



2008

Irish Water Safety

Annual Report





Annual Report 2008

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**Mary McAleese, President of Ireland
(Patron of Irish Water Safety)**

Chairman's Statement

It is my pleasure as Chairman to present the Annual Report for the year 2008 and to inform you that Irish Water Safety has much to celebrate through its many achievements and activities during the year and we share these highlights with you within this report.

This report contains a comprehensive review of the many activities of Irish Water Safety and it illustrates a commitment, "second to none" made by our volunteers, both young and old, who operate through thirty local water safety area committees nationwide, including the Garda Síochána and Defence Forces. This commitment is due in no small measure to the dedication of the members of the Council, Commissions, Water Safety Area Committees, and those individual members who are Life Governors, Water Safety Examiners, Water Safety Development Officers, Tutors, Instructors and Organisers at local level. This commitment ensures that we are meeting the challenges that are required to remain a force to be reckoned with in a sustained effort to saving lives from drowning in Ireland. I wish to thank our Chief Executive Officer, the Office & Financial Manager, the Marketing Executive and the other members of Staff for their dedication and loyalty throughout the year. They have worked extremely hard supporting the efforts of the voluntary members within the various activities they have undertaken. I wish to thank our Medical Advisor, Dr. Tony Handley for the expert medical advice he has given us throughout the year. I take this opportunity to welcome the many new volunteers who have joined Irish Water Safety and I thank them in anticipation of a life long commitment for the future well being of the Organisation.

A detailed statement forms part of this report giving the financial income and expenditure over the year 2008, which has been examined and certified by the Comptroller & Auditor General as meeting the requirements of the Department of Finance and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The Council is most diligent in ensuring that Corporate Governance and Accountability are to the fore in exercising their statutory responsibilities at each bi-monthly meeting. On day to day basis, the Chief Executive Officer and Finance Officer (within the permanent staff) likewise carry responsibilities, which are clearly defined with regard to governance and finances for the "good management" of the organisation. In addition to the above and in further compliance with regulation, the financial management is also overseen and reported on by the Finance Commission (who report directly to the Council), by an independent Internal Examiner, Mr. Seán Murphy and also by our Firm of Accountants, R.J.Kidney & Co, Dublin.

Irish Water Safety is financially supported from several sources - Central Government through the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, through the generous grants from Local Authorities throughout the country, and fundraising by our members. We also have many kind individual firms that give us exceptional financial support and sponsorship in-kind for many water safety projects that our Marketing Executive with support of the Promotions Commission develops. Without this generous sponsorship it would be very difficult for us to meet many of the challenges that face us financially as we progress water safety throughout the country.

That so much is achieved by a small Organisation on a relatively small budget and with a small permanent staff of five, is a mark of the effectiveness of the work of the Council and its Commissions in achieving the goals set out within the five-year Strategic Development Plan. The Council strives at all times to get value for money, but the high cost of pool hire and other necessary services to promote water safety are major factors that have increased annual costs. There is little doubt that the cost of pool hire

and the availability of pool time to Irish Water Safety in some areas of the country have been less than satisfactory since Private Public Partnerships (PPPs) began running Local Authority swimming pools. This has diminished the availability of reasonable costs associated with delivering voluntary swimming and lifesaving classes to all at indoor community pools throughout the year.

The Life Governors held their “three-yearly” meeting in Dublin Castle on the 8th March and it is pleasing to report that there was an excellent attendance. Minister of State, Mr. P. Carey T.D. presented the newly struck Life Governor Medals and Bars to Life Governors present at the ceremony. A number of distinguished guests from Germany, Croatia and the United Kingdom attended the ceremony. Meetings also took place of Chairpersons and Officers of all 30 Water Safety Area Committees. The Local Authority Water Safety Development Officers and also the Water Safety Examiners each had their conference during the year at which guest speakers presented various views and opinions in relation to water safety and rescue.

Irish Water Safety continues to play a significant role at European and World level within International Life Saving, the International Federation of Swimming Teachers and the International Maritime Rescue Federation. It is pleasing to report that we hold many positions of High Office within these International Life Saving Organisations. During 2008 the positions held at international level by members of Irish Water Safety were reaffirmed and approved by Council. Irish Water Safety were encouraged to nominate a Candidate for World President of International Life Saving by several Federations during the year’s run up to ILS General Assembly in Berlin however, it was considered by the Irish nominated candidate and Council that Ireland’s best interests would be served by withdrawing the Irish nomination and supporting another candidature from the American Region. As an island nation it is neither possible nor desirable to live in isolation and this is particularly true in relation to water safety and lifesaving, this, because so many new innovative and technological ideas are daily coming on stream to improve methods of saving life. If we are to offer to the Irish public, the best methodologies and skills in lifesaving, rescue, resuscitation, swimming, and lifesaving sport, it is essential that we are involved with and exchange ideas with kindred organisations from other countries. It must be further appreciated how essential it is that a National Water Safety (Voluntary/State) Body exists to oversee these ideas and implement them for the safety of the people.

Irish Water Safety has been seeking recognition as the National Governing Body for Life Saving Sport. Discussions with the Irish Sports Council are ongoing for a number of years and hopefully will come to a successful conclusion during 2009. Recognition as the NGB for Lifesaving Sport is of prime importance particularly for our younger athletes who are competing annually at national and international level. Lifesaving Sport is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), The General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), The Association of Recognized IOC International Sports Federations (ARISF), The International World Games Association (IWGA), and The International Military Sports Council (CISM), all of which are international controlling sporting bodies worldwide. Most if not all National Lifesaving Federations in other countries have this recognition and as mentioned earlier it is imperative that Irish Water Safety gains this recognition. This would assist to further lifesaving standards within the sport and also to strengthen and develop a stronger corps of young people who are employed as lifeguards on Irish beaches during the summer months and of course it would also have some financial benefits to attracting sponsorship for our teams going abroad. At present, there is a great demand for organisations such as Irish Water Safety to foster and become involved in nurturing the young to participate in sport, and this is and has always been a prime objective of the organisation.

We have an excellent relationship with the national and local media who support and carry our concerns within the many press releases that issue from time to time from head office. This includes television, radio, newspapers and periodicals that are available within the State and who have given us coverage “free of charge” to publicise the Water Safety Awareness message nationwide. It would not be possible to have an informed public without the help and support of the media and we extend to them sincere thanks as we seek their continued cooperation in these difficult times.

Each year, we sadly lose some of our members and 2008 is no exception. Such a loss of friends certainly leaves a void for us within water safety, especially at local level where they operated on a voluntary basis with colleagues. We extend to their families our sincere and deepest sympathy.

At our annual awards ceremony we honour members who have given exceptional voluntary commitment to the public. We also honour certain members of the community with “Life Governorship”, individuals who in their own right have given distinguished service to the cause of water safety and rescue at home or abroad. We have had three persons conferred with “Life Governorships” during 2008: Minister of State, Tony Killeen T.D., Mr. Jack Barry (Wexford) and Commodore Frank Lynch (Flag Officer, Irish Naval Service). Irish Water Safety’s “SEIKO Just in Time” awards continue to be a focal point and the Council is pleased to be associated with the sponsors Seiko in honoring those persons who go to the rescue of others in distress and in danger of drowning. Council created a new award “Volunteer of the Year” to be presented at the Annual Awards Ceremony. The winner for 2008, selected by the independent panel of judges was Mr. James McLoughlin (Water Safety Examiner-Mayo).

The one great measure of success for an organisation such as Irish Water Safety is the number of persons who receive our instruction annually and it is pleasing to report that this number continues to grow yearly according to our certificate database. Another factor that is very pertinent to our overall success is the reduction in the number of water-based accidents that occur annually, making a positive contribution to the reduction in the number of persons likely to be drowned in Irish waters. Many factors contribute to this reduction, most importantly among them being the water safety awareness programmes that are being fostered within the schools through Irish Water Safety and which are being advanced nationwide by the Education Commission and the National Education Development Officer. Other contributing factors include an improved awareness among adults with regard to being on, near or in the water, whether it is for work or recreational purposes. For example, more and more people are wearing lifejackets as part of normal preparatory safety apparel when going afloat. As the national voluntary statutory body responsible for water safety in Ireland, we are very conscious of our role to inform the public of the need for water safety at all times. In this task we get excellent cooperation from other organisations such as the Marine Safety Working Group and the associated members and there is tremendous cooperation shared between ourselves and other Rescue and Sports Organisations, all of whom operate codes of good practice with regard to safety, thus supporting our efforts.

I feel that we can reflect on 2008 with satisfaction knowing that we have continued the work of those thousands of lifesavers who have gone before us in bringing the skills through the teaching swimming and lifesaving to new generations of young people. Our hope for the future is that they will likewise pass on the same knowledge and skills to the generations still to come through Irish Water Safety, so essential in a country surrounded by water. The Council throughout 2008 have overseen the publication of

many leaflets, periodicals, manuals and posters, many in association with other sponsors. It is important to mention that great satisfaction was expressed by our members on the issue of individual copies of the National Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children, coupled with the National Volunteer Policy, under which Council and members recognise the rights of each other when acting as volunteers within the organisation. The Council (through the Chief Executive Officer) signed a memorandum of understanding with An Garda Síochána concerning matters relevant to water safety. Council also approved new swimming certificates, available to providers of privately run swimming courses, designed to encourage children to learn swimming. These visually attractive "Seal, Marlin and Swordfish" awards can be complemented by badges bearing the same emblems as on the certificates.

I take this opportunity to thank our Minister, John Gormley T.D (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government), Minister of State, Tony Killeen T.D and Minister of State, Mr. Michael Kitt- (*both of whom had special responsibility for Irish Water Safety during the year*) - for their kind support of Irish Water Safety during 2008. I also thank the Secretary General of the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Ms. Geraldine Tallon and Mr. Des Dowling, Assistant Secretary and their Staff Members within the Department who have been most supportive of our efforts over the years and never fail to assist us at all times.

In conclusion, our expertise and our professional approach are admired by many lifesaving organisations worldwide. We trust that those who will have taken time to read this report as presented by a small Voluntary/State Body will feel that their efforts have made a positive contribution towards saving life in Ireland.



Frank J. Nolan.
G.Kt.Odr.L.S.

Chairman
Irish Water Safety



Frank Nolan
Chairman

Frank Nolan has been involved in Water Safety and Sea Rescue on a voluntary basis for over 50 years. He is the Chairman of Irish Water Safety, a Vice President of European Life Saving and a European Director on the World Board of International Life Saving. He holds many National and International Honours including being a "Grand Knight of the Order of Lifesaving". Recognised as an expert in inshore rescue boats and cliff rescue, he holds an "All Ireland" lifesaving medal with Waterford. He serves as the President of Waterford Water Safety Area Committee.



Kathryn Byrne

Appointed to the Council in 2000, Kathryn Byrne is Managing Director of Limelight Communications, a public relations consultancy based in Dublin. Kathryn brings her background in PR to the Promotion Commission of which she is Chairperson.

Kathryn is a Council member of the Public Relations Institute of Ireland; a former Council Member of Gaisce - The President's Award and a former Board member of An Bord Altranais.



