

# Raidió Fáilte Teo

(A company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital)

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

The trustees present their Trustees' Annual Report, combining the Directors' Report and Trustees' Report, and the unaudited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

The Trustees' Report contains the information required to be provided in the Trustees' Annual Report under the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidelines. The trustees of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's constitution are known as members of the board of trustees.

In this report the trustees of Raidió Fáilte Teo present a summary of its purpose, governance, activities, achievements and finances for the financial year 31 December 2022.

The company is a registered charity and hence the report and results are presented in a form which complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and, although not obliged to comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP effective January 2015), the organisation has implemented its recommendations where relevant in these financial statements.

### Mission, Objectives and Strategy

#### Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote the Irish language by providing comprehensive, inclusive community radio and media services through the medium of Irish.

#### Charitable objectives and Ofcom Key commitments

Raidió Fáilte Teo is registered as a charity by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (effective from 16/02/2015). The company continues to meet (and exceed) its charitable objectives in relation to the advancement of arts, culture, heritage, education etc.

In addition, the organisation meets the objectives and targets set out in the Ofcom Key Commitments agreement - including objectives in relation to broadcasting, community training in radio skills and the provision of community access to the media.

Raidió Fáilte proactively engages in outreach activities thereby increasing the overall capacity of the station and increasing its accessibility to a wide range of community stakeholders.

As part of our commitment to provide an attractive and welcoming space for staff, volunteer broadcasters and visitors alike and to contribute to community regeneration in an area of high levels of deprivation, a coffee shop 'An Lon Dubh' was opened in the building (April 2019). An Lon Dubh is a social enterprise initiative, offering high quality coffee/tea and light, healthy food choices, providing a pleasant space for Irish speakers, learners of the language, the local community and others to meet, further increasing accessibility to the wide range of community facilities and services offered by Raidió Fáilte, in furtherance of our charitable objectives. Due to prevailing restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, An Lon Dubh community café was closed during the period January to March 2022. The café has been operational continuously since that date. The Directors & Management wish to thank the staff (past and present) of An Lon Dubh café for their hard work and ongoing commitment in difficult circumstances.

Stúideo Feirste, a community-based recording studio, was officially launched in December 2022 and is attracting a lot of interest from local musicians and others who can avail of sound-recording services at affordable rates, with input from accomplished sound engineers.

The Directors of Raidió Fáilte Teo can report also that the station continues its involvement in a range of cross-community/outreach initiatives, encouraging the participation of members of the wider community in the work of Raidió Fáilte - as broadcasters, listeners and as visitors to the station.

Raidió Fáilte continues to collaborate with Raidió na Life (the only other licensed community radio station on the island of Ireland that broadcasts on the airwaves in Irish) and we support a number of organisations throughout the north of Ireland to produce radio content (subject to availability of resources).

Due to the impact of Covid-19 during the early part of the financial year, it has been necessary to continue to adopt new methods of engaging with our volunteer broadcasters and other stakeholders including the provision of training on-line and the extension of initiatives for engaging with the community, such as the radio series Guth an Phobail (Voice of the Community).

It is anticipated that these new methods of community engagement will become a permanent feature, dovetailing with increasing levels of studio-based radio production and of face-to-face community engagement. Management

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and staff of the station continuously seek new opportunities to engage and collaborate with the Irish language community of speakers and learners of the language, both locally and wider afield and with the local community, including on a cross-community basis, in pursuance of the overall charitable objectives of the organisation.

As part of its remit as a community radio station to support other community and language organisations, staff and volunteers from the station attend events and conduct interviews with representatives of numerous organisations on an on-going basis throughout the year.

The Directors & Management would like to commend Raidió Fáilte staff who have worked tirelessly throughout the year, to provide a high-quality Irish language radio service (including the provision of associated training, administration, technical, community outreach, community café and sound recording services) to the Irish language and the local/wider community.

#### Financial Review

The Directors of Raidió Fáilte Teo gratefully acknowledge all monetary support received since the inception of the community radio service, towards the furtherance of our charitable objectives and to creating community benefit - notably the on-going support of Foras na Gaeilge (since 2006) and of Northern Ireland Screen-An Ciste Craoltóireachta Gaeilge (ILBF) (since 2011).

