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Section 9(d) of the Northern Ireland Police Fund Regulations 2016*

on

7th December 2023

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Any enquiries related to this publication should be sent to:

*Northern Ireland Police Fund
100 Belfast Road
Holywood
BT18 9QY*

This publication is also available on our website at www.nipolicefund.org.

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PERFORMANCE REPORT

OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Overview is to provide sufficient information to ensure that the remit and purpose of the Northern Ireland Police Fund (NIPF, the Fund) is understood. The Overview includes:

- a statement from the Chief Executive providing her perspective on the performance of NIPF over the period;
- a statement of the purpose and activities of NIPF;
- the key issues and risks that could affect NIPF in delivering its objectives; and
- a performance summary.

FOREWORD BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The past number of years have been remarkable for, not just the Fund, but wider society, with the evolving challenge of working in the context of post the Covid-19 pandemic and a cost of living crisis. These events have had a huge impact on all aspects of life, not just in Northern Ireland but also around the world. However, throughout 2022-23 the Fund has continued to support beneficiaries and remains determined to continue to do so. The dedication of staff of the Fund during 2022-23, who remain determined to make a difference to the lives of injured or bereaved beneficiaries, is demonstrated through the provision of a range of NIPF services including disability and bereavement support, wheelchairs and other disability adaptations, carers respite breaks and educational bursaries for dependents. The Fund has also been able to assist organisations with grant support to maintain contact with their members during 2022-23.

In 2022-23, the Fund continued to support its beneficiaries, including those who suffer from financial hardship, while maintaining a commitment to provide timely, measurable and appropriate interventions. It is a fact the Fund's staff are regularly faced with dealing with the effects on families living with the consequences of terrorist violence. This includes the physical, psychological and emotional issues associated with each client's unique circumstance and history and 2022-23 was no different. The Fund will continue to seek to ensure that there is an appropriate level of investment in its staff to ensure they have the tools not only to deliver a service but also to keep them safe and secure in the work that they do. There will be a challenge for the Fund going forward in the uncertainty that exists around the effect of the pandemic and the ensuing cost of living crisis, and this may inevitably affect the way in which we deliver services to our clients.

Finally, I wish to pay tribute to my Board and the staff of the Police Fund. It is through the dedicated and tireless work of this excellent team of people that the Fund is able to continue to deliver a professional, efficient and caring service that is responsive and appropriate to the needs of beneficiaries.



Kelly Robinson
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

History

The Northern Ireland Police Fund was set up in late 2001 as a government response to the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland, Patten Recommendation 87, as reviewed by John Steele. NIPF was to supplement the income of those on very low pensions, help finance the procurement of better prostheses or household equipment for the disabled and make bursaries for disabled officers and their children who wish to study.

NIPF operated as a company limited by guarantee and was governed by company law until 31 March 2016. From 1 April 2016 the status of NIPF changed to that of an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) of the Department of Justice (DoJ).

Aims and objectives

NIPF's remit is to provide support to police officers injured or killed as a direct result of terrorist attack, and their widows and families. Its overall aim is to improve the quality of life of its clients by providing financial and other support.

Description of business

NIPF achieves its objectives by providing a comprehensive, quality service to its clients. It is proactive in seeking to meet their needs, and provides a range of schemes designed to meet those needs now and in the future.

Equality of service delivery

The Fund has put policies in place covering the delivery of services to clients. These are designed to create the framework for ensuring that services are delivered fairly and consistently. In addition the Fund has a clear system of appeals to enable clients to seek redress where they feel they have been treated unfairly or have been disadvantaged.

NIPF's principal activity during the year was the provision of financial assistance, advice, support and care to members and former members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Police Service of Northern Ireland Reserve who were killed or injured by terrorism, and their families and dependants.

NIPF, being mindful of the problems and traumas faced by its clients, delivers a caring and considerate service, and seeks at all times to minimise any unwarranted intrusion into the lives of its clients consistent with meeting the requirements of its schemes.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Organisational structure

The NIPF is headed by the Chief Executive who reports to a Management Board consisting of a Chairperson and six Non-Executive Members who are all appointed by the Minister of Justice or Department of Justice. A team of six operational and administrative staff and two Occupational Therapists supports the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Principal risks and uncertainties

NIPF's policy for managing risk is set out in Section 4 of the Governance Statement. The principal risks faced by NIPF are changing government priorities affecting funding, increased pressures to meet the growing requirements of Departmental oversight and the complexities of corporate governance from within very limited resources, and the possibility of fraud in grant applications.

NIPF continues to take on new clients particularly as the impact of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) becomes more apparent. In such cases it remains the policy that all new clients must have a Band 2 disability rating with a causal incident directly related to a terrorist attack. The needs of existing clients will change as they grow older and it will be a challenge for NIPF to ensure that the support it provides will meet the changing needs of clients.

Going concern

In accordance with the Government Financial Reporting Manual, the financial statements of NIPF in respect of the financial year to 31 March 2023 are prepared on a going concern basis. The going concern basis is set out in Note 1.2 to the Accounts.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY AND FORWARD LOOK

Performance summary

The Board have considered the strategic and operational issues that will affect the Fund during this period. These issues are integrated into the Corporate Plan 2018-2022 and have been used to develop this year's associated annual Business Plan and key performance outcomes, which contribute to the achievement of the Department's Business Plan.

Grant Payments

During the year 2022-23, NIPF made 1,095 (2021-22: 732) grants to clients covering general support, disability adaptations, educational bursaries, regular payments to those on very low incomes, and respite breaks for carers, and recognition payments. It also supported three police support voluntary bodies where their activities were of benefit to the clients of NIPF.

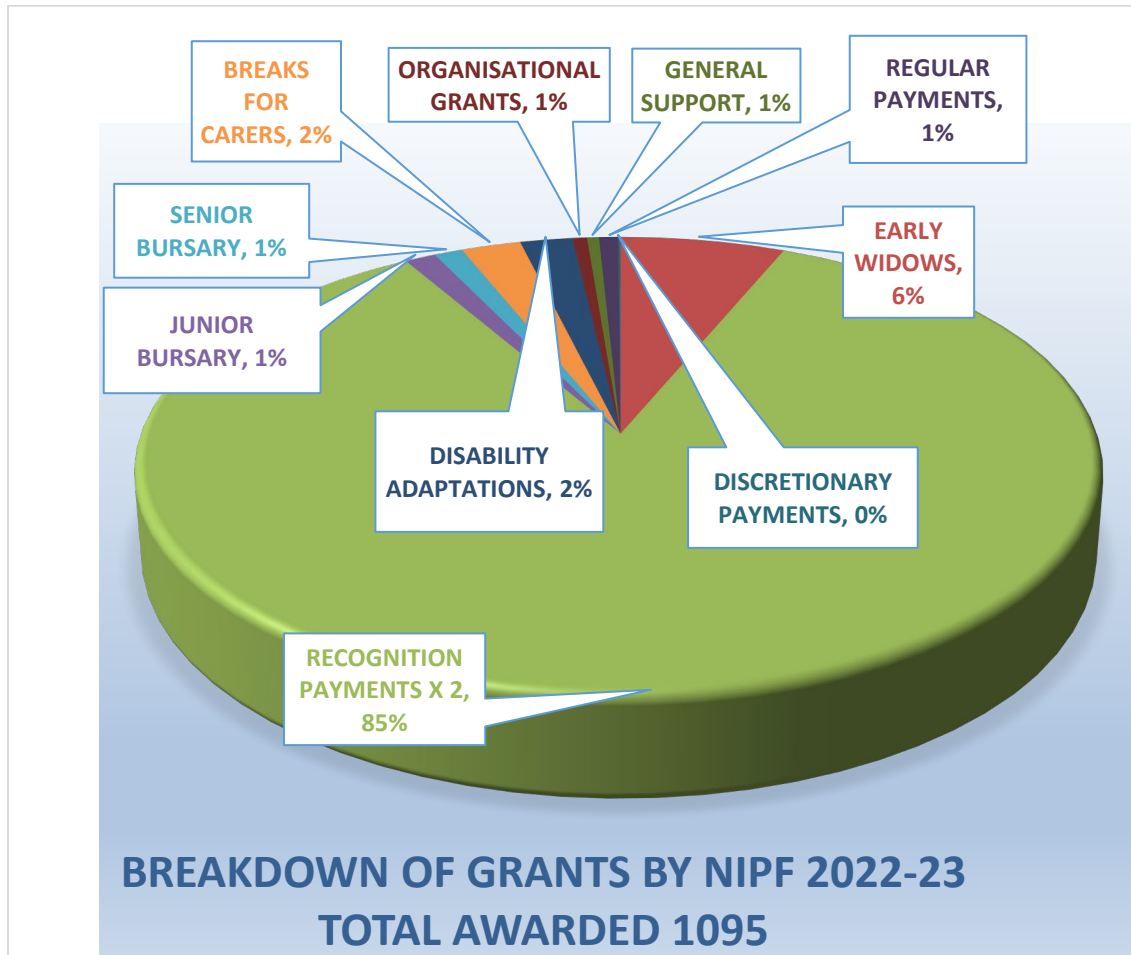
The 2022-23 financial year was exceptional in that when The Budget Bill 2022 received Royal Assent, this meant that 45% of the 2021-22 cash and resources was initially available for use in the 2022-23 financial year up to July 2022. Following this, there was legal cover for this to be increased to 95% by the Department of Finance Permanent Secretary. Although this provided legislative cover, departments did not have a budgetary basis for planning.

