



Annual Report 2013

Incorporating Financial Statements for 2013

Mission Statement

To contribute to public health and well-being by promoting food safety and healthy eating on the island of Ireland.

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The complex environment of food safety and dietary health requires **safefood** to be a flexible and responsive organisation.

In developing this response we rely on our internal multi-disciplinary expertise, complemented by our formal advisory structures and the expertise of others through our professional networks.

Chief Executive's statement

With **safefood's** all-island remit and the inter-agency nature of our work, partnership continues to be at the centre of our success. Our approach is to bring about acceptance that the promotion of food safety and healthy eating is a shared responsibility and that positive outcomes for people are best achieved through professional and constructive partnerships.

Our core function is promoting food safety and good nutrition on the island of Ireland and all of our activities are based on sound scientific advice. In addition to the extensive range of international scientific evidence available, **safefood** also commission research to complement existing evidence and to address specific knowledge gaps. This research programme provides essential evidence to support our activities. During 2013 a number of key research findings were published including a study on the microbiology of hand contact surfaces, research into weight management in the primary care sector and a study of nutrition amongst early school leavers.

This year also saw the launch of our new three year campaign aimed at helping parents to take on this issue of overweight and obesity in childhood. Tackling childhood obesity is a public health priority, with one in four children now overweight or obese. Our campaign communicates a range of practical solutions that parents can take on to tackle the everyday habits associated with excess weight in childhood. The campaign also serves to maintain awareness among parents of the health challenges posed by excess weight in childhood, the negative impact this can have on the quality of life and the importance of tackling this for the long-term. Without action to slow down and stop current trends in the weight of adults and children, our future generations will face significant health problems related to excess weight, most of which is potentially preventable.

In the area of food safety, the second phase of our Food Waste campaign was implemented in May, with a focus on the 'use by' date on food and encouraging consumers to eat food or freeze it by that date. With consumer research highlighting that one in five adults finds some level of difficulty understanding food labels and more than one in three regarding 'best before' and 'use by' dates on food labels meaning the same thing, the campaign aimed to raise awareness of the difference these terms and how this knowledge helps with both food safety and food wastage in the home.

On behalf of the **safefood** Advisory Board and my colleagues, I would like to thank all those individuals and organisations who have worked with us in 2013 to address the challenges that face us. We look forward to continuing this partnership approach and to improving public health on the island of Ireland.



Ray Dolan, Chief Executive Officer.



safefood is an all-island implementation body set up under the British-Irish Agreement with a general remit to promote awareness and knowledge of food safety and nutrition issues on the island of Ireland.

safefood places the consumer at the centre of its marketing and communications activities when communicating messages of food safety, food hygiene and nutrition on the island of Ireland.

Overview

Our activities include:

- Promotion of food safety
- Research into food safety
- Communication of nutritional advice
- Promotion of scientific co-operation and laboratory linkages
- Provide independent scientific advice
- Deliver consumer focused review.

Our four directorates;

- Marketing and Communications
- Corporate Operations
- Human Health and Nutrition, and
- Food Science

work together in order to deliver the above remit.

The Corporate Operations directorate ensures that **safefood** complies with all legal requirements and responsibilities from finance, HR and Information Systems and promoting best practice in all areas of corporate policy making and governance. Corporate Operations has overall responsibility for the research function and the development of the laboratory linkages programme and scientific co-operation.

The remit of the Human Health and Nutrition directorate is in the nutritional safety of food and the prevention of infectious foodborne diseases through **safefood's** communication and research programmes.

The Food Science directorate undertakes all aspects of food safety as related to microbiology, chemistry and toxicology including scientific assessments, identifying research and surveys and surveillance of foodborne diseases. Specialist scientific advice and support is also provided to external stakeholders.

The Marketing and Communications directorate promotes the corporate messages of the organisation to a number of key audiences using the most effective channels. The key messages around food safety, food hygiene and nutrition are communicated to the public using a combination of media relations, advertising, promotional activity, events, direct marketing, publications, sponsorship and digital channels.

Food safety

The principal focus of **safefood's** food safety programmes is to inform and empower individuals with the knowledge and incentive to positively influence food safety behaviour. The provision of an adequate and robust evidence-base to guide communications is of the utmost importance and **safefood** uses the best scientific evidence available to produce clear, realistic, appropriate and independent consumer advice.

In doing so, **safefood** targets relevant knowledge-gaps in prioritising its research through a structured programme of horizon-scanning (to interpret and identify emerging issues in food safety), as well as addressing consumer food science concerns. In its unique North/South position, **safefood** promotes scientific cooperation and linkages with laboratories and other stakeholders to strengthen the integrity of the food chain through initiatives including the **safefood** Knowledge Networks.

We play a pivotal role in connecting food safety professionals and enabling the sharing of knowledge and expertise.

Knowledge Networks

The eight Knowledge Networks are: Verocytotoxigenic *escherichia coli* (VTEC); *Salmonella*; *Campylobacter*; *Listeria*; *Cryptosporidium*; Chemical residues; biotoxins; and food allergy and intolerance. Each Network is facilitated by an expert in each topic area.

A customer charter was developed for the networks in collaboration between **safefood** and the network facilitators. The charter outlines what members can expect from the networks and what is expected of those who are members. The charter is available to view on the Network homepage.

The Knowledge Network Training and Mobility programme continued to generate interest. The programme enables members to visit and spend time in another organisation to develop their knowledge and expertise in an area related to the scope of the networks and to disseminate the knowledge gained to other professionals. Members obtain an ideal opportunity to enhance skills and broaden their experience.

Membership for the networks continued to increase in 2013. At 31 December 2013, the membership across the networks was over 1,800 members. Each network delivered an annual conference and member newsletter.

Highlights from the year were:

Food Allergy and Intolerance Network

The Food Allergy and Intolerance Network held two innovative events in September as part of Allergy Awareness week.

The first of these events was a network meeting on Oral Immunotherapy that attracted key stakeholders and consumers, including children, with allergies. The developer of this treatment, Dr. Andrew Clark, delivered an excellent presentation on his work on 'the treatment and resolution of food allergies.'



The second event was a debate hosted by the Northern Ireland Assembly Group on Science and Technology (APG) in the Senate Chamber, Stormont. The theme for the event was 'The Food Allergy Epidemic – is a cure in sight?' Organised in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry speakers represented support organisations, consumers with allergies and medical professionals.

Chemical Residues Network

The Chemical Residues Network held its annual conference in September in collaboration with the 'Safe and Healthy Foods' Project coordinated by Teagasc. The theme for the conference was 'Agri-Food Antibiotics: Residues, Regulation and Resistance.' The event was attended by over 100 delegates and the full programme included contributions from both the island of Ireland and international experts, together with a robust horizon scanning section. A number of presentations and interviews have been recorded and disseminated online.

Campylobacter Network

The *Campylobacter* annual conference took place on the 17 May 2013 in Teagasc Food Research Centre Ashtown Dublin. A wide range of topics were covered including legal aspects of food poisoning claims and the experiences of Environmental Health Officers in investigating cases of *Campylobacter*.

Listeria Network

The *Listeria* Network held their annual conference in November in collaboration with PROMISE, an EU funded research project. The theme for the conference was addressing issues of *Listeria* occurrence. Speakers included two internationally recognised experts, Prof Martin Weidman of Cornell University and Dr. Dagmar Schroder of University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna. The event was attended by over 140 delegates from a range of sectors including food production, research, academia and the public sector. The conference was live streamed so that members who were unable to attend could view the presentations and proceedings.

Salmonella Network

The annual conference of the *Salmonella* Knowledge Network took place in University College Dublin (UCD) on 24 April 2013. The keynote speaker was Dr. Larry Beuchat from the Centre for Food Safety at the University of Georgia, United States of America who highlighted issues associated with *Salmonella* in low moisture foods. Other presentations followed from speakers representing UCD, the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority, Crème Global and Queens University Belfast.

