workflows.

Research Ireland is also a member of the Improving Practices in the **Assessment of Research Proposals Working Group** which is exploring how to better align funders' assessment practices with CoARA Commitments such as recognising diversity in research and qualitative-led assessment, and incorporating the perspectives of administrators, policymakers, research institutions and the wider research community. A report will be finalised and launched in 2026.

During 2025, Research Ireland remained an active member of the [Irish CoARA National Chapter](#), and was also represented on the [Global Research Council Reforming Research Assessment Working Group](#), which promotes collaborative learning and the collective understanding of responsible approaches to research assessment globally, complementing the efforts and actions championed by DORA and CoARA.

The data provenance review process continues to be part of the mid-term progress review of a grant (site visit). Evidence supports that this process raises awareness of effective data management practices and integrity in all aspects of Research Ireland funded research and has helped to embed a research culture based on strong principles of good research practice. Data Management Plans are also required for most Research Ireland programmes at the application stage.

A series of **Research Integrity and interactive Data Management (DMP)** Workshops for Research Ireland staff were held during October 2025, exploring how staff can identify and handle issues that may emerge during the grant evaluation and management processes.

Supporting open research practices

In April 2025, Research Ireland published an [Interim Open Research Policy](#). The policy builds upon the legacy agencies' Open Access policies and continues to support the goals of Ireland's **National Action Plan for Open Research**. Funded researchers are required to provide immediate open access to research publications, without embargo, and under a CC BY licence. Publications must be deposited in an open repository, and authors are strongly encouraged to retain copyright of their research outputs. Research Ireland is committed to accelerating the implementation of open research practices

across the Irish research ecosystem. While the policy sets out requirements mostly applicable to peer-reviewed journal articles, future updates will aim to align with international best practice by addressing a more diverse range of research outputs.

During 2025, Research Ireland continued to work closely with the consortium of Irish research libraries (IReL) and the **National Open Research Forum (NORF)**, towards implementing measures to support a transition towards open research. Research Ireland is actively contributing to several NORF-funded projects and to initiatives that have resulted from completed projects. In 2025, Research Ireland committed to continuing its membership of **cOAlition S** and with these international colleagues, continues to accelerate the transition towards an equitable and sustainable open access landscape.



05.

Economy: Strengthening Competitiveness

Economy: Strengthening Competitiveness

A strong, sustainable economy depends on research that supports policy, innovation, competitiveness and growth across enterprise. By engaging closely with indigenous companies, multinationals, start-ups and investors, research helps businesses develop new products and services, gain insights, improve processes and respond to changing markets.

Research Ireland’s investments support this connection between research and enterprise. Through large-scale programmes, national centres and co-funded initiatives, researchers and industry partners work together to address shared challenges and opportunities. This collaboration helps create the skills, knowledge and intellectual property that underpin commercial activity and long-term competitiveness.

In 2025, collaboration between enterprise and the research community supported innovation across regions and sectors, strengthening Ireland’s research and development ecosystem for SMEs and multinational companies alike.

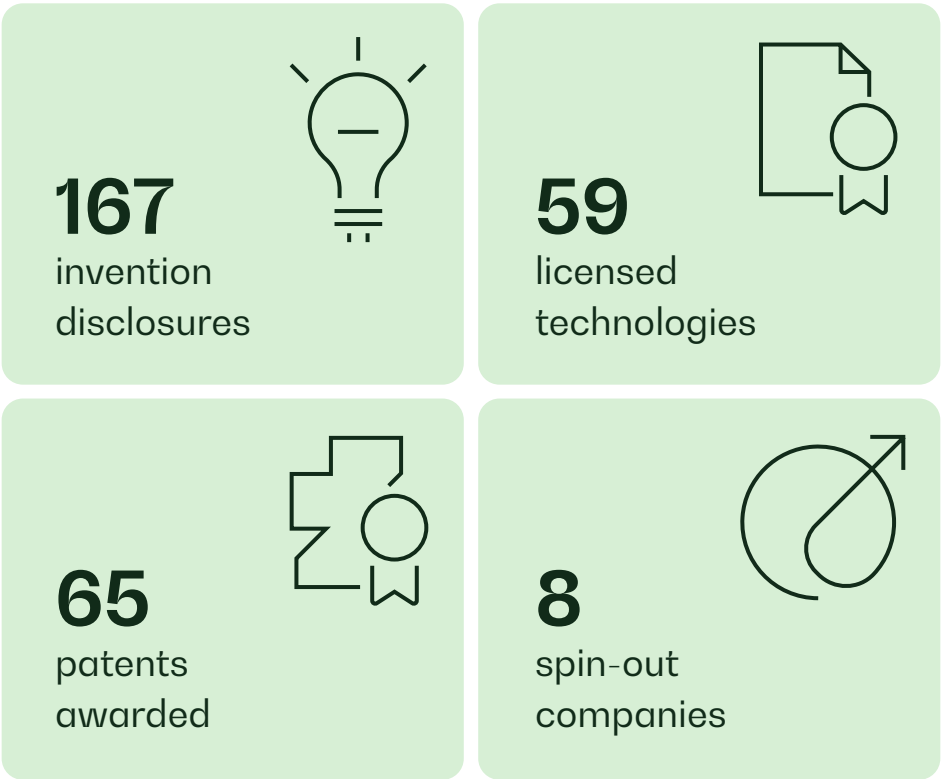
The stories in this chapter show how Research Ireland supports research translation, entrepreneurship and sustained collaboration. This work is helping to increase private sector research activity, attracting and retaining investment, and supporting the growth and resilience of enterprise to deliver lasting economic benefit for people across Ireland.

Engagement beyond academia



Innovation and commercialisation

Research Ireland funded researchers have delivered approximately:



Snapshot

ARC Hubs: from research to real world impact

The establishment of three **Accelerating Research to Commercialisation (ARC) Hubs** marked a significant development in supporting the translation of research into real-world impact. The programme was designed to address a long-identified gap in Ireland’s support for commercialising breakthrough research. Co-funded by the Irish Government and the EU under two European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programmes - the Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027 and the Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027, the initiative created national hubs to guide high-potential research towards commercialisation, creating new products, processes and services.

The **ARC Hub for Therapeutics** at TCD is advancing novel therapies. At TU Dublin, the **ARC Hub for ICT** is accelerating translational research in ICT and AI. As noted by its Director,

Prof Sarah Jane Delany, “The ARC Hub for ICT builds on Ireland’s thriving research community by creating a clear entrepreneurial pathway from ideas to commercial impact.” In the Northern and Western regions, the **ARC Hub for HealthTech** at the University of Galway is supporting technology-centred or technology-enabled tools, devices, data or systems for health and healthcare delivery.

Each hub acts as a distributed consortium of Research Bodies, creating an ecosystem of researchers, entrepreneurs, investors and industry partners. Through targeted supports such as bespoke training, mentorship, market validation, IP management and funding access, ARC Hubs can help research teams move beyond the lab and into the marketplace and develop commercially viable solutions. Together, the hubs strengthen Ireland’s capacity for research-driven innovation.



Pictured (l-r): Dr Diarmuid O’Brien, CEO of Research Ireland, Prof Sarah Jane Delany, Director of the ARC Hub for ICT, Frank Fowley, TU Dublin researcher and founder of Road AI, Dr Deirdre Lillis, President of TU Dublin, and Sofia Alves, Director, DG Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission, at the launch of the ARC Hub for ICT at TU Dublin.

Image: Hu O’Reilly, Glasseye

Advancing regional development and research capacity

A major investment in cardiovascular research facilities at the University of Galway is strengthening clinical research capacity in the west of Ireland. A team led by Prof Faisal Sharif has developed a new cardiovascular research centre built around a dedicated research CT scanner.

The CT scanner makes it possible to carry out complex cardiac imaging with protected time for research participants. The scanner delivered 1,400 scans in its first 18 months. New imaging software allowed the team to examine coronary blockages in detail and tailor treatment plans for individual patients. The research group has generated a large dataset which has led to the identification of a biomarker for early-stage coronary artery disease.

This facility has strengthened Galway’s capacity to host international clinical trials. Global pharmaceutical companies have selected the site for trials because of its high-quality imaging and strong patient recruitment. The team has completed a first in-human device trial and continues to grow a self-sustaining model with a staff of 16 funded through trial activity, supporting Galway’s strong role in medtech research and industry collaboration.

In Waterford, the SEAM Research Centre at South East Technological University (SETU) launched Ireland’s largest Industrial CT and X-ray Imaging Solutions Centre. The €2.2 million high-power scanner, funded through a **Research Ireland Infrastructure Programme award**, expands SEAM’s ability to analyse large and dense samples, such as electric vehicle batteries, enhancing the region’s ability to collaborate with industry. The new facilities deepen economic impact by providing advanced imaging and materials capabilities that align with national sustainability objectives.



Pictured (l-r): Members of the cardiovascular research team in Galway, clinical nurse manager, Eileen Coen, Prof Faisal Sharif, and CV research manager, Ruth McLoughlin.
Image: Martina Regan

Snapshot

Personalised Cancer Care

Director of Systems Biology Ireland at UCD, Prof Walter Kolch, leads Precision Oncology Ireland (POI), Ireland's largest cancer research programme.

Supported by the Research Ireland **Strategic Partnership Programme**, POI initially brought together five universities, six charities and seven industry partners with the shared mission of transforming how cancers are detected, diagnosed and treated. Its second phase launched in October 2025, marking a significant step forward in investment, scale and ambition, expanding to include six academic partners, 15 charities and non-profit organisations and 10 industry partners.

POI researchers and partners are looking beyond the ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to cancer treatment by developing more precise diagnostics and tailored treatments for

cancer patients across Ireland. The programme has expanded genomic sequencing for childhood cancers, resulting in more accurate diagnoses and helping clinicians to identify less toxic treatments for young patients. The use of computational ‘digital twin’ models to predict how tumours will respond to different treatments has already triggered new clinical trials for pancreatic cancer.

It has fostered a highly collaborative ecosystem in which lab-based discoveries can be rapidly translated into positive clinical outcomes. By enabling earlier detection and improved survival rates for diseases like oesophageal, blood and breast cancer, it is strengthening Ireland’s cancer research ecosystem, while directly improving patient care.



Pictured (l-r): Siobhan Gaynor, Advanced Cancer Patient Council member and patient researcher; Prof Donal Brennan, Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist at the Mater Hospital, and Deputy-Director of POI; Prof Walter Kolch, Director of Precision Oncology Ireland and Systems Biology Ireland (UCD); Dr Siobhan Roche, Director of Research for the Economy, Research Ireland; Prof Kate Robson Brown, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact.

Image: Angela Halpin Photography

Snapshot



Pictured: Staff at Mbryonics’ new Shannon facility, where the Galway space-tech company is building its second manufacturing site, Photon-2.

Fueling skills and innovation in Ireland’s space sector

Mbryonics’ expansion in Galway marks a pivotal moment for Ireland’s evolving space and photonics industry. With the opening of the Photon 1 manufacturing facility in Dangan in 2025 and the creation of 225 new roles by the end of 2026, the company is scaling its operations.

Founded by siblings Ruth, John and David Mackey, Mbryonics was spun out of the world-leading Applied Optics Group at the University of Galway. What began in academia has evolved into an innovation-driven industrial R&D company with a strong commercial footing.

Mbryonics places a high value on expert knowledge and research capability. With 40 PhD graduates, the company applies advanced science to develop market-ready solutions. It also operates an in-company training model, hosting eight PhD candidates through the Marie Curie MWP4Space programme and participating in the Immersive Software Engineering programme at the University of Limerick.

Through its engagement with Research Ireland, Mbryonics supports an Industry Research Fellowship focused on terabit-per-second satellite laser communications and maintains collaborative research agreements with Research Ireland Research Centres, including work with CONNECT on free-space optical communications. These activities complement wider national and European collaborations, including DTIF-funded projects supported by Enterprise Ireland, participation in the ECO-eNET programme and work with ESA Phi-Lab and Irish Manufacturing Research on materials science and precision 3D-printing techniques to produce StarCom chassis in a sustainable, space-age alloy.

The close links between research and industry are best illustrated by the career paths within Mbryonics, including an alumna of UCD’s EIRSAT-1 mission who now works as a systems test engineer, alongside colleagues from NASA’s JPL and Amazon Kuiper.

Mbryonics’ trajectory reflects the growing alignment of research excellence, industrial capability and talent shaping Ireland’s space sector.

Leveraging funding

Research Ireland-funded researchers demonstrated research excellence, relevance, return on investment and value for money in 2025, winning €300 million from diverse sources, including:

€129m
in EU funding

€76.6m
from private enterprise

External funding secured by Research Ireland-funded researchers 2025

Source	Funding secured
European Union	€129,032,096
Private Enterprise	€76,649,263
Enterprise Ireland – Commercialisation and Non-Commercialisation Awards	€23,988,944
Other Irish Government Source	€25,046,728
Health Research Board	€9,564,632
Charity/Non-Profit Organisation (Irish)	€5,911,473
Charity/Non-Profit Organisation (International)	€4,561,660
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	€7,419,975
Other International Interest Organisation	€431,077
Wellcome Trust	€3,952,035
Other International Government Source	€5,281,290
Environmental Protection Agency	€8,051,939
Marine Institute	€2,151,907
Higher Education Authority Ireland	€5,539,979
Teagasc	€1,010,500
National Institute of Health USA	€1,479,000
National Science Foundation US (NSF)	€15,000
IDA Ireland	€10,000
Grand Total	€310,097,500

Research Ireland Centres

The Research Ireland Centre Network was established in 2012 to position Ireland as a global knowledge leader by developing a set of world-class, large-scale national Research Centres that deliver economic and societal impact. The Centres represent a cumulative Research Ireland investment of **€766.7 million**.

Today, the network promotes discovery, innovation and collaboration across academia, government and industry - strengthening Ireland’s research ecosystem and driving competitiveness in key strategic areas such as AI, medtech, energy, advanced manufacturing, health, materials and the bioeconomy.

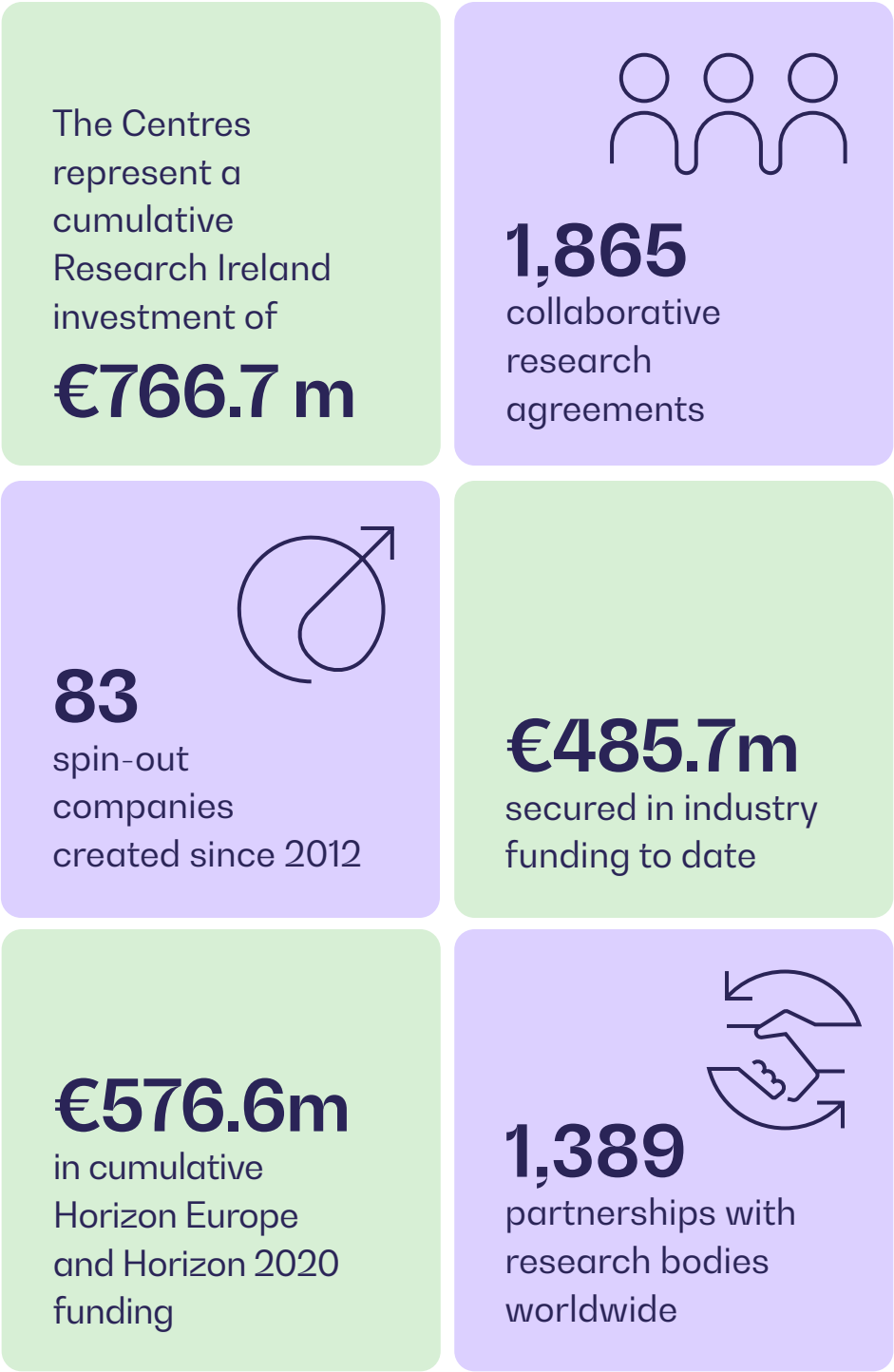
The centres play a key role in developing talent by providing advanced training for PhD students and early-career researchers, who will become the next generation of research and industry leaders.

A resilient, innovation led economy requires a research system that engages dynamically with both indigenous enterprise and FDI companies to enhance their innovation capacity and long-term competitiveness. The Centres support innovative research and regional development, attracting and developing a strong pipeline of research talent in Ireland with critical, in-demand skills.

To date, the Centres have signed **1,865** collaborative research agreements with **952** companies, including **464** based in Ireland. These collaborations span a diverse industry base, comprising **455** multinational companies and **441** small and medium-sized enterprises, alongside a range of start-ups and other organisations. Collectively, this engagement has translated into significant industry investment, with **€485.7 million** secured in industry funding to date. Alongside industry investment, the Centres have secured **€726.5 million** in non-exchequer, non-commercial (NENC) funding, highlighting their success in attracting diversified external investment.

The Centres have also delivered strong commercial outcomes, supporting the translation of research into real-world impact. Since 2012, this has included the award of **596** Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Awards, the completion of **433** licence agreements, and the creation of **83** spin-out companies. In addition, **22** Spoke Awards have been granted, allowing Centre’s to work with additional businesses and research organisations to develop new projects that respond to emerging needs and opportunities.

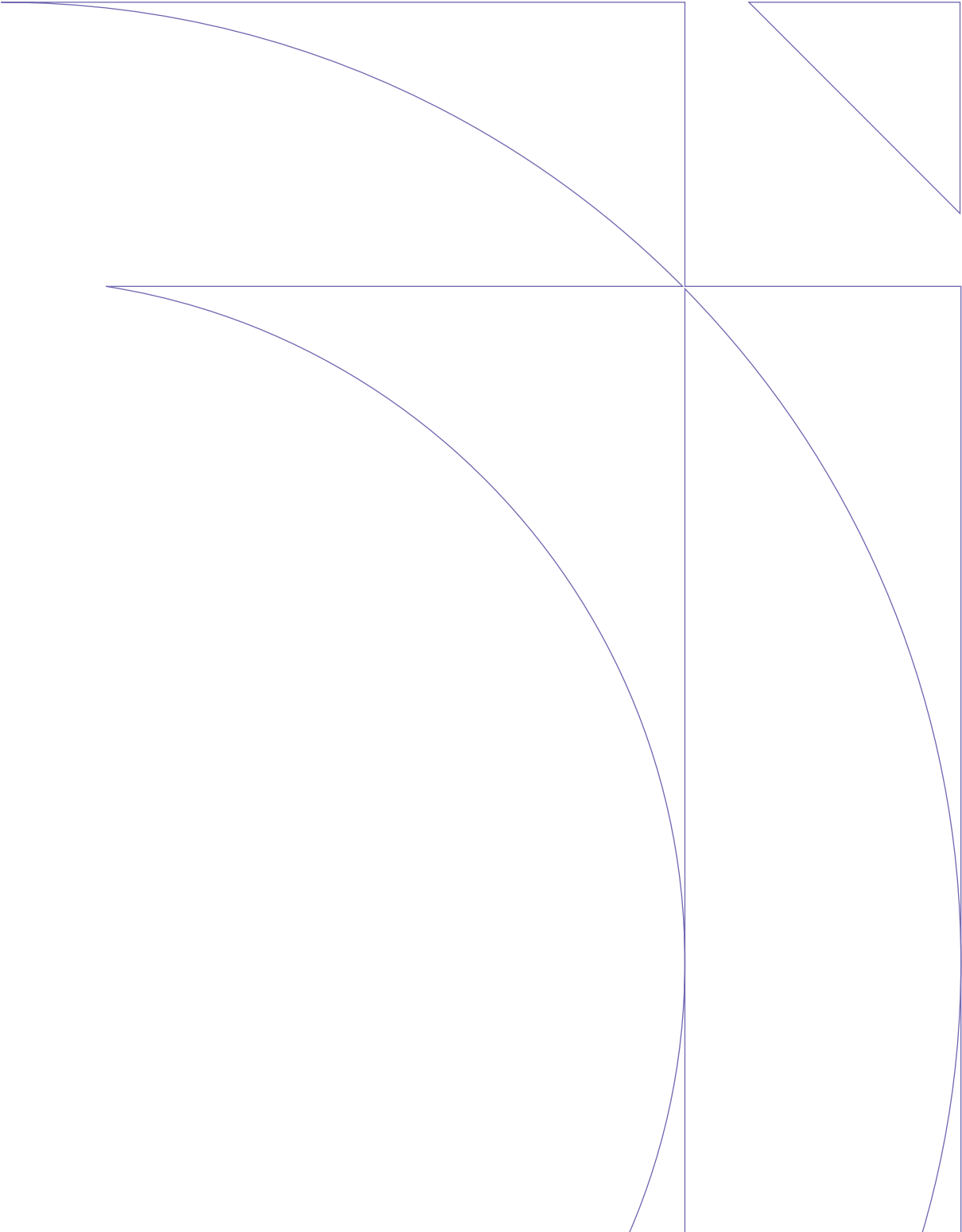
The Centres connect scientists and engineers through partnerships with **1,389** research bodies worldwide. To date, Research Ireland Research Centres have participated in **1,018** major EU-funded initiatives and collectively secured **96** prestigious European Research Council (ERC) awards. This engagement has resulted in the drawdown of approximately **€576.6 million** in cumulative Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 funding.



During 2025, the Centres strengthened industry collaboration through the signing of **119** new collaborative research agreements, resulting in **€34.7 million** in industry commitment across cash and in kind support.

By delivering breakthroughs in strategically important fields and fostering deep industry collaboration, the Research Ireland Centres play a vital role in strengthening Ireland’s innovation leadership and ensuring the country remains competitive in a rapidly evolving global economy.

Combined cumulative outputs for Research Ireland Research Centres to end of 2025	
Journal Publications	20,036
Conference Publications	8,641
MSc/MEng Graduates	249
PhD Graduates	2,690
% Trainee Departures to Industry	35%
EU Participation	1,018
EU Coordination	225
ERC Awards	96
EI Commercialisation Awards	596
License Agreements	433
Spin-outs Incorporated	83



Mitigating Methane: The Greenhouse Gas Hub

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, and reducing emissions from ruminant livestock is a key challenge for Ireland’s dairy industry, with significant research and innovation underway to address this across the sector.

The VistaMilk Research Ireland Centre for science and digital innovation in pasture-based dairy. VistaMilk is headquartered at Teagasc Moorpark and is uniquely co-funded by Research Ireland and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Over the past seven years VistaMilk has worked to develop strategies, data and technologies that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by dairy farming. VistaMilk is a global pioneer in measuring methane in grazing dairy cows and now has the largest database globally on the methane emissions of grazing dairy cows across the year.

The Greenhouse Gas Hub is a collaborative project supporting co-funded research to take place between VistaMilk and five leading dairy co-operatives: Carbery Group, Dairygold, Kerry Dairy Ireland, Lakeland Dairies and Ornuu. It brings together research excellence, industry leadership and farmer-focused solutions to support Ireland’s transition to a more sustainable, low carbon dairy sector.

The hub is focused on understanding enteric methane emissions from pasture-based dairy systems and developing practical mitigation solutions. Its findings will support strategies to help Ireland’s dairy sector meet national climate targets while maintaining farm economic viability.

This initiative builds on a strong body of research carried out during the first phase of VistaMilk, including work to improve the accuracy of methane emission predictions for dairy production systems. That research has provided evidence that enteric methane emissions from pasture-based systems are 8 to 10% lower than previously thought. Additional studies have also delivered new insights into how enteric methane varies in response to pasture characteristics, genetics, feeding and management.



Watch video →

Dr Ben Lahart, Funded Investigator with VistaMilk, notes: “Our ambition is to support a dairy sector that is both profitable and sustainable. This new co-funded project aims to harness the very best of Irish research and industry collaboration to reduce emissions while maintaining economic viability.”

The Hub will provide farmers with clearer data and guidance on their emissions, and industry with robust sustainability reporting to help reduce carbon footprints, reinforcing Ireland’s international reputation as the leader in low-carbon pasture-based dairy production.



Pictured (l-r): Denis O’Neill (VistaMilk), Karen Dawson (Teagasc), Eva Griffin (Ornuu), Pdraig Walsh (Carberry), Enda Buckley (Carberry), Colman Purcell (Dairygold), Kirsten Gluck (Ornuu), Rory Farrell (Lakeland Dairies), Ben Lahart (Teagasc, VistaMilk), Niall McLoughlin (Lakeland Dairies), Sean McCarthy (Kerry Dairy Ireland), Laurence Shalloo (Teagasc, VistaMilk), Conor Fitzpatrick (VistaMilk).

Image: Eimear Hutchinson

Pictured: Clare Watson and Nora Greaney from the **Dingle Peninsula 2030 project**, which aims to see a 50% reduction in carbon emissions in just under 10 years, and has seen over 3,500 members of the community actively engage with research partners and local enterprise in the transport, tourism and farming sectors to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon society in Co Kerry.

