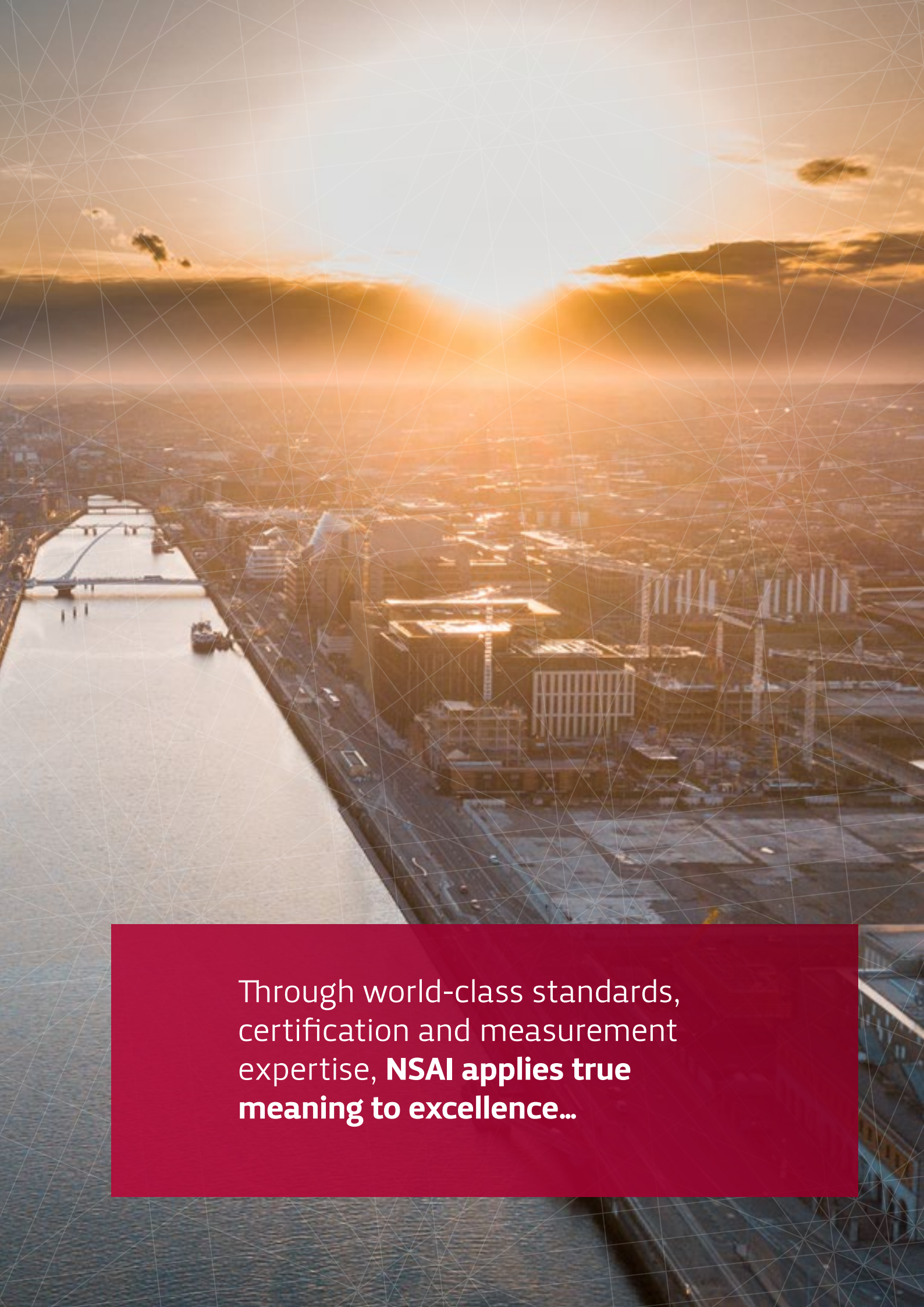


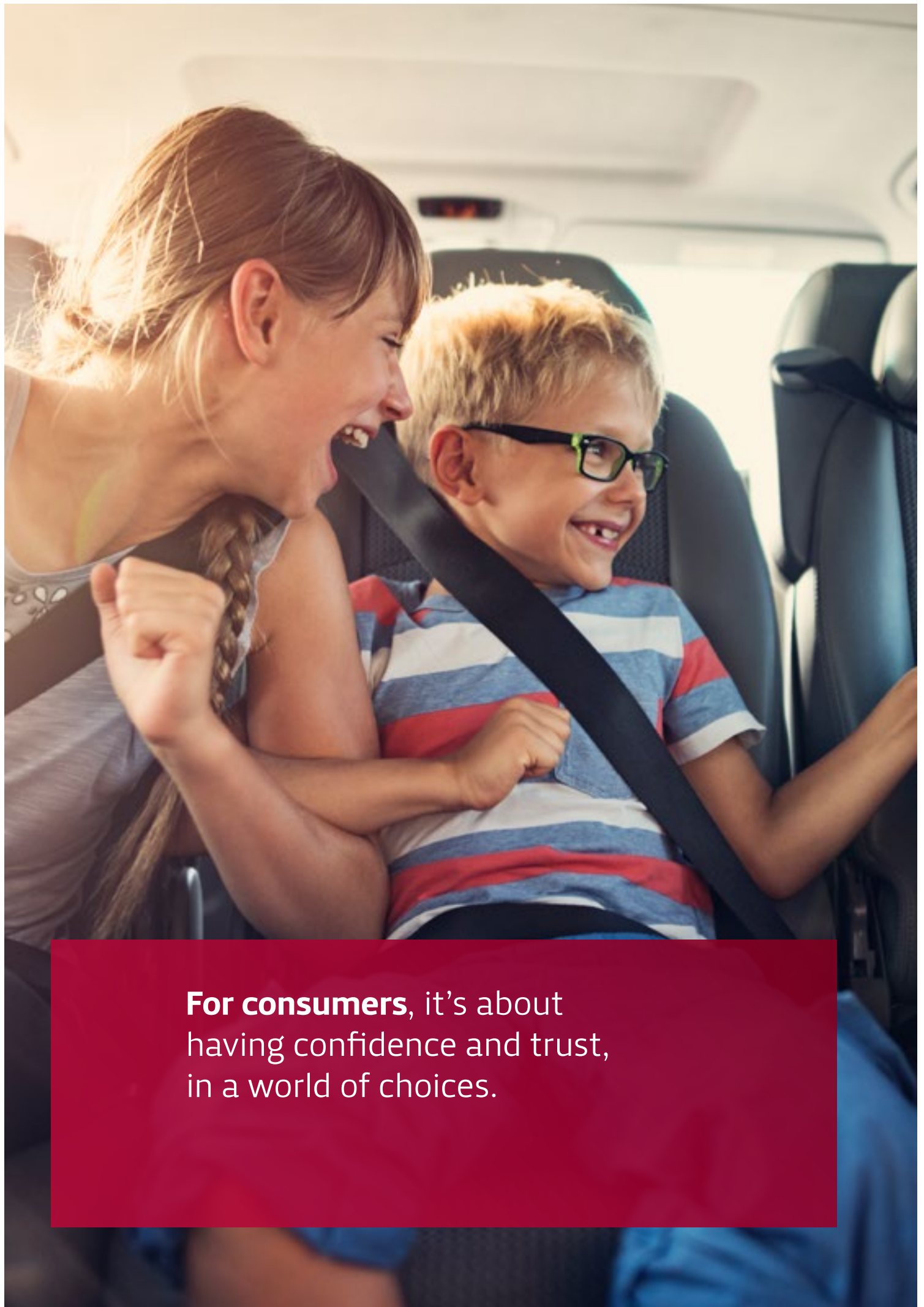
Empowering Excellence





An aerial photograph of a city at sunset. A wide river flows from the bottom left towards the center. To the right of the river is a dense urban area with various buildings, including some with distinctive white facades. In the background, there are large industrial structures with tall chimneys. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the entire scene. A faint, white geometric pattern of interconnected lines is overlaid on the entire image.

Through world-class standards,
certification and measurement
expertise, **NSAI applies true
meaning to excellence...**



For consumers, it's about having confidence and trust, in a world of choices.