Biotoxins Network

The Biotoxins Knowledge Network held its annual conference on 4 December 2013 in Belfast. The theme for the conference was 'Emerging Risks in the Feed Supply Chain' which focused on known and emerging threats to human and animal health posed by contamination of animal feed ingredients and traded globally.

Local and international experts, from both academia and industry, presented on a number of topics and a poster session describing current research in this area was also included. The event was attended by over 80 delegates from academic, industrial and regulatory backgrounds. The presentations were uploaded on the Knowledge Network website.

Research

Food safety policies are underpinned by comprehensive access to current, accurate, high-quality scientific information, and to adequate means for the analysis and interpretation of such data.

In order to address gaps in scientific knowledge related to food safety and to facilitate timely decision-making on emerging issues, **safefood** aims to undertake appropriate research and knowledge gathering.

The **safefood** research office is supported by the Scientific Advisory Committee, which brings together experienced experts from food safety constituent groups who can advise on key food safety concerns.

The research office aims to commission research to address these concerns. The research office is responsible for the commissioning, monitoring and dissemination of research information.

The majority of our research findings go on to be published documents. The following research projects were completed in 2013;

Telephone Survey of Infectious Intestinal Disease (IID) in the Republic of Ireland

This report described the telephone survey undertaken by **safefood** to obtain data on the self-reported incidence of infectious intestinal disease (IID) in the population in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) using two recall periods: seven days and 28 days. The incidence of IID in ROI was compared with the incidence in Northern Ireland, using data from the Second Study of IID in the UK, and an incidence for the island of Ireland (IOI) was estimated. The results showed that rates of IID in the ROI are generally similar to those in the UK as a whole.

Based on the findings of the survey three recommendations are proposed: continued efforts are required to reduce the rate of IID in the community especially amongst the under-five age group, there should be continued commitment to the provision of guidance to consumers as to what to do if they suspect they have food poisoning including when to access a health professional and there should be continued efforts to provide universally accepted case definitions for infectious intestinal disease.

Weight Management in Primary Care

The aim of this research was to explore the current attitudes and skills of primary care health professionals on the island of Ireland towards weight management with a view to supporting them in identifying, treating and managing the public health challenge of overweight and obesity.

The findings confirm primary care health professionals clearly recognise their role in this area of healthcare. Some of the recommendations include; a programme of training for primary health care professionals on weight issues should be implemented and measuring patient's weight, height and waist circumference should become routine in primary care consultations.



An assessment of the microbiology of hand contact surfaces in the retail environment

This study aimed to assess the microbiology of food and hand contact surfaces in the retail environment and the potential for these surfaces to act as vehicles for the spread of foodborne pathogens.

During the survey, ten retail stores in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) were visited by student Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) who took swab samples from four surfaces: conveyor belts, long-life shopping bags, shopping trolley handles and keypads on card payment units. The responses to the hygiene questionnaires showed good hygiene practices in place in the supermarkets visited, with all conveyor belts reportedly cleaned at least once a day. Overall, this short survey of 10 supermarkets did not highlight any cause for concern or potential for transfer of foodborne pathogens from the surfaces sampled to that of foods or to customers' hands.

Early school leavers and nutrition

This research (undertaken by the Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin and the Northern Ireland Centre for Diet and Health at the University of Ulster) suggests that early school leavers are similar to other socio-economically marginalised groups at risk of poor health outcomes, in terms of food poverty, poor nutrition, overweight, obesity and smoking. However, opportunities exist to influence policy in areas such as the funding of meals, kitchen equipment and facilities, and food quality and safety. It also suggests that opportunities exist for guidelines for good practice in food education.

Evaluation of community food initiatives

Recent analysis has estimated that as many as one in ten households on the island of Ireland are experiencing food poverty. This research report provided a summary of the evaluation of a three year **safefood** funded programme, delivered by Healthy Food for All, of seven Community Food Initiatives (CFIs) based in areas of socio-economic deprivation across the island of Ireland. The report highlights that the practical community-based approach is valuable and worthwhile.

Research continued

Do you have a kids' menu?

The aim of this research is to investigate the range of food available for children while eating outside the home, and to identify barriers to and opportunities for the provision of healthier food options in this environment. Some key findings were that few nutrition policies include the family eating-out sector and, when included, often lacked specific details and evaluation strategies to ensure their effectiveness.

Two-thirds (64 per cent) of caterers surveyed reported that they provide healthier options for children, but only 27 per cent reported actively promoting these. Caterers' attitudes towards the appeal of healthier options was mixed, but the majority agreed that they would provide healthy choices if the demand was greater.

Good days and Bad Days – Habits of shoppers when they do or don't buy healthy food

This published research sought to gain an understanding of the reasoning behind consumers' food choices and to explore the role of shopping practices/strategies that both promote and impede healthy shopping behaviour.

Based on the findings of the report, **safefood's** key recommendations for consumers are to; make a meal plan ahead of shopping, be in the right frame of mind, stick with your plan to buy fresh healthy food, look at labels and avoid promotions for unhealthy foods.

Consumer Focused Review – Fruit and Vegetables

This review provides an update on the fruit and vegetable review conducted in 2006. It collates and considers the information available – academic, regulatory, public health – on the health and food safety implications of fruit and vegetables.

It focused on ready-to-eat fresh fruit and vegetables which are consumer raw, whether whole or prepared and includes products packaged under vacuum or in a modified atmosphere that have no undergone any treatment (chemical, physical or biological) to ensure preservation other than chilling.

Barriers discussed by consumers in 2012 were similar to those in 2006, however cost was the most significant barrier discussed in 2012, compared to inconvenience in 2006. Package size and potential waste was a factor that was specific to the 2012 findings.



Nutrition

safefood has a legislative role in 'providing food safety advice and guidance, including advice on nutritional aspects of various foods.' It requires **safefood** to participate actively in the field of nutrition.

Nutrition related issues in particular obesity are among the key public health threats facing all developed countries. This is a considerable challenge facing society across the island of Ireland and a multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary approach is required. Given **safefood's** all-island remit, it is uniquely placed to make a valuable contribution in tackling obesity and other nutrition related issues on an all-island basis.

Over the past three years **safefood** has developed key partnerships and collaborations with nutrition stakeholders on the island of Ireland. **safefood** will continue to adopt a complementary and collaborative approach in the area.

Your Child's Weight – A Guide to Preventing Childhood Obesity

This booklet was published in October 2013 as part of the new Childhood Obesity Campaign (see campaigns) and contains practical advice for parents on how to make small changes to their children's diet and physical activity habits which could make a difference to their future health. As well as advice there are menu suggestions, information on portion sizes as well as information on food labelling, the food pyramid and some useful reward charts and food and activity trackers.

Food Portion Guide for Crèches

It is well known that determining portion sizes for young children can be somewhat difficult; they need to be adequate without being excessive. This food guide offers practical help to all those providing food for pre-school age children. In the form of a picture-manual, it gives serving sizes to guide care-givers, parents and guardians on suitable sizes. The booklet also provides sound advice on family-style eating habits, the introduction of new foods and the environment, which nurtures healthy eating habits for life.

This food guide of serving sizes for pre-school children is the first of its kind developed on the island and was developed as part of The Healthy Incentive for Pre-schools (HIP) project, which established an incentive scheme for full day care pre-schools to improve their nutrition practices. The project supports the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Guidelines for Pre-School Services.

Childhood Obesity Resources- Visually impaired accessibility

A booklet accompanying the current campaign on Childhood Obesity was transposed into audio and Braille formats for the National Council for the Blind in Ireland. These copies will be used at their training centre and also via their network of Community Resource Workers to communicate the information to their membership.

