



# Annual Report 2018





# Social Justice Ireland Annual Report

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## Note from the Chairperson

Welcome to the Annual Report of *Social Justice Ireland*. This report covers the period from September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018

During the past year we in *Social Justice Ireland* were very aware that we were approaching the tenth anniversary of the economic crash that plunged Ireland into austerity, with the consequent record levels of unemployment, homelessness and emigration. Recent years also saw us emerging into a period of tenuous prosperity overshadowed by global instability. Our national experience of unprecedented 'weather events' together with the various international reports on climate change present us with many challenges in a time of rising populism, fake news and the 'post-truth' society. In this climate, facts, analyses, and evidence-based research are low in popular demand. However, they are needed more now than ever before and it is imperative that we work to make a space for them. We want to contribute to shaping an Ireland that is based on truth, equality, justice, compassion, solidarity and sustainability. Here lie the challenges and the opportunities.

The Board and staff of *Social Justice Ireland* keeps a strong focus on macro-economic and social policy while ensuring our activities are shaped from the perspective of vulnerable people and communities and are in the service of the common good. A key aspect of our agenda is the development and maintenance of a vision that is energising and achievable. The challenge is to identify and respond to the connections between the international, national and local policy frameworks in a manner that supports good practice and positive outcomes for all people and the environment. We focus on tackling the causes of problems, providing evidence-based research and offering solutions. In the past year our research and proposals for alternatives in policy development have been greatly sought after, especially by policymakers who are approaching us to engage on a range of key policy areas.

The stance taken by *Social Justice Ireland* is developed by the Board in line with our Strategic Plan (2016-2020) and from the perspective of human dignity, human rights, the common good and sustainability. This is a dynamic document, robust enough to provide a strategy for the years ahead, while also providing room to respond to a rapidly changing environment. The Board marked the mid-way point on this plan by reviewing and updating it. The theme chosen for the year was *Social Justice Matters*.

During the past year the organisation benefitted from the work and support of:

- The Academic Advisory Council who ensure that standards are maintained in the areas of research, publications and policy stance.
- The Budget Team who research and help to prepare the pre- and post-Budget documentation.
- The Board Audit and Organisation sub-committee who work on sustainability issues e.g. structure, membership, funding and staffing.

- The Communications Sub-Committee which develops, supports and helps to evaluate our communications strategy.

In October 2017 *Social Justice Ireland* was very honoured to accept an award from Fiscal.ie (formerly the Foundation for Fiscal Studies). Fiscal.ie said the award was being made to *Social Justice Ireland* in recognition of our “outstanding work”. The award was made as part of the annual Fiscal.ie announcement of the Miriam Hederman O’Brien Award. The particular piece of work was the Social Policy Book of 2016 entitled *Basic Income: Radical Utopia or Practical Solution?* On behalf of the Board and Membership, I congratulate the staff on this achievement.

An outline of our mission and activities are given in the following pages. Evaluation is part of our ongoing processes where attention is given to outcomes. You will notice that *Social Justice Ireland* maintains a strong international involvement contributing to Caritas Europa’s annual study on the Europe 2020 Strategy and also publishing a study of the socio-economic situation in the 28 EU member states. We have also invested significant resources into research, publications and advocacy on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Local and regional issues are an important part of our agenda. Five years ago, *Social Justice Ireland* put significant resources into the design and establishment of the Public Participation Networks (PPNs). This commitment has continued in our encouragement, training and support of the PPNs, as well as our participation on the PPN National Advisory Group.

Appropriate Board time was given to issues of governance. The big issue this year was the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). A member of staff who is skilled in this area was tasked with ensuring all our systems are GDPR compliant. We are happy to confirm that *Social Justice Ireland* is compliant with the Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland. It has also signed the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising. All required documentation has been supplied to the Charities Regulatory Authority and we have made all necessary submissions to the Lobbying Register.

Deep gratitude is due to Board members and the members of the groups listed above who give generously of their time and expertise to enhance the work of *Social Justice Ireland*. They have been a great support to our staff who have put quality time into the work of the organisation. The following pages attest to the large volume of work done by *Social Justice Ireland*. While paid staff produce much of this work, we are also fortunate enough to avail of the pro bono services of Board members, Committee members and volunteers who have particular expertise.