The decision was taken to limit the paying of grants in the first quarter of 2022-23 to Disability Adaptations only, to live within 45% of the 2021-22 cash and resource allocation; the Board was notified and were content with these decisions. This allowed the Fund to live within its ring-fenced budget, while managing pay pressures that were inescapable.

During this period, it allowed the Assessment Team and CEO to review policies and procedures around grant making, and present these to Board. By September 2022, the 2022-23 Budget allocation was available and all grant processing resumed at NIPF; any grants received during the interim were duly processed. During this period clients were notified in writing of the budget and grant constraints faced by NIPF.

Performance summary (continued)

Table 1 Breakdown of NIPF Grants 2022-23

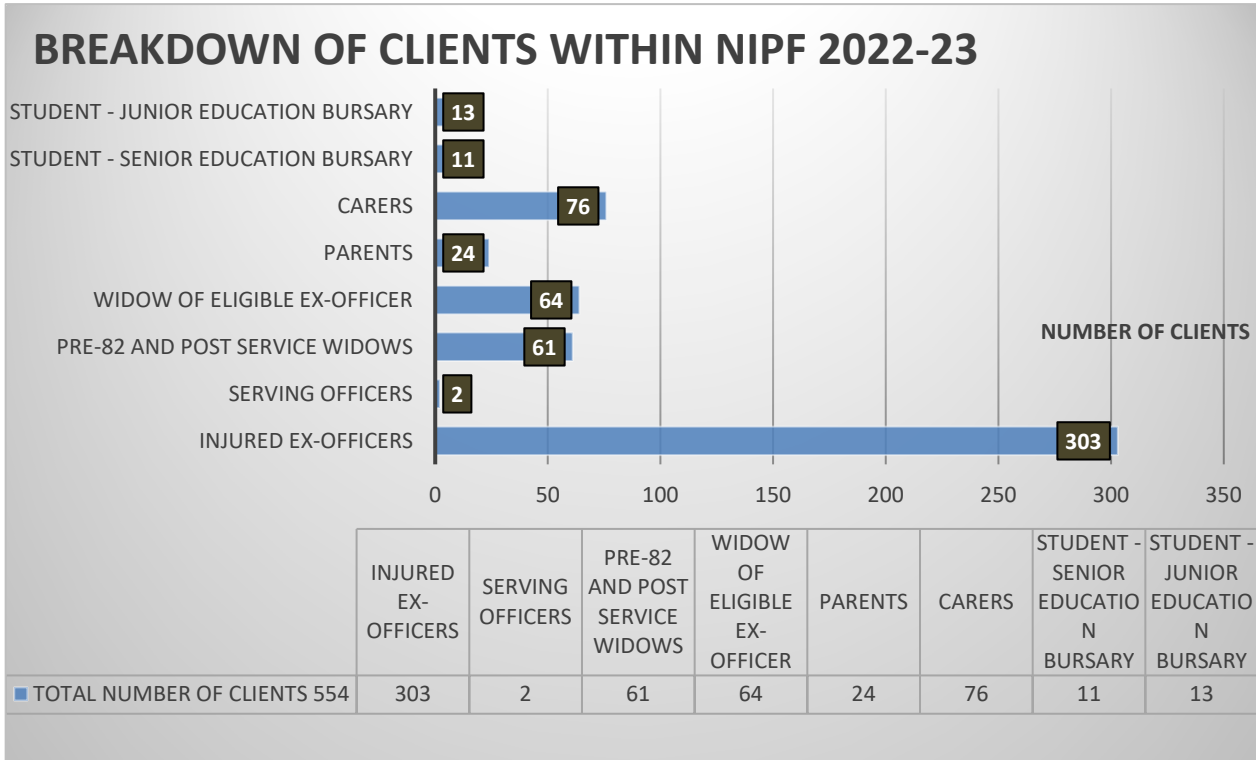


Groups receiving NIPF Grant Funding during 2022-23

During the 2022-23 financial year, a total of three groups were eligible to receive NIPF Grant Funding. The amount of funding totalled £17,109.

Performance summary (continued)

Table 2 Breakdown of NIPF Clients 2022-23 by category



Impact of Covid-19

To some degree, the effects of Covid-19 continued to affect NIPF in the 2022-23 financial year. Some clients remained vulnerable and shielding, therefore unable to receive home visits from the Assessment Team or the Occupational Therapists. Some staff were also affected by Covid-19 during the year, however, staff were able to return to the Fund offices, while adhering to changing government guidelines, and this has mitigated the most severe impacts of Covid-19 on the Fund’s service delivery.

Impact of EU Exit

There has been no significant impact from the UK’s EU exit on the business of NIPF during 2022-23.

Forward look

NIPF continues to look at how best it might meet its clients' needs in the future and especially how it needs to develop and adopt new schemes to meet the dual challenges of ageing and disability. NIPF received Departmental approval for a business case to procure and implement a new grants management software system to replace its existing 'Gifts' grants software. It is envisaged that the new grant management system will also be able to assist in analysing the impact of NIPF grants for its clients. Although Covid-19 has had an impact on the way in which NIPF is working, staff continue to respond to client needs as far as possible.

The Fund will continue to seek to ensure that there is an appropriate level of investment in its staff to ensure they have the tools not only to deliver a service but also to keep them safe and secure in the work that they do. There will be a challenge for the Fund going forward in the uncertainty, which exists around the effect of the pandemic and the ensuing cost of living crisis.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Financial Review

The NIPF financial statements for 2022-23 are compared to the previous two financial years in the table below:

Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £	2020-21 £
Total operating income	(17,371)	(49,595)	(37,692)
Staff costs	238,244	265,232	285,694
Purchase of goods and services	115,277	129,463	84,139
Depreciation and impairment charges	6,455	5,866	2,477
Grants	861,890	1,064,113	1,038,328
Total operating expenditure	1,221,866	1,464,674	1,410,638
Finance income	(2,527)	-	-
Net expenditure for the year	1,201,968	1,415,079	1,372,946

Financial position

The total net assets of NIPF at 31 March 2023 were £67,274 (2021-22: £48,944).

Cash flow

As detailed in the Statement of Cash Flows the NIPF's net draw down from the Department of Justice in 2022-23 was £1,220,000 (2021-22: £1,420,000) and the net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year was £69,073 (2021-22: decrease of £26,127).

Financial risk

NIPF relies on the Department of Justice for funding and the risk to this funding is low. NIPF accounts for all transactions in sterling and it has no borrowings. As such, NIPF is not exposed to any exchange rate or liquidity risk.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

Auditors

The financial statements are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General for Northern Ireland (C&AG) in accordance with the Northern Ireland Police Fund Regulations 2016. The C&AG is head of the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) and is appointed by statute. She reports her findings to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The C&AG and her staff are wholly independent of NIPF.

The audit fee for the work performed by the staff of the C&AG during the reporting period, and which relates solely to the audit of these financial statements, was £11,850 (2021-22: £10,300). The C&AG may also undertake other statutory activities that are not related to the audit of the body's financial statements such as Value for Money reports. No such activity took place during the year.

Payment to suppliers

NIPF's policy is to pay bills from all suppliers within 10 working days following receipt of a properly rendered invoice or in accordance with contractual conditions, whichever is the earlier.

During the financial year, NIPF achieved an average of 100% (2021-22: 91%) of invoices paid to suppliers within 10 working days following receipt of a properly rendered invoice. NIPF achieved an average of 100% (2021-22: 97%) of invoices paid to suppliers within 30 calendar days following receipt of a properly rendered invoice.

Social responsibility, environmental and sustainability initiatives

NIPF is committed to behaving ethically, to contributing to the local community, and to minimising our impact on the environment. Throughout the year NIPF participated in a recycling scheme for toner cartridges and, where possible, uses paper products that have a low environmental impact. NIPF's recycling also includes printed and office paper, tin and metal products, envelopes, cardboard and plastics with segregation of waste using different bins and disposal regimes and adheres to the Single Use Plastics Reduction Plan from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

Human rights

Public servants have a statutory duty to respect, protect and fulfil people's human rights when developing and delivering government policy and services. The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (NIHRC) interactive guide to Human Rights is available to staff in NIPF to ensure they have knowledge of human rights law and standards and the core principles through which human rights are realised. The training is designed to increase human rights knowledge and strengthen the culture of human rights awareness and good practice within the organisation.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

Anti-corruption and anti-bribery

NIPF is committed to the values of probity and accountability which foster a positive organisational culture. It is also committed to the elimination of any fraud within the organisation, to the rigorous investigation of any prima facie case, and, where fraud or other criminal acts are proven, to ensure that wrongdoers are dealt with appropriately. NIPF will take proportionate steps to recover any assets lost as a result of fraud, corruption or theft. It also has a zero tolerance approach towards acts of bribery and corruption by staff, associated persons and organisations. There were no incidents of suspected or actual fraud arising during the year.