Food poverty and malnutrition

Food poverty is defined as the inability to access a nutritionally adequate diet and is a significant issue for many people on the island of Ireland.

Although the cost of healthy food is a major factor, the inability to access a healthy diet is a complex issue that incorporates education, transport, literacy, culture and environmental planning. Food poverty is yet another outcome of broader determinants of health, such as poor housing, social exclusion and high crime.

Nutrition continued

Community food initiatives 2013-2015

The initial demonstration programme of Community Food Initiatives (CFI's) concluded in December 2012. The application process for a further cohort of initiatives commenced in 2012, and ten projects were selected through a two phase tender process to be awarded funding for the CFI programme for a three year period 2013–2015.

The 2013–2015 programme aims to promote greater access and availability of healthy food in low income areas through a programme of local projects focusing on families with children.

Key learnings from the demonstration programme were shared among the new projects.

safefood and Healthy Food for All launched the new programme of Community Food Initiatives (CFI's) in April. Building on the success of the previous Demonstration Programme of Community Food Initiatives (2010–2012). The launch event shared learnings and outcomes from the previous programmes and demonstrated how they can be applied to ensure long term community sustainability. The event was held in the Northern Ireland Community and Voluntary Association headquarters in Belfast.

The first networking event for the new programmes took place at the Fettercairn Community & Youth Centre in Tallaght, Dublin in June setting the groundwork for collaborative learning among the projects.

All-island Food Poverty Network

safefood and the Food Standards Agency Northern Ireland brought together a number of key stakeholders in 2009 to establish a Food Poverty Network in Northern Ireland (NI). The stakeholders included Healthy Food for All, The Council for the Homeless NI, The Department of Health Social Service and Public Safety, The Food Standards Agency NI, The Institute of Public Health in Ireland, The Public Health Agency and The Public Health Alliance for the island of Ireland.

Work continued in 2013 and the network held three meetings during the year. Outputs included the development of a food poverty indicator providing the level of reported food poverty in ROI on an annual basis. This project was the first time a measurement of its kind was put in place and it will help to identify those groups experiencing food poverty and will allow for more focused strategies and targeted interventions to tackle diet-related health inequalities in society. In NI a plan was put in place to incorporate comparable questions into their annual health surveys from 2013 onwards. It was agreed that research into food basket costs be conducted that would monitor trends in food shopping in low income groups in both jurisdictions under the auspices of the network.

101 Square Meals

101 Square Meals was constructed in the context of the Irish Healthy Eating Guidelines with nutrition and budget as the two main considerations. The recipes are easy to prepare, low-budget and highly nutritious. The hope is that, by using this book, the reader will develop a more balanced diet which will include a reduction in their dietary fat intake as well as a reduction in their food bills. This healthy recipe resource was distributed to family resource centres, citizen information centres, community dieticians and the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS).

Campaigns

Childhood Obesity

safefood launched a multi-media awareness campaign, aimed at parents in October. The three year all-island campaign is in partnership with the HSE and Healthy Ireland framework in the Republic of Ireland and the 'Fitter Futures for All' implementation plan and the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland. Tackling childhood obesity is a public health priority with one in four children across the island of Ireland now carrying excess weight. The campaign aims to communicate practical solutions that parents can incorporate to their lives which will tackle the everyday habits associated with excess weight in childhood. The campaign also aims to maintain awareness among parents of the health challenges posed by excess weight in childhood, the negative impact this can have on the quality of their life and the importance of tackling this for the long term. This year the campaign messaging focused on 'understanding portion sizes for children' and 'replacing sugary drinks with milk or water.' Future messages will tackle habits such as – 'How to manage treat foods like sweets, crisps and chocolate,' 'being more physically active,' 'reducing screen time' and 'encouraging more sleep.'

Significant media coverage of the campaign was achieved and initial consumer research indicates that parents understand the messages and intend to make positive changes.

Operation Transformation

The sixth series of RTE's 'Operation Transformation,' sponsored by **safefood** aired in January. This was our third year sponsoring the show. The show covered five individuals (leaders) in their effort to lose weight, be more active and live a healthier lifestyle. The regular viewing audience was between 500,000 and 600,000 viewers. The programme received extensive coverage and gave a high profile and focus to the question of obesity, and to the related need to control diet and lifestyle.

To build on the success of the series **safefood** took the show 'on the road' and hosted five **safefood** Operation Transformation roadshows in shopping centres around the country. The aim of these events was to help people to actually get involved in healthy eating and physical activity in a fun, interactive and engaging way. **safefood** staff were on hand to provide practical advice on healthy eating for long term weight loss and members of the Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute also lent their support at the events. Visitors to the events were able to join in a free workout with Operation Transformation fitness expert Karl Henry and meet one of the five leaders from the show.

Food Waste

Phase two of the Food Waste campaign went live in May with the focus on advice on the 'use by' date and advised consumers to 'eat it' or 'freeze it' by the 'use by' date. The campaign went live on TV, radio, outdoor and across digital platforms. The social media element of the campaign was supported through the development of campaign images, Facebook and Twitter advertising, blogger outreach and the development of a food waste app for mobile devices.

safefood identified through research that one in five adults find some level of difficulty understanding food labels, while 43 per cent think 'best before' and 'use by' dates on food labels mean the same thing. The campaign aimed to make consumers more aware of the difference between 'best before' and 'use by' dates on food labels and how this knowledge helps with both food safety and food wastage in the home.

Findings from our consumer market research programme indicate that there were increases in those surveyed who understood that eating food past its 'use by' date can lead to food poisoning and who identified that 'best before' is a guideline date and 'use by' is a deadline date.

Education

With the rise in foodborne disease and the changes in our food supply chain, it is important that people are educated on the importance of food safety and food hygiene. Also due to the increase in obesity levels it is important to educate people about the health benefits of a healthy diet and lifestyle. **safefood** recognises that teachers play a vital role in developing the habits of young people. **safefood** continues to work to develop new tools and resources for different age groups and classes across the island of Ireland as well as regularly updating existing resources.

Take Away My Way 2013

'Take Away My Way' is a competition aimed at post-primary students across the island of Ireland and is held in association with St Angela's College Sligo. The aim of the competition is to encourage students to produce a healthier version of their favourite take away food. This year there were almost 1,200 entries and the finals were held on the 8 and 9 May with Nevin Maguire taking part in the judging.

Eat, Taste and Grow

'Eat, Taste and Grow' is a free education resource that aims to increase awareness among primary school children of the origins of their food and local produce, and the role this plays in healthy eating. A competition to promote the resource was sent to all primary schools in Northern Ireland, and invited students to create a T-shirt slogan around a boosting breakfast (one of the topics covered in the Eat Taste and Grow resource). The competition also promoted the importance of a healthy breakfast. Prizes included school trips with the winning school also received a healthy food cookery demonstration by BBC TV chef Paula McIntyre.

Lunchbox leaflet

To coincide with children starting school for the first time in September, copies of the lunchbox leaflet were disseminated to all primary schools across the island of Ireland.

safefood for Life

'**safefood** for life' is a certified food safety programme that is being delivered in post primary schools across the island of Ireland. Promotional fliers advertising this food hygiene teaching and student certification resource were sent out to all secondary schools in September.

Conference attendance

safefood promoted education resources at various teaching conferences including the Association of Teachers of Home Economics (ATHE) Conference, the Diploma in Nutrition Event in Northern Ireland and the Irish National Teachers Congress. The overall focus was to promote **safefood's** education resources and obtain feedback.