Thank you, members of *Social Justice Ireland*. Your support, both financial and moral is very encouraging and energising.

**Justin Kilcullen**  
**Chairperson**

## Work Programme

The Strategic Plan of *Social Justice Ireland* covers the period 2016-2020. A work programme is developed each year on the basis of this plan. The following pages outline the work done during the past year. The work is summarised under each of the three Core Programmes: Public Policy & Research; Empowerment & Spirituality; and Communications.

## Public Policy and Research

### Research

- Researched and published the Policy Briefing *Budget Choices*.
- Prepared and published our *National Social Monitor*.
- Researched and published the autumn edition of the *Employment Monitor*.
- Worked with the Living Wage Technical Group on updating the living wage rate.
- Researched and published *Budget 2018, Analysis and Critique*.
- Researched and presented two papers to our Annual Social Policy Conference, theme: *Society Matters: Reconnecting People and the State*
- Researched and published the Winter *Employment Monitor*.
- Updated and published the work on *A Universal Social Welfare Pension*.
- Completed research on *Recovery in Europe? - Not for the Left Behind and Left Out* – a review of the social situation in Europe and considerations for a more sustainable and inclusive future (part of our European Research Series).
- Completed the Annual Report drawing together the responses of Public Participation Networks (PPNs) from Local Authorities across the country
- Published *Measuring Progress: Economy, Society and Environment in Ireland*. Research undertaken by Professor Charles Clark and Dr Catherine Kavanagh on the Sustainable Development Goals for *Social Justice Ireland*.
- Concluded the research and published the Socio-Economic Review (SER) for 2018 entitled *Social Justice Matters; 2018 guide to a fairer Irish society*.
- Prepared and published a Policy Briefing entitled *Poverty Focus*.
- Published our Sustainable Progress Index comparing the performances of the EU-15 countries on progressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). entitled *Measuring Progress: Economy, Society and Environment in Ireland*.
- Published a follow up paper entitled, *Ireland vs EU28: Monitoring Irelands Performance towards Achieving the SDGs*, which expanded this analysis to include all EU28 countries in our study and compared Ireland's progress to the EU28 average

### Submissions

**In the past year *Social Justice Ireland* made submissions to the following:**

- The Department of Housing on the Review of Rebuilding Ireland.
- The Department of Health in response to their Consultation on Home Care.

- The Citizen's Assembly on Climate Change.
- Submitted our *Budget Choices* Policy Briefing to all Government Departments.
- The review of the Open Government Partnership.
- The Department of Rural & Community Development on their Statement of Strategy for 2017 – 2020.
- The Charities Regulator on the Governance of Charities.
- The Department of Rural & Community Development on Terms of Reference for Local Community Development Committees.
- The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection on their strategy 2017 – 2020.
- The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government on the Strategy for Libraries.
- The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform – online consultation - on various issues.
- The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation on the Action Plan for Jobs.
- The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation/ Low Pay Commission on the National Minimum Wage.
- The Department of Communication, Climate Action & Environment on the National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The Department of Employment and Social Protection on the new National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2018 - 2021
- The Department of the Taoiseach on Ireland and the 2020 Strategy focusing on the social inclusion aspects of the National Reform Programme.
- The Department of Rural and Community Development on the Review of the Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO).
- Researched and published an issue of the Summer Quarterly *Employment Monitor*.
- The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the implementation of an off-balance sheet Cost Rental model.
- The Central Bank of Ireland on its Strategic Plan 2019-2021.

## **Europe**

- Completed a study of the socio-economic situation in the 28 EU member states and considerations for a more sustainable and inclusive future entitled *Recovery in Europe? - Not for the Left Behind or Left Out*.
- Invited to participate on the Panel for the European Economic & Social Committee (EESC) Consultation.
- Invited to meet with the EU staff in the Dublin Office.
- Made a presentation to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the European Semester Process re the White Paper on the Future of Europe.
- Had a meeting with the Semester Officer in the European Commission Office regarding the social direction of Europe and the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Was invited by the European Commission Office to give initial comments and critique of the Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland from the European Commission.
- Participated in a roundtable with DG ECFIN Director Martínez Mongay, looking at the European Commission's Ireland report and their Country Specific Recommendations.
- Met with the EU Commission's Dublin office to discuss our analysis of Ireland's performance in delivering the Europe 2020 Strategy.

