



# WATER SAFETY IRELAND



**BETTER SAFE  
THAN SORRY**

**2022**  
Annual Report



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Supported by the Government of Ireland



# **Annual Report 2022**

The Long Walk, Galway, Ireland

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Michael D. Higgins,  
President of Ireland  
Patron of Water Safety Ireland

# Chair's Statement

## Ms. Clare McGrath



As Chair of Water Safety Ireland, it is my honour to deliver this report on behalf of our over 5,000 members.

2022 was a transformative year for Water Safety Ireland and I wish to welcome the new Council appointed by Minister Heather Humphreys TD in March. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the outgoing members of Council and Commissions for their contribution prior to 2022 in furthering drowning prevention initiatives.

We recently launched the new WSI Strategic Development Plan 2023 – 2027, which will guide the work of Water Safety Ireland in conjunction with Ireland's National Drowning Prevention Strategy 2018-2027. The plan outlines the ambition and the expectation of the Water Safety Ireland Council. It also reflects our mission, vision, values, goals and objectives as an organisation.

The participation of our most valuable resource, our volunteers, is paramount and a key objective within this strategy. Our organisation has made many important strides in the last five years and I look forward to the development of new approaches that tackle water safety issues and which promote appropriate skills, attitudes and behaviours.

Overall drowning rates have continued to decrease over the decades. Drowning statistics for 2022 indicated 85 people drowned and while this is five more than in 2021, it is lower than the average of 105 that have occurred in the last ten years. To this extent, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to each of the Committees, Commissions, Working Groups, Water Safety Area Committees and Head Office staff who have remained focused throughout the year.

I would like to wish John Leech, whose term as CEO has ended, every success in his retirement. I want to acknowledge the contribution that John has given over many years of service to Water Safety Ireland both here in Ireland and on the international stage.

Water Safety Ireland volunteers have been busy nationwide teaching swimming, lifesaving, basic life support, rescue skills and the promotion of water safety awareness to the public. There was a welcome return in 2022 to a full schedule of summer week classes for the first time since 2019 and the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. I commend our Water Safety Area Committees, and our Summer and Winter Course Organisers for their commitment to deliver essential training to the next generation of lifesavers.

The number of lives saved and aquatic accidents avoided as a result of the work carried out by all of our active volunteers can never be fully enumerated, although one figure that brings home the importance of this work is the number of rescues performed by Lifeguards each year, a figure which reached 578 last summer. These same Lifeguards, trained and assessed by Water Safety Ireland, administered first aid on 6,678 occasions and reunited with their loved ones, 587 children found wandering alone by the water's edge.



After the historic UN resolution on Drowning Prevention in 2021, this year saw the second ever World Drowning Prevention Day take place on the 25th of July, incorporating the theme 'Do One Thing' to prevent drowning. Water Safety Ireland volunteers once again went above and beyond to mark the day, with Lifeguards, parents, children and a variety of prominent buildings going blue in some way. Ireland has been at the forefront of this global initiative and we appreciate the significant efforts made by all.

We ran a full programme of sport competitions in 2022, culminating in the presentation of the Presidents Trophy to Wicklow. National Junior & Senior Teams competed in the World Championships in Italy in September. As well as breaking many Irish records in the pool events, the Irish Junior & Senior Men's Board Rescue teams both came 5th in the world and our Junior Ladies Board Rescue team came 2nd in the World, bringing home silver medals. A fantastic achievement by competitors and coaches alike.

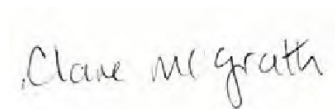
We completed a full review of WSI's Swimming syllabus, revamping the awards of Seal, Marlin and Orca awards, for re-introduction in early 2023. We also created a CPD module for open water swimming safety, which is very relevant given the increase in the number of people partaking in open water swimming since the Covid-19 pandemic.

There was a focus in 2022 on the launch of the new WISE Programme for secondary schools, the continued roll out of the PAWS curriculum for primary schools and an expansion of the Hold Hands programme for Pre-school children. These three programmes ensure that water safety reaches all school going ages and is part of our effort to change people's skills, attitudes and behaviours around water.

Water Safety Ireland had a strong presence across the media in 2022, with high profile campaigns taking place as part of the 'Better Safe Than Sorry' message. Through continued government funding and sponsorship, we co-ordinated efforts to deliver practical water safety advice to the public via traditional and digital channels, reaching the most at-risk groups nationwide.

Thank you to all the staff at Water Safety Ireland head office and in particular I offer a warm welcome to our new CEO Joanne Walsh, and new staff member Paul McGowan.

Finally, I thank each and every member of our organization for their efforts to bring drownings down in 2022 and I look forward with confidence to the continued growth of our organisation.



**Clare McGrath**  
Chair, Water Safety Ireland

# Water Safety Ireland Council

## Clare McGrath



Clare is an active Water Safety Ireland instructor, examiner, tutor and international referee and she has worked as a referee at the highest level at European and World competitions. Clare has been involved in the organisation of Regional and National lifesaving competitions, both pool and beach for 20 years. She works with Clare County Council, as the Water Safety Development Officer, within the Environment Section.

## Philip Keleghan



Philip Keleghan is from County Wicklow and has been involved in Water Safety and other aquatic activities for over forty years. He is an active Water Safety Instructor, Examiner, and Swimming Tutor. He is currently the National Vice Chair and head of the technical Commission.

## Tom O'Mahony



Tom O'Mahony lives in Dunboyne, Co. Meath. His is a retired civil servant and served as Secretary General of the Department of Transport and Sport. In a previous role in the Department of the Environment he was involved in the statutory establishment of Water Safety Ireland, then Irish Water Safety, in 1999. He is very active in the fields of sport (where he is President of St Patrick's Athletic FC and music (as a recording artist under the stage name Tommy Keyes).

## Simon McGarrigle



Simon is currently living in Galway, Ireland, with his wife and young daughter, and works in a Sales & Marketing role for Finol Oils. Simon hails from Donegal, where his passion for the sport of lifesaving began from an early age and continues to this day. Throughout his teenage and early adult years, he was a Water Safety Ireland Instructor, IRB Crew, Coxswain & Instructor, a lifesaving sport coach & team manager in Donegal. He also instructed for WSI Dublin while he lived in Dublin. He has competed, coached & refereed nationally, and has also been team manager and referee at European & World Championship lifesaving events. Simon has been involved in organising both pool and beach competitions nationally for ten years and is currently a member of the International Life Saving Federation of Europe Sports Commission as well as being the current chair of the Water Safety Ireland Sports Commission and a member of the WSI Technical Committee.

## **Natalie McGuinness**



Natalie McGuinness is a strategy and marketing professional with over 20 years of experience in various industries including technology, education and professional services. She is Chief Marketing Officer for Mason Hayes & Curran, with responsibility for the firm's marketing strategy in Ireland, the UK and USA. Previously, she worked for Vodafone and UCD. She is a three-time graduate of UCD with a BA, MBA, and a Diploma in Corporate Governance. Natalie is also a member of Dublin Chamber Council, Chambers Ireland and the St. Patrick's Day Festival Board.

## **Leo Mahon**



Leo is from Co. Kildare and has been involved in Water Safety for over 30 years. As current Chair of the Education Commission, Leo is spearheading the delivery of education programmes to schools throughout Ireland. He previously served on a number of Commissions and Working Groups including the Marketing Commission, and was a founding developer of ringbuoys.ie which allows members of the public to report missing and damaged ringbuoys. In addition, Leo has been committed to outdoor Water Safety Training through the development of the first Inland Water Safety training venue at Blessington, Co. Wicklow. He is currently an active Water Safety Instructor and Examiner, as well as the PRO of Water Safety Ireland – Kildare.

## **John Claffey**



John has been an active committee member of WSI Kilkenny for over 20 years as an Instructor, Examiner, Swimming Teacher/Tutor and Cardiac First Responder Tutor, Pool, Beach and Inland Open Water Lifeguard Tutor, First Aid Responder Tutor and Pool Risk Assessor, Water Safety Awareness Tutor. During this time John has served as a member of the Lifeguard Commission and as Chair of Water Safety Awareness Working Group. John is an elected Council Member of Water Safety Ireland, and Chairman of the Rescue and Inshore Rescue Boats Commission and a member of the Technical Committee.

## **Paul Burke**



Paul has been involved with water safety for nearly 40 years. He has held many positions since 1984 on the Cork Area Water Safety Committee such as Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Fund-Raising Officer. He spent 7 summer seasons (1984 – 1990) working as a Beach Lifeguard on Inchydoney Beach.

Paul is a qualified Examiner, Instructor, Risk Assessor, Poolguard Provider, Beachguard Provider, Surf Lifesaving Referee & Swim Teacher Tutor. He is the current chair of WSI's Swimming Commission and has sat on a number of Commissions of WSI and ILSE since 2000, such as the WSI Sports Commission (2000,2001,2002), WSI Lifesaving Commission (2003,2004), WSI Education Commission (2016), WSI Audit & HR Commission (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021), ILSE Development Aid Commission (2000 – 2005), ILSE Auditor (2004,2005) and the WSI internal auditor since 2016.

## **Paul Devins**



Paul is from County Dublin and has been involved with Water Safety Ireland for over 40 years. He is an active Water Safety Instructor, Examiner, Pool & Beach Lifeguard Provider / Tutor. He is presently Chairman of the Lifeguarding Skills & Syllabus Development Commission and has previously served on the Sports Commission. He continues to serve on the Dublin Water Safety Committee.

## **Dervla Quinn**



Dervla is a practising solicitor and member of the Residential Tenancies Board disputes committee. She is a year round swimmer and is active in the Greystones, Co. Wicklow swim community. In 2018 she was rescued from the sea which inspired an interest in promoting water safety.

## **Christine Moloney**



Christine is the CEO of LeisureWorld since 2001. She strategically leads, directs, and manages the six LeisureWorld sites on behalf of Cork City Council, ensuring the delivery of quality and value for money services. She has a wealth of experience in Public Sector service provision, strategy development, corporate governance, strategic HR, financial and internal controls, and a background in facilities management.