Events and conferences

Royal Ulster Agricultural Society (RUAS) Balmoral Show

This year's Balmoral Show was located at the new purpose built Balmoral Park situated at the old Maze site in Lisburn. **safefood's** stand brought the Germ Scene Investigation theme back to the show. Consumers were once again invited onto the stand to find the cause of our food safety alert. Visitors to the stand had to use their food safety knowledge to help them analyse the clues in our kitchen to rule out the suspects and find the culprit. The stand received very positive feedback and engagement, with much media coverage on both television and radio.

All-island Obesity Action Forum

The All-island Obesity Action Forum supports the obesity policies in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland by bringing together stakeholders to identify and promote collaboration in common areas of action across the two jurisdictions; and to facilitate the exchange of best practice and promote networking on the island of Ireland. The forum is facilitated and supported by **safefood**.

The ninth workshop took place on 25 June 2013 in Belfast and focused on childhood obesity and specifically the key learnings to date. Key Note speakers included Professor Philip James from the International Association for the Study of Obesity and Professor Richard Layte from the Economic and Social Research Institute. Practical advice was also provided on how best to approach childhood obesity at a community level.

A further workshop took place in November in Dublin entitled 'Healthy options when eating out.' The event focused on the catering sector and specifically highlighted what is available to individuals and families when they choose to eat outside the home. The event examined consumer behaviour and initiatives available to help guide healthier choices. The workshop also discussed two **safefood** commissioned research reports on 'family eating out experiences' and on 'shopping habits of consumers on the island of Ireland.'

National Ploughing Championships

safefood showcased the successful 'Germ scene Investigation' stand (detailed above at Balmoral Show) at the National Ploughing Championships in September. The event attracted over 190,000 visitors over three days.

Food and Drink Show NI

safefood hosted a successful children's' taste buds experience with celebrity chef Catherine Fulvio at the new Northern Ireland Food and Drink Show in the King's Hall. Each demonstration kicked off with a lively chat with Catherine about the importance of food in our lives. Children were introduced to new foods and learned about the origins and production of food through interactive games with lots of audience participation. Each session ended with a cookery demonstration with willing volunteers giving Catherine a hand on stage. Over 400 children and parents attended the sessions over the two days.

Events and conferences continued

Allergy Awareness Week

The Food Allergy and Food Intolerance Network held two innovative events in September as part of Allergy Awareness Week.

The first of these events was a Network meeting on Oral Immunotherapy that attracted key stakeholders and consumers with allergies including children. The developer of this treatment, Dr Andrew Clark, delivered an excellent presentation on his work on the treatment and resolution of food allergies. He answered questions from both the medical professionals and consumers in the audience.

The second event was a debate hosted by The Northern Ireland Assembly All Party Group on Science and Technology (APG) in the Senate Chamber, Stormont. The theme for the event was, 'The Food Allergy Epidemic- is a cure in sight?' organised in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry. Chaired by Basil McCrea MLA, speakers represented support organisations, consumers with allergies and medical professionals.

Digital

Total visits to **safefood** websites reached almost 824,000 during 2013. Visits peaked during September and October to coincide with the launch of the childhood obesity campaign. The main **safefood** website has been upgraded and optimised for access across mobile devices using a feature known as 'responsive design' which can determine the device the user is using and re-adjust so that the information fits the user's screen appropriately.

Digital engagement is an important feature of campaigns as it allows **safefood** to reach out to consumers in a cost effective manner. 2013 has seen increases in engagement numbers across the web and social media platforms and the **safefood** Facebook page has seen an increase of 7,000 fans during the year to over 22,000 fans at the end of December. Engagement with tweets and Facebook posts is measured and peaks during the campaign messages.

The television show 'Operation Transformation,' sponsored by **safefood**, was supported by an external micro site which generated over 200,000 unique visits. In addition **safefood** staff hosted the Operation Transformation Facebook page after the end of the show and continued engagement throughout the year.



Corporate

The Corporate Operations Directorate has a key part in supporting the delivery of programmes and activities throughout the organisation. The services provided include finance, procurement, human resources, information technology, legal, governance and audit, all contributing to facilitate the efficient and effective delivery of the strategic and business planning goals.

Governance

safefood aims to achieve the highest standards of corporate governance. It conforms to the Governance Code of Practice issued by the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) and also as a matter of best practice complies with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies issued by the Department of Finance in the Republic of Ireland.

The Comptrollers and Auditors General from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland jointly certified the Financial Statements for 2013.

Audit Committee

The Advisory Board Audit Committee is comprised of two members of the Advisory Board and two external members, one of whom chairs the committee. Both external members of the committee have wide relevant professional experience. The Audit Committee met four times in 2013.

Scientific Advisory Committee

The Scientific Advisory Committee reached the end of its term and was re-constituted in November, with five new members and the appointment of Advisory Board member Dr Mary Upton as Chair and Mr Robert Huey as Vice-chair.

Accountability

In order to monitor performance and ensure planned operational and financial targets outlined in the Business Plan were achieved, the **safefood** Senior Management Team met regularly to review progress and review budgetary and financial information.

safefood's two Sponsor Departments (the Department of Health and the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety) were kept up to date on financial and operational progress through regular meetings and reporting.

The Chief Executive Officer reported at three meetings of the North South Ministerial Council in the health sector throughout the year on progress and key issues.



safefood Food Safety Promotion Board
Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013

Financial statements

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Foreword to the Accounts

1. Format

These Accounts are prepared in a form directed by the Department of Health and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, with the approval of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, and in accordance with the financial arrangements of Part 7 of Annex 2 to the British-Irish Agreement.

2. Background Information

The Food Safety Promotion Board (An Bord um Chur Chun Cinn Sábháilteachta Bia) is an Implementation Body established under the Belfast Agreement on the 2nd December 1999. The Board's governing legislation is the British-Irish Agreement Act, 1999 and the North-South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order, 1999.

The governing legislation confers the following specific functions:

- Promotion of food safety
- Research into food safety
- Communication of food alerts
- Surveillance of foodborne disease
- Promotion of scientific co-operation and laboratory linkages
- Development of cost effective facilities for specialised laboratory testing.

In addition to the above, the Board has a general remit to act as an independent source of scientific advice.

3. Governance

The functions of the Board are discharged by the Chief Executive who reports to the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC). The Chief Executive Mr Martin Higgins retired on the 30th May 2014 and Mr Ray Dolan was formally appointed as Chief Executive on the 1st October 2014. The Chief Executive is assisted by an Advisory Board and a Scientific Advisory Committee. The members of the Advisory Board for 2013 were:

Advisory Board 2013

Ms. Lynn Ni Bhaoigheallain (Chairperson)
Ms. Darina Allen (Vice-Chairperson)
Ms. Julie Andrews
Mr. Thomas Burns
Mr. Brendan Kehoe
Mr. Alan McGrath
Ms. Helen O Donnell
Mr. Edward Spelman
Ms. Hannah Su
Mr. Campbell Tweedie
Ms. Mary Upton
Ms. Jane Wells

There were no changes to the Advisory Board during 2013. The Scientific Advisory Committee comprises 13 members drawn from a pool of Scientific and Technical expertise available in both jurisdictions and advises on scientific and technical matters.

4. Financial Results

The results of the Food Safety Promotion Board are set out in detail on page 27. During 2013, the Food Safety Promotion Board incurred expenditure of €9,616,447 (GBP£8,166,863) and received income of €9,602,963 (GBP£8,155,412) resulting in a deficit for the year of €13,484 (GBP£11,451).

5. Post Balance Sheet Events

There were no post balance sheet events.

6. Charitable Donations

No charitable donations were received or made during the year.

7. Policies

Disabled Employees

No disabled persons were employed during the year. However, the Board is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and welcomes applications from suitably qualified applicants irrespective of disability. A disability action plan was issued in 2011 to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and to encourage their participation in public life.

Equality

The Board's approved Equality Scheme was issued in September 2011 and **safefood** is engaged in an ongoing review process.