### **Caritas Europa**

- Produced the Ireland section of the Caritas Europa Shadow Report on the Europe 2020 Strategy.

### **Better Europe Alliance**

- Invited as part of Better Europe Alliance to meet DG ECFIN to discuss Annual Growth Survey by European Commission Office Dublin.

### **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

- To mark UN World Day for Social Justice (Feb 20), we organised a conference on the Sustainable Development Goals. Prof Clark, Dr Kavanagh and Niamh Linehan prepared the research entitled *Measuring Progress: Economy, Society and Environment in Ireland* on the Goals. This shows how Ireland is doing over time and how the EU-15 are ranged vis-a-vis each other.
- The event was over-subscribed – we closed registration at 107 participants from many fields of interest.
- The conference was live-streamed by Kairos and attracted a big audience.
- The outline of the study and its methodology were presented in Brussels to a meeting of organisations linked to the European Environmental Bureau and their project on SDGs.
- A further study of the progress of the EU28 countries was also published.
- Two further pieces of research were completed on inequality:
  - A 4-page Policy Briefing on Inequality.
  - A 34-page analysis titled Reflections on Inequality in Ireland.

### **NESC**

Seán Healy, as an elected representative of the Community and Voluntary Pillar, participates in the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) meetings. He took part in a NESC Policy Workshop on Land Use, Land Value and Urban Development.

### **Meetings with Government, Officials, Politicians & Advisers**

- Met with the Tánaiste and Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation re the Action Plan for Jobs 2018 (led the Pillar linkage group).
- Met with Minister for Finance, Pascal Donohue TD on the Budget and on taxation.
- Met with Minister for Employment Affairs & Social Protection, Ms Regina Doherty TD.
- Met Minister Denis Naughton TD re our Sustainable Progress Index and the SDGs.
- Met Minister Michael Ring TD on Rural and Community issues.
- Invited to meet the President Mr. Michael D Higgins to discuss the SDGs as part of a wider group.
- Met with the Secretary General of the Department of Finance, Mr Derek Moran.
- Met with the Assistant Secretary General, Department of Finance on Taxation.
- Met with Sinn Fein policy team on Budget and Pension issues.
- Met with Mr Willie O’Dea, TD, and policy team on Budget and on Pensions.
- Made a presentation to the Oireachtas Committee on Budgetary Oversight.
- Made a presentation to the Oireachtas Committee on European Union Affairs.



- Made a presentation on introducing a Universal State Old Age Pension in Leinster House. This was attended by TDs, Senators and Advisors from all groupings who are spokespeople, or engaged with, pensions policy
- Seán Healy is a member of the National Framework 2040 Advisory Committee and attended meetings with Ministers Simon Coveney TD and Damien English TD.
- Met with officials in the Department of Rural and Community Development on Public Participation Networks (PPNs).
- Met the officials in the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment who were preparing Ireland's Voluntary National Report on implementation of SDGs for presentation at the UN in July 2018.
- Took part in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection's consultation on pension reform, including making a number of submissions on each of the different aspects of pension system reform currently under consideration.
- Participated in a review of the National Risk Assessment in the Department of the Taoiseach.
- Participated in a stakeholder discussion at the Department of the Taoiseach on developing a digital strategy.
- Participated in the National Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals in the Department of the Taoiseach.

#### **Meetings with, and via, Community & Voluntary Pillar of Social Partners**

- Participated in the regular meetings of the CV Pillar.
- Led the representation from the CV Pillar to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government on Housing.
- Participated in the delegations to the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection on a wide agenda.
- Played an active role in the National Advisory Group on Public Participation Networks (PPNs).
- Made a presentation on introducing a Universal State Old Age Pension to the CV sector and invited their response to the study.
- Participated in the bilateral meetings with the Department of Rural and Community Development.

#### **Basic Income**

- Continued work with Basic Income Ireland, the Irish branch of BIEN (Basic Income Earth Network).
- Presented a paper at the BIEN Congress on Basic Income in Lisbon on the Politics of Basic Income.
- Commenced work on the next research paper on Basic Income for Ireland.

#### **Social Policy Conference 2017**

- The theme for the Conference was *Society Matters: Reconnecting People and the State*.
- The attendance was about 120 and representative of the various interests including policy-makers, academics, media, arts and community activists.
- Participation and feedback were good but more might have been gained by having more time for questions and answers.