PERFORMANCE REPORT



Kelly Robinson
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
22 November 2023

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The Accountability section of the Annual Report outlines how NIPF meets its key accountability requirements to the Assembly and ensures best practice with corporate governance norms and codes. The three sub-sections within the Accountability Report are outlined below.

i - Corporate Governance Report

The purpose of this section is to explain the composition and organisation of NIPF's governance structures and how they support the achievement of its objectives.

The corporate governance report includes:

- Directors' Report;
- Non-Executive Members' Report;
- Statement of Accounting Officer's responsibilities; and
- Governance Statement.

ii - Remuneration and Staff Report

This section sets out NIPF's remuneration policy for directors, reports on how that policy has been implemented and sets out the amounts awarded to directors as salary and pension entitlements.

In addition, the report provides information relating to remuneration and staff that the Assembly and other users see as key to accountability.

iii - Assembly Accountability and Audit Report

This section brings together the key Assembly accountability documents within the Annual Report and Accounts. It comprises:

- Other Assembly accountability disclosures; and
- Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Assembly.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Board

The NIPF Management Board oversees the work of the organisation. Its role is to lead NIPF's strategic planning and assist the Chief Executive, who is also the Accounting Officer, in meeting corporate governance responsibilities of NIPF.

During 2022-23, the Board consisted of:

Position	Member
Chief Executive	Kelly Robinson
Non-Executive Member	Dr Michael Wardlow (Chairperson)
Non-Executive Member	Alice O'Kane
Non-Executive Member	Colin Caughey
Non-Executive Member	Jonathan Craig
Non-Executive Member	Chief Superintendent Melanie Jones
Non-Executive Member	George Clarke (from October 2022)
Non-Executive Member	Craig Service (Boardroom Apprentice, from January 2023)
Non-Executive Member	Gareth Jenkins (to June 2022)
Non-Executive Member	Brenda Plummer (to June 2022)
Non-Executive Member	Suzanne Walker (to June 2022)

Board Members' Interests

Details of company directorships and other significant interests held by Board Members are set out within the related party disclosures at Note 14 in the Accounts. NIPF maintains a Register of Interests for senior management and Board Members which is updated on a quarterly basis. In addition, any conflicts of interest are declared by the Board Members at each meeting. Access to the Register of Interests may be gained by contacting the Office Manager at NIPF.

Information assurance

There were no incidences of loss of information assets or personal data during 2021-22 or 2022-23 which were required to be reported to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Complaints

There was no complaints received by NIPF in 2022-23 (2021-22: one).

NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' REPORT

Overview

The 2022-23 year was another challenging year for the Fund. It was a year when as a society we were emerging from the challenges of Covid as well as a year where we began to see a substantial rise in the cost of living - particularly for the older population, a category from where most of our clients come. There was also the beginning of a programme of cutbacks in central government spending with a deficit in levels of local accountability for spending here, in the absence of a functioning Assembly and Minister for Justice.

This was the first full year of the Fund operating under the leadership of our new CEO, Kelly Robinson.

The new Board has now been in situ for about two years and already we are looking at the outcome of a public appointments process for new Board members including the Chair as I will have completed my two terms next year and two of our colleagues, Aalice and Colin have now finished their first terms. They had agreed to extend their first terms until September to provide continuity until the outcome of the public appointments process. I would like to thank both colleagues for their sterling service, particularly Alice as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. Their work has been exemplary. During the year we welcomed George Clarke to our Board as the representative of the Police Association. We look forward to his contribution as we move ahead.

During the year our Board have had the privilege of providing enthusiastic direction, support and challenge to the staff of the Fund in taking forward the valuable work of the Fund supporting police officers who were injured, and the families and dependents of police officers who were killed, by terrorism. My thanks goes to all my colleagues for all their hard work.

Staff

Kelly Robinson took up post as our new CEO in July 2021 and this has been her first full year in that role. She has taken the lead in reviewing our policies and procedures as well as engaging with the Board on ensuring we were providing value for money in all our operations. During the year, we lost three members of staff and welcomed four new members of staff to our organisation. Our best wishes go to all our former colleagues on their future careers and we extend a warm welcome to our new staff.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kelly of running a very successful organisation that discharged its duties within budget as well as within the targets set in the business plan for the year. We were able to meet all 12 objectives, 10 in full and 2 partially, despite the external pressures and internal changes. I'd also like to extend that congratulations to all staff who worked so hard in such challenging circumstances.

NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' REPORT (continued)

Board

This has been another strange year, one in which we moved back to face to face meetings after a year of Zoom meetings. While I realise that this has been an issue faced by most NDPB's it meant for us that new Board members had their first year without ever meeting one another or staff colleagues face to face.

This year the Board met eight times, either virtually, the majority in person, receiving ongoing reports on finance, management, and a wide variety of activities particularly in relation to disbursement of grants to clients.

As I already indicated this year also saw the review of a number of policies and the continued monitoring of ongoing developments on General Data Protection Regulations and the introduction of the Victims' Pension - an area that will have impact for our activities as we go ahead.

In the context of these changes in working practices again I want to put on record that all Board Members continue to appreciate the continued excellent work put in by staff to ensure full compliance with all necessary regulations, particularly as we return to almost normal practices.

During the past year we had the pleasure of being joined by as a new Boardroom apprentice, Craig Service. Craig has already made significant contributions to our deliberations for which I would like to offer him our thanks. Craig's appointment meant losing our previous apprentice, Suzanne Walker, whose term had drawn to a close, and I would take this opportunity to thank her for being an excellent colleague and someone who has been consistent in their attendance and contribution to the Fund's strategic development. We wish her all the best in her future progress.

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) met on five occasions this year under the excellent Chair Alice O'Kane. The Committee received ongoing reports from internal and external audit colleagues, counter fraud activities updates, finance and transformation reports.

ARAC also undertook continual scrutiny of the Fund's Risk Register that was reviewed and updated throughout the year, particularly in the context of the changing environment. During the year a number of reports were delivered by Internal Audit and at the end of the year there were no new outstanding audit matters apart from the NIAO Priority 2 recommendation on 'receipts' which was addressed in May 2022. Once again I would thank Alice for her leadership in the ARAC as well as all my colleagues for their attendance and service on the committee, and for Kelly for her work as CEO together with staff colleagues.

NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' REPORT (continued)


Conclusion

Overall this has been another good, though challenging year for the Fund but one in which I believe we have again been able to serve our clients despite the difficult circumstances. Like the previous year, we were able to fund fewer activities as lock down was still in force but we were still able to grant over £0.86 million in grants and awards.

We saw the second full year of service of four new Board members, and the loss of one apprentice but the addition of another new one. We also welcomed several staff members to our team. We delivered our services within budget and to plan.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues who serve with me as Chair on the Board. Without them the Fund couldn't progress. We are eternally grateful for the work of the Fund's staff and their resilience in continuing to deliver the highest possible level of service to the Fund's clients.

I look forward to being together for Board meetings this year and to see the continued growth of our activities again.



Dr Michael Wardlow
Chairperson

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Under paragraph 9 of The Northern Ireland Police Fund Regulations 2016, the Department of Justice (DoJ) has directed the Northern Ireland Police Fund to prepare for each financial year a statement of accounts in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction. The Accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Northern Ireland Police Fund and of its income and expenditure, Statement of Financial Position and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and in particular to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by the DoJ, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgments and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis; and
- confirm that the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable and take personal responsibility for the Annual Report and Accounts and the judgments required for determining that it is fair, balanced and understandable.

The Accounting Officer for the DoJ has designated the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer for the Northern Ireland Police Fund. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Northern Ireland Police Fund's assets, are set out in Managing Public Money Northern Ireland published by the Department of Finance (DoF).

As the Accounting Officer, I have taken all the steps that I ought to have taken to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that NI Police Fund's auditors are aware of that information. So far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

1. Scope of responsibility

The Northern Ireland Police Fund was set up in late 2001 as a government response to the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland, Patten Recommendation 87, as reviewed by John Steele. Its principal activity is the provision of financial assistance, advice, support and care to members and former members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, the Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland Reserve who have been injured or disabled as a direct result of terrorism. It also provides support to the widows, families and dependants of police officers who have been injured or killed as a direct result of terrorist attack. It has as its mission statement:

Alleviating suffering resulting from terrorist attacks on police officers by providing continuing support for them and their families.