## **Mary Plunkett**



Mary has worked in financial services for over 25 years across a diverse base of institutions in Banking, General Insurance, Life and Pensions and Funds. Working primarily within pillars of Strategic Planning and Governance, Mary has built vast experience having worked with leading financial services clients at executive level. Mary holds a Diploma in Company Direction with Distinction from the Institute of Directors, an MSc Investment & Treasury from Dublin City University and is a qualified accountant. Mary also holds the Association of Compliance Officers in Ireland leading qualification and is a qualified Data Protection Officer.

Working in Risk management & Compliance for many years, Mary has in-depth experience in design of Risk & Compliance Governance Frameworks, monitoring upstream regulation, Compliance Monitoring Programmes, Compliance Roadmaps, setting Risk Appetite and Risk Policy and establishing governance programmes to manage same. Mary has valuable experience in engaging with diverse stakeholder groups to deliver transformation programmes, cultural change, offshoring, management of 3rd party suppliers and contractual commitments.



## Melanie Cullen



Melanie is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland and runs her own accounting business. She has worked in Finance Management for many years in both Ireland and Australia. Melanie is an experienced Non-Executive Director, having spent time with South Connacht Citizens Information Service. She has a keen interest in open water swimming and was previously a lifeguard in the United States. Melanie brings a wealth of experience and insight to the Council and also has a keen interest in volunteer work and sport.

## Council Meetings 2022 Attendance Record

In addition to the Council meetings, members have also attended Commission meetings, conferences, exhibitions and other water safety events throughout the year on behalf of Council. As at 31 December, the Council had 5 (41%) female and 7 (59%) male members, with one position vacant. The Council therefore meets the Government target of a minimum of 40% representation of each gender in the membership of State Boards.

Clare McGrath	7
Philip Keleghan	7
Tom O'Mahony	7
Paul Burke	4
John Claffey	5
Paul Devins	4
Leo Mahon	4
Simon McGarrigle	5
Dervla Quinn	4
Natalie McGuinness	4
Melanie Cullen	4
Mary Plunkett	3
Christine Moloney	3



Sisters Sulan and Beibhinn Ni Suilleabhain at the end of the children's swim week at Linn Snámha Chúil Aodha outdoor pool (Coolea), Co Cork

## Water Safety Area Committees

The organisation has thirty Water Safety Area Committees, arranged almost on a county basis plus the Defence Forces and the Gárda Siochana 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 five thousand 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 Water Safety Ireland.

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.

# Water Safety Ireland – Staff

- Joanne Walsh, CEO (Nov 2022 – Dec 2022)
- Lt. Cdr. John F.M. Leech, CEO (Jan 2022 – Mar 2022)
- Roger Sweeney, Deputy CEO & Marketing Manager (Acting CEO Mar – Nov 2022)
- Joan Harte, Office Manager
- Jocelyn Cunningham, Executive Officer
- Alison Elstone, Executive Officer
- Emer Gardiner, Clerical Administrator
- Ciara Gleeson, Education Development Executive
- Nadia Williams, Education Development Officer (May 2022 – Nov 2022)
- Bernard Cahill, Development Executive - Education and Sport (Jan 2022)
- Padraig Judge, Marketing Executive
- Paul McGowan, Marketing Assistant (Sept 2022 – Dec 2022)
- Jennifer O’Neil, Board Secretary, HR & Compliance Officer

Water Safety Ireland employees participated in 81 hours of training activities in 2022.

## National Office

Water Safety Ireland The Long Walk Galway

## Auditors

Comptroller & Auditor General 3A Mayor Street Upper  
Dublin 1

## Internal Auditors

RBK  
Park View House  
Beech Hill Office Campus  
Clonskeagh  
Dublin 4

## Bankers

Bank of Ireland Mainguard Street Galway

## Solicitors

Alastair Purdy & Co. Solicitors Corrib Castle 1 Waterside Woodquay Galway  
Sheehan & Co. Solicitors  
Merchants Road Galway



*Stephen O’Toole, Aoibheann Ni Fhaoláin and Karl Rafferty from Water Safety Ireland - Laois pictured in attendance at the National Ploughing Championship 2022 in Ratheniska, Co. Laois.*  
Photo: Ann Marie Maher



**In the summer of 2022, Lifeguards found and reunited 587 lost children with loved ones**





# Water Safety Ireland – Committees

## The Technical Committee

Philip Keleghan - Chair

John Claffey

Paul Burke

Leo Mahon

Simon McGarrigle

Paul Devins

## Duties

- Co-ordinate and monitor the work of all Technical Commissions
- Review all Technical Commission recommendations and forward as appropriate all suitable recommendations to Council for approval
- Review all WSI Lifesaving syllabi & publications
- Oversee the arrangements for WSI Examiner's and Member's Conferences as required
- Identify and prioritise the new projects with Commissions

## Audit, Risk & HR Commission:

Tom O'Mahony – Chair

Joan Harte

Mary Plunkett

Tom Keating

Melanie Cullen

Evan Duggan

Joanne Walsh

Jennifer O'Neil



Lucy Boyle, Triona McMenamin, Leah Bonner, Seamus O'Neill going blue for World Drowning Prevention Day during Float for Hope, Water Safety Awareness Day in Burtonport, Co. Donegal.

## Duties

- Monitoring Expenditure and Income
- Internal Financial Controls & Risk Management
- Internal Audits
- HR Matters
- Define an approach for the continuation of management development for both existing and new staff
- Health & Safety
- National & International Travel
- Develop strategies to increase membership
- Recommend National & International Appointments
- Improve links with Local Authorities, meet more County Managers and County Councillors



**In the summer of 2022, Lifeguards rescued 568 people at risk of drowning.**



## **Marketing Commission:**

Natalie McGuinness – Chair  
Roger Sweeney  
Aidan Collins

Andrea McKevitt  
Padraig Judge  
Paul McGowan

### **Duties**

- Promotion of the public awareness of water safety
- Manage national Marketing campaigns to promote water safety awareness
- Manage the WSI Digital and Social channels
- Communicate WSI Educational campaigns
- Produce marketing and promotional material as outlined within S.I. 56 of 2019 and Strategic Development Plan
- Ensure brand consistency across all merchandise such as certificates, books, manuals, leaflets, posters and online
- Manage the strategy for press releases and all external communications
- Conduct market research on water safety awareness and drowning prevention
- Ensure that WSI is well represented at exhibitions nationwide
- Liaise with external agencies
- Assist in organising national ceremonies, conferences & events
- Market the WSI Brand
- Monitor Press Cuttings
- Source sponsorship
- Promote the wearing of lifejackets and use of ringbuoys
- Develop the commercial strand to our organisation
- Analyse drowning statistics

## **Rescue and Inshore Rescue Boats Commission:**

John Claffey - Chair  
Valerie Stundon - Secretary  
Ronnie Horan  
Colm Dempsey

Patrick O'Grady  
Kevin McCloskey  
Graham Kerr

### **Duties**

- Develop and implement a strategy for the Promotion of Blue Flag safety standards and other aquatic environmental issues
- Oversea the Management of Risk Assessments at local, national & international level
- Implement a programme of risk assessments in swimming pools adhering to Pool Safety Guidelines
- Manage the VAT Exemption Inspections as per S.I. 249 of 2013
- Development of a skilled trainer base to facilitate the Training of CRBI personnel in rescue on inland and maritime waters
- Development of a Inshore rescue syllabus in co-operation with CRBI.
- Liaise with Community Rescue Boats Ireland. Carry out usage tests on rescue equipment & review documentation
- Oversea the management of the Open Water Safety Awareness courses
- Develop a syllabus for training lifeguards in the use of IRB's and other power craft
- Arrange training courses for lifeguards in the use of IRB's
- Arrange rescue boat handling courses for WSI members



For Primary  
Schools...

TeachPAWS.ie



- Develop and deliver a syllabus to train WSI members as Rescue Boat Trainers
- Manage National & International IRB Competitions
- Arrange for safety cover at all WSI and ILS events & competitions where such cover is required.
- Organise VHF Radio short range courses for WSI members

## **Sports Commision:**

Simon McGarrigle – Chair  
James Hassey  
Kate O'Donovan

Caroline Bentley  
Daniel Wrafter



## **Duties**

- Promote and develop lifesaving sport in Ireland
- Improve liaison with Swim Ireland in relation to our NGB funding
- Improve liaison with the Federation of Irish Sport
- Improve liaison with Coaching Ireland
- Manage International and National Competitions
- Facilitate Training of Coaches, Referees and Officials.
- Appoint Coaches, Referees and Officials for competitions.
- Ensure all WADA regulations are enforced for our athletes
- Recommend Sports Equipment
- Manage International Life Saving Sport & Competitions
- Liaison with the Olympic Council of Ireland
- Draw up procedures for all activities and competitions

## **Lifeguarding Skills & Syllabus Development Commission:**

Paul Devins – Chair  
Sean O'Keeffe  
Pauline Jordan

Paul Murphy  
Shane O'Brien

## **Duties**

- The promotion of efficiency and standardisation of the Lifeguard Service
- Develop and implement a strategy for the improvement of national standards for Lifeguards
- Oversee all matters relating to the provision and training of Lifeguards (Pool, Beach, River)
- Recommend and publish national standards for all lifesaving equipment
- Develop and implement a national standard for the provision of instruction in water safety, rescue, resuscitation, and recovery skills
- Ensure European Resuscitation Council guidelines are adhered to by our membership
- Liaison with PHECC WG
- European Qualification Framework in Lifeguarding
- Implement training in Critical Incident Stress Management suitable for WSI members



# For Early Learning Years... HoldHands.ie



## Education Commission

Leo Mahon - Chair  
Caroline Casey  
Ashling Nesbitt

Sinead Weldon  
Ciara Gleeson

### Duties

- Promotion of measures, including the advancement of education, related to the prevention of accidents in the aquatic environment
- Maintain and develop training and water safety awareness programmes within the Irish Educational System.
- Develop and implement Transition Year water safety programme
- Paws and Hold Hands: monitor and track and promote
- Liaise with the Department of Education on the implementation of the Leaving Certificate programme.
- Develop and implement the Teachers Training Courses
- Development of further QQI awards
- Review and update all Children's welfare, protection & educational documents
- Arrange seminars for Designated Liaison Persons
- Liaise with the Dept of Education to maximise water safety awareness training and public awareness programmes.
- Manage, monitor, and enforce best practices in accordance with Children First and our own Code of Ethics for children and all relevant legislation pertaining to child welfare and protection.
- Review and update the National Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children & National Volunteer Policies

## Swimming Commission

Paul Burke – Chair  
Breda Collins  
Deirdre Webster

Clive Seawright  
Amelia Reilly  
Darren Ryan



Instructors Ben and Joe Morales watch on as participants take part in the 2022 Summer Weeks Classes in Garrylucas, Co. Cork.