Breda Collins

Breda Collins joined Water Safety in 1986 and is an active Instructor, Examiner and Risk Assessor. She is an International Surf Lifesaving referee and an ILSE Risk Assessor Tutor. Breda is currently serving as Chairperson of the Lifesaving Commission.



Michael Cuddihy

Michael "Buddy" Cuddihy has been a member of the board since 1987. During this time he has served on many national and international committees and is currently the Chairperson of the Lifeguard Commission and Vice Chairman of the Sports Commission of the European region (ILSE). He is also an executive member of the European College of Referees. He has a special interest in promoting sport within international lifesaving and has brought teams to South Africa, Australia, the USA and mainland Europe to compete successfully in international events. He is currently Treasurer of Waterford Water Safety Area Committee.



Jim Lawlor

Jim Lawlor, Ministerial appointment and company director. Jim is a former President of the Irish Basketball Association, and he was President of Sligo Chamber of Commerce and Industry on two occasions. He is a former member of the national board of the Chambers of Commerce of Ireland. He is a member of Sligo Mental Health Association and Sligo Acquired Brain Injury Association. He represents IWS on the board of the International Federation of Swimming Teachers Associations, is an Honorary Life Vice President of STA UK and is currently serving as Chairperson of the Sports Commission.



Brendan McGrath

Brendan is currently Chairman of the Swimming Commission of IWS but has also chaired a number of other Commissions tasked with a number of National developments. He began his involvement in life saving with the Red Cross and is an active instructor, examiner and risk assessor. He is also very involved in coaching within the sports of life saving and swimming with much international experience in both areas. He represents IWS on the board of the International Federation of Swimming Teacher Associations (IFSTA) and is a senior Risk Assessment Tutor with ILS(E). Brendan is self employed, working in the field of training and development.



Michael Murphy M.Ed.

Michael's involvement in water safety goes back to 1963 when he took his Red Cross examinations. He became more involved with the administration of the organisation's instructors and examiners and is current Chairperson of the Education Commission. He led the development of a Code of Ethics for the organisation.

He is principal of a large primary school in Dublin and has been running very successful aquatics inservice courses for teachers for over 20 years. He also works with the Teacher Training Colleges in the area of P.E. and

Health Promotion. He devised the PAWS programme for primary schools, is a member of the Council of IWS and is, also, a member of the Education Commission of ILSE. He is on the board of Stewarts Hospital and a long serving committee member of the Dublin West Education Centre.



Martin O'Sullivan

Martin has been involved with water safety since 1971, when he did his lifesaving tests with the Red Cross. Martin has served as Chairman of Cork Water Safety Area Committee at various times since 1973 and is the current Chairperson of the Rescue Commission. He has been involved internationally since 1990 as Chairman of World Lifesaving's Membership Committee and Chairman of the Rescue Committee of the European Region of ILS (Europe). Martin is the IWS representative on the Blue Flag jury.



Brian Farrell

Brian M Farrell Lt Cdr (Retd.). Cadetship with Irish Shipping and entered Naval Service in 1972 where he served in command of naval vessels and other naval appointments over a twenty year period. Now working as Harbour Master Dingle, he is involved in running the Dingle Sailing Club and his main interests are sailing and boating.

**Martina Moloney**

A Ministerial appointment to the Council, Martina, is County Manager at Galway County Council. She previously held the post of County Manager with Louth County Council, following a number of years as Director of Services with Galway City Council. She has had experience in working for numerous Local Authorities in her career to date, including Clare County Council, Limerick City Council, Donegal County Council, North Tipperary County Council and Galway City Council.

**Anne Ryan**

A Wexford Native, Anne is an Instructor and Volunteer with Irish Water Safety since 1995. Among her many credentials within the volunteering ethos of Irish Water Safety, Anne is also an Adult Education Officer, a Swim Teacher and Examiner and the Wexford Water Safety Area Committee Secretary. In addition to these activities, Anne finds the time to organise Cahore Outdoor Water Safety Week, with which she has played an active part since 1996.

**John Considine**

John Considine, Local Authority Employee (Environment Department) has been Water Safety Development Officer in County Limerick for over twenty-five years, and has served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-chairman and Child Liaison Officer of the Limerick County Area Committee at various times. He was a former member of the Council of the Irish Water Safety Association. He is currently Secretary of the Irish Water Safety Development Officer's Association. He established and currently manages the lifeguard service on the Shannon Estuary. He is also involved in competitive sailing and boating.

**Laurence Kelly**

Laurence Kelly, Principal Officer-Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, has responsibility for Local Finance and Local Services sections where one of his responsibilities is Water Safety.

Based in Wexford, he has worked in many areas of the Local Government Division in the Department.

Auditors

Comptroller & Auditor General
4-5 Harcourt Road
Dublin 2

Bankers

Ulster Bank
33 Eyre Square
Galway

Solicitors

Lewis C Doyle & Co.
Augustine Court
Augustine Street
Galway

National Office

Irish Water Safety
The Long Walk
Galway

Accountants

Robert J Kidney & Co
11 Adelaide Road
Dublin 2

Water Safety Area Committees

The organisation has thirty Area Committees, arranged almost on a county basis plus the Defence Forces and the Garda Síochána Water Safety Area Committees. Much recognition must be afforded to these Water Safety Area Committees who devise a programme of events and courses to cover their areas for the year. In addition to delivering water safety promotional programmes and demonstrations at schools, colleges, businesses, exhibitions and community events, each Committee delivers an extensive programme of pool water safety sessions in the winter and beach, lake and river water safety sessions in the summer.

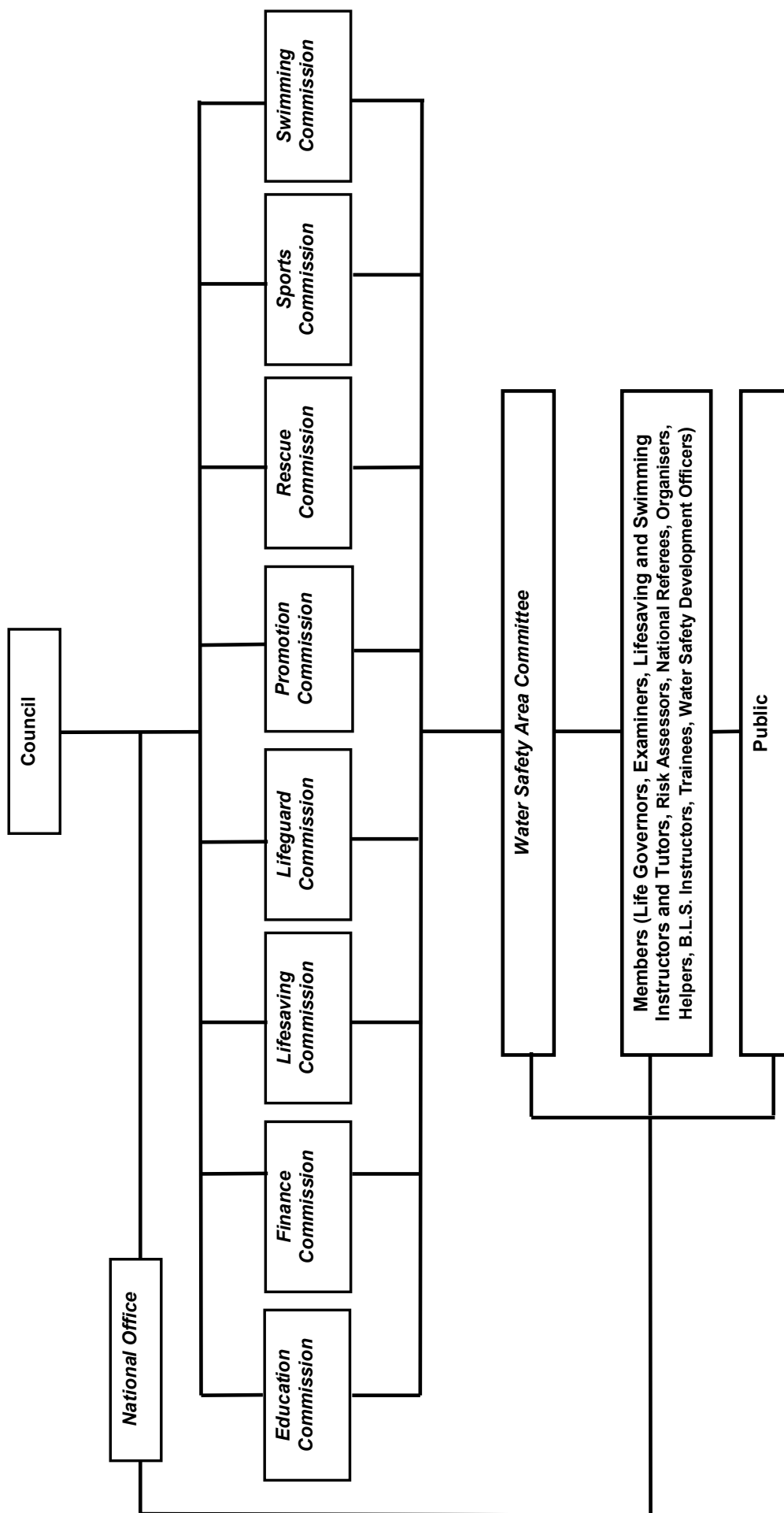
The official membership structure is of a voluntary nature with over one thousand five hundred members nationwide. It operates on a number of different levels: Life Governors, Examiners, Trainee Examiners, Tutors, Instructors, Trainee Instructors and Non-Technical Volunteer Organisers. Each Local Authority has a Water Safety Development Officer who is a member of Irish Water Safety.

Thanks to all their efforts to promote water safety we have seen a significant increase in the development of water safety awareness in local communities.

Staff

- Lt. Cdr. John F.M. Leech, CEO
- Roger Sweeney, Marketing Executive
- Joan Harte, Office Manager
- Jocelyn Cunningham, Clerical Administrator
- Alison Elstone, Clerical Administrator
- Lisa Anderson, Education Development Officer

Organisation Structure of Irish Water Safety



Finance Commission 2008

Commission Members:

- Frank Nolan, Chairperson
- Laurence Kelly, Vice-Chairperson
- Joan Harte, Secretary
- Martina Moloney
- Sean Murphy
- John Leech

Duties Assigned:

- All Financial Matters
- Staff and HR
- Administration, including travel, National and International
- Membership all ranks
- National Ceremonies and Conferences (with the Promotion Commission)
- Internal Audit Committee & Risk Management

Frank Nolan, Chairman and John Leech, CEO are both Exofficio Members of all Commissions.