Provision of information to and Consulting with Employees

An Employee Partnership Forum was in place throughout 2013 as a mechanism for consultation with employees and has proved highly effective as a means of employee communications.

Prompt Payment Policy and its performance

The Board is committed to the prompt payments for goods and services received, in accordance with the Irish Prompt Payments of Accounts Act, 1997 as amended by the European Communities (Late Payments in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2013 and the UK Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, as amended by the Late Payment of Commercial Debts Regulations 2002. Unless otherwise stated in the contract, payment is due within 30 days of receipt of the goods or services, or on presentation of a valid invoice or similar demand whichever is later. In 2013 96 per cent of all invoices were settled within 30 days.

Health and Safety Policy

The Board maintains a Health and Safety policy, circulated to all employees. The policy reflects legal requirements to maintain a high standard throughout the organisation.

8. Future Development

The Board's Corporate Strategy for the years 2014 - 2016 has been approved by the North/South Ministerial Council (NSMC).

This Strategy outlines the Board's mission, vision and core values and how the Board will implement each of its functions over the three year period. The strategy is re-assessed annually in the context of an annual business plan.

Budgeted Expenditure for 2014 is €8,160,000 (GBP 7,017,600).

Statement of Food Safety Promotion Board's Responsibilities

The Department of Health and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety have directed the Food Safety Promotion Board to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year in the form and on the basis set out in the accounts direction at the appendix to these Accounts. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the Body's state of affairs at the year-end and of its income and expenditure, total recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts the Body is required to:

- Observe the accounts direction issued by the Department of Health and Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply accounting policies on a consistent basis
- Make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed and disclose and explain any material departures in the accounts
- Prepare the Accounts on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Body will continue in operation.

Chief Executive's Responsibilities

The Chief Executive's responsibilities as the Accountable Person for the Food Safety Promotion Board, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances and for the keeping of records, are set out in the Financial Memorandum of the Body.



Raymond Dolan

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 2nd October 2014



Statement on Internal Control

1. Scope of Responsibility

As Accountable Person, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Food Safety Promotion Board's policies, aims and objectives, while safeguarding the public funds and Departmental assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI) and Public Finance Procedures.

The precise accountability and reporting structure is defined in the Board's Financial Memorandum, which outlines the review and monitoring role of the joint sponsor Departments (Department of Health, Social Services, and Public Safety and Department of Health). In addition, as Chief Executive Officer, I am accountable to the respective public accounts committees in both jurisdictions.

2. The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims, and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Board policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively, and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The Food Safety Promotion Board for the year ended 31 December 2013 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Report and Accounts, and accords with the Finance Departments' guidance.

3. Capacity to Handle Risk

The Senior Management Team is responsible for applying and overseeing the risk management process under my guidance to ensure the process is working as intended. In addition to reviewing the overall risk framework, all recommendations received from both the internal and external auditors are reviewed, with controls being enhanced or introduced as necessary.

All staff are expected to work within established policies on risk and internal control, and are trained appropriately.

4. The Risk and Control Framework

The Board has developed a risk register and risk assessment matrix. Risk is identified at both the inherent and control level at the time of the development of business plans and strategies. The Board has developed a framework of regular management information, variance review, and administrative and control procedures (including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability).

It also includes:

- Comprehensive Budgeting systems with the annual budget approved by the Chief Executive Officer;
- Procedures to review and agree the Budgets with the Senior Management Team; and
- The preparation of regular financial reports as a basis for reviewing and monitoring progress.

In 2013, the review of the risk and control framework was aided by the comments of both the Internal and External Auditors and the Advisory Board Audit Committee.

Statement on Internal Control continued

5. Review of Effectiveness

As accountable person, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the executive managers who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. A plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The following activities supported the effectiveness review:

- The Annual Budget, approved by the Sponsoring Departments, was reviewed monthly by the Senior Management Team, particularly the variances from planned activity; and
- The framework for risk management was kept under continuing review and the risk register was presented to the Advisory Board Audit Committee;
- A review of Internal Financial Controls in place during 2013 was carried out by the Internal Auditors.



Raymond Dolan
Chief Executive Officer
Date: 2 October 2014



The Certificate of the Comptrollers and Auditors General to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Houses of Oireachtas

We have audited the accounts of the Food Safety Promotions Board (the Body) for the year ended 31 December 2013 pursuant to the provisions of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Act

1999 which require us to audit and certify, in co-operation, the accounts presented to us by the Body. The accounts comprise the income and expenditure account, the statement of total recognised gains and losses, the balance sheet, the cash flow statement and the related notes and appendix. These accounts have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

Respective responsibilities of the Body, the Chief Executive and the Auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Body is responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Chief Executive, as Accountable Officer, is responsible for ensuring propriety and regularity in relation to the use of public funds. Our responsibility is to audit and certify the accounts in accordance with the provisions of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us and our staff to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the accounts

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the accounts sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Body's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Body; and the overall presentation of the accounts. In addition we read all the financial and non financial information in the annual report and the Foreword to identify material inconsistencies with the audited accounts and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, we consider the implications for our certificate.

In addition, we are required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income reported in the accounts have been applied to the purposes intended by the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Houses of the Oireachtas and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on Regularity

In our opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income recorded in the accounts have been applied to the purposes intended by the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Houses of the Oireachtas and the financial transactions recorded in the accounts conform to the authorities which govern them.

The Certificate of the Comptrollers and Auditors General to the Northern Ireland Assembly and Houses of Oireachtas continued

Opinion on the accounts

In our opinion:

- the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Body's affairs as at 31 December 2013 and of its deficit, total recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the North/South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999 and directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information in the Foreword for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report by exception if:

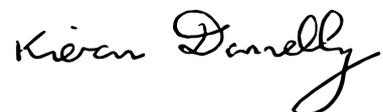
- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all of the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the information given in the annual report is not consistent with the related accounts; or
- the Statement on Internal Control does not reflect compliance with applicable guidance on corporate governance.

We have nothing to report in respect of those matters upon which reporting is by exception.



Seamus McCarthy
Irish Comptroller and Auditor General
Dublin Castle
Dublin 2
Ireland

Date: 10 October 2014



Kieran Donnelly
Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
Belfast
BT71EU

Date: 10 October 2014

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 1st December 2013

		2013	2012	2013	2012
	Notes	€	€	GBP	GBP
INCOME					
Revenue Grant from Departments	2(a)	8,364,077	7,672,393	7,103,276	6,221,313
Capital Grant Release	9	140,096	135,789	118,978	110,107
		8,504,173	7,808,182	7,222,254	6,331,420
Other Income	2(b)	1,098,790	727,402	933,158	589,828
TOTAL INCOME		9,602,963	8,535,584	8,155,412	6,921,248
EXPENDITURE					
Staff Costs	3(b)	2,946,796	2,615,351	2,502,596	2,120,709
Board Fees	3(e)	81,230	85,131	68,985	69,030
Depreciation	6	140,096	134,853	118,978	109,348
Research Programme Expenditure	5	754,042	1,098,952	640,378	891,107
Promotion Activities	12	3,985,462	2,980,272	3,384,693	2,416,613
Other Operating Costs	4	1,708,821	1,706,128	1,451,233	1,383,448
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		9,616,447	8,620,687	8,166,863	6,990,255
(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(13,484)	(85,103)	(11,451)	(69,007)
Amount transferred to General Reserve	13	(13,484)	(85,103)	(11,451)	(69,007)

All amounts above relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these accounts.