Image: Corca Dhuibhne Inbhuanaíthe / A Creative Imagining Project

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Snapshot

ADAPT spin-out Akara earns spot on Time’s best inventions 2025

Akara, a robotics spin-out from the ADAPT Research Ireland Centre for Aldriven Digital Content Technology at TCD, was featured in Time Magazine’s Best Inventions of 2025.

The company has developed UV decontamination robots for clinical settings, enabling rapid and highly efficient cleaning of hospital wards and operating theatres, building on over a decade of robotics and AI research conducted at TCD. Akara emerged from ADAPT’s applied research environment, with roots in TCD’s School of Engineering. Built on AI, human-centred design and robotics research, the company has grown into an international healthcare technology business.

Akara’s AI sensor supports hospital theatre teams by monitoring activity in real time, tracking surgical events, coordinating staff, issuing alerts and optimising scheduling. Hospitals, including Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles, are already using the technology.

This is the second time Akara has appeared on the Time Magazine list, following its 2019 inclusion for the socially assistive robot, Stevie. They were also included in the [Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe List](#) in 2024. This international recognition

highlights the important role of publicly funded research enabling spin-outs to scale globally and deliver real-world clinical and economic impact.



Snapshot

Spray-on bandage research supported by SSPC

SSPC, the Research Ireland Centre for Pharmaceuticals, supports researchers working on practical solutions to real-world problems. One example is a study that explored a new way to reduce pain during wound care for people living with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB).

The research was supervised by Dr Rob Elmes, an SSPC-funded investigator. Over two years, the study looked at how chemistry could be used to make bandage removal less painful for people with EB, a rare genetic condition that makes skin extremely fragile. Standard bandages can stick to the skin and cause further damage when removed.

The project was led by Maynooth University in partnership with DEBRA Ireland, with support from SSPC. The research team developed a thin protective layer that can be sprayed onto damaged skin and later washed away gently under cold water. This avoids pulling on the skin and reduces the risk of further injury.

By supporting researchers and encouraging collaboration, SSPC is helping to turn research into solutions that can improve daily life. The long-term aim of this work is an affordable, at-home bandage option that could improve quality of life for people living with EB in Ireland.



Pictured (l-r): Grace Callan, Research Officer, DEBRA Ireland; Dr Hilal Kirpik, Postdoctoral Researcher at MU; Dr Robert Elmes, Associate Dean of Research at MU.



06.

Connecting Internationally

Connecting internationally

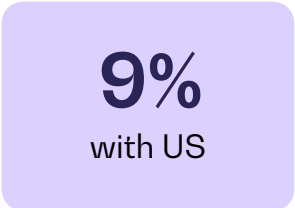
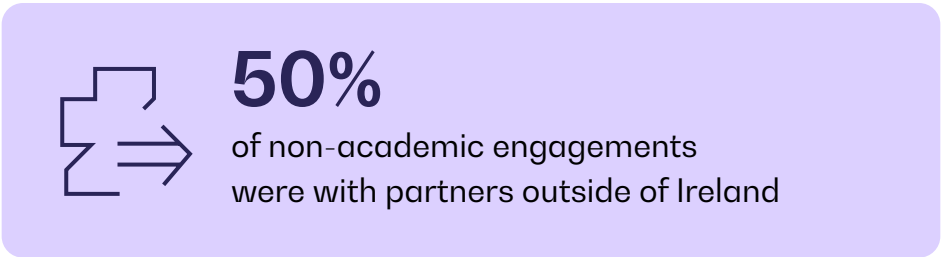
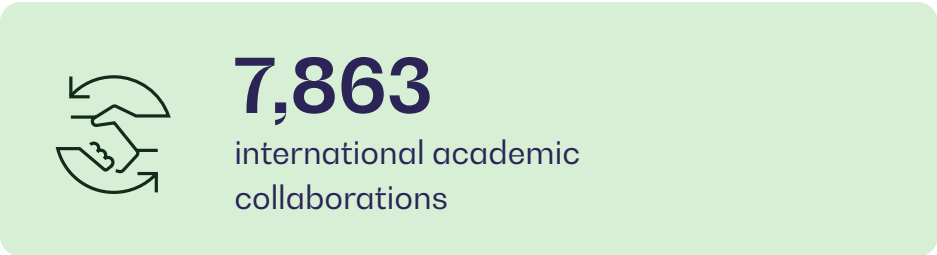
International collaboration remains a core strength of Ireland’s research system. In 2025, Research Ireland-funded researchers worked with partners across Europe, the UK, the United States and beyond, contributing knowledge and solutions to shared global challenges.

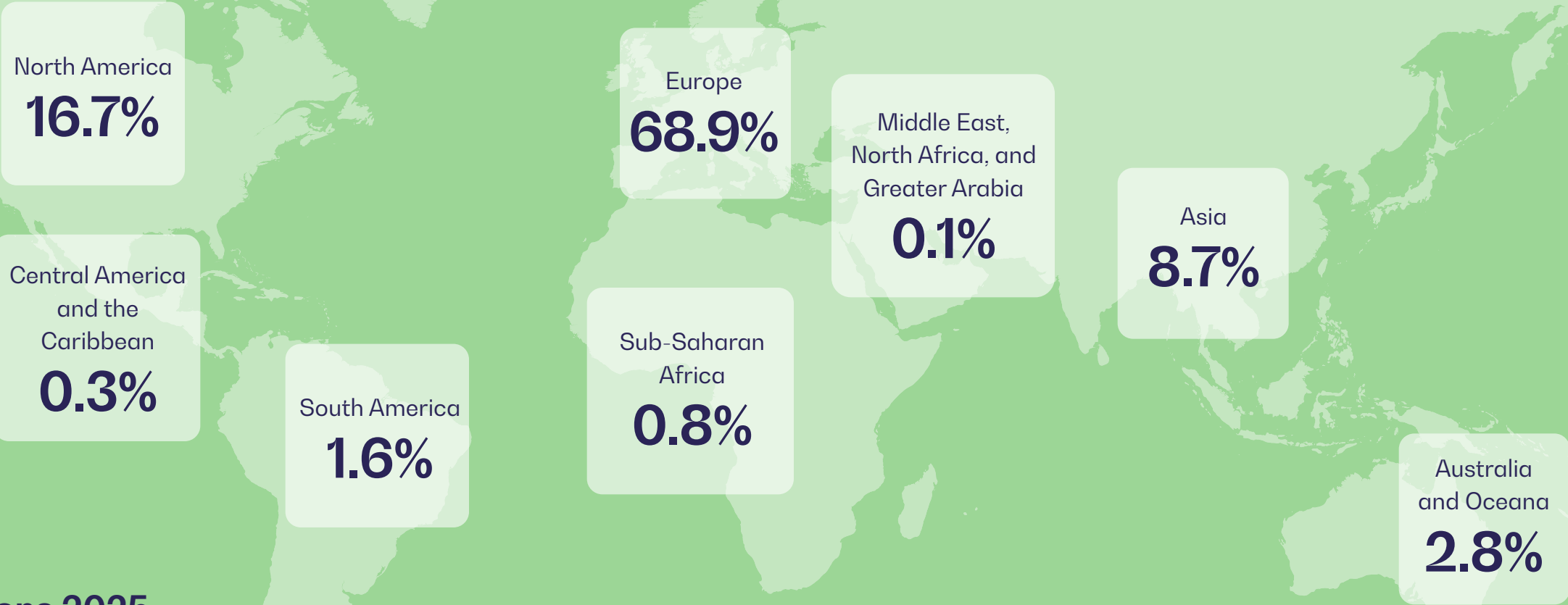
European funding continued to play a central role, with strong performance across Horizon Europe and the European Research Council reflecting the depth of research talent in Ireland. Partnerships with international counterparts also expanded through long-standing programmes and new collaborations, supporting mobility, shared infrastructure and joint research agendas.

Research Ireland’s support for researchers at all career stages helps build skills, networks and experience that strengthen Ireland’s research base at home and abroad.

The stories that follow show how international collaboration strengthens research capability, enhances research quality, builds trust and positions Ireland as a capable and reliable partner in addressing global challenges.

International collaborations





Top 24 International Academic Collaborations 2025

United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland)	1,584
United States of America	1,149
Germany	681
France	465
Italy	427
Spain	387
Northern Ireland	295
Netherlands	282

Sweden	200
China	182
Australia	182
Switzerland	171
Canada	165
Denmark	135
Belgium	131
Portugal	122

Austria	101
India	91
Poland	88
Finland	83
Brazil	81
Norway	69
Greece	64
Japan	60

Building momentum in
ERC excellence

Ireland’s engagement with the European Research Council (ERC) gathered significant momentum in 2025, reflected in an impressive cohort of awardees across all major ERC schemes, national milestones and high-profile international recognition of Irish research excellence. Research Ireland is the ERC National Delegate and National Contact Point.

Success at **Starting Grant** level demonstrated the depth and ambition of Ireland’s early-career research base. Eight Ireland based researchers, working across a broad range of disciplines, secured ERC Starting Grants. These awards reflect not only the quality and originality of emerging research talent, but also the strength of the institutional environments supporting early-career researchers as they compete at the highest European level.

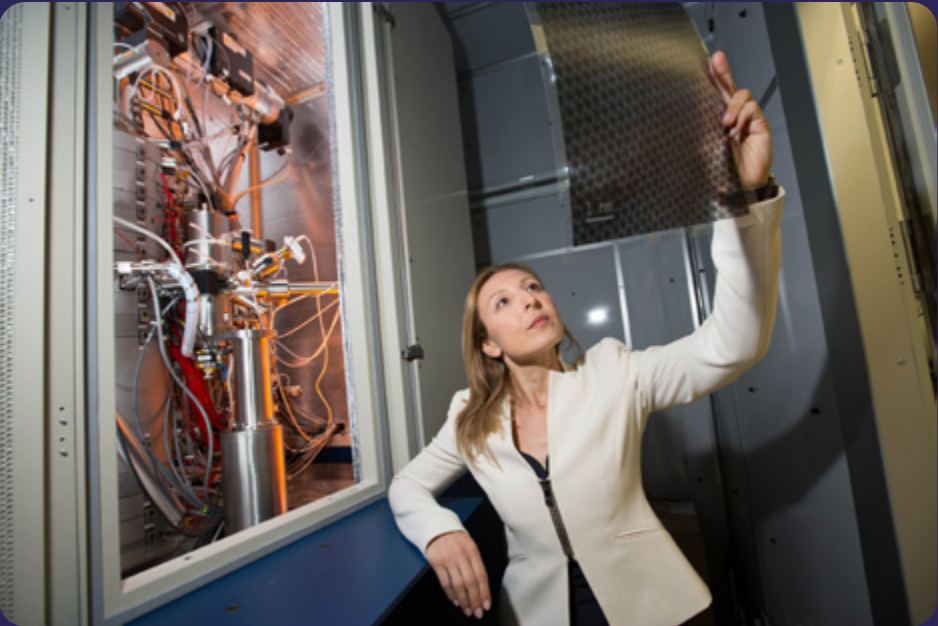
At **Consolidator Grant** level, a further six successes were recorded among midcareer researchers seeking to scale ambitious and independent research programmes. Two Advanced Grant successes announced in 2025 marked a particularly significant achievement for both Prof Kylie Jarrett and Prof Barry Wardell at UCD. These highly competitive grants recognise established research leaders with exceptional track records and bold, high risk research agendas.

Under the **Synergy Grant** scheme, which supports ambitious collaborative projects through interdisciplinary approaches, four Ireland based researchers secured funding, marking 2025 as Ireland’s highest level of success to date in ERC Synergy competitions.

Five Ireland based **Proof of Concept** grants announced during 2025 highlighted the continued impact of earlier ERC investments. These grants support awardees in exploring the innovation and societal potential of ERC funded research, reinforcing the value of curiosity driven research as a foundation for longer term economic and societal benefit.

Prof Valeria Nicolosi at TCD achieved a remarkable eighth ERC grant, the first such achievement in Ireland.

These successes point to a healthy and competitive research pipeline, underpinned not only by individual excellence, but by the dedicated support structures within host institutions, that continue to play a critical role in enabling researchers to compete successfully on the European stage.



Pictured: Prof Valeria Nicolosi, TCD.

Image: Naoise Culhane Photography

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Snapshot

Borders in everyday life – shaping policy

The European Union’s borders have been drawn and re-drawn because of the major geopolitical shifts shaped by EU enlargement, the UK’s exit from the EU, the expansion of the Schengen Area and conflict-related migration, including movement driven by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

EuroBorderWalks, an interdisciplinary European project funded by a **Research Ireland Advanced Laureate** grant and led by Prof Maggie O’Neill at UCC, examines how borders are experienced and remembered. It focuses on three borders at the edge of the EU: Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina, and Poland and Ukraine.

The team works with local communities and civil society groups, using a mix of methods that include ethnographic participant observation, the walking interview as a biographical method (WIBM), autobiographical narrative

interviews, arts-based methods and documentation. This way of working helps uncover both past and present experiences, as well as shared memories connected to the three border regions.

The project produced a range of outputs, including visual maps made from photographs that capture important places, memories, stories, and sounds; academic and creative work from three commissioned artists; and practical outputs such as a policy report, a policy briefing and learning materials for second-level sociology education.

EuroBorderWalks finds that borders are more than lines on a map, they are part of everyday life and affect how people feel and live. Work with young people, including the Ignyte group in Derry/Londonderry, shows how new generations experience borders differently, question old divisions, and offer voices that can shape fairer education, policy and public understanding.



Pictured: The EuroBorderWalks research team at the launch event at UCC.

Front row (l-r): Dr John Perivolaris artist/photographer, Dr Aleksandra Sobańska, Postdoctoral researcher (Uni of Lodz), Prof Tomasz Ferenc (Uni of Lodz), Prof Katarzyna Waniek (Uni of Lodz), Principal Investigator Prof Maggie O’Neill (UCC) and Dr Krešimir Žažar (Zagreb Uni).

Back row (l-r): Prof Marek Domański, artist (Academy of Fine Arts, Lodz), Conach Gibson-Feinblum, PhD student (UCC) Dr Vladimir Ivanović, postdoctoral researcher (Zagreb Uni), Dr Michael Mcloughlin, artist (SETU/UCC) and Prof Agnieszka Golczyńska-Grondas (Uni of Lodz).

Image: Rubén Tapia Martinez

Snapshot

SONGBIRD: strengthening emergency response



Pictured (l-r): Dr Boris Galkin with SONGBIRD team member Dr Lester Ho.
Image: Francesca O’Rafferty, CONNECT Centre

Dr Boris Galkin from Tyndall National Institute and the CONNECT Research Ireland Centre for Future Networks and Communications was awarded a **Royal Society – Research Ireland University Research Fellowship** to lead the SONGBIRD project, which harnesses radio signal reflections to develop AI-powered sensing technology for drones.

Drones can carry radio communication equipment, which can detect and measure radio signals in the area around them. They can also measure how radio signals travel through an area, reflect off objects and interact with obstacles such as trees or buildings, helping to build a map of the area around them and identify important objects of interest, without the need for costly cameras or sensors.

Building on the work of recent drone projects MISTRAL and GUARD, this can be used to find people in search and rescue situations, and for air traffic control and urban planning. As regular cameras may not work well at night or penetrate solid objects such as trees or buildings, this approach provides more effective first response and will allow emergency organisations to better save lives when they are called out.

Dr Galkin and his team are building on strong relationships developed through their earlier projects with Irish emergency services, ensuring that SONGBIRD (Sensing Operations in

Networks of Ground-and-Air Devices) is shaped by real-world needs and can support frontline responders in carrying out safer, faster and more life-saving operations.

The Royal Society - Research Ireland University Research Fellowship supports exceptional early-career researchers in building independent research careers, with eight years of support, fostering the next generation of global research leaders.



Watch video →

Snapshot

Strengthening Cross-Border Research Impact

Launched in 2024, the CoCentre Programme is a major collaborative investment across Ireland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, designed to build a world-class research network that strengthens capability, scale and cohesion in research and innovation.

The programme focuses on delivering high-quality research with economic, societal, health and environmental benefits. Industry and policy engagement is central to its mission: together the **CoCentre for Climate + Biodiversity + Water** and the **CoCentre for Sustainable Food Systems** have secured a combined €2.2 million in industry support. In November 2025, CoCentre Directors presented their research programmes to UK and Irish policymakers to advance policy alignment on environmental and food system challenges.

In 2025, Climate+ advanced its ‘Skills for the Green Transition’ agenda by delivering the inaugural AI sustainability sandbox with Technology Ireland ICT Skillnet. The week-long sprint paired PhD researchers with industry, generating early-stage

prototypes and reports. Case studies included collaboration with ODOS Tech, which aimed to improve AI-driven land use mapping for agricultural sustainability, and Zinto Labs, which sought to develop AI approaches for early detection of invasive seaweed to support marine preservation, with the Sandbox planned to run again in 2026.

A key output of the Sustainable Food Systems CoCentre is the Food CoCentre Conceptual Framework, which offers a clear overview of how the food system works across Ireland and the UK. The framework shows how different parts of the system are connected, including what influences change, where pressures arise, and how actions can affect outcomes. Developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders, it helps policymakers, researchers and practitioners see the full picture when designing policies and programmes. By supporting more informed decision-making, the framework contributes to efforts to tackle environmental challenges while improving access to safe, nutritious food.



Pictured (l-r): Deputy Director Ed Hawkins (University of Reading) of the CoCentre for Climate + Biodiversity + Water with Co-Directors, Prof Yvonne Buckley (Trinity College Dublin) and Prof Mark Emmerson (Queen’s University Belfast).

Image: Paul Sharp

Snapshot

US–Ireland R&D partnership
passes 100 projects

The US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership reached a significant milestone, passing 100 funded projects since its launch almost 20 years ago. This long-standing programme links funders and researchers across the United States, Ireland and Northern Ireland. Its structure requires teams in all three jurisdictions and ensures that each national component contributes distinct value.

A joint investment of over €7 million was announced in March 2025 for four new awards. These projects focus on areas including communications networks and healthcare. They involve ten higher education institutions, including SETU, Teagasc, UCD and UCC in the Republic of Ireland, Queen’s University Belfast and Ulster University in Northern Ireland, and partners such as Virginia Tech, University of California Los Angeles, the University of Pennsylvania and Rochester Institute of Technology in the United States. The funding supports approximately 20 research positions across the three jurisdictions.

The programme’s continued growth reflects the value of deep international cooperation, which leads to wider social and economic benefits. By the end of 2025, the tripartite partnership had attracted over €150 million in public investment and has built a stable channel for collaborative research across borders.

The funding agencies for the 2025 awards are Research Ireland and the Health Research Board in Ireland, the Department for the Economy and the Health and Social Care R&D Division in Northern Ireland, and the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health in the United States.



Pictured: Dr Indrakshi Dey (Walton Institute, South East Technological University) one of the awardees under the US-Ireland R&D Partnership Programme in 2025.

Image: Patrick Browne, Brownes Photography

Snapshot

Celebrating diaspora experts in philosophy and healthcare

Ireland’s international research connections were highlighted in 2025 with Taoiseach Micheál Martin’s presentation of the **Research Ireland St. Patrick’s Day Medal** in Washington D.C. to Prof Richard Kearney and Michael Dowling. The Medal recognises academic and industry leaders in the United States who contribute to the research ecosystem in Ireland and to collaboration between research in Ireland and the United States.

Prof Kearney, Charles B. Seelig Professor of Philosophy at Boston College, is the author of over 30 books on European philosophy and literature and was involved in drafting proposals for the Northern Irish peace agreement. Michael Dowling, President and CEO of Northwell Health, oversees New York State’s largest

healthcare provider and has invested in Northwell’s research arm, the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, which is transforming the treatment of conditions including lupus, arthritis, sepsis, cancer, psychiatric illness and Alzheimer’s disease. He has also initiated programmes to expand access to medical care for those who are uninsured.

This recognition highlights the significant achievements of members of the Irish research diaspora and their continued contributions to research in Ireland and to collaboration between research in Ireland and the United States. By acknowledging contributions across the arts, humanities and social sciences, as well as science, engineering and healthcare, the Medal reflects the breadth of disciplines that contribute to Ireland’s RD&I landscape.



Pictured (l-r): President and CEO of Northwell Health, Mr Michael Dowling (Industry Medal Recipient), Charles B Seelig Professor in Philosophy at Boston College, Prof Richard Kearney (Academic Medal recipient), and Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD at the prestigious Research Ireland St. Patrick’s Day Medal event in Washington D.C.
Image: John Harrington Photography

Snapshot

Strengthening European connections with Ulysses

Research Ireland strengthened Ireland’s European research links this year through key developments in the Ulysses partnership. These included funding for 14 new Ireland–France collaborations under the 2025 research funding call and the annual Franco-Irish research conference held in Paris.

The Ulysses 2025 awards funded 14 collaborative teams working on topics such as AI in education, poetry across media and technologies, childhood vaccination patterns, climate change denial and conspiracy beliefs, smart power systems and sustainable battery recycling. The scheme provides seed funding to support reciprocal travel visits between researchers in Ireland and France.

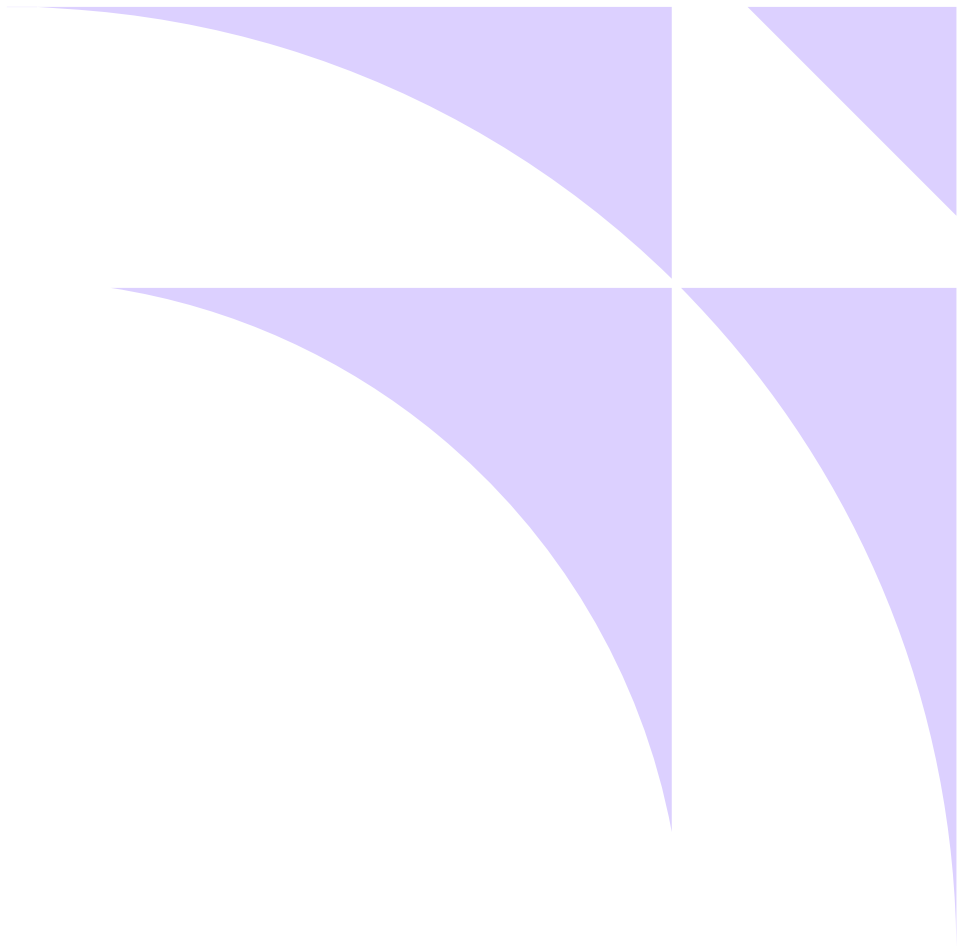
The annual Franco-Irish research conference took place on 23 October at the Irish Embassy in Paris. Marking the tenth anniversary of the Paris Climate Agreement, the conference brought together Irish and French researchers, innovators and policymakers to explore progress on the energy transition — from adaptation and resilience to innovation progress on the energy transition and included a session on the French-Irish partnership and the Celtic Interconnector.

During her visit to Research Ireland, H.E. Céline Place, Ambassador of France to Ireland, celebrated the programme, noting it is “stronger than ever.” More than 700 researchers have benefited from Ulysses since its inception.



Pictured (l-r): H.E. Céline Place, Ambassador of France to Ireland with Dr Diarmuid O’Brien, CEO of Research Ireland.

Image: Research Ireland



Snapshot

Research Diplomacy:
From Crisis to Collaboration

Research Ireland’s Supplemental Grant for Displaced Researchers – Ukraine Programme supported 14 researchers from Ukraine in 2025, to continue their work within Irish research teams.

The scheme enabled researchers across all career stages to contribute their expertise to ongoing funded projects while gaining valuable professional experience within the Irish research system.

The **Ukrainian Researchers Network** was established earlier in the year by Prof Caitriona Jackman (DIAS) following her supplemental award in January 2025. Research Ireland hosted the inaugural meeting in October 2025, bringing together past and current award recipients and their host principal investigators.

Her Excellency Larysa Gerasko, Ambassador of Ukraine to Ireland, attended the event and highlighted the important role Research Ireland has played in helping displaced researchers integrate into the Irish research landscape, maintain their career trajectories and remain engaged in high-quality research during an exceptionally challenging period in their home country.

The researchers supported through this scheme have made significant contributions to their fields – including law, economics, engineering, immunology and astrophysics - and to the Irish research ecosystem with the publication of peer-reviewed articles, conference presentations and patent applications. Following their research experience on Research Ireland funded projects, many have continued to pursue their research careers at Irish institutions and abroad.

The programme highlights the growing importance of research diplomacy and the value Research Ireland can bring to strengthening international research efforts during times of conflict.



Pictured (l-r): Her Excellency Larysa Gerasko, Ambassador of Ukraine to Ireland pictured with Dr Serhii Ivanov, Postdoctoral Researcher at DIAS and Prof Caitriona Jackman, Senior Professor at DIAS, holding a painting by Oleksandra Atamanenko, which was gifted to Research Ireland on behalf of the community supported by the Displaced Researcher scheme.