The Directors can report that the objectives and targets agreed with Foras na Gaeilge in relation to the promotion and usage of the Irish language through the medium of community radio have been met and exceeded, with the input and co-operation of a wide range of Irish language organisations and individual speakers and learners of the language. During this period, Raidió Fáilte is grateful for continuation funding received from Foras na Gaeilge-Scéim Raidió Pobail 2022-2024 (Community Radio Scheme), supporting 4 posts and ongoing broadcasting, training, volunteering, community outreach, awareness raising (in relation to the Irish language and to the station itself), archiving and the ongoing development and maintenance of the community building. Raidió Fáilte was successful in attracting funding of £243,600 annually for the period 2022-2024 (2019-2021 £216,000)

The Directors wish also to gratefully acknowledge the support of Colmcille (a funding initiative administered by Foras na Gaeilge) for a project to be carried out in 2023. (Colmcille is a partnership programme between Foras na Gaeilge and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, promoting the use of Irish Gaelic and Scottish Gaelic in Ireland and Scotland and between the two countries).

The Directors are pleased also to report the continuation of funding from Northern Ireland Screen - Irish Language Broadcast Fund for a further year (April 2022 - March 2023: £85,000). The ongoing support of Northern Ireland Screen-Irish Language Broadcast Fund for the Raidió Fáilte Broadcast Training Scheme is a highly valued and critical element in the success of Raidió Fáilte, supporting employment and contributing to skills-building within the Irish speaking community and to the growth and development of the overall Irish language media infrastructure. Awarded on a contract basis, for the development of the training, radio production and archiving capacity of the station, it is a very valuable support package for the provision of community radio services by Raidió Fáilte. Regular workshops, group and one-to-one training sessions in sound recording, broadcasting, sound editing and mixing and podcasting are held on a regular basis throughout the year. A popular radio broadcast training course for female participants has been run for a second year with very positive outcomes and feedback. Raidió Fáilte training courses impart valuable, transferable skills, nurturing new talent and produce high quality content for broadcast.

The Directors gratefully acknowledge the additional support in this period for our community broadcasting service in the form of the placement of 2 trainee broadcasters for a period of 12 months under the NI Screen-ILBF Scéim na Léiritheoirí Raidió Faoi Oiliúint (Trainee Radio Producers Scheme)  
This proved to be a very successful training scheme that has contributed to skill-building in radio broadcasting through the medium of the Irish language and to the growing success of Raidió Fáilte, further strengthening its appeal to existing and new listeners.

In addition, the Directors gratefully appreciate assistance from Department for Communities/Gaelchúrsaí whereby salary costs for a trainee Scheduling Assistant were supported for a period of 6 months under the OBAIR (Job Start) employment scheme. The trainee secured continuing employment with Raidió Fáilte.

In this period, Raidió Fáilte was successful in securing funds for a Business Development Officer (June 2022 - March 2024) and for a Social Enterprise Development Officer-Café An Lon Dubh (August 2022 - July 2025). The Board is very grateful to Department for Communities and to the administrators of these funds - An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge and The Rank Foundation for this very valuable support.

The Directors are very grateful also for additional funding received in the period (2020-2022) towards alleviating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the organisation from Foras na Gaeilge, An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge, Conradh na Gaeilge, Glór na nGael (funding administered on behalf of Department for Communities) and from Department for Communities Languages Capital Fund Pilot Programme 2021-2022. These funds provided critical support in relation to revenue costs and to strengthening the organisation by providing essential capital support to assist with post-pandemic recovery. Amongst the successful initiatives during this period were the establishment of an on-line radio training scheme specifically for female participants and the purchase and installation of specialist outside broadcast equipment, providing easier facilitation of outside broadcasts by Raidió Fáilte and providing a mechanism for the further development of links with other Irish language broadcasters such as Raidió na Life and

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RTE Raidió na Gaeltachta. In addition, the social enterprise café, An Lon Dubh, and the community recording studio, Stiúideo Feirste, have benefitted from additional equipment, thereby enhancing services to the community and providing increased potential for income-generation.

The Board of Directors wish to keep on record our gratitude to the wide range of community and statutory stakeholders who supported the capital build project at 30 Sráid Dhubhaise (completed October 2018) - in particular Belfast City Council, Department for Communities, An Ciste Inneistíochta Gaeilge, the Alpha Programme, Foras na Gaeilge, NI Screen-ILBF, Raidió Fáilte staff and volunteers and the many community stakeholders, both individuals and organisations who supported us.