### Duties

- Oversea the provision of instruction in Swimming as a key element of the teaching of lifesaving
- Develop and implement a strategy for increasing the delivery of WSI Swimming awards
- Develop and implement a strategy for increasing the number of WSI swimming teachers.
- Develop a strategy to improve the teaching of water safety and lifesaving to individuals with disabilities.
- Oversea the provision of training and certification of Swimming teachers and Swimming Tutors to National Standards
- Liaise with the Education Commission on matters relating to swimming teaching and water safety awareness
- Represent WSI at IFSTA
- Ensure WSI is represented on the White Flag Jury
- Evaluate the number of Swim Certificates in WSI
- Review all swimming related documents and update as necessary
- Liaise with the Rescue Commission on the implementation on the Swimming Pool risk assessments programme.



## Commercial and Membership Development Commission

Christine Moloney - Chair  
Dervla Quinn  
Mark Kiely  
Seamus O'Neill

### Duties

- Prepare and implement a strategy to increase the membership numbers
- Prepare and implement a strategy to commercialise the provision of WSI awards and qualifications
- Improve membership and communication with WSAC's

## Media Partnerships 2022

We are very grateful to the provincial and national media in helping us to target at-risk groups. Thirteen press releases were issued and WSI received 881 mentions.

### Press Releases

- Christmas and New Year
- Inter-agency water safety warning
- National Awards Ceremony
- October Bank Holiday
- National Surf Lifesaving Championships
- August Bank Holiday
- World Drowning Prevention Day
- Warm Weather Swimming Advice
- National Water Safety Awareness Week
- June Bank Holiday
- May Bank Holiday
- Easter Bank Holiday
- St. Patrick's Day



Peadar O'Lamhna, (Chairperson, Water Safety Ireland - Monaghan) joins Meadhbh Corcoran, Edel McCarthy and Adam Nugent, Water Safety Ireland – Dublin, taking part in National Services Day commemorations. Events throughout Ireland recognised the efforts of Ireland's frontline services, including lifeguards trained and assessed by Water Safety Ireland.

### Promotional Campaigns

- National Services Day Parade, Sept 3
- WSI National Annual Awards Ceremony, Dec 6th (online)

## National Water Safety Awareness Week (June 13th – June 19th)

National Water Safety Awareness Week took place from June 13th – June 19th 2022. During the week, our national campaign communicated important water safety messages to the Irish public. The central theme was 'Heed Our Heroes' – reminding us all to listen to the advice of Ireland's lifeguards and take necessary care when on, near or in water.



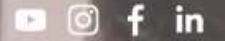
[www.holdhands.ie](http://www.holdhands.ie)

HOME

STORYBOARDS

RESOURCES

WHY?



**IT'S NEVER TOO  
EARLY TO LEARN  
ABOUT WATER  
SAFETY**



# The SEIKO “Just In Time” Award

Fifteen lives were saved from drowning through the brave actions of rescuers who received recognition at Water Safety Ireland’s online National Awards Ceremony on Thursday 6th December 2022. For the third consecutive year, the Award Ceremony was an online only event and was broadcast on Water Safety Ireland’s website and social media channels. WSI is grateful to Timemark for sponsoring the Seiko watches. Details of each rescue are listed in this report. Long-Service Volunteer Awards were also presented to 30 volunteers, recognising a combined total of 545 years of service teaching swimming, water rescue and survival skills in communities nationwide.

## Certification

There are two broad categories of certification – Swimming and Lifesaving. Certification reflects the efforts of our voluntary members who change skills, attitudes and behaviours by instilling water confidence and deep-water swimming and survival ability.

Water Safety Area Committees processed 15,039 Swimming, Lifesaving and Water Safety certificates in 2022. In addition, a further 28,251 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed, 24,100 of the Seal, Marlin and Orca certificates were issued, giving a total certification by Water Safety Ireland of 67,390.

## Land PAWS

PAWS 1	PAWS 2	PAWS 3	PAWS 4	Land PAWS Total
6686	8278	7358	5929	28251

## PAWS in the Water

PAWS 1	PAWS 2	PAWS 3
411	893	1462

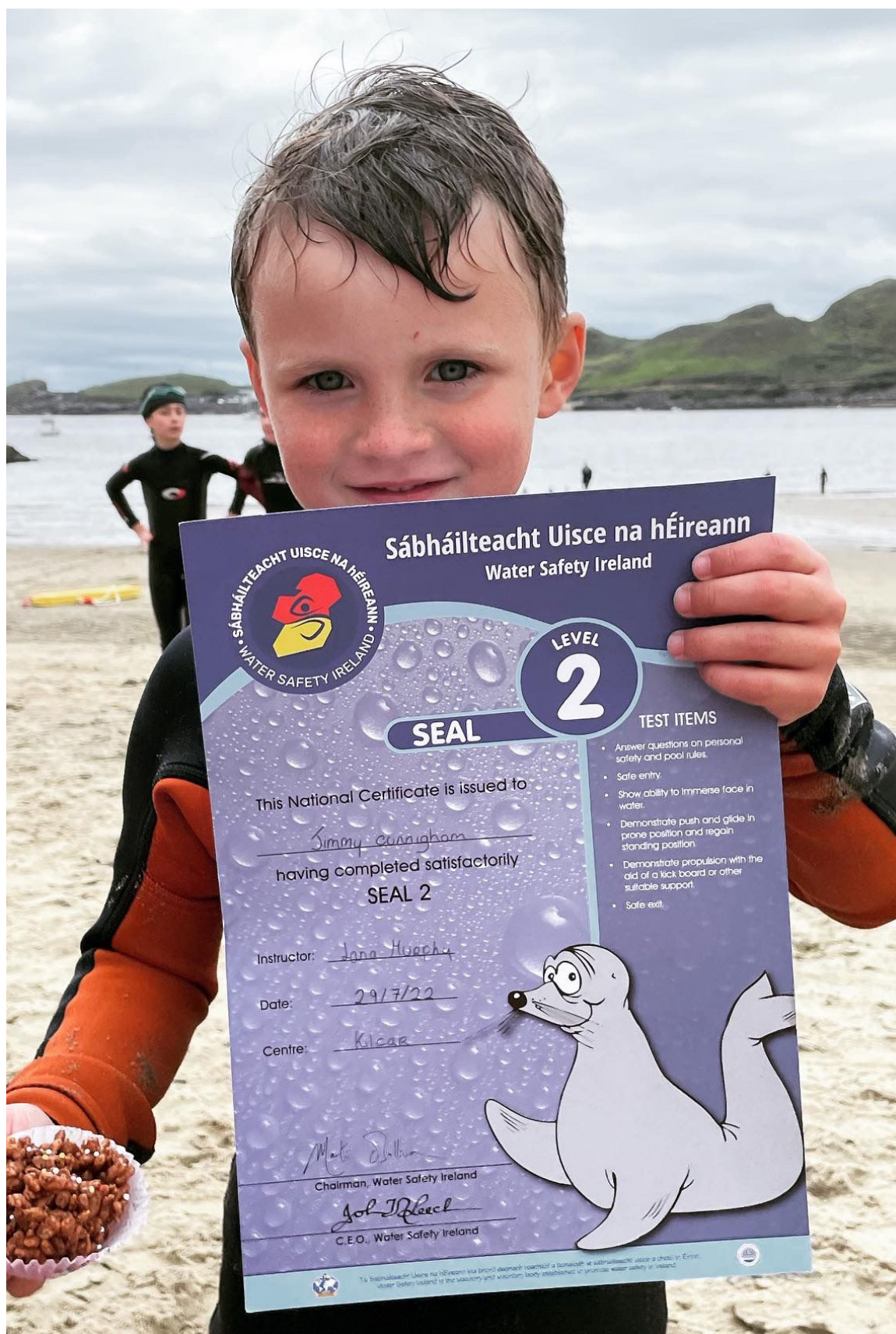
PAWS 4	PAWS 5	PAWS 6
1682	1143	702

PAWS 7	PAWS 8	PAWS 9
243	144	75



*Water Safety Ireland - Sligo and Sligo Surf Lifesaving members, Lisa Dunne and Sandra Draper giving a water safety talk at Carbury National School, Sligo.*

Photo: Lisa Dunphy



*Jimmy Cunningham, age 5 from Teelin, Co. Donegal pictured celebrating completion of his level 2 Seal certificate. Photo by Deirdre Kennedy*





Aquatics Organiser	1	National Pool Lifeguard Level 2 Revalidation	416
Aquatics Pool Assistant	1	Rescue 1	903
Assistant Swimming Teacher	721	Rescue 2	632
Beach Lifeguard	201	Rescue 3	329
Beach Lifeguard Revalidation	71	Rescue 4	117
BLS 1	1470	Safety 1	989
BLS 2	941	Safety 2	1609
BLS 3	357	Safety 3	1440
Challenge 1	124	Safety 4	1333
Challenge 2	198	Surf 1	25
Disabilities Aquatics Level 1	9	Surf 2	130
Disabilities Aquatics Level 2	13	Surf Instructor Beach Safety	42
Endurance 1	289	Surf Instructor Beach Safety Rev	9
Endurance 2	355	Survival 1	147
Instructor	44	Survival 2	346
Inland Open Water Lifeguard	24	Swim Teacher Lifesaving	25
Inland Open Water Lifeguard Revalidation	3	Swimming Teacher	156
Lifesaving Sport Coach Assistant	18	Water Safety Awareness	30
National Pool Lifeguard Level 1	230	Water Safety Awareness General & Pool	152
National Pool Lifeguard Level 1 Revalidation	89	<b>Total</b>	<b>15039</b>
National Pool Lifeguard Level 2	1033		

Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) is Water Safety Ireland's program of certification for primary school children and a component of the physical education strand of the primary school curriculum. A total of 28,251 PAWS Certificates were issued in 2021.