Image: Research Ireland



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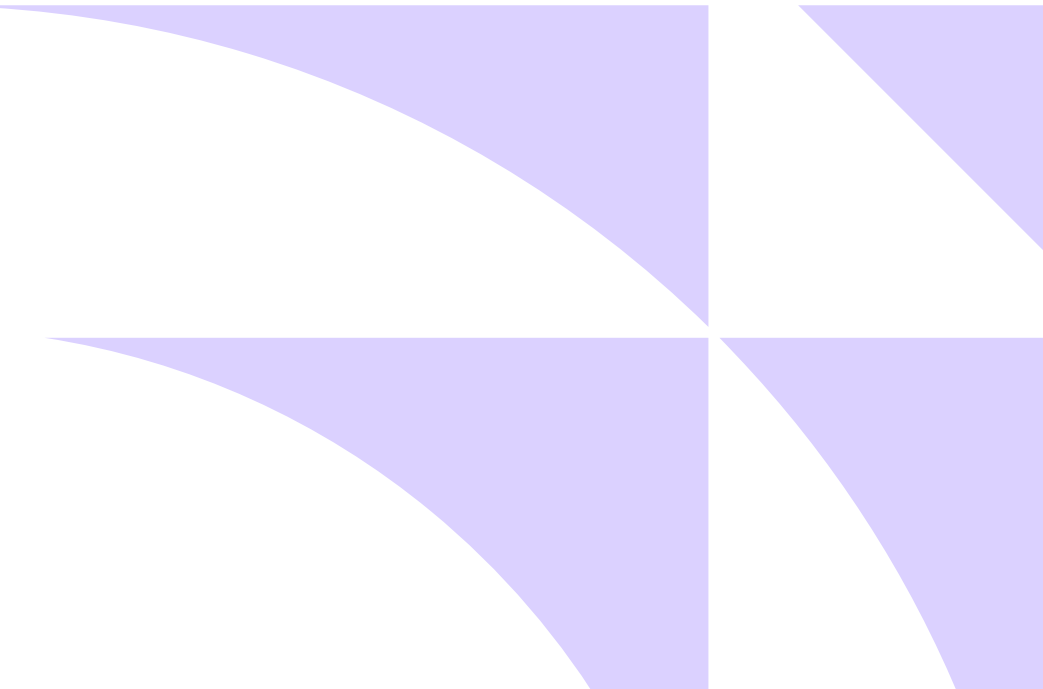
Governance

Governance

The Research and Innovation Act 2024, provides the statutory framework for the Board’s purpose and role, including setting the strategic direction of the agency, overseeing the corporate plan and annual plan and ensuring effective governance and accountability.

In this context, the Board sets the ethical tone of the organisation; supports and evaluates the Chief Executive Officer; and is responsible for internal financial control systems, operational compliance, and risk management.

In accordance with the Act, the Board is accountable to the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science for the performance of its functions.



Board Profiles

Michael Horgan Chair

Michael Horgan was born in Cork and educated by the Christian Brothers at the North Monastery School. He holds a BSc in Computer Science and an MA from the University of Dublin (Trinity College) and a Masters in Industrial Engineering from University College Dublin.

He also holds an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and an Honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) from the University of Massachusetts, USA.

Michael holds a Diploma in Company Direction from the Institute of Directors (IoD) and is a Chartered Director. Michael spent most of his professional life at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). In December 2003 he was appointed Chief Executive, having been Deputy Chief Executive for the previous eight years. He stepped down as Chief Executive in December 2009.

He was Chairperson of the Health and Safety Authority for two terms (2010-2016) and Chairperson of the Higher Education Authority for two terms (2016-2024). He is currently an independent non-executive director at Interpay Ltd., Vice Chairman of TransferMate Global Payments and Non-executive director of Mountain Productions Ltd.; Chairman and Trustee of Uversity (registered charity) and Advisory Board member of Intuition Ltd.

Previous Board appointments include: Vice Chair and Honorary Secretary, Rotunda Hospital; Trustee, American Irish Historical Society (New York); Trustee, Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs, Fordham University; Non-executive director, Intuition Ltd.; Board member, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin; Board member, Dublin Dental Hospital; Member of Senate, National University of Ireland; Board member, Bahrain Medical University; Board member, Penang Medical College, Malaysia; Non-executive director, IntuMed (Joint venture with Harvard University Medical School).



Lorraine Allen

Lorraine Allen is the founder of Brand Innovation Ireland. She has over 25 years of industry experience in innovation creation and commercialisation, user insights, marketing strategy, and brand building.

Lorraine currently works across the Irish and European innovation ecosystem with a variety of organisations from start-ups to universities to established businesses, creating innovation and commercialising scientific research that focuses on tackling key global challenges, increasingly with a sustainability focus, across industries such as food and agri-tech, circular economy, biotech, and health. An advocate of design thinking Lorraine supports organisations through a process that creates and nurtures new ideas with the target user to successfully launch market validated products and services.

Lorraine works with Enterprise Ireland and various Local Enterprise Offices as a mentor and consultant, and with the European Commission as an expert and evaluator for several innovation funds. She coaches European Innovation Council funded deep-tech start-ups commercialising and scaling their innovation globally and is a business expert with the EIT Food Seedbed Incubator advising early-stage European food-tech start-ups. She also serves on the Board of Bord Bia and is Chairperson of their Consumer Foods Board.



Prof Rebecca Braun

Prof Rebecca Braun is Executive Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies at the University of Galway.

In this role, she leads on fostering connected approaches to culture and creativity as key strengths within both the University and the wider region, as well as setting the college’s broader strategy for success across its core missions of delivering excellent research and education.

Formerly a Co-Director of the Institute for Social Futures from 2017-2020 at Lancaster University, UK, she has pioneered a distinctive ‘creative futures’ methodology with partners across government and academe in the UK, Ireland, Continental Europe, South Africa, and North America. Her futures work builds on a deep understanding of the power of people and stories, which she has traced in numerous books on authorship, world literature, transnationalism, and cultural value.

Rebecca has studied and worked in the Universities of Oxford, Manchester, Liverpool and Lancaster, as well as in a visiting capacity at the Freie Universität Berlin. She regularly provides expert peer review to national UK and European research funding agencies and served as an Interdisciplinary Research Advisor to the UK REF2021 on UoA26: Modern Languages and Linguistics. Rebecca holds a D.Phil. in German Literature from the University of Oxford.



Dr Godfrey Gaston

Dr Godfrey Gaston, MBE is a Cyber Security Innovation and Entrepreneurship consultant and currently advises and supports several cyber security startup companies. He has a PhD in Semiconductors and an MBA from Henley Management College.

He was formerly Executive Director of the Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology (ECIT), and Director at the Centre for Secure Information Technologies (CSIT), based at Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland. Prior to this, he worked in the semiconductor industry for GEC Plessey Semiconductors, start-up BCO Technologies (acquired by Analog Devices), and Engineering Manager for Analog Devices. Current interests include supporting technology startups (especially in the cyber security sector), development of cyber security ecosystems and the linking of these ecosystems internationally.

Godfrey also co-founded the network security start-up company, Titan IC, acquired by Mellanox Technologies/NVIDIA in March 2020.

In 2023, Godfrey was named Chairman of Sitehop, a thriving cyber security firm headquartered in Sheffield.



Prof Niamh Moloney

Niamh Moloney is Professor of Financial Markets Law in the Law School at the London School of Economics and Political Science and specialises in EU financial market regulation.

Educated at Trinity College Dublin and Harvard Law School, she is a Fellow of the British Academy, an Honorary Member of the Royal Irish Academy, and a Member of the Academia Europaea, and has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Zurich. Niamh previously served as Head of the LSE Law School and is currently a member of the LSE Council, the LSE's governing body.

Niamh currently serves as an External Member of the Bank of England's Prudential Regulation Committee. Previously, she served as an independent, non-executive director of the board of the Central Bank of Ireland and as an alternate member of the Board of Appeal of the European Supervisory Authorities. She was Chair of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare, established by the government of Ireland in 2021 to review the state's taxation and welfare systems, which reported in 2022 (Foundations for the Future).



Leonard Hobbs

Leonard Hobbs is one of Ireland’s leading technologists in the ICT sector with over 30 years of experience, mostly at Intel Ireland, spanning leading edge research to technology transfer to advanced manufacturing and including public affairs.

He was Director of Research and Innovation at Trinity College Dublin from 2017-2023 where he had responsibility for the definition and implementation of the research, innovation and enterprise strategy for the University, spanning research programmes development, contract management, technology transfer, consultancy, industry engagement, campus company startups, and VC investment.

He returned to Intel Ireland in 2023 to take on the lead role for government affairs. From 2016 to 2023, he was General Manager for MIDAS Ireland which is the representative body for the microelectronics sector in Ireland, consisting of industry, educational, research and government agencies, working together to drive the development of the microelectronics sector in Ireland. Leonard was appointed to the Research and Innovation Policy Advisory Forum by the Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in January 2026.

He is chairperson of the Valentia Transatlantic Cable Foundation, whose objective is to support the advancement of the scientific heritage of, and community development on,



Prof Valeria Nicolosi

Prof Valeria Nicolosi received a BSc (honours) in Industrial Chemistry from the University of Catania (Italy) in 2001 and a PhD in Physics in 2006 from Trinity College Dublin.

In 2008 she moved to the University of Oxford with a RAEng/ EPSRC Fellowship. In 2012 she returned to Trinity College Dublin as Research Professor. Now she is the Chair of Nanomaterials and Advanced Microscopy in Trinity College Dublin, and a PI in AMBER (Advanced Materials and Bio Engineering Research) and I-Form (Advanced Manufacturing) Research Ireland Centres.

Prof Nicolosi’s work includes synthesis, exfoliation, and characterisation of layered materials towards a range of applications, particularly energy and ICT. Strong emphasis is given to the characterisation of materials and devices by advanced electron microscopy techniques, such as aberration-corrected TEM, STEM, EELS and EDS.

She has published more than 250 high-impact-papers and won numerous awards. Prof Valeria Nicolosi is an eight-time ERC awardee.

Every year, since 2018 she has been recognised as one of the world's most influential researchers of the past decade, demonstrated by the production of multiple highly cited papers that rank in the top 1% by citations for field and year in Web of Science.

Prof Nicolosi served on the Advisory Board of the European Innovation Council (EIC) from 2019 to 2021, and she sits on the Council of the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings since 2022.

She has won numerous awards: the RDS/Intel Prize for Nanoscience 2012, the World Economic Forum Young Scientist 2013, EU Woman in Technology Award 2013, SFI President of Ireland Young Researcher Award 2014, SFI Irish Early-Stage Researcher 2016, TCD ERC Awardee 2017, Women Business Forum Women of the Decade in Science and Innovation 2018, Royal Society of Chemistry Peter Day Prize 2025.

As a recognition of her career achievements, in 2021 Prof Nicolosi was conferred the honorary decoration of “Cavaliere” in the Order “Stella d'Italia” (Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy) by the President of the Italian Republic, at the proposal of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Prof Eoin O'Sullivan

Prof Eoin O'Sullivan is a Research Professor and Babbage Fellow of Technology and Innovation Policy in the Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge and Director of the Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (CSTI) based at the University's Institute for Manufacturing.

CSTI is a multidisciplinary research group made up of scientists, engineers, economists, public policy researchers, and management scholars. CSTI's research mission is to advance understanding of what makes national research and innovation systems effective at translating new research knowledge into emerging technologies, industrial competitiveness, and solutions to societal challenges.

Eoin works closely with a range of national and international research and innovation agencies and government departments. He was previously a Senior Policy Advisor at Forfás (the former National Policy Advisory Board for Enterprise, Trade, Science, Technology, and Innovation) and Special Advisor to the first Director General of Science Foundation Ireland (2001-2006). Eoin has a PhD from the Physics Department of Oxford University.



Patricia Quane

Patricia Quane is Chair of the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs for the Biopharma Industry (appointed 2022) and Chair of the South West Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee (appointed 2021).

She was Vice President and General Manager at Astellas Ireland Co. Ltd., a Japanese Pharmaceutical company (2008-2020). She served as Chair of BioPharmaChem Ireland in 2019.

A Chartered Director, with many years of dedication to regional economic development and an unwavering commitment to sustainability, Patricia was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Kerry Business Leaders in 2023.



Anne Vaughan

Anne Vaughan is a non-executive director of a number of charitable bodies. She is a council member of the Economic and Social Research Institute. She completed her six-year term as Chairperson of the National Statistics Board in 2025. She was member of the Commission on Taxation and Welfare and the Commission on Pensions.

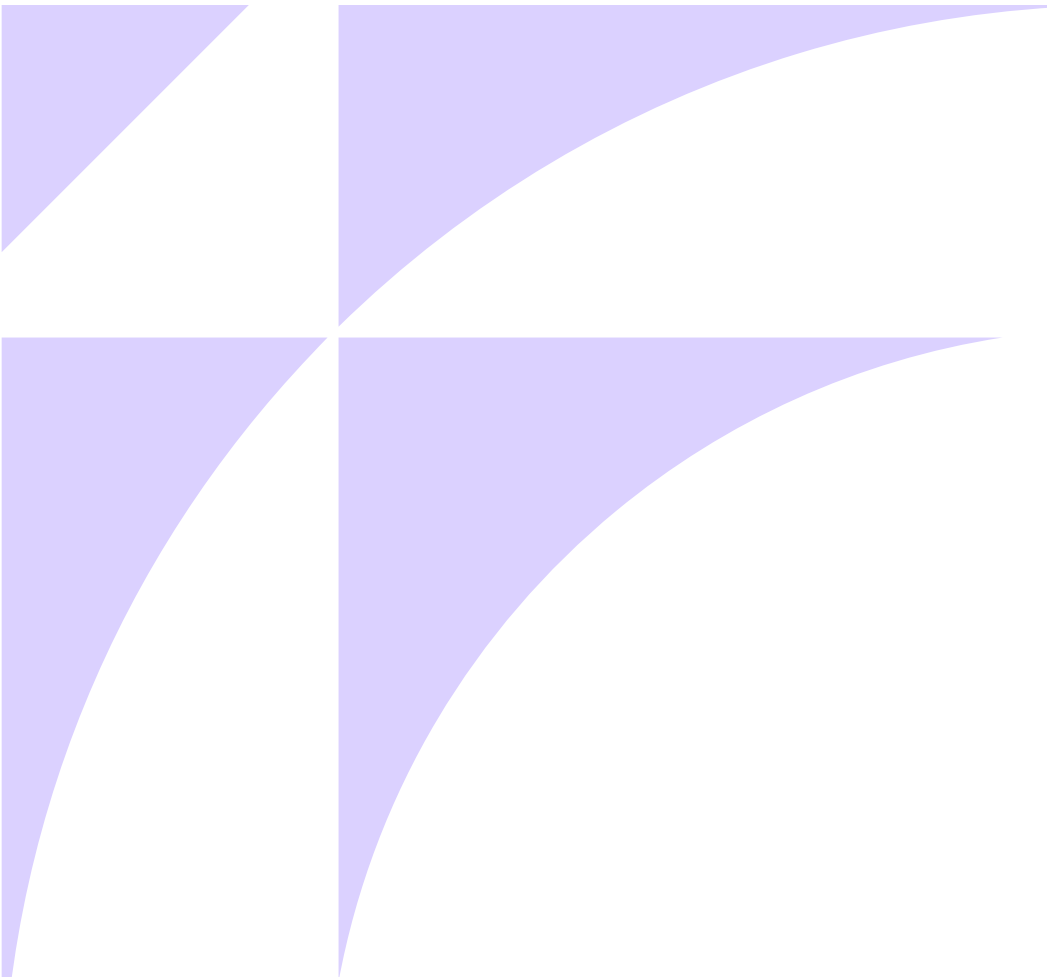
She retired from the Department of Social Protection in 2018 where she was Deputy Secretary for almost eight years. During her civil service career of 38 years, she also worked in the Department of Finance and in the Department of the Taoiseach. Anne is a graduate of UCD, TCD and the UCD Smurfit Business School. She holds a MSc in Public Sector Analysis.



Dr Diarmuid O'Brien
Chief Executive Officer

Dr Diarmuid O'Brien is the CEO of Research Ireland which is the primary research and innovation funding agency for Ireland providing investment across all research disciplines. Prior to this, Diarmuid was the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Innovation at the University of Cambridge where he was responsible for innovation, enterprise partnership, research commercialisation, entrepreneurship, venture investment and engagement with local and national government on innovation and place. Previously, he was also the Chief Executive of Cambridge Enterprise, the innovation services organisation which supports the University of Cambridge. During his time at Cambridge, Diarmuid led the creation of several initiatives to unlock innovation and offer enhanced support for translational funding and company creation, including Founders at the University of Cambridge and the Technology Investment Fund. He co-founded and chaired Innovate Cambridge, a highly collaborative initiative defining and delivering an inclusive innovation future for the Cambridge ecosystem.

Previously Diarmuid was Chief Innovation and Enterprise Officer at TCD, where he had responsibility for new campus development, innovation and enterprise partnerships. He has held other senior management roles in research centres (CRANN, AMBER) and several university-founded start-up companies, including Ntera, Xoliox, and Deerac Fluidics. Diarmuid was a Research Fellow at Princeton University. He holds a PhD in Physics from the University of Sheffield and a degree in Materials Science from TCD.



Research Ireland Governance Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Background

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland (Research Ireland) was established on 1 August 2024 under the Research and Innovation Act 2024, (the Act) with its Head Office at Three Park Place, Hatch Street Upper, Dublin 2. The functions and the assets and liabilities of Science Foundation Ireland and the Irish Research Council transferred to Research Ireland on 1 August 2024.

Board Responsibilities

The work and responsibilities of the Board of Research Ireland are set out in the Board Manual, which also contains the matters specifically reserved for Board decision. Standing items considered by the Board include:

- Overseeing the development of the corporate plan
- Oversight of operations and review of performance of the organisation
- Approval of the organisation’s annual financial statements

- Appointment and management of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) performance
- Declaration of interests by Members
- Receive reports from Board sub-committees
- Overseeing compliance by the organisation with all applicable laws and Codes of Practice
- Approval of the Risk Management Policy

Section 25 of the Act requires the Board to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (the Minister) with consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation, all proper and usual accounts of funds received and expended by it. In preparing these financial statements, the Board of the agency 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 a 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 CEO and senior leadership team (SLT) of the organisation are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enable it to ensure that the financial statements complied with Section 25 of the Act. These accounts are approved by the Board and submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General for audit as soon as possible after the financial year-end. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the organisation’s website is the responsibility of the CEO and SLT. The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget.

The Board, principally through the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), assesses the State body’s principal risks including a description of these risks where appropriate and associated mitigation measures or strategies. The organisation adhered to the relevant aspects of the Public Spending Code. The Board, through the CEO and SLT, are also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Board considers that the financial statements of Research Ireland give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of the organisation as at 31 December 2025.

Board Structure and Committees

The Research Ireland Board normally consists of a Chairperson and eleven ordinary members appointed by the Minister), as set out in Section 16 of the Act. The independent non-executive Board Members had the necessary and complementary skills and expertise to set the strategy and broad policies for the organisation and oversee its operation. The Research Ireland Board met 6 times during 2025. The table below reflects details of the 10 board members appointed on 1 August 2024.

Board Member	Role	Dates appointed
Mr Michael Horgan	Chairperson	01/08/2024
Ms Lorraine Allen	Board Member	01/08/2024
Prof Rebecca Braun	Board Member	01/08/2024
Dr Godfrey Gaston MBE	Board Member	01/08/2024
Mr Leonard Hobbs	Board Member	01/08/2024
Prof Niamh Moloney	Board Member	01/08/2024
Prof Valeria Nicolosi	Board Member	01/08/2024
Prof Eoin O’Sullivan	Board Member	01/08/2024
Ms Patricia Quane	Board Member	01/08/2024
Ms Anne Vaughan	Board Member	01/08/2024

Audit and Risk Committee

The role of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), is to support the Board in its responsibilities for audit, risk, control and governance and associated assurance. The ARC is independent from the financial management of the organisation and monitors the system of internal controls and financial safeguards, oversees the internal audit function and conducts audits of Research Ireland grants made to external institutions. The Committee ensures that a system to monitor risk and provide mitigating actions is in place and is kept up to date. The Committee also monitors and reviews Research Ireland financial reports on a regular basis including the Financial Statements up to 31 December 2025. The Committee is also responsible for overseeing compliance with corporate governance requirements, including with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, as updated in August 2016 (the Code).

The ARC reports to the Board after each meeting, and formally in writing annually. The Committee comprises six members including two external members, Dr Barry O’Connor and Mr Jim Frawley, who were appointed with effect from 24 February 2025. Mr Godfrey Gaston MBE, resigned from the Committee on 24 February 2025. There were 6 meetings of the ARC in 2025. During the year a review of how the internal audit function should be structured and resourced was undertaken by the ARC and it was concluded that the current model should be retained.

Research, Innovation and Strategy Committee

The Research, Innovation and Strategy Committee (RIS) comprises seven members, and is delegated the power to approve research programme and grant proposals in line with the delegated authority levels approved by the Board. The Committee reports to the Board after each meeting. Mr Godfrey Gaston MBE and Prof Johanna Leissner were appointed to the Committee with effect from 24 February 2025 and 26 May 2025 respectively. There were six meetings of the Committee in 2025.

Schedule of Attendance, Fees and Expenses

A schedule of attendance, fees and expenses by Board members at Board and Committee meetings in 2025 is set out below:

	Board	Audit and Risk Committee	Research, Innovation and Strategy Committee	Fees 2025	Expenses 2025
No of Meetings	6	6	6	€	€
Mr Michael Horgan (Chair)	6 out of 6	6 out of 6		20,520	-
Ms Lorraine Allen	6 out of 6	6 out of 6		11,970	-
Prof Rebecca Braun	4 out of 6		6 out of 6	-	702
Dr Godfrey Gaston	6 out of 6	2 out of 2	6 out of 6	11,970	1,056
Mr Leonard Hobbs	6 out of 6		6 out of 6	11,970	-
Prof Niamh Moloney	6 out of 6	5 out of 6		11,970	-
Prof Valeria Nicolosi	5 out of 6		4 out of 6	-	-
Prof Eoin O’Sullivan	6 out of 6		5 out of 6	11,970	2,916
Ms Patricia Quane	6 out of 6		5 out of 6	11,970	2,775
Ms Anne Vaughan	6 out of 6	5 out of 6		11,970	-
General Board Expenses					5,765
Total				104,310	13,214

Board members were paid fees as determined by the Minister with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation. Certain Board members were excluded from receiving fees from Research Ireland under the “One Person One Salary” remuneration arrangements, whereby public servants cannot receive Board fees in addition to a salary. These were Prof Rebecca Braun and Prof Valeria Nicolosi.

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

The Board is responsible for ensuring that Research Ireland complies with the requirements of the Code, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code:

Employee Short-Term Benefits Breakdown

Employees’ short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands:

Range		No of Employees	
From	To	As at 31 Dec 2025	As at 31 Dec 2024
€60,000	€69,999	14	19
€70,000	€79,999	12	8
€80,000	€89,999	14	13
€90,000	€99,999	17	17
€100,000	€109,999	3	2
€110,000	€119,999	2	2
€120,000	€129,999	9	10
€140,000	€149,999	1	-
€160,000	€169,999	2	2
€180,000	€189,999	-	2
€190,000	€199,999	1	1

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 employer’s PRSI.

The employee benefits figures as at 31 December 2024 are annualised for a 12-month period rather than 5 months.

Consultancy Costs

Research Ireland defines consultancy fees as specific finite tasks involving expert skills or capabilities that would not normally reside within Research Ireland.

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced ‘business-as-usual’ functions.

Consultancy costs	Full year 2025 €000s	Aug - Dec 2024 €000s
Organisation Change and Role Review	246	-
Short term Business Support	75	-
Research Integrity Advisor	44	5
Change Management	40	-
Data Subject Access Request	37	29
Procurement Support	28	13
Services for Testing of GDPR Compliance	27	-
Accounting / Finance Services	17	-
Design Thinking Training and Mentoring	15	-
HR Gender Gap Report	10	-
Financial Systems Support	4	17
Other Professional Fees	38	25
My Green Labs Pilot Certification Process	-	25
Theory of Change Training for Co Centres	-	12
Pilot Science Media Centre	-	10
Innovation Training and Mentoring	-	30
Strategy Consultants	-	25
Total	581	191
Consultancy costs capitalised	-	-
Consultancy costs charged to the Income and Expenditure and Retained Reserves	581	191
Total	581	191

Legal Costs and Settlements

There were no legal costs or settlements made in 2025.

Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	Full year 2025 €000s	Aug - Dec 2024 €000s
Domestic		
Board	5	2
Employees	38	47
International		
Board	2	-
Employees	78	19
Total	129	68

Board members’ expenses of €7,449 relate to vouched expenditure and expenditure paid by Taighde Éireann Research Ireland on behalf of individual Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland Board members. The balance of €5,765 (2024: €0) relates to general Board expenses.

Hospitality Expenditure

The Income and Expenditure Account includes the following hospitality expenditure:

	Full year 2025 €000s	Aug - Dec 2024 €000s
Staff Hospitality	26	12
Client Hospitality	4	-
Board Hospitality	2	2
Total	32	14

Statement of Compliance

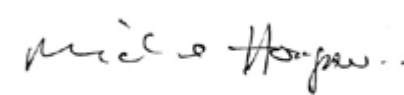
The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Code. Research Ireland had complied with the Code in 2025.

Risk Management

The Research Ireland Board has adopted a Risk Management Framework (Framework), including a Risk Appetite Statement, which outlines the risk management system in place and sets out the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved with the management of risk.

