

FOUNDATION

TWENTY

24

**ANNUAL REPORT &
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**



Irish FA Foundation Limited

For the year ended 31 December 2024

Registered number: NI642595

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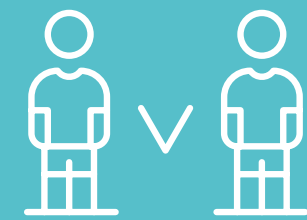
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTORS' REPORT)

ANNUAL IMPACT



86,197

REGISTERED FOOTBALL PLAYERS



46,840

YOUTH FOOTBALL PLAYERS



39,357

ADULT FOOTBALL PLAYERS



74,065

MALE PLAYERS



12,132

FEMALE PLAYERS



1,146

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS



2,210

DISABILITY CLUB MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

“ This year the Foundation has remained steadfast in its mission to promote, foster and develop football for all, ensuring access to the game across every level of society. ”

On behalf of the Board of the Irish FA Foundation Limited (“Foundation”), I am honoured to present the 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements, reflecting a year of significant milestones, continued progress and meaningful impact across Northern Ireland.

This year the Foundation has remained steadfast in its mission to promote, foster and develop football for all, ensuring access to the game across every level of society.

The Youth Football Framework has been a major milestone for Northern Ireland football. The Framework provides a blueprint for all of youth football in Northern Ireland. The purpose is to maximise enjoyment and technical development for every child.

The development has been driven by close collaboration with schools, clubs, coaches, players and parents, ensuring that every child, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to experience football in a positive and supportive setting.

Our work with ethnic minority communities, refugee groups and those from under-represented backgrounds has expanded significantly, breaking down barriers and making football more inclusive than ever before.

The growth of women’s and girls’ football has been particularly inspiring, reaching more young players and expanding into adult club settings.

Similarly our disability football initiatives have continued to flourish, with increased playing opportunities for both youth and adult players, ensuring football truly remains a game for everyone.

I extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow board members for their ongoing leadership and guidance throughout the year, and to the Foundation staff for their tireless commitment to delivering our objectives.

A special thank you goes to our exceptional volunteers, whose continued commitment and generosity have positively impacted communities across Northern Ireland, ensuring football remains a powerful force for connection and inclusion.

Looking forward, we remain committed to leaving a legacy in every school, club and community, with continued focus on participation, inclusivity and community well-being.

David Martin
Trustee and Chairman
Date: 01 May 2025

“ The Youth Football Framework has been a major milestone for Northern Ireland football. ”



DIRECTOR OF FOUNDATION UPDATE

“It has been a year defined by strategic growth, innovation and a strengthened focus on community impact across Northern Ireland.”



As we reflect on the progress made by the Foundation throughout 2024, I am proud to present this year's annual report.

It has been a year defined by strategic growth, innovation and a strengthened focus on community impact across Northern Ireland.

Our commitment to the Foundation's mission to promote, foster and develop football for all was exemplified through the successful implementation of the Youth Football Framework, built on a purpose to maximise enjoyment and technical development for every young player across schools and clubs.

The staff restructuring initiated last year has continued to deliver results, with our five specialised departments now fully embedded. This structure has allowed us to provide more targeted support to local clubs, schools and communities, improving the efficiency and reach of our programmes.

Significant strides have also been made in women's and girls' football. The Disney Playmakers programme has expanded to clubs and continues to inspire young girls, introducing hundreds of new participants to football in a fun, creative way.

This year also marked a relaunch and wider rollout of the Ahead of the Game programme, empowering clubs with vital mental health resources and trained Mental Health Champions.

To ensure long-term sustainability and accountability, we continue to build on our Outcomes-Based Accountability framework, enabling us to measure the impact of our work more effectively and transparently.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated staff, partners and the invaluable volunteers who form the backbone of football across Northern Ireland.

As we look forward, the Foundation remains firm in its commitment to leaving a lasting legacy in every school, club and community we serve.

James Thompson
Director of Foundation
Date: 01 May 2025



“The Disney Playmakers programme has expanded to clubs and continues to inspire young girls”

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Foundation has complied with its duty under the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

The trustees are fully aware of the requirements of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland and are operating entirely within the legislation. It is the opinion of the Trustees that this report demonstrates how the Foundation provides public benefit.

Public benefit is at the heart of all Foundation activities. As a prominent charitable organisation in Northern Ireland the Foundation is committed to advancing its charitable objectives and delivering meaningful impact to all individuals and communities across the country. Our dedication to public benefit is reflected throughout this Annual Report and is demonstrated in the programmes and activities highlighted along with the impact figures provided.

Key highlights include:

Football for All - the Foundation is committed to Football for All and continuously work to increase opportunities for all sections of the community in Northern Ireland.

Education and employment - the Foundation has continued to deliver interventions for individuals to advance their education and employment opportunities through football.

Club and community - there has been a continued focus on club and community football development, including in areas of social and economic deprivation.

Health and wellbeing - the Foundation has continued to develop and deliver a range of programmes for the health and wellbeing of communities in Northern Ireland.

Community engagement - the Foundation works with all sections of the community across Northern Ireland to deliver benefit irrespective of religious (or other) backgrounds.



FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

MISSION

To promote, foster and develop football for all in Northern Ireland

VISION

To inspire every person in Northern Ireland

VALUES

Progressive

Inclusive

Transparent

Collaborative

Healthy & Safe

Excellence

Socially Responsible

PURPOSE

Build Capacity: Leave a legacy in every school, club and community

IRISH FA CORPORATE STRATEGY 2022 - 2027



Performance



Participation



Facilities



Revenue



Engagement



Women's and Girls' Football



Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) & Sustainability

OBJECTIVES

Increase participation in flexible football formats

Advance education by providing extracurricular support, work experience and career development

Develop local clubs and community football provision

Advance health and well-being of the people of Northern Ireland

ACTIVITIES

Let Them Play

Community Football

Inclusive Football

School-Club Link

School Quality Mark

Education & Employability

League Accreditation

Club Accreditation

Girls Only

Volunteers

Ahead of the Game

Community Relations

A YEAR IN REVIEW



Translink Schools Competition Launched



Sports Inspire Awards



Football For All Event



Youth Review Continues



McDonald's Grassroots Football Awards




PSNI Officers Net Coaching Certificates



CP Team World Championships



Foundation supports UEFA Grassroots Week



Powerchair Caps Night



Lisburn Rangers International Women's Day



FIFA & Irish FA – Girls' Boost



70 Teams Enjoy George Best Community Cup



Re-Launch of Ahead of the Game



Youth Football Framework Launched

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUNE

JUL

AUG

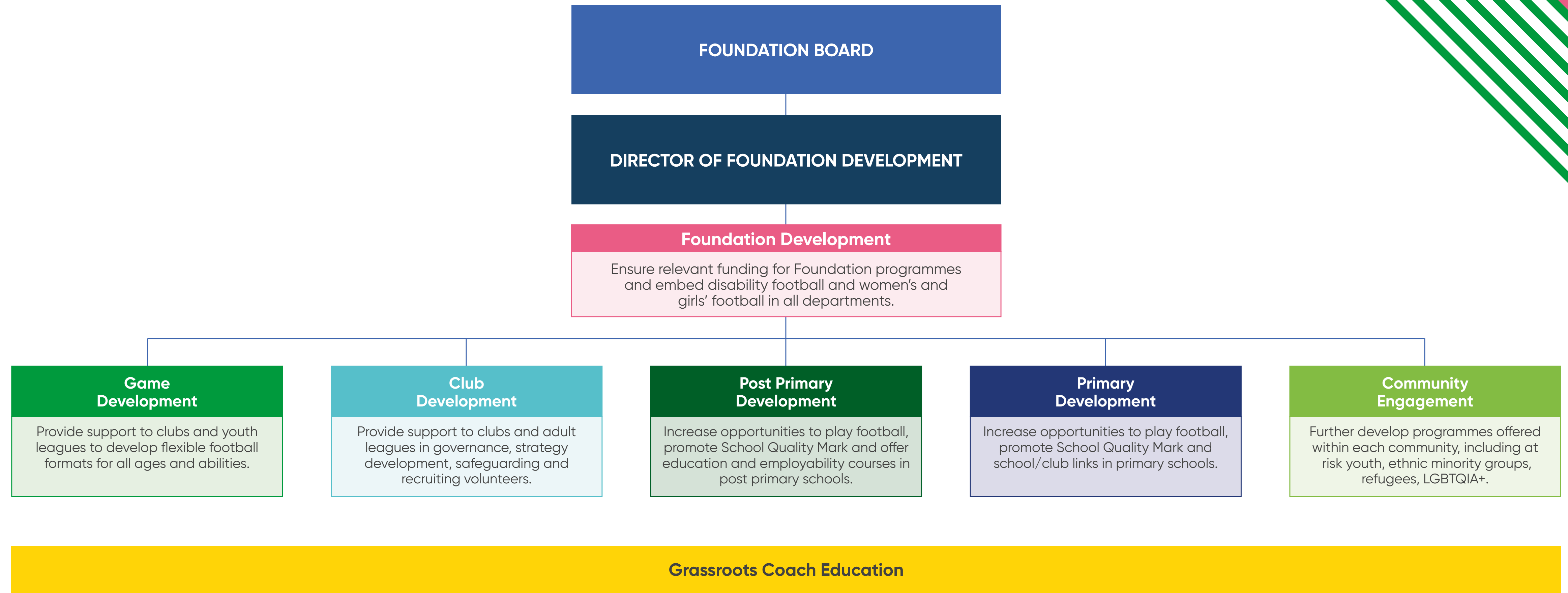
SEPT

OCT

NOV

DEC

FOUNDATION STRUCTURE



BOARD



DAVID MARTIN
Trustee and Chairman
Appointed: September 2021

David is a lifelong servant of amateur football in Northern Ireland. He has served as Treasurer of the country's largest league, the Northern Amateur League, since 1980. He became a member of the Irish Football Association ("Irish FA") Council in 1981, serving the Association committees in every area of the game before being elected to the role of Association President from 2016 to 2021.

David was elected to the FIFA Council as Vice-President representing the four British National Associations (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) from 2021-2023.

He is the Foundation Board representative on the Association's Sustainability Committee and also acts as a Special Advisor to the UEFA Youth and Amateur Committee.

Before his retirement, David was the owner of a successful sports trophy business.



PATRICK NELSON
Trustee
Appointed: December 2016

Patrick Nelson has been CEO of the Irish FA since August 2009. As well as his position on the Foundation Board, he is also a director of the Association's subsidiary IFA Stadium Development Company Limited and of the International Football Association Board (IFAB), the organisation which sets the Laws of the Game worldwide for football. Prior to joining the Association, Patrick was CEO at both Macclesfield Town and Notts County Football Clubs.

He holds an honours degree in Business Studies from Nottingham Trent University and a master's degree in European Sports Governance from the Institute of Political Studies in Paris.

Patrick was appointed as a Visiting Professor in the School of Sport at Ulster University from February 2020.

In June 2023, Patrick was appointed as Chair of the National Trust Regional Advisory Group for Northern Ireland. Additionally in January 2024 Patrick was appointed Vice Chair of the Forever Mournes Project Board. In April 2024 Patrick was appointed by the Minister for Justice as an independent member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.



ALLEN MCKINSTRY
Trustee
Appointed: April 2017

Allen is a retired Senior Vice Principal of RBAI. Following his retirement from teaching in August 2015, he acted as coordinator for the South Belfast Area Learning Community until 2022. Since 2017 Allen has been Senior Exams Invigilator at QUB and has been a member of the CCEA Independent Appeals Committee since 2023.

Allen was formerly Chair of the Irish FA Board, Football, Youth and Audit & Risk Committees. He was also Chair of the Licensing Committee from 2003-2023. Within schools' football, he represented Northern Ireland Schools' Football Association (NISFA) on the Irish FA Council from 1994 -2011 and was former Hon. Secretary and Chairman of the NISFA and Schools' Association Football International Board. Allen was previously a Governor of RBAI, Ballyclare High and Ballyclare Primary Schools.