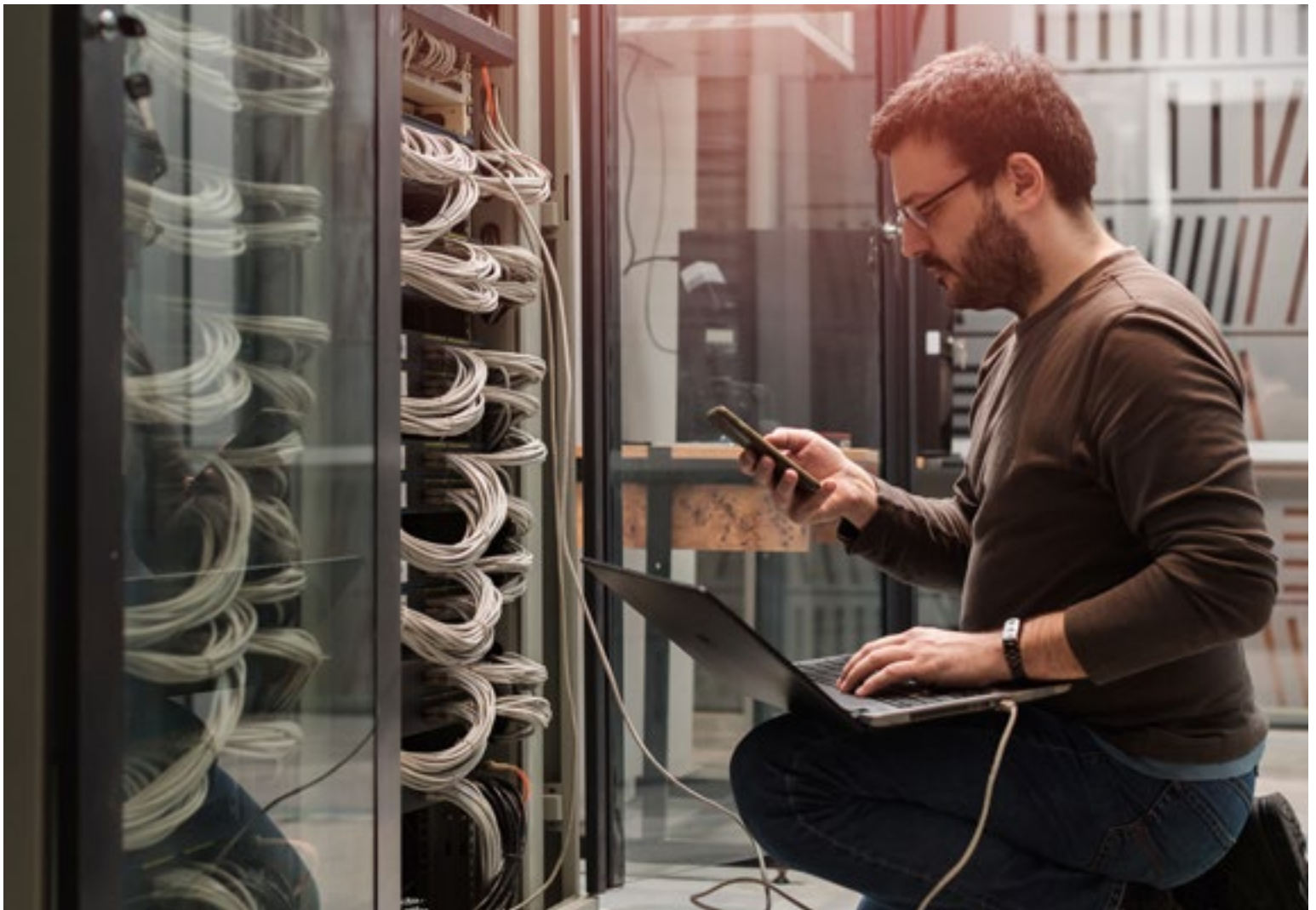
A photograph of two wind turbine technicians standing in a field of yellow wildflowers. The technician on the left is a woman wearing a white hard hat, a bright yellow safety vest over a dark long-sleeved shirt, and black pants. She is pointing her right hand towards a large white wind turbine. The technician on the right is a man wearing a white hard hat, an orange safety vest over a plaid shirt, and blue jeans. He is holding a clipboard and looking towards the same turbine. The wind turbine is a large, white, three-bladed model. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The foreground is filled with yellow wildflowers and some dry grass.

For businesses, it's about demonstrating efficiency and first-class performance, competing at a national and international level.

For Ireland, it's about strengthening our reputation and potential for economic growth in an evolving global market.



We're here to
empower excellence.



As Ireland's leading provider of world-class standards, certification and measurement expertise, NSAI are dedicated to facilitating trade and innovation, building customer confidence, and supporting sustainable economic growth.