Rescue Commission 2008

Commission Members:

- Martin O'Sullivan, Chairman
- Ronnie Horan, Secretary
- Captain Liam Kirwan
- Colm Dempsey
- David Kenneally

Duties Assigned:

- Blue Flag
- Risk Assessments
- VAT Inspections
- Rescues Inland Waterways
- Rescue award and Just In Time award criteria
- Community Inshore Rescue Station Training
- Rescue Equipment
- Signs / ISO (the International Organisation for Standardisation)
- ILSE (International LifeSaving Europe)

Sports Commission 2008

Commission Members:

- Jim Lawlor, Chairperson
- Joan Morton, Vice-Chairperson
- Paul Devins, Secretary
- Oisin McGrath
- Claire McGrath

Duties Assigned:

- Organise training courses.
- Run Sporting Competitions.
- Liaison with the Sports Council.
- Liaison with the Federation of Sport.
- International and Home Competitions.
- Role of Life Saving Clubs.
- Appoint Coaches, Referees and Officials.
- Drug Control in association with ILS.
- Sport Equipment.
- International Life Saving Sport & Competitions.

Lifesaving Commission 2008

Commission Members:

- Breda Collins, Chairperson
- Pat Cummins, Vice-Chairperson
- Sharon McKeon
- Eileen Kelly

Duties Assigned:

- Provision of instruction in water safety, rescue, resuscitation and recovery skills
- All matters dealing with Lifesaving
- Review syllabus for Lifesaving
- Resuscitation
- Hypothermia
- Irish Heart Foundation
- Matters dealing with WS Examiners including Conference
- White Water Rescue & Flooding

Lifeguard Commission 2008

Commission Members:

- Michael Cuddihy, Chairperson
- John Considine, Vice-Chairperson
- Paul Murphy - Secretary
- Anne Ryan

Duties Assigned:

- Promotion of efficiency and standardisation of the Lifeguard Service
- The establishment of national standards for Lifeguards
- All matters dealing with Lifeguards (Pool, Beach, River)
- Develop standards for Lifeguard accommodation
- Develop national standards for all equipment
- Investigate and research rescue craft
- Train Lifeguards in rescue boating
- Health and Safety document appertaining to Lifeguards on beaches
- Beach Lifeguards as a declared facility
- Water Safety Officers Conference
- Development Aid to Poor Federations

Education Commission 2008

Commission Members:

- Michael Murphy, Chairperson
- Val O'Kelly, Vice-Chairperson
- Anna Byrne, Secretary
- Fiona Lynch
- Official from the Department of Education

Duties Assigned:

- Promotion of measures, including the advancement of education, related to the prevention of accidents
- All matters dealing with water safety awareness within the Irish education system
- Teachers courses
- Maintain current Standards of Child Protection
- Arrange seminar for Designated Liaison Persons
- Ensure that standards in relation to ethical matters are maintained
- Liaison with the Department of Education
- National Liaison Officer
- Address suicides and undetermined drowning issue

Swimming Commission 2008

Commission Members:

- Brendan McGrath, Chairperson
- James McLoughlin, Vice-Chairperson
- Seamus O'Neill, Secretary
- Margaret McKay

Duties Assigned:

- The provision of instruction in Swimming
- Promotion of Swimming under Irish Water Safety
- Examine swimming syllabus and awards
- Develop Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum Survival
- Agree Guidelines with ILAM and have book available for printing
- All matters dealing with Swimming Instructors and Tutors
- Matters dealing with Area Water Safety Committees
- Have the rule changes accepted by Council implemented
- Improving, membership, communication and profiles
- Organise Chairpersons meeting
- Represent IWS matter within IFSTA
- Liaison with Swim Ireland as necessary
- White Flag Jury
- Swimming Pool Standards excluding Lifeguards

Promotion Commission 2008

Commission Members:

- Kathryn Byrne, Chairperson
- Roger Sweeney, Secretary
- Michael Gavin
- Eddie Hoyne
- Donal O'Sullivan

Duties Assigned:

- Marketing and Promotional Matter as outlined within the Statutory Instrument
- Seeking Sponsorship (Commercial and other)
- Marketing the Organisation
- Standardisation of merchandise
- Standardisation and issuing of books, manuals, leaflets and posters from technical sources
- Monitor press releases
- Exhibitions
- Marketing issues;
- Liaison with ROSPA and the Marine Safety Working Group
- Promotion of a public awareness of water safety
- National Ceremonies & Conferences (with the Finance Commission)

Media Partnerships 2008

We are very grateful to the provincial and national media in helping us to target at-risk groups. In addition to 96 media interviews conducted on TV and radio, Irish Water Safety issued 57 press releases throughout the year, which resulted in articles appearing in the national and local press and specialist periodicals.

PRESS RELEASES

57 Issued:

- Nations best Pool Lifesavers compete at National Pool Lifesaving Championships (4)
- Flood and high waves warning 9 March 2008
- St Patrick's Bank Holiday Weekend
- IWS and Emerald Star safe boating initiative
- May Bank Holiday
- Heatwave 15th May 2008
- August Bank Holiday
- Flood Alert 12 August 2008
- Ireland competes at European Junior Lifesaving Championships
- Nations best open water Lifesavers compete at National Lifesaving Championships
- Weils Disease Awareness Day 25 September
- Charles Thomson Award
- Water Safety Examiner's Conference
- October Bank Holiday Weekend
- Munster's Rugby Squad receives Rescue Awards and Lifeguard Qualifications
- Ice Warning Safety Alert 27 November
- Council Member Mr Jim Lawlor becomes Vice-President of the Swimming Teachers Association
- Christmas Press Release
- Irish Water Safety targets school children at risk of drowning
- Drowning and hypothermia risks in bid to catch first salmon
- Presentation of Rescue Awards and Long Service Awards at Dublin Castle (10)
- Ireland competes at World Lifesaving Championships "Rescue 2008" Germany (21)
- National Surf Lifesaving Brittas Bay
- National Water Safety Awareness Week (2)

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

BSKYB TV Campaign

- Starring pop band Westlife
- 30 second commercial on four SKY TV Channels

TG4 TV Campaign

- Water Safety messages by Actor Pádraic Breathnach

MTV & Nickleodeon

- Adverts to target children during summer broadcasts

Diary & Wall Planner

- Financial support received from sponsors

Safe Boating & Allianz

- Sponsors of Safe Boating posters and leaflets.

National Water Safety Awareness Week

- Launch by Minister Michael Kitt of 14 Steps to Safe Swimming
- Branded Lifeguards on TV3's Ireland AM and RTE's Afternoon Show
- Photoshoot supported by model Rosanna Davison
- 250,000 Safe Swimming leaflets and distribution to Lifeguard huts nationwide, sponsored by KIA Motors Ireland
- 2FM Roadcaster at Dollymount Strand where the 12-3pm Ruth Scott Show broadcast water safety advice throughout the afternoon
- Online Water Safety Week competition. Six winners received Westlife sponsored tickets to June 21st concert. The Radisson Hotel & Spa sponsored hotel accommodation for the winners.
- Polish Embassy kindly translated water safety advice for the poloish community in Ireland

Irish Angling Show, Cloghran, Co Dublin

- Water Safety information distributed by IWS volunteers

Lombard On The Water Boat Show, Malahide, Co. Dublin

- Water Safety information distributed by IWS volunteers

Water Angels, Marbella, Spain.

- Sponsorship by the Spanish Charity Water Angels has funded a Development Officer to promote Primary Aquatics Water Safety for primary schools.

Weils Disease Leaflet

- In partnership with Friendly Systems aimed at highlighting the dangers of Weils Disease, especially to the farming community.

Emerald Star

- Sponsorship of a “Safe Motor Boating on Inland Waterways Guide”.

Promotional Trailer

- The trailer provides a highly visible presence for IWS at various exhibitions and events nationwide.

Blanchardstown Safety Week

- Water Safety promotion including Basic Life Saving Skills at the National Aquatics Centre.

Maritime Matters at Hook Lighthouse, Co Wexford

- Water Safety promotion including advice and publications

National Ploughing Championships, Cuffesgrange, Co Kilkenny.

- A partnership with FBD (Water Safety On The Farm Leaflet) and Friendly Systems (Weils Disease advice for farmers) enabled IWS target those at-risk of drowning and other aquatic related injuries on farms.

Website

- Constantly updated with water safety advice, press releases and schedules of courses, conferences and seminars.

KIA Motors & IWS

- A partnership that includes a KIA vehicle for the IWS Education Development Officer and the distribution to Lifeguarded waterways nationwide of 250,000 KIA sponsored Safe Swimming Leaflets.

SEIKO

- Sponsorship of the Just in Time Awards awarded to those who come to the assistance of someone in difficulty in water.

Westlife

- The pop group donated their time to film a 30-second commercial for TV broadcast, giving viewers advice on water safety best practice.

Certification

There are two broad categories of certification – Swimming and Lifesaving. Our Swim certificates are issued directly to and accounted for by Area Committees. The overall number of Swim certificates is significant and continues to grow reflecting the efforts of our voluntary members who instil water confidence and deep-water swimming ability in thousands of people every year. In recent years, these are accounted for at local level.

Water Safety Area Committees processed 32,184 Swimming and Lifesaving certificates in 2008. In addition, a further 30,679 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed giving a total certification by Irish Water Safety of 62,863.

Certificates processed through the National Office in 2008:

Inland Open Water Lifeguard Course			
Provider	1	Pool Lifeguard (1.5m)	30
BLS 4	4	Pool Lifeguard (1.7m)	113
AED Operator	500	Pool Lifeguard Course Provider	20
Aquatics organiser	775	Pool Lifeguard Revalidation	43
Aquatics Pool Assistant	14	Rescue 1	1288
Assistant Swimming Teacher	262	Rescue 2	992
Beach Lifeguard	247	Rescue 3	790
Beach Lifeguard Revalidation	95	Rescue 4	408
BLS 1	2599	Safety 1	1850
BLS 2	1714	Safety 2	2402
BLS 3	1152	Safety 3	1945
Challenge 1	731	Safety 4	1752
Challenge 2	390	Splash	299
Endurance 1	480	Surf 1	116
Endurance 2	652	Surf 2	49
Instructor	125	Surf 3	14
Inland Open Water Lifeguard	13	Surf 4	10
IWS Code of Conduct	1165	Survival 1	138
IWS ILAM PLG	65	Survival 2	330
IWS ILAM PLG Level 1	113	Survival 3	11
IWS ILAM PLG Level 1Revalidation	14	Swim 1	1562
IWS ILAM PLG Level 2	684	Swim 2	1764
IWS ILAM PLG Level 2Revalidation	64	Swim 3	1577
IWS ILAM PLG Revalidation	140	Swim 4	1216
Pool Lifeguard	168	Swim 5	1230
Swimming Teacher	68		

Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) is Irish Water Safety's program of certification for primary school children. Now a component of the physical education strand of the primary school curriculum, PAWS is being implemented by teachers nationwide.

Summer Water Safety Weeks

The thirty Water Safety Area Committees nationwide run an extensive series of swimming and water safety weeks throughout the summer in pools, rivers, lakes and beachfronts. Many of these classes extend beyond the summer in places that have pools and leisure centres.

Swim weeks consist of instruction in swimming and water safety weeks develop skills in rescue, water survival and basic life support. Details of these programmes are regularly updated on the Association's website, www.iws.ie. Many counties experienced an exceptional interest in classes following a series of successful radio, press and TV campaigns.