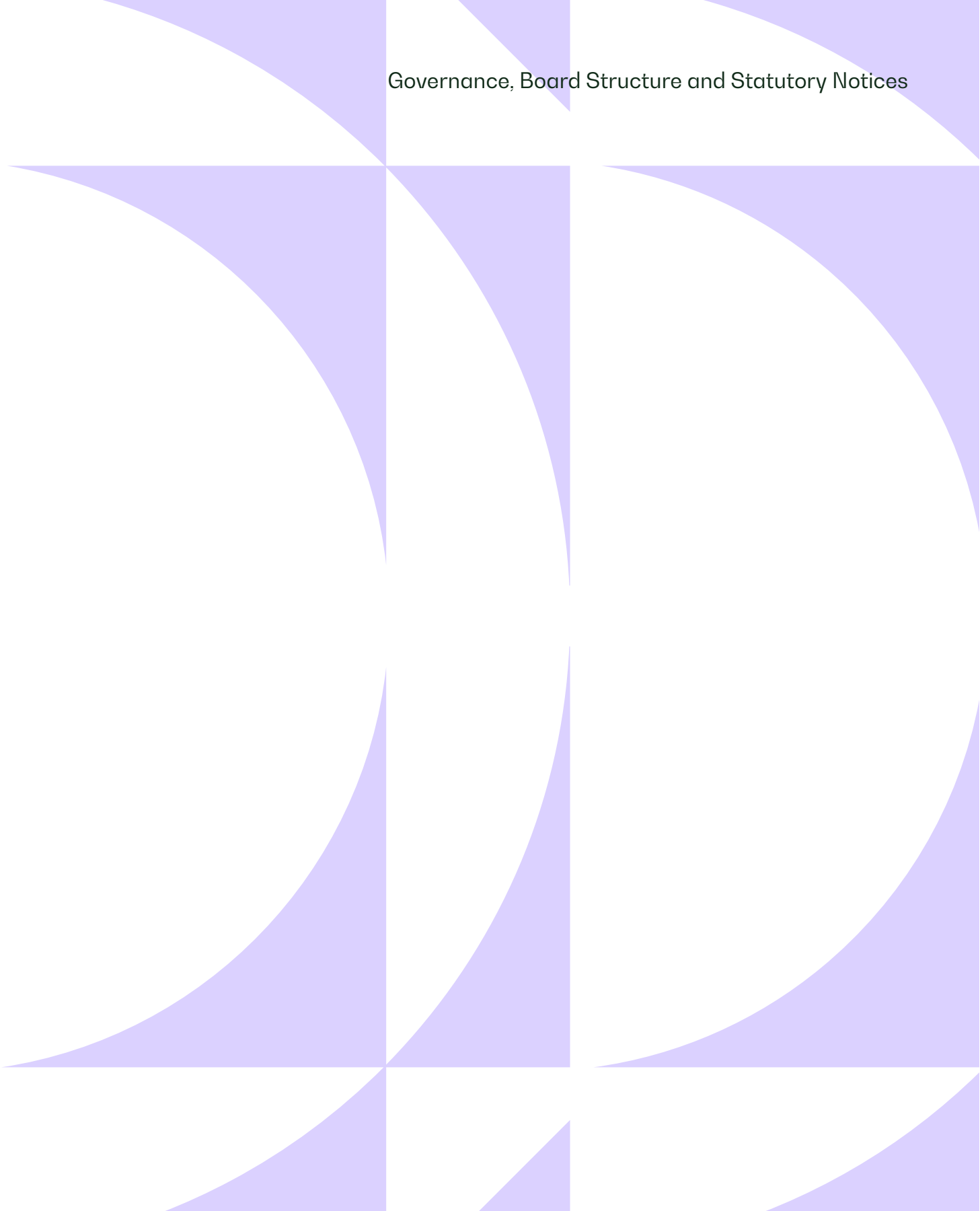
It is Research Ireland Policy to adhere to risk management best practice. The Framework sets out the process by which the organisation identifies and addresses the key risks attached to its activities. These risks are compiled by the Risk Management Committee with the input and support of the CEO and SLT and reported on at regular intervals to the ARC and Board, including associated mitigation measures, controls and updates. The Board has conducted an assessment of Research Ireland’s principal risks, including a description of these risks where appropriate and associated measures or strategies.

Signed

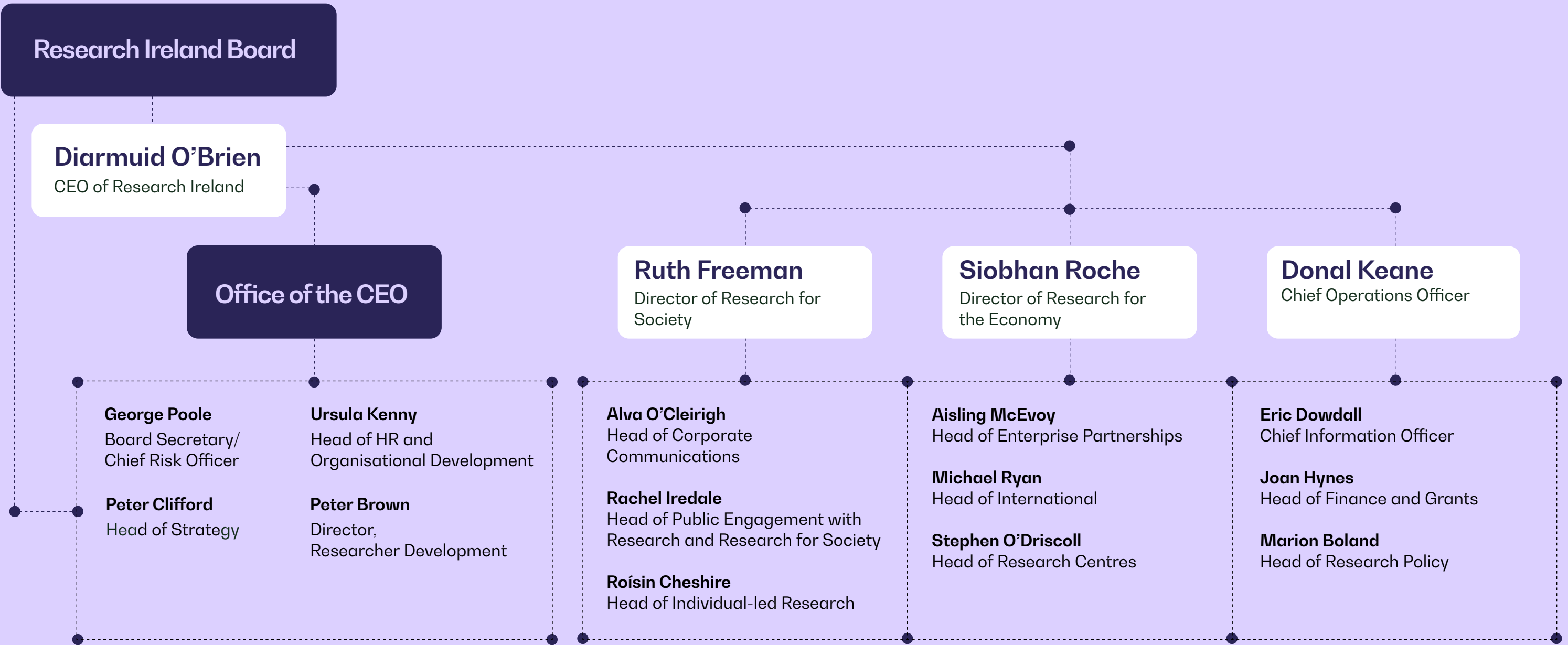


Mr Michael Horgan
Chair
Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland

Date: XX June 2026



Organisational Chart



Research Ireland Senior Leadership Team

As of 1 July 2026



Dr Diarmuid O’Brien
Chief Executive Officer

See full profile on page 84.



Dr Abigail Ruth Freeman
Director of Research for Society

Dr Abigail Ruth Freeman oversees Individual-led Research Programmes, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS), Challenge-based Research Programmes, Corporate Communications, and Public Engagement with Research at Research Ireland. A frequent contributor to national media discussions on research and innovation, Ruth has held a number of senior leadership roles, including Director of Science for Society, Director of Strategy and Communications, Director of Innovation, Communications and Education, and Director of Programmes, Enterprise and International Affairs at Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).

Ruth joined SFI in November 2006 as a Scientific Programme Manager, having previously worked as a researcher at TCD. She holds a BA (Mod) and PhD in Genetics, as well as a Postgraduate Diploma in Statistics from TCD. During her studies, she was awarded a Trinity Scholarship, the Eli Lilly Chemistry Prize, and the Roberts Prize for Biology. In 2025 Ruth completed the Strategic Leadership Programme at the Saïd Business School of Oxford University.



Mr Donal Keane

Chief Operations Officer

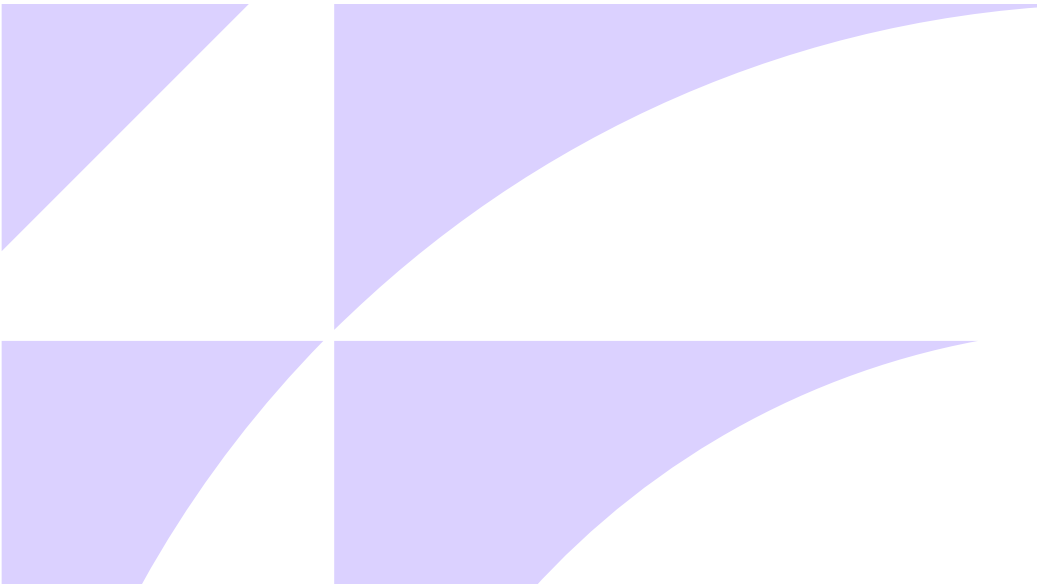
Mr Donal Keane is Chief Operations Officer at Research Ireland. He has responsibility for Financial Control, Financial Management of Grants, Information Systems, IT Networks, Data Protection/GDPR, Research Policy, Facilities and liaison with the Internal Audit Coordinator with respect to internal audits and external grant audits. Donal has previously held roles in Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) as COO, and at IADT Dun Laoghaire, where he held the position of Secretary and Financial Controller from 1997-2005. Donal has also held senior management positions at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda, GE Capital and Wang Finance in both Dublin and Toronto, Canada. He has been a member of the European Science Foundation (Strasbourg) and BBSRC (now part of UKRI) Audit Committees. Donal holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from UCD and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.



Dr Siobhan Roche

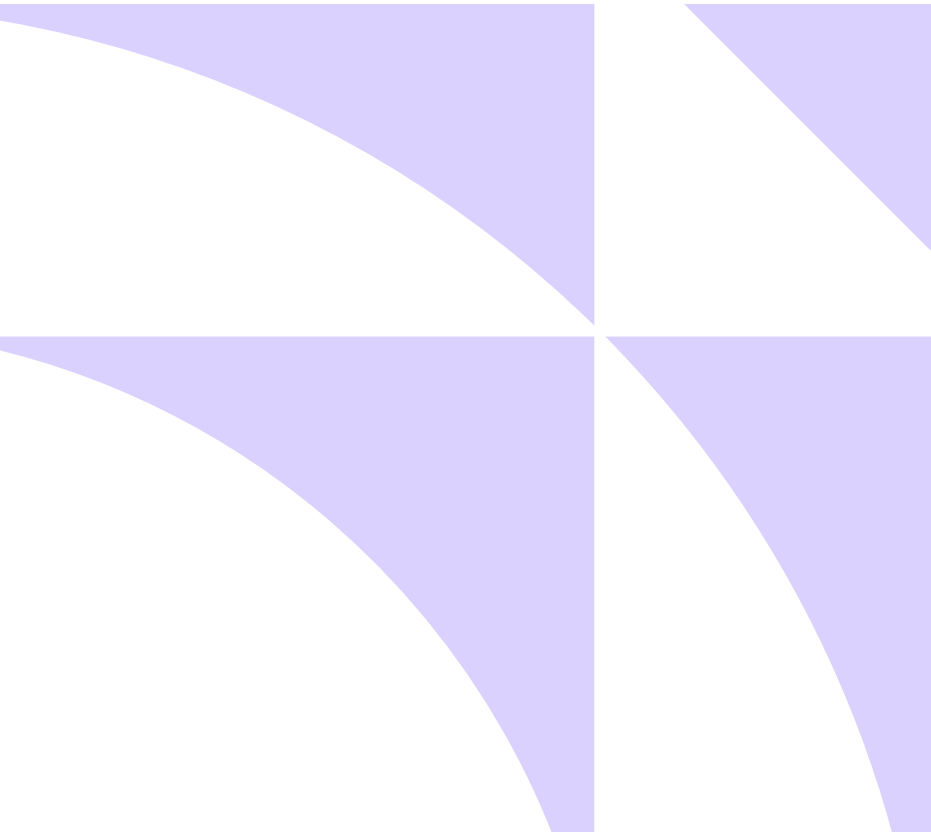
Director of Research for the Economy

As Director of Research for the Economy, Siobhan leads Research Ireland’s strategic objectives focused on collaborative research and innovation initiatives between academia and enterprise, including the internationally leading Rinn network of centres, Co-Centres, ARC Hubs and wider Research Centre, and Enterprise and International Partnerships. Siobhan holds a BA (Mod) in Genetics from TCD and a PhD in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of California at Berkeley (USA). Prior to Research Ireland, Siobhan held a role as Director of Science for the Economy at SFI, and she has worked as a research scientist in both the private sector and in third level research, authoring publications in leading, peer-reviewed journals and producing several international patents.



Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

Research Ireland built on its previous commitment to ESG, making an impact within the organisation and leading by example across the public service.



Our People

Our people are central to Research Ireland and to the work we support. As a newly established agency, we are committed to cultivating a collaborative, inclusive and high-performing culture that prioritises growth, wellbeing and development. We aim to create an employee experience that empowers our people to thrive and supports them in delivering Research Ireland’s strategic objectives.

In our first full year of operation, we focused on integration and strengthened our suite of inclusive people policies to better support staff at different stages of life. This included updates to flexible and family-friendly policies, as well as blended working arrangements to help staff balance personal and professional responsibilities.

Learning and development also played a key role in supporting our people. Activity focused on fostering an inclusive and respectful workplace through equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and Dignity at Work training, alongside practical sessions on topics such as document accessibility and plain English. Staff also had access to a dedicated learning platform covering sustainability, personal effectiveness, project management, leadership development and governance, supporting confidence and capability in day-to-day roles.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The EDI Committee led several events throughout the year, including Cultural Diversity Week, Pride workshops and smaller activities marking key dates. These initiatives supported awareness, encouraged reflection and celebrated the diversity within our agency.

Community Engagement

Staff contributed to the wider community through activities organised by the Community Engagement and Advocacy Committee. Our partnership with ALONE gave staff insight into the experiences of older people and the supports that help them stay connected and independent. Staff also took part in a beach clean on Bull Island, where volunteers removed 40kg of litter and learned about coastal biodiversity and the work of Clean Coasts. These activities provided meaningful opportunities to come together, learn and make a positive contribution.

Climate Action

Research Ireland has an external Climate Action Strategy 2024 – 2027, which focuses on the knowledge and talent we support, informing evidence-based decision-making, providing top talent for the public and private sector and supporting societal change.

The Strategy aims to integrate sustainable and environmentally conscious practices into all activities funded by Research Ireland

The Strategy’s three pillars are:

- Funding Excellent Research that will Shape a Sustainable Future
- Moving Knowledge and Talent through our Society and Economy
- Conducting Research and Related Activities Sustainably

The cross-agency team within Research Ireland has developed an implementation plan and is taking some key initiatives forward. The Strategy will not be delivered in isolation; collaboration and partnership nationally and internationally, as well as monitoring and improvement, will be critical for success and ensuring sustained positive change across the system.

A major milestone was the completion of the two-phase Sustainable Laboratory Certification Pilot Programme with My Green Lab (MGL). Phase 1, launched in Q4 2023, positioned Research Ireland as the first national funder to lead a laboratory sustainability certification process, with 72 of 82 participating lab spaces completing the programme and 51 achieving certification. An independent evaluation—An Independent Evaluation of a Sustainable Laboratory Certification Pilot Programme—was completed and published on 30 June 2025 to guide future scaling and policy development. In response to its recommendations, Phase 2 began with a revised MGL framework, and a new support platform designed to extend sustainability practices beyond wet labs into wider research environments and dry-lab settings.

Research Ireland has an agreed Climate Action Roadmap which sets out how it will deliver on energy efficiency and emission reduction targets. Within the organisation, the Internal Green Team has been working to improve sustainability. Research Ireland has reported on our energy data into the SEAI M&R system, Procurement Policy has been updated to include green procurement and staff have received green procurement training. Energy saving interventions have been implemented in the Research Ireland’s offices, such as reducing the hours that lighting and air conditioning are in use. Climate action leadership training was delivered to senior management and staff and will be refreshed regularly. Our hybrid working policy, digital-first practices and newly

installed EV charging points further reduced commuting and operational emissions, contributing to the achievement of the NTA’s Silver Travel Mark.

Together, these actions strengthened our organisational sustainability and advanced our role in leading climate action across Ireland’s research ecosystem.



Pictured: Staff from Research Ireland participating in a Beach Clean on Bull Island on 11 September. The initiative saw strong staff engagement, with 48 volunteers removing 40kg of litter.

Statutory and Other Notices

1. Board Members – Register of Interests

The Board operates according to best practice corporate governance principles, and in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016, both in activities and in the use of Board Sub-Committees. Research Ireland Board members register their interests in other undertakings with the Secretary, in accordance with these guidelines.

2. Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and Standards in Public Offices Act 2001

Research Ireland is subject to the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001 and continues to comply with the provisions of the Acts.

3. Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act)

Research Ireland is a prescribed body under the FOI Act and complies fully with the Act. Requests for information under this Act should be addressed to the FOI Officer, Research Ireland, Three Park Place, Hatch Street Upper, Dublin 2. Research Ireland received ten FOI requests in 2025, and all of these requests for information have been responded to appropriately.

4. Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

(i) Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

Research Ireland comes under the remit of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 which came into effect on 2 January 1998, and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002, which came into effect on the 7 August 2002. It is the policy of Research Ireland to ensure that all invoices are paid promptly. Specific procedures are in place that enable Research Ireland to track all invoices and ensure that payments are made before the due date. Invoices are registered daily, and electronic payments are issued as required to ensure timely payments. Management is satisfied that Research Ireland complied with the provisions of the Act in all material respects.

(ii) Prompt payment to suppliers

Research Ireland is committed to meeting its obligations under the 15-day Prompt Payment Rule, which came into effect on 1 July 2011. This provision ensures that payments to suppliers in respect of all valid invoices received will be made within 15 calendar days. Research Ireland reports quarterly in the ‘About Us – Governance – FOI’ section of the website on the implementation of the 15-day Prompt Payments Rule.

5. Employment Equality Acts 1998-2015

Research Ireland wholeheartedly supports the principle of equal opportunities in employment. It opposes all forms of discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, nationality, sexual orientation, ethnic or national origin (and/or area of origin), religion, gender, marital status, age or disability. Research Ireland commitment to implementing equal opportunities is reflected in its policies, practices and procedures, recruitment, promotion, training and the use of non-discriminatory language in documents and publications. The objective is to ensure that all staff are selected and treated based on their abilities, knowledge and qualifications.

6. Gender Pay Gap Report

Research Ireland’s Gender Pay Gap Report is published in accordance with the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021. As of 27 June 2025, there was a total of 144 employees; 29% were men and 71% were women. The mean gender pay gap was 7.47%, and the median gap is 12.73%. These figures are in line with national averages and public sector benchmarks. They also highlight a need for continued focus and improvement. The Research Ireland Gender Pay Gap Report is available on the Research Ireland website.

7. Protected Disclosures Act 2014

One external report made under Section 10D(1)(b) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 was made to Research Ireland during 2025, and the investigation of the report was completed during the period.

8. Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and 2010

In accordance with the above Acts, Research Ireland takes appropriate measures to protect the safety, health and welfare of all employees and visitors within its offices.

9. Clients’ Charter

Research Ireland has published a Clients’ Charter on our website setting out our commitment to a high quality of service. This charter includes a procedure for dealing with complaints.

10. Public Sector Energy Reporting

All public sector organisations are required to report energy and related data annually, in accordance with Regulation 5(3) S.I. No. 426/2014 – European Union (Energy Efficiency) Regulations 2014.

Research Ireland’s energy efficiency has improved by 59% compared with the 2009 baseline, exceeding the 2030 target. Fossil fuel-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were 20.4 tCO₂ in 2025, representing a 51% reduction compared with 2024 and an overall reduction of 12% relative to baseline levels.

This is the first decrease in GHG emissions since Research Ireland moved to its current premises and reflects the cessation of on-site electricity generation from a gas-powered combined heat and power (CHP) system.

Research Ireland has complied with Circular 1/2020 on procedures for offsetting emissions associated with official travel.

11. Reporting by Public Sector Bodies

Under Statutory Instrument (SI) 542, 2009 the public sector has specific energy reporting obligations. Research Ireland’s offices are located at Three Park Place, Hatch Street Upper, Dublin 2. In each area relevant to energy usage and services to the building, Research Ireland endeavours to employ the most energy efficient and environmentally friendly means available.

12. Public Sector Duty

Public Sector Duty as a public body, Research Ireland acknowledges its role and obligation to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of our employees, customers, service users and those affected by our policies and plans. This is mandated by the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014.

13. Official Languages Act

The Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 came into operation on 13 March 2023 with enhancements regarding

the use of the Irish language in public bodies. In 2025, Research Ireland was compliant in meeting its advertising and reporting requirements.

14. Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

Section 6(4) of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 requires each public body to publish a list showing the name, grade and brief details of the role and responsibilities of each Designated Public Official of the body. The list is on the Research Ireland website.

15. Data Protection Acts 1988–2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Research Ireland is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Acts. Data protection is concerned with the protection of the individual’s fundamental right to privacy and to exercise control over how their personal information is used. Research Ireland has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO) who can assist data subjects in exercising their rights under data protection legislation.

16. Financial Statements 2024

Research Ireland did not publish an Annual Report covering the period from the date of establishment on 1 August 2024 to 31 December 2024. Financial statements for the five months ending 31 December 2024 were audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and these are published as required here.



08.

Annual Financial Statements 2024

Statement on Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of the Board of Research Ireland I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. 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 therefore provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation has been in place in Research Ireland for the five months ended 31 December 2024 (the Period) and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

Research Ireland has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) which during the Period comprised of five members, all of whom were Board members. The ARC met twice in the Period.

Research Ireland has also established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC. The internal audit function and the role of Internal Audit Coordinator are both outsourced to professional services firms.

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 made available to all staff who are expected to work within Research Ireland’s 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.

Risk and Control Framework

Research Ireland 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 Research Ireland and these have been identified, evaluated

and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the ARC on a bi-monthly 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 the operation controls assigned to specific staff. I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- procedures for all key business processes have been documented;
- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability;
- an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management;
- controls which are aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems;
- procedures in place to safeguard the assets; and
- control procedures over grant funding to research bodies to ensure that there are adequate controls over approval of grants and to ensure that grant funding has been applied for the purpose intended.

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 processes 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 have been established at all levels, including delegated responsibility for financial management;
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/forecasts;
- External Peer review of all Research proposals by scientific experts to adjudicate whether the proposal is worthwhile from an educational and scientific research viewpoint and that it meets the criteria for funding;
- monitoring and control of all Research Grants awarded, with annual grant payments based on budget projections provided for each award with an option to defer grant payments if expenditure is below budget;

- monitoring of a range of KPIs, including Industry Cost Share targets, at Research Centres with proactive management where targets are not being achieved;
- a programme of systems-based audits at the Eligible Research Bodies are undertaken on an annual basis, covering on average four different Research Bodies each year;
- reviews concerning improvements in controls around accounting separation and full economic costing are being undertaken at a number of the Research Bodies;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- formal project management disciplines.

Procurement

I confirm that Research Ireland has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that during the Period Research Ireland complied with those procedures.

Review of Effectiveness

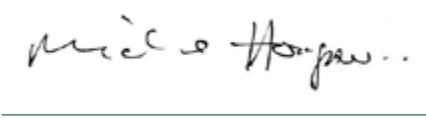
I confirm that Research Ireland has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. Research Ireland’s monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees their work, and the senior management within Research Ireland 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 the Period on 31 March 2025.

Internal Control Issues

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in the period that require disclosure in the financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland:



Mr Michael Horgan
Chair

Date: 30 June 2025

Report of Comptroller and Auditor General



Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland for the period from its establishment on 1 August 2024 to 31 December 2024 as required under the provisions of section 25 of the Research and Innovation Act 2024. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- 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 Taighde Éireann at 31 December 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2024 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 Taighde Éireann 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

Taighde Éireann has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the governance statement 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.

Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General

30 June 2025

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of the Board members

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

- the preparation of annual financial statements in the form prescribed under section 25 of the Research and Innovation Act 2024
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- 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 25 of the Research and Innovation Act 2024 to audit the financial statements of Taighde Éireann 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 Taighde Éireann'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 Taighde Éireann 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.

I 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.

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.

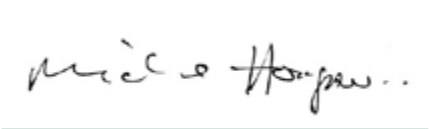
Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

	Notes	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Income		
Oireachtas Grant	2	165,799
Other Income	3	9,892
Net Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding	5 (c)	1,134
		176,825
Expenditure		
Administration, Operations and Promotion Expenses	4	9,829
Depreciation	6	138
Retirement Benefit Costs	5(a)	947
Grants Paid	9	165,296
		176,210
Surplus for the Period before appropriations		615
Transfer from the Capital Account	7	73
Surplus for the Period after appropriations		688
Balance carried forward at 1 August 2024		1,943
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2024		2,631

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 18 form part of these Financial Statements.

On behalf of the Board of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland:



Mr Michael Horgan
Chair

Date: 30 June 2025



Ms Lorraine Allen
Board Member

Date: 30 June 2025

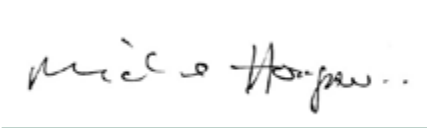
Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

		Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Surplus after Appropriations		688
Experience Gain on retirement benefit obligations		3,328
Change in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations		2,030
Total Actuarial Gain in the Period	5(d)	5,358
Adjustment to Deferred Retirement benefits funding		(5,358)
Total Comprehensive Surplus		688

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 18 form part of these Financial Statements.

On behalf of the Board of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland:

	
Mr Michael Horgan	Ms Lorraine Allen
Chair	Board Member
Date: 30 June 2025	Date: 30 June 2025

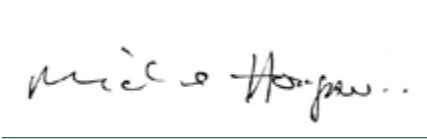
Statement of Financial Position

As of 31 December 2024

	Notes	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Fixed Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment	8	4,249
Current Assets		
Receivables	10	796
Cash and Cash Equivalents		6,102
		6,898
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)		
Payables	11	(4,267)
Net Current Assets		2,631
Retirement benefits		
Retirement Benefit Liability	5(b)	(24,764)
Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding Asset	5(b)	24,764
		-
Total Net Assets		6,880
Representing:		
Capital Account	7	4,249
Accumulated Surplus at end of the Period		2,631
		6,880

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 18 form part of these Financial Statements.