The core business of NIPF centres on clients. The needs of clients are at the heart of NIPF's schemes and services, and as client needs change and develop over time NIPF's schemes are regularly reviewed and evolve to meet need and demand.

NIPF's approach to client service goes beyond grants and NIPF will work with other agencies, particularly within the police family, to try to ensure that the needs of clients are met as well as possible. NIPF's Assessment Team also aims to visit, personally, all clients at least once every 12 months which allows the team to assess changing client need, inform clients about opportunities available to them through NIPF and develop the best support available within the parameters of NIPF's support schemes. We strive to ensure a high quality client based service balanced by the best possible use of NIPF's budget, within the parameters of governance and accounting requirements.

2. Purpose of the governance framework

The governance framework is designed to monitor and record the stewardship of the organisation and to supplement the accounts, providing a sense of how successfully NIPF has coped with the challenges it faces.

The framework is the way in which NIPF operates and allows it to monitor how it achieves its objectives and targets while ensuring the best use of public funds.

The internal control system underpins the governance framework and is designed to ensure that risks are managed appropriately in line with NIPF's risk appetite. It cannot eliminate all risks but rather provides reasonable assurance of effectiveness. It is based on an ongoing process through which NIPF has identified and prioritised the risks to the achievement of its policies, objectives and targets. It also evaluates the likelihood of risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and how they are being managed and mitigated efficiently, effectively and economically.

3. Governance framework

The Chief Executive and Non-Executive Members are committed to operating in a responsible manner and the governance framework forms an integral part of this approach in order to safeguard public funds. A robust governance framework, as described below, supports the Chief Executive and Board Members in discharging their corporate governance responsibilities.

The Corporate Governance Framework has been in place in NIPF for the year ended 31 March 2023 and up to the date the annual report and accounts were signed by the Accounting Officer, and is in accordance with DoF Guidance. NIPF also complied with the Corporate Governance Code.

NIPF is subject to the disclosure requirements under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. There have been no Ministerial directions during the course of the year.

Corporate accountability

NIPF is an Executive NDPB of the DoJ. The Chief Executive also acts as the Accounting Officer for NIPF. She is responsible for the operational management of NIPF and the delivery of Board policy. She reports directly to the Chairperson.

The Accounting Officer's responsibilities are delegated from the Permanent Secretary of the DoJ, to the Chief Executive, who as NIPF's Accounting Officer is accountable for the effective, efficient and economic use of resources provided to NIPF, for the propriety and regularity of its expenditure, the safety and security of staff and for ensuring that the requirements of Managing Public Money Northern Ireland are met.

The Chief Executive and the Board Members pay careful attention to the Management Statement and Financial Memorandum agreed with the Departmental Sponsor.

Management Board

The Chief Executive is supported by a Management Board ('the Board') consisting of a Chairperson and Non-Executive Members who have been appointed by the Minister of Justice or Department of Justice, and who govern the conduct of NIPF through formal reporting and decision making. Board Members comprise a mixture of individuals providing a balance of skills and abilities ranging from strong ties with the policing family, through to experience of the specialisms required to fulfil the Board's functions, which range from decisions affecting client grants to governance and oversight of performance.

The Board normally meets monthly and, at the corporate and strategic level, Board Members regularly review progress and performance against the objectives and targets set in NIPF's Business Plan. This includes the ongoing monitoring of corporate risks and the oversight of the performance and risks at the operational level.

3. Governance framework (continued)

Attendance by Members at Board meetings during 2022-23 was as follows:

Member	Possible Attendance	Actual Attendance	% Attendance
Dr Michael Wardlow (Chairperson)	8	8	100%
Kelly Robinson (CEO)	8	7	88%
Alice O’Kane	8	7	88%
Colin Caughey	8	6	75%
Jonathan Craig	8	5	63%
Chief Superintendent Melanie Jones	8	3	38%
George Clarke (from October 2022)	4	3	75%
Craig Service (Boardroom Apprentice, from January 2023)	3	3	100%
Gareth Jenkins (to June 2022)	1	1	100%
Brenda Plummer (to June 2022)	2	2	100%
Suzanne Walker (to June 2022)	2	2	100%

Audit and Risk Committee

The Accounting Officer and Board Members are supported in their roles by the Audit and Risk Committee which usually meets at least four times a year and monitors the corporate governance and control systems within NIPF. It considers progress against assurance plans, adequacy of the risk management framework and risk register and any proposed risk mitigation, adherence to procurement policies and guidelines, internal and external audit strategies and management response to audit recommendations.

The Committee is chaired by a member of the Board and has a member independent of the Board. It has full access to all audit reports, risk registers and management reports. The Committee is attended by representatives from internal and external audit and the Departmental Sponsor. Attendance at Audit and Risk Committee meetings during 2022-23 was as follows:

Member	Possible Attendance	Actual Attendance	% Attendance
Alice O’Kane (Chair)	5	5	100%
Kelly Robinson (CEO)	5	4	80%
Leanne McCullough (Independent Member)	5	1	20%
Colin Caughey	5	4	80%
Chief Superintendent Melanie Jones	5	2	40%
Suzanne Walker (to June 2022)	2	2	100%
George Clarke (from October 2022)	2	2	100%

3. Governance framework (continued)

Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Board may also convene a Finance and General Purposes Committee to carry out specific items of work as required by it. This Committee did not convene during the year. Depending on the level of funding applications, grants to clients are awarded through delegated authority to the Chief Executive and/or through case conferences which comprise a quorum of four Board Members. Client appeals are heard at Board meetings.

Annual report and accounts

Each year NIPF prepares an annual report and accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) and DoF guidance, prior to being laid in the Assembly.

Ongoing governance oversight of NIPF is achieved through quarterly governance meetings with the Departmental Sponsor and through regular Departmental governance and financial reports and returns.

Policies and procedures

NIPF has internal controls in place that are supported by policies and procedures that are adhered to throughout the organisation. NIPF also has a system of signed authorisation forms and tiered approval processes which are an effective internal control system and delegates a level of individual accountability throughout NIPF.

4. Risk management and internal control

NIPF's internal control and risk management processes act as enablers for the delivery of effective governance and demonstrate that adequate internal controls are in place and operating effectively.

To assist in the risk management process, NIPF has developed a risk management policy which sets out its methodology for identifying, assessing and managing risk in line with the risk appetite, outlines the key aspects of the risk management process and identifies the reporting procedures. A risk register is maintained and reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Board and the register, along with a summary of changes made in the intervening period is submitted to each Audit and Risk Committee meeting and governance meeting with the Departmental Sponsor. The Register is also reviewed on a monthly basis by the Chief Executive and staff.

4. Risk management and internal control (continued)

NIPF adheres to specific financial arrangements, delegated from the Department to the Accounting Officer in relation to the principles within Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI) for the expenditure, regularity, propriety and value for money which applies to all public expenditure. NIPF implements and adheres to relevant DoJ and DoF policies where they are appropriate to NIPF including financial, procurement and accounting policies and procedures, information security policy, policies on fraud and anti-bribery, and whistleblowing, a requirement to declare conflicts of interest and a gifts and hospitality policy.

5. Review of effectiveness of the governance framework

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the governance framework and the system of internal control. This has been informed through a number of elements within NIPF.

NIPF's Board has a vital role in ensuring that NIPF has an effective system of internal control. It met on ten separate occasions during the year to discuss and make decisions relating to, but not limited to: strategy, governance, performance, financial planning and monitoring, budget proposals, risk, security, policies and procedures. The Board again acknowledges the significant improvement in the quality of data presented in management information reports during the year, particularly financial data, which has enabled the Board to have a fuller corporate overview of performance within NIPF. This includes but is not limited to: cumulative data on client based activities, spend, prompt payments statistics and security and fraud matters.

The Audit and Risk Committee also keeps governance issues under review. It met three times during the year to consider significant aspects within the governance framework including, but not limited to: reports from internal and external audit on systems and procedural reviews, the annual report to those charged with governance and the management response, quarterly risk register reviews from the Board and procurement issues.

In accordance with the National Audit Office 'Good Practice Self-Assessment Checklist' for public sector Audit Committees, the Audit and Risk Committee, along with the Board, has undertaken Corporate Governance training which included specific training on the role of an audit and risk committee. The outcome gave assurance that best practices were being followed in key areas.

NIPF meets quarterly with the Departmental Sponsor to discuss governance issues and agree actions for improvement.

5. Review of effectiveness of the governance framework (continued)

In addition to this, NIPF also makes a significant number of formal monthly, six monthly and annual returns to the Department. These include but are not limited to:

- stewardship statements;
- corporate governance statements;
- security risk management overview;
- information assurance maturity action plan;
- financial forecasts and resource budget monitoring returns;
- monitoring rounds; and
- compliance reports on the use of consultants.

6. Significant internal control issues

No significant internal control issues were identified during the year.