RYAN ADAMS
Trustee
Appointed: July 2019

Ryan is a qualified solicitor and sports lawyer. He is currently Senior Counsel at FIFA. Prior to this he held senior legal roles at United Rugby Championship and NBC Sports Group. Alongside his non-executive directorship with the Foundation, he is a member of the Irish FA Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) and has an advisory role with the Northern Ireland Futsal Federation (NIFF).

He has amassed 15+ years experience advising and working within sport in various roles spanning disciplinary, safeguarding and ethics, including with England Boxing, International MMA Federation and the West Riding County FA.



ALAN WILLIS
Trustee
Appointed: October 2020

Alan is a retired Civil Servant. He has been involved with the grassroots/ amateur game for over 50 years both as a player and an administrator. Alan has been a member of the Mid Ulster Football Association Council for 30 years, previously acting as secretary and chairman of the Association. He is also a serving member of the Mid Ulster Football League. Prior to his appointment to the Foundation Board, Alan was a director of the Irish FA Board from 2011-2020. He is also a former member of the Association's Football Committee.

Outside of football, Alan has volunteered under the 'Time to Read Programme' which assists in helping primary school children improve their reading skills. He is also a keen cyclist and has been involved in a number of charity events, including raising funds for Northern Ireland Childrens Hospice.



RÓISÍN WOOD OBE
Trustee
Appointed: August 2023

Róisín is the Chief Executive Officer of The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland's largest independent grant making organisation. Prior to this Róisín was Chief Executive Officer of Kick It Out, English football's equality and inclusion organisation.

Róisín currently chairs the National League's Strategic Review Group and is a member of their Ethics Committee. She was also awarded an honorary Fellowship from UCBB and Global Institute of Sport.

Róisín was recently appointed as a Fellow for the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building. As an advocate for positive social change, she continues to drive initiatives that will have a lasting impact on communities and individuals across Northern Ireland.

Awarded an OBE in 2018 for services to tackling discrimination in football, in October 2020 Róisín took on a new challenge as an Inclusive Leadership Consultant, highlighting her passion and commitment towards an inclusive society.

GOVERNANCE REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the year ended 31 December 2024 the Foundation had a total income of £3,027k (2023: £3,274k) and total reserves at the end of the year of £1,658k (2023: £1,653k). Total unrestricted reserves at the end of the year were £1,658k (2023: £1,653k).

The charity will continue its current operations to achieve its long-term objectives. The Trustees believe the existing approach is effective and will maintain it, using lessons learned to inform ongoing resource allocation.

RESERVES POLICY

A financial target of the Foundation is to hold reserves equal to the anticipated operating expenditure for a normal six-month period. Reserves at the year end were in line with this policy.

PRINCIPAL FUNDING SOURCES

For the year ended 31 December 2024 the principal sources of funding for the Foundation were as follows:

- Sponsorship from partner organisations in the private sector, such as McDonald's and M&S
- Income from education and coaching activities
- Grant funding from partner organisations in the sporting sector including UEFA and FIFA
- Grant funding from partners in the public sector, including Department for Communities, Department for Education and Sport Northern Ireland
- Grant funding from partners in the philanthropic and charitable sectors

INVESTMENT POLICY AND OBJECTIVES

The Foundation takes a risk averse view on investment of cash reserves and as such maintains a regular current account with a major high street bank in which all funds are held.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Foundation is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees are aware of potential internal and external risks faced by the Foundation and assess those risks on a regular basis. Additionally they undertake a formal risk management exercise annually.

The key risks at the present time relate to the health and safety of participants in the Foundation's activities and the safeguarding of children and young people that are involved in the Foundation's activities. The Foundation has appropriate policies in place to manage these identified risks and all staff receive training to embed these policies in the day-to-day activities.

Other risks and emerging risks are monitored by the Foundation and relevant controls implemented to manage these risks in line with the Foundation's risk appetite set by the Board.

Management's going concern assessment has taken into consideration the current financial position and principal risks facing the entity, and consider that there is no material uncertainty relating to going concern.

The key judgments and estimates used to arrive at this conclusion include:

- The Foundation has sufficient liquidity and cash flow availability on an ongoing basis
- Confirmed visibility from UEFA and FIFA on their financing programmes
- Support from various levels of government, including financial assistance
- Mitigating actions and processes implemented to ensure an effective control environment and availability of relevant management information on a continuing basis

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Foundation's 'Football For All' ethos is to create an environment in which all stakeholders - staff, participants and the wider community - has equal, dignified ease of access to our organisation, services and facilities. The Foundation aims to be inclusive, supportive, fair and free from discrimination and to actively promote equality and diversity and ensure that the legislation and policy requirements within the nine protected characteristics of equality and diversity are implemented into all working practices.

EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always considered fully, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. It is the policy of the Foundation that the training, career development and promotion of disabled people should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees. So, in the event that a member of staff becomes disabled, we will make every effort to ensure that their employment with the Foundation continues. This includes making any proper adjustments necessary to accommodate their disability.

Director	Feb	Apr	Jun	Aug	Oct	Dec
David Martin	●	●	●	●	●	●
Patrick Nelson	●	●	●	●	●	●
Alan Willis	○	●	●	●	●	●
Allen McKinstry	●	○	●	●	●	●
Ryan Adams	●	●	○	●	●	●
Roisin Wood	●	●	●	●	●	○

Attended ● Absent ○

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Foundation is managed and controlled by its Trustees who sit as its Board of Directors. The Board is made up of six members, three of which are appointed following public advertisement and the remaining three are nominated by the sole member (Irish Football Association Limited). In accordance with the Articles of Association the three members nominated by the Irish Football Association Limited ("Association") cannot hold a directorship at the Association at the same time as being a trustee and director of the Foundation.

The Board is responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity. The Trustees set the charity's long-term objectives and ensure that the organisation remains focused on achieving its charitable purposes in accordance with its governing document and relevant legislation.

The day-to-day management and operations of the charity are delegated to the Irish FA Senior Leadership Team ("SLT"), who are responsible for delivering the charity's objectives and managing its activities and resources effectively.

This includes overseeing programmes, staffing, and day-to-day financial management.

The SLT is made up of;

- Patrick Nelson, Chief Executive Officer
- James Thompson, Director of Foundation
- Graham Fitzgerald, Chief Operating Officer
- Niall McClean, Finance Director
- Danny Lynch, Director of Communications
- Angela Platt, Director of Women's Football
- Andy Waterworth, Director of Elite Player Development
- Aaron Hughes MBE, Technical Director

However, all strategic decisions, including any changes to the charity's business structure or staffing levels, are reserved for approval by the Board of Trustees. The Board also provides oversight through regular meetings and maintains close engagement with operational matters.

At each Board meeting, Trustees receive updates on a different operational area

The Foundation aims to be inclusive, supportive, fair and free from discrimination



GOVERNANCE REPORT (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTORS' REPORT) CONTINUED

of the organisation to ensure comprehensive oversight over time. In addition, standing reports are presented at every meeting by key members of the senior leadership team.

INDUCTION AND TRAINING OF TRUSTEES

The Trustees receive an induction upon appointment to the Board and undertake regular training and development. The Board convenes sessions to review governance practice and enhance professional competence required for the role of trustee.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

All service by Board Trustees is on a voluntary basis, with time and expertise freely donated to the work of the Foundation. The Board continued to strengthen performance through recruitment, evaluation, and training. We thank them for their continuing input and support.

BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings are planned six times per year to discuss and agree on various strategic matters. The Chairman, in conjunction with the Irish FA CEO and the Company Secretary, plans an annual programme of business prior to the start of each financial year. This ensures that essential topics are covered at appropriate times, and that space is built in to give the Board the opportunity to have in-depth discussions on key issues.

The programme of business is prepared in conjunction with the annual programme for the Senior Leadership Team meetings, to ensure consistency and fluid reporting to the Board as and when required. All Trustees are expected to attend all Board meetings and details of attendance at meetings during the year are set out in this section. Trustees who were unable to attend specific meetings reviewed the relevant papers and provided their comments to the Chairman of the Board. Any Trustee who misses a meeting will, as a matter of course, receive the minutes of that

meeting for reference.

APPROACH TO GRANT MAKING

In line with the charity's ethos, our grant-making approach is rooted in supporting and empowering the schools, clubs, and communities we serve. We aim to build meaningful relationships based on trust, flexibility, and shared goals, enabling others to thrive in ways that matter most to them.

APPROACH TO FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

During the year, the Foundation undertook fundraising activities to support its charitable objectives, including the sale of raffle tickets for prizes on match nights. These raffles were promoted as part of our community engagement efforts and provided an opportunity for supporters to contribute towards the development of grassroots football initiatives.

The Foundation worked with a professional fundraising platform, Klubfunder, which provided administrative and technical support for the management and operation of the raffles. Klubfunder did not retain any proceeds from the sale of tickets other than agreed fees for the provision of their services. Oversight and control of the fundraising activity remained with the Foundation at all times.

The Foundation ensured that all fundraising activities were conducted in accordance with relevant legal requirements, including those under the Gambling Act 2005 for small society lotteries. All raffles were carried out transparently and responsibly, with clear information provided to participants regarding the nature of the prizes, entry terms, and the charitable purpose of the funds raised.

Raffle ticket sales were restricted to attendees at match nights and were only offered in-person, ensuring that all participants were present and engaged with the event. Sales were overseen by staff and volunteers, who were briefed to

avoid selling tickets to anyone who appeared underage or vulnerable. Clear signage and verbal explanations were provided to inform participants that entry was optional and that all proceeds supported the Foundation's charitable aims. No high-pressure sales techniques were used.

No complaints were received in relation to the Foundation's fundraising activities during the reporting period.

The Foundation is committed to high standards of fundraising and supports the principles outlined in the Code of Fundraising Practice, as issued by the Fundraising Regulator. While the Foundation is not currently registered with the Fundraising Regulator, it takes all reasonable steps to ensure that fundraising activities are ethical, respectful, and compliant with applicable laws and guidance.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

In accordance with Section 485 of the Companies Act 2006, a resolution is to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting of the ultimate parent undertaking for reappointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers (Northern Ireland) LLP as auditors of the company.

SMALL COMPANIES' EXEMPTION

In preparing this report, the directors have taken advantage of the small companies' exemptions provided by Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This report was approved by the Board on 01 May 2025 and signed on its behalf.

David Martin
Trustee and Chairman
Date: 01 May 2025



OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES & IMPACT



Objective

01

To advance amateur football, youth football, schools' football and futsal in accordance with the remit of the Irish FA, for the benefit of the general public in any part of Northern Ireland.

Featured activities:

Let Them Play

Community Football

Inclusive Football



LET THEM PLAY



Strategy Pillars met:

PARTICIPATION

WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' FOOTBALL

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Increase participation in schools by building capacity within schools to offer football.

The Let Them Play programme continues to play a pivotal role in increasing football participation across primary, post-primary and special schools.

Through targeted interventions applied to schools that do not currently play football or have a lack of provision within their school environment, the programme adapts to address key areas for each school.

Tailored support comes in many forms, including coaching certifications, equipment packs and introducing small sided games – and the programme ensures football is accessible to pupils of all abilities.

Through initiatives such as Disney Playmakers, designed to introduce younger children to football through storytelling and play, and ongoing collaboration with UEFA to support special schools, the Let Them Play programme emphasises fun, inclusion and sustainability.