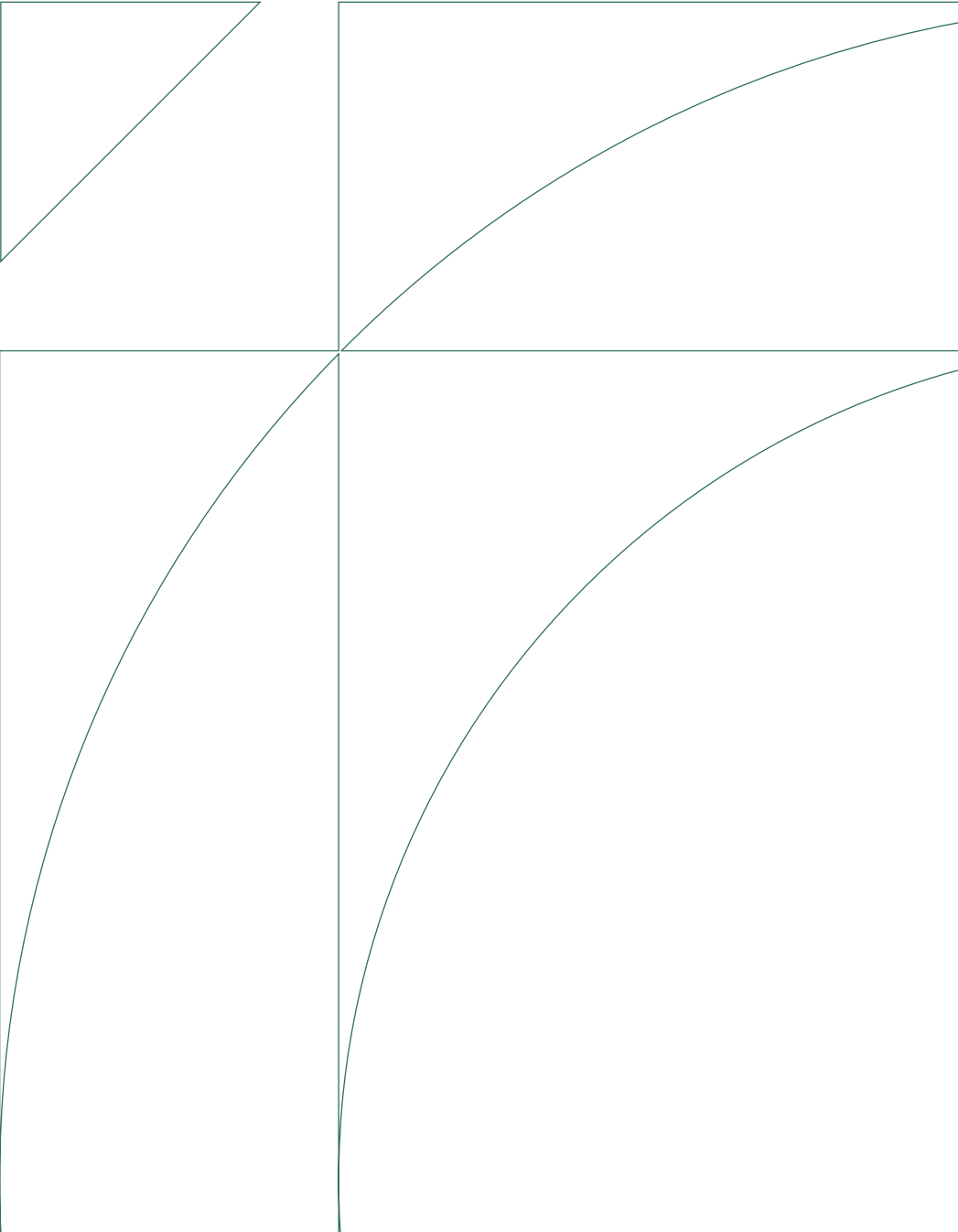
On behalf of the Board of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland:

	
Mr Michael Horgan Chair	Ms Lorraine Allen Board Member
Date: 30 June 2025	Date: 30 June 2025

Statement of Cash Flows

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

		Aug - Dec 2024
	Notes	€'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Surplus for the Period before appropriations		615
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	6	138
Decrease in Receivables	10 and 16	720
Decrease in Payables	11 and 16	(31)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		1,442
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	8	(65)
Net Cash Flows to Investing Activities		(65)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		-
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,377
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1 August	16	4,725
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December		6,102



Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland are set out below. They have been applied consistently throughout the Period from August to December 2024.

(a) General Information

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland was established on 1 August, 2024 under the Research and Innovation Act 2024 (the Act), with its Head Office at Three Park Place, Hatch Street Upper, Dublin 2. The Act allowed for the amalgamation of the activities of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Irish Research Council (IRC), which was part of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) into a new agency Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland.

SFI was dissolved on the 1 August 2024 and the functions of SFI transferred to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland on that date. All of its functions, operations, assets and liabilities were transferred to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland. The legislation also provided that all IRC related functions, assets, contracts and responsibilities transferred from the HEA to

Research Ireland on the Establishment Day, as mandated by Sections 65, 66 and 67 of the Act.

The Minister designated 4 November 2024 (Transfer Day) as the effective date for HEA staff working on IRC related activities to transfer to Research Ireland, by way of letter from the Minister to the Interim CEO dated 16 September 2024.

The HEA managed matters on behalf of Research Ireland up to the date of staff transfer and a full list of transactions processed by the HEA on behalf of Research Ireland were forwarded to Research Ireland for upload to the Research Ireland general Ledger.

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland’s primary objectives as set out under section 8 of the Research and Innovation Act 2024, are as follows:

(a) to promote the attainment and maintenance of excellence in the standard and quality of research and innovation undertaken;

- (b) to support the undertaking of research and innovation in all fields of activity and disciplines by researchers with different levels of knowledge, experience and specialist skills in such fields or disciplines;
- (c) to promote and support the contribution made by research and innovation to economic, social, cultural and environmental development and sustainability in the State;
- (d) to strengthen the engagement of the research and innovation system with—
 - i. the Government, Ministers of the Government and bodies (whether statutory or otherwise) which are funded wholly or partly by public moneys, and
 - ii. enterprise, non-governmental organisations, cultural institutions and society generally;
- (e) to promote and develop the reputation of the State internationally as a location that is favourable for undertaking research and innovation;

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

(f) to advance the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion with regard to opportunities to undertake research and innovation and in the undertaking of that research and innovation.

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

(b) Statement of Compliance and Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC). The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

The financial statements reflect the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016, which came into effect for accounting periods commencing on or after the 1st September 2016. The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to Taighde Éireann- Research Ireland’s financial statements.

As Research Ireland was only established on August 1st 2024, there are no like-for-like comparative figures included in these financial statements.

(c) Revenue

Revenue is recognised on an accruals basis except in the case of Oireachtas Grants which are recognised on a cash receipts basis.

(d) 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, 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. Leasehold Improvements
over the remaining life of the lease
- ii. Computer Equipment and Computer Software
3 years
- iii. Fixtures and Fittings
5 years

Assets are depreciated in the year of acquisition unless they have not been commissioned / brought into use at the period end.

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset was already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

(e) Capital Account

The Capital Account represents the unamortised funds utilised for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and is written down in line with the depreciation policy for these assets.

(f) Foreign Currency

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rates ruling at the end of the Financial Year. Revenues and costs are translated at the exchange rates ruling at the dates of the underlying transactions. The resultant surpluses or deficits are dealt with in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

(g) 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

Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland operates the Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland Superannuation Scheme 2016, which is a defined Benefit scheme, for all staff who joined the organisation before 2013. The pensionable service of 4 former IRC staff will be transferred the Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland Superannuation Scheme 2016 in line with the Public Sector Transfer Network rules during 2025.

Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme (Single Scheme), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the Period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are remitted to the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in respect of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland’s retirement benefit scheme and to the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation in respect of the Single Scheme. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

The financial statements reflect, at fair value, the assets and liabilities arising from Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland’s pension obligations and any related funding and recognise the costs of providing pension benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

Retirement benefit scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the Projected Unit Credit method. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

(h) Operating Leases

Rental expenditure under operating leases is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves as they fall due. It is recognised as an expense over the period that Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland obtains benefit from the use of the leased buildings.

(i) Research Grant Payments

Amounts paid to Research Bodies on foot of research grants awarded are charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves in the year of payment.

(j) 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 reporting date and the amounts reported for income and expenditure during the period. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Depreciation and Residual Values

The Board members have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

Retirement Benefit Obligation

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and healthcare cost trend rates) and are updated annually based on current economic conditions, and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- i. The discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds
- ii. Future compensation levels, future labour market conditions
- iii. Changes in demographics

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

2. Oireachtas Grants

The Oireachtas Grants paid to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, as shown in the financial statements consist of:

Grants for Current Expenditure	D/FHERIS Vote 45	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Pay and Pensions*	Subhead C3.1	4,520
Non-Payroll Expenses	Subhead C3.1	5,308
Research Grants	Subhead C3.1	109,221
Research Grants	Subhead B12	39,000
Research Grants – Centres for Research Training	Subhead C4.2	7,750
		165,799

*The grant for pay expenditure is stated net of employee pension contributions of €212k remitted to the Exchequer. These include deductions of €130k in the period from 1 August to 31 December 2024 in respect of members of The Single Pension Scheme which were remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

3. Other Income

Co-Contributions from other funding partners to Awards made by Research Ireland across a number of different programmes:	Aug - Dec 2024 €000s
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	1,858
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	1,716
Department of Defence	1,600
Environmental Protection Agency	1,038
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	731
Department of Education	703
Children's Health Foundation	684
Health Research Board	400
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	197
National Monument Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	159
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth	152
GenderNet Plus	117
Geological Society of Ireland	79
Other	391
Total Co-Contributions received	9,825
EU contribution towards programme management costs of running EraNets	67
Total	9,892

4. Administration, Operations and Promotion Expenses

	Notes	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Remuneration and Other Pay Costs	4(a)	5,107
Accommodation		1,046
Programme Management		615
Marketing and Supports	4(c)	1,334
IT Support and Infrastructure		631
Administration Expenses	4(d)	431
Accounting and Internal Audit Services		95
Professional and Support Services	4(e)	367
Specialist and Education Services		157
HR Management		12
Statutory Audit fee		34
Total		9,829

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

4(a) Remuneration and other pay costs

	Notes	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Staff Salaries		4,251
Agency Staff		190
Employers' contribution to Social Welfare		410
Pension costs for Retired Staff		69
Decrease in Holiday Pay Accrual		(12)
Staff Training and Development		87
Staff Travel and Subsistence Costs	4(f)	66
Board Members' Fees and Expenses	4(g)	46
Total		5,107

There were 131 staff employed as at 31 December 2024. Included in Remuneration and Other Pay Costs is total Key Management personnel compensation of €426k for 2024. This includes the compensation for the Board members, the Interim Chief Executive Officer and the senior Executives who reported to her. Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland deducted Additional Superannuation Contribution pension levies (ASC) from staff of €122k which were paid over to the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. There were no overtime payments or termination payments made in the Period.

Interim CEO’s Remuneration

The Interim CEO’s remuneration for the period August to December 2024 is €63k and total expenses incurred by her is Nil.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

4(b) Employee benefits breakdown by number of employees

From	To	31 Dec 2024
€60,000	- €69,999	19
€70,000	- €79,999	8
€80,000	- €89,999	13
€90,000	- €99,999	17
€100,000	- €109,999	2
€110,000	- €119,999	2
€120,000	- €129,999	10
€160,000	- €169,999	2
€180,000	- €189,999	2
€190,000	- €199,999	1

Note: For the purposes of the 4(b) 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 employer’s PRSI. The employee benefits figures for these accounts are annualised for a 12-month Period rather than for a 5-month period based on pay levels at 31 December 2024.

4(c) Included in Marketing and Supports is public engagement consultant fees of €132k.

4(d) Included in the Administration Expenses is hospitality expenditure:

Aug - Dec 2024		€'000
Staff Hospitality	12	
Client Hospitality	-	
Board Hospitality	2	
Total	14	

4(e) Professional and Support Services

Aug - Dec 2024		€'000
Legal Advice	92	
Administration Services	84	
Innovation Training and Mentoring	30	
Data Subject Access Request	29	
My Green Labs Pilot Certification Process	25	
Strategy Consultants	25	
Financial Systems Support	17	
Procurement Support	13	
Theory of Change Training for Co-Centres	12	
Pilot Science Media Centre	10	
Research Integrity Advisor	5	
Other Professional Fees	25	
Total	367	

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

As noted in the final Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) accounts for the period 1 January to 31 July 2024, legal action was taken against SFI by a former employee which was settled in late 2024 by Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland. Full details of this court case and settlement were reflected in the final set of audited SFI statutory accounts.

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland defines consultancy fees as specific finite tasks involving expert skills or capabilities that would not normally reside within Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland.

4(f) Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Staff Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Domestic Travel and Subsistence	47
International Travel and Subsistence	19
Total	66

4(g) Board Members' Remuneration and Expenses

	Board Fees Aug - Dec 2024 €	Vouched Expenses Aug - Dec 2024 €	Meetings attended Aug - Dec 2024 number
Board Member			
Mr Michael Horgan (Chair)	8,550	-	3 out of 3
Ms Lorraine Allen	4,988	-	3 out of 3
Prof Rebecca Braun	-	479	2 out of 3
Dr Godfrey Gaston	4,988	528	3 out of 3
Mr Leonard Hobbs	4,988	-	3 out of 3
Prof Niamh Moloney	4,988	-	3 out of 3
Prof Valeria Nicolosi	-	-	2 out of 3
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan	4,988	861	3 out of 3
Ms Patricia Quane	4,988	590	3 out of 3
Ms Anne Vaughan	4,988	-	3 out of 3
Total	43,466	2,458	

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

Board members are paid fees as determined by the Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation. Certain Board members are excluded from receiving fees from Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland under the "One Person One Salary" remuneration arrangements whereby public servants cannot receive Board fees in addition to a salary. These are Prof Rebecca Braun and Prof Valeria Nicolosi.

Board members vouched expenses are set out as follows:

	Aug - Dec 2024
	€'000
Domestic Travel and Subsistence	2
International Travel and Subsistence	-
Total	2

Board members' expenses of €2,458 in the Period relate to vouched expenditure and expenditure paid by Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland on behalf of individual Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland Board members.

5. Retirement Benefit Costs

(a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

	Aug - Dec 2024
	€'000
Current Service Cost	749
Interest on Retirement Benefit Scheme Liabilities	410
Employee Contributions	(212)
Total	947

(b) Movement in net Retirement Benefit Obligation during the financial year

	Aug - Dec 2024
	€'000
Net retirement benefit obligation at 1 August	28,988
Current Service Cost	749
Interest Costs	410
Payments to Pensioners	(25)
Actuarial Gain	(5,358)
Net retirement benefit obligation at 31 December	24,764

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

The Board recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described in the Accounting Policies above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the retirement benefit schemes, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The Board has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The net deferred funding for retirement benefits recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves is as follows:

(c) Net Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding

	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Funding recoverable in respect of Current Periods' retirement benefit costs	1,159
Less State Grant applied to pay retirement benefits	(25)
Total	1,134

(d) General description of the scheme

Research Ireland had responsibility for the pension costs of:

1. staff with effect from 16 July 2014, under the Industrial Development (Forfás Dissolution) Act 2014, who were members of the Forfás Pension Scheme and joined the new Science Foundation Ireland pension scheme on superannuation terms no less favourable than those they enjoyed under the Forfás scheme immediately before the date of transfer from Forfás to SFI.
2. staff who were members of the Single Public Service pension scheme.

Both schemes are defined benefit pension schemes and are fully funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies provided by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

The Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland pension scheme was a defined benefit final salary scheme with retirement benefits linked to final salary and length of service. The Single Public Service pension scheme is also a defined benefit scheme

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

with retirement benefits linked to career average revalued earnings and length of service. The valuation used for FRS 102 disclosures is based on an actuarial review of the schemes for the financial Period ended 31 December 2024 carried out by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the schemes liabilities at 31 December 2024.

A total of 18 staff transferred to Research Ireland on 4 November 2024. However, three staff were on unpaid leave and were not paid by Research Ireland during the period 4 November to 31 December 2024 and did not accrue any pension obligations with Research Ireland during this period. All three staff were in the Single Pension scheme in the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

The actuarial valuation report for the period ended 31 December 2024 took into account the pension obligations for 15 former IRC staff who transferred to Research Ireland on 4 November and who were on the Research Ireland payroll from 4 November to 31 December 2024.

Of these 15 staff on the Research Ireland payroll, 11 are in the Single Pension Scheme and four are in Superannuation schemes as follows: two employees in the Research Ireland Superannuation Scheme 2016 (pre-2004 entry) and two employees in the Research Ireland Superannuation Scheme 2016 (post-2004 entry). No service for these four staff has transferred to Research Ireland to date, but this is in process and an expectation to transfer to Research Ireland during 2025. Please note that whilst we have been advised of these four people being members of the superannuation schemes detailed, we are awaiting formal detailed confirmation from the HEA of the applicable service allowing them to be members of said schemes.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

Liabilities shown in the Financial Accounts are computed using the Projected Unit Credit method.

Aug - Dec 2024
€'000

Financial Assumptions

Discount Rate*	3.50% p.a
Future Salary Increases	3.65% p.a
Future State Pension Increases	3.65% p.a
Future Pension Increases	3.15% p.a
Future Price Inflation	2.15% p.a
Revaluation in Deferment	3.15% p.a

* discount rate reflects a duration of liabilities of approximately 24.1 years in 2024

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

The assumed retirement ages of members of the pension scheme are as follows;

- Active employees of the Closed (pre 2004) scheme have an assumed retirement age of 62 years;
- Active employees of the Model (post 2004) scheme have a retirement age of 65;
- Active Single Scheme members are assumed to retire at age 66.

The Mortality basis explicitly allows for Improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age (age 65). The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2024 and 2044.

Year of attaining age 65	2024	2044
Life Expectancy – Male	21.7	23.0
Life Expectancy – Female	24.1	25.5

	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Period ending 31 December	
Closing pension liability	24,764
Experience Gain arising on the plan Liabilities	3,328
% Liabilities	13%
Total Gain recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income	5,358
% Liabilities	22%

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

6. Depreciation

	Notes	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Depreciation charge	8	138
		138

7. Capital Account

	Notes	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Opening Balance as at 1 August		4,322
- To fund Fixed Asset acquisitions	8	65
- Amortised in line with asset depreciation	8	(138)
		(73)
Closing balance as at 31 December		4,249

8. Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Improvements €'000	Computer Equipment €'000	Computer Software €'000	Fixtures and Fittings €'000	Total €'000
Cost					
At 1 August 2024	5,464	1,445	131	713	7,753
Additions	-	65	-	-	65
Disposals/Write-downs	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	5,464	1,510	131	713	7,818
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2024	1,225	1,381	131	694	3,431
Charge for Period	91	44	-	3	138
Disposals/Write-downs	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	1,316	1,425	131	697	3,569
Net Book Amount					
At 1 August 2024	4,239	64	-	19	4,322
Net Movement for Period	(91)	21	-	(3)	(73)
At 31 December 2024	4,148	85	-	16	4,249

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

9. Grants

(a) Analysis of Grants Paid

	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Priority Area A - Future Networks, Communications and Internet of Things	12,126
Priority Area B - Data Analytics, Management, Security, Privacy, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (including Machine Learning)	23,335
Priority Area C - Digital Platforms, Content and Applications, and Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality	6,856
Priority Area D - Connected Health and Independent Living	2,696
Priority Area E - Medical Devices	6,770
Priority Area F - Diagnostics	8,395
Priority Area G - Therapeutics: Synthesis, Formulation, Processing and Drug Delivery	20,116
Priority Area H - Food for Health	3,361
Priority Area I - Sustainable Food Production and Processing	3,619
Priority Area J - Marine Renewable Energy	6,031
Priority Area K - Sustainable Living	7,388
Priority Area L - Manufacturing Competitiveness	6,590
Priority Area M - Processing Technologies and Novel Materials	15,517
Priority Area N - Innovation in Services and Business Processes	685
Arts, Humanities Social Science, STEM (former IRC Awards)	32,932
Discover	4,699
Other	3,033
Basic Biomedical Science	903
Science Week	245
Grand Total	165,297

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

(b) Grant Commitments

	Note	Dec 2024 €'000
Grant Commitments as at 1 August 2024	1	675,491
Grants approved during the Period		127,714
Grant payments made in the Period - Gross	9(a)	(165,296)
Contributions from other funding partners		9,825
De-Commitments during the Period		(11,051)
Grant Commitments as at 31 December 2024		636,683
Grant Commitments (excluding Co-Funded commitments)		657,206

Note 1
The opening balance of €675m is composed of SFI grant commitments of €574m and IRC grant commitments of €101m which transferred to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland on 1 August 2024.

10. Receivables

	Dec 2024 €'000
Debtors	377
Prepayments and Accrued income	419
Total	796

11. Payables

	Dec 2024 €'000
General Creditors	616
Deferred Income*	2,388
Accruals	1,263
Total	4,267

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

*Deferred income represents the grants and programme management monies received from other funding agencies and the EU but not expended by the Period end. The EU deferred income is in respect of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland’s participation in ERAnet Co-funded calls (made in conjunction with other EU funding agencies and the EU).

These amounts are credited to Other Income over the period to which the related expenditure is incurred.

12. Commitments under Operating Leases

Science Foundation Ireland signed an “Agreement for Lease” with the IDA in May 2018 for Three Park Place. The lease transferred to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland on establishment day. The lease is for 25 years (subject to a break clause after 10 years) with annual rent payments of €1,668,628 which commenced in May 2019, following a one-year rent free period.

The following are future minimum lease payments over the period of the lease:

	31 Dec 2024 €’000
Within 1 year	1,668
During 2-5 years	6,672
Over 5 years	22,320

13. Taxation

Section 227 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, provides an exemption from tax on the income of non-commercial state bodies except where interest is subject to tax at source (e.g. DIRT). The net amount of such income is credited to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland is liable to employer taxes in Ireland and complies with related withholding, reporting and payment obligations.

14. Related Party Disclosures

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland adopted procedures in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation covering the personal interests of Board members and staff. In the normal course of business, Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland may approve grants or enter into other contractual arrangements with entities in which Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland Board members and staff are employed or are otherwise interested.

In cases of potential conflict of interest, Board members and staff did not receive Board documentation or otherwise participate in or attend discussions regarding these transactions. A register was maintained and available on request of all such instances.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

15.Contingencies and Legal Actions

There are no contingencies or legal actions which require specific provision in the Financial Statements.

16. Amalgamation

The functions of SFI and the IRC transferred to Taighde Éireann -Research Ireland on 1 August 2024. SFI was dissolved on the 1 August 2024 under the Research and Innovation Act 2024. The Act sets out a range of transfer provisions which include inter alia, the transfer to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland of all property which, immediately before that day was vested in SFI. All rights and liabilities of SFI and the IRC arising by virtue of any contract or commitment (express or implied) entered into before that date stand transferred to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland. The Act also contains provisions whereby all staff of SFI and the IRC transferred to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland on terms and conditions no less favourable than heretofore. Other provisions included in the Act relate to the continuation after dissolution of anything commenced and not completed, in so far as it relates to a function conferred on SFI, and provisions with regard to liability for losses (including claims for loss or injury) occurring before the date of dissolution.

As all of functions, operations, assets and liabilities of SFI and the IRC were transferred to Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland, these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

There was a transitional period for the transfer of the IRC. The IRC came under the responsibility of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland from 1 August 2024, however it was operated by the HEA during a transitional period from establishment date up until transfer date, of 4 November 2024. The following assets and liabilities were transferred to Research Ireland from SFI and the IRC on establishment date:

	SFI €000	IRC €000	Total €000
Fixed Assets	4,322	-	4,322
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,989	2,736	4,725
Receivables	1,508	8	1,516
Payables	(1,554)	(2,744)	(4,298)
Pension Asset	28,988	-	28,988
Pension Liability	(28,988)	-	(28,988)
Capital Reserves	(4,322)	-	(4,322)
Retained Reserves	(1,943)	-	(1,943)
Total	-	-	-

During the transition period, the following transactions were processed by the HEA on behalf of Research Ireland; net grants payments €22.6m, payroll €0.4m and non-payroll €0.1m.

Notes to the Financial Statements

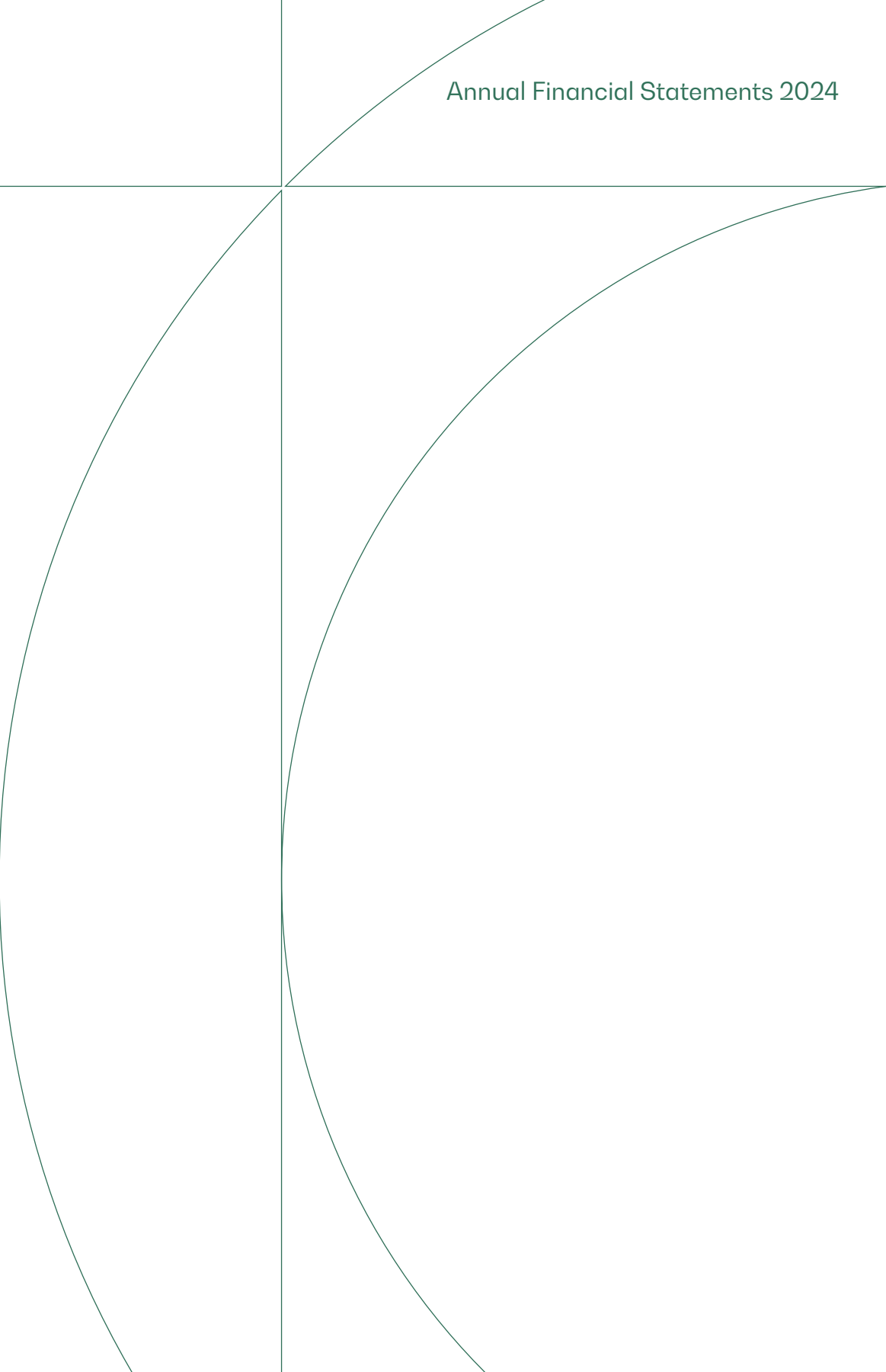
For the period 1 August to 31 December 2024

17. Events after the Reporting Period

There were no events between the reporting date and the date of approval of these financial statements that require adjustment to the financial statements. The Board considers that as the entity provides a public service that is funded by moneys provided by the Exchequer, via its parent department (Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science), it is appropriate to prepare these financial statements on a going concern basis.