# WISE

Water Safety Ireland launched the WISE (Water Insight, Safety & Education) programme in 2022 for Transition Year secondary school students. The programme builds on the lessons learned in the PAWS (Primary Aquatic Water Safety) programme and equips students with the knowledge they need to make the right decisions in all sorts of situations to keep themselves, and others, safe on, or near, water.

WISE involves a series of eight lessons that provide a solid introduction to Water Safety, with a focus on risk assessment and water safety strategies for all aspects of our daily lives, from specific water-based activities to hazards and the potential of unforeseen accidents. The lessons look at different environments and highlight potential dangers so students can better assess the risks, and their ability, to determine the safest course of action in all types of situations for themselves and others.

Water Safety Ireland has also developed a bespoke WISE website, available at [teachwise.ie](https://teachwise.ie), where teachers and students can access all resources and project information online. The website pioneers a new digital certification system, enabling students to receive a personalised certificate by email upon successful completion of the programme.

## Summer Water Safety Weeks

WSI 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.

Carlow	Bagnelstown	July	Water Safety
Carlow	Bagnelstown	August	Water Safety, Rescue
Cavan	Greaghlonge Lake, Shercock	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lough McNeen, Blacklion	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Annagh Lake, Butlersbridge	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Annagh Lake, Miltown	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Killykeen, Killeshandra	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Crover, Lough Sheelin	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Grownays Wood, Lough Ramor	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lavey Lake, Lavey	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Haltons River, Cootehill	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Fitzpatricks Shore, Lough Gowna	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Brackley Lake, Bawnboy	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Garty Lough, Arva	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Riversdale Pool, Ballinamore	August	Water Safety
Clare	Miltown Malbay	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 4
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Safety 3 & 4
Clare	West County Hotel	August	Safety 3
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Endurance 1 & 2
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 2
Clare	Kilrush	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	Kilrush	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	Flagmount	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	Doonbeg	July	Swim & Safety

Clare	Ennis pool	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 3
Clare	Labasheeda	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	Labasheeda	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	Kilkee	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	Kilkee	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	Mountshannon	August	Safety
Clare	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 3 & 4
Clare	Ballyvaughan	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Rescue 1
Cork	Ardgroom	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Sherkin	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Midleton	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Schull	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Ardfield	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Carrignavar Pool	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Cuil Aodha	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Ballibrannigan	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Skibbereen	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Adrigole	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Garrylucas	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Cuil Aodha	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Oysterhaven	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Bere Island	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Ballingeary	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Cape Clear	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Ballymacoda	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Eyeries	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Courtmacsherry	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Youghal	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Union Hall	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Kilcrohane	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Rosscarbery	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Garnish Pier	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Glandore	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Urhan	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Cork	Ballycotton	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Malin Head	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Arranmore	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Mountcharles	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Moville	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Rathmullen	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Portsalon	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Greencastle	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Nairn/Portnoo	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Nairn/Portnoo	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Kilcar	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue



*School's Out!*

LEARNING ISN'T



Donegal	Creevy	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Kincasslagh	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Kincasslagh	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Bun An Inver	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Bun An Inver	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Port Na Blaith	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Killybegs	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Downings	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Donegal	Tory Island	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Dublin	Skerries	July	Swim, Safety
Galway	Portumna	July	Safety
Galway	Inis Meain	July	Safety
Galway	Inis Oirr	July	Safety
Galway	Loughrea	August	Safety
Galway	Lettermullen	June	Safety
Galway	Carraroe	July	Safety
Galway	Salthill	June	Safety
Galway	Inis Mor	June	Safety
Galway	Cor Na Mona	July	Safety
Galway	Tir An Fhia	August	Safety
Kerry	Brandon	June	Swim
Kerry	Minard	June	Swim
Kerry	Brandon	July	Safety
Kerry	Caherciveen	July	Swim
Kerry	Waterville	July	Swim
Kerry	Cromane	July	Swim
Kerry	Ceann Tra	July	Swim
Kerry	Portmagee	July	Swim
Kerry	Caherciveen	July	Safety
Kerry	Ballyheigue	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Swim
Kerry	Ceann Tra	July	Safety
Kerry	Templemore	July	Swim
Kerry	Portmagee	July	Safety
Kerry	Meenoghane	July	Safety
Kerry	An Daingean	July	Swim
Kerry	Ballinskelligs	July	Swim
Kerry	Ballybunion	July	Swim
Kerry	Rossbeigh	July	Swim
Kerry	Castlecove	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Safety
Kerry	Ballybunion	August	Safety
Kerry	Touist	August	Swim
Kerry	Fenit	August	Swim
Kerry	Valentia	August	Swim
Kerry	Fenit	August	Safety





WELCOME TO  
**PAWS**

for first and second  
**PAWS**  
IS BACK!

PRIMARY  
AQUATICS  
WATER  
SAFETY

PRIMARY  
AQUATICS  
WATER  
SAFETY

PRIMARY  
AQUATICS  
WATER  
SAFETY

PRIMARY  
AQUATICS  
WATER  
SAFETY

for third and fourth class

WELCOME TO  
**PAWS**

say hello to  
**PAWS!**

PRIMARY  
AQUATICS  
WATER  
SAFETY

for junior and senior infants

WELCOME TO  
**PAWS**



Kerry	Valentia	August	Safety
Kerry	Derrynane	August	Swim
Kerry	Derrynane	August	Safety
Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh	July	Swim, Safety
Kilkenny	Thomastown	July	Swim, Safety
Laois	Ballinakill	July	Swim, Safety
Laois	Castletown Bridge	August	Swim, Safety
Leitrim	Keeldra	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Leitrim	Gulladoo	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Leitrim	Drumshambo	July & August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Leitrim	Cleighran Mor, Ballinaglera	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Leitrim	Rossinver	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Limerick	Askeaton	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Limerick	Askeaton	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Limerick	Glin Pier	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Limerick	Glin Pier	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Longford	Annagh	July	Swim, Safety
Longford	Annagh	August	Swim, Safety
Louth	Clogherhead	October	Safety
Louth	Gyles Quay	July	Safety
Mayo	Mullaghroe	July	Safety
Mayo	Mullaghroe	August	Safety
Mayo	Ballina	July	Safety, Rescue
Mayo	Ballina	August	Safety, Rescue
Mayo	Claremorris	July	Safety
Mayo	Castlebar	July	Safety
Mayo	Lacken	July	Safety
Mayo	Clare Island	July	Safety
Mayo	Inishturk Island	July	Safety
Mayo	Inishturk Island	August	Safety
Mayo	Kilmovee	July	Safety
Mayo	Belmullet	July	Safety
Mayo	Belmullet	August	Safety
Mayo	Castlebar	July	Safety
Mayo	Charlestown	July	Safety
Offaly	Birr	July	Swim, Safety
Offaly	Banagher	July	Swim, Safety
Offaly	Clara	July	Swim, Safety
Sligo	Aughris Pier	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Sligo	Enniscrone	August	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Tipperary North	Ballina	July	Swim
Tipperary North	Roscrea	July	Safety
Tipperary North	Nenagh	August	Safety & Rescue
Waterford	Tramore	June	Safety, Rescue



Waterford	Dunmore East	July	Safety, Rescue
Waterford	Boatstrand	July	Safety, Rescue
Waterford	Ardmore	July	Safety, Rescue
Waterford	Ardmore	August	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	Mullingar	August	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	Athlone	July	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	Athlone	July	Safety, Rescue
Wexford	Rosslare	July	Swim, Safety
Wexford	Courtown	July	Safety
Wexford	Bunclody	August	Safety
Wexford	Cahore Pier	July	Safety
Wexford	Kilmore	July	Swim. Safety
Wexford	Fethard	August	Safety
Wicklow	Bray Seafront	July	Safety
Wicklow	Greystones Harbour	July	Safety
Wicklow	Wicklow Harbour	July	Swim

## World Drowning Prevention Day

World Drowning Prevention Day takes place annually on the 25th of July with activities taking place around the world to mark the day. The global theme for 2022 was ‘Do One Thing’ and as part of a national public awareness campaign, Water Safety Ireland highlighted the role of the Hold Hands programme for Early Learning and Care Centres. This one intervention will have a significant impact on water safety education efforts nationwide, reducing aquatic incidents and drownings into the future.

Water Safety Ireland also encouraged everybody to ‘Go Blue’ to highlight drowning prevention. As part of commemorations, WSI asked the public to consider illuminating their organisations’ building in the colour blue, lighting up a window in their area or by bringing the colour blue and #DrowningPrevention to their social media networks with shareable images.



*A combined effort at Graiguenamanagh summer swim week in Co. Kilkenny for World Drowning Prevention Day.*

Photo: Claire Dunphy

## WSI Representation at National Level

- An Taisce Blue Flag Jury – Ronnie Horan
- ACESA (Assoc Chief Executives of State Agencies) – Joanne Walsh
- Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee – Roger Sweeney
- Commissioner’s Irish Lights (Users Group) – Roger Sweeney
- Marine Safety Communications Working Group – Roger Sweeney
- Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Jury – Roger Sweeney
- Community Rescue Boats Ireland – Ronnie Horan
- PHECC (Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council) – Paul Murphy
- ILAM White Flag Jury – Breda Collins
- Green Coast Award – Ronnie Horan
- Federation of Irish Sports – Clare McGrath
- WSI Internal Auditor – Alison Elstone and Paul Burke
- National Designated Liaison Person – Ashling Nesbitt



*Afternoon paddle at Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow*  
Photo by Allison O'Donovan

# WSI Representation at International Level

- International Life Saving (ILS) board member – Martin O’Sullivan
- ILSE (Europe) Sports Commission – Simon McGarrigle
- ILSE (Europe) Management & Administration Commission – Roger Sweeney
- ILSE (Europe) Rescue Commission – Breda Collins
- International Federation of Swimming Teachers Association – Breda Collins
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) – Roger Sweeney
- College of Referees Panel ILS Europe – Clare McGrath
- ILS World Competition Rules Committee – Clare McGrath
- ‘International Maritime Rescue Federation – Roger Sweeney

## Conferences

21st & 22 April - WSDO Conference

6th December – National Awards Ceremony (online)

## Risk Assessments

Water Safety Ireland volunteers carried out 25 Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public. In order to make these waterways safer, recommendations typically include the erection of public rescue equipment, signage and other necessary facilities. We also complete public rescue equipment usage checks and advise Local Authorities, state agencies and private enterprises on matters relating to water safety.