Representation at National Level

Frank Nolan-----	Irish Marine Search & Rescue Committee.
John Leech-----	(Users Group), Commissioner's Irish Lights
Roger Sweeney-----	Marine Safety Working Group.
David Kenneally -----	Community Inshore Rescue Advisory Group
Breda Collins -----	Irish Heart Foundation
John Leech-----	ACESA
Brendan McGrath -----	ILAM
Martin O'Sullivan -----	Blue Flag
Margaret McKay-----	White Flag
Jim Lawlor-----	Irish Sports Federation & Irish Olympic Committee
Anna Byrne -----	FETAC
John Leech/ Frank Nolan/ Breda Collins Thomson Award Jury with RLSS	

Representation at International Level

Frank Nolan-----	World Board ILS & European Board ILS
Frank Nolan-----	Finance Commission ILS
Sean Murphy -----	Auditor ILS
Sean Murphy -----	Auditor ILS(E)
Martin O'Sullivan -----	European Board ILS
Martin O'Sullivan -----	Rescue Commission Europe & World ILS.
Martin O'Sullivan -----	ISO Working Group
Michael Cuddihy-----	ILS(E) Sport Commission
Michael Murphy-----	ILS(E) Education Commission
John Leech-----	ILS(E) Administration Commission.
Brendan McGrath & Jim Lawlor-----	International Federation of Swimming Teachers
Kathryn Byrne -----	ROSPA & Other Marketing Conferences.
Michael Cuddihy-----	College of Referees Panel ILS(E)

Conferences

- **National Awards Ceremony**
18th November, Dublin Castle

- **IWS Seminar**
14th June 2008, Glasson Golf Hotel & Country Club, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

- **Water Safety Development Officer's**
23rd – 25th April 2008 Carlton Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe

- **IWS Examiner's Conference**
18th & Sun 19th October, Old Ground Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare

Competitions

▪ National Surf Lifesaving Championships

Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow on 20th & 21st Sept 2008.

The open water events presented a magnificent spectacle of surf swimming races, ski races, surfboard races and events designed to test the lifesaving skills, fitness and endurance of the participants. Some 450 of the nation's strongest and fittest Lifesavers competed in the premier lifesaving competition in Ireland.

The Overall Winning County was the host County Wicklow.

Nippers:.....Donegal
Junior Girls:Donegal
Junior Boys:.....Clare
Senior Ladies:Donegal
Senior Men:Wicklow
Masters:Cork

▪ National Stillwater Championships,

16th February 2008, National University of Limerick

Some of Ireland's fittest Lifesavers competed at the National University of Limerick's 50-metre Arena Pool, Castletroy. Teams from counties around Ireland competing in a rigorous series of races, which simulate conditions that lifesavers often encounter in real life rescues and are designed to test the lifesaving skills of the participants.

Overall Team Results:

Junior Boys: Clare A, Clare B & Waterford (joint second).
Junior Girls: Wicklow, Galway, Clare
Senior Men: Wicklow, Clare, Waterford
Senior Ladies: Wicklow, Mayo, Dublin

▪ President's Trophy:

The most coveted trophy in the sport, the Presidents trophy was presented by President Sean T O'Ceallaigh in 1950 and has been competed for ever since then. The winning County is based on cumulative points from all events in both the National Surf and the National Pool Lifesaving Championships.

Winners: Wicklow, Senior Men

▪ Rescue 2008 International Lifesaving Championships

20th July to 2nd August, Germany

The team represented Ireland very well at this gala of lifesaving that is the most significant and breathtaking life saving competition in the world. The strong performance of the entire team helped Ireland finish 22nd out of 37 National teams overall. Over 4,000 Lifesavers competed, with an average of 74 individual competitors in each individual event.

The Irish Life Saving Team:

Men:		
Wicklow	John Morton	
Wicklow	Scott Morton	
Wicklow	Aidan Maguire	
Sligo	Jim Lawlor	Head Of Delegation
Clare	Brendan McGrath	Coach
Galway	Andrew Lally	Assistant Coach
Clare	Oisin McGrath	
Clare	Colm Fitzgerald	

Antrim David Butler

Women

Limerick	Ita Richardson	Team Manager
Clare	Sinead Mortell	
Donegal	Amy May Garvey	
Mayo	Sarah English	
Mayo	Patricia Brennan	
Waterford	Grace Doyle	
Wicklow	Jessica Britton	

Summary of results:

- 5 A Finals
- 4 B Finals
- 2 New Irish records
- 4 New Irish Representative Records
- 5 Personal Bests
- 7 Semi finals
- 2 Quarterfinals

Masters Section:

Norma Cahill - total 3 Golds and 1 Silver as follows:

Beach Events:

- Gold Medal in Swim
- Silver Medal in Ironwoman

Pool Events:

- Gold Medal in 200-Metre Obstacle, New World, Masters and Irish Records.
- Gold Medal in 50-Metre Manikin, New World, Masters and European Records.

National Awards Ceremony

18th November, Dublin Castle

The Service Awards presented recognised 1,545 years of personal service of Irish Water Safety volunteers in the teaching of swimming, lifesaving, rescue skills and the promotion of water safety awareness.

The Rescuers presented with SEIKO Just In Time Awards were honored for saving 14 Lives in dramatic near-drowning Incidents.

- **Community & Social Responsibility Award**

In recognition of the support given to Irish Water Safety's community work, charitable activities and commitment to drowning prevention initiatives and the reduction of aquatic related injuries.

- **Allianz**

For sponsoring the "Aqua Attack" children's resource workbook for children and other publications that focus in on safe boating and other at-risk areas. The Children's workbook sponsored by Allianz is highly regarded by teachers and parents as an excellent means of teaching children how to stay safe around water.

- **BSKYB**

For broadcasting water safety awareness commercials on Sky 1, Sky News, Sky Sports 1 and Sky Sports 2. This coverage has had a hugely positive effect on the general public. The number of enquiries to Irish Water Safety's Head Office and to the website increases significantly when the commercial is broadcast. The number of people wearing lifejackets has increased, as has the level of awareness about Irish Water Safety's messages. Much of this is thanks to SKY's broadcasting of Irish Water Safety Public Service Announcements and for this we are very grateful.

- **Kia Motors Ireland**

For sponsoring a KIA "Sportage" vehicle to mobilise Irish Water Safety's Education Development Officer, enabling her to introduce water safety classes to schools and pools nationwide. Thanks to KIA's support, Irish Water Safety's primary school water safety program has gone from strength to strength and is now a component part of the physical education strand of the primary school curriculum. Kia also sponsored the design, print and publication of quarter of a million safe swimming leaflets and their distribution to Lifeguard Huts nationwide.

- **Polish Embassy**

For helping to target the Polish population in Ireland by translating water safety information into Polish for those at risk of drowning. The Embassy not only translates information on an ongoing basis but also makes that information available through the Embassy and prepares translated press releases to target specific at-risk groups. People travelling from Poland to Ireland are undoubtedly safer and more aware of the dangers specific to Ireland, thanks to their efforts.

- **Mee3D New Media**

For part-sponsoring the design, filming and editing of the Westlife TV Campaign. The company directed the filming of the Westlife pop group and donated many creative hours to devise a high quality, eye-catching campaign to suit television broadcast. They also created the backdrops necessary for the supporting photoshoot. In addition to TV broadcast on four SKY Channels, the campaign also broadcasts on YouTube, which attracts a considerable number of hits thereby reaching another at-risk group.

- **Farm & Plant Magazine**

For delivering water safety awareness information at the National Ploughing Championships and in the Farm & Plant Guide to raise awareness of water safety best practices to the farming community.

- **Friendly Systems**

For sponsoring awareness campaigns focusing on the dangers of Weils Disease. The campaign included publications, photoshoot and point of sale distribution of safety messages to at-risk groups nationwide.

- **Galway Crystal**

For sponsoring the Volunteer of the Year Trophy and many crystal products presented at water safety events.

- **Health & Safety Authority**

For sponsoring the publication of a Hypothermia leaflet aimed at raising public awareness of the dangers of Cold Shock and Hypothermia.

- **Louis Walsh Management**

For coordinating the pop group Westlife's appearance in a new TV campaign to raise awareness about water safety.

- **T.A.F.I. –Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland**

For promoting water safety publications and training to TAFI - the Trout Angling Federation of Ireland. Anglers present a particular drowning risk but thanks to TAFI's work in partnership with Irish Water Safety, the members of the Federation are kept aware of water safety best practices.

- **Graphic Design**

For their generous support in designing, building and maintaining the Kildare Water Safety website which has become a one-stop-shop for those living and visiting Kildare who are interested in taking lifesaving classes and learning about water safety in Kildare.

- **Údaras na Gaeltachta**

For partnering with Irish Water Safety to target those living in Gaeltacht areas by sponsoring the design and publication of water safety information in Irish.

- **Media Appreciation Award**

In recognition of the media coverage given to water safety issues nationwide.

- **RTE**

This award is issued to the National TV and National Radio stations for promoting water safety issues as they arise throughout the year. RTE receive Irish Water Safety's Media Appreciation Award for their National coverage of water safety issues on both television and radio.

- **Inishowen Community Radio**

ICR receives the Provincial Radio Station Media Appreciation Award for promoting water safety issues throughout the year. Their coverage of water safety topics of interest to a local audience ensured their listeners were kept well informed throughout the year.

- **Western People & Wexford People**

The Western People Newspaper wins the Provincial Press Media Appreciation Award for their coverage of water safety issues, both of National and local interest. Many lifesaving classes are heavily subscribed in both regions thanks to their coverage.

- **Irish Examiner**

This award is issued to the National Press for promoting topical water safety issues as they arise throughout the year. The Irish Examiner receive Irish Water Safety's Media Appreciation Award for National coverage of water safety issues that help us reduce drownings by raising awareness.

- **Long Service Awards**

This service represents a voluntary commitment to promoting a public awareness of water safety and rescues based on the humanitarian goal of saving life.