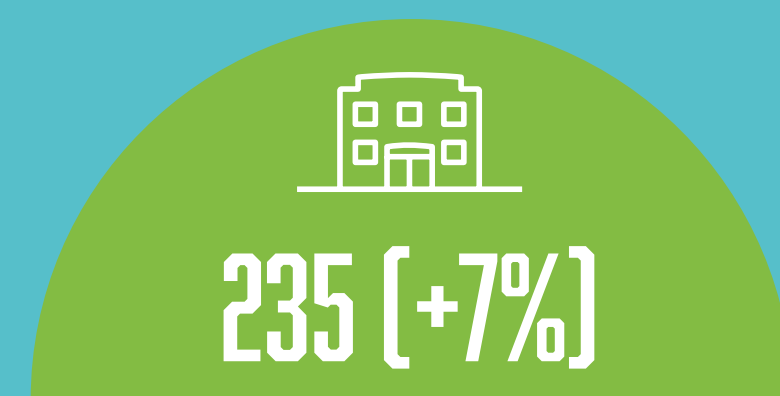


U18 Boys Schools' Cup winners Integrated College Dungannon

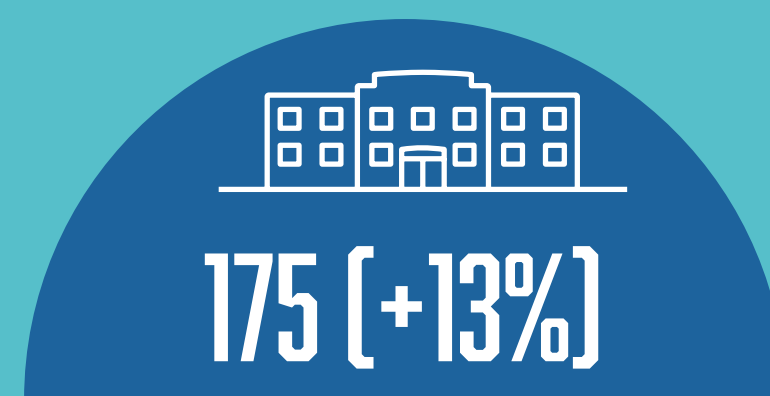


The programme adapts to address key areas for each school.

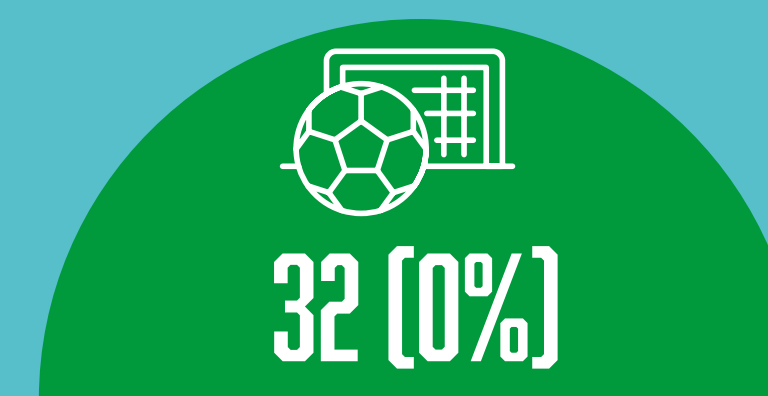
In 2024 the programme saw significant growth: (year on year changes):



PRIMARY SCHOOLS



POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS



EQUIPMENT PACKS DISTRIBUTED



SPECIAL SCHOOLS



COMMUNITY FOOTBALL



PARTICIPATION



WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' FOOTBALL



SUSTAINABILITY & CSR

Strategy Pillars met:

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Increase participation across Northern Ireland by building capacity to offer flexible football formats.

The Community Football programme continues to be a cornerstone of football participation across Northern Ireland, providing flexible formats and opportunities for players of all ages and abilities.

By partnering with local councils, community organisations and key sponsors such as McDonald's, the programme ensures football remains accessible to everyone.

The Community Football programme remains committed to addressing participation trends and delivering tailored opportunities for players across Northern Ireland.

With continued focus on inclusion, fun and flexibility, the programme provides a vital pathway for players of all ages to engage with football in a way that suits their motivation.



Holiday Camps

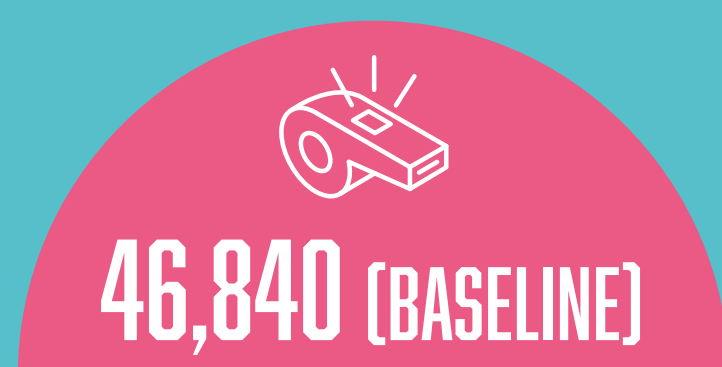


The programme ensures football remains accessible to everyone.

In 2024 the programme delivered significant impact (year on year changes):



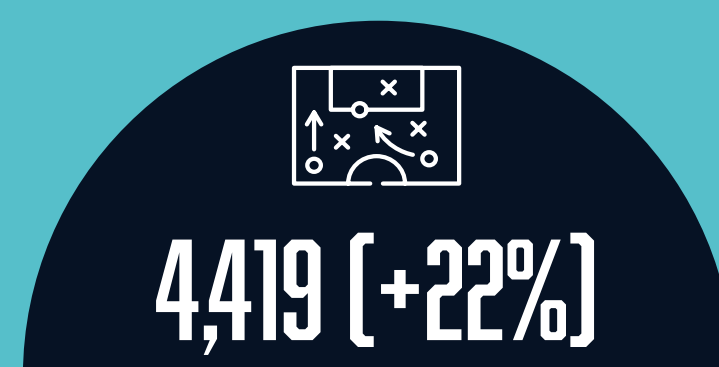
REGISTERED FOOTBALL PLAYERS



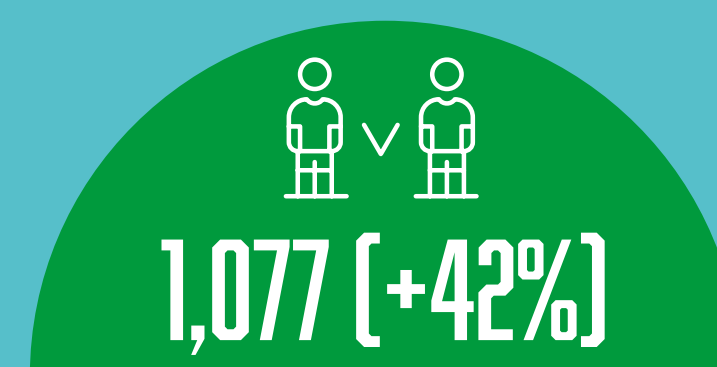
YOUTH FOOTBALL PLAYERS



ADULT FOOTBALL PLAYERS



HOLIDAY CAMP PARTICIPATION



MCDONALD'S FUN FOOTBALL



FUTSAL CLUBS

INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL



Strategy Pillars met:

PARTICIPATION

SUSTAINABILITY & CSR

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Develop flexible formats to increase participation across all ability levels.



George Best Community Cup

The Inclusive Football programme is dedicated to ensuring that football is accessible to everyone, regardless of ability or background.

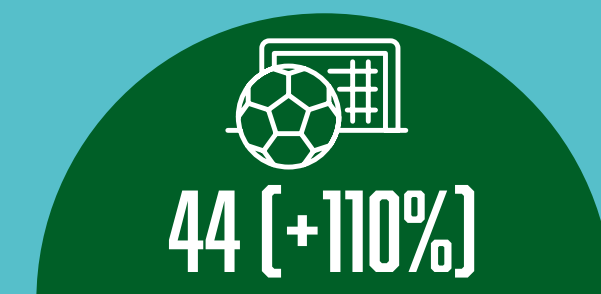
Through targeted initiatives, the programme continues to expand opportunities for players with disabilities, promoting inclusivity across Northern Ireland.

The Inclusive Football programme remains at the forefront of promoting equality and diversity, delivering tailored opportunities that allow individuals of all abilities to thrive.

As the programme continues to grow, its emphasis on collaboration with clubs and community partners ensures football remains a game for everyone.

“**Collaboration with clubs and community partners ensures football remains a game for everyone.**”

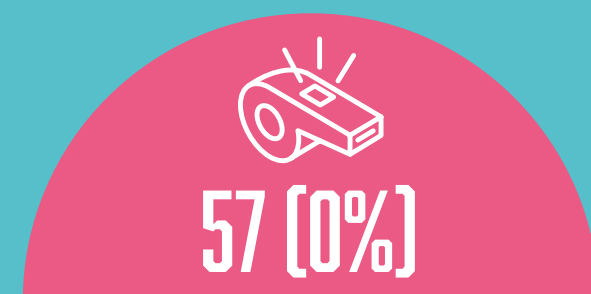
In 2024 the programme achieved significant milestones (year on year changes):



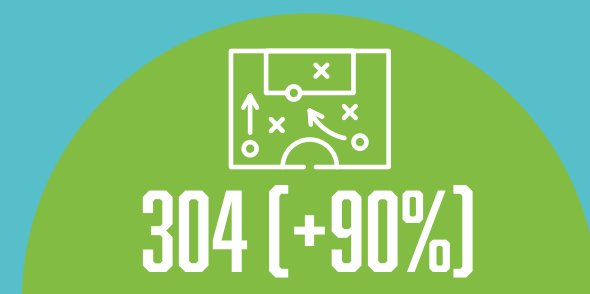
MCDONALD'S FUN FOOTBALL DISABILITY SESSIONS



DISABILITY CLUB MEMBERS



DISABILITY CLUB SECTIONS



YOUTH LEAGUE DISABILITY PLAYERS



ADULT LEAGUE DISABILITY PLAYERS



AUTISM FRIENDLY HOLIDAY CAMPS



SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

REVOLUTIONISING YOUTH FOOTBALL



“
**A landmark day for
 the Irish Football
 Association.**”



Objective

02

To advance education by providing work experience and support to educational establishments and extra-curricular educational groups (targeting young people including those not in education or employment [NEETs] and areas of social need).

Featured activities:

School-Club Link

School Quality Mark

Education & Employability



SCHOOL-CLUB LINK



PARTICIPATION



WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' FOOTBALL



SUSTAINABILITY & CSR

Strategy Pillars met:

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Develop extracurricular support in schools by establishing links with schools and accredited clubs.

School-Club Link has a collaborative approach with Post Primary, Primary and Club Development Officers. This innovative initiative fosters collaboration between our schools and local accredited football clubs. By establishing a robust network, the School-Club Link programme aims to significantly expand opportunities for young people to develop their football skills within and beyond the school environment.