Raymond Dolan
Chief Executive Officer
Date: 2nd October 2014

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

for the year ended 31st December 2013

		2013	2012	2013	2012
	Notes	€	€	GBP	GBP
(Deficit) for the period		(13,484)	(85,103)	(11,451)	(69,007)
Actuarial gain/ (loss) on pension liabilities	17(b)	3,480,000	(4,133,000)	2,955,425	(3,351,000)
Transfers (In)/Out of the Scheme		0	37,000	0	30,000
Adjustment to deferred pension funding		(3,480,000)	4,096,000	(2,955,425)	3,321,000
TOTAL RECOGNISED (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD		(13,484)	(85,103)	(11,451)	(69,007)

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these accounts.



Raymond Dolan
Chief Executive Officer
Date: 2nd October 2014

Balance Sheet

Aa at 31st December 2013

		2013	2012	2013	2012
	Notes	€	€	GBP	GBP
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	6	1,000,370	1,065,066	834,008	869,200
CURRENT ASSETS					
	7	600,523	418,402	500,656	341,458
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors – amount falling due within one year	8	(438,570)	(242,965)	(365,636)	(198,284)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		161,953	175,437	135,020	143,174
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES BEFORE PENSIONS		1,162,323	1,240,503	969,028	1,021,374
Deferred Pension Funding	17(d)	8,260,000	10,642,000	6,886,362	8,685,000
Pension Liabilities	17(b)	(8,260,000)	(10,642,000)	(6,886,362)	(8,685,000)
NET ASSETS		1,162,323	1,240,503	969,028	1,012,374
FINANCED BY:					
Capital and Reserves					
General Reserve	13	161,953	175,437	135,020	143,174
Capital Grant Reserve	9	1,000,370	1,065,066	834,008	869,200
		1,162,323	1,240,503	969,028	1,012,374

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these accounts.



Raymond Dolan
Chief Executive Officer
Date: 2nd October 2014

Cashflow Statement

for the year ended 31st December 2013

		2013	2012	2013	2012
	Notes	€	€	GBP	GBP
NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	10	117,887	32,830	103,717	21,495
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE & FINANCIAL INVESTMENT					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	6	(75,400)	(20,522)	(64,034)	(16,641)
NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) BEFORE FINANCING		42,487	12,308	39,683	4,854
FINANCING					
Capital Funding Received		75,400	20,522	64,034	16,641
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH/BANK BALANCES	11	117,887	32,830	103,717	21,495

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these accounts.



Raymond Dolan Chief Executive Officer

Date: 2nd October 2014

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Convention

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention.

Without limiting the information given, the Financial Statements are prepared on an accrual basis and comply with the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Republic of Ireland Companies Acts 1963 to 2013, the Financial Reporting Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and accounting and disclosure requirements issued by the Department of Finance and Personnel and Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, insofar as those requirements are appropriate.

1.2 Income

Income represents revenue grants receivable from the Department of Health and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

1.3 Fixed Assets

- a) Tangible Fixed assets are included at historic cost to the Food Safety Promotion Board.
- b) Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or revalued amounts of fixed assets over their useful lives.

The methods adopted and the rates used per annum are as follows:

Office Equipment	15% Straight Line
Computer Equipment	33.3% Straight Line
Property & Fit out Costs	4% Straight Line
Fixtures & Fittings	10% Straight Line
LIMS Capital Project	33.3% Straight Line

- c) Depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition but not in the year of disposal.
- d) Fixed Assets are capitalised once they exceed €650 (GBP£423).

1.4 Value Added Tax

The Food Safety Promotion Board is not in a position to reclaim VAT and VAT is included as expenditure or in the capital value of Fixed Assets.

1.5 Pensions

The Food Safety Promotion Board has adopted FRS17 in relation to accounting for pensions.

The North/South Pension Scheme was established by the North/South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Limited with effect from 29 April 2005. It is a defined benefit pension scheme which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies provided by the UK and Irish Exchequers. The scheme is administered by an external administrator. Funding from the Irish Exchequer is provided by the Department of Health to the Body. The Northern Ireland share of the benefits paid during the year is directly funded to the administrator by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Notes to the Accounts continued

1. Accounting Policies continued

1.5 Pensions continued

Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 17 covers retirement benefits. The liability at 31 December 2013 has been included in the financial statements and a disclosure note has been included (Note 17) detailing the actuarial review calculations, which were carried out by Xafinity Consulting using the projected unit method. This includes the results of the calculations of the pension liabilities and costs of employees (and ex-employees) of the Food Safety Promotion Board for the purposes of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013 and comparative figures for 2012.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments. Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents a corresponding asset, being resources to be made available in future periods from the UK and Irish Exchequers in the manner described above.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from changes in actuarial assumptions and from experience surpluses and deficits are recognised in the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses. From 2012, the current pension service cost is recognised gross of members' contributions. Treatment in prior years had been to recognise the members' contributions separately within the pensions note.

1.6 Research Programme Expenditure

Research Contract costs included in the Income and Expenditure Account are based on expenditure due and payable in the year on foot of approved research contracts.

1.7 Capital Grant Reserve

The Capital Grant Reserve Account represents the unamortised value of income used for capital purposes.

1.8 Reporting Currency

The transactions and balances of the Board are reported in both Euro and Sterling.

The working currency of the Board is Euro and transactions are recorded in that currency. Transactions in other currencies are recorded in euro at the exchange rate ruling at the date of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in other currencies are translated into Euro at the rates of exchange prevailing at balance sheet date (closing rate). Realised gains and losses are taken to the Income and Expenditure Account.

At year-end the financial statements are translated into Sterling. The Income and Expenditure Account is translated using the average exchange rate for the year (2013 – 0.84926, 2012 – 0.81087) while the Balance Sheet is translated using the closing exchange rate (2013 – 0.8337, 2012 – 0.81610). Currency adjustments arising from this translation of the financial statements are reflected in Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities (Note 10), Capital Grant Reserve (Note 9). General Reserve (Note 13).

2.

a) Grants from the Departments

Financial Period 1st January, 2013 to 31st December, 2013

		DOH	DHSSPS	TOTAL	DOH	DHSSPS	TOTAL
	Note	€	€	€	GBP	GBP	GBP
Revenue Grant		5,896,841	2,467,236	8,364,077	5,007,951	2,095,325	7,103,276
Capital Account	9	53,159	22,241	75,400	45,146	18,888	64,034
		5,950,000	2,489,477	8,439,477	5,053,097	2,114,213	7,167,310

Financial period 1st January, 2012 to 31st December, 2012

		DOH	DHSSPS	TOTAL	DOH	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Note	€	€	€	GBP	GBP	GBP
Revenue Grant		5,235,995	2,436,398	7,672,393	4,245,711	1,975,602	6,221,313
Capital Account	9	14,005	6,517	20,522	11,356	5,285	16,641
		5,250,000	2,442,915	7,692,915	4,257,067	1,980,887	6,237,954

The Food Safety Promotion Board receives grants from the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS). The respective contributions are DOH 71% (2012 68%), and DHSSPS 29% (2012 32%).

The grants awarded are recorded at a business plan exchange rate for budgeting purposes and at the actual application date exchange rate for the financial statements.

b) Other Income

		2013	2012	2013	2012
	Note	€	€	GBP	GBP
Bank Interest		790	1,402	671	1,137
Net deferred funding for pensions	17 (c)	1,098,000	726,000	932,487	588,691
		1,098,790	727,402	933,158	589,828

Notes to the Accounts continued

3. Staff Costs

a) The average weekly number of staff (including agency staff) was:

Directorates	2013	2012
Senior Management	5	5
Corporate Operations	12	13
Food Science	5	6
Human Health & Nutrition	4	3
Marketing & Communications	7	7
Total	33	34

b) The costs incurred in respect of these staff were:

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Salary Costs	1,658,987	1,705,603	1,408,911	1,383,022
Employer PRSI	132,701	139,921	112,698	113,458
Agency Staff	0	17,854	0	14,477
Pension Costs:				
Current Pension Service Costs	1,155,108	751,973	980,987	609,752
	2,946,796	2,615,351	2,502,596	2,120,709

During the year, €108,722/£92,333 (2012 €106,870/£86,658) of pension related deductions, under the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act, 2009 as amended, were deducted and paid over to the Department of Health.