18. Approval of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland on 30 March 2025.





08.

Annual Financial Statements 2025

Statement on Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of the Board of Research Ireland, I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. 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 in line with our Risk Appetite Statement and tolerance. We strive to ensure that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation has been in place in Research Ireland for the twelve months ended 31 December 2025 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

Research Ireland has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC). The ARC met six times during the year. The Committee comprises six members including two external members, Dr Barry O'Connor and Mr Jim Frawley, who were appointed with effect from 24 February 2025. Mr Godfrey Gaston MBE, resigned from the Committee on 24 February 2025.

Research Ireland has also established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC. The internal audit function and the role of Internal Audit Coordinator are both outsourced to professional services firms. During the year a review of how the internal audit function should be structured and resourced was undertaken by the ARC and it was concluded that the current model should be retained.

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 made available to all staff who are expected to work within Research Ireland's 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.

Risk and Control Framework

Research Ireland 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 Research Ireland and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed by the ARC on a bi-monthly basis. The outcome of these assessments is used by management 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 the operation of controls assigned to specific staff. I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- procedures for all key business processes have been documented;
- financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability;
- an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management;

- controls which are aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems;
- procedures in place to safeguard the assets; and
- control procedures over grant funding to research bodies to ensure that there are adequate controls over approval of grants and to ensure that grant funding has been applied for the purpose intended.

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 processes are in place:

- key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of key controls and report any identified deficiencies;
- reporting arrangements have been established at all levels, including delegated responsibility for financial management;
- regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/forecasts;

- External Peer review of all Research proposals by relevant experts to adjudicate whether the proposal is worthwhile from an educational and relevant research viewpoint and that it meets the criteria for funding;
- monitoring and control of all Research Grants awarded, with annual grant payments based on budget projections provided for each award with an option to defer grant payments if expenditure is below budget;
- monitoring of a range of KPIs, including Industry Cost Share targets, at Research Centres with proactive management where targets are not being achieved;
- a programme of systems-based audits at the Eligible Research Bodies are undertaken on an annual basis, covering on average four different Research Bodies each year;
- reviews concerning improvements in controls around accounting separation and full economic costing are being undertaken at a number of the Research Bodies;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- formal project management disciplines.

Procurement

I confirm that Research Ireland has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and

guidelines and that during the year Research Ireland complied with those procedures.

Review of Effectiveness

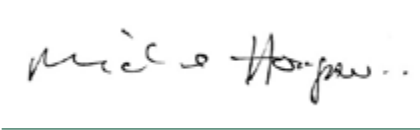
I confirm that Research Ireland has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. Research Ireland’s monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees their work, and the senior management within Research Ireland 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 2025 on 23 March 2026.

Internal Control Issues

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in 2025 that require disclosure in the financial statements.

On behalf of the Board of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland:



Mr Michael Horgan
Chair

Date: 18 June 2026

Report of Comptroller and Auditor General



Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2025 as required under the provisions of section 25 of the Research and Innovation Act 2024. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- 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 Taighde Éireann at 31 December 2025 and of its income and expenditure for 2025 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 Taighde Éireann 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

Taighde Éireann has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement 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.

Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General

24 June 2026

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of the Board members

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

- the preparation of annual financial statements in the form prescribed under section 25 of the Research and Innovation Act 2024
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- 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 25 of the Research and Innovation Act 2024 to audit the financial statements of Taighde Éireann 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 Taighde Éireann'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 Taighde Éireann 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.

I 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.

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.

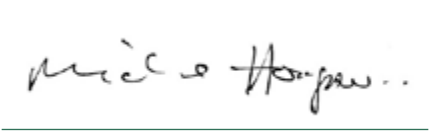
Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Income			
Oireachtas Grant	2	335,139	165,799
Other Income	3	12,951	9,892
Net Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding	5(c)	2,557	1,134
		350,647	176,825
Expenditure			
Administration, Operations and Promotion Expenses	4	22,751	9,829
Depreciation	6	283	138
Retirement Benefit Costs	5(a)	2,089	947
Grants Paid	9	325,551	165,296
		350,674	176,210
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Period before appropriations		(27)	615
Transfer from the Capital Account	7	283	73
Surplus for the Period after appropriations		256	688
Balance brought forward at 1 January 2025		2,631	1,943
Balance carried forward at 31 December 2025		2,887	2,631

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 17 form part of these Financial Statements.

On behalf of the Board of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland:



Mr Michael Horgan
Chair

Date: 18 June 2026



Ms Lorraine Allen
Board Member

Date: 18 June 2026

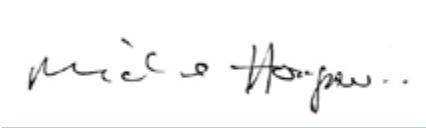
Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Surplus after Appropriations		256	688
Experience (Loss)/Gain on retirement benefit obligations		(2,959)	3,328
Change in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations		6,178	2,030
Total Actuarial Gain in the Period	5(d)	3,219	5,358
Adjustment to Deferred Retirement benefits funding		(3,219)	(5,358)
Total Comprehensive Surplus		256	688

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 17 form part of these Financial Statements.

On behalf of the Board of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland:



Mr Michael Horgan
Chair

Date: 18 June 2026



Ms Lorraine Allen
Board Member

Date: 18 June 2026

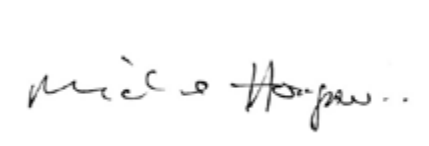
Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2025

	Notes	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Fixed Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	8	3,966	4,249
Current Assets			
Receivables	10	196	796
Cash and Cash Equivalents		4,765	6,102
		4,961	6,898
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)			
Payables	11	(2,074)	(4,267)
Net Current Assets		2,887	2,631
Retirement benefits			
Retirement Benefit Liability	5(b)	(24,102)	(24,764)
Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding Asset	5(b)	24,102	24,764
		-	-
Total Net Assets		6,853	6,880
Representing:			
Capital Account	7	3,966	4,249
Accumulated Surplus at end of the Period		2,887	2,631
		6,853	6,880

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 17 form part of these Financial Statements.

On behalf of the Board of Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland:



Mr Michael Horgan
Chair

Date: 18 June 2026



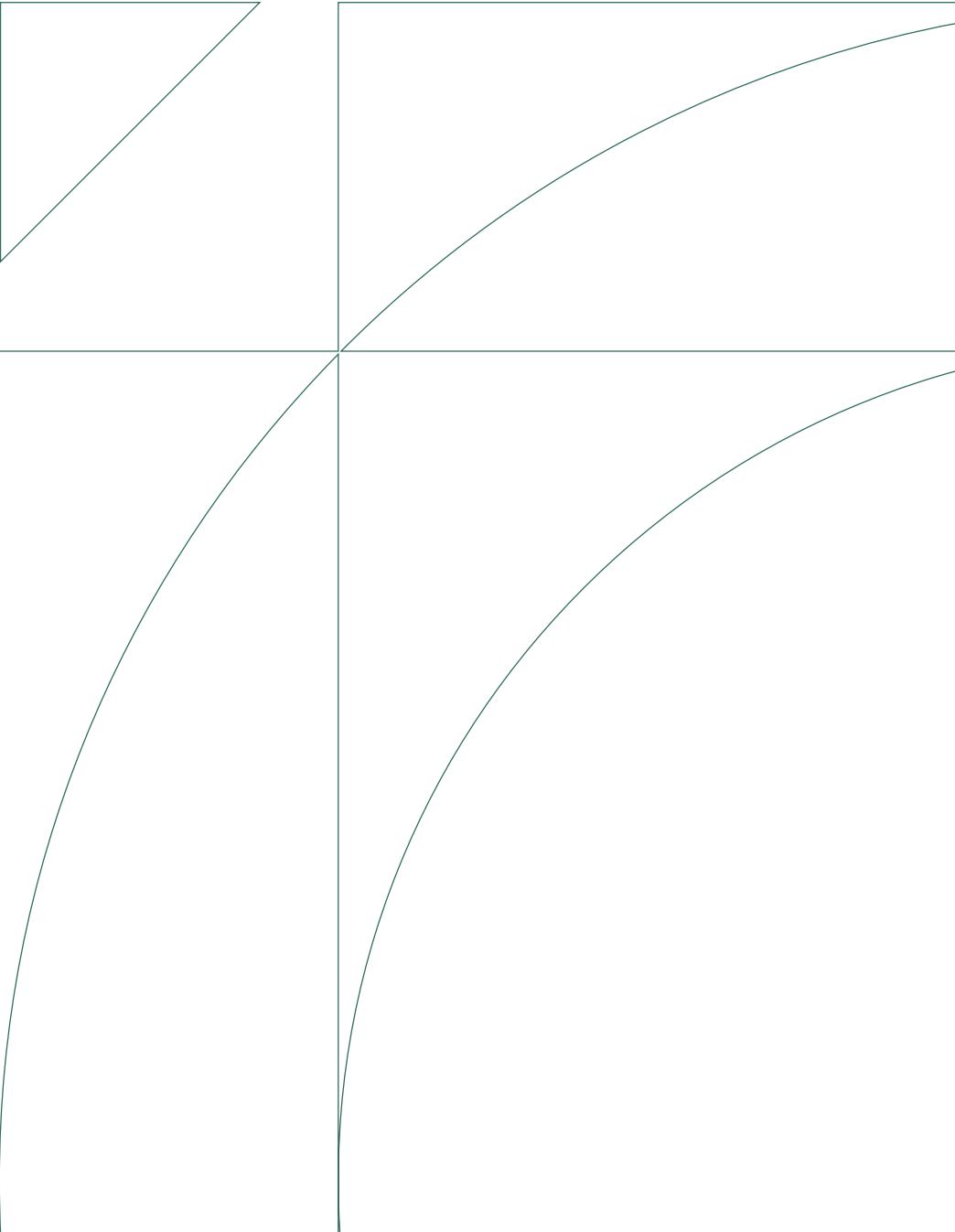
Ms Lorraine Allen
Board Member

Date: 18 June 2026

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Notes	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
(Decrease) /Surplus for the Period before appropriations		(27)	615
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	6	283	138
Decrease in Receivables	10	600	720
Decrease in Payables	11	(2,193)	(31)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		(1,337)	1,442
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	8	-	(65)
Net Cash Flows to Investing Activities		-	(65)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		-	-
(Decrease)/Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		(1,337)	1,377
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1 January		6,102	4,725
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December		4,765	6,102



Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland are set out below. They have been applied consistently throughout the year and for the proceeding period.

(a) General Information

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland was established on 1 August 2024, under the Research and Innovation Act 2024 (the Act), with its Head Office at Three Park Place, Hatch Street Upper, Dublin 2. The Act facilitated the transfer of staff from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Irish Research Council (IRC), which was part of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) into Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland.

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland’s primary objectives as set out under section 8 of the Research and Innovation Act 2024, are as follows:

(a) to promote the attainment and maintenance of excellence in the standard and quality of research and innovation undertaken;

(b) to support the undertaking of research and innovation in all fields of activity and disciplines by researchers with different levels of knowledge, experience and specialist skills in such fields or disciplines;

(c) to promote and support the contribution made by research and innovation to economic, social, cultural and environmental development and sustainability in the State;

(d) to strengthen the engagement of the research and innovation system with—

- i. the Government, Ministers of the Government and bodies (whether statutory or otherwise) which are funded wholly or partly by public moneys, and
- ii. enterprise, non-governmental organisations, cultural institutions and society generally;

(e) to promote and develop the reputation of the State internationally as a location that is favourable for undertaking research and innovation;

(f) to advance the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion with regard to opportunities to undertake research and innovation and in the undertaking of that research and innovation.

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

(b) Statement of Compliance and Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC). The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

The financial statements reflect the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016, which came into effect for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 September 2016. The following accounting policies

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to Taighde Éireann- Research Ireland’s financial statements.

As Research Ireland was established on 1 August 2024, the comparative figures included in these financial statements for 2024 are for a period of five months from 1 August, to 31 December, 2024.

(c) Revenue

Revenue is recognised on an accruals basis except in the case of Oireachtas Grants which are recognised on a cash receipts basis.

(d) 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, 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. Leasehold Improvements
over the remaining life of the lease
- ii. Computer Equipment and Computer Software
3 years
- iii. Fixtures and Fittings
5 years

Assets are depreciated in the year of acquisition unless they have not been commissioned / brought into use at the period end.

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 was already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

(e) Capital Account

The Capital Account represents the unamortised funds utilised for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and is written down in line with the depreciation policy for these assets.

(f) Foreign Currency

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rates ruling at the end of the Financial Year. Revenues and costs are translated at the exchange rates ruling at the dates of the underlying transactions. The resultant surpluses or deficits are dealt with in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

(g) 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

Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland operates the Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland Superannuation Scheme 2016, which is a Defined Benefit scheme, for staff who are eligible to join this scheme. The pensionable service of 4 former IRC staff will be transferred to the Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland Superannuation Scheme 2016 in line with the Public Sector Transfer Network rules during 2026.

Taighde Éireann - Research Ireland also operates the Single Public Services Pension Scheme (Single Scheme), which is a Defined Benefit scheme for staff who are eligible to join this scheme.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the Period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are remitted to the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in respect of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland’s retirement benefit scheme and to the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation in respect of the Single Scheme. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

The financial statements reflect, at fair value, the assets and liabilities arising from Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland’s pension obligations and any related funding and recognise the costs of providing pension benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees.

Retirement benefit scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the Projected Unit Credit method. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

(h) Operating Leases

Rental expenditure under operating leases is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves as they fall due. It is recognised as an expense over the period that Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland obtains benefit from the use of the leased buildings.

(i) Research Grant Payments

Amounts paid to Research Bodies on foot of research grants awarded are charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves in the year of payment.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

(i) 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 reporting date and the amounts reported for income and expenditure during the period. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Depreciation and Residual Values

The Board members have reviewed the asset lives and associated residual values of all fixed asset classes and have concluded that asset lives and residual values are appropriate.

Retirement Benefit Obligation

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and healthcare cost trend rates) and are updated annually based on current economic conditions, and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- i. The discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds
- ii. Future compensation levels, future labour market conditions
- iii. Changes in demographics

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

2. Oireachtas Grants

The Oireachtas Grants paid to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, as shown in the financial statements consist of:

Grants for Current Expenditure	D/FHERIS Vote 45	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Pay and Pensions*	Subhead C3.1	12,083	4,520
Non-Payroll Expenses	Subhead C3.1	10,255	5,308
Research Grants	Subhead C3.1	297,301	148,221
Research Grants – Centres for Research Training	Subhead C4.2	15,500	7,750
		335,139	165,799

*The grant for pay expenditure is stated net of employee pension contributions of €548k (2024: €212k) remitted to the Exchequer. These include deductions of €331k (2024: €130k) for the year ended 31 December 2025 in respect of members of the Single Pension Scheme which were remitted to the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

Under Section 11 of the Industrial Development Act, 1993, as amended by Section 2 of the Industrial Development Act, 2019, the aggregate amount of grants to Enterprise Ireland, IDA and Research Ireland to enable them to discharge their Capital obligations and liabilities shall not exceed €14 billion. As at 31 December 2025 the aggregate amount made available to the three Agencies was €13.6 billion.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

3. Other Income

Co-Contributions from other funding partners to Awards made by Research Ireland across a number of different programmes:	Full year 2025 €000s	Aug - Dec 2024 €000s
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2,318	1,716
Health Research Board	1,847	400
Environmental Protection Agency	1,299	1,038
Children's Health Foundation	1,167	684
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	926	731
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	828	1,858
Gas Networks Ireland	650	-
National Monument Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	592	356
Department of Education and Youth	507	703
Global Innovators Ireland	463	-
Cuan - Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency	239	-
Department of Children, Disability and Equality	217	152
Geological Survey of Ireland	196	79
Breakthrough Cancer Research	102	-

Co-Contributions from other funding partners to Awards made by Research Ireland across a number of different programmes:	Full year 2025 €000s	Aug - Dec 2024 €000s
Met Éireann	134	-
Department of Defence	-	1,600
GenderNet Plus	-	117
Other	1,264	391
Total Co-Contributions received	12,749	9,825
Funding from European Space Agency for a for the implementation of a European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO) in Ireland	200	-
EU contribution towards programme management costs of running EraNets	2	67
Total	12,951	9,892

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4. Administration, Operations and Promotion Expenses

	Notes	Full year 2025 €000s	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Remuneration and Other Pay Costs	4(a)	12,319	5,107
Accommodation		2,989	1,046
Programme Management		1,267	615
Marketing Supports	4(c)	749	323
Events, Delegations and Partnerships		1,187	1,011
IT Support and Infrastructure		1,673	631
Administration Expenses	4(d)	973	431
Accounting and Internal Audit Services		299	95
Professional and Support Services	4(e)	953	367
Specialist and Education Services		214	157
HR Management		91	12
Statutory Audit fee		37	34
Total		22,751	9,829

4(a) Remuneration and other pay costs

	Notes	Full year 2025 €000s	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Staff Salaries		10,557	4,251
Agency Staff		216	190
Employers' contribution to Social Welfare		1,114	410
Pension costs for retired staff		68	69
Decrease in holiday pay accrual		(30)	(12)
Staff Training and Development		160	87
Staff travel and subsistence costs	4(f)	116	66
Board Members' Fees and Expenses	4(g)	118	46
Total		12,319	5,107

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

There were 136 staff employed as at 31 December 2025 (2024: 131). Included in Remuneration and Other Pay Costs is total Key Management personnel compensation of €1.218m for 2025 (Aug - Dec 2024: €426k). This includes the compensation for the Board members, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Interim Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Leadership Team. Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland remitted Additional Superannuation Contribution pension levies (ASC) on behalf of staff of €406k (Aug - Dec 2024: €122k) to the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. There were no overtime payments or termination payments made in 2025.

Remuneration - Interim CEO

The Interim Chief Executive Officer was employed by Research Ireland from 1 August 2024 to 11 September 2025. The remuneration for the period from 1 January to 11 September 2025, was €122k. There were no expenses incurred in the period. The value of retirement benefits earned in the period is not included above and their entitlements do not extend beyond the terms of the current schemes.

Remuneration - Permanent CEO

The permanent Chief Executive Officer was appointed on 1 September 2025, and the remuneration from this date until 31 December 2025, was €83k. Total expenses incurred during this period was €4k. The value of retirement benefits earned in the period is not included above and their entitlements do not extend beyond the terms of the current schemes.

4(b) Employee benefits breakdown by number of employees

From	To	31 Dec 2025	31 Dec 2024
€60,000	- €69,999	14	19
€70,000	- €79,999	12	8
€80,000	- €89,999	14	13
€90,000	- €99,999	17	17
€100,000	- €109,999	3	2
€110,000	- €119,999	2	2
€120,000	- €129,999	9	10
€140,000	- €149,999	1	-
€160,000	- €169,999	2	2
€180,000	- €189,999	-	2
€190,000	- €199,999	1	1

Note: For the purposes of the 4(b) 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 employer’s PRSI.

The employee benefits figures for 2024 are annualised for a 12-month period rather than for a 5-month period based on pay levels as of 31 December 2024.

4(c) Included in Marketing Supports is public engagement consultant fees of €249k (2024: €132k).

4(d) Included in the Administration Expenses is hospitality expenditure:

	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Staff Hospitality	26	12
Client Hospitality	4	-
Board Hospitality	2	2
Total	32	14

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4(e) Professional and Support Services

	Full year 2025	Aug - Dec 2024
	€'000	€'000
Organisation Change and Role Review	246	-
Legal Advice	203	92
Administration Services	169	84
Short Term Business Support	75	-
Research Integrity Advisor	44	5
Change Management	40	-
Data Subject Access Request	37	29
Procurement Support	28	13
Services for test of GDPR Compliance	27	-
Accounting / Finance Services	17	-
Design Thinking Training and Mentoring	15	-
HR Gender Gap Report	10	-
Financial Systems Support	4	17
Innovation Training and Mentoring	-	30
My Green Labs Pilot Certification Process	-	25
Strategy Consultants	-	25
Other Professional Fees	38	25
Theory of Change Training for Co-Centres	-	12
Pilot Science Media Centre	-	10
Total	953	367

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland defines consultancy fees as specific finite tasks involving expert skills or capabilities that would not normally reside within Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4(f) Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Staff travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Domestic Travel and Subsistence	38	47
International Travel and Subsistence	78	19
Total	116	66

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4(g) Board Members’ Remuneration and Expenses

	Board Fees Full year 2025 €	Vouched Expenses Full year 2025 €	Meetings attended Full year 2025 number	Board Fees Aug - Dec 2024 €	Vouched Expenses Aug - Dec 2024 €	Meetings attended Aug - Dec 2024 number
Board Member						
Mr Michael Horgan (Chair)	20,520	-	6 out of 6	8,550	-	3 out of 3
Ms Lorraine Allen	11,970	-	6 out of 6	4,988	-	3 out of 3
Prof Rebecca Braun	-	702	4 out of 6	-	479	2 out of 3
Dr Godfrey Gaston	11,970	1,056	6 out of 6	4,988	528	3 out of 3
Mr Leonard Hobbs	11,970	-	6 out of 6	4,988	-	3 out of 3
Prof Niamh Moloney	11,970	-	6 out of 6	4,988	-	3 out of 3
Prof Valeria Nicolosi	-	-	5 out of 6	-	-	2 out of 3
Prof Eoin O’Sullivan	11,970	2,916	6 out of 6	4,988	861	3 out of 3
Ms Patricia Quane	11,970	2,775	6 out of 6	4,988	590	3 out of 3
Ms Anne Vaughan	11,970	-	6 out of 6	4,988	-	3 out of 3
General Board Expenses	-	5,765		-	-	
Total	104,310	13,214		43,466	2,458	

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Board members are paid fees as determined by the Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation. Certain Board members are excluded from receiving fees from Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland under the “One Person One Salary” remuneration arrangements whereby public servants cannot receive Board fees in addition to a salary. These are Prof Rebecca Braun and Prof Valeria Nicolosi.

Board members vouched expenses are set out as follows:

	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Domestic Travel and Subsistence	5	2
International Travel and Subsistence	2	-
Total	7	2

Board members’ expenses of €7,449 relate to vouched expenditure and expenditure paid by Taighde Éireann Research Ireland on behalf of individual Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland Board members. The balance of €5,765 (2024: €0) relates to general Board expenses.

5. Retirement Benefit Costs

(a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Current Service Cost	1,775	749
Interest on Retirement Benefit Scheme Liabilities	862	410
Employee Contributions	(548)	(212)
Total	2,089	947

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

(b) Movement in net Retirement Benefit Obligation during the financial year

	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Net retirement benefit obligation at 1 January	24,764	28,988
Current Service Cost	1,775	749
Interest Costs	862	410
Payments to Pensioners	(80)	(25)
Actuarial Gain	(3,219)	(5,358)
Net retirement benefit obligation at 31 December	24,102	24,764

The Board recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for retirement benefits on the basis of the set of assumptions described in the Accounting Policies above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the retirement benefit schemes, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. The Board has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The net deferred funding for retirement benefits recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves is as follows:

(c) Net Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding

	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Funding recoverable in respect of Current Periods' retirement benefit costs	2,637	1,159
Less State Grant applied to pay retirement benefits	(80)	(25)
Total	2,557	1,134

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

(d) General Description of the scheme

Research Ireland has responsibility for the pension costs of staff who are members of the Taighde Éireann – Superannuation scheme and of the Single Public Service pension scheme.

Both schemes are defined benefit pension schemes and are fully funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies provided by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

The Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland pension scheme is a defined benefit final salary scheme with retirement benefits linked to final salary and length of service. The Single Public Service pension scheme is also a defined benefit scheme with retirement benefits linked to career average revalued earnings and length of service. The valuation used for FRS 102 disclosures is based on an actuarial review of the schemes for the year ended 31 December 2025 carried out by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the schemes liabilities at 31 December 2025.

	Full year 2025	Aug - Dec 2024
Financial Assumptions		
Discount Rate	4.55% p.a	3.50% p.a
Future Salary Increases	3.65% p.a	3.65% p.a
Future State Pension increases	3.65% p.a	3.65% p.a
Future Pension Increases	3.15% p.a	3.15% p.a
Future price inflation	2.15% p.a	2.15% p.a
Revaluation in deferment	3.15% p.a	3.15% p.a

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

Liabilities shown in the Financial Accounts are computed using the Projected Unit Credit method.

The assumed retirement ages of members of the pension scheme are as follows;

- Active employees of the Closed (pre 2004) scheme have an assumed retirement age of 62 years;
- Active employees of the Model (post 2004) scheme have a retirement age of 65;
- Active Single Scheme members are assumed to retire at age 66.