2018 AT A GLANCE

1,318STANDARDS PUBLISHED

5NEW IRISH STANDARDS CREATED

1,615EXPERT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

136,537STANDARDS VIEWED OR DOWNLOADED

2,922REGISTERED USERS OF
'YOUR STANDARDS YOUR SAY'

11,931STANDARDS SOLD

MDSAPNSAI RECOGNISED AS AUDITING
ORGANISATION FOR MEDICAL DEVICE
SINGLE AUDIT PROGRAMME

9,311MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCT APPROVALS

850MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AUDITS

4,627MEASUREMENT INSTRUMENT
CALIBRATIONS

15,660MEASURING INSTRUMENTS IN
TRADE INSPECTED

4,260PREMISES VISITED BY LEGAL METROLOGY

3,183TWITTER FOLLOWERS

24TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSES
DELIVERED TO OVER 50 COMPANIES

CONTENTS

Introducing NSAI	10
Mission Vision and Values	11
Message from Chairperson	12
Message from Chief Executive	14
Standards	18
Metrology	22
Certification	26
NSAI Inc	31
Governance Statements and Board Members' Report	35
Consolidated Financial Statements	48

NSAI

INTRODUCTION

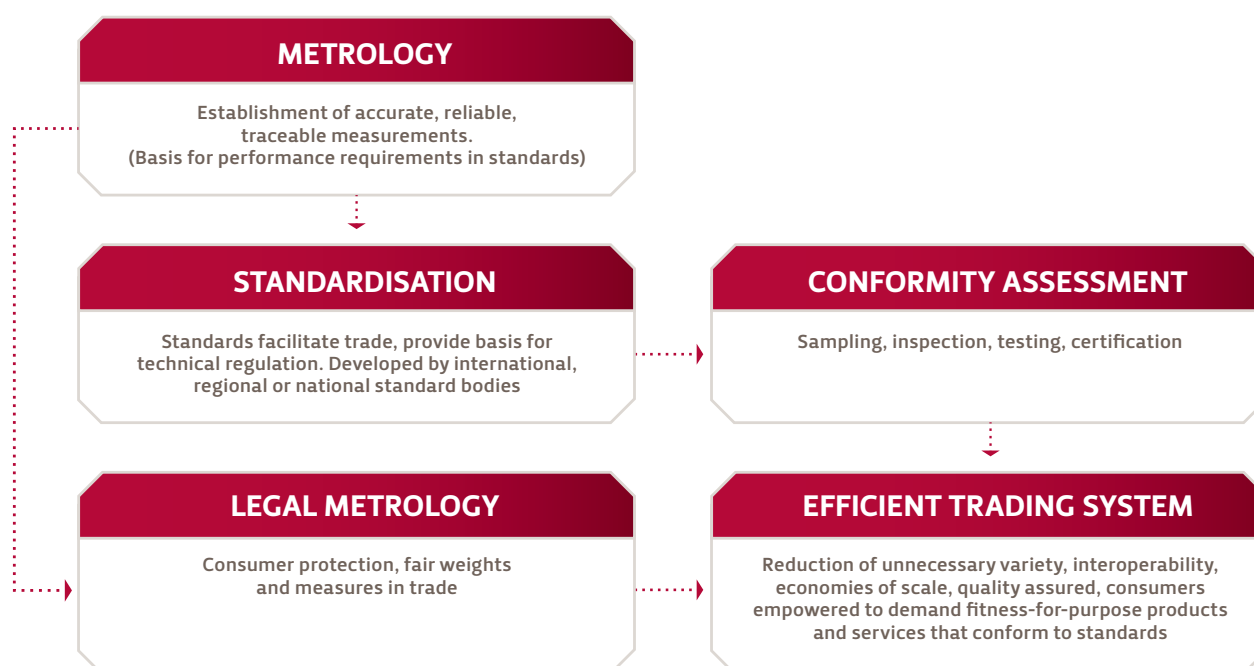
NSAI is the state authority tasked with responsibility for standardization, conformity assessment and measurement. Its primary aim is to improve the efficiency and performance of Irish business and enhance consumers' confidence through standardization.

It carries out this task by developing standards, inspecting measuring instruments used in trade, conducting audits and issuing certificates on the application of standards to goods, services and measurements.

NSAI offers a catalogue of certification services, giving businesses and organisations the tools to demonstrate that Irish goods and services conform to the highest international standards.

How do we achieve our goals ?