- There was very positive response to the keynote address by President Michael D. Higgins. The President has followed up with a series of speeches building on his presentation at our conference.
- With the help of Kairos Communications, the conference was livestreamed on YouTube on our website. These presentations are now available online.
- The cartoonist who sketched each paper as it was being presented was much appreciated. His work is also available now on our website.
- We published the papers as a book entitled *Society Matters: Reconnecting People and the State* on the day of the conference.

### **Budget 2018**

We researched and published three documents on Budget 2018:

- Presented our Budget proposals in a meeting with the Minister for Finance (as part of the CV Pillar).
- A Policy Briefing on Tax Options published in September 2017.
- An analysis and critique of Budget 2018 published on the day following the Budget.
- Hosted a Post-Budget Seminar hosted by in Buswells hotel. With the help of Kairos Communications this Seminar was live streamed through our website. This webcast is now available on our website and on YouTube.

### **Budget 2019**

- We researched and published our policy briefing 'Budget Choices' which included proposals and a costed Budget – published in June 2018.
- Held a Seminar and Press Conference to launch *Budget Choices*. About 45 people attended and the media coverage was very good.
- Presented our Budget proposals to the Pre-Budget Forum hosted by the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

### **National Economic Dialogue**

Seán Healy, Brigid Reynolds and Eamon Murphy were invited to participate in, and spoke at, this two-day event.

## **Empowerment and Spirituality**

### **a) Workshops/Conferences/Seminars**

*Social Justice Ireland* facilitated and/or provided input into **21** workshops/conferences/seminars involving **1,357** people on a variety of public policy and values issues. These figures **do not include** the work with the Public Participation Networks (PPNs) which is outlined in the next section.

Among these workshops/seminars/conferences were the following presentations:

- Facilitation of a three-day SMA National Conference
- Dublin Economics Workshop on Pensions
- Trócaire Seminar

- NERI Seminar on the Budget.
- TCD Seminar on Pension
- DIT Seminar on Housing
- Tutorial on Homeless Prevention Seminar at DCU
- Basic Income Ireland Conference.
- BIEN World Congress on Basic Income held in Lisbon.
- Coalition 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals
- Pensions Conference in Trinity College.
- MA Programme in Education in University of Limerick/MI
- AGM of Irish Rural Link.
- International Budget Project Seminar in Amsterdam
- Business in the Community

#### **b) Public Participation Networks (PPNs)**

*Social Justice Ireland* continues to play a major role in the development of PPNs across the country. We have continued and expanded our on-going training programme and also held a series of regional meetings in the Spring and the Autumn. There are now more than 12,800 local organisations who are members of PPNs. There are more than 800 representatives on local boards and committees and PPNs are now moving towards greater participation in the decision-making structures and processes at local level all over the country. In its work with PPNs during the past year *Social Justice Ireland* also:

- Collected the information for, and produced, the Annual Report 2017 on the PPNs.
- Worked with the Irish Environmental Network to develop a practical toolkit and methodology to support PPNs to develop a Vision for Community Wellbeing to guide their work.
- Supported the DEAR project in their engagement with PPNs regarding the SDGs.
- Met with the Department of Community and Rural Affairs regarding PPNs.
- Presented 15 training sessions for PPN members in 6 venues around the country.
- Facilitated a number of Regional Meetings.
- Seán Healy is the Social Exclusion representative on the PPN National Advisory Group.

#### **c) MA in Social Justice & Public Policy**

We finalised plans for the MA in Social Justice & Public Policy with the Waterford Institute of Technology and began the process of recruiting students for the September 2018 commencement of this two-year programme.

#### **d) Trocaire**

We implemented the agreed programme of work for Trocaire which included input and Research on Overseas Development Aid.

#### **e) Alone**

Renewed our strategic partnership with ALONE for another year. This includes membership of oversight committees; strategic planning; advising ALONE on research, communications and political engagement.

**f) Living Wage Group**

We continued our involvement with this group which sets the rate for the Living Wage each year.

## Communications

**a) Communication with Members**

We sent regular updates to members and invited their views on the work being done.