Clare	Fanore
Cork	Ballinamona Beach, East Cork
Cork	Cape Clear (Not lifeguarded)
Cork	Red Strand (Not lifeguarded)
Donegal	Arranmore
Donegal	Trá Mór beach near Creeslough
Donegal	Dooley
Donegal	Ballyhernan
Donegal	Drumnatinney
Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown	Killiney Beach; BF
Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown	Dún Laoghaire baths
Fingal	Sutton
Fingal	Tower Bay
Fingal	Kings Strand
Galway	Bunowen, BallyConneely (Beach & Pier)
Kerry	Ballybunion North
Kerry	Rossbeigh
Kerry	Ballybunion South
Mayo	Fallduff Strand
Sligo	Baginbun GC
Sligo	Dunmorán Beach
Westmeath	The Cut, Lough Lene
Wexford	Baginbun GC
Wicklow	Brittas Bay South (BF)
Wicklow	Brittas Bay North (BF)



In the summer of 2022, Lifeguards provided  
6,678 first aid interventions.



# Lifeguard Rescues and Preventive Actions

Our Local Authorities employ Water Safety Ireland assessed lifeguards during the bathing season at popular bathing sites nationwide. The table below gives a clear picture of the effectiveness and value they contribute to saving lives each year and we commend them for this work in drowning prevention.

	Rescues without craft	Rescue Craft Rescues	First Aid	Lost Child Found	Advice Given	Accidents Prevented	Other incidents
Carlow	5	1	10	0	1,791	66	0
Cork	18	10	739	23	10,142	3,312	9
Clare	52	0	1,506	30	21,176	16,127	12
Donegal	3	0	163	12	1,882	1,667	0
Dublin	13	0	217	6	1,748	489	150
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	155	45	599	12	499	222	267
Fingal	67	14	620	212	8,812	1,285	663
Galway	4	9	282	8	5,470	673	133
Kerry	34	24	1,212	89	11,321	3,026	4,946
Kilkenny	6	0	17	1	1,100	155	5
Limerick Co.	9	4	29	0	103	35	0
Louth	1	0	52	1	76	0	0
Mayo	1	17	201	7	10,601	309	11
Meath	0	0	13	7	5	1	6
Roscommon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sligo	4	6	95	24	5,926	2,290	3,687
Tipperary	3	0	20	0	7,224	0	0
Waterford	39	0	717	87	6,459	2,095	209
Wexford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wicklow	24	0	186	68	1,115	0	0
Total	438	130	6,678	587	95,450	31,752	10,098
Total Rescues		568					



# Lifesaving Sport

## Overall Combined Still & Surf Competitions 2022

<b>National Nipper Champions</b>	Waterford Junior Nippers
<b>National Junior Champions</b>	Clare Junior Boys
<b>National Senior Champions (Presidents Trophy)</b>	Wicklow Ladies
<b>National Masters Champions</b>	Waterford Masters

### National Senior Surf Championships

Number of Competitors: 117 Team Results:

- Ladies:
  1. Wicklow A
  2. Clare A
  3. Cork A
- Men:
  1. Clare A
  2. Cork A
  3. Clare B

All team scores & individual event results available online.

### National Senior Stillwater Championships

Number of Competitors: 128 Team Results:

- Ladies:
  1. Wicklow A
  2. Wicklow B
  3. Clare A
- Men:
  1. Clare A
  2. Waterford A
  3. Cork A

All team scores & individual event results available online.

### National Masters Surf Championships

Number of Competitors: 78 Team Results:

1. Waterford
2. Wicklow
3. Sligo

All team scores & individual event results available online.

### National Masters Stillwater Championships

Number of Competitors: 56 Team Results:

1. Waterford
2. Cork
3. Wexford

All team scores & individual event results available online.





# World Drowning Prevention Day 2022

World  
Drowning  
Prevention  
Day 25 July

Anyone can drown,  
no one should.



## **National Junior Surf Championships**

Regional Qualification Competitions – Individual results available online

- Ulster/Connaught: 49 Competitors
- Munster: 105 Competitors
- Leinster: 55 Competitors

All team scores & individual event results available online.

### **National Championships**

Number of Competitors: 187 Team Results:

- Ladies:
  1. Wicklow
  2. Clare
  3. Cork
- Men:
  1. Cork
  2. Clare
  3. Wicklow

All team scores & individual event results available online.

## **National Junior Stillwater Championships**

Number of Competitors: 124 Team Results:

- Ladies:
  1. Wicklow A
  2. Clare A
  3. Waterford A
- Men:
  1. Clare A
  2. Waterford A
  3. Wicklow A

All team scores & individual event results available online.

## **National Nipper Surf Championships**

Regional Qualification Competitions – Individual results available online

- Ulster/Connaught: 125 Competitors
- Munster: 279 Competitors
- Leinster: 97 Competitors

### **National Championships**

Number of Competitors: 257 Team Results:

- Junior Nipper:
  1. Waterford
  2. Clare
  3. Cork
- Senior Nipper:
  1. Clare
  2. Cork
  3. Wicklow

All team scores & individual event results available online.



# National Nipper Stillwater Championships

Regional Qualification Competitions – Individual results available online

- Ulster/Connaught: 58 Competitors
- Munster: 181 Competitors
- Leinster: 82 Competitors

## National Championships

Number of Competitors: 263 Team Results:

- Junior Nipper:
  1. Clare
  2. Cork
  3. Wicklow
- Senior Nipper:
  1. Donegal
  2. Cork
  3. Clare

All team scores & individual event results available online.

## World Championships, Italy

Overall Team Result: 11th

Medal Winners: – 2nd Youth Board Rescue Hazel

Bentley & Lianna Liddane.



*All set, ready to go at the finals of the National Nipper Stillwater Championships at the UL Sports Arena, Co. Limerick. Photo: John O'Grady*



*Representing their country - Members of Team Ireland at the opening ceremony of the World Surf Lifesaving Championships in Riccione, Italy. Photo: Simon McGarrigle*



*Smiles all round at the Nipper Surf Rescue Championships. Pictured left to right: Alannah McCullough, Clodagh Quinlan, Orla Blake and Amy O'Toole. Photo: Bernie McKee*



*Future lifeguards in training - water safety classes in Mount Wolseley Hotel, Tullow, Co. Carlow. Photo: Seamus Maher*



# Going Blue for World Drowning Prevention Day



# National Awards Ceremony

Fifteen lives were saved from drowning by rescuers who received recognition at Water Safety Ireland's National Annual Awards Ceremony, broadcasted online at 7pm on Tuesday 6th December 2022.

The Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD acknowledged recipients of a range of Awards including the SEIKO Just in Time Awards, Long Service Awards, and Recognition Awards for services rendered to Water Safety Ireland and also the Volunteer of the Year Award. Among the recipients are members of the public, members of Water Safety Ireland and other individuals and organisations who assist in the reduction of drownings by supporting the work of Water Safety Ireland throughout the year.

Long-Service Volunteer Awards were presented to 30 volunteers, recognising a combined total of 545 years of service teaching swimming, water rescue and survival skills in communities nationwide.

## Community and Social Responsibility Awards

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

### ***Timemark***

Timemark Limited is a distributor of leading Watch and Jewellery brands. Founded in 1979, and entirely Irish owned and managed, Timemark sponsors the SEIKO Just In Time Award, which they have supported since its inception in 2001 and for which we are deeply grateful.

### ***Canada Life Insurance***

Canada Life Reinsurance partnered with Water Safety Ireland to fund lifesaving ringbuoys directly to recently flooded regions of Pakistan. These ringbuoys will be used by first responder medical crews on the ground to help with rescue efforts in areas devastated by flooding. Thank you Canada Life Reinsurance.

### ***Liam Neeson***

Liam graciously recorded water safety messages for radio, TV and online, reminding people that learning to swim, learning a lifesaving skill, saves lives. Liam also recorded messages to raise awareness about World Drowning Prevention Day which was highlighted by the World Health Organisation. Thank you, Liam, for supporting our efforts to bring drownings down.

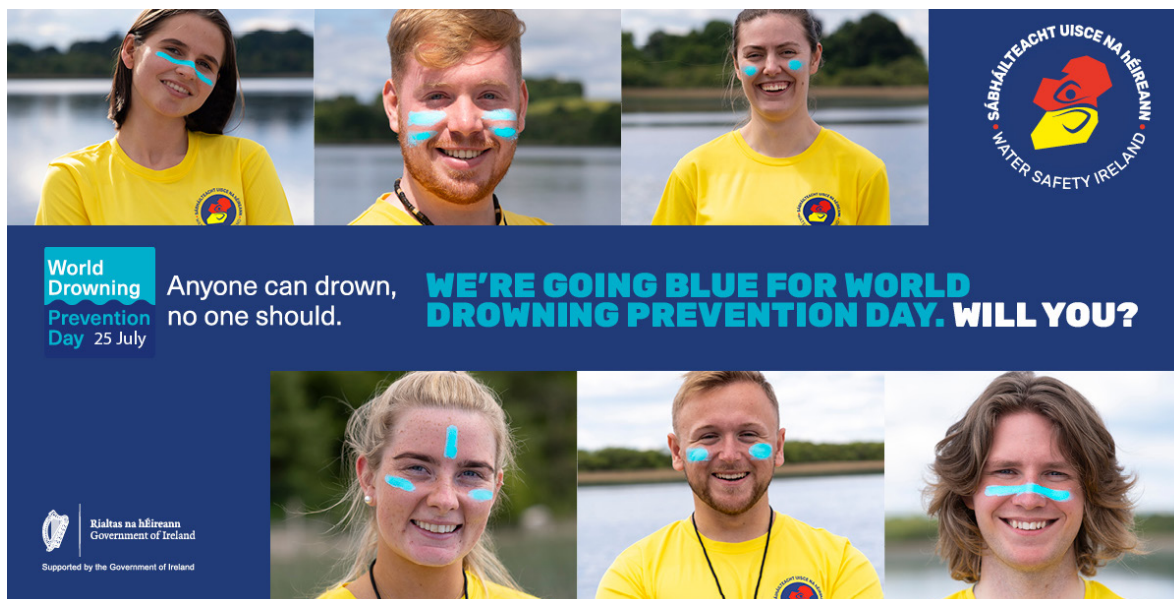
### ***Yuliia Chychul***

Yuliia arrived as a refugee from Ukraine and set about translating water safety information for her fellow Ukrainians who were not aware of the coastal dangers around Ireland. Yuliia also attended and translated water safety workshop material that gave advice as part of welcoming our Ukrainian friends and helping them to stay safe at our waterways. Thank you Yuliia.