▪ **Certificate of Service**

10-Year Service

Ms Mary	Bolton	Clare
Ms Jackie	Brennan	Leitrim
Ms Olive	Brennan	Leitrim
Ms Patricia	Butler	Clare
Ms Dympna	Creegan	Leitrim
Ms Ciara	Dick	Sligo
Ms Maria	Dowling	Carlow
Ms Jackie	Duffy	Wicklow
Ms Mary	Dunne	Kilkenny
Ms Elaine	Ensko	Clare
Ms Julie	Farrell	Carlow
Mr Michael	Gaule	Kilkenny
Ms Geraldine	Heeran	Leitrim
Ms Tiasha	Kelly	Sligo
Ms Bernadette	Landers	Carlow
Mr Seamus	Maher	Carlow
Ms Geraldine	McGuinn	Sligo
Ms Kathleen	McMahon	Clare
Mr Colm	McNelis	Carlow
Ms Ruairi	Monds	Sligo
Ms Stephanie	Moran	Leitrim
Ms Maureen	Murray	Leitrim
Mr Anthony	Nolan	Carlow
Ms Sheila	O Driscoll	Kilkenny
Ms Jackie	O Lohan	Wicklow
Ms Carmel	O Toole	Wicklow
Mr Andy	Ramsbottom	Kilkenny
Ms Sharon	Smith	Wicklow
Ms Geraldine	Treacy	Clare
Ms Deirdre	Wall	Carlow
Ms Natalie	O Meara	Dublin

▪ **The Service Medal of Honour (SMH) 15-Year Service**

Ms Patricia	Butler	Clare
Ms Geraldine	Cleary	Clare
Ms Elaine	Ensko	Clare
Ms Roseleen	Harmon	Louth
Ms Miriam	Harmon	Louth
Ms Mary	Harvey	Louth
Mr Tom	Keating	Kilkenny
Mr Seamus	Maher	Carlow
Mr Dan	McDonnell	Carlow
Mr Gerald	McGonigle	Donegal
Ms Joan	Morton	Wicklow
Ms Margaret	O Flaherty	Wicklow
Ms Josephine	O Keeffe	Wicklow
Ms Mary	O Leary	Wexford
Ms Sandra	O Toole	Monaghan
Ms Geraldine	Treacy	Clare
Ms Deirdre	Webster	Kildare

▪ **Bronze Bar to the SMH**

20-Year Service

Mr Martin	Carroll	Waterford
Ms Mary	Coady	Kilkenny
Ms Breda	Collins	Kilkenny
Ms Helena	Duggan	Wexford
Ms Nicola	Duggan Dowdall	Wexford
Ms Mary	Foster	Carlow
Ms Elizabeth	Hayes	Waterford
Mr Seamus	Maher	Carlow

Ms Ursula	McCarroll Carty	Wexford
Mr Dan	McDonnell	Carlow
Ms Clare	McGrath	Clare
Mr Lar	O Connor	Wexford
Ms Phil	O Rourke	Wicklow
Ms Lola	O Sullivan	Waterford
Ms Mary	O Sullivan	Kilkenny
Ms Ann Marie	Tuohy	Sligo
Ms Margaret	Wynne	Leitrim

▪ **Silver Bar to the SMH**

30-Year Service

Mr Jack	Barry	Wexford
Mr John	Bolger	Kilkenny
Mr Liam	Costigan	Kilkenny
Mr John	Doyle	Wexford
Ms Monica	Doyle	Clare
Mr Tom	Doyle	Wexford
Mr Norman	Griffin	Monaghan
Mr Brendan	McGrath	Clare
Mr Liam	Murphy	Wexford
Mr Michael	Roche	Wexford
Mr Michael	Shine	Kilkenny
Ms Margaret	Talty	Clare

▪ **Gold Bar to the SMH**

40-Year Service

Mr Jack	Barry	Wexford
Mr William	Brett	Kilkenny
Ms Anna	Byrne	Kildare
Mr Michael	Roche	Wexford
Ms Noreen	Stack	Sligo
Ms Bronagh	Stafford	Wexford
Ms Angela	Travers	Wexford

• **International Life Saving Federation Citation of Merit.**

The Citation of merit is awarded in recognition of a devotion to the cause of the saving of life in the aquatic environment.

- **Leonard Bell**, Tramore Sea Rescue Association, Co. Waterford
- **Trevor Hughes**, Bantry Inshore Search & Rescue Association, Co. Cork
- **PJ O'Shea**, Inshore Lifeboat Service Bonmahon, Co. Waterford
- **Bill Shanahan**, Community Inshore Rescue Service at Banna Strand, Co. Kerry
- **TJ McCarron**, Community Inshore Rescue Service at Ballyunion, Co. Kerry
- **Helen Wilson**, Derrynane Inshore Rescue Service, Co. Kerry

• **Life Governor Awards**

Awarded by the Council of Irish Water Safety in due recognition of a commitment to the humanitarian goal of life saving and water rescue.

- **Mr Jack Barry**, Wexford
- **Minister Tony Killeen**, Clare
- **Commodore Frank Lynch**, Cork



Irish Water Safety's TV Awareness campaign is kindly sponsored by BSKYB Ireland. Advertisements run on four SKY channels throughout the year. Roger Sweeney, Marketing Executive, Irish Water Safety presents popular pop-group Westlife with a Media Appreciation Award on location at the shooting of the latest TV campaign.



Frank Nolan, IWS Chairman (right) confers Mr Dick Roche TD (left) with Life Governorship of Irish Water Safety, which is Awarded by the Council of Irish Water Safety in due recognition of a commitment to the humanitarian goal of life saving and water rescue. Also present are (l/r): from the Dept of Environment, Heritage & Local Govt: Geraldine Tallon, Secretary General, Feargal O'Coighligh, Principal Officer and Des Dowling, Assistant Secretary, IWS Council Member Kathryn Byrne, Chairman Dublin Water Safety Area Committee Paul Murphy and IWS CEO John Leech.



Farmers and others are at risk of contracting Weils disease, which can be fatal. Pictured (l/r) are Roger Sweeney, Marketing Executive, Irish Water Safety and JP Rattigan of Friendly Systems, sponsors of a new joint campaign to reduce risks to life by informing of the dangers, which drew huge interest at the National Ploughing Championships.



At the 76th Annual conference of the STA UK, Denise Patterson, Senior Trustee, confers Jim Lawlor, Council Member of IWS, as Honorary Life Vice-President of the STA UK, being but the twenty-seventh occasion on which this Award has been made over the STA's 76-year history.



Attending the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle were (l/r): Sonny Condon, Michael Cuddihy, Aidan Byrne, Sean Hennessy.



Irish rugby Union and Munster Rugby player, Paul O'Connell receives a SEIKO Just In Time Award from IWS CEO John Leech in appreciation for rescuing a girl in difficulties in water when surfing in Co Clare.



The grimaces at a compacted starting line quickly give way to steadfast concentration as competitors at the National Surf Lifesaving Championships have their skills tested in events that simulate emergency rescue and swimming scenarios.



At the Water Safety Development Officer's Conference, Wicklow's Philip O'Rourke gives the thumbs up to Louth's Paddy Drumgoole.



The wait is over. Months of training honing their lifesaving skills, Irish Water Safety trained Lifesavers compete for the best start at the National Lifesaving Championships at Brittas Bay, Co Wicklow. Conditions around Ireland's coast are ideal training waters for the teams vying for National Championship medals.



Attending the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle were (l/r): Dr Klaus Wilkens, President DLRG (German LifeSaving), David Kenneally, IWS.



Attending the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle were (l/r): Roger Millward, STA UK, Mr Michael Vlasto RNLI, Jack Mason, IWS.



Attending the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle were (l/r): John Doran, Jack Mason, Sean Murphy.



Attending the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle were (l/r): Frank Nolan, Chairman IWS, Nikola Jagic and Feodor Juric, Croatian Red Cross, Minister of State Mr Pat Carey, T.D., Dr Nenad Javornik, Croatian Red Cross.



Attending the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle were (l/r): Brendan McGrath, Commodore Frank Lynch, Flag Officer commanding the Naval Service, Minister of State Mr Pat Carey, T.D., Frank Nolan Chairman IWS.



Attending the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle were (l/r): Minister of State Mr Pat Carey, T.D. in conversation with Nick Corish, IWS and centre, Frank Nolan, Chairman, IWS.



Minister of State Mr Pat Carey, T.D. presents Eamonn Doherty with a Life Governor Medal at the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle. On left is Frank Nolan, IWS Chairman.



Minister of State Mr Pat Carey, T.D. presents Nick Corish with a Life Governor Medal at the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle. On left is Frank Nolan, IWS Chairman.



Minister of State Mr Pat Carey, T.D. presents Noel O'Beara with a Life Governor Medal at the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle. On left is Frank Nolan, IWS Chairman.



Speaking at the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle, Mr Michael Vlasto RNLI, and on right, John Leech, CEO, IWS.



Minister of State Mr Pat Carey, T.D. presents James McGolderick with a Life Governor Medal at the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle. On left is Frank Nolan, IWS Chairman.



Minister of State Mr Pat Carey, T.D. presents Donal Connolly with a Life Governor Medal at the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle. On left is Frank Nolan, IWS Chairman.



Minister of State Mr Pat Carey, T.D. presents Des Howett with a Life Governor Medal at the Life Governor's Meeting at Dublin Castle. On left is Frank Nolan, IWS Chairman.



World Lifesaving Rescue 2008 competitors (l/r): Patricia Brennan (Mayo), Sinead Mortell (Clare), Sarah English (Mayo), Jessica Britton (Wicklow).



Named after the late Director of the company Sea and Shore Safety Services, the Captain Philip Murphy Safety Award is presented to Organisations that have made a serious contribution to safety on the water. Accepting the Award on behalf of Irish Water Safety is John Leech, CEO IWS from Mr Noel Ahern TD, Minister of State at the Dept of Transport and Mrs Angela Murphy.



Pupils from Dungourney National School, Fermoy, Co Cork receive their Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) Certificates at Fermoy Leisure Centre where they learnt their water safety skills. Teaching children water safety best practices safeguards their lives and is Irish Water Safety's proactive step to moulding a generation's attitude and behaviour around aquatic environments.



Mayo's Michael Gavin and Carlow's Dan McDonnell at the 2008 Water Safety Development Officer's Conference.



IWS Council Member Kathryn Byrne presents an Irish Water Safety Dolphin to Mr Michael Kitt TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government at the launch of the 2008 Safe Swimming Campaign. Promoting the campaign to the Minister's left is Irish Model Rosanna Davison and Irish Water Safety trained Lifeguards (l/r) Kate Binchy, Conor Berkery, Shane Reddin, Aine McCarthy, Yvon McCarthy and Fiona Connelly.



Minister Michael Kitt TD (left) and Frank Nolan Chairman IWS (right) present Bill Shanahan from Community Inshore Rescue Service Banna Strand Co Kerry with an International Lifesaving Citation of Merit at a ceremony in Dublin Castle.



Minister Michael Kitt TD (left) and Frank Nolan Chairman IWS (right) present Helen Wilson with an International Lifesaving Citation of Merit for Helen's and her late husband Aussie Wilson's work in establishing Derrynane Inshore Rescue Service.



Minister Michael Kitt TD (left) and Frank Nolan Chairman IWS (right) present Leonard Bell of Tramore Sea Rescue Association with an International Lifesaving Citation of Merit at a ceremony in Dublin Castle.



Minister Michael Kitt TD (left) and Frank Nolan Chairman IWS (right) present PJ O'Shea from Bonmahon Lifeguard Club with an International Lifesaving Citation of Merit at a ceremony in Dublin Castle.



Minister Michael Kitt TD (left) and Frank Nolan Chairman IWS (right) present Trevor Hughes from Bantry Inshore and Search and Rescue Association with an International Lifesaving Citation of Merit at a ceremony in Dublin Castle.



Minister Michael Kitt TD (left) and Frank Nolan Chairman IWS (right) present TJ McCarron with an International Lifesaving Citation of Merit for his work with Ballybunion Sea Rescue Services.