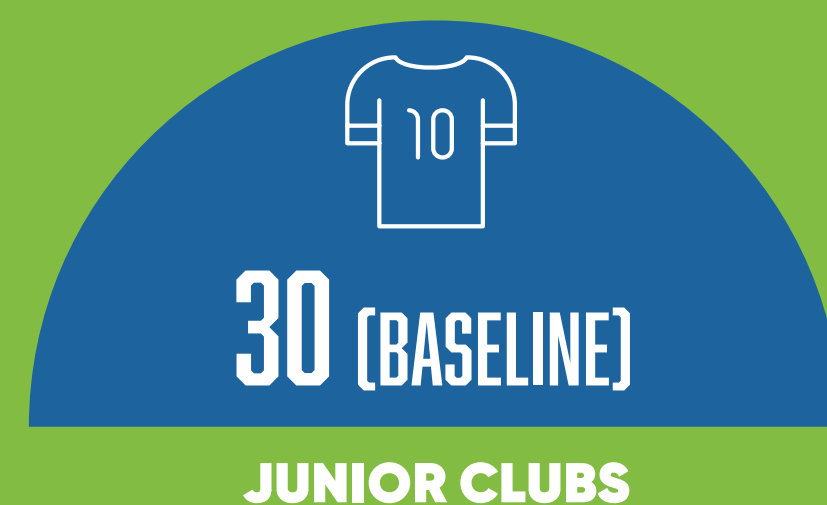
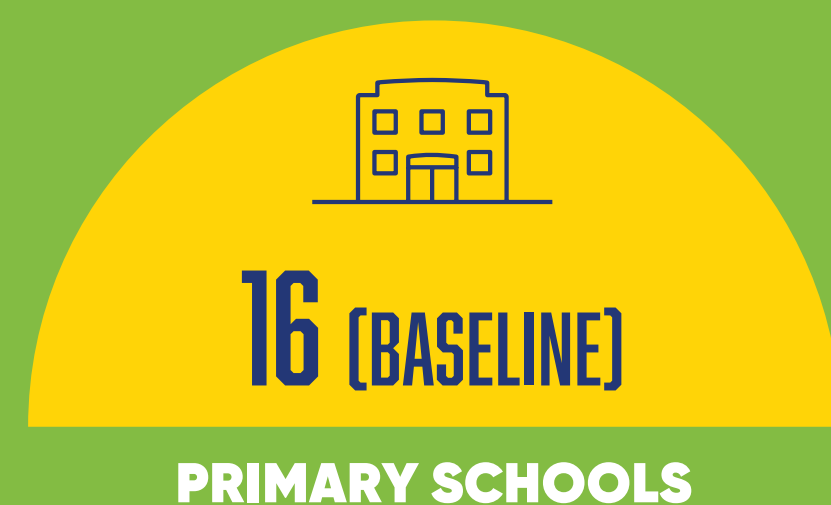
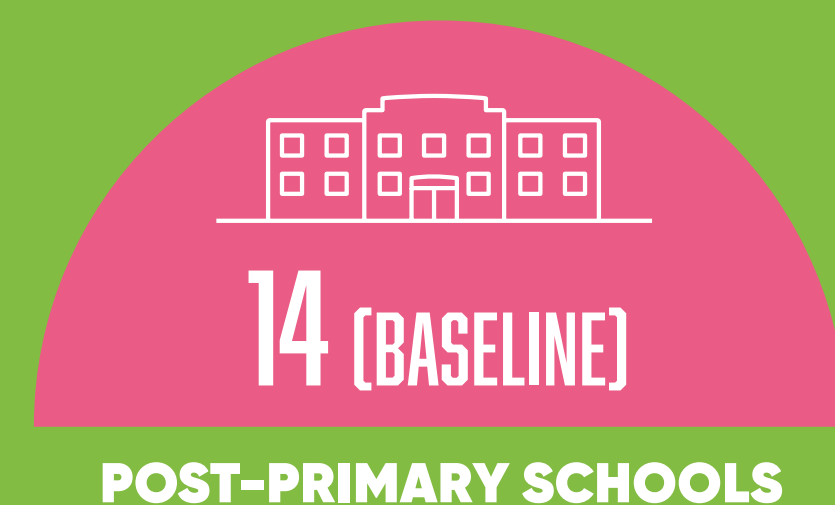
The programme serves as a bridge between the classroom and the wider footballing community. Partnering with established clubs provides students with access to diverse football experiences. Programmes can be tailored to specific needs, such as girls' only sessions, mixed teams and/or disability-inclusive training.



The benefits of the programme are far-reaching. Students can not only cultivate a lifelong love for football but also develop valuable life skills like leadership and self-esteem. Schools can expect a healthier student body and a broader range of football opportunities. Clubs will benefit from increased community visibility, potential funding opportunities and a larger pool of potential players and volunteers.

“ This innovative initiative fosters collaboration between our schools and local accredited football clubs. ”

The programme supported the following participation metrics:



SCHOOL QUALITY MARK



PARTICIPATION



WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' FOOTBALL



SUSTAINABILITY & CSR

Strategy Pillars met:

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

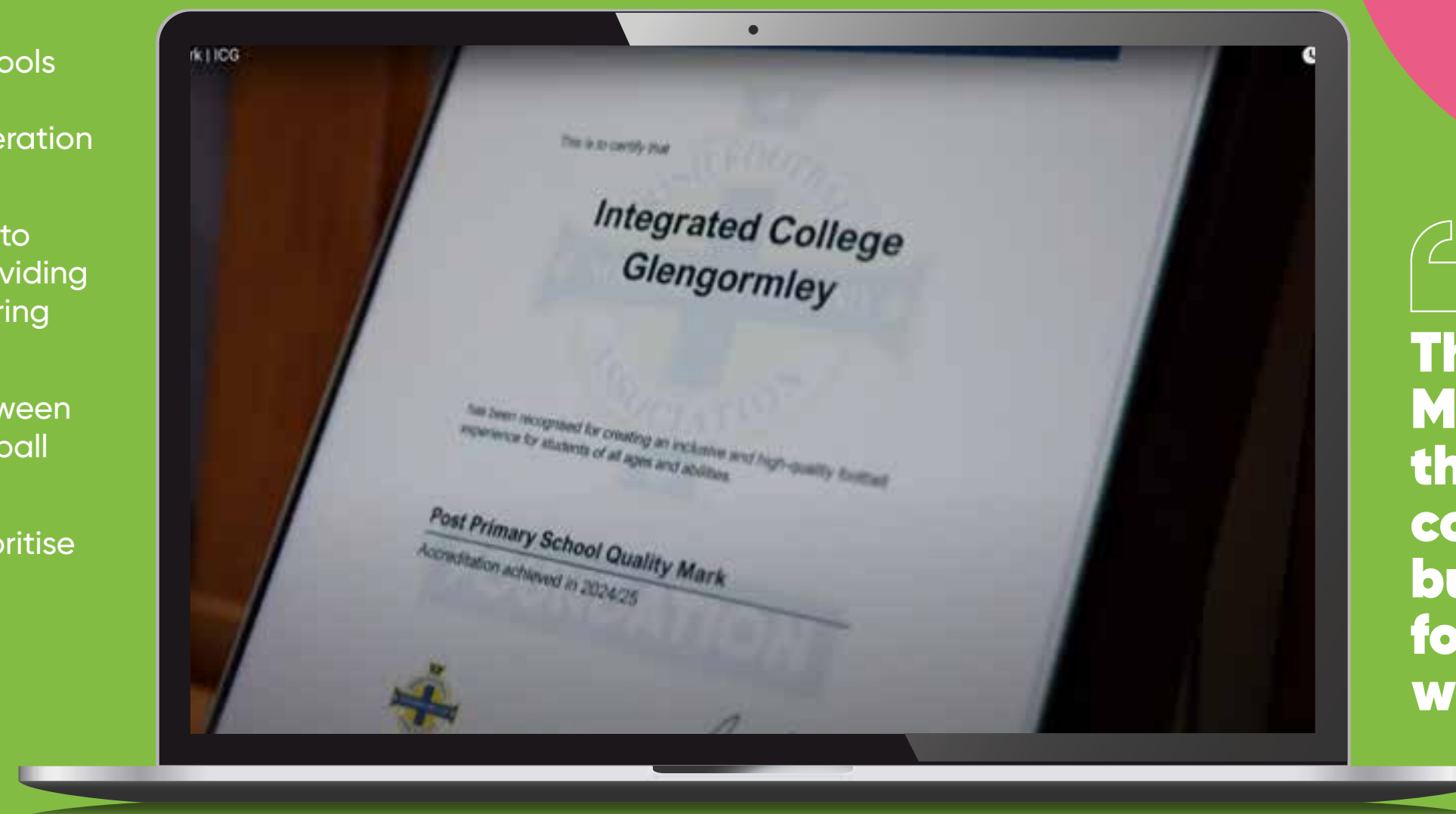
Improve the impact of extracurricular activities by improving the quality of football resources in schools.

By providing resources, training and structured accreditation, the programme ensures that schools are equipped to promote participation, create positive environments and inspire the next generation of footballers.

The School Quality Mark programme continues to focus on improving access to resources and providing tailored support to schools. This includes delivering equipment packs and coaching certifications.

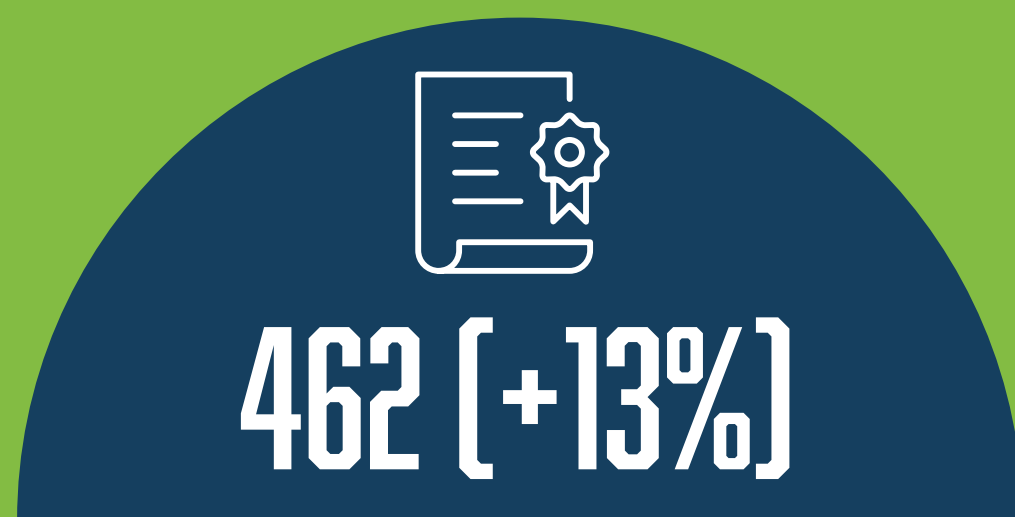
The programme has fostered collaboration between schools and the Foundation, ensuring that football provision remains sustainable and impactful.

By celebrating and supporting schools that prioritise football, the School Quality Mark reflects the Foundation's commitment to building a strong football culture within education.



“The School Quality Mark reflects the Foundation's commitment to building a strong football culture within education.”

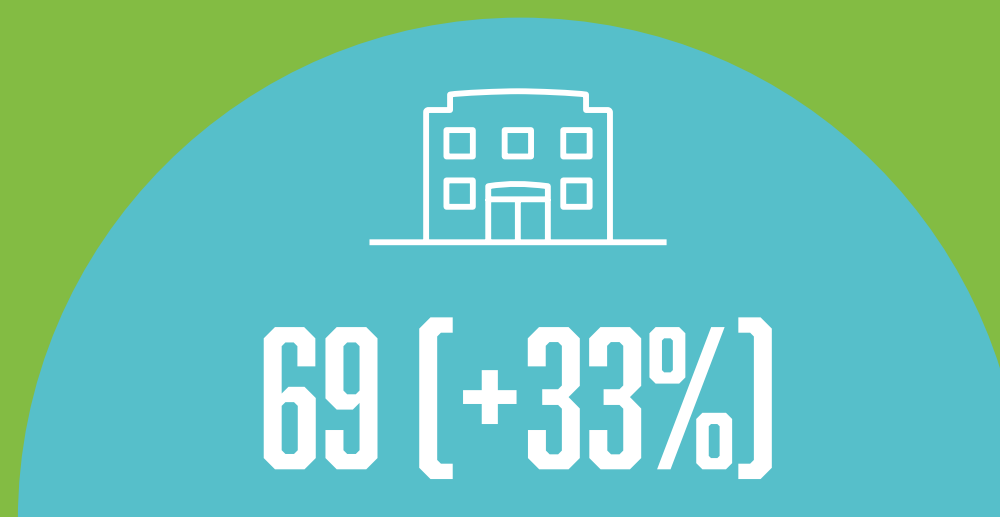
In 2024 the programme achieved the following milestones (year on year changes):



NATIONAL COACHING CERTIFICATE (NCC)-QUALIFIED TEACHERS/STUDENTS



EQUIPMENT VALUE



PRIMARY SCHOOLS



POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Strategy Pillars met:

SUSTAINABILITY & CSR

EDUCATION & EMPLOYABILITY

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Establish greater work experience and career development opportunities in schools through specific coaching and leisure qualifications (BTEC/A-Level).

The Education & Employability programme empowers young people by providing qualifications, coaching opportunities and hands-on experience to build future careers in football. By partnering with schools and colleges, the programme ensures that participants gain the skills, confidence and opportunities needed to thrive both on and off the pitch.

The Education & Employability programme continues to serve as a pathway for young people into football, focusing on transferable skills, community involvement and professional development.

By supporting students through education, training and real-world experience, the programme reinforces the Foundation's commitment to inspiring the next generation.