- Encouraging the use of standards across the industry
- Formulating standards, guides, recommendations and codes of practice for the manufacturing and services industries
- Promoting and facilitating industry participation in the development of standards at national, European and international levels
- Providing businesses with internationally-recognised certification for products, processes or practices
- Maintaining and ensuring industry access to internationally traceable measurement standards
- Providing high precision measurement calibration services
- Overseeing measurements and measuring instruments used in trade



Our Mission

As the primary Irish authority for standardization, certification and measurement services, NSAI contributes to an optimal business environment for trade and innovation through excellence and expertise in the provision of the highest quality services.

Our Vision

To be Ireland's leading provider of world-class standards, certification and measurement expertise to facilitate trade and support sustainable economic growth.

Our Values

Expert: We recognise the importance, and encourage the continuous honing, of our technical expertise to ensure we are always abreast of developments.

Dedicated: We ensure a consistent and positive approach in our work through the dedication and enthusiasm of our staff.

Impartial: We protect NSAI's impartiality which guarantees no predisposition in our work or in our dealings with business and public alike.

Engaging: We respect our customers and demonstrate an engaging and respectful approach in listening and being responsive in our dealing with others.

Pride in Our Work: We see pride in our work as bywords for excellence with each individual responsible for the highest of standards in their work.

Thorough: We value thoroughness in all our work which has to stand the test of time and take into account all known variables.

“It is hugely encouraging to see that growing numbers of business both at home and abroad are recognising that standards can offer them a competitive edge and help them drive innovation in the evolving global economic environment.”



Message from the Chairperson James Kennedy

Since taking up the position as Chairperson of NSAI, in April 2018, I reflect upon what an eventful period it has been economically and politically in Ireland, and across Europe. Without doubt the dominant theme of the year has been Brexit. It has been three years since the UK voted in a referendum to leave the EU, yet we are still preparing for what the eventual departure may mean for Ireland.

Despite the uncertainty the country's economic performance has again been very strong in 2018. We topped the EU growth league table for the fifth year running with growth of 5.6%. The economy is continuing to move towards full employment, with the jobless rate now standing at around 5.3%.

It is against this backdrop that the profile of NSAI has continued to rise as the centre of excellence for Standards, Certification and Metrology.

During 2019 NSAI will host a number of international standardization plenary meetings in areas of ICT and emerging technologies, bringing together leading global experts in their fields.



NSAI make key contributions to Governments Industry 4.0 Digital Strategy

NSAI provided inputs around standardization as an enabler for smart manufacturing, including the testing and validation of interoperability standards via demonstrators and test beds in national RDI centres. Staff also offered skills and training on standardization to engage in international industry 4.0 standards development.



From my engagements during 2018, it is evident that NSAI has long had an excellent reputation as an organisation that is highly valued and trusted amongst some of the world's leading companies. It is hugely encouraging to see that growing numbers of business both at home and abroad are recognising that standards can offer them a competitive edge and help them drive innovation in the evolving global economic environment.

It is clear that Brexit is one of the biggest challenges faced by Irish businesses. The relationship with our most significant trading partner will be different. Making sure that Irish businesses are prepared for this change is a Government priority and I am reassured to see that NSAI is fully engaged and is playing a key role in the Government's response. NSAI established a dedicated Brexit Unit focussed on supporting Irish business prepare for the UK leaving the EU and mitigating its impact. NSAI has engaged with industry through participating in the Getting Ireland Brexit Ready campaign and NSAI led Brexit Information Seminars as well as creating a dedicated web portal and tailored information factsheets for various sectors.

None of the activities detailed in this report would be possible without the talented and highly qualified staff at NSAI who provide world-class standards, certification and metrology services for the benefit of Irish businesses.

Under the leadership of our Chief Executive Geraldine Larkin we are on course to deliver on the goals set out in the strategic plan 2016-2020 and will commence a new strategic planning cycle in 2019. I would also like to take the opportunity to commend the work of the board members who have been so generous with their time and expertise over the past year.

I am grateful too to the many committee members and industry experts who give of their time so generously to advance the work of standardization and help raise public awareness of the importance of standards to business.

I would also like to express NSAI's gratitude to the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys TD, Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, Pat Breen TD and their colleagues at the Department for their support to NSAI during 2018.

Finally, in accordance with the provisions of the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) Act 1996, on behalf of the Board and Authority, I present the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2018.