**b) Publications**

- Budget 2018 Analysis and Critique.
- Policy Briefing on *Budget Choices*.
- *National Social Monitor*.
- 4 issues of the *Quarterly Employment Monitor*.
- *Analysis and Critique of Budget 2018*.
- *Ireland and the Europe 2020 strategy: Employment, Education and Poverty*.
- *Society Matters: Reconnecting People and the State* -the papers of the Social Policy Conference (November 2017).
- *Recovery in Europe? – Not for the Left Behind and the Left Out* (January 2018)
- Policy Briefing entitled *Poverty Focus*.
- Published Socio-Economic Review for 2018 entitled *Social Justice Matters: 2018 guide to a fairer Irish society*.
- Published a tax policy briefing entitled *Fairness and Tax Reform*.
- *Measuring Progress: Economy, Society and Environment in Ireland* - the Sustainable Progress Index 2018 on the SDGs.
- Published an analysis of the EU-28's performance on the Sustainable Development Goals with a special focus on Ireland.
- Contributed a chapter to a book edited by Seán McDonagh on Laudato Si, the Encyclical by Pope Francis on the Environment.

**c) Website**

- The *Social Justice Ireland* website had over four million hits in the last 12 months with over 700 unique visitors each weekday.

**d) Newsreleases**

*Social Justice Ireland* issued 46 news releases during the year; some were promoting our publications and events, while others were responding to developments and highlighting our position on various issues.

**e) Electronic and Print Media Coverage**

*Social Justice Ireland* engaged with the media, print and electronic, so as to promote the outcomes we sought in the various issues raised. In the past year we are aware of the following coverage in the media:

- 10 TV interviews broadcast on news and current affairs programmes.
- 1,042 views of videos on *Social Justice Ireland* YouTube channel

- 26 interviews on **National Radio** news and current affairs programmes.
- 128 interviews broadcast on 462 **Local Radio** news and current affairs programmes, many of which were repeated several times.
- Over 75 stories in the **National** press including 10 editorials and 6 op-ed pieces.
- 96 online newspaper articles.
- We are aware of over 124 articles and stories in the **Local press**.

**f) Social Media**

- Our combined social media footprint is now 17,877 up from 15,209 (+18%) in the past year

## Evaluation, Impacts and Outcomes

Evaluation is an ongoing process where great attention is given to outcomes and impacts. It is carried out in the following phases:

- The weekly staff meetings where specific projects are reviewed in relation to inputs, outputs and impacts. The short-term impacts and outcomes (both planned and unexpected) are assessed. The learnings are noted.
- The annual ‘think-in’ by the staff provides an opportunity to reflect on these learnings and the medium-term outcomes when planning the following year’s work.
- The sub-committees of the Board monitor the activities within their areas of interest.
- At its regular meetings, the Board reviews the report by the staff on outcomes and impacts of recent and current activities.
- A thoughtful and well-focused preparation ensures that the annual think-in by the Board gives space for medium to long-term evaluation of outcomes and impacts.

## Proposals for the Future

The work of Social Justice Ireland for the next two years will be in the service of the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 as amended by the Board at its annual think-in.

## Members of the Board

### Members of the Board of Social Justice Ireland

#### *Officers*

Justin Kilcullen (Chairperson)

Brigid Reynolds (Secretary)

#### *Adviser*

Micheál Collins (Public Policy Adviser)

#### *Directors*

Connor Barry

Margaret Hassett

Angela Durkin,

Joe Egan

Tony Fahey

Michael Howlett

Tom Jordan

Sandra McCullagh

Finbarr Tracey

Sandra O'Hara

Brid Ryan

Michael Tobin

Seán Ward

Pat Healy (co-opted February 2018)

Colette Bennett (resigned January 2018)

### Staff of Social Justice Ireland

Seán Healy

Chief Executive Officer

Colette Bennett

Research and Policy Analyst (since January 2018)

Sara Bourke,

Policy Communications Officer (to April 2018)

Ann Leahy

European Social Policy Analyst (to February 2018)

Eamon Murphy

Economic and Social Analyst

Michelle Murphy

Research and Policy Analyst

Brigid Reynolds

Deputy CEO

### Retiring members of the Board

Connor Barry

Michael Howlett

Sandra O'Hara

Brid Ryan

### The following have been nominated for election to the Board

Connor Barry

Pat Healy

Michael Howlett

Brid Ryan

## Mission and Values

***Social Justice Ireland* advances the lives of people and communities through providing independent social analysis and effective policy development to create a sustainable future for every member of society and for societies as a whole.**