However, in March 2022, as part of the Fund's special bonus scheme, and with the approval of the NIPF Board, an NIPF employee was awarded and paid, a special bonus of £1,000 in recognition of taking on substantial additional duties over a number of months in the absence of other key NIPF staff. In June 2023, the Department of Finance (DoF) declined to give retrospective approval for this payment on the grounds that it did not follow DoF guidance: that no staff in public bodies should be awarded a performance related bonus. As a consequence, the payment of £1,000 was deemed to be irregular spend and the Fund has been directed to remove its scheme, bringing it into line with DoF guidance.

7. Budget position

The Northern Ireland Budget (No. 2) Act 2023, which received Royal Assent on 18 September 2023, provides the statutory authority for the 2023-24 Northern Ireland Budget which the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland set in his Written Ministerial Statement on 27 April 2023.

8. Accounting Officer statement on assurance

I have been advised on the implications of the result of my review and of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Board, the Audit and Risk Committee and through the internal auditor's annual opinion on assurance.

The Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards requires that I report any significant control issues brought to my attention by the Internal Auditors. In respect of 2022-23, I have been informed by internal audit on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls operating within NIPF. Progress on issues raised by internal and external audit continues to be formally monitored through the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. There were four Priority 2 recommendations from internal audit. NIPF is working to address these.

The Head of Internal Audit provides me with an Annual Report and her professional opinion on the level of assurance that she can provide based on the work done. The Head of Internal Audit forms her professional opinion on the basis of the Internal Audit work completed over a three-year period and she has provided overall satisfactory assurance.

Taking these matters into account, I am content that the internal control framework in operation within NIPF provides reasonable assurance that objectives can be met.

REMUNERATION AND STAFF REPORT

Remuneration policy

The salaries of seconded civil servants in the Northern Ireland Police Fund are based on a review of grading completed in 2005 and the level of pay settlements in the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS).

The salaries for directly recruited staff are set by the Board of NIPF having regard to a review of grading completed in 2005 and the level of settlements elsewhere in the public and private sector, and is approved by the Department of Finance. The 2021-22 and 2022-23 pay award has not yet been paid for NIPF staff. The 2022-23 pay award for the Chief Executive has not yet been paid.

Service contracts

Unless otherwise stated, the officials covered by this report hold appointments which are open-ended. Early termination, other than for misconduct, would result in consideration of the individual receiving compensation as set out in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

Further information about the work of the Civil Service Commissioners can be found at www.nicscommissioners.org.

Staff recruited directly are appointed through an external firm of recruitment agents. In accordance with NIPF policies all appointments are made on the basis of fair and open competition. Appointments may be made either on a fixed contract basis or open ended and early termination may give rise to an individual receiving compensation.

Remuneration and pension entitlements

The following section provides details of the remuneration and pension interests of the most senior management of NIPF. The Chairperson of NIPF is the only Non-Executive Member in receipt of remuneration.

[Audited information]

<u>Single total figure of remuneration</u>				2022-23
Officials and Non-Executive Members	Salary £000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	*Pension Benefits £000	Total £000
Dr M Wardlow Chairperson	5-10	-	-	5-10
Ms K Robinson Chief Executive	50-55	-	-	50-55

<u>Single total figure of remuneration</u>				2021-22
Officials and Non-Executive Members	Salary £000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100)	*Pension Benefits £000	Total £000
Dr M Wardlow Chairperson	5-10	-	-	5-10
Ms K Robinson Chief Executive (from 1 July 2021)	35-40 (FYE 50- 55)	-	-	35-40
Mr R Pedlow** Chief Executive (until 30 June 2021)	5-10 (FYE 30- 35)	-	2	10-15

FYE = Full Year Equivalent

* The value of pension benefits accrued during the year is calculated as (the real increase in pension multiplied by 20) plus (the real increase in any lump sum) less (the contributions made by the individual). The real increases exclude increases due to inflation and any increase or decrease due to a transfer of pension rights.

** Mr R Pedlow worked part-time and received a banded salary of £50-£55,000 for a 0.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) post.

Salary

‘Salary’ includes gross salary and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to UK taxation. This report is based on accrued payments made by NIPF and thus recorded in these accounts.

Benefits in kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument. No benefits in kind were paid during the financial year (2021-22: £Nil).

Fair pay disclosures

Pay ratios

Reporting bodies are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest-paid director in their organisation and the lower quartile, median and upper quartile remuneration of the organisation’s workforce.

[Audited information]

The banded remuneration of the highest-paid director in the NIPF in the financial year 2022-23 was £50,000 - £55,000 (2021-22: £50,000 - £55,000). The relationship between the mid-point of this band and the remuneration of the organisation’s workforce is disclosed below.

<u>2022-23</u>	25th percentile	Median	75th percentile
Total remuneration* (£)	28,911	28,911	31,099
Pay ratio	1.82:1	1.82:1	1.69:1

<u>2021-22</u>	25th percentile	Median	75th percentile
Total remuneration* (£)	27,741	33,290	34,290
Pay ratio	1.9:1	1.6:1	1.5:1

**Total remuneration includes salary, non-consolidated performance-related pay and benefits in kind. It does not include severance payments, employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.*

For 2022-23, the 25th percentile, median and 75th percentile remuneration values consisted solely of salary payments. The salary payment for the 75th percentile for 2021-22 was £33,290.

Pay ratios (continued)

The changes in the pay ratios for each percentile due to turnover of staff during the year within a small overall staffing complement.

No employee received remuneration in excess of the Chief Executive during either the year ended 31 March 2023 or the prior year ended 31 March 2022.

Remuneration in 2022-23 ranged from £24,000 to £50-55,000 (2021-22: £23,000 to £50-£55,000 (FTE).

Percentage change in remuneration

Reporting bodies are also required to disclose the percentage change from the previous financial year in the:

- a) salary and allowances, and
- b) performance pay and bonuses

of the highest paid director and of their employees as a whole.

The percentage changes in respect of NIPF are shown in the following table. It should be noted that the calculation for the highest paid director is based on the mid-point of the band within which their remuneration fell in each year.

Percentage change for:	2022-23 v 2021-22	2021-22 v 2020-21
Average employee salary and allowances	(2.7%)	(2.2%)
Highest paid director's salary and allowances*	0%	0%
Average employee performance pay and bonuses**	(100%)	100%

* The calculation for the highest paid director is based on the mid-point of the band within which their remuneration fell in each year.

NIPF did not pay special bonuses during 2022-23 (2021-22: one).

Pension entitlements

[Audited information]

Officials	Accrued pension at pension age as at 31/3/23 and related lump sum	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age	CETV at 31/3/23	CETV at 31/3/22	Real increase in CETV	Employer contribution to partnership pension account (Nearest £100)
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£
Ms K Robinson Chief Executive	-	-	-	-	-	3,300

Ms K Robinson has a personal pension plan into which NIPF pays an employer contribution of 6% of basic salary. See 'NIPF pension arrangements' on page 30 of the Staff Report for more details.

No pension benefits are provided to the Non-Executive Members of the Board.

Compensation for loss of office

There were no compensation benefits paid by NIPF to any senior staff members during the financial year (2021-22: £Nil).

STAFF REPORT

Staff costs

[Audited information]

Staff costs comprise:

	Note	Permanently Employed Staff £	Others £	2022-23 Total £	2021-22 Total £
Wages and salaries		200,409	-	200,409	219,285
Social security costs		17,394	-	17,394	23,948
Other pension costs		20,441	-	20,441	21,999
Total Gross Costs	3	238,244	-	238,244	265,232
Less recoveries in respect of outward secondments	4	(17,371)	-	(17,371)	(39,595)
Total Net Costs		220,873	-	220,873	225,637

Some Staff, who are Civil Servants on inward secondment, fall under the Civil Service or NI Assembly pension provisions relevant to their employer. Their pension costs are recharged by the employer to NIPF and accounted for above as pension costs.

NIPF pension arrangements

NIPF operates a defined contribution scheme for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the employer pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. The employer has no legal or constructive obligations to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods. Employees also make personal contributions.

For its defined contribution plan, the NIPF pays a basic contribution of 6% of basic salary into a privately administered pension plan on a contractual basis. The contributions are recognised as an employee benefit expense when they are due. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available. During 2022-23, employers' contributions of £10,337 (2021-22: £12,118) were payable to the private pension provider. Contributions prepaid at 31 March 2022 were £Nil (2021-22: £Nil).

There were no early retirements on ill-health grounds in 2021-22 or 2022-23.

Average number of persons employed

[Audited information]

The average number of whole-time equivalent persons employed during 2022-23 was 5.1 (2021-22: 4.8).

During the year, seven members of staff (2021-22: five) had permanent employment contracts; three members of staff (2021-22: three) were on inward secondment and one (2021-22: two) was on outward secondment. An additional two persons (2021-22: two) were employed on zero hours contracts.