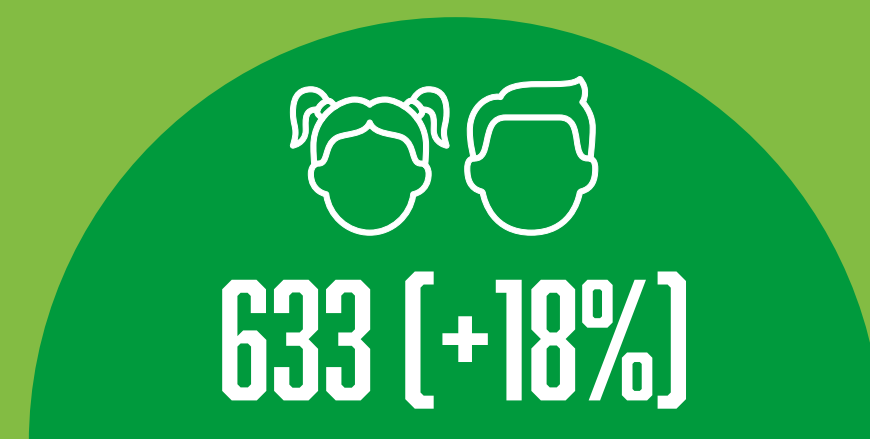


The programme reinforces the Foundation's commitment to inspiring the next generation.



Education & Employability

In 2024 the programme achieved the following milestones (year on year changes):



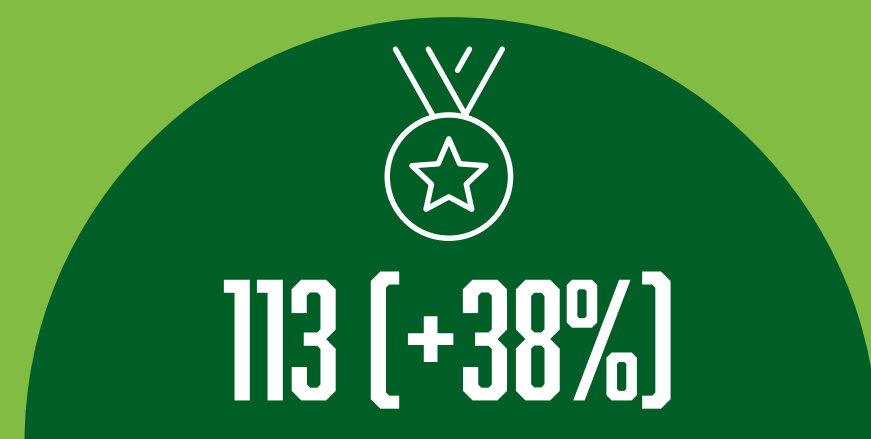
STUDENTS GRADUATED



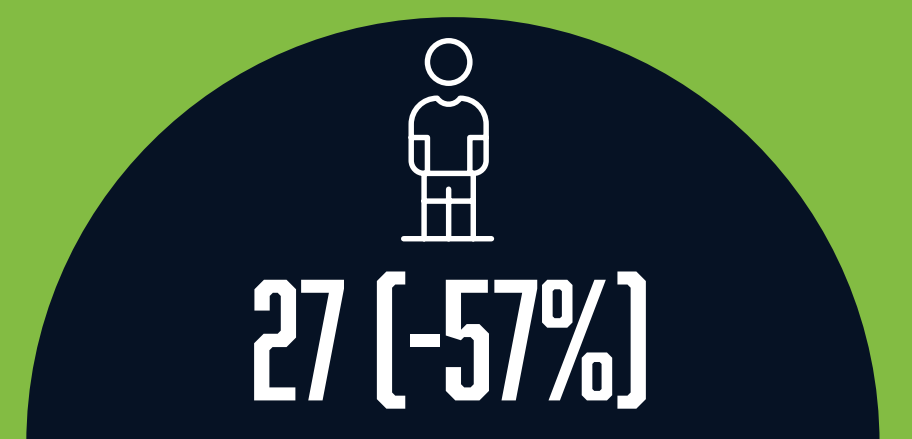
SCHOOLS



COLLEGES



STUDENTS - FOUNDATION VOLUNTEERING



STUDENTS - FOUNDATION COACHING

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

2024 SCHOOLS' CUP FINAL



“It won't be an easy game because I know what's on the line. Big pitch, good facilities, it'll be a tough game to play.”



Objective

03

To adopt an inclusive approach so that all members of the community have access to our initiatives, regardless of background, gender, religion, politics, race or sexual orientation, in support of the wider charitable objectives of the Irish FA.

Featured activities:

League Accreditation

Club Accreditation

Girls Only



LEAGUE ACCREDITATION



Strategy Pillars met:

PARTICIPATION

SUSTAINABILITY & CSR

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Improve the provision of football by building capacity within adult and youth leagues.

The League Accreditation programme is designed to enhance the operational standards of youth and adult football leagues across Northern Ireland. By focusing on governance, safeguarding and volunteer retention, the programme ensures leagues are better equipped to provide a safe, inclusive and high-quality footballing experience for all players.

These consultations have provided valuable insights into the challenges leagues face and will inform the next stages of the programme's development.

The Youth Football Framework, which will begin implementation in 2025, will serve as a key catalyst for advancing the League Accreditation programme by establishing consistent standards and supporting operational excellence across all leagues.

The Foundation remains committed to delivering a League Accreditation programme that recognises, and rewards leagues prioritising safeguarding, governance and volunteer engagement. Through collaboration and continued refinement, the programme will provide the tools and resources leagues need to grow and thrive.

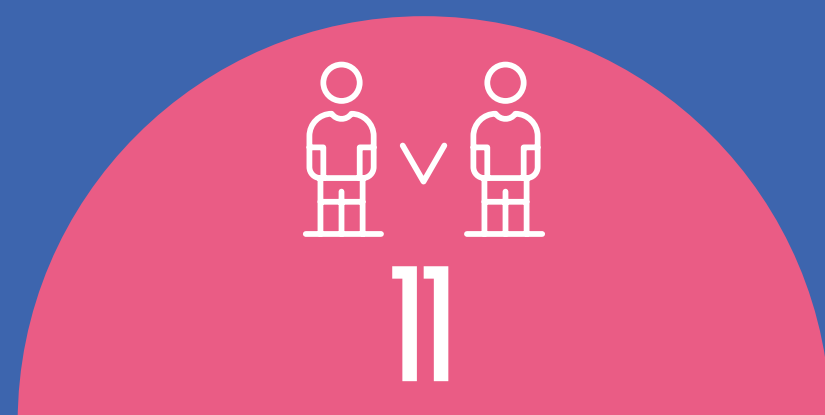
In 2024, the Foundation continued to work closely with leagues to gather feedback and refine the programme's structure.

“ **The programme will provide the tools and resources leagues need to grow and thrive.** ”

While no leagues have yet been fully accredited, significant progress was made in engaging key stakeholders:



YOUTH LEAGUES AND SMALL-SIDED GAMES COMMITTEES



ADULT LEAGUES



DISABILITY LEAGUE



FUTSAL LEAGUES



CLUB ACCREDITATION



WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' FOOTBALL



SUSTAINABILITY & CSR

Strategy Pillars met:

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Improve the provision of football by building capacity within clubs.

The Club Accreditation programme is designed to support and recognise clubs that achieve excellence in governance, safeguarding and operational standards.

By providing a clear framework and tailored resources, the programme ensures clubs are equipped to deliver safe, inclusive and sustainable football experiences for their communities.

The updated process provided greater clarity on the requirements for governance and safeguarding. Clubs were also given access to expanded training opportunities for volunteers and administrators, ensuring they are better prepared to meet operational standards.

The Club Accreditation programme continues to demonstrate the Foundation's commitment to strengthening grassroots football across Northern Ireland. By recognising clubs that excel,

the programme ensures that they remain at the heart of their communities and are supported in achieving long-term sustainability.

In 2024, the programme underwent a significant change in process, with a revised structure introduced to simplify and streamline the accreditation journey for clubs. The updated framework places a stronger emphasis on supporting clubs through tailored workshops, mentorship and resources, ensuring they have the tools needed to achieve and maintain accreditation.

“By recognising clubs that excel, the programme ensures that they remain at the heart of their communities”

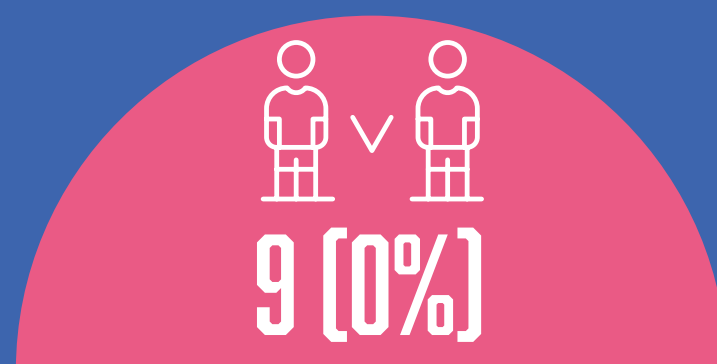


Club Accreditation celebration event

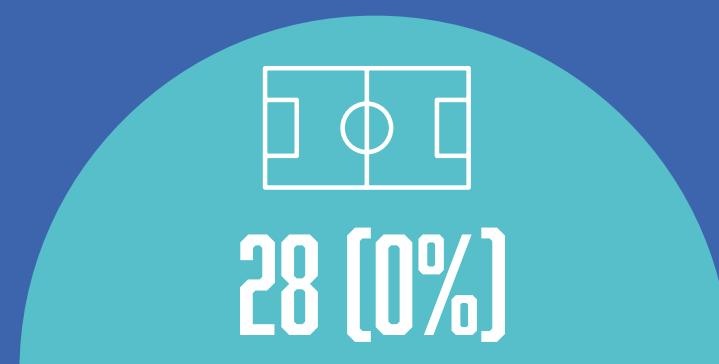
Key outcomes for 2024 include (year on year changes):



CLUBS ACCREDITED



YOUTH-ONLY CLUBS



AMATEUR CLUBS



WOMEN'S CLUBS



FUTSAL CLUB



DISABILITY CLUBS/
SECTIONS

GIRLS' ONLY



Strategy Pillars met:

PARTICIPATION

WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' FOOTBALL

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Improve the provision of girls' and women's football by developing clubs and girls-only programmes.

The Girls' and Women's Football programme continues to play a vital role in increasing participation and leadership opportunities for females across Northern Ireland football.

By focusing on targeted initiatives, the programme promotes accessibility, representation and growth at every level of the game.

Despite challenges, the Girls' and Women's Football programme remains committed to creating new opportunities for coaches, administrators, players and leaders.

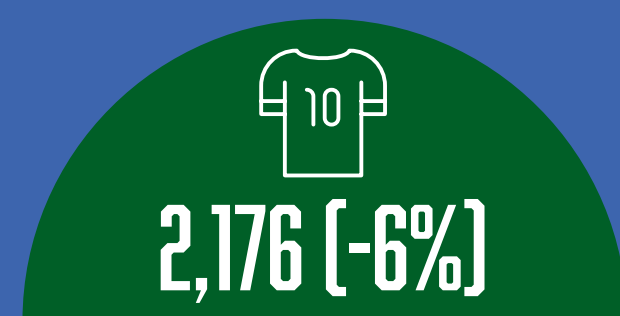
“The programme promotes accessibility, representation and growth at every level of the game”



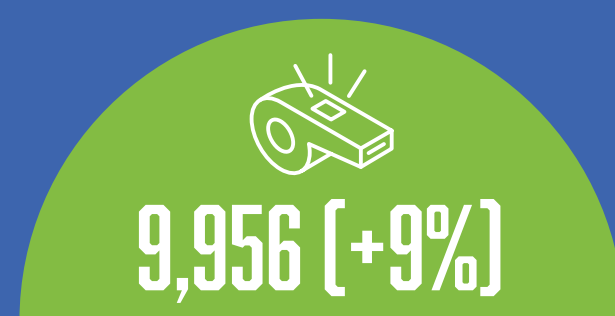
Disney Playmakers Festival



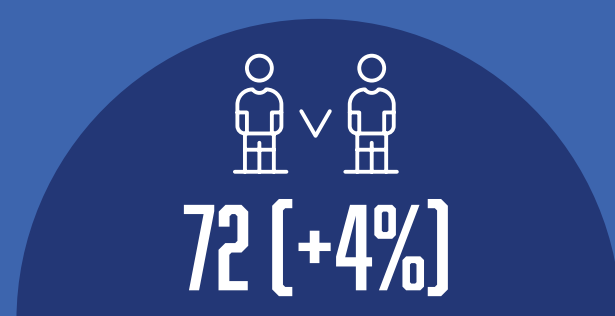
In 2024 the programme achieved the following outcomes (year on year changes):