JAMES KENNEDY
Chairperson

“The value of standardization is reflected by the level of Industry engagement with Standards through the NSAI Consultative Committee membership, which now stands at over 1,600 members.”



Message from the Chief Executive Officer Geraldine Larkin

2018 was another defining year for NSAI. The uncertainty brought out by Brexit has meant challenges for the business, yet despite this, the organisation has continued to perform strongly over the course of the year with an 11% increase in certification income.

The national trading environment remains very healthy with the Irish economy once again outperforming all others across the EU. Through the services of standards development, certification and metrology, which underpin an efficient trading economy NSAI has played a key role in enabling this continued economic success. The government's economic think tank, the ESRI, is predicting further growth of around 4.5 percent in 2019, however these figures are predicated on the assumption that an agreement along the lines of the European Economic Area will exist between the EU and the UK after the new Brexit deadline set for October 31st.

In anticipation of the possible scenarios the UK's exit from the EU could bring, a Government funded Brexit Unit was established within the organisation in 2018. The unit's specific focus is to support the Governments "Getting Ireland Brexit Ready" programme by examining and developing responses to the impacts of Brexit through standards and certification of products and services. It also offers advice and guidance to businesses in the form of published guidelines and information roadshows which have taken place in different locations across the country since December 2018.



NSAI published over 1,300 standards during the year enabling Irish businesses to develop and compete at both a national and international level.



As Ireland's National Standards Body, NSAI published over 1,300 standards during the year, including five new Irish standards. These standards are highly valued and trusted enabling thousands of Irish businesses develop and compete at both a national and international level. Standards have also been seen to bridge the innovation gap between R&D and the market by building customer trust and confidence in new innovative solutions. In collaboration with national RDI Centres NSAI has continued to promote the benefits of Irish engagement in international standards development with companies involved in R&D and innovation.

As a member of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation's National Steering Committee, NSAI provided various inputs around standardization as an enabler for smart manufacturing, including the testing and validation of interoperability standards via demonstrators and test beds in national RDI centres; skills and training on standardization; and funding agency support for Irish SMEs and researchers to engage in international industry 4.0 standards development.

The value of standardization is reflected by the level of Industry engagement with Standards through the NSAI Consultative Committee membership, which now stands at over 1,600 members. It is through this Committee structure and national mirror committees that NSAI facilitates Irish industry engagement in the European and International standards development work programmes across all industry sectors including ICT, Advanced Manufacturing, Construction (including Building Information Modelling - BIM), Health, Electro-Technical and Gas networks & Appliances.

The breath of the international standardization programme is immense with over 5,000 projects under development in CEN-CENELEC alone and 21,000 publications currently available. It is against this backdrop that a 2018 review of Standards Supporting Irish Economic Priorities and Growth was carried out which has enabled us to categorise NSAI standardization activity into 10 categories and focus in on key areas such as ICT, Building/Civil Engineering, Manufacturing/Machinery and Electrical/Electronics.

The importance of NSAI's role as a standards body has been recognised from within the ICT sector, with the organisation being selected to host the international standardization plenary meetings on key emerging technology areas of Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and Robotics during 2019. The 4th industrial revolution for technologies such as the Internet of Things, Cybersecurity, Cloud, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and 5G will have a disruptive impact across all industrial sectors. The NSAI profile in the sector presents a real opportunity for Ireland to play an active role in shaping the standards of the future underpinning Government policies such as the national Industry 4.0 and Digital Strategies.

The requirement for specific national standards will always be present, albeit on an exceptional basis, during 2018 the publication of I.S. 456 – Assessment, testing and categorisation of damaged buildings incorporating concrete blocks containing certain deleterious materials represented a significant contribution to the Governments remediation programme for this matter of national importance.



Pyrite and Mica Protocol Published

NSAI this year published a standard protocol called I.S. 465, which will be used to assess homes suspected of being affected by pyrite or mica. It will be referenced by engineers, geologists and laboratories to assess, test and categorise the damage in properties negatively affected by defective concrete blocks, due to excessive free muscovite mica and pyrite.



The nature of our work is continually evolving as new technologies, materials, products and services emerged all our services responded positively to the developments in their sectors and those anticipated for the future.

The National Metrology Laboratory continued to update and extend the national calibration services in line with industry requirements and advances in measurement technology including improving the capability and measurement standards in the fields of temperature and voltage. Research continues to be a core component of NML activities and the team worked with the European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR) on eight research projects to address metrology challenges in health, energy, environment and industry.