Staff composition

The number of persons employed at 31 March 2023 including two staff on zero hours contracts was as follows:

	Female staff	Male staff	Total Staff
NIPF Board	3	5	8
Senior Civil Service	-	-	-
NIPF employees	7	1	8

Managing attendance

The reported average number of working days lost due to sickness per employee for 2022-23 was 36 days (2021-22: 17.5 days).

Staff turnover

The Fund held an external competition for the appointment of Head of Administration that took place in March 2023. An external competition took place for the position of two Assessment Officer's in December 2022. The Fund filled the position of Administrative Officer through secondment in January 2023.

During the 2022-23 financial year, NIPF had a staff turnover of 67% based on the number of leavers during the year divided by the average number of staff in post.

Staff engagement

As employees of NIPF are public not civil servants, staff do not participate in the NICS Staff Survey. The Chief Executive maintains on-going engagement with staff on a formal and informal basis.

Staff policies

NIPF is committed to the development of its staff and to policies that enable them to contribute to the performance and long-term effectiveness of the organisation.

In particular, NIPF:

- will ensure that all eligible persons shall have equal opportunity for employment and advancement in NIPF on the basis of their ability, qualifications and aptitude for the work; in other words 'on the basis of merit';
- embraces issues of diversity, inclusivity and equality of opportunity, with recruitment and retention processes and policies fully embracing those concepts;
- gives equality of opportunity when considering applications from disabled persons, in compliance with all existing legislation; and
- recognises the benefits of keeping employees informed of progress and issues affecting NIPF through formal and informal meetings.

Equal opportunities and diversity

The policy of NIPF is that all eligible persons shall have equal opportunity for employment and advancement on the basis of their ability, qualifications and aptitude for work. Under the policy, no person must be treated less favourably, in any respect of his/her employment, for a reason related to gender, marital status, religious belief, political opinion, disability, colour, ethnic or national origin, age, sexual orientation and having dependants, which should be irrelevant to the treatment or assessment of that individual.

NIPF is an Equal Opportunity employer and is fully committed to the elimination of all forms of harassment and bullying, discrimination and victimisation. NIPF recognises the legal obligations under which it operates and ensures working relationships are based on mutual trust, respect and understanding. This allows the maximum potential to be made of the wide variety of skills, abilities and attributes available within NIPF.

Employment of disabled persons

NIPF aims to ensure that people with a disability suffer no detriment in recruitment and advancement and that its policies and practices comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and Disability Discrimination (Amendment) Regulations 2003. The consideration and implementation of reasonable adjustments help to ensure that staff with disabilities can fully utilise their skills and abilities.

Staff support and wellbeing

The health and wellbeing of NIPF staff is of paramount concern and has been a feature of its response to the Covid-19 pandemic. NIPF staff have access to the NICS Welfare Support Service and Employee Assistance Programme. During 2022-23 senior management sought to maintain links with all staff during periods of working remotely or on sick leave.

Health and safety

NIPF is committed to providing staff with an environment that is, as far as possible, safe and free from risk to health. In line with this commitment, NIPF complied with the relevant legislation. As noted above there has been a considerable emphasis on ensuring that the Fund's premises and working practices minimise the risk, as far as possible, of Covid infection. This includes the introduction of protocols for working practices and the provision of personal protective equipment.

There were no notifiable accidents during 2022-23.

Learning and development

NIPF is committed to ensuring that staff have the opportunity to develop as far as possible within the organisation. Staff undertake training in core issues via on-line training provided by the Centre for Applied Learning.

Expenditure on consultancy

NIPF incurred no expenditure on consultancy during 2021-22 or 2022-23.

Off-payroll payments

NIPF made no off-payroll payments in 2021-22 or 2022-23.

Reporting of Civil Service and other compensation schemes - exit packages

[Audited information]

NIPF incurred no expenditure on compulsory redundancies or other departures during 2021-22 or 2022-23.

ASSEMBLY ACCOUNTABILITY AND AUDIT REPORT

ASSEMBLY ACCOUNTABILITY DISCLOSURES

Regularity of expenditure

Losses and special payments

[Audited information]

There were no losses or special payments that require disclosure in 2021-22 or 2022-23.

Remote contingent liabilities

[Audited information]

In addition to contingent liabilities reported within the meaning of International Accounting Standard (IAS) 37 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets, NIPF is required to report liabilities for which the likelihood of economic benefit in settlement is too remote to meet the definition of a contingent liability. The NIPF has no such liabilities.

Note 13 provides further details regarding the contingent liabilities that are included within the financial statements.

ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT



Kelly Robinson
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
22 November 2023

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Northern Ireland Police Fund for the year ended 31 March 2023 under the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 as amended by the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010. The financial statements comprise: the Statements of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Financial Position, Cash Flows, Changes in Taxpayers' Equity; and the related notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union and interpreted by the Government Financial Reporting Manual.

I have also audited the information in the Accountability Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Northern Ireland Police Fund's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of the Northern Ireland Police Fund's net expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 as amended by the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 and the Department of Justice directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK), applicable law and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements and Regularity of Public Sector Bodies in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of this certificate.

My staff and I are independent of the Northern Ireland Police Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinions.

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the Northern Ireland Police Fund's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

The going concern basis of accounting for the Northern Ireland Police Fund is adopted in consideration of the requirements set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual, which requires entities to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements where it is anticipated that the services which they provide will continue into the future.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements, the parts of the Accountability Report described in that report as having been audited, and my audit certificate and report. The Chief Executive as Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the parts of the Accountability Report to be audited have been properly prepared in accordance with Department of Justice directions made under the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 as amended by the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010; and

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

- the information given in the Performance Report and Accountability Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Northern Ireland Police Fund and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Performance Report and Accountability Report. I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the parts of the Accountability Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- certain disclosures of remuneration specified by the Government Financial Reporting Manual are not made; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with the Department of Finance's guidance.

Responsibilities of the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer Responsibilities, the Chief Executive as the Accounting Officer is responsible for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view;
- such internal controls as the Accounting Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- ensuring the annual report, which includes the Remuneration and Staff Report is prepared in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework; and
- assessing the Northern Ireland Police Fund'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 Accounting Officer anticipates that the services provided by the Northern Ireland Police Fund will not continue to be provided in the future.

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 as amended by the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 and the Department of Justice directions issued thereunder.

My 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 a certificate that includes my 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 economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulation, including fraud.

My procedures included:

- obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Northern Ireland Police Fund through discussion with management and application of extensive public sector accountability knowledge. The key laws and regulations I considered included the Audit and Accountability (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 as amended by the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Devolution of Policing and Justice Functions) Order 2010 and the Department of Justice directions;
- making enquires of management and those charged with governance on the Northern Ireland Police Fund's compliance with laws and regulations;
- making enquiries of internal audit, management and those charged with governance as to susceptibility to irregularity and fraud, their assessment of the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and irregularity, and their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud and irregularity;
- completing risk assessment procedures to assess the susceptibility of the Northern Ireland Police Fund's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. This included, but was not limited to, an engagement director led engagement team discussion on fraud to identify particular areas, transaction streams and business practices that may be susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in the posting of unusual journals;
- engagement director oversight to ensure the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework throughout the audit;
- documenting and evaluating the design and implementation of internal controls in place to mitigate risk of material misstatement due to fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations;

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

- designing audit procedures to address specific laws and regulations which the engagement team considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements in terms of misstatement and irregularity, including fraud. These audit procedures included, but were not limited to, reading board and committee minutes, and agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and approvals as appropriate;
- addressing the risk of fraud as a result of management override of controls by:
 - performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships or movements;
 - testing journal entries to identify potential anomalies, and inappropriate or unauthorised adjustments;
 - assessing whether judgements and other assumptions made in determining accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
 - investigating significant or unusual transactions made outside of the normal course of business.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my certificate.

In addition, I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Assembly and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.



Dorinnia Carville
Comptroller and Auditor General
Northern Ireland Audit Office
106 University Street
BELFAST
BT7 1EU

28 November 2023

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

For the year ended 31 March 2023

This account summarises the expenditure and income generated and consumed on an accruals basis. It also includes other comprehensive income and expenditure, which include changes to the values of non-current assets and other financial instruments that cannot yet be recognised as income or expenditure.

	Note	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Other operating income	4	(17,371)	(49,595)
Total operating income		(17,371)	(49,595)
Staff costs	3	238,244	265,232
Purchase of goods and services	3	115,277	129,463
Depreciation and impairment charges	3	6,455	5,866
Grants	3	861,890	1,064,113
Total operating expenditure		1,221,866	1,464,674
Net expenditure for the year		1,204,495	1,415,079
Finance income		(2,527)	-
Net expenditure for the year		1,201,968	1,415,079
Other comprehensive net expenditure			
Items that will not be reclassified to Net operating expenditure:			
- net (gain)/loss on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	5	(298)	69
Comprehensive net expenditure for the year		1,201,670	1,415,148

The notes on pages 44 to 56 form part of these Accounts.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 March 2023

This statement presents the financial position of the Northern Ireland Police Fund. It comprises three main components: assets owned or controlled; liabilities owed to other bodies; and equity, the remaining value of the entity.