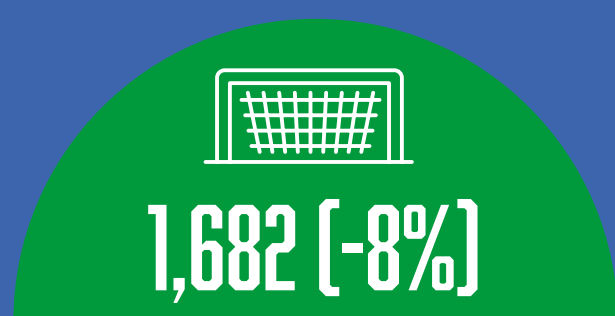
ADULT FOOTBALL PLAYERS



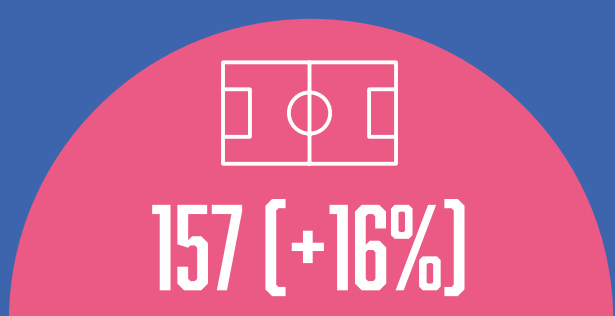
YOUTH FOOTBALL PLAYERS



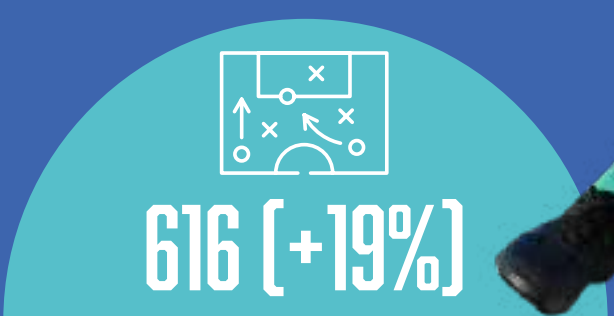
WOMEN'S CLUB TEAMS



DISNEY PLAYMAKERS PARTICIPANTS



FEMALE FOOTBALL LEADERS PARTICIPANTS



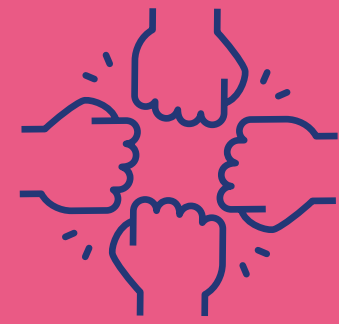
HOLIDAY CAMP PARTICIPANTS

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

FIFA DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE



“
 Even if we lose,
 we all support
 each other. ”



Objective

04

To advance the health and wellbeing of the people of Northern Ireland by leading on the development of a Northern Ireland-wide football and positive mental health campaign for men and women.

Featured activities:

Volunteers

Ahead of the Game

Community Engagement



VOLUNTEERS



Strategy Pillars met:

SUSTAINABILITY & CSR

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Provide fun and active volunteer opportunities across football for every person in Northern Ireland.

The Volunteers Programme remains a cornerstone of grassroots football in Northern Ireland, empowering individuals to contribute to their local clubs, leagues and community initiatives. By providing structured opportunities and resources, the programme aims to recruit, train and retain volunteers across all levels of football.

Through targeted recruitment efforts and collaborations with schools and clubs, the Foundation continues to strengthen its volunteer base. The programme also supports volunteers with training opportunities, mentoring and recognition for their contributions, ensuring their efforts are valued and sustained.

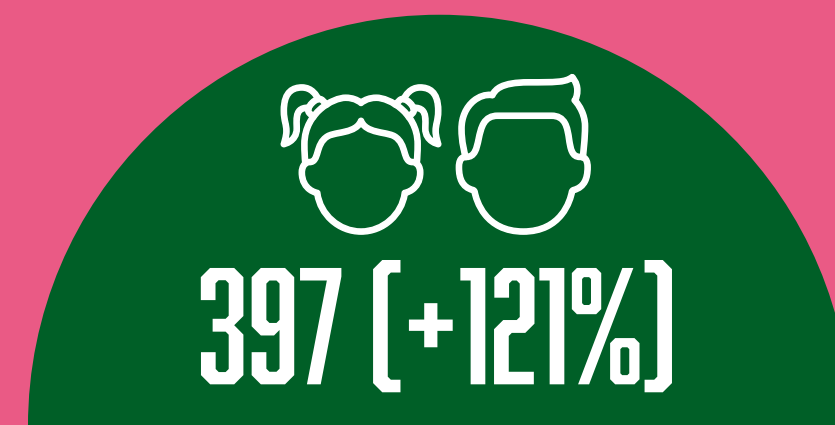
The Volunteers Programme remains essential to the success of grassroots football, creating a supportive and collaborative environment where individuals can make meaningful contributions to their communities.

“The programme aims to recruit, train and retain volunteers across all levels of football.”

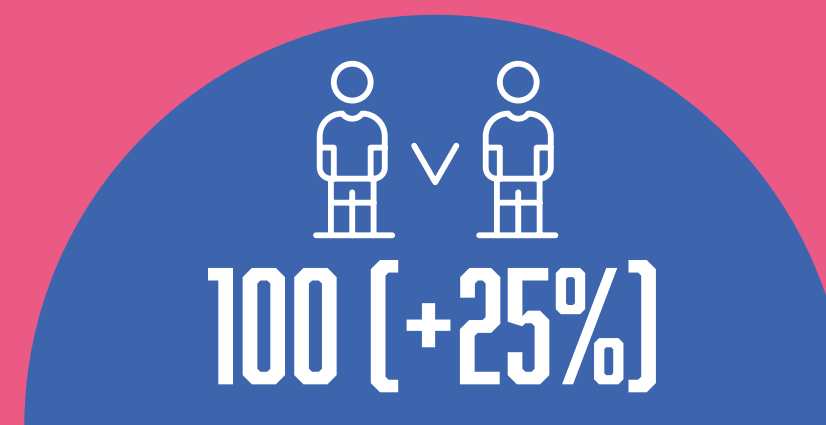


McDonald's Grassroots Football Awards 2024

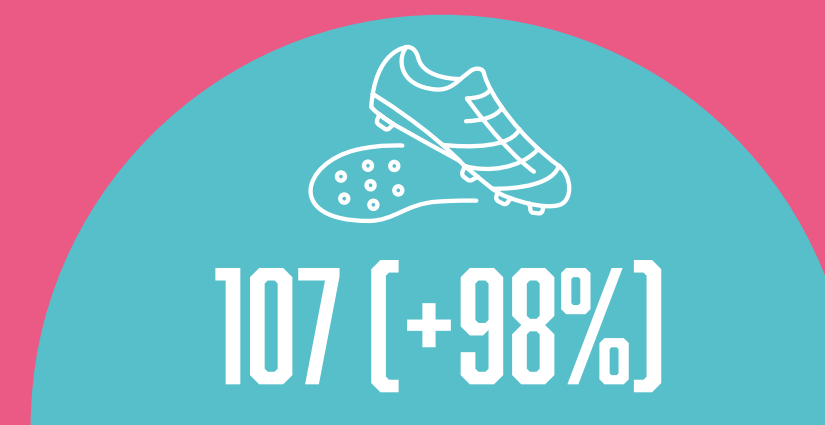
In 2024 the programme saw significant growth and achievements (year on year changes):



REGISTERED VOLUNTEERS



FOUNDATION AMBASSADORS



FEMALE VOLUNTEERS



MALE VOLUNTEERS



Strategy Pillars met:

SUSTAINABILITY & CSR

AHEAD OF THE GAME

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Increase mental health awareness with adults and young people across Northern Ireland.

The Ahead of the Game programme is a vital initiative designed to promote mental health awareness and emotional well-being through football.

By using the sport as a platform, the programme empowers clubs, community groups and individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to tackle mental health challenges, reduce stigma and create supportive environments for all participants.

A key component of the programme is signposting, ensuring participants and organisations have access to further mental health support services when needed.

Through interactive workshops and the development of Mental Health Champions, the programme provides vital resources to clubs and community groups. By addressing emotional well-being through the lens of football, Ahead of the Game ensures mental health is prioritised and stigma is reduced, making football an inclusive space for all.

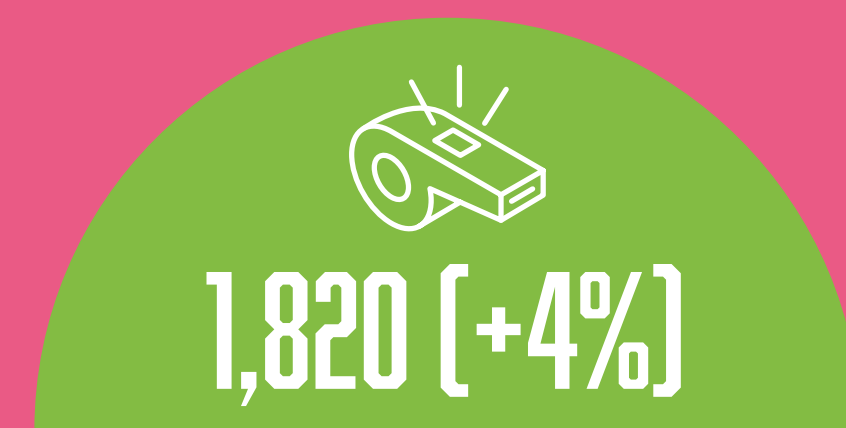


Ahead of the Game ensures mental health is prioritised and stigma is reduced, making football an inclusive space for all.

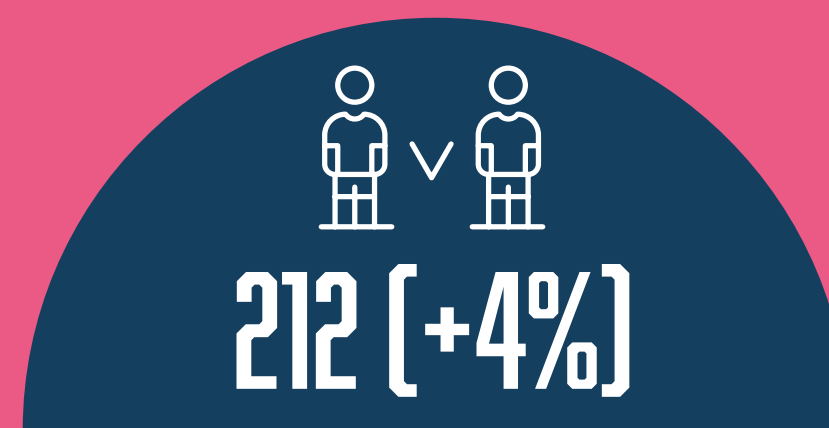


Ahead of the Game Youth Programme

In 2024 the programme achieved the following milestones (year on year changes):



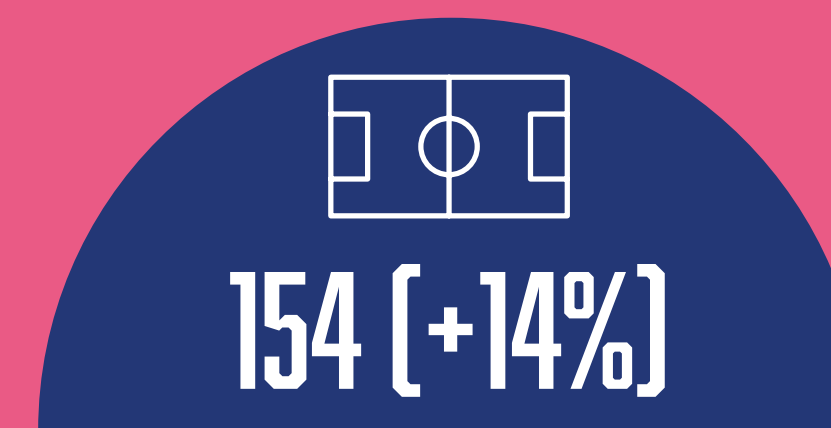
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS



CLUBS



COMMUNITY GROUPS



WORKSHOPS



Strategy Pillars met:

SUSTAINABILITY & CSR

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ACTIVITIES & IMPACT

Aim:

Advance the health and well-being of people by bringing communities together.