- We advance the lives of people and communities by working to build a just society. In doing this we give special priority to national and international issues related to poverty, inequality, social exclusion, sustainability and the environment.
- As an independent think tank *Social Justice Ireland* is a significant research resource in the area of social justice and public policy. We provide accurate social analysis of the current situation on an ongoing basis and identify effective policy proposals to address challenges.
- We are one of the leading advocates for the changes needed for a future that is sustainable economically, environmentally and socially. We identify credible alternatives and effective pathways to resolving challenges faced across a wide range of public policy.
- *Social Justice Ireland* works to ensure that every member of society, and society as a whole, can flourish and thrive in a sustainable manner. We have a special concern for those who are vulnerable or on the margins of society. We believe that the dignity of all is enhanced when those on the margins of society are included. Consequently, we promote the development of an inclusive society in which everyone's rights and responsibilities are recognised and honoured.
- We work both nationally and internationally. The inter-relatedness of the local and the global requires that issues be addressed at different levels to ensure appropriate solutions are identified and implemented. We bring this perspective to bear on all we do.

### Values

*Social Justice Ireland* promotes the values of both human dignity and the centrality of the community. The person is seen as growing and developing in a context that includes other people and the environment. Justice is understood in terms of right relationships. A just society is one that is structured in such a way as to promote right relationships so that human rights are respected, human dignity is protected, human development is facilitated, and the environment is respected and protected.

*Social Justice Ireland* speaks for those who have no voice in policy debates. We place a very high value on integrity in all we do and are confident enough to take an uncommon point of view or to propose an unpopular solution.

### Core Programmes

To ensure both effectiveness and efficiency in our work and to achieve our strategic objectives, *Social Justice Ireland* has three programmes, each with a number of projects. These programmes address:

- 1) Public Policy and Research
- 2) Empowerment and Spirituality
- 3) Communications

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017

Held in Croke Park, Dublin,  
on Tuesday November 21, 2017 @ 5.15pm

## Minutes

**Present:** Justin Kilcullen (Chairperson), Seán Ward, John O'Brien, Margaret Hassett, Therese Hasset, Danielle Martin, Tony Fahey, Tom Curran, Sheila Curran, Martin Kavanagh, Mary Connaughton, Eleanor Pearson, Ann Leahy, Tom Jordan, Neville Keery, Finbarr Tracey, Seán Healy, Brigid Reynolds, (Secretary)

### 1. Opening

The meeting was chaired by Justin Kilcullen, Chairperson of *Social Justice Ireland*. Justin welcomed the 18 members present to the Annual General Meeting of *Social Justice Ireland*.

### 2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM Meeting

Seán Ward proposed the adoption of the minutes of the last meeting. This was seconded by Tom Jordan.

### 3. Adoption of Annual Report

Copies of the annual report were circulated. The Chairperson, Justin Kilcullen introduced the report. Seán Healy presented an outline of the report under the three programmes. Sheila Curran proposed the adoption of the Report. It was seconded by Mags Hassett. Members commented on the volume and quality of the work done and the impact it was having on policy. The research was seen as useful, accessible and user friendly. The staff was thanked for their commitment and professionalism.

### 4. Adoption of the Financial Report

Brigid Reynolds presented the financial report which had been circulated to Members. She noted that the full audit will be on the website shortly. She drew attention to the deficit which had been reduced from €75K in 2016 to €30K as income has been increased. Justin Kilcullen and Seán Healy reported that the fundraising strategy is showing results. Tony Fahey proposed the adoption of the Financial Report which was seconded by Mary Connaughton.

### 5. Elections

Five members were nominated to fill the five vacancies on the Board. The following were returned unopposed; Angela Durkin, Sandra McCullagh, Tony Fahey, Tom Jordan, Michael Tobin

6. In the absence of any other business the meeting was closed @ 5.40 pm.



**Social Justice Ireland** is an independent think-tank and justice advocacy organisation of individuals and groups throughout Ireland who are committed to working to build a just society where human rights are respected, human dignity is protected, human development is facilitated and the environment is respected and protected.



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