	Note	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2022 £
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	7,487	13,644
Intangible assets	6	-	-
Trade and other receivables		1,955	2,795
Total non-current assets		9,442	16,439
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	9	10,860	43,138
Cash and cash equivalents	8	87,929	18,856
Total current assets		98,789	61,994
Total assets		108,231	78,433
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	(40,957)	(29,489)
Total current liabilities		(40,957)	(29,489)
Total assets less current liabilities		67,274	48,944
Total assets less total liabilities		67,274	48,944
Taxpayers' equity and other reserves			
General Fund		66,804	48,673
Revaluation Reserve		470	271
Total equity		67,274	48,944



Kelly Robinson
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer

22 November 2023

The notes on pages 44 to 56 form part of these Accounts.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 March 2023

This Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Northern Ireland Police Fund during the reporting period. The statement shows how NIPF generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of service costs and the extent to which these operations are funded by way of income from the recipients of services provided by NIPF. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash inflows and outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to NIPF's future public service delivery.

	Note	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net expenditure for the year		(1,201,968)	(1,415,079)
Adjustment for non-cash transactions	3	6,455	6,240
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	9	33,118	(33,133)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	10	11,468	(2,057)
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(1,150,927)	(1,444,029)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Property, plant and equipment	5,6	-	(2,098)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		-	(2,098)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Grant from sponsoring department		1,220,000	1,420,000
Net financing		1,220,000	1,420,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period		69,073	(26,127)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	8	18,856	44,983
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	8	87,929	18,856

The notes on pages 44 to 56 form part of these Accounts.

Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity

For the year ended 31 March 2023

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by NIPF, analysed into 'general fund reserves' (i.e. those reserves that reflect a contribution from the Consolidated Fund). The Revaluation Reserve reflects the change in asset values that have not been recognised as income or expenditure. The General Fund represents the total assets less liabilities of NIPF, to the extent that the total is not represented by other reserves and financing items.

	General Fund £	Revaluation Reserve £	Taxpayers' Equity £
Balance at 31 March 2021	43,621	471	44,092
Grant from sponsoring department	1,420,000	-	1,420,000
Comprehensive net expenditure for the year	(1,415,079)	(69)	(1,415,148)
Transfer between reserves	131	(131)	-
Balance at 31 March 2022	48,673	271	48,944
Grant from sponsoring department	1,220,000	-	1,220,000
Comprehensive net expenditure for the year	(1,201,968)	298	(1,201,670)
Transfer between reserves	99	(99)	-
Balance at 31 March 2023	66,804	470	67,274

The notes on pages 44 to 56 form part of these Accounts.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Statement of accounting policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2022-23 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by the Department of Finance. The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context. Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of NIPF for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The particular policies adopted by NIPF are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material to the Accounts.

1.1 Accounting convention

These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to account for the revaluation of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and certain financial assets and liabilities.

The Accounts are stated in sterling, which is NIPF's functional and presentational currency. Unless otherwise noted, the amounts shown in these financial statements are in pounds sterling (£).

1.2 Going concern

NIPF is a NDPB within DoJ having been established on 1 April 2016 to replace the previous Company under the Northern Ireland Police Fund Regulations. The future financing of NIPF's activities is expected to be met by the DoJ provided from funding from the Consolidated Fund. NIPF takes the view that the going concern concept applies as long as the provisions of the Northern Ireland Police Fund Regulations remain extant.

1.3 Property, plant and equipment

Expenditure on property, plant and equipment of over £1,000 is capitalised. Where material the grouping of a range of property, plant and equipment has also been undertaken in respect of some personal computers, printers, office furniture and equipment. On initial recognition property, plant and equipment are measured at cost including any expenditure, such as installation, directly attributable to bringing them into working condition. Items classified as "under construction" are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position to the extent that money has been paid or a liability has been incurred. In compliance with IAS 16 *Property, Plant and Equipment*, subsequent expenditure on an asset which does not meet the criteria of enhancement or improvement is treated as revenue.

All property, plant and equipment is revalued annually using appropriate indices provided by the Office for National Statistics.

1.4 Intangible assets

Expenditure on computer software licenses lasting more than one year and costing more than £1,000 is capitalised and classified as intangible assets.

All intangible assets are carried at fair value and, with the exception of assets that have been fully depreciated, are revalued using indices compiled by the Office for National Statistics.

1.5 Revaluation Reserve

Upward revaluations are credited to the Revaluation Reserve and permanent reductions in the value of property, plant and equipment are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure. Any subsequent revaluation of assets is credited to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure to the extent that it reverses previous revaluation decreases recognised as an expense.

1.6 Depreciation and amortisation

All property, plant and equipment and intangible assets are depreciated/amortised at rates calculated to write them down to estimated residual value on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. Assets in the course of construction are depreciated from the point when the asset is brought into use. Estimated useful lives, which are reviewed regularly, are:

<i>Asset category</i>	<i>Useful life</i>
Plant and machinery	5 - 15 years
Information technology	5 years
Intangible assets (software and licences)	5 years

Software licences are amortised over the shorter of the term of the licence and the useful economic life.

1.7 Realised element of depreciation from Revaluation Reserve

Depreciation is charged to expenditure on the revalued amount of property, plant and equipment. An element of depreciation therefore arises due to the increase in valuation and is in excess of the depreciation that would be charged on the historical cost of assets. The amount relating to this excess is a realised gain on disposal and is transferred from the Revaluation Reserve to the General Fund.

1.8 Value Added Tax

Value added tax (VAT) is not applicable in respect of income receipts. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the relevant expenditure category or included in the capitalised purchase cost of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets.

1.9 Third-party assets

Third-party assets are assets for which NIPF acts as custodian or trustee, but in which neither NIPF nor Government more generally has a direct beneficial interest. Third-party assets are not public assets, and hence are not recorded in the primary financial statements.

1.10 Financing

NIPF is primarily resourced by funds approved by the Assembly through the annual Supply process. Resources are drawn down each month to meet expenditure requirements and are credited to the General Fund.

1.11 Classification of income and expenditure

The Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure for NIPF only includes programme income and expenditure. The classification of income or expenditure as programme follows the definition set by the Department of Finance.

1.12 Income

Income included in these accounts relates to amounts reimbursed in respect of NIPF staff seconded to outside organisations and a donation from a former client.

1.13 Staff costs

Under IAS19 (revised) *Employee Benefits*, all staff costs must be recorded as an expense as soon as the organisation is obligated to pay them. This includes the costs of any untaken leave as at the reporting date. The cost of untaken leave has been determined from staff leave records.

1.14 Pensions

Employees of NIPF who are civil servants are covered by the provisions of the NICS pension arrangements. These defined benefit schemes are unfunded. NIPF recognises the expected cost of these elements on a systematic and rational basis over the period during which it benefits from employees' services by payment to the NICS pension arrangements of amounts calculated on an accruing basis. Liability for payment of future benefits is a charge on the NICS pension arrangements.

In addition, NIPF operates a defined contribution scheme for certain employees who are not Civil Servants. In respect of defined contribution schemes, NIPF recognises the contributions payable for the year.

Further details regarding the above schemes are contained in the Remuneration Report and the Staff Report within the Accountability Report.

1.15 Leases

IFRS 16 Leases has been implemented from 1 April 2022. It largely removes the distinction between operating and finance leases and introduces a single lease accounting model for lessees. A lessee is required to recognise ('right-of-use') assets and liabilities for all leases (apart from the exemptions listed below). This replaces the previous standard, IAS 17 Leases, representing a change in accounting policy applied in accordance with IAS 1 and IAS 8 as adapted by the FReM.

Previous treatment

In the comparative period, as a lessee NIPF classified leases that transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership as finance leases. The leased assets were measured at an amount equal to lower of the fair value and the present value of minimum lease payments.

Leases other than finance leases were classified as operating leases. Assets previously held as operating leases were not recognised in the Fund's Statement of Financial Position. Payments were recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure on a straight line basis over the term of the lease. Lease incentives were recognised as an integral part of the total lease expense, over the term of the lease.

Policy applicable from 1 April 2022

At inception of a contract, NIPF assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time. To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, NIPF assesses whether:

- the contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- NIPF has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefit from the use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- NIPF has the right to direct how and for what purpose the asset is used for.

NIPF did not hold any leases for right of use assets during 2022-23.

1.16 Grants payable

Grants payable are recorded as expenditure in the period that the underlying event or activity giving entitlement to the grant occurs. Grants related to activity occurring over a specific time period, usually a financial year are recorded as expenditure for that period.

1.17 Segmental reporting

In line with the provisions of IFRS 8, Operating Segments, NIPF does not analyse its net expenditure by operating segment as it has concluded that it has no separately identifiable operating segments.