Fresh Start Through Sport

The Community Engagement programme is a vital initiative aimed at using football as a tool to unite communities and foster social inclusion. By working with diverse groups, including refugees, under-represented communities and local organisations, the programme ensures that football is accessible to all, regardless of background or circumstances.

The programme focuses on creating safe spaces for all participants, providing opportunities for social interaction, physical activity and personal development.

By working closely with local community groups, charities and organisations, the Foundation ensures that football serves as a platform for connection and positive change.

The Community Engagement programme continues to play a crucial role in breaking down barriers and building stronger, more inclusive communities through football.

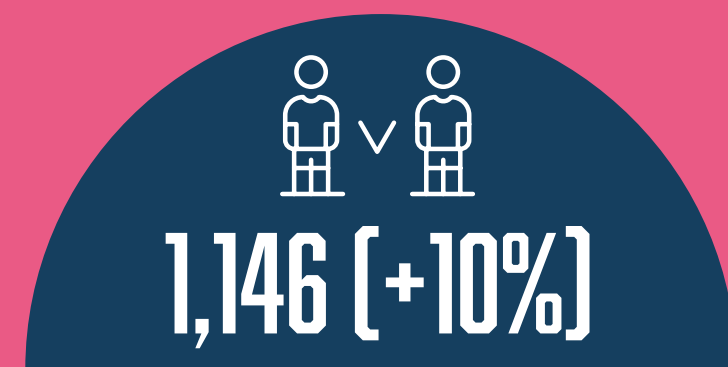


The programme ensures that football is accessible to all, regardless of background or circumstances.

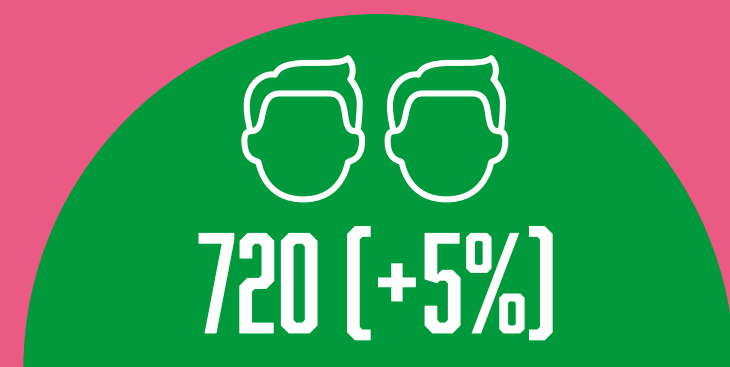
In 2024 the programme continued to expand its reach and impact (year on year changes):



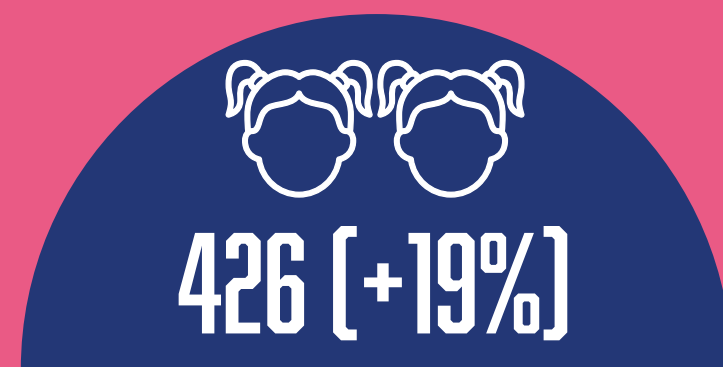
COMMUNITY GROUPS



PARTICIPANTS



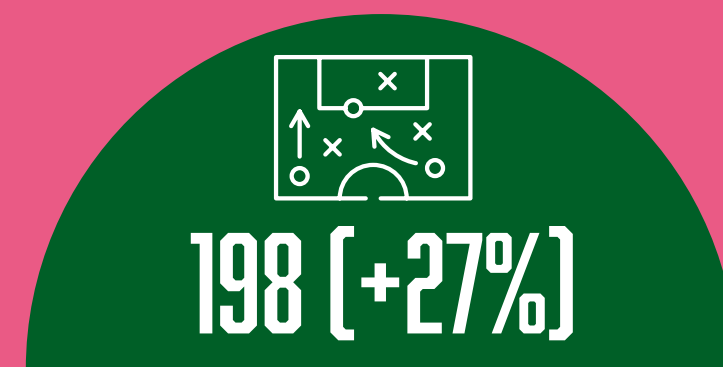
MALE PARTICIPATION



FEMALE PARTICIPATION



REFUGEE PARTICIPANTS



WORKSHOPS DELIVERED

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2024



Promote integration and inclusion of refugees within communities.



INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY SQUADS

Cerebral Palsy – World Championships, Salou, Spain

Northern Ireland's Cerebral Palsy team had to settle for silver at the CP Men's World Championships.

Northern Ireland lost in the final to Scotland, the only team to defeat them in the group stage of the competition, which was staged in Salou in Spain.

The Men's World Championships are organised by the International Federation of CP Football. They are for teams ranked 17 to 32 in the world ranking list.

Scotland were the highest ranked team in the tournament (17th) and they lived up to their ranking against Northern Ireland (20th) in the gold medal match, winning 4-0.

However, Northern Ireland left the stage with their heads held high. They won three out of four games in the round-robin group stage to secure a place in the decider.

In the group stage Northern Ireland enjoyed 5-1 win victories over both Chile (ranked 18th in the world) and South Korea (24th), and they also defeated Italy (19th) by a goal to nil. They lost 3-0 against Scotland.

The squad now look forward to the 2025 European Championships that will be held in England in August.



Northern Ireland CP squad: Paul Cassidy (GK) (Belfast), Charlie Fogarty (Birmingham), Oisín McGurk (Magherafelt), Jordan Walker (captain) (Belfast), Sean Coyle (Coleraine), Jordan Cush (Belfast), David Leavy (Castlewellan), Declan McDonnell (Belfast), Ryan Walker (Armagh), Charley Emerson (Belfast), Finn Mullan (Carrickfergus).



INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY SQUADS

Powerchair – Home Nations, Largs, Scotland

Northern Ireland's senior Powerchair team finished runners-up in the European Powerchair Football Association Home Nations Cup.

They reached the final of the competition for the first time, however England proved to be too strong for them in the decider.

SportScotland Inverclyde National Sport Training Centre in Largs was the venue for the international tournament in which Northern Ireland faced hosts Scotland and Republic of Ireland as well as England.

The Northern Ireland team featured Sean McKinney (GK), Jason Browning, Bartek Kuskowski, Patrick Cumiskey, Ethan McCabe and Scott Hilland (captain).

The event in May 2024 was the team's first competitive action since returning from the World Cup in October 2023, with McCabe joining the senior panel for the first time.

Northern Ireland faced World Cup finalists England in the opening group game. A starting side of McKinney, Hilland, Cumiskey and Kuskowski was selected.

A slow start from Northern Ireland was punished with England taking an early 2-0 lead.

Northern Ireland grew in to the game and midway through the first half they pulled a goal back through Kuskowski, who finished from close range from an excellent Cumiskey pass.

The boys in green and white had a couple of half-chances after the interval but England then produced a flurry of goals to extend their lead to 5-1.

Northern Ireland's second game was against the Scots. They took an early lead when Cumiskey teed up captain Hilland and he slotted the ball home.

They dominated proceedings and created several good opportunities, although McKinney had to repel a couple of decent efforts from Scotland. The game finished 1-0.

Northern Ireland met the Republic in the first game of day two.

Kuskowski tested the Republic keeper, while McKinney and Hilland were strong at the back as the first half fizzled out in a stalemate.

After the break Northern Ireland upped the tempo and were awarded a penalty when Hilland was fouled as he pushed forward. Cumiskey showed great composure when slotting in the spot kick.

The Republic then piled on the pressure and McKinney produced an outstanding save at the death to ensure all three points were secured by Northern Ireland. And it also meant they reached the final where they would face England once again.

Northern Ireland produced a fine defensive display to limit England's attack, although England managed to find a way through midway through the first half.

Northern Ireland had a couple of half-chances on the counter but could not find a finish.

Despite England dominating possession, Northern Ireland looked bright and created some decent openings.

As Northern Ireland pushed forward, they were undone by two goals in the final minutes and England ran out 3-0 winners.





FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also directors of the Irish FA Foundation Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulation.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

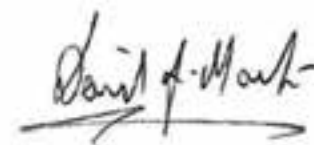
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2019);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In accordance with Section 418, Trustees' reports shall include a statement, in the case of each Trustee in office at the date the Trustees' report is approved, that:

- so far as the trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- he has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.



David Martin
Trustee and Chairman
Date: 01 May 2025



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH FA FOUNDATION LIMITED

Report on the audit of the financial statements

OPINION

In our opinion, Irish FA Foundation Limited's financial statements (the "financial statements"):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, and cash flows, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Annual Report and Financial Statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the charity balance sheet as at 31 December 2024; the statement of financial activities (including an income and expenditure account), and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended; the accounting policies; and the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of significant accounting policies.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

REPORTING ON OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Trustees' Report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by the UK Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011 have been included.

Based on our work undertaken in the course of the audit, the Companies Act 2006 requires us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Trustees' Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit the information given in Trustees' Report for the period ended 31 December 2024 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND THE AUDIT

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The trustees are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF IRISH FA FOUNDATION LIMITED

economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and its industry/environment, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008, Regulation (8) of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Charities Act 2011, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to fraudulent financial reporting and management bias in determining accounting estimates. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in determining their significant accounting estimates;
- Assessed management's compliance with the commitments under their restricted funds;
- Discussions with management, including consideration of actual or suspected fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;

- Reviewing legal expenses to understand the nature of the expenses incurred; and
- Reviewing relevant meeting minutes, including those of the Board of Directors/Trustees.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

OTHER REQUIRED REPORTING

Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not obtained all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Entitlement to exemptions

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, the trustees were not entitled to: prepare financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime; take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the Trustees' Annual Report; and take advantage of the small companies' exemption from preparing a Strategic Report. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

David Strachan

David Strachan (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers
(Northern Ireland) LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Belfast
Date: 01 May 2025



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024			2023		
		Restricted Funds £000	Un-restricted Funds £000	Total Funds 2024 £000	Restricted Funds £000	Un-restricted Funds £000	Total Funds 2023 £000
Incoming resources							
Incoming resources from generated funds							
Contributions from governing bodies	4	1,376	-	1,376	1,482	-	1,482
Coaching, education and training		-	531	531	-	488	488
Sponsorship income		263	-	263	344	-	344
Grant funding		839	-	839	937	-	937
Income from other trading activities							
Income from other trading activities	5	-	23	23	-	23	23
Total incoming resources/income		2,478	554	3,032	2,763	511	3,274
Resources expended/expenditure							
Charitable activities							
Charitable activities	6	(2,807)	-	(2,807)	(3,004)	-	(3,004)
Support costs							
Support costs	7	(220)	-	(220)	(270)	-	(270)
Total resources expended/expenditure		(3,027)	-	(3,027)	(3,274)	-	(3,274)
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(549)	554	5	(511)	511	-
Transfer between funds		549	(549)	-	511	(511)	-
Net movement in funds		-	5	5	-	-	-
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		-	1,653	1,653	-	1,653	1,653
Total funds carried forward		-	1,658	1,658	-	1,653	1,653