The Mortality basis explicitly allows for Improvements in life expectancy over time, so that life expectancy at retirement will depend on the year in which a member attains retirement age (age 65). The table below shows the life expectancy for members attaining age 65 in 2025 and 2045.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Year of attaining age 65	2025	2044
Life Expectancy – Male	22.0	23.3
Life Expectancy – Female	24.3	25.7

	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Period ending 31 December		
Closing pension liability	24,102	24,764
Experience (Loss) / Gain arising on the plan Liabilities	(2,959)	3,328
% Liabilities	(12%)	13%
Total Gain recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income	3,219	5,358
% Liabilities	13%	22%

6. Depreciation

	Notes	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Depreciation charge	8	283	138
		283	138

7. Capital Account

	Notes	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Opening Balance as at 1 January		4,249	4,322
- To fund Fixed Asset acquisitions	8	-	65
- Amortised in line with asset depreciation	8	(283)	(138)
		(283)	(73)
Closing balance as at 31 December		3,966	4,249

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

8. Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Improvements €'000	Computer Equipment €'000	Computer Software €'000	Fixtures and Fittings €'000	Total €'000
Cost					
At 1 January 2025	5,464	1,510	131	713	7,818
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals/Write-downs	-	(229)	-	-	(229)
At 31 December 2025	5,464	1,281	131	713	7,589
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2025	1,316	1,425	131	697	3,569
Charge for Period	218	59	-	6	283
Disposals/Write-downs	-	(229)	-	-	(229)
At 31 December 2025	1,534	1,255	131	703	3,623
Net Book Amount					
At 1 January 2025	4,148	85	-	16	4,249
Net Movement for Period	(218)	(59)	-	(6)	(283)
At 31 December 2025	3,930	26	-	10	3,966

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

9. Grants

(a) Analysis of Grants Paid

	Full year 2025 €'000	Aug - Dec 2024 €'000
Priority Area A - Future Networks, Communications and Internet of Things	24,250	12,126
Priority Area B - Data Analytics, Management, Security, Privacy, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (including Machine Learning)	49,909	23,335
Priority Area C - Digital Platforms, Content and Applications, Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality	12,307	6,856
Priority Area D - Connected Health and Independent Living	8,343	2,696
Priority Area E - Medical Devices	18,879	6,770
Priority Area F - Diagnostics	15,821	8,395
Priority Area G - Therapeutics: Synthesis, Formulation, Processing and Drug Delivery	33,209	20,116
Priority Area H - Food for Health	6,962	3,361
Priority Area I - Sustainable Food Production and Processing	10,655	3,619
Priority Area J - Marine Renewable Energy	8,296	6,031
Priority Area K - Sustainable Living	11,477	7,388
Priority Area L - Manufacturing Competitiveness	5,804	6,590
Priority Area M - Processing Technologies and Novel Materials	31,378	15,517
Priority Area N - Innovation in Services and Business Processes	411	685
Investments in PhDs	45,628	16,078
Discover	7,681	4,699
Other	34,171	20,790
Science Week	370	245
Grand Total	325,551	165,297

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

(b) Grant Commitments

	Note	2025 €'000	Dec 2024 €'000
Grant Commitments as at 1 January 2025		636,683	675,491
Grants approved during the Period		287,912	127,714
Grant payments made in the Period - Gross	9(a)	(325,551)	(165,296)
Contributions from other funding partners	3	12,749	9,825
De-Commitments during the Period		(22,449)	(11,051)
Grant Commitments as at 31 December 2025		589,344	636,683
Grant Commitments (excluding Co-Funded commitments)		609,545	657,206

10. Receivables

	31 Dec 2025 €'000	31 Dec 2024 €'000
Debtors	80	377
Prepayments and Accrued income	116	419
Total	196	796

11. Payables

	31 Dec 2025 €'000	31 Dec 2024 €'000
General Creditors	79	616
Deferred Income*	995	2,388
Accruals	1,000	1,263
Total	2,074	4,267

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

*Deferred income represents the grants and programme management monies received from other funding agencies and the EU but not expended by the year-end. The EU deferred income is in respect of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland’s participation in ERAnet Co-funded calls (made in conjunction with other EU funding agencies and the EU).

These amounts are credited to Other Income over the period to which the related expenditure is incurred.

12. Commitments under Operating Leases

Science Foundation Ireland signed an “Agreement for Lease” with the IDA in May 2018 for Three Park Place. The lease transferred to Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland on establishment day. The lease is for 25 years (subject to a break clause after 10 years) with annual rent payments of €1,668,628 which commenced in May 2019, following a one-year rent free period.

The following are future minimum lease payments over the period of the lease:

	31 Dec 2025	Aug - Dec 2024
	€’000	€’000
Within 1 year	1,668	1,668
During 2-5 years	6,675	6,672
Over 5 years	20,652	22,320

13. Taxation

Section 227 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, provides an exemption from tax on the income of non-commercial state bodies except where interest is subject to tax at source (e.g. DIRT). The net amount of such income is credited to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland is liable to employer taxes in Ireland and complies with related withholding, reporting and payment obligations.

14. Related Party Disclosures

Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland adopted procedures in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation covering the personal interests of Board members and staff. In the normal course of business, Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland may approve grants or enter into other contractual arrangements with entities in which Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland Board members and staff are employed or are otherwise interested.

In cases of potential conflict of interest, Board members and staff did not receive Board documentation or otherwise participate in or attend discussions regarding these transactions. A register was maintained and available on request of all such instances.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

15.Contingencies and Legal Actions

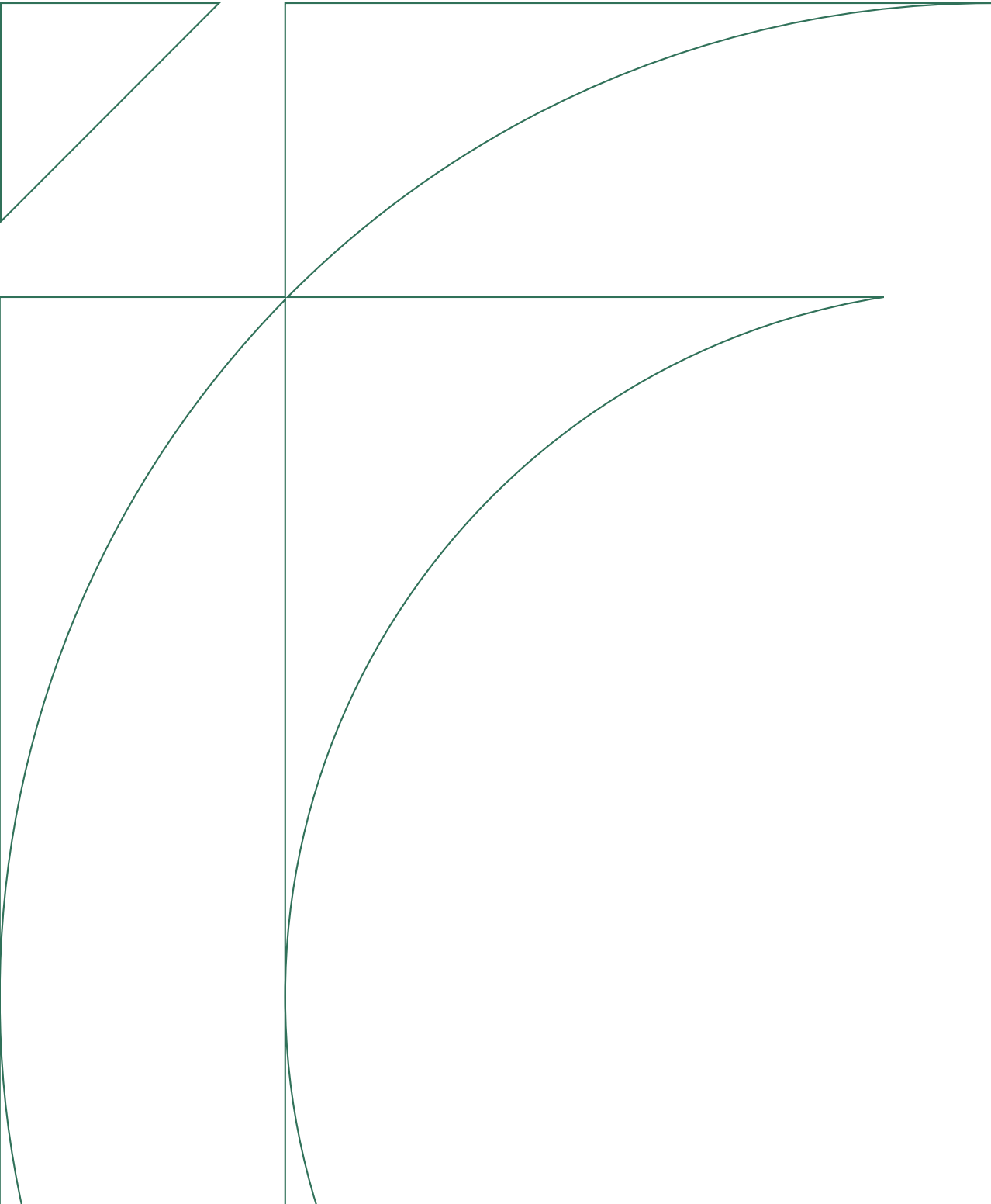
There are no contingencies or legal actions which require specific provision in the Financial Statements.

16. Events after the Reporting Period

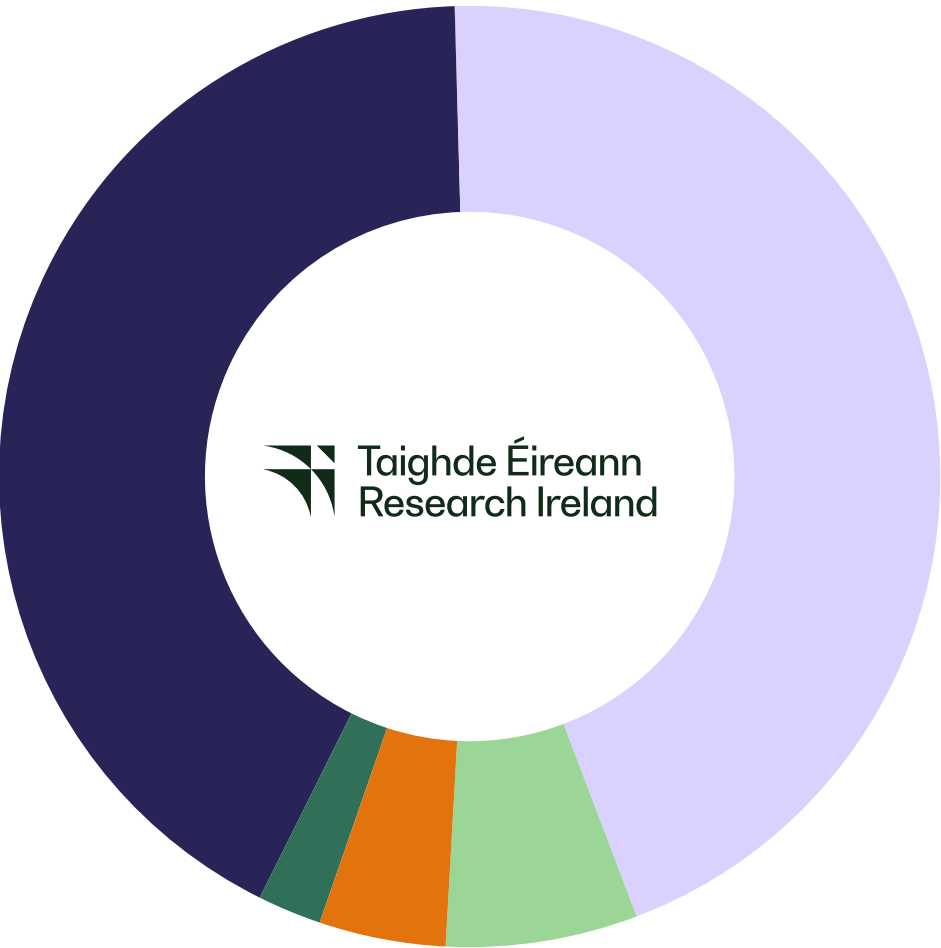
There were no events between the reporting date and the date of approval of these financial statements that require adjustment to the financial statements. The Board considers that as the entity provides a public service that is funded by moneys provided by the Exchequer, via its parent department (Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science), it is appropriate to prepare these financial statements on a going concern basis.

17. Approval of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland on 23 March 2026.



Research Ireland Portfolio



42%

Talent

- EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training (CDT) Partnership
- ERC Supports Programme
- Fellowship Programmes
- Frontiers for the Future
- Fulbright Program
- Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship
- Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship
- Innovate for Ireland
- Investigator Programme
- Laureate
- Pathway
- President of Ireland Research Leaders Programme
- Research Professorship
- Royal Society University Research Fellowship

46%

Economy

- Accelerating Research to Commercialisation (ARC) Hub Programme
- Centres for Research Training (CRT) Programme
- Co-Centre Programme
- Employment Based Postgraduate Programme
- Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postdoctoral)
- Enterprise Partnership Scheme (Postgraduate)
- Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme
- NSF I-Corps Entrepreneurial Training Programme
- Research Centres
- Spokes Programme
- Strategic Partnership Programme

2%

International

- Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- Challenges in Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies ERA-NET (CHIST-ERA)
- Collaboration Research Fund
- Develop Interdisciplinary Approaches to Health Crisis Collaboratively (DOROTHY)
- Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities (DARIAH)
- EPSRC
- European Consortium (CESSDA)
- EU Programmes
- HRB-Wellcome Trust Biomedical Research Partnership
- Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA)
- Ulysses
- US-Ireland R&D Partnership Programme

6%

Society

- Collaborative Alliances for Societal Challenges (COALESCE)
- COVID-19 Rapid Response Programme
- Discover Programme
- Future Innovator Prize
- National Challenge Fund
- National PPI Network Awards
- New Foundations

4%

Research Environment

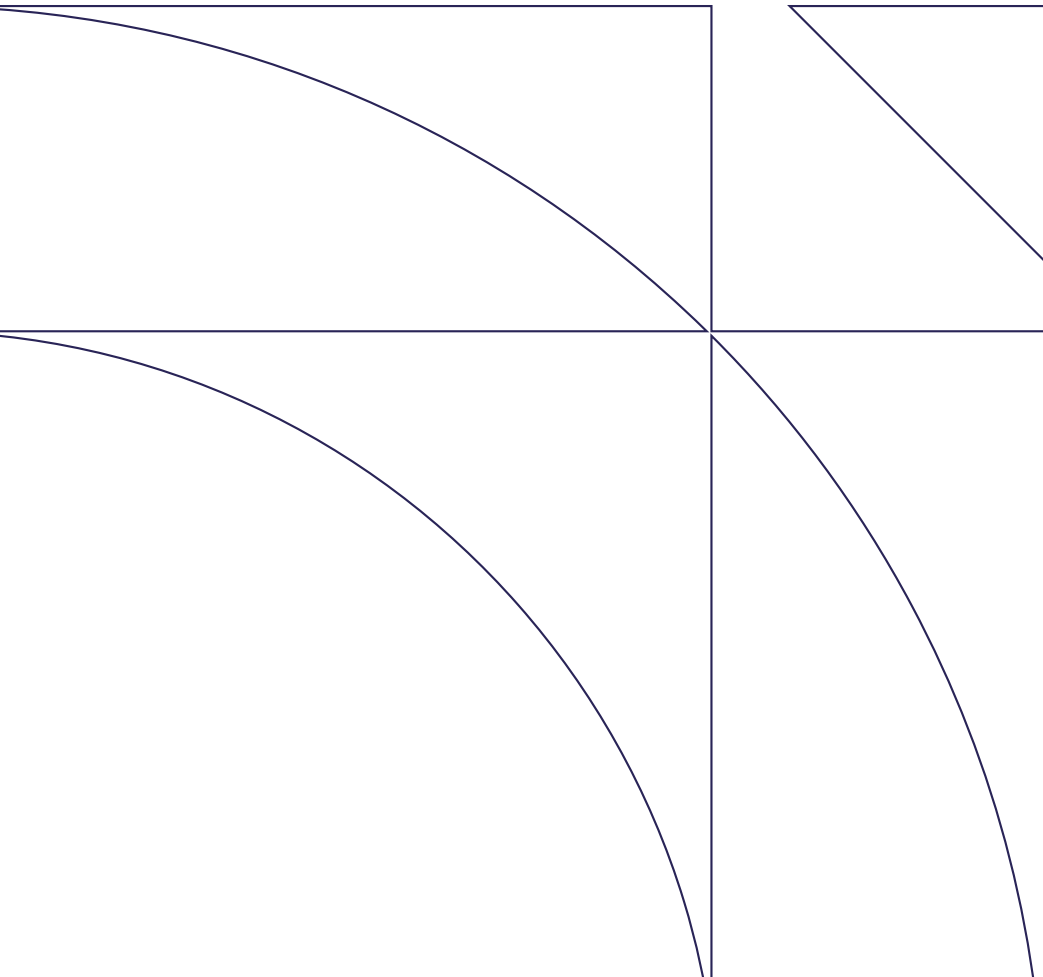
- Disability Supplement
- European Social Survey (ESS)
- IUA Partnership
- Maternity/Paternity/Adoptive Leave Allowance
- PhD Additional Supplement Allowance
- Rapid Response Supplemental Grant for Displaced Researchers
- Research Alliance Award
- Research Infrastructure Programme
- Science Policy Research Programme



09.

Grant Commitments and Payments Analysis

2025 Payments by Institution



Institution	€'000
Trinity College Dublin	€71,105
University College Dublin	€60,600
University of Galway	€46,005
University College Cork	€28,778
University of Limerick	€19,407
Dublin City University	€17,023
Tyndall National Institute	€15,972
RCSI University of Medicine and Health Science	€15,825
Technological University Dublin	€12,406
Maynooth University	€10,785
The Royal Society	€4,324
Teagasc	€3,869
Munster Technological University	€2,950
Atlantic Technological University	€2,927
South East Technological University	€2,109
Technological University of the Shannon	€1,607
Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies	€1,398
The National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training	€1,200
Dundalk Institute of Technology	€1,122
Mary Immaculate College	€632
Royal Irish Academy	€500
Junior Achievement Ire Ltd.	€451
Kinia	€413
Irish Universities Association	€368
Creative Hut Ireland Ltd.	€287
Stop.watch Television Ltd.	€176

Institution	€'000
RTÉ	€173
Cork City Council t/a Lifetime Lab	€150
Irish Computer Society	€145
National Youth Council of Ireland	€133
Education for Sustainability	€114
Irish Manufacturing Research	€103
The Discovery Programme	€88
Niamh Shaw Ltd.	€77
Fulbright Commission	€74
Circus250 Productions	€71
National College of Art and Design	€57
The National Concert Hall	€56
Atlantic Corridor	€50
Monaghan County Council	€50
Simply Science Ltd.	€50
Greywood Arts CLG	€50
The Rediscovery Centre	€49
Louth County Council	€46
Marine Institute	€46
Galway Science and Technology Forum	€39
The Institution of Engineering and Technology	€29
National College of Ireland	€20
Cosmos Education Ltd. t/a Blackrock Castle Observatory	€12
Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology	€11
Dublin Book Festival	€10
Fingal County Council	€10

Institution	€'000
Nature Network Ireland	€9
Wove Strategic Consulting and Design Ltd.	€9
Sea Scholl Studios and Labs	€9
Photo Museum Ireland	€8
Blafar Ltd.	€6
Armagh Observatory and Planetarium	€6
Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry Ltd.	€6
Mr Math Weeney Ltd.	€5
SDC South Dublin County Partnership	€5
Teen-Turn	€5
The Digital Hub	€5
Gallomanor Communications	€5
The Children's Cultural Centre Ltd. t/a The Ark	€4
The Childhood Development Initiative	€4
Baboro Galway International Children's Festival Ltd.	€3
Airfield Estate	€1
Spraoi agus Sport	€1
The Irish Whale and Dolphin Group CLG	€1
Gaiety School of Acting	€1
ESRI	€0
AkiDwA	-€2
Bantry Marine Research Station	-€3
BioCyto	-€3
Conor Foley Neuroblastoma Cancer Research Foundation	-€3
Dublin City Council	-€3
National Museum of Ireland	-€3

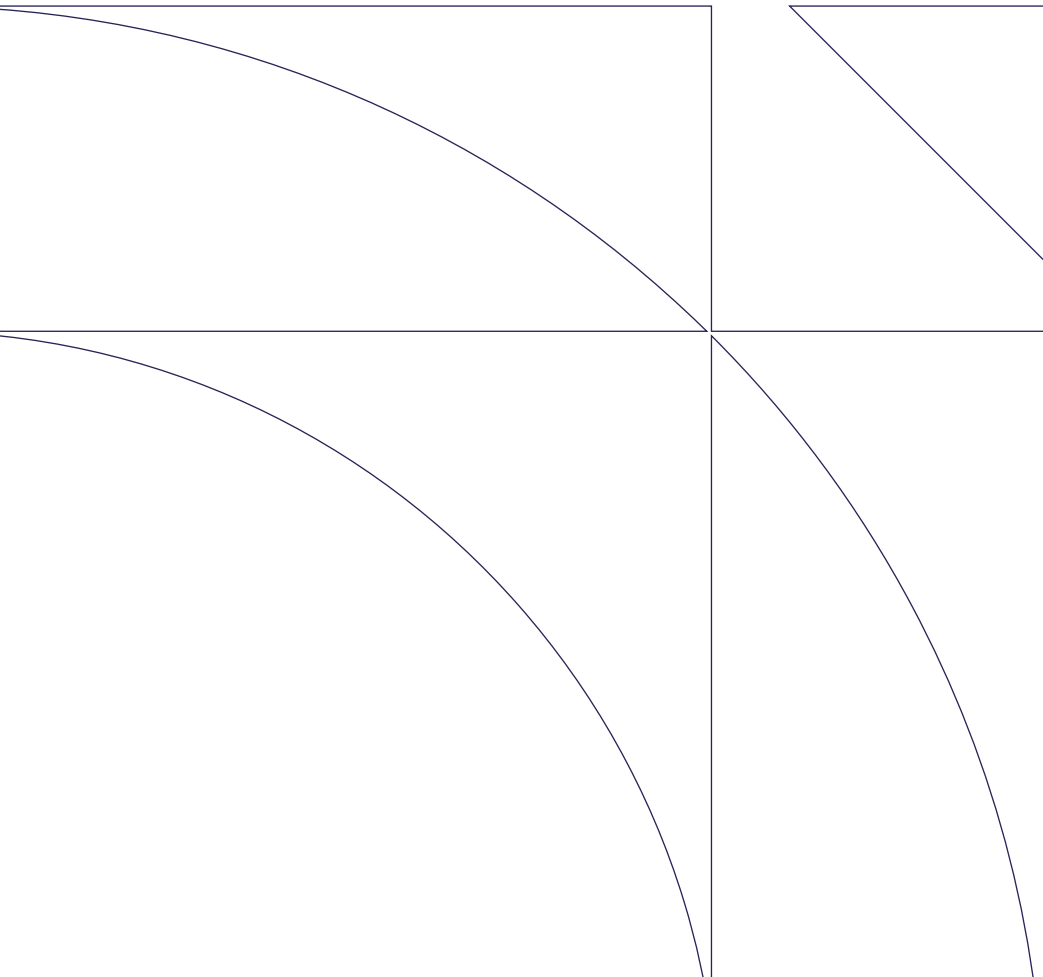
Institution	€'000
Third Eye Inventions LLC	-€3
Boston Scientific Clonmel	-€4
Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing Partnership (part of Dublin City Council)	-€4
Ernst and Young	-€4
Florie	-€4
Glanbia Ireland DAC	-€4
Hollister Incorporated	-€4
Intel Ireland Ltd. (Branch)	-€4
Ludger Ltd.	-€4
Medtronic	-€4
Neuravi Ltd.	-€4
Nexalus Ltd.	-€4
Science Gallery International	-€4
Irish Green Building Council	-€5
Olandi Engineering	-€5
Crosscare	-€7
Hockey Ireland	-€7
Kerry Group Services International Ltd.	-€7
Marigot Ltd.	-€7
National Library of Ireland	-€7
Office of the State Pathologist	-€7
Sport Ireland	-€7
Thermo Fisher Scientific	-€9
Údarás na Gaeltachta	-€9
Pfizer Ringaskiddy	-€9
Punchestown Kidney Research Fund	-€9

Institution	€'000
EirGrid	-€9
Chester Beatty	-€10
Outhouse LGBTQ+ Centre	-€10
Fota Wildlife Park	-€10
ADHD Ireland	-€13
Arran Chemical Company Ltd.	-€13
Centre for Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases	-€13
Irish Cancer Society	-€13
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	-€13
Leo Pharma	-€13
Narrative 4	-€13
National Organic Training Skillnet	-€13
Novus Diagnostics	-€13
Overcast HQ Ltd.	-€13
Plantik Biosciences	-€13
Western Digital Technologies, Inc.	-€13
World Vision Ireland	-€13
Udaras na Gaeltachta	-€14
Athena Analytics	-€14
Collins Aerospace	-€14
Global Heart Hub	-€14
Integer Holdings	-€14
Luminate Medical	-€14
Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs	-€14
ossia.io	-€14

Institution	€'000
Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland	-€14
Rugby Players Ireland Foundation	-€14
turboTEM Ltd.	-€14
AZ Delta	-€15
Intel Research and Development Ireland Ltd.	-€15
Clinical Cancer Research Trust	-€16
GlasPort Bio Ltd.	-€16
Epilepsy Ireland	-€17
The Heritage Council	-€17
Jigsaw	-€18
The Housing Agency	-€19
Vincent Wildlife Trust	-€19
Fighting Blindness	-€22
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	-€25
Bausch + Lomb	-€27
Cerebral Palsy Foundation	-€27
Irish Museum of Modern Art Company Ltd.	-€30
Royal Dublin Society (RDS)	-€30
Pfizer Ireland	-€38
National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh, Cappagh Hospital Foundation	-€38
Transpharmation	-€38
Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht	-€39
DEBRA Ireland	-€55
Met Éireann	-€87
Breakthrough Cancer Research	-€101
Department of Children, Disability and Equality	-€177

Institution	€'000
Geological Survey of Ireland	-€180
Cuan - Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency	-€239
Global Innovators Ireland	-€463
Department of Education and Youth	-€514
National Monument Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	-€637
Gas Networks Ireland	-€650
Health Research Board	-€747
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	-€827
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	-€926
Children's Health Foundation	-€1,167
Environmental Protection Agency	-€1,385
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	-€2,095
Total	€312,801