In 2018, NML co-authored on two scientific papers that were presented at the IMEKO (International Measurement Confederation) world congress on metrology held in Belfast in September. The papers related to EMPIR research projects on radiation thermometry and humidity measurement. In addition to this NML is leading a 3-year project on the accurate and reliable measurement of electrical impedance. The European funded project involves nine metrology institutes and two academic institutions.

2018 was also a momentous year for the global metrology community with NSAI one of 60 nations voting for the International System of Units (SI) redefinition replacing the old system of kilogram measurement with a new 'electronic kilogram'. This historic change is the largest single shift in international measurement since the International Metre Convention was signed in 1875.

Legal Metrology continued to play a vital role in facilitating trade by ensuring that consumers and businesses can have confidence in measurements used in trade. NSAI visited 4,260 premises across the country last year and carried out 15,660 instrument inspections, with high levels of compliance reported. The use of risk-based inspections and targeted campaigns are central to the oversight of trade measurements. During 2018, Legal Metrology conducted 6 targeted campaigns in areas such as non-automatic weighing instruments, fisheries and taxi meters.

Standards are of little benefit unless adopted and implemented by business in processes and products. NSAI's certification function is central to providing companies with a comprehensive suite of certification schemes that give an independent verification of compliance with a range of management and product standards.

In 2018, NSAI ensured that all clients successfully met the deadline for the transition to the newest version of key management standards, while also implementing the new international standard for Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems I.S ISO 45001.

Our Medical Devices Division continued to position NSAI as a recognised leading certification body as staff and processes were implemented to address the requirements for the Medical Device Single Audit Programme (MDSAP) certification and EU Regulations. As a result, NSAI's Medical Devices division was officially confirmed as a recognised Auditing Organisation MDSAP in 2018. This status, as one of only fourteen

“Our Medical Devices Division continued to position NSAI as a recognised leading certification body as staff and processes were implemented to address the requirements for the Medical Device Single Audit Programme (MDSAP) certification and EU Regulations.”

organisations recognised globally, allows NSAI to provide certification schemes to Irish indigenous and multinational companies, giving them access to European and world markets.

Activity within the Sustainability and Built Environment division reflected the strong growth in the Irish construction sector with a significant increase in certification as companies seek to demonstrate their products and systems meet the requirements of the Construction Product Regulations (CPR). In addition, the focus on energy efficiency has continued through the domestic Insulation Schemes, while at a corporate level the number of businesses certified to the ISO 50001 Energy Management standard continues to grow as companies look to make savings as well as addressing climate change.

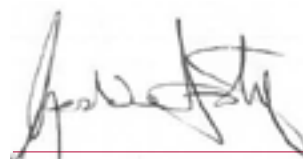
The Market and Regulatory Support Division experienced a significant increase in Motor Vehicle approvals during the year, with a 33 percent increase in EU/UNCE applications, bringing the total figure to 3,654 last year. The division undertook a review of processes and procedures utilising the LEAN approach, culminating in the development of ICT applications which have improved lead times by 50% for Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) applications.

NSAI's international client base was primarily supported through our US subsidiary NSAI Inc. which also provides an early indicator to future trends for international certification schemes such as the R2 standard for sustainable electronic recycling. In response to client requirements NSAI Inc. has achieved ANAB accreditation to ISO 45001 the Health and Safety Management standard.

In an era of digital communications NSAI's social media footprint has grown steadily over the past two years with 2018 reporting a 38% increase on the 2017 figures. NSAI now have over 3,000 Twitter followers and is one of the fastest growing Twitter accounts within the European standards bodies.

The achievements for 2018 reflect positively the NSAI's status as the National Standards Body and in closing, I would like to record my appreciation to the staff who have delivered on our objectives none of which would have been achieved without their hard work and diligence.

I also wish to thank our colleagues in the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and our industry partners for their support over the past year, and to extend my gratitude to the NSAI Board and management for their commitment and support during 2018.



GERALDINE LARKIN

Chief Executive Officer

STANDARDS

A Standard is defined by European Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 as;

‘Standard’ means a technical specification, adopted by a recognised standardization body, for repeated or continuous application, with which compliance is not compulsory.

Technical standards play a vital role in structuring economic relations, whether they lay down quality and safety requirements or ensure compatibility.