The position of Finance Manager which had been vacant was filled during 2010 on a temporary basis. The Labour Court has made a recommendation that the position be re-graded. The matter has been referred to the sponsor Departments for consideration, and the position will be filled permanently once the grading issue has been clarified.

3. Staff Costs continued

c) The number of employees at the end of the year whose emoluments (including pension contributions) fell within the following bands (this represents the annual emoluments) are:

	2013	2012
€40,001-50,000	4	6
€50,001-60,000	3	2
€60,001-70,000	3	4
€70,001-80,000	2	3
€80,001-90,000	3	2
€90,001-100,000	1	2
€100,001-110,000	0	0
€110,001-120,000	1	1

d) The following information is provided in respect of the Senior Management Team:

	Emoluments		Real Increase/ (Decrease) in Pension Earned		Value of Accrued Pension at year-end		Age (years)
	€	GBP	€	GBP	€	GBP	
Mr. M Higgins (CEO)	114,185	96,973	(3,716)	(3,156)	55,235	46,049	58

Mr Ray Dolan (Director, Corporate Operations), Dr. Gary Kearney (Director, Food Science), Dr. Clíodhna Foley-Nolan (Director, Human Health and Nutrition) and Ms Fiona Gilligan (Director, Marketing and Communications) withheld consent to disclose the above information. All emoluments are in line with standard public sector emoluments for their grades.

Notes to the Accounts continued

3. Staff Costs continued

e) The following fees were paid to the Advisory Board in 2013:

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€'000	€'000	GBP'000	GBP'000
Lynn Ni Bhaoigheallain	10-15	10-15	10-15	10-15
Darina Allen*	0	1-3	0	1-2
Julie Andrews	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10
Thomas Burns	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10
Brendan Kehoe	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10
Alan McGrath	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10
Helen O Donnell	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10
Edward Spelman	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10
Hannah Su	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10
Campbell Tweedie	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10
Mary Upton	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10
Jane Wells	5-10	5-10	5-10	5-10

*Darina Allen elected not to receive board fees from March 2012 onwards.

The total amount of fees paid to Advisory Board members in 2013 was €81,230/£68,985 (2012 €85,131/£69,030). No Benefits in Kind were provided to Senior Management or Advisory Board Members. A total of €6,354/£5,396 (2012 €10,763/£8,727) was paid to Advisory Board Members to cover travel and subsistence expenses. This amount is included in travel and subsistence disclosed in note 4.

4. Other Operating Costs

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Rent & Electricity	590,506	581,385	501,493	471,428
Printing, Reports & Literature	1,082	480	919	389
Travel & Subsistence	191,590	198,677	162,710	161,101
Computer Support	133,886	131,528	113,704	106,652
Telephone	55,779	44,610	47,371	36,173
Postage & Stationery	13,729	29,600	11,660	24,002
Meeting Costs *	11,808	5,305	10,028	4,302
Office Expenses	52,712	57,405	44,766	46,548
Currency Variance	(8,126)	49,588	(6,901)	40,209
Recruitment Expenses	9,282	22,786	7,883	18,476
Advertising	651	338	553	274
Training	47,544	52,987	40,377	42,966
Insurance	22,083	22,091	18,754	17,913
Subscriptions	17,738	17,764	15,064	14,404
Auditors' Remuneration	18,300	19,270	15,541	15,625
Legal & Professional Fees	73,614	61,691	62,517	50,023
Cleaning & Catering	38,044	40,107	32,309	32,522
Maintenance & Repairs	50,193	56,794	42,627	46,053
Bank Charges	2,260	2,145	1,919	1,739
Fellowships	140,089	197,723	118,972	160,328
Community Food Initiative	243,461	108,311	206,762	87,826
Loss - Disposal of Fixed Asset	0	936	0	759
Equality & Disability	2,596	4,607	2,205	3,736
	1,708,821	1,706,128	1,451,233	1,383,448

* The hospitality element of meeting costs in 2013 was €2,805/£2,382 (2012/€1,380/£1,119)

Notes to the Accounts continued

5. Research Programme Expenditure

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Chemistry & Toxicology	75,000	25,000	63,695	20,272
Food Science	338,117	251,110	287,149	203,617
Human Health & Nutrition	299,528	797,842	254,377	646,946
Microbiology and Surveillance	41,397	25,000	35,157	20,272
	754,042	1,098,952	640,378	891,107

6. Fixed Assets

	Office Equipment	Property & Fit out Cost	Fixtures & Fittings	Computer Equipment & Software	LIMS Capital Project	Total
COST OR VALUATION	€	€	€	€	€	€
At 1st January 2013	390,892	1,811,949	208,614	511,262	429,321	3,352,038
Additions	5,752	0	0	69,648	0	75,400
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31st December 2013	396,644	1,811,949	208,614	580,910	429,321	3,427,438
DEPRECIATION						
At 1st January 2013	386,528	813,657	193,327	464,139	429,321	2,286,972
Provision for the year	1,961	70,758	3,881	63,496	0	140,096
Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
At 31st December 2013	388,489	884,415	197,208	527,635	429,321	2,427,068
NBV at 31st December 2013	8,155	927,534	11,406	53,275	0	1,000,370
NBV at 31st December 2012	4,364	998,292	15,287	47,123	0	1,065,066
	GBP	GBP	GBP	GBP	GBP	GBP
NBV at 31st December 2013	6,799	773,285	9,509	44,415	0	834,008
NBV at 31st December 2012	3,561	814,706	12,476	38,457	0	869,200

7. Current Assets

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Debtors	50,985	32,270	42,506	26,336
Prepayments & Accrued Income	122,915	77,396	102,474	63,163
Cash at bank and in hand	426,623	308,736	355,676	251,959
	600,523	418,402	500,656	341,458

8. Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Creditors & Accruals	438,570	242,965	365,636	198,284

9. Capital Grant Reserve

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Opening Balance	1,065,066	1,180,333	869,200	985,932
Capital Additions	75,400	20,522	64,034	16,641
Less amount released to I&E A/C*	(140,096)	(135,789)	(118,978)	(110,107)
Currency Translation Adjustment			19,752	(23,266)
	1,000,370	1,065,066	834,008	869,200

*Amount released to I&E	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Amortised in line with depreciation	(140,096)	(134,853)	(118,978)	(109,348)
Amount released on disposal of fixed assets		(936)		(759)
Closing Balance	(140,096)	(135,789)	(118,978)	(110,107)

Notes to the Accounts continued

10. Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(13,484)	(85,103)	(11,451)	(69,007)
Transfer from Capital Grant Reserve	(140,096)	(135,789)	(118,978)	(110,107)
Depreciation Charges	140,096	134,853	118,978	109,348
Capital Disposal Loss	0	936	0	759
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(64,234)	224,597	(55,481)	189,711
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	195,605	(106,664)	167,352	(93,761)
Currency Translation Adjustment			3,297	(5,448)
	117,887	32,830	103,717	21,495

The currency translation adjustment reflects the amount of the movement in the value of current assets and liabilities which is attributable to the change in exchange rates over the year.