1.18 Financial instruments

Recognition and de-recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are recognised when NIPF becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets are de-recognised when the organisation no longer has rights to the cash flows, the risks and rewards of ownership or control of the asset. Financial liabilities are de-recognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Financial assets

Trade and other receivables

Financial assets within trade and other receivables are initially recognised at fair value, which is usually the original invoiced amount and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective method less provisions for doubtful receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and current balances with banks which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value and have an original maturity of three months or less.

Financial liabilities

Trade and other payables

Financial liabilities within trade and other payables are initially recognised at fair value, which is usually the original invoiced amount, less provision for impairment.

1.19 Critical accounting estimates and key judgements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of accounting estimates and assumptions. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying NIPF's accounting policies. NIPF continually evaluates its estimates, assumptions and judgements based on available information and experience. As the use of estimates is inherent in financial reporting, actual results could differ from these estimates. The most significant estimates and assumptions which have a risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts are discussed below.

1.19 Critical accounting estimates and key judgements (continued)

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment and amortisation of intangible assets

Depreciation and amortisation is provided in the Accounts so as to write-down the respective assets to their residual values over their expected useful lives and as such the selection of the estimated useful lives and the expected residual values of the assets requires the use of estimates and judgements. Details of the estimated useful lives are as shown in Note 1.6.

Other than as noted above, no material accounting estimates or judgements were made by NIPF in preparing these accounts.

1.20 Accounting standards, interpretations and amendments to published standards and FReM - issued and effective in 2022-23 for the first time

NIPF has considered those new Standards, interpretations and amendments to existing Standards which have been published and are mandatory for the Fund's accounting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2022 or later periods, but which the Fund has not adopted early. NIPF considers that these are either not relevant or material to its operations.

1.21 Accounting standards, interpretations and amendments to published standards not yet effective

NIPF has considered those new Standards, interpretations and amendments to existing Standards which have been published but are not yet effective, nor adopted early for these Accounts. NIPF considers that these are either not relevant or material to its operations.

1.22 Financial reporting - future developments

NIPF has considered the accounting initiatives identified by HM Treasury and Department of Finance covering potential changes and projects where standards, amendments or interpretations are in development. NIPF considers that these changes are either not relevant or material to its operations.

2. Statement of operating expenditure by operating segment

In the opinion of the Management Board, NIPF operates only one reportable segment and all income and expenditure as shown in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure is attributable to the overall services provided by NIPF i.e. the provision of financial assistance to individuals and organisations. All NIPF's financing is derived from the DoJ through grant-in-aid and all services undertaken are within Northern Ireland. All non-current assets are located in Northern Ireland.

3. Expenditure

	Note	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Staff costs*			
Wages and salaries		200,409	219,285
Social security costs		17,394	23,948
Other pension costs		20,441	21,999
		238,244	265,232
Purchase of goods and services			
Accommodation, maintenance and utilities		795	1,173
IT, communications and office services		36,105	36,307
Contracted out and managed services		1,557	1,476
Professional costs		25,143	28,316
Rentals under operating leases		27,910	34,136
Staff related costs		11,639	17,087
Other		278	294
Audit fee		11,850	10,300
		115,277	129,089
Non-cash items			
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		-	374
		115,277	129,463
Depreciation and impairment charges			
Depreciation and amortisation	5, 6	6,522	5,761
Revaluation, indexation and impairment released to SoCNE		(67)	105
		6,455	5,866
Grants			
Disability adaption grants		61,003	206,732
Disabled Police Officers Association		2,644	9,447
Discretionary grants		2,454	10,773
Early widow's award		179,560	184,920
Educational bursaries		37,020	157,940
Forgotten families		1,080	787
General support		11,576	91,072
Parents association		13,385	14,783
Recognition payments		520,950	256,244
Regular payments scheme		21,966	102,884
Respite care		10,323	21,425
Wounded Police and Families Association		-	7,206
Recovery of grants paid out in previous financial years		(71)	(100)
		861,890	1,064,113
Total programme expenditure		1,221,866	1,464,674

* Further analysis of Staff costs is located in the Staff Report within the Accountability Report.

4. Income

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other operating income		
Recovery of secondee costs	17,371	39,595
Donation	-	10,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total operating income	17,371	49,595
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Finance income		
Interest receivable and similar income	2,527	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	19,898	49,595
	<hr/>	<hr/>

5. Property, plant and equipment

2022-23

	Fixtures & Fittings £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2022	14,858	20,594	35,452
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
Revaluation released to SoCNE	-	165	165
Revaluation	241	644	885
At 31 March 2023	15,099	21,403	36,502
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	13,050	8,758	21,808
Charged in year	593	5,929	6,522
Disposals	-	-	-
Revaluation released to SoCNE	-	98	98
Revaluation	175	412	587
At 31 March 2023	13,818	15,197	29,015
Carrying amount at 31 March 2023	1,281	6,206	7,487
Carrying amount at 31 March 2022	1,808	11,836	13,644
Asset financing:			
Owned	1,281	6,206	7,487
Carrying amount at 31 March 2023	1,281	6,206	7,487

5. Property, plant and equipment (continued)

2021-22

	Fixtures & Fittings £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2021	14,754	19,788	34,542
Additions	-	2,098	2,098
Disposals	-	(935)	(935)
Revaluation released to SoCNE	-	(165)	(165)
Revaluation	104	(192)	(88)
At 31 March 2022	14,858	20,594	35,452
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	12,409	4,278	16,687
Charged in year	579	5,182	5,761
Disposals	-	(561)	(561)
Revaluation released to SoCNE	-	(60)	(60)
Revaluation	62	(81)	(19)
At 31 March 2022	13,050	8,758	21,808
Carrying amount at 31 March 2022	1,808	11,836	13,644
Carrying amount at 31 March 2021	2,345	15,510	17,855
Asset financing:			
Owned	1,808	11,836	13,644
Carrying amount at 31 March 2022	1,808	11,836	13,644

Property, plant and equipment were adjusted to their current value by reference to the appropriate indices compiled by the Office for National Statistics.

6. Intangible assets

	2022-23 £	2021-22 £
Cost or valuation		
At 1 April	8,154	8,154
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Reclassification	-	-
Revaluation released to SoCNE	-	-
Revaluation	-	-
At 31 March	8,154	8,154
Amortisation		
At 1 April	8,154	8,154
Charged in year	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Reclassification	-	-
Revaluation released to SoCNE	-	-
Revaluation	-	-
At 31 March	8,154	8,154
Carrying amount at 31 March	-	-
Asset financing:		
Owned	-	-
Carrying amount at 31 March	-	-

Intangible assets other than those which have been fully depreciated have been adjusted to their current value by reference to the appropriate indices compiled by the Office for National Statistics. There was no revaluation adjustment in either 2021-22 or 2022-23.

7. Financial instruments

As the cash requirements of NIPF are met through Grant-in-Aid provided by DoJ, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-public sector body. The majority of financial instruments relate to contracts to buy non-financial items in line with NIPF's expected purchase and usage requirements and NIPF is therefore exposed to little credit, liquidity or market risk.

8. Cash and cash equivalents

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Balance at 1 April	18,856	44,983
Net change in cash and cash equivalent balances	69,073	(26,127)
Balance at 31 March	87,929	18,856
The following balances at 31 March are held at:		
NI banking pool	87,929	18,856
Balance at 31 March	87,929	18,856

9. Trade receivables, financial and other assets

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Other receivables	4,065	18,218
Prepayments and accrued income	6,795	24,920
	10,860	43,138
Amounts falling due after more than one year	1,955	2,795
Total	12,815	45,933

10. Trade payables, financial and other current liabilities

	2022-23	2021-22
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year		
Accruals and deferred income	40,957	29,489
	40,957	29,489
Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-
Total	40,957	29,489

11. Capital commitments

There were no other capital commitments at 31 March 2022 or 31 March 2023.

12. Other financial commitments

There were no other financial commitments at 31 March 2022 or 31 March 2023.

13. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 March 2022 or 31 March 2023.

14. Related party transactions

The DoJ, as NIPF's Sponsor Department, is regarded as a related party. During the year, NIPF had a number of transactions with DoJ including the provision of accounts preparation and internal audit services to NIPF by the Department, and the reimbursement of professional fees by NIPF to DoJ.

NIPF has a Service Level Agreement with Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust (PRRT) for leasing a property during the financial year with a charge for 2022-23 of £27,910 (2021-22: £34,136). PRRT is an NDPB within the DoJ accounting boundary.

None of the members of the Management Board had any personal transactions with NIPF.

15. Third-party assets

NIPF does not hold any assets on behalf of third parties.

16. Events after the reporting date

There were no events after the reporting period date that required adjustment to or disclosure in these financial statements.

Date for authorisation of issue

The Accounting Officer authorised these financial statements for issue on 28 November 2023.