## **Nick Corish**

Nick Corish has given a lifetime of service to Water Safety Ireland as an Instructor and Volunteer, providing his time and knowledge to teach generations of students how to swim. Nick generously gave his time once more to star in Water Safety Ireland's New Year video, encouraging others to put water safety first. Thank you, Nick for your continued support.



## **Leon Quinlan Perpetual Award**

### ***Corliss National School, Co. Cavan***

The Leon Quinlan Perpetual Award is presented to a primary school that has been particularly attentive to the need for pupils to learn water safety skills. When young Leon Quinlan drowned in 2004, his mother Lynn contacted Water Safety Ireland about running an event to raise awareness about water safety. Corliss National School in County Cavan is a small two-teacher school that is committed to delivering Water Safety Ireland's Primary Aquatics Water Safety Programme to their pupils. The children learn about local hazards in the home, on the farm and other aquatic environments nearby. Congratulations to the school for ensuring that the children in their care have the knowledge and skills necessary to stay safe from drowning.

## **Avery Greene Memorial Award**

### ***Sunflower Creche and Playschool, Galway***

Avery Greene was just three-years-old when, in 2019, he tragically drowned while on holiday in Spain. Avery's mother Amanda became an enthusiastic promoter of an education resource called Hold Hands that was developed by Water Safety Ireland and distributed to more than 4,000 Early Learning Centres nationwide. It contains lots of games and fun activities designed to encourage this young age group to talk about water safety and it has been embraced by Educators around the country, including today's recipient of the very first Award - the Sunflower Creche and Playschool Galway who played a key role in helping Water Safety Ireland to create the resources for Hold Hands, a programme of activities and games that teach young children how to stay safe around water. Congratulations Sunflower Crèche and Playschool.



# The WISE Award

*St. Anne's Community College, Killaloe, Co. Clare*

Water Safety Ireland's secondary school programme, Water Insight Safety and Education (WISE) programme was launched this year, 2022. It gives pupils the knowledge they need to stay safe. Project work encourages pupils to highlight local dangers and help make their communities safer. Congratulations to the pupils at St. Anne's Community College, Killaloe and their teacher Rosie Foley for their enthusiastic participation in the programme.



*Left to right: Lifeguards Rachel Connolly, Lucy Cleere, David Farrelly, Sarah Donnelly, Jayke Morris and Conall Boyle pictured as part of Water Safety Ireland's Heed Our Heroes campaign.*

## Sports Persons of the Year Award

This summer, after a 2-year gap, the Irish Team went to the World Championships in Italy where the Senior team broke a number of Irish pool records and personal best performances. The Junior team also performed well at the pool, making B finals and attaining personal best performances. The Irish Team placed 11th in overall rankings out of 56 nations. It was on the beach where the team surpassed expectations. While there were notable performances from the entire squad, the Senior Boys, Junior Boys and Junior Girls Board Rescue teams achieved great success including a World Championship Silver Medal.

***Congratulations to our Sports Persons of the Year recipients:***

**Senior Boys** - Odhran Savage and Tom Breen.

**Junior Boys** - Ferdia Hayes and Oisín O'Grady

**Junior Girls** - Hazel Bentley and Leanna Liddane

# Long Service Awards

Long Service Awards are presented in recognition of a voluntary commitment to promoting a public awareness of water safety and rescue based on the humanitarian goal of saving life. Water Safety Ireland extends a sincere debt of gratitude to the following volunteers.

First Name	Last Name	County	Years of Service
Gerry	Bruton	Offaly	10
James	Murray	Offaly	10
Pamela	McGrath	Clare	10
Yvonne	Byrne	Kildare	10
Catherine	Poole	Kildare	10
Billy	Cantilon	Limerick	10
Stephen	Ryan	Limerick	10
Brendan	Devlin	Louth	15
Bryan	Corcoran	Kildare	15
Susan	Corcoran	Kildare	15
Brenda	Maye	Kildare	15
Patrick	Maye	Kildare	15
Sam	Murray	Kildare	15
Ian	Cunningham	Limerick	15
Joe	Morgan	Limerick	15
Tom	Cusack	Limerick	15
Tom	Slattery	Limerick	15
Valerie	Stundon	Limerick	15
Ciara	O'Sullivan	Limerick	20
Jonathan	Broderick	Limerick	20
Kieran	Goodisson	Limerick	20
Peter	Hogan	Limerick	20
David	Finn	Limerick	20
Diarmuid	Moriarty	Limerick	20
Ken	Moore	Limerick	20
Mary	Coyle	Louth	30
Mal	Sherlock	Limerick	30
Trevor	Sheehan	Limerick	30
Aisling	Cushen	Dublin	40
Jimmy	Reilly	Dublin	40



*Participants get ready on Portmarnock Beach during their Water Safety Ireland – Dublin, Open Water Lifeguard Course.*  
Photo: Ronan Kelly

# Volunteer of the Year Award

## *Sinead Mortell – Volunteer of the Year*

Sinead can be described as an “all-round WSI volunteer”, qualifying as Lifeguard and giving back to her community in Clare as a water safety Instructor and Examiner. Sinead also runs training courses for aspiring Instructors and conducts Risk Assessments to ensure that our waterways are safe for swimming. As a Lifesaving Sport competitor Sinead has successfully represented both her county and country and competed as a Master in this year’s World Lifesaving Championships in Italy. She continues to coach other competitors. And is also a qualified Rescue Boat Driver and somehow found time to be secretary of the local Water Safety Area Committee. Sinead reflects all that is positive about being a volunteer and is a very deserving recipient of Volunteer of the Year, 2022. Congratulations Sinead.

## Life Governor Awards

The Award of Life Governor is presented to an individual who has demonstrated a particular dedication towards the humanitarian goal of saving life from drowning. All of these recipients also served two five-year terms on the Council of Water Safety Ireland, and we are truly grateful for their combined total of fifty years’ voluntary service shaping and guiding the work of the Council over those two terms. Thank you and congratulations Life Governors.

### *The recipients are:*

Lola O’Sullivan  
Tom Doyle  
Seamus O’Neill  
Anne Ryan  
Paul Murphy





# World Drowning Prevention Day Ambassadors



## **The SEIKO “Just In Time” Award**

Presented to those who came to the assistance of person(s) in difficulty in water and in danger of drowning. Without their quick thinking, the outcomes could have been very different.

### ***Garda Sarah Lynam, Co. Dublin***

In August 2022, Garda Sarah Lynam, a former competitive swimmer, became alerted to the fact that a person was in distress in the water at Bachelor’s Quay. She ran from the GPO on O’Connell Street, removed her stab vest and utility belt and swam to the casualty. Once out of the water, she noticed he was not responsive, so she began CPR and he made a full recovery.

### ***Francis Doherty and Maureen Devenney, Co. Donegal***

In May 2022, Maureen Devenney and her sister got pulled out to sea by a strong current. Maureen encouraged her sister to kick her legs and turn over onto her back while Maureen swam to the shore where she got help from Francis who swam out with a ringbuoy and started for shore. Meanwhile, Maureen had organised a chain of six people to wade out chest deep and ring both to safety.

### ***John Timlin, Co. Kerry***

In August 2022, John had just finished a surf lesson at Fermoy strand, Castlegregory, in Kerry. Suddenly he saw swimmers in difficulty, caught in a rip current. He quickly grabbed a surfboard and paddled out. It took some time to get through the high waves. Eventually, he spotted a motionless girl, weak and semi-conscious, pulled her up onto the board and began a challenging paddle to shore through dangerous conditions. He placed her into the recovery position and after coughing up a lot of water, was kept warm with blankets from his van until emergency services arrived. Thankfully, she made a full recovery.

### ***Sarah Cooke, Co. Offaly***

In July 2022, Sarah was teaching a water safety class at Banagher pool in Offaly. A young man at the other end of the pool got into difficulty so she grabbed a ringbuoy, instructed her class to vacate the pool and brought him to safety.

### ***Sergeant Brendan Byrne and Garda Ronan Allen, Co. Dublin***

In August 2019, Gardai Brendan Byrne and Ronan Allen responded to a 999 call that a man was in the river Liffey. When they arrived, two men were in difficulty. Garda Allen entered the water and reached them with a ringbuoy. Sergeant Byrne pulled the rope towards a ladder where Dublin Fire Brigade soon arrived at the scene and helped to take all three people out of the water to safety.

### ***David Caulfield, Dylan Putthaaree and Glen Wightman, Co. Wexford***

In August 2021, David Caulfield was driving along the quays by the river Barrow in New Ross, Co Wexford. He saw a man in the water and immediately jumped in and pulled him towards the riverbank where a passing boat spotted them and pulled them both to safety.

### ***Paul Sweeney and Garda Mark O Sullivan, Co. Donegal***

In December 2021, Paul Sweeney saw a young man was in difficulty at Rathmullen pier, Donegal. He entered the water and managed to reach the young man. Garda Mark O Sullivan arrived, grabbed a ringbuoy and entered the water. Both men kept the casualty afloat until emergency services arrived. The hypothermic young man was brought to hospital where he made a full recovery.





Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

**I'M GOING  
BLUE FOR  
WORLD  
DROWNING  
PREVENTION  
DAY.**

**WILL YOU?**



World  
Drowning  
Prevention  
Day 25 July

Anyone can drown,  
no one should.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
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DROWNING PREVENTION DAY.  
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### ***Jonathan Monroe, Co. Galway***

In July 2022, Jonathan was on his way to work when he saw a person in distress in the Eglinton canal in Galway city. Jonathan entered the water, reached the man and pulled him to safety. He stayed with the casualty until emergency services arrived. The casualty made a full recovery.

### ***Mikey O'Siochru, Co. Dublin***

In August 2022, Mikey had just come off duty as a lifeguard in Sandycove, when he was alerted to a woman in distress in the water. A seal was attacking the woman. He entered the water with a flotation device and upon reaching her, saw that she was injured. Mikey calmed the situation and brought her safely to shore where she received medical assistance for her wounds and made a full recovery.