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

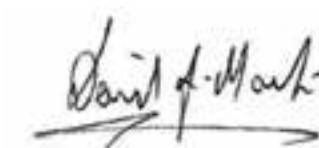
Registered No. NI642595

at 31 December 2024

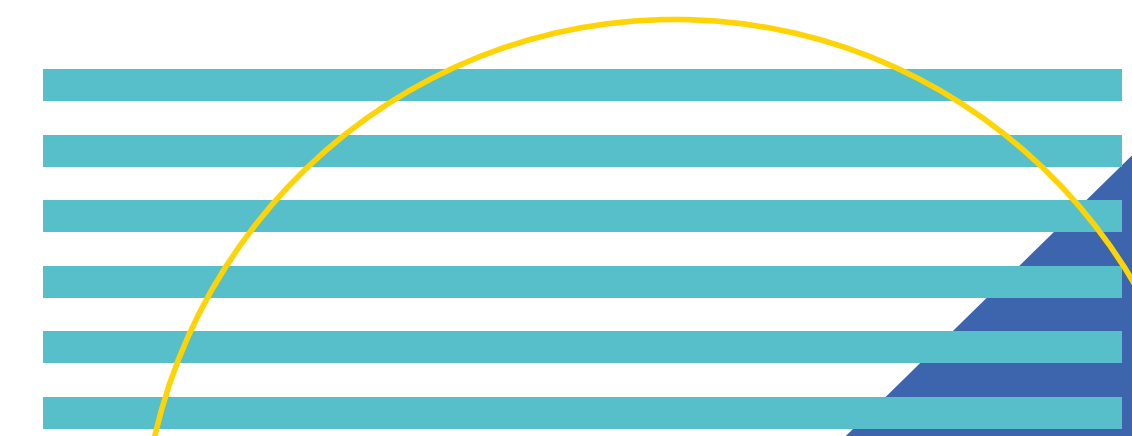
	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	22	22
Intangible assets	11	35	-
		57	22
Current assets			
Debtors	12	1,955	2,066
Cash and cash equivalents		31	14
		1,986	2,080
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(385)	(449)
Net current assets		1,601	1,631
Net assets		1,658	1,653
The funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds	17	1,658	1,653
Restricted funds	17	-	-
Total funds		1,658	1,653

The notes on pages 42 to 46 are an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 41 to 46 were approved by the trustees on 01 May 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



David Martin
Trustee and Chairperson
Date: 01 May 2025



STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Cash from operating activities		
Net incoming resources before transfers	5	-
Depreciation of tangible assets	5	1
Movement in debtors	111	307
Movement in creditors	(64)	(393)
Cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	57	(85)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	(5)	(23)
Purchase of intangible assets	(35)	-
Cash outflow from investing activities	(40)	(23)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	17	(108)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	14	122
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	31	14
	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:		
Cash and cash equivalents	31	14
Total cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	31	14

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Irish FA Foundation Limited is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Northern Ireland. The registered office is the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park, Donegall Avenue, Belfast, BT12 6LU.

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of Preparation

The Foundation's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) effective 1 January 2015 (Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Irish FA Foundation Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost and transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. Taking account of the risk review undertaken by the Trustees they do not consider there to be a risk to the going concern status of the Foundation.

b) Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Foundation has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and it is not anticipated that significant losses will be incurred over

the period of 12 months from signing the financial statements. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

c) Incoming resources

Income is recognised when the Foundation is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the Foundation has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under gift aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

On receipt, donated facilities or gifts in kind are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Foundation which is the amount the Foundation would be willing to pay to obtain services and facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market, a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the Foundation has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

d) Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is

probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the Foundation but do not directly undertake charitable activities.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Foundation in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to supply them. Support costs are allocated to their relevant activity based on the income received.

Pension Costs

The Foundation operates a defined contribution scheme for its employees. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period to which they relate.

e) Fund accounting

The Foundation has various types of funds for which it is responsible and which require specific disclosure. A definition of the different types is as follows:

Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are to be used for specified purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of overheads and support costs.

Unrestricted Funds

Funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Foundation in furtherance of the purpose of the charity. In addition to expenditure on activities, such funds may be held in order to finance capital investment and working capital.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED for the year ended 31 December 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONTINUED

f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks.

g) Foreign currency

The Foundation's functional and presentation currency is sterling.

Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of transactions and from the translation at period-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings and cash and cash equivalents are presented in the Statement of Financial Activities. Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate.

h) Grants payable

Grants are recognised in the financial statements as liabilities after they have been approved by the trustees even if there are conditions attached to them. This is because there is a valid expectation by the recipients that they will receive the grant.

Where a grant is awarded for a period of greater than one year, future instalments of which are subject to satisfactory reports to the Foundation, the future grant instalments are included in commitments but are not recognised in the financial statements until satisfactory reports are received. This is because the terms on which these grants are awarded do not create a valid expectation of receipt until the Foundation's trustees are satisfied with the reports received on the use made of the previous year's instalments.

i) Financial instruments

The Foundation has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Foundation's balance sheet when the Foundation becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets acquired are capitalised at cost. Subsequent to initial recognition, intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment. Intangible assets are amortised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful life. The carrying value of intangible assets is reviewed for impairment if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. The useful economic lives of intangible assets are as follows: Website – 4 years

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price, costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use. Depreciation and residual values Depreciation on assets is calculated, using the straight-line method, to allocate the cost to their residual values over their estimated economic lives, as follows: Fixtures and fittings 20–25%

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical judgements in applying the entity's accounting policies

There are no critical judgements in applying the Foundation's accounting policies.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

There are no critical estimates and assumptions.

3. LEGAL STATUS OF THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

4. INCOMING RESOURCES FROM GENERATED FUNDS

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Contributions from football governing bodies	1,376	1,482
Coaching, education & training	531	488
Sponsorship income	263	344
Grant funding	839	937
Total	3,009	3,251

Grant funding includes contributions from governing bodies totalling £517k (2023: £507k). The contributions supported the delivery of our community-based programmes, volunteering programmes and grassroots football development. The charity has complied with all grant conditions.

5. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Other income	23	23

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	1,742	1,815
Events & competitions	50	365
Equipment & facilities	670	585
Grants provided (note 18)	345	239
Total	2,807	3,004

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	54	107
Administration & professional fees	154	148
Fees payable to the charity's auditors	12	15
Total	220	270

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED for the year ended 31 December 2024

8. NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
This is stated after charging:		
Salaries	1,547	1,674
Social security costs	135	137
Other pension costs	114	111
Staff costs	1,796	1,922

9. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

Employees

The average monthly number of employees employed by the Foundation during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Average	51	54

The number of employees whose total remuneration exceeded £60,000 during 2024 was one (2023: one).

Trustees

During the year one trustee (2023: one) received remuneration for their services to the Foundation, as Chief Executive Officer of the Irish FA. The remuneration is paid by the Irish Football Association Limited and is not recharged to the Foundation. It is not possible to make an accurate apportionment of the remuneration in respect of services to the Irish FA.

Key management compensation

The compensation paid or payable to key management for employee services is shown below

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Key management compensation	260	240

£164k of Key Management Compensation was paid, and not recharged to the Irish FA Foundation Limited, by the Irish Football Association Limited (2023: £154k)..

10. TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings
	£000
Cost or valuation:	
At 1 January 2024	23
Additions	5
At 31 December 2024	28
Accumulated depreciation:	
At 1 January 2024	1
Charge for the year	5
At 31 December 2024	6
Net book value:	
At 31 December 2024	22
At 31 December 2023	22

11. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Website
	£000
Cost or valuation:	
At 1 January 2024	-
Additions	35
At 31 December 2024	35
Accumulated depreciation:	
At 1 January 2024	-
Charge for the year	-
At 31 December 2024	-
Net book value:	
At 31 December 2024	35
At 31 December 2023	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED for the year ended 31 December 2024

12. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Trade debtors	67	37
Amounts owed by related parties	1,030	1,358
Prepayments and accrued income	858	671
Total	1,955	2,066

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	58	68
Accruals and deferred income	238	329
Other taxation and social security	89	52
Total	385	449

Deferred income relates to fundraising income and contributions from governing bodies recognised over more than one financial year in accordance with the accounting policy stated in note 1.

14. DEFERRED INCOME

	At 1 January 2024	Amounts released in the year	Additional amounts recognised	At 31 December 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Contributions from football governing bodies	70	(1,376)	1,306	-
Coaching, education & training	32	(531)	538	39
Sponsorship income	28	(263)	293	58
Grant funding	45	(839)	799	5
Total	175	(3,009)	2,936	102

15. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Foundation has the following financial instruments:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Financial assets held at amortised cost		
Trade debtors	1,104	1,395
Accrued income	819	633
Total	1,923	2,028

Financial liabilities held at amortised cost

Trade creditors	58	68
Accruals	136	153
Total	194	221

16. TAXATION

The Foundation is a registered charity and, as such, is entitled to certain tax exemptions on income and profits from investments and surpluses on any trading activities carried on in furtherance of the Foundation's primary objectives, if these profits and surpluses are applied solely for charitable purposes.

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

Unrestricted Funds

	£000
At 1 January 2024	1,653
Coaching, education and training	531
Other trading activities	23
Net outgoing resources before transfers	-
Transfer to restricted funds	(549)
At 31 December 2024	1,658

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED for the year ended 31 December 2024

17. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Restricted Funds

	£000
At 1 January 2024	-
Contributions from governing bodies	1,376
Sponsorship income	263
Grant funding	839
Net outgoing resources before transfers	(3,027)
Transfer from unrestricted funds	549
At 31 December 2024	-

A transfer between funds is performed to relocate sufficient unrestricted funds to ensure that there is no overspend on the restricted fund for the year.

18. GRANTS PROVIDED

The Irish FA Foundation Limited provides grants to support the development and delivery of grassroots football across Northern Ireland. Grants are made to a range of delivery partners to support the Foundation's charitable aims, including increasing participation, improving access, and promoting inclusivity within football.

Category of Recipient	Purpose of grant	2024 £000	2023 £000
Local Football Governing Bodies	Support for community and youth football delivery and regional coordination	112	72
Grassroots Football	Coach education grants	27	3
Disability Football	Programmes promoting access and inclusion in football	11	6
Women's Football	Development of female participation and talent pathways	102	77
Programme Delivery Partners	Collaboration on education, health, and social inclusion initiatives	93	81
Total Grants to Organisations		345	239

No support costs were allocated to grants provided.

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

At 31 December 2024

	2024 Restricted Funds £000	2024 Unrestricted Funds £000	2024 Total Funds £000	2023 Restricted Funds £000	2023 Unrestricted Funds £000	2023 Total Funds £000
Net assets	-	1,658	1,658	-	1,653	1,653
Total	-	1,658	1,658	-	1,653	1,653

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

Transactions with related parties included:

- Transactions with the Irish Football Association Limited of £1,362k (2023: £862k).
- Amounts receivable at the year-end of £1,030k (2023: £1,359k) due from the Irish Football Association Limited.
- Amounts payable at the year-end of £9k (2023: £5k) due to the IFA Stadium Development Company Limited.
- Purchases at normal market prices totalling £2k (2023: £2.7k) were made from Tri-sport Trophies Limited, who are controlled by a family member of a current trustee. The balance outstanding at 31 December 2024 was nil (2023: £0.08k).

Key management personnel include the senior management team. Total key management personnel compensation was £260k (2023: £240k).

21. LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

Irish FA Foundation Limited is a company limited by guarantee. The liability of the members is limited to an amount not exceeding £1.

22. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

There were no financial commitments as at 31 December 2024 (31 December 2023: none).

Registered number: NI642595
Charity Commission number: NIC 106229
Inland Revenue Charity number: NI00616

Directors/Trustees

David Martin (Chairman)
Patrick Nelson
Allen McKinstry
Ryan Adams
Alan Willis
Róisín Wood OBE

Company Secretary

Rebekah Shearer

Registered Office

The National Football Stadium
at Windsor Park
Donegall Avenue
Belfast
BT12 6LU

Bankers

Ulster Bank
91-93 University Road
Belfast
BT7 1NG

Solicitors

A&L Goodbody
42-46 Fountain Street
Belfast
BT1 5EF

King & Gowdy
298 Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3EJ

Independent Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers (Northern Ireland) LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Merchant Square
20-22 Wellington Place
Belfast
BT1 6GE