Wicklow Members of the Irish life Saving Team preparing for World Lifesaving Rescue 2008 in Germany (l/r): John Morton, Jessica Britton, Scott Morton and Aidan McGuire.



Team Ireland in advance of competing at World Lifesaving Rescue 2008, Germany(l/r): Brendan McGrath (Coach), Andrew Lally (Galway), Ita Richardson (Manager), Oisin McGrath (Clare), Colm Fitzgerald (Clare), Scott Morton (Wicklow) John Morton (Wicklow), Aidan Maguire (Wicklow), David Butler (Belfast), Grace Doyle (Waterford), Patricia Brennan (Mayo), Sinead Mortell (Clare) Amy May Garvey (Donegal), Sarah English (Mayo), Jim Lawlor Chairman Sports Commission (Sligo).



At the launch of the new range of "Seal, Marlin and Orca" Certificates for commercial classes at private Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools were, centre, Mr Michael Kitt TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and IWS Commission Members responsible for developing the Syllabus (l/r) James McLoughlin, Brendan McGrath, Margaret McKay and Seamus O'Neill.



At a photocall during National Water Safety Awareness Week, launching the Safe Swimming Leaflet sponsored and distributed to Lifeguard Huts nationwide by KIA Motors Ireland were (l/r) Irish Water Safety trained Lifeguards Conor Berkery, Shane Reddin, Fiona Connelly with Mr Michael Kitt TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Lifeguards Áine McCarthy, Yvon McCarthy and Kate Binchy.



Promoting Irish Water Safety's "Primary Aquatics Water Safety" (PAWS) Programme to primary school teachers attending the Irish National Teacher's Organisation (INTO) Conference were (l/r) Lisa Anderson, IWS Education Development Officer and Breda Collins, IWS Council Member.



Seconds to the signal for Irish Water Safety trained Lifesavers competing in the National Surf Lifesaving Championships, hosted by Wicklow Water Safety Area Committee at Brittas Bay. Competitors contend with challenging open water conditions to rescue potential "casualties" in testing swim races, rescue board races and other events, which culminate in exciting finals throughout the day.



Frank Nolan Chairman of IWS, Mr Michael Kitt TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Noel Wall, Seiko present Amy O'Donoghue with the Seiko sponsored "Just in Time" Rescue Award for saving her four year old brother Lee from drowning while on holiday in Fuerteventura. The Annual Awards ceremony takes place in Dublin Castle in November each year. Details of Amy's dramatic rescue can be found within the Annual Report.



Brendan McGrath, Team Ireland Coach and Ita Richardson, Team Manager discuss tactics at World Lifesaving Rescue 2008 in Germany.



Irish Water Safety's Tracy Harney joins pupils at Cornafulla National School, Co Westmeath, winners of the competition to name a new water safety publication aimed at children – Aqua Attack!



Watching events in between competing at World Lifesaving Rescue 2008 (l/r): Grace Doyle (Waterford), Jessica Britton (Wicklow) and Sinead Mortell (Clare).



Frank Nolan, Chairman, Irish Water Safety presents the new Seal, Marlin and Orca Awards to the first ever recipients at Ennis Pool, Co Clare.



Irish Water Safety trained Lifesavers break the still waters of the University of Limerick's 50-metre pool as they compete in the National Pool Lifesaving Championships 2008. Teams from counties around Ireland compete in a rigorous series of races, which simulate conditions that lifesavers often encounter in real life rescues and are designed to test the lifesaving skills of the participants.



Members of Irish Water Safety's Council, (l/r) Martin O'Sullivan, Breda Collins, Brendan McGrath, Anne Ryan, Michael Cuddihy, Frank Nolan, Chairman join Mr Michael Kitt TD, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (centre) at the Irish Water Safety Examiner's Conference 2008.

• Volunteer of the Year

Irish Water Safety relies on the efforts and hard work of its committed volunteers, those who again and again willingly contribute their time and skills so that others learn the skills of swimming, lifesaving, rescue, risk assessment and lifesaving sport.

The IWS Volunteer of the Year Award recognises the great work that is completed by these committed volunteers who selflessly give up of their time to complete the vision and mission as laid down in our Strategic Development Plan

- **2008 Volunteer of the Year:** James McLoughlin, Mayo.

• SEIKO Just In Time Awards

Sponsored by SEIKO for coming to the assistance of a person or persons in distress in water.

- **Mr Karl Dempsey**, 28th September 2006.

Karl was a passenger on a Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) on passage from Kinsale to Baltimore. Due to a steering failure, the boat turned suddenly to port and all five on board were thrown from the boat. All the crew were wearing lifejackets and were not in immediate difficulty. Karl swam to intercept the circling boat and succeeded in climbing onboard to rescue his three colleagues. Karl was trained by Irish Water Safety as a Lifeguard and completed his boat training with the Irish Sailing Association. His efforts required great strength, fitness, courage and water confidence gained from his years of training. If it were not for the bravery of Karl Dempsey, lives would most likely have been lost at sea as they had no means of communication with shore whilst in the water.

- **Mr David Donnelly-Swift**, 8th September 2008.

David observed a woman in distress after she had entered the river Nore at John's Bridge, Kilkenny. David used a ringbuoy to bring the woman to the riverbank where the Fire Services assisted the casualty from the water. David had taken Irish Water Safety's "Safety 1 and 2" Lifesaving training awards whilst in sixth class at St. Canice's school Kilkenny. David continued his water safety training in St. Kierans Secondary College under the instruction of Irish Water Safety Volunteer Michael Kellegher.

- **Garda Niall Doody & Garda Edel Convey**, 4th April 2008.

Garda Niall Doody and Garda Edel Convey were on patrol when they observed a woman in difficulty in the fast flowing and cold waters of the River Fergus, Ennis, Co Clare. Niall entered the water while Edel threw a ringbuoy to Niall who secured the lifesaving device around the woman. Niall stayed in the water with the woman until emergency services arrived at the scene. Both Niall and the casualty were transferred to Ennis General Hospital where they were treated for Hypothermia and made a full recovery.

- **Mr Brian Doyle**, 14th June 2001.

A local man, John McCabe, who had observed a car in Tully Lake, Co. Leitrim, called out for Brian whereupon Brian entered the water with a rope tied around his waist. He waded out to the distressed casualty and rescued him back to the lakeshore. The casualty was transferred to Cavan Hospital where he made a full recovery. Brian had completed Irish Water Safety lifesaving classes, which had given him the water confidence to perform this rescue.

- **Ms Valarie Lynch**, 10th November 2006.

While attending Clonakilty Community College, Valerie was also taking Irish Water Safety's Rescue 3 Lifesaving classes. During a lunch break a student lodged a sweet in his throat and was unable to breath. The Principle of the school arrived on the scene and called for help. Valerie arrived on the scene and instinctively cleared the obstruction using the Heimlich manoeuvre and the student made a full recovery.

- **Mr Eugene Mohan**, 13th August 2007.

Eugene noticed a man in difficulty in the deep end of swimming pool at the Algarve holiday club at which they were holidaying. The man was lying face down at the bottom of the pool. Eugene quickly jumped into the water and dived to the bottom of the pool, located the casualty and brought the man to the side of the pool. Bystanders assisted him recover the unconscious

man from the water who was now blue in colour and unconscious. Eugene cleared his airway to initiate his breathing and the casualty made a full recovery.

▪ **Sgt Pat Murphy, 23rd June 2008.**

Pat was on routine motorcycle Traffic Corps duties when he responded to an emergency call at the Shakey Bridge on the River Lee in Cork. A number of young teenagers were in difficulty in the river. Pat bravely entered the water and rescued a teenage girl to the bank where she was transferred to the Regional Hospital by Ambulance. She made a full recovery.

▪ **Mr Paul O'Connell, 25th July 2008.**

Paul was surfing at Lahinch, Co. Clare when he noticed a fellow surfer in difficulty and immediately went to her rescue, battling waves and surf to bring her to safety. The 22-year old girl was very grateful to Paul and commended him for his valiant rescue.

▪ **Mr John O'Connor & Mr Joseph Breslin, 25th May 2008.**

While on a waterbus trip on Donegal Bay, John saw a man fall from the waterbus into the water. John, who had completed his lifesaving training with New Zealand Water Safety, could see that the man was in difficulties. He immediately entered the water, swam out to the casualty and brought him back to the waterbus. They were both brought back onboard with the use of ringbuoys. When back onboard, Joseph realised that the victim was unconscious and suffering from Hypothermia. Joseph began First Aid on the victim and when he came to, treated him for hypothermia and assisted him in his breathing until paramedics arrived. He was transferred to Letterkenny General Hospital where he made a full recovery.

▪ **Ms Amy O'Donoghue, 10th April 2008.**

The O'Donoghue family were holidaying on the island of Feurteventura in the Canaries. On the first day after arriving at their villa four year old Lee managed to access the swimming pool, where, out of his depth, he quickly got into difficulties and sank to the bottom. His 10-year old sister Amy jumped in and brought her unconscious brother to the surface. Their mother arrived on the scene and performed basic life support on him after which he gained consciousness. Meanwhile Amy had run to get help. She brought an Irish couple back to the scene and they drove Lee and his mother to the local hospital where he had water removed from his lungs and spent two days on antibiotics under observation. Lee made a full recovery.

▪ **Garda Paul O'Flynn & Garda Jennifer Grant, 10th September 2006.**

Garda Paul O'Flynn and student Garda Jennifer Grant received a call to the Quayside, Waterford that a lady had entered the river, which was at full tide. Both Gardai climbed over the railing and entered the water and completed a wading rescue, pulling her to safety from the water. She was then transported to Ardkeen Hospital where she was kept under observation prior to discharge.

▪ **Mr Ricardo Ragazzo, 23rd May 2008.**

Sardinian native Ricardo heard his colleague call for help as she had noticed a man fall into the river Eske in Donegal. Ricardo went outside, and approached a large group of people gathering close to the location of the casualty. He jumped in to the water from a 12-foot balcony, swam to the casualty and brought the man to safety.

▪ **Ms Allen Tiang & Ms Perly Kwan, 15th February 2008.**

Allen and Perly were walking along the riverbank of the Barrow, when they observed a woman in distress in the water. They immediately came to the woman's assistance by entering the water and completing a wading rescue, pulling her to safety from the water at Lower Tinnahinch, Co. Carlow. She was then transferred to St Luke's Hospital to recover from hypothermia and shock.

▪ **Petty-Officer Emmet Wilmot, 31 May 2008.**

A young boy was walking towards the LE CIARA, which was docked alongside the quay in Cork's Cobh harbour. He suddenly lost his footing on the quay and accidentally fell between the ship and the quay wall - a gap of about seventeen inches. Emmet heard the boy's mother call for help and immediately approached with a ringbuoy in hand for lowering to the young boy. When difficulties arose getting Matthew to secure himself with the ringbuoy as a result of the tight space between ship and quay Emmet used a rope to lower himself into the water. He swam to

the boy and kept him afloat by wedging himself between the ship and quay and holding on tightly to the boy. Some of the ship's crew soon arrived to provide further assistance.