11. Analysis of the balances of cash as shown in the balance sheet

	At 01.01.13	Cashflow	At 31.12.13
Euro Account	238,957	(124,200)	114,757
Sterling Account	77,209	(35,500)	41,709
Deposit Account	2,049	278,631	280,680
Petty Cash	451	(299)	152
Credit Cards	(9,930)	(745)	(10,675)
Total	308,736	117,887	426,623

12. Promotion Activities

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Media Costs	2,902,405	2,249,337	2,464,896	1,823,920
Marketing Costs	649,720	255,606	551,781	207,263
Events	251,602	272,754	213,676	221,168
Publications	55,592	62,134	47,212	50,383
Project and Conference Sponsorship	41,546	53,298	35,283	43,218
Educational Development	45,646	57,102	38,765	46,302
Helpline Activities	38,951	30,041	33,080	24,359
	3,985,462	2,980,272	3,384,693	2,416,613

13. General Reserve

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€	€	GBP	GBP
Opening Balance	175,437	260,540	143,174	217,629
Surplus/(Deficit)	(13,484)	(85,103)	(11,451)	(69,007)
Currency Translation Adjustment			3,297	(5,448)
Closing Balance	161,953	175,437	135,020	143,174

14. Related Party Transactions

The Food Safety Promotion Board is a cross border implementation body sponsored by the Department of Health and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety which are regarded as related parties. During the year, The Food Safety Promotion Board was principally funded by these departments and had various transactions with them.

15. Future Capital Expenditure

The Food Safety Promotion Board had no capital commitments at 31 December 2013.

Notes to the Accounts continued

16. Leases/Commitments

(a) Operating Leases

The Board has annual lease commitments in respect of operating leases on properties where the lease terms expire as follows:

	31.12.13	31.12.12
	€	€
Within 1 Year	–	(76,772)
Between 2 and 5 Years	–	–
More than 5 Years	560,000	560,000
	560,000	483,228

The annual rent payable in respect of leased premises is broken down as follows:

Location	Expiry Date	2013	2012	2013	2012
		€	€	GBP	GBP
Cork	2026	370,000	370,000	314,226	300,022
Cork Sub Lease	2013	(76,772)	(76,772)	(65,199)	(62,252)
Dublin	2021	190,000	190,000	161,359	154,065
Total Annual Costs		483,228	483,228	410,386	391,835

(b) Commitments

The Board has commitments in respect of approved research contracts at 31 December 2013 in the amount of €1,085,062/£904,616 (2012 €339,005/£276,662).

17. Pensions

The valuation used for FRS17 disclosures has been based on an actuarial valuation as at 31 December 2013 by an independent actuary. Assumptions used to calculate the scheme liabilities as at 31 December 2013 under FRS 17 are:

(a) Principal actuarial assumptions used for the calculations

	2013	2012
Discount rate (Republic of Ireland)	3.50%	2.70%
Discount rate (Northern Ireland)	4.50%	4.10%
Inflation rate (Republic of Ireland)	2.00%	2.50%
Inflation rate (Northern Ireland)	2.50%	1.80%
Rate of increase in salary	4.00%	4.00%
Rate of increase in pensions (Republic of Ireland):		
In line with salary increases	4.00%	4.00%
In line with CPI	2.00%	2.50%
Rate of increase in pensions (Northern Ireland)	2.50%	1.80%
Average expected future life at age 65 for		
Male currently aged 65	21.6yrs	21.5yrs
Female currently aged 65	24.2yrs	24.1yrs
Male currently aged 45	23.5yrs	23.4yrs
Female currently aged 45	26.0yrs	25.9yrs

b) Movement in Net Pension Liability during the financial year

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€'000	€'000	GBP'000	GBP'000
(Deficit) in the plan at 1st January	(10,642)	(5,820)	(8,685)	(4,861)
Benefits paid during the year	57	26	48	21
Current service cost	(857)	(475)	(728)	(385)
Net transfers out of/(into) the scheme	0	37	0	30
Other finance income/(charge)	(298)	(277)	(253)	(225)
Actuarial gain/(loss)	3,480	(4,133)	2,955	(3,351)
Exchange differences—GBP comparisons			(223)	86
(Deficit) in the plan at 31st December	(8,260)	(10,642)	(6,886)	(8,685)

Notes to the Accounts continued

17. Pensions continued

b) Movement in Net Pension Liability during the financial year continued

Analysis of the movement in (deficit) in the Plan during the period is as follows:

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€'000	€'000	GBP'000	GBP'000
Experience gain/(loss)	700	119	594	96
Gain/(loss) on change of financial assumptions	2,780	(4,252)	2,361	(3,448)
Exchange differences – GBP comparisons				1
Actuarial gain/(loss)	3,480	(4,133)	2,955	(3,351)

The actuarial gain arises due to the increase in the discount rate in ROI and the reduction in the rate of increase in pension in ROI.

(c) Income and Expenditure Account analysis for the financial year

Analysis of the net deferred funding for pension is as follows:

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€'000	€'000	GBP'000	GBP'000
Current service cost	857	475	728	385
Other finance cost	298	277	253	225
Benefits paid during the year	(57)	(26)	(48)	(21)
Exchange differences – GBP comparisons			(1)	(1)
	1,098	726	932	588

Analysis of the current pension service costs is as follows:

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€'000	€'000	GBP'000	GBP'000
Current service cost	857	475	728	385
Other finance cost	298	277	253	225
Exchange differences – GBP comparisons				(1)
	1,155	752	981	609

17. Pensions continued

(d) Deferred Pension Funding

In accordance with accounting practice for non-commercial State sponsored bodies in the Republic of Ireland, the Food Safety Promotion Board recognises an asset representing resources to be made available by the UK and Irish Exchequers for the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of a number of past events. These events include the statutory backing for the superannuation schemes, and the policy and practice in relation to funding public service pensions in both jurisdictions including the annual estimates process. While there is no formal agreement and therefore no guarantee regarding these specific amounts with the funding bodies, the Food Safety Promotion Board has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet this amount in accordance with current practice. This treatment is inconsistent with accounting practice for UK Non-Departmental Bodies, where, due to absence of a formal guarantee, a funding liability is not recognised until the commitment falls due.

The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December 2013 amounted to €8.260m /£6.886m (2012: €10.642m/£8.685m).

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€'000	€'000	GBP'000	GBP'000
Opening Balance at 1st January	10,642	5,820	8,685	4,861
Increase/(decrease) in Deferred Pension Funding	(2,382)	4,822	(1,799)	3,824
Balance at 31st December	8,260	10,642	6,886	8,685

e) History of Defined Benefit Liabilities

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€'000	€'000	GBP'000	GBP'000
(Deficit) as at 31st December	(8,260)	(10,642)	(5,820)	(4,991)
Experience adjustment on liabilities including exchange rate effect gain/(loss)	700	119	(13)	525
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	8.5%	1.1%	0.2%	10.5%

	2013	2012	2013	2012
	€'000	€'000	GBP'000	GBP'000
(Deficit) as at 31st December	(6,886)	(8,685)	(4,861)	(4,296)
Experience adjustment on liabilities including exchange rate effect gain/(loss)	594	(96)	(11)	452
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities	8.5%	1.1%	0.2%	10.5%

Appendix 1 – Accounts Direction

Food Safety Promotion Board

Accounts direction given by the Northern Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Southern Department of Health and Children, with the approval of the finance departments North and South, in accordance with the North/South co-operation (implementation bodies) (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 and the Southern British-Irish Agreement Act 1999.

The annual accounts shall give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year, and the state of affairs as at the year end: Subject to this requirement, the Body shall prepare accounts for the financial period 2 December 1999 to 31 December 2000 and subsequent financial years in accordance with:

- a. the North/South Implementation Bodies Annual Reports and Account Guidance;
- b. other guidance which Finance Departments may issue from time to time in respect of accounts which are required to give a true and fair view;
- c. any other specific disclosures required by sponsoring Departments;

except where agreed otherwise with Finance Departments, in which case the exception shall be described in the notes to the accounts.

Signed by the authority of the



Department of Health
Social Services and Public Safety

18 June 2001



Department of
Health and Children

13 June 2001