The Directors especially value the 'in-kind' support of the many Irish speakers and learners who have donated their time, talents and energy to the station as broadcasters and in other supporting roles. The Directors estimate (using Ofcom approved rates) that the monetary value of the work and services provided by volunteers and others during the year was £39,833.

#### Financial Results

At the end of the financial year the company has assets of £241,998 (2021 - £202,148) and liabilities of £14,237 (2021 - £14,499). The net assets of the company have increased by £40,112.

#### Reserves Position and Policy

Reserves are needed to bridge the gap between spending and receiving of income, to cover unplanned emergency repairs, other unforeseen expenditure and/ or loss of funding. The trustees consider the ideal level of reserves as at 31st December 2022 to be £111,856, which is equivalent of 3 months running costs.

The unrestricted reserves of Raidió Fáilte Teo as at 31st December 2022 is £125,426. Of this balance £10,956 can be realised by the disposal of tangible fixed assets.

The charity has restricted reserves totalling £102,335 at 31st December 2022. Of this balance, £27,815 is in relation to a grant provided by ILBF of £85,000, which is to be utilised during the period 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023.

In the Trustee's view, the reserves should provide the charity with adequate financial stability and the means for it to meet its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.

#### Principal Risks and Uncertainties

In common with Ofcom-licensed community radio stations elsewhere, Raidió Fáilte has operated its FM service with a 5-kilometre broadcast restriction since 2006, with broadcast coverage limited to the Belfast area. In 2018 Raidió Fáilte submitted an application to Ofcom in a bid to gain an extension to existing coverage for the community radio service. In their decision (September 2019) Ofcom granted an extension of the community radio service, with approval for a power increase. Raidió Fáilte will continue to lobby for further extensions to the coverage area, in line with demand from communities outside the current broadcast area. In addition, station management continue to monitor developments in relation to small-scale DAB.

Raidió Fáilte is funded primarily by Foras na Gaeilge-Scéim Raidió Pobail and NI Screen-Irish Language Broadcast Fund. We are hopeful that funding from these bodies will continue, and we are always aware of the necessity to seek other additional sources of funding. In this period, we were successful in securing funds for a Business Development Officer and for a Social Enterprise Development Officer-Café An Lon Dubh. Raidió Fáilte will continue to seek out new additional funding sources in line with developmental needs, such as the Belfast City Council Revenue Grant for Community Building, a 3-year funding stream to support revenue costs.

#### Future Developments

From its base at 30 Sráid Dhubhaise, Béal Feirste, BT12 4AL, the Directors and management of Raidió Fáilte Teo strive to maximise the benefits of location in a purpose-built centre for Irish language radio broadcasting, training, sound editing and sound archiving (operational since October 2018). The Raidió Fáilte centre is located in an area of multiple deprivation, providing facilities that contribute to the alleviation of poverty and social exclusion. Furthermore, by virtue of its location at the edge of the city centre, Raidió Fáilte provides an inclusive, accessible community radio service and associated activities that assist in providing further impetus to overall Gaeltacht Quarter economic regeneration plans, benefitting the city as a whole. The centre aims to expand Irish language media and community infrastructure and to support, where possible, other communities who wish to increase their capacity in the Irish language.

In this financial year, Raidió Fáilte commenced the process of succession planning in relation to two senior/long-standing employees. It is hoped to secure funding to support mentoring of new employees to be appointed in both key roles within the organisation.

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### Trustees

The current trustees are as set out on page 3.

Gearóid Ó Cairealláin  
Dr Pól Mac Cana  
Áine Nic Gearailt  
Ciarán Ó Pronntaigh  
Fergus O'Hare

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the directors retire every third Annual General Meeting and, being eligible, can offer themselves for re-election.

The secretary who served during the financial year was:


Dr Pól Mac Cana

### Compliance with Sector-Wide Legislation and Standards

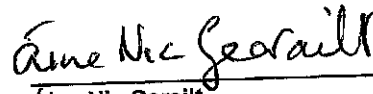
The company engages pro-actively with legislation, standards and codes which are developed for the sector. Raidió Fáilte Teo subscribes to and is compliant with the following:

- The Companies Act 2006
- The Charities SORP (FRS 102)

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 12 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Dr Pól Mac Cana  
Director



Áine Nic Gearailt  
Director