### ***Saoirse Maloney, Co. Waterford***

In July 2022 Saoirse was alerted that a woman was at risk of drowning in a cove in Ardmore. Saoirse swam to her rescue and brought her to safety. The woman was very disorientated but Saoirse continued to reassure her.

### ***Patrick Gordon, Co. Clare***

In July 2022, Patrick was out surfing in strong winds with a friend when they heard a swimmer shouting for help after getting pulled from shore by a rip current. He immediately paddled towards the swimmer and told his friend to make for shore to get help. Patrick took his friend's board, reached the exhausted swimmer, and got him to hold onto the board until he regained his breath and was able to make it safely back to shore.

### ***Josh Marley, Co. Donegal***

In August 2021, Josh became alerted to a person in distress in the water at Lifford bridge, Donegal. He immediately entered the river and managed to reach the woman and bring her to the safety of the riverbank where the emergency services took over.

### ***Miley Doran, Co. Carlow***

In May 2021, Miley discovered two people, a mother and daughter, in difficulty in the River Barrow. Miley immediately jumped into the water and managed to bring the young girl to safety, before entering the water once more to rescue her mother. An incredible act of courage.





## Media Appreciation Awards

Presented in appreciation for covering drowning prevention and water safety issues throughout the year.

***National Radio Broadcaster Award: Jennifer Zamparelli,  
Broadcaster – RTÉ 2FM Radio***

At the height of summer, when thousands of people were flocking to our beaches, The Jennifer Zamparelli Show on RTE's 2FM hosted discussions and podcasts that drew attention to the dangers associated with rip currents, inflatable toys and other water safety risks. Thank you Jennifer for informing listeners nationwide on how to stay safe in, on and near water.

***Local Radio Station Award: Red FM (Cork)***

Cork's Red FM is broadcasting since 2002. Thanks to their ongoing coverage of water safety issues, listeners are more aware of the dangers at aquatic environments. Thank you Red FM.

***National TV Broadcaster: Conor Kane, Correspondent - RTÉ News***

Throughout the summer, thousands of people gathered on beaches and inland waterways nationwide. RTE News filmed lifeguards at work in Co. Waterford and Co. Galway and also broadcast important summer safety advice. The News team also featured the installation of new smart ringbuoys that will alert local authorities if a ringbuoy is missing or stolen. Thank you to Conor and his colleagues for raising awareness throughout the summer.

***Provincial Press Award: Claire McGovern, Editor - The Leitrim Observer***

The Leitrim Observer is a weekly newspaper that was first published in 1889. It has promoted many of Water Safety Ireland's messages to readers, emphasising important drowning prevention advice. Thank you Leitrim Observer for highlighting water safety.



**BETTER TO ALWAYS  
WEAR A LIFEJACKET  
ON OR NEAR WATER.**

**BETTER SAFE  
THAN SORRY**



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An initiative within the Department of Rural and Community Development.





***National Press Award: Paul Hyland, Journalist - Irish Independent.***

The Irish Independent has covered many water safety issues throughout the year including a particularly poignant article by Paul Hyland featuring the family of 14-year-old Bradley Lulendo, who drowned at Burrow Beach in Dublin. Additional reporting included important advice for water users and we are truly grateful for Paul's efforts to keep people safe.

***Online Broadcasting: Sophie Collins, Journalist - IrishMirror.ie***

Irishmirror.ie is one of Ireland's most read digital news websites. Their continued coverage of breaking news and warnings from Water Safety Ireland helped keep water safety in the public consciousness this past year. Journalist Sophie Collins focused on topical water safety issues and always included helpful advice. Thank you Sophie for putting water safety front and centre with your readers.

## **Analysis of Drownings 2022**

Water Safety Ireland - targeting at-risk groups with drowning prevention initiatives.

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2022 was 85, five more than in 2021 when 80 drowned. The average number of drownings each year over the past ten years is 105. Each figure in the following graphical analysis, be it accidental, suicide or of undetermined cause, reflects a preventable tragedy that affects so many lives. Water Safety Ireland continues to target at-risk groups with initiatives to highlight best practices so that drownings are reduced.

### **A synopsis of some general contributory factors over the years:**

1. Poor or inadequate equipment (e.g. boats or lifejackets);
2. Not wearing a correctly fitting lifejacket;
3. Alcohol consumption;
4. Falling unexpectedly into water;
5. Improper use of boats and equipment;
6. Overestimation of skills; underestimation of ability;
7. Lack of local knowledge when travelling in Ireland and abroad;
8. Not being able to swim or not having lifesaving and water survival skills;
9. Easy unauthorized access to waterways;
10. Cold water shock and hypothermia;
11. Current (including rip currents, river currents, and tidal currents);
12. Offshore winds (including flotation devices);
13. Pre-existing diseases;
14. Underwater entanglement;
15. Bottom surface gradient and stability;
16. Waves (coastal, boat);
17. Water transparency;
18. Impeded visibility (including coastal configuration, structures and overcrowding);
19. Lack of parental supervision (infants and children);
20. Change in weather conditions;
21. Excessive "horseplay" or over exuberant behaviour;
22. Swimming outside the depth of the user.

# Lifeguards Go Blue for World Drowning Prevention Day



World  
Drowning  
Prevention  
Day 25 July

Anyone can drown,  
no one should.

**WE'RE GOING BLUE FOR WORLD  
DROWNING PREVENTION DAY.  
WILL YOU?**



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Supported by the Government of Ireland





## A synopsis of some general preventive and management actions:

1. Public education by Water Safety Ireland regarding hazards and safe behaviours;
2. Teaching children to stay away from water when unsupervised through the WSI PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) programme;
3. Continual adult supervision of children;
4. WSI media campaigns that drowning can happen quickly and quietly;
5. Promote in WSI press announcements, the restriction of alcohol provision before or during aquatic activities;
6. Provision by Water Safety Ireland of properly trained and equipped lifeguards;
7. Provision of rescue services;
8. Water Safety Ireland Risk Assessments that include assessments of local hazard warning notices, access to emergency response and availability of resuscitation skills/facilities and other factors;
9. Development by Water Safety Ireland of rescue and resuscitation skills among general public and user groups;
10. Coordination by Water Safety Ireland with user group associations concerning hazard awareness and safe behaviours;
11. Wearing of adequate lifejackets and Personal Flotation Devices when boating;
12. Fencing and doors to isolate outdoor aquatic environments.

\*Any interpretation of the figures must be exercised with caution because they are provisional, pending supplementary documentation and therefore subject to change pending further correspondence.



*Young participants alongside Instructor Danu Feachem at the Summer Weeks classes in Chuil Aodha, Co. Cork. All activities were delivered through the Irish language.*

Photo: Larry Cummins

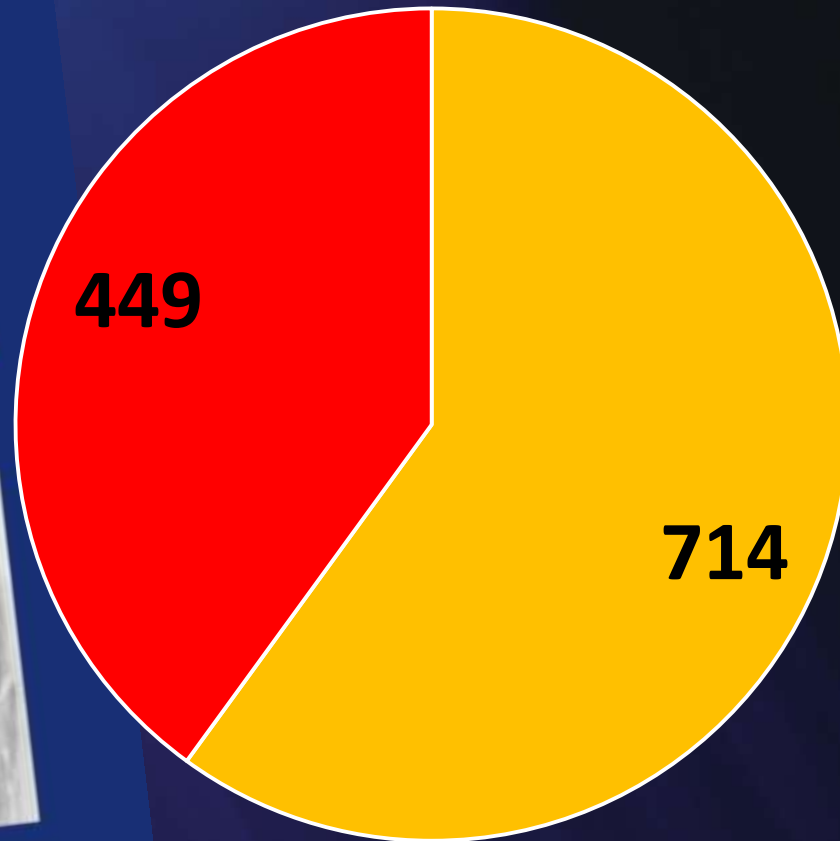


*Daniel O'Donnell makes a guest appearance following a Water Safety demonstration for Float for Hope 2022 at Burtonport, Donegal. Pictured left to right: Triona McMenamin, Noah McBride, Ciara Gleeson, Daniel O'Donnell, Leah Bonner, Lucy Boyle, Henry O'Donnell (RIP) and Seamus O'Neill.*