**Irish Water Safety is committed to providing a Quality Customer Service to the public
and to ensuring that both internal efficiencies are achieved
and customer's expectations are assessed and needs are met.**

24th June 2009

Irish Water Safety

We confirm to the best of our knowledge and belief, and having made the appropriate enquiries of other Council Members and Officials of the Association, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of the Association's financial statements of the Council for the year ended 31 December 2008.

1. We acknowledge as Council Members our statutory responsibility for the financial statements. All of the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit and all the transactions undertaken by the Association have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Council meetings, have been made available to you.
2. There are no financial commitments of a revenue or capital nature other than those as disclosed in the financial statements.
3. Annual lease commitments at 31 December 2008 amounted to €41,722 in respect of leased offices occupied by the Association at The Long Walk, Galway.
4. Full disclosure and provision has been made for all liabilities at the Balance Sheet date. Contingencies have been appropriately disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.
5. There are no legal actions, which were instigated against the Council.
6. The Association has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the Association's assets, except as disclosed in the financial statements.
7. At the Balance Sheet date cash on hand and at bank amounted to €125,554.
8. The Council Members are of the opinion that the Association will have sufficient working capital to meet its foreseeable requirements for at least the next twelve months.
9. No transactions were entered into shortly before the accounting date with the intention that they should be reversed shortly after that date, so as not to present a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association.
10. There were no third party guarantees or letters of comfort issued by the Association.
11. No irregularities or frauds have occurred or are being investigated as at 31 December 2008.
12. The Association has not exceeded the borrowing limits approved by the Department of Environment and Local Government.
13. No circumstances have arisen or events occurred between the Balance Sheet date and the date of this letter, which would require adjustment or disclosure in the financial statements.
14. Payments and transactions in respect of any grants, loans and investments made during the year conformed with legislation and with Government and Department directives and were authorised, approved and processed in accordance with the Association's internal procedures and controls.
15. The Council Members do not have an interest in any grant or other contract entered into by the Association during the year other than as disclosed in the financial statements.

16. All transactions with subsidiary and related parties have been properly recorded and adequately disclosed in the financial statements.
17. The Association complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There have been no communications concerning non-compliance with requirements of regulatory or tax authorities with respect to any matter.
18. The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies has been adopted and is being complied with, and in particular:
 - All appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, procurement and assets disposals are being carried out;
 - Codes of Business Conduct for Council Members and Employees have been put in place and adhered to;
 - Government policy on the pay of the Chief Executive and all employees is being complied with;
 - The Guidelines for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals are being complied with.
19. The Statement on the System of Internal Financial Control reflects our compliance with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
20. We have no subsidiaries, joint ventures or shareholdings acquired other than those disclosed in the financial statements.

For and on behalf of the Council.



Frank Nolan
Chairman



John Leech
Chief Executive

Date: 24th June 2009

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

I have audited the financial statements of Irish Water Safety for the year ended 31 December 2007 under the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993.

The financial statements, which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein, comprise the Statement of Accounting Policies, the Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Respective Responsibilities of the Council and the Comptroller and Auditor General

Irish Water Safety is responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with the Irish Water Safety (Establishment) Order 2006, and for ensuring the regularity of transactions. Irish Water Safety prepares the financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. The accounting responsibilities of the Members of the Council are set out in the Statement of the Responsibilities of the Council.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland. I also report whether in my opinion proper books of account have been kept. In addition, I state whether the financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

I report any material instance where moneys have not been applied for the purposes intended or where the transactions do not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report if I have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of my audit.

I review whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control reflects the body's compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and report any material instance where it does not do so, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information of which I am aware from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider whether the Statement on Internal Financial Control covers all financial risks and controls, or to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the risk and control procedures.

I read other information contained in the Annual Report, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Basis of Audit Opinion

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General, I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board and by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures and regularity of the financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the body's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations that I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of Irish Water Safety's affairs at 31 December 2007 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by Irish Water Safety. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, followed by a small upward flick.

Gerard Smyth
for and on behalf of the
Comptroller and Auditor General

30th June 2008

Irish Water Safety
Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2008

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Information

Accountants	Robert J. Kidney & Co. Chartered Accountants 11 Adelaide Road Dublin 2
Business Address	The Long Walk Galway
Auditor	The Comptroller and Auditor General

Statement of Responsibilities of the Council of Irish Water Safety

Irish Water Safety was established on 24 July 2006 by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006 (S.I. 389 of 2006). The order re-established the former Irish Water Safety Association as a corporate body under its new title "Irish Water Safety" and expanded the services to be provided by the body.

Irish Water Safety is required to prepare financial statements, in the form approved by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, which give a true and fair view of its state of affairs and income and expenditure for the period. In preparing the financial statements, Irish Water Safety is required to:

1. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
2. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
3. State whether any applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
4. Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Irish Water Safety will continue in operation.

The Council is responsible for keeping proper books of account, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of Irish Water Safety and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006. The Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Irish Water Safety, and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



Frank Nolan
Chairman



John Leech
Chief Executive

24 June 2009

Statement on Internal Financial Control

Responsibility for the system of Internal Financial Control

On behalf of the Council of Irish Water Safety, I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated.

The system can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

Key Control Procedures

The Council has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by;

- Clearly defining management responsibilities;
- Establishing formal procedures for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.

In December of 2001, the Council established a Finance Commission consisting of three non-executive and two executive members and that Commission reviews internal control matters and issues raised by the Comptroller and Auditor General. At present Irish Water Safety does not have an internal audit function.

In December 2005 the Council established a formal process to identify and evaluate business risk by;

- Identifying the nature, extent and financial implication of risks facing the body including the extent and categories which it regards as acceptable;
- Assessing the likelihood of identified risks occurring;
- Assessing the body's ability to manage and mitigate the risks that do occur;
- Assessing the costs of operating particular controls relative to the benefit obtained.

In 2008 the Finance Commission carried out this exercise and reported to the Council.

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures including segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- A budgeting system with an annual budget which is reviewed and agreed by the Council;
- Regular reviews by the Council of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecast;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.

The Council's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is based on the work of the Financial Officer and CEO who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of an appropriate financial control framework. The Council also takes into account reports and comments made by the Finance Commission and the Comptroller and Auditor General in his management letter or other reports.

Statement on Internal Financial Control (Continued)

Annual Review of Controls

The Council and Finance Commission headed by me as Chairman, with the full cooperation of the Chief Executive Officer and the Financial Officer, both of whom have been designated by the Council to ensure that the necessary controls are in place, review these controls on a continual basis in line with any directions received. One of the non-executive members of the Finance Commission has been appointed as an independent reviewer/examiner of Internal Financial Controls. His function is to report back to the Finance Commission and the Council on the appropriateness and correctness of the standards of internal financial control to date in place. We confirm that in the year ended 31 December 2008 the Council has conducted a review of the effectiveness of the systems of internal financial control.

Signed on behalf of the Council of Irish Water Safety.



Frank Nolan
Chairman



John Leech
Chief Executive

Date: 24 June 2009

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, under the accruals method of accounting except as stated below and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice. The statements are in a form approved by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, under the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006 (S.I. 389 of 2006).

Period of Accounts

The financial statements cover the 12-month period to 31 December 2008.

Income

Oireachtas Grants represent the actual cash receipts in the year.
Deferred income is taken to account in line with related expenditure.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed Assets are shown at cost. Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis as follows:

Leasehold Improvements	21 years
Office Equipment	5 years
Computer Equipment	3 years
Promotional Equipment	10 years

Artworks donated to Irish Water Safety over a number of years were valued by an independent valuer during 2006 and are included in the financial statement at this valuation. Artworks are not depreciated, as the Council believes that they are unlikely to suffer a loss in value.

Capital Account

The capital account represents the unamortised value of income used for capital purposes.

Pensions

Under the Irish Water Safety Establishment Order 2006, schemes and regulations made under the Local Government (Superannuation) Act 1980 (No. 8 of 1980) apply to Irish Water Safety as if it were a Local Authority.

Irish Water Safety operates a defined benefits scheme, which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and from contributions deducted from staff salaries.

Pension Scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions, which are retained by Irish Water Safety. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Water Safety Committees

Committees, which are responsible for the organisation of water safety activities at local level, undertake local fundraising activities. Fundraising income is retained by the Water Safety Committees to finance local activities. Financial transactions of these Committees are not incorporated into these accounts.

Income & Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2008

	Note	2008 €	2007 €
Income:			
Oireachtas Grants		652,000	639,000
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	10b	<u>77,000</u>	<u>62,000</u>
		729,000	701,000
Contributions from Local Authorities		180,409	174,447
Miscellaneous	1	<u>197,386</u>	<u>130,756</u>
		1,106,795	1,006,203
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	8	<u>18,986</u>	<u>(19,961)</u>
		<u>1,125,781</u>	<u>986,242</u>
Expenditure:			
Administration Expenses	2	621,422	553,933
Travel and Subsistence Expenses	3	161,476	139,188
Promotions, Publicity and Training	4	257,289	189,877
Grants to Water Safety Committees		76,950	66,250
Special Projects	5	35,239	32,430
Total Operating Costs		<u>1,152,376</u>	<u>981,678</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Year		(26,595)	4,564
Accumulated Surplus 1 January		109,036	104,472
Accumulated Surplus 31 December		<u>82,441</u>	<u>109,036</u>

The statement of Accounting Policies and notes 1 to 14 form part of these Financial Statements.



**Chairman
Chief Executive**

Date: 24 June 2009



Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses
for the year ended 31 December 2008

	Note	2008 €	2007 €
(Deficit)/Surplus for the Financial Year		(26,595)	4,564
Experience Gains/(Losses) on Pension Scheme Liabilities		17,000	12,000
Changes in Assumptions Underlying the Present Value of Pension Scheme Liabilities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Actual Gain/(Loss) on Pension Liabilities		17,000	12,000
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding		<u>(17,000)</u>	<u>(12,000)</u>
Total Recognised Gains and (Losses) for the Financial Year		<u>(26,595)</u>	<u>4,564</u>

The statement of Accounting Policies and notes 1 to 14 form part of these Financial Statements.



Chairman



Chief Executive

Date: 24 June 2009

Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2008

	Note	2008 €	2007 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	6	<u>253,471</u>	<u>272,457</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	7	62,042	69,951
Cash at Bank and in Hand		125,554	131,305
		<u>187,596</u>	<u>201,256</u>
CREDITORS - Amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and Accruals	8	<u>(105,155)</u>	<u>(92,220)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>82,441</u>	<u>109,036</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		335,912	381,493
DEBTORS/(CREDITORS) - Amounts falling due after one year			
Deferred Pension Funding	10c	370,000	310,000
Pension Liabilities	10b	(370,000)	(310,000)
		<u>335,912</u>	<u>381,493</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Capital Account	9	253,471	272,457
Income & Expenditure Account		82,441	109,036
		<u>335,912</u>	<u>381,493</u>

The statement of accounting policies and notes 1 to 14 form part of these financial statements.