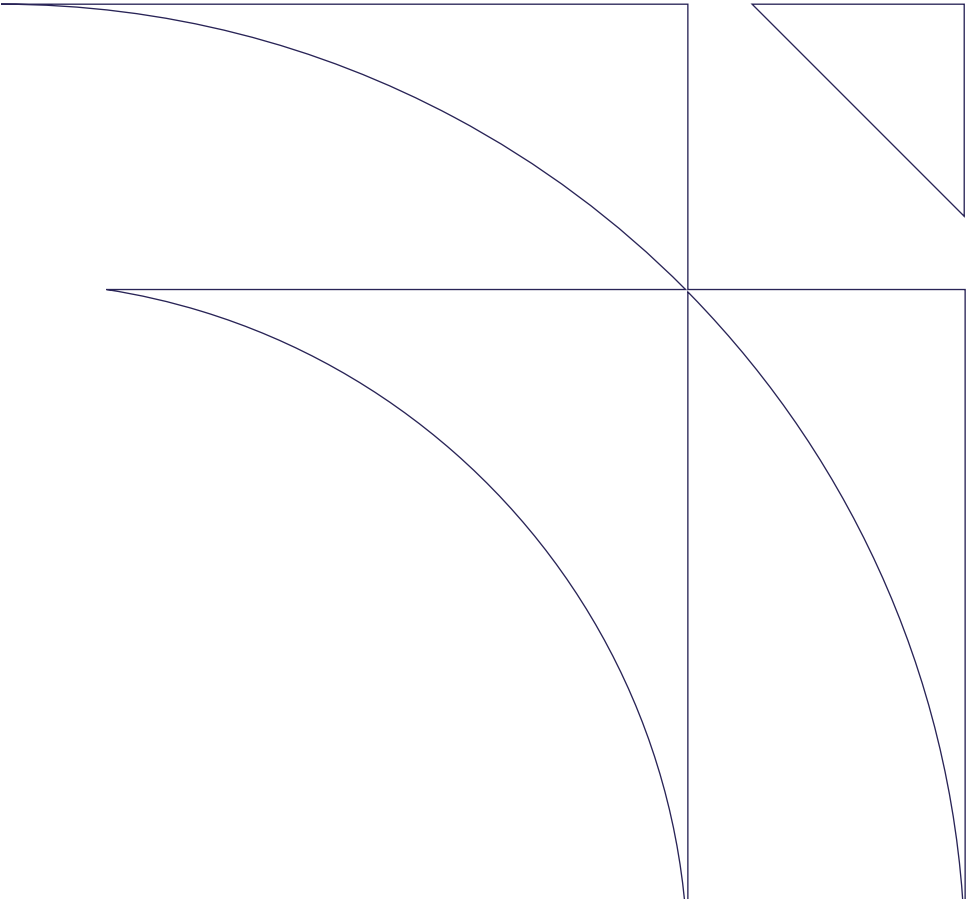
2025 Payments by Programme



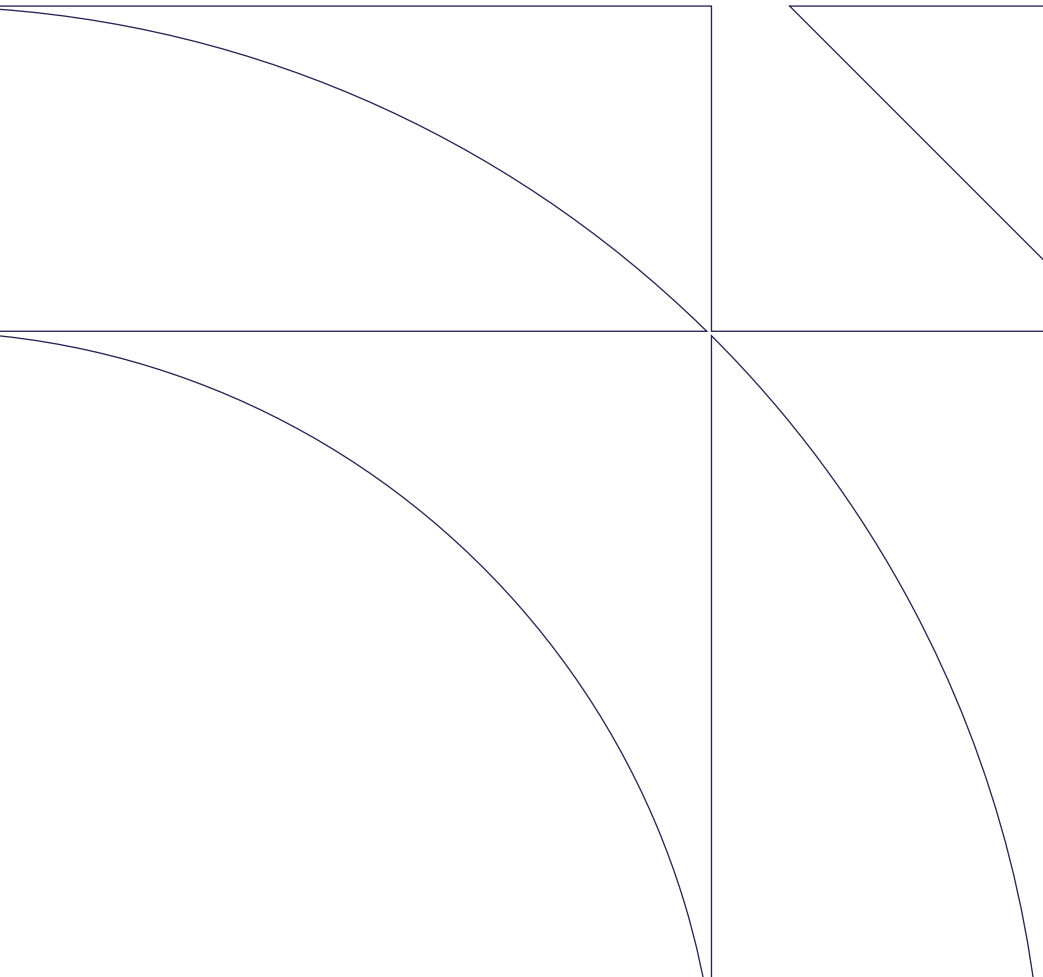
Programme	€'000
Research Centres	€73,337
Frontiers for the Future	€42,610
Centres for Research Training	€18,177
Accelerating Research to Commercialisation (ARC) Hub Programme	€17,514
Government of Ireland Postgraduate Programme	€17,134
Provison for higher PhD Stipend payments	€16,519
Research Infrastructure	€15,977
Pathway Programme	€15,521
Research Professorship	€12,890
National Challenge Fund Programme	€12,592
Co-Centre Programme	€9,430
Laureate Awards	€8,086
Strategic Partnerships	€7,646
Research Ireland Discover Programme	€7,510
Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Programme	€6,794
Research Ireland Royal Society Programme	€4,252
Research Ireland/EPSRC-CDTs	€4,236
Future Innovator Prize	€3,553
Industry RDI Fellowship Programme	€3,133
US Ireland Partnerships	€2,793
Enterprise Partnerships	€2,254
EPSRC-Research Ireland Partnership	€1,766
Employment Based Programme	€1,616
Maternity Allowance	€1,366
COALESCE	€1,366
Innovate for Ireland	€1,118
Fellowship Programme	€798

Programme	€'000
Enterprise Partnership Postdoctoral Fellowships	€761
Displaced Researchers - Ukraine	€751
DOROTHY	€564
Research Centres - Spokes	€560
Digital Repository of Ireland	€500
New Foundations - Society and Government	€498
Policy Research Programme	€376
IMSCO	€368
Investigator Programme	€310
European Social Survey	€300
Research Alliance Wales Programme	€299
ERC Support Programme	€278
PPI Ignite	€200
Joint Programming Initiatives	€196
HERA	€164
HRB-Wellcome Trust Biomedical Research Partnership	€158
Other ex IRC awards/refunds	€111
DARIAH: Co-Ordinator	€85
CESSDA: ISSDA Project	€81
Fulbright Scholarship	€74
NSFC Partnership	€64
Career Development Award	€52
Ulysses - IRL/France Networking	€49
Covid-RRC	€30
UK Collaboration - Digital Humanities Awards	€14
Disability Allowance	€4
Public Service Fellowship	-€4

Programme	€'000
President of Ireland Future Research Leaders	-€16
Starting Investigator Research Grant Programme	-€428
Postdoctoral awards (pensions for former IRC awards)	-€3,584
Total	€312,801

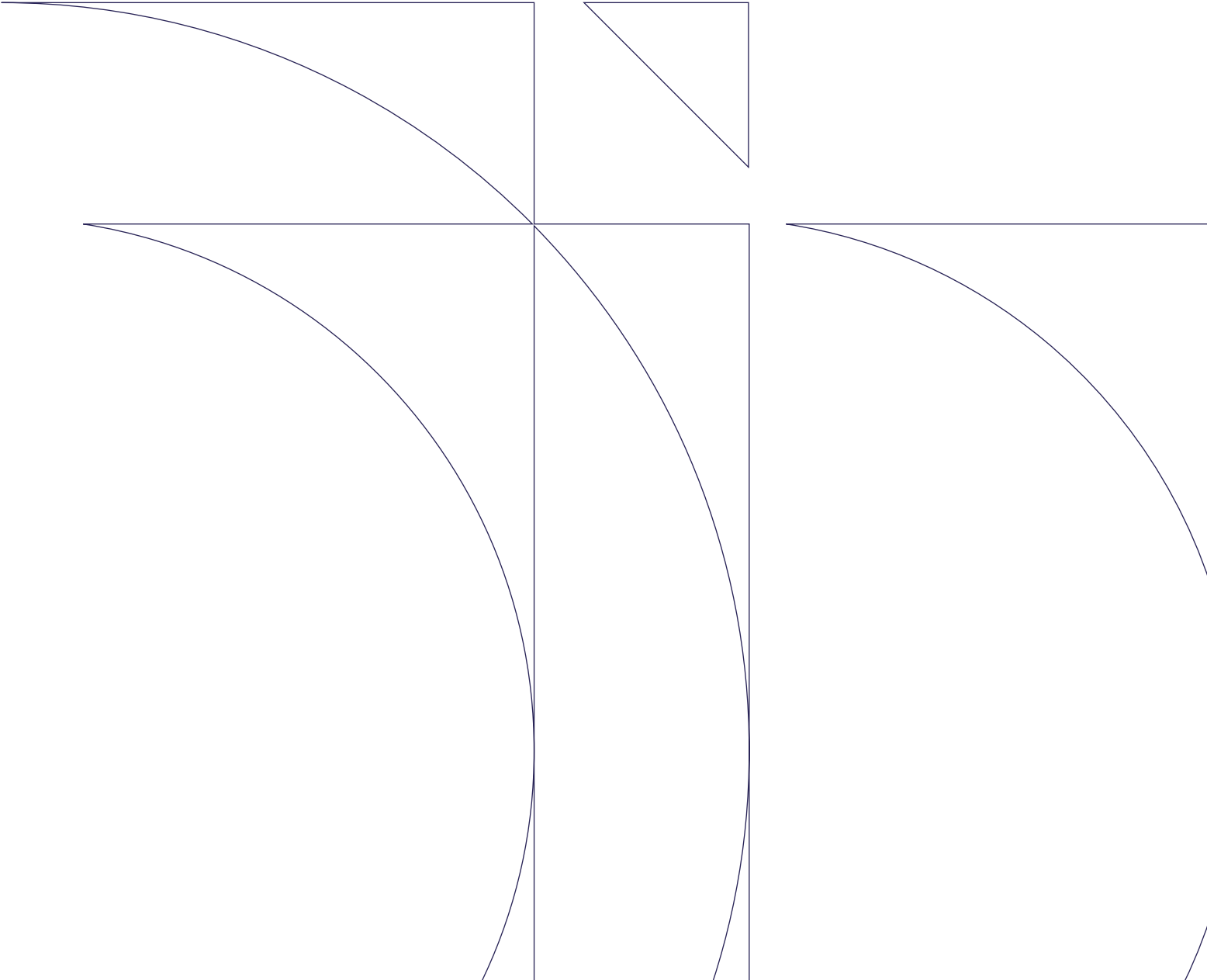


2025 Grant Commitments by Programme

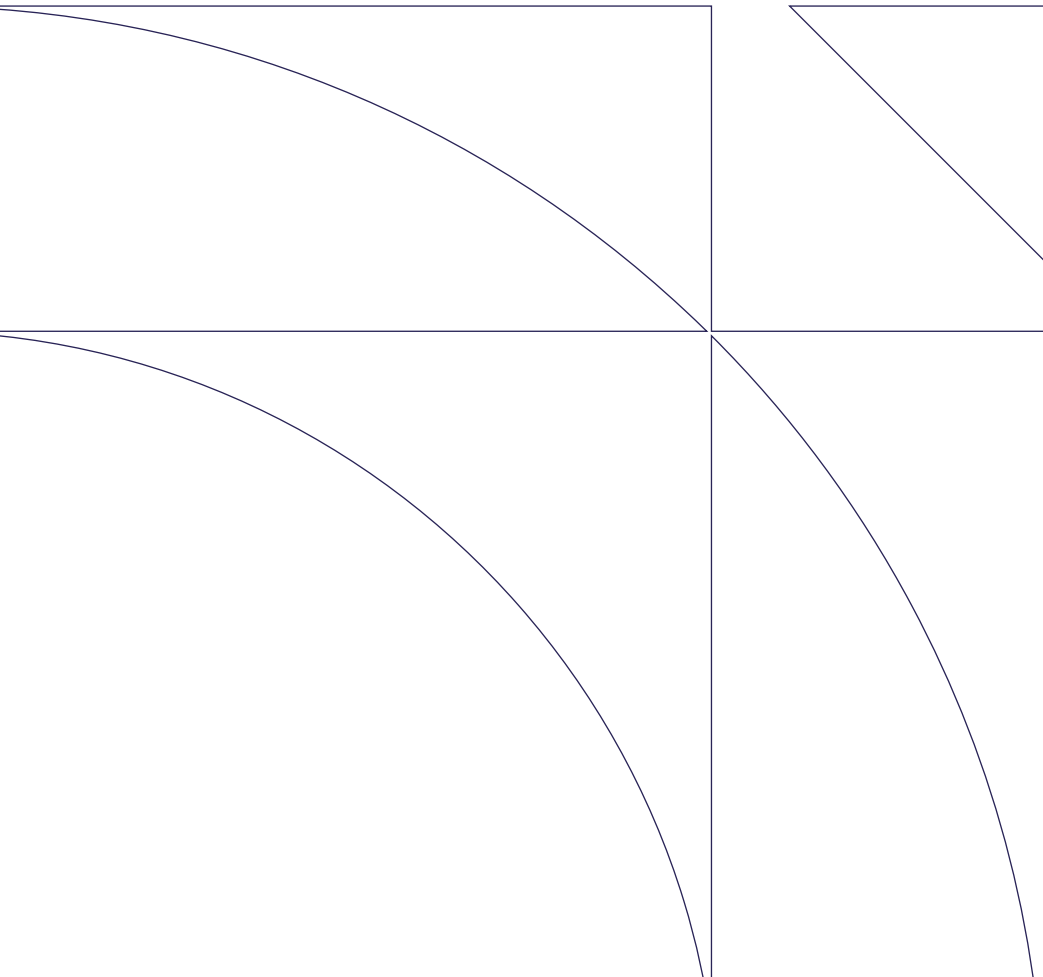


Programme	€'000
Frontiers for the Future	€51,034
Accelerating Research to Commercialisation (ARC) Hub Programme	€34,308
Pathway Programme	€32,454
Government of Ireland Postgraduate Programme	€23,424
Strategic Partnership Programme	€18,079
Research Infrastructure	€17,056
National Challenge Fund	€16,691
PhD Additional Stipend Allowance	€16,519
Research Professorship	€12,246
Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Programme	€12,089
Research Centres	€8,748
Research Ireland Discover Programme	€6,507
Future Innovator Prize	€6,004
Royal Society University Research Fellowship	€5,589
COALESCE	€4,975
Innovate for Ireland	€4,951
Enterprise Partnerships	€4,558
Industry RDI Fellowship Programme	€3,047
US-Ireland	€3,034
Fellowship	€1,947
Maternity/Adoptive Leave Allowance	€1,862
EPSRC-RI Joint Funding of Research	€1,052
Science Week	€898
New Foundations	€788
Displaced Researchers - Ukraine	€690
European Social Survey call - National Coordinator	€675
DOROTHY	€666

Programme	€'000
Digital Repository of Ireland	€500
HERA	€415
RI/IUA Partnership	€368
ERC Support	€300
CHIST-ERA	€169
Fulbright Program	€74
Supplement	€7
Other	-€36
IRCLA	-€60
Public Service Fellowship Programme	-€133
Pension refunds from RBs (former IRC awards)	-€3,584
Total	€287,912

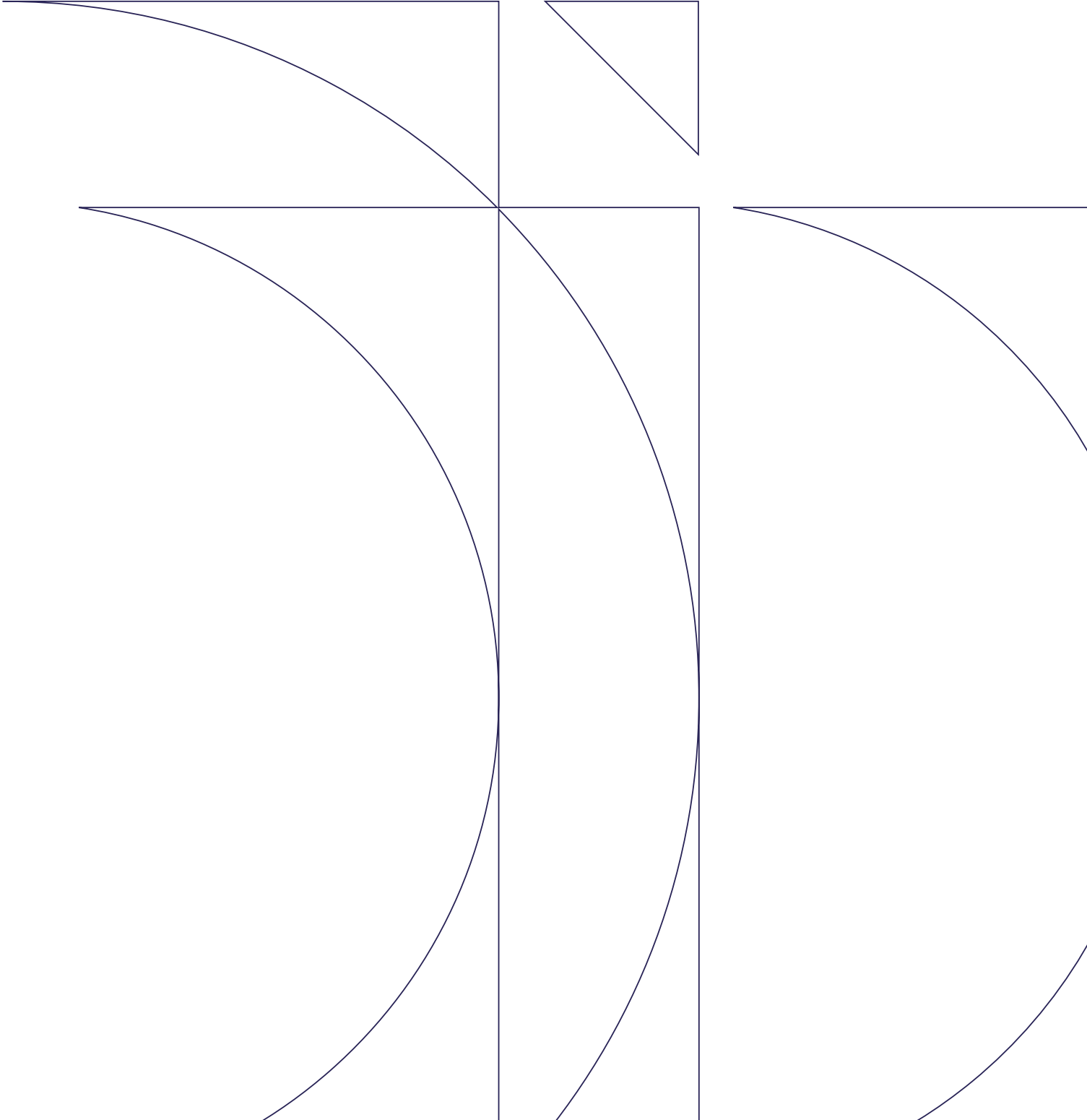


2025 Number of Awards by Programme

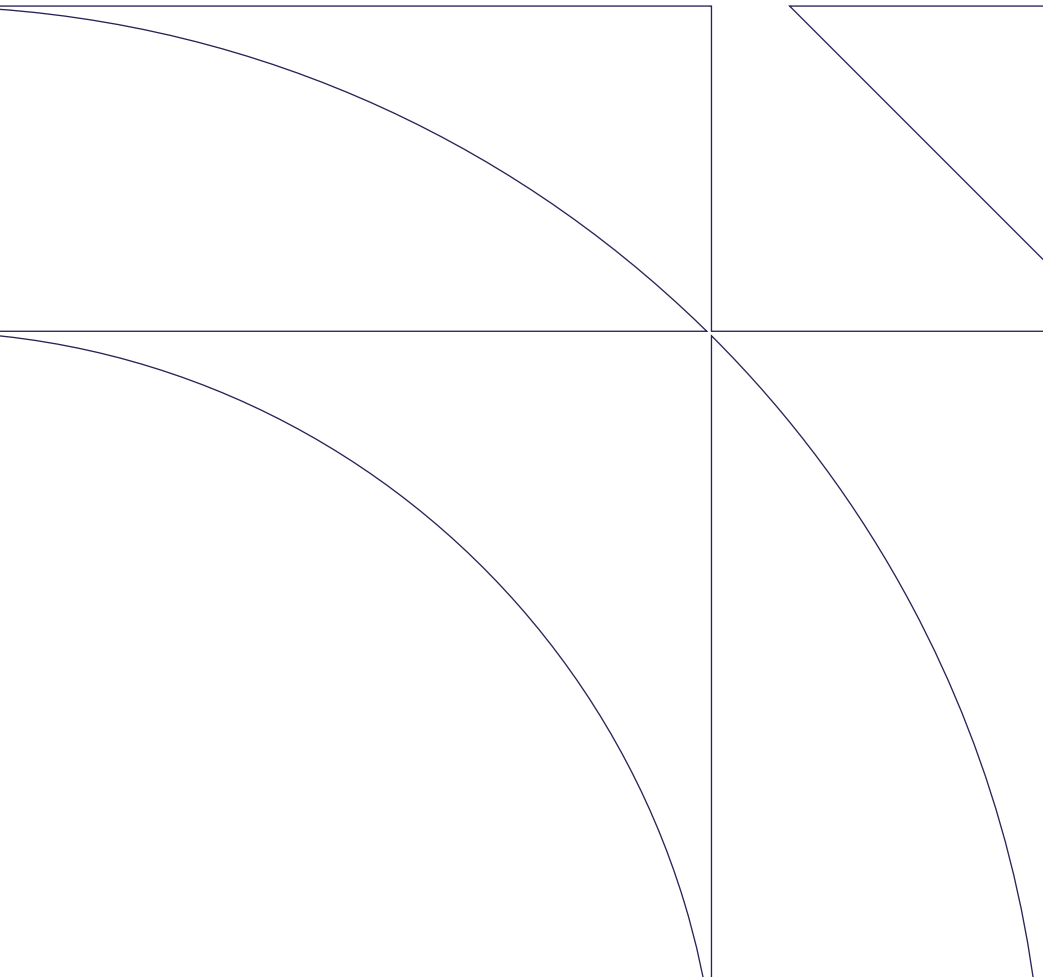


Programme	No awards
Government of Ireland Postgraduate Programme	270
Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Programme	103
New Foundations	90
Frontiers for the Future	68
Pathway Programme	60
Enterprise Partnerships	57
Maternity/Adoptive Leave Allowance	57
PhD Additional Stipend Allowance	50
Research Ireland Discover Programme	42
Science Week	37
Industry RDI Fellowship Programme	32
COALESCE	29
Future Innovator Prize	27
National Challenge Fund	18
DOROTHY	17
Innovate for Ireland	14
SFI Fellowship	11
Displaced Researchers - Ukraine	11
Research Infrastructure	9
US-Ireland	9
Pension refunds from RBs (former IRC awards)	6
Research Centres	4
Supplement/Other	4
EPSRC-RI Joint Funding of Research	3
HERA	3
IRCLA	3
Public Service Fellowship Programme	3

Programme	No awards
Royal Society University Research Fellowship	3
CHIST-ERA	2
Fulbright Program	2
Research Professorship	2
Strategic Partnership Programme	2
Accelerating Research to Commercialisation (ARC) Hub Programme	1
ERC Support	1
RI/IUA Partnership	1
Digital Repository of Ireland	1
European Social Survey Call - National Coordinator	1
Total	1,053



2025 Number of Awards by Institution



Institution	No Awards
University College Dublin	178
Trinity College Dublin	149
University College Cork	117
University of Galway	109
Dublin City University	92
University of Limerick	72
Maynooth University	58
RCSI University of Medicine and Health Science	44
Technological University Dublin	21
Atlantic Technological University	19
South East Technological University	17
Tyndall National Institute	16
Environmental Protection Agency	13
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	12
Mary Immaculate College	10
Technological University of the Shannon	10
Department of Education and Youth	7
Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies	7
Munster Technological University	7
Teagasc	7
Dundalk Institute of Technology	5
Health Research Board	5
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	5
The Royal Society	5
Met Éireann	4
The National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training	4
Children's Health Foundation	3

Institution	No Awards
Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht	3
Health Service Executive	3
National College of Ireland	3
Breakthrough Cancer Research	2
Circus250 Productions	2
Cuan - Domestic Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Agency	2
Department of Children, Disability and Equality	2
Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology	2
Education for Sustainability	2
Fulbright Commission	2
Global Innovators Ireland (GII)	2
Junior Achievement Ire Ltd.	2
The Heritage Council	2
Atlantic Corridor	1
Baboro Galway International Children's Festival Ltd.	1
Creative Hut Ireland Ltd.	1
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	1
Dublin Book Festival	1
Fingal County Council	1
Galway Science and Technology Forum	1
Gas Networks Ireland	1
Greywood Arts CLG	1
Irish Computer Society	1
Irish Manufacturing Research	1
Irish Universities Association	1
Kinia	1
Louth County Council	1

Institution	No Awards
Monaghan County Council	1
Mr Math Weeney Ltd.	1
Nature Network Ireland	1
Niamh Shaw Ltd.	1
Photo Museum Ireland	1
Royal Irish Academy (RIA)	1
RTÉ	1
Sea Scholl Studios and Labs	1
Simply Science Ltd.	1
Stop.watch Television Ltd.	1
The Children's Cultural Centre Ltd. t/a The Ark	1
The National Concert Hall	1
The Rediscovery Centre	1
Wove Strategic Consulting and Design Ltd.	1
Total	1,053