Photo: Donna Bonner



**1,163 ROAD AND WATER  
DEATHS IN 5 YEARS...  
40% WERE DROWNINGS**

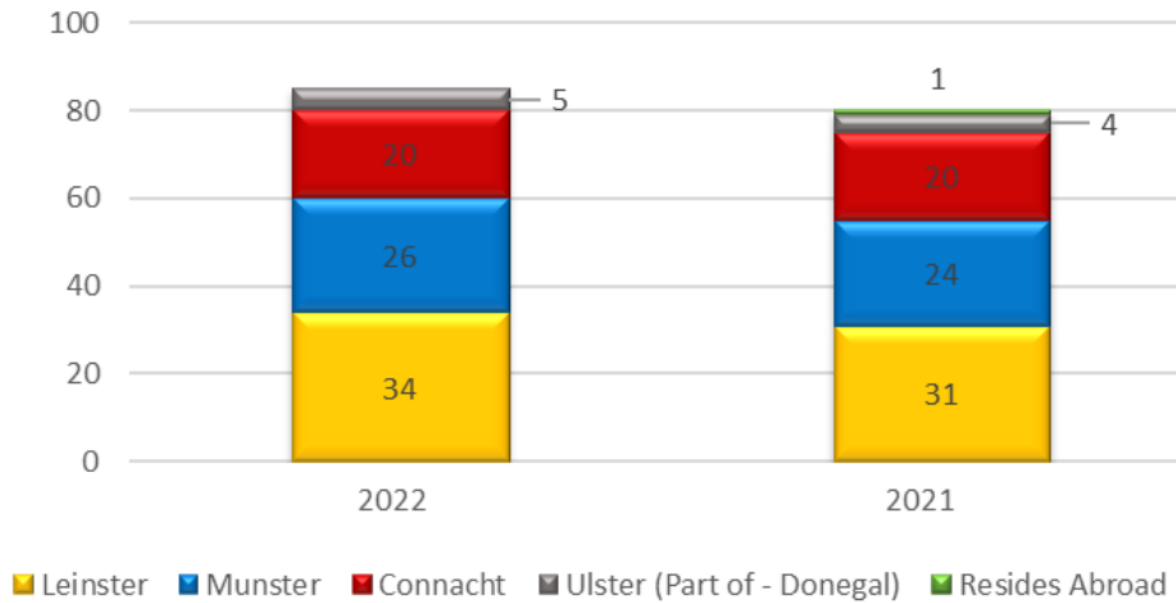


■ Road ■ Water

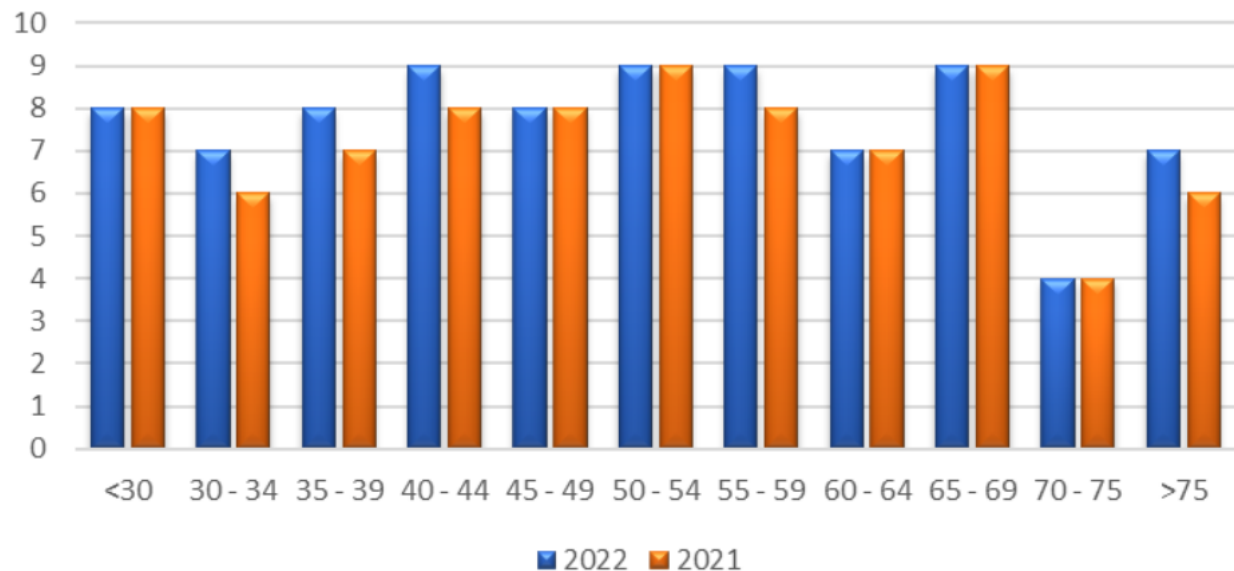
- Overestimate ability
- Underestimate risks
- Poor equipment
- Alcohol (30%)
- Lack of child supervision
- Currents
- Inflatable toys
- Cold Shock / Hypothermia
- Falling in unexpectedly
- Entanglement
- Suicide

**BECAUSE ONE LIFE  
IS ONE TOO MANY**

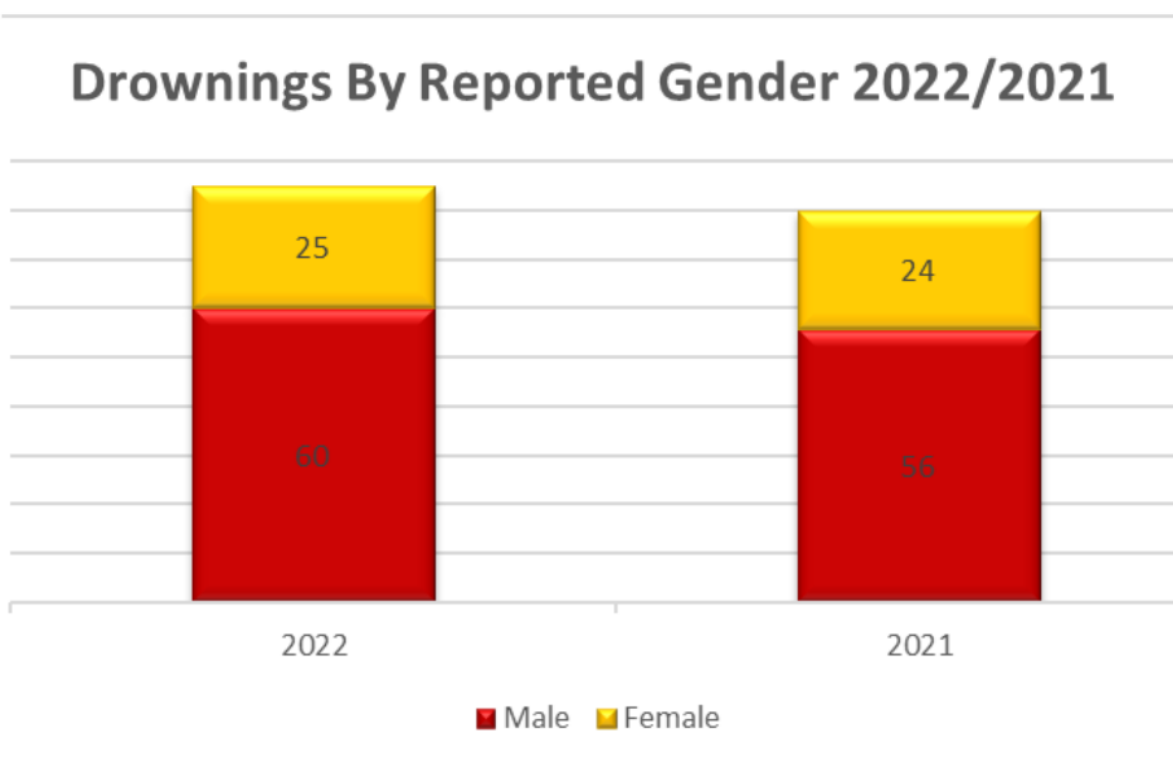
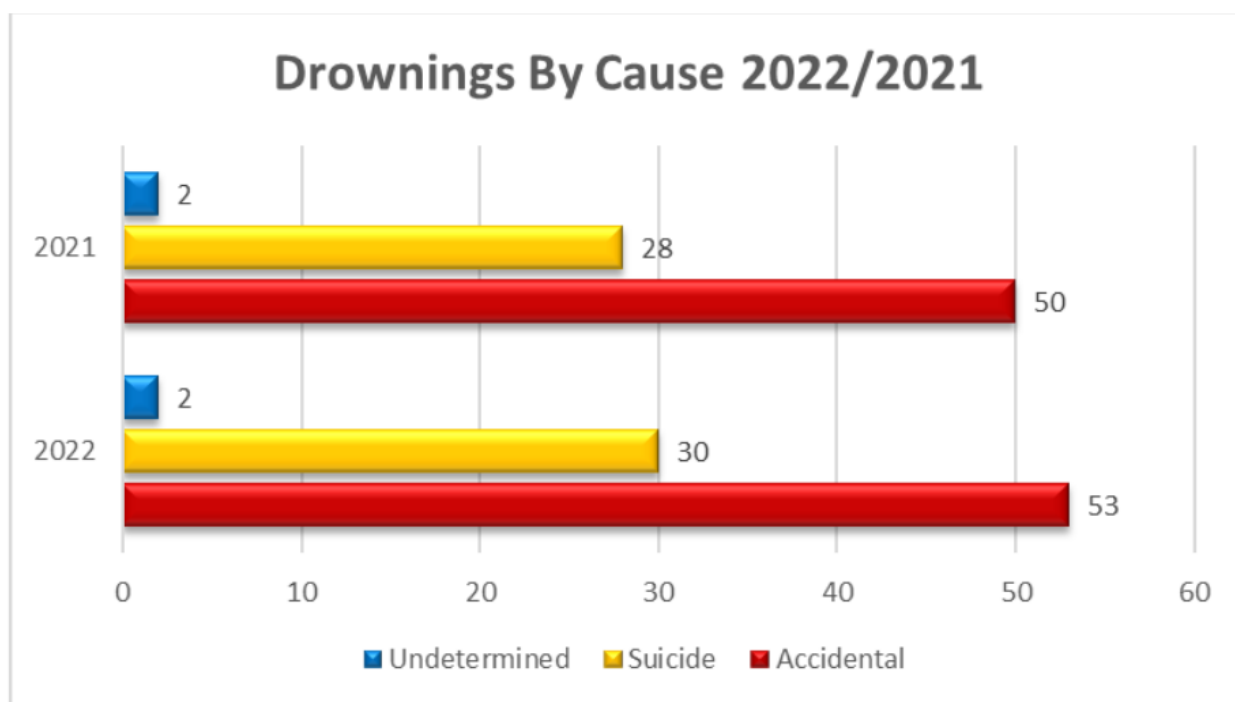
## Drownings By Province 2022/2021



## Drownings By Age 2022/2021







### Protected Disclosures

Procedures are in place for the making of protected disclosures in accordance with section 21(1) of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014. An Annual report required under section 22(1) of the Act has been published. From 01 January to 31 December 2022, the Chief Executive of WSI, in the context of their role as a prescribed person under the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, received no protected disclosures from parties external or internal to WSI and relating to third parties.



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