Chairman
Date: 24 June 2009



Chief Executive

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2008

Note 2. Administration Expenses	2008 €	2007 €
Salaries and Temporary Staff	364,454	327,200
Pension Costs	10(a) 61,886	48,140
Staff Training	2,016	1,920
Rent, Rates, Light and Heat	47,154	45,253
Insurance	22,208	23,028
Stationery	14,312	10,118
Postage and Telephone	34,127	31,324
Maintenance and Cleaning	28,527	23,471
Audit Fee	9,200	9,200
Accountancy	3,700	3,188
Legal & Other Professional Fees	-	839
Bank Charges	1,087	550
Miscellaneous Administration Expenses	7,794	10,381
Depreciation	24,957	19,321
	<u>621,422</u>	<u>553,933</u>

Note 3. Travel and Subsistence Expenses	€	€
Council	43,521	34,986
Committees and Commissions	35,413	27,949
Office	30,317	27,240
Ring Buoy Inspectors	24,932	23,157
International Travel	15,896	13,607
Other Travel	11,397	12,249
	<u>161,476</u>	<u>139,188</u>

Note	2008	2007
4. Promotion, Publicity and Printing Expenses	€	€
Advertising and Press Cuttings	46,543	43,852
Education Development Officer - Expenses	27,004	858
Seminars and Training Courses	69,248	46,195
Non Saleable Books and Manuals	78,186	70,794
Purchase of Saleable Items	31,501	23,477
Memberships	4,807	4,701
	<u>257,289</u>	<u>189,877</u>

Note		
5. Special Projects	€	€
Senior Surf and Pool Competition	2,956	11,276
Junior Surf and Pool Competition	3,474	-
Life Saving Competition Abroad	27,683	16,790
Other Competitions	1,126	4,364
	<u>35,239</u>	<u>32,430</u>

Note 6. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Leasehold Interest €	Computer Equipment €	Other Office Equipment €	Promotional Equipment €	Art & Paintings €	Total €
Cost or Valuation						
Opening Balance 1 Jan 2008	260,458	38,393	51,186	36,828	64,150	451,015
Additions	-	5,971	-	-	-	5,971
Closing Balance 31 Dec 2008	<u>260,458</u>	<u>44,364</u>	<u>51,186</u>	<u>36,828</u>	<u>64,150</u>	<u>456,986</u>
Depreciation						
Opening Balance 1 Jan 2008	99,189	36,755	38,931	3,683	-	178,558
Charge For Year	12,397	2,808	6,069	3,683	-	24,957
Closing Balance 31 Dec 2008	<u>111,586</u>	<u>39,563</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>7,366</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>203,515</u>
Net Book Values						
At 31 December 2008	<u>148,872</u>	<u>4,801</u>	<u>6,186</u>	<u>29,462</u>	<u>64,150</u>	<u>253,471</u>
At 31 December 2007	<u>161,269</u>	<u>1,638</u>	<u>12,255</u>	<u>33,145</u>	<u>64,150</u>	<u>272,457</u>

Leasehold improvements pertain to fit out costs in the premises occupied by Irish Water Safety.

*Artworks donated to Irish Water Safety over a number of years are included above at valuation following an independent valuation carried out in May 2006.

Note		2008	2007
7.	Debtors	€	€
	Trade Debtors	6,604	11,358
	Other Debtors	55,438	58,593
		<u>62,042</u>	<u>69,951</u>

Note	Creditors and	2008	2007
8.	Accruals	€	€
	Trade Creditors	9,135	2,770
	Deferred Income	68,473	68,212
	Accrued Expenses	27,547	21,238
		<u>105,155</u>	<u>92,220</u>

Note	Capital	2008	2007
9.	Account	€	€
	Balance as at 1 January	272,457	252,496
	Income Allocated for Capital Purposes	5,971	39,282
	Funds Released on Disposal of Assets	-	-
	Amortisation in Line with Depreciation	(24,957)	(19,321)
	Transfer (to)/from Income & Expenditure Account	(18,986)	19,961
	Balance as at 31 December	<u>253,471</u>	<u>272,457</u>

Note 10. Pension Costs

a. Analysis of Total Pension Costs Charged to Expenditure

	2008	2007
	€	€
Current Service Cost	60,000	48,000
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	17,000	14,000
Employee Contributions	(15,114)	(13,860)
	<u>61,886</u>	<u>48,140</u>

Note**10. Pension Costs (Continued)****b. Movement in Net Pension Liability During the Financial Year**

	2008 €	2007 €
Net Pension Liability at 1st January	310,000	260,000
Current Service Cost	60,000	48,000
Interest Cost	17,000	14,000
Actuarial (Gain)/Loss	(17,000)	(12,000)
Pensions Paid in Year	-	-
Net Pension Liability at 31st December	370,000	310,000

c. Deferred Funding for Pensions

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

The Net Deferred Funding for Pensions recognised in Income and Expenditure Account was as follows:

	2008 €	2007 €
Funding Recoverable in Respect of Current Year Pension Costs	77,000	62,000
State Grant Applied to Pay Pensioners	-	-
	77,000	62,000

The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December 2008 amounted to €370,000 (2007: €310,000).

d. History of defined benefit obligations

	2008 €	2007 €	2006 €	2005 €
Defined benefit obligations	370,000	310,000	€260,000	€210,000
Experience (gains)/losses on scheme liabilities amount	(17,000)	(12,000)	(7,000)	31,000
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	(4.6%)	(3.9%)	(2.7%)	14.8%

The cumulative actuarial gain recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses amounts to €5,000.

Note**10. Pension Costs (Continued)****e. General description of the scheme**

The pension scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current “model” public sector scheme regulations. The scheme provides a pension (eightieths per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (three eightieths per year of service) and spouse’s and children’s pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member’s 65th birthday, and pre 2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

The valuation used for FRS17 (Revised) disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation dated 19 January 2008 by a qualified independent actuary taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2008.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows

	2008	2007
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0%	4.0%
Rate of increase in pensions in payment	4.0%	4.0%
Discount rate	5.5%	5.5%
Inflation	2.0%	2.0%

Details of the mortality assumptions have not been given but it is intended to give them next year.

f. Revised FRS17 Disclosures

The information on pensions has been presented in line with new disclosure requirements required from 2008 under an amendment to FRS 17.

Note**11. Lease Commitments**

As at 31 December 2008, Irish Water Safety has annual commitments in respect of an operating lease for the premises it occupies at Long Walk, Galway, under a lease for 21 years, which commenced in July 2000. The current rental is €41,722 per annum. The lease has break options after ten and fifteen years.

Note**12. Council Members Interests**

The Council adopted procedures in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Finance in relation to the disclosure of Interests by Board Members and those procedures have been adhered to in the year. There are no transactions in the year in relation to Irish Water Safety’s activities in which Council members had any beneficial interest.

Note**13. EU Late Payments Regulations**

The regulation imposes a legal requirement on bodies to make interest payments in respect of invoices that are paid in excess of 30 days after receipt. Irish Water Safety has a system in place to identify overdue invoices and to calculate and pay the interest due as part of the invoice payments. No interest payments were made under the terms of the regulations in 2008 or 2007.

Note**14. Approval of Financial Statements**

The financial statements were approved by the Council on 24th June 2009.

LIFE GOVERNORS OF IRISH WATER SAFETY

No.	Year	Name
1.	1995	Mr Brendan Howlin T.D., Minister of the Environment
2.	1995	Mr Joseph Ainsworth, Chairman- National Safety Council
3.	1997	Mr Blaise Treacy, County Manager - Co. Wicklow.
4.	1997	Mr Noel Dillon, County Manager - Co. Cork
5.	1998	Mr Kevin Weldon, Founding President ILS
6.	1999	Mr Robert Molloy T.D., Founding Member IWS 1971
7.	1999	Mr Donal Connolly, County Manager - Co. Waterford
8.	2000	Dr Klaus Wilkens, President - ILS Europe & DLRG
9.	2000	Mr. Cartan Finegan, Chairman – National Safety Council
10.	2000	Mr Des Howett, Water Safety Supervisor – NSC
11.	2000	Ms Maureen Kenny, Loyal & Dedicated Supporter – IWS
12.	2000	Mr John Parker, Loyal & Dedicated Supporter – IWS
13.	2001	Mr Noel O'Beara, 50 Years Voluntary Service – IWS
14.	2001	Mr Paddy Phipps, 50 Years Voluntary Service – IWS
15.	2001	Mr Michael Somers, 50 Years Voluntary Service – IWS
16.	2001	Mr Nicholas Corish, Loyal & Dedicated Supporter – IWS
17.	2002	Mr Donal O'Sullivan, Loyal & Dedicated Supporter – IWS
18.	2002	Mr Noel Dempsey, T.D. Minister of the Environment
19.	2003	Mr John Cowman, Loyal & Dedicated Supporter, IWS
20.	2003	Mr Sean Hennessy, 50 Years Voluntary Service – IWS
21.	2003	Mr Pat Alyward, Loyal & Dedicated Supporter, IWS
22.	2003	Mr Eamon Doherty, Garda Commissioner Retired
23.	2004	Mr Michael Dalton, Loyal & Dedicated Supporter, IWS
24.	2004	Mr Pat Costello CEO, National Safety Council
25.	2004	Ms Eileen Maloney, Founding Member Irish Red Cross
26.	2004	Dr Nenad Javornik, Chief Executive -Croatia Red Cross
27.	2004	Mr Clayton Love Jnr, Deputy Chairman RNLI
28.	2004	Mr James McGoldrick, 50 Years Voluntary Service - IWS
29.	2004	Mr Seamus Finnan, 50 Years Voluntary Service – IWS
30.	2004	Mr Dave Kenneally, 50 Years Voluntary Service – IWS
31.	2005	Mr Martin Cullen T.D., Minister of the Environment
32.	2005	Mr Frank Nolan, Chairman- Irish Water Safety
33.	2005	Captain Liam Kirwan, Director - Irish Coast Guard
34.	2005	Dr Anthony Handley, Hon. Medical Officer – IWS
35.	2005	Mr Philip O'Neill, Loyal & Dedicated Supporter, IWS
36.	2005	Ms Valentine Kelly, Loyal & Dedicated Supporter, IWS
37.	2006	Mr Dermot Walsh, Loyal & Dedicated Supporter, IWS
38.	2007	Mr Michael Vlasto, Director Operations - RNLI
39.	2007	Mr Roger Millward, Chief Executive - STA, UK
40.	2007	Mr Ron Rankin, President - Surf Life Saving Australia
41.	2007	Mr Jack Mason, 50 Years Voluntary Service - IWS
42.	2007	Mr Dick Roche T.D., Minister of the Environment
43.	2007	Mr Aidan Byrne, 50 Years Voluntary Service – IWS
44.	2008	Mr Tony Killeen T.D., Minister of State at Environment
45.	2008	Commodore Frank Lynch, Flag Officer - Irish Naval Service
46.	2008	Mr Jack Barry, 50 Years Voluntary Service – IWS

Tragically, in 2008, there were 143 drownings in Ireland. *

***Preliminary and subject to revision.**