Business and legal systems rely increasingly on standards in support of technical regulations and to help define baseline requirements of care and skill. Within the framework of the “New Approach” as well as in other policies European Union (EU) legislation has taken to referring to technical standards developed by the European standards bodies rather than laying down the technical specifications itself. This has led to a heightened importance of standards throughout the European Economic Area (EEA).

The application of Standards creates a basis for confidence in the performance and quality of goods and services, while in procurement processes and for customers, a product or service which is independently certified to a standard is a verification that the standards had been correctly applied.

In its capacity as the national standards body NSAI works with industry stakeholders in developing standards and through participation in the NSAI Consultative Committees Irish business can input to and shape the future of standards applicable to their sector. Early and active engagement in standards development helps businesses to de-risk and accelerate their RDI activities, which enables faster mass-market adoption of products across competitive international markets. Hence, EU and national policy emphasises the importance of standards as a source of competitive advantage for companies of all types and sizes, in particular SME's.

236

STANDARDS COMMITTEES

1,615

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1,318

STANDARDS PUBLISHED

135,537

STANDARDS VIEWED AND/OR DOWNLOADED

2,922

ENGAGEMENT THROUGH
‘YOUR STANDARDS YOUR SAY’

STANDARDS IN FOCUS 2018

Standards Structural Review

During 2018, NSAI Standards supported over 236 Standards Committees with a registered committee membership of over 1,600 members external to NSAI. The diversity of sectors ranged from Artificial Intelligence (AI), Building and Civil Engineering, to Children's Toys, Health and Life Sciences. A comprehensive review of NSAI's standardization structure was undertaken in 2018, which recommended the categorisation of standardization activity into ten industry sectors.

These include;

1. ICT
2. Food and Agriculture
3. Energy Environment
4. Healthcare and Life Sciences
5. Building and Civil Engineering
6. Electrical/Electronic
7. General Standards
8. Manufacturing and Machinery
9. Consumer Products/Services
10. Health and Safety

Standards in Context

A total of 1,318 standards were published during 2018 across a wide portfolio of technical areas. The breadth of international standardization is evident across the sectoral profile of NSAI's standardization programme.

Top 5 Standards 2018

1. **I.S. ISO 45001:2018**
Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements with guidance for use
2. **I.S. EN ISO 19011:2018**
Guidelines for auditing management systems (ISO 19011:2018)
3. **I.S. EN ISO 50001:2018**
Energy management systems - Requirements with guidance for use (ISO 50001:2018)
4. **I.S. EN ISO 11737-1:2018**
Sterilization of health care products – Microbiological methods - Part 1: Determination of a population of microorganisms on products (ISO 11737-1:2018)
5. **ISO 31000:2018**
Risk management – Guidelines

Excellence in Action:

During 2018, NSAI Standards supported over 236 Standards Committees with a registered committee membership of over 1,600 members external to NSAI.



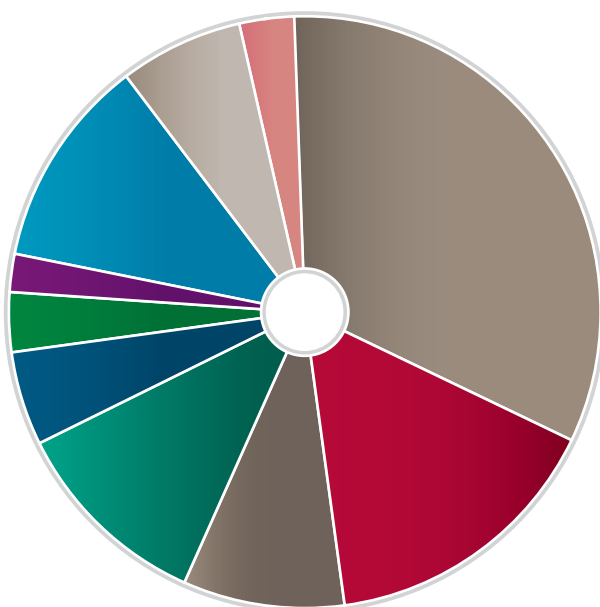
Committee Profile 2018

NSAI formulates standards through consultation with various interested consumer, environmental, industry and government parties. Currently there are more than 236 Standards Committees currently in operation. The benefits to being involved in committees, include;

- Influence the development of standards in your sector
- Gain an early understanding of upcoming changes to standards
- Keep abreast of the latest technical innovation and market trends in your sector
- Influence the use of standards as an alternative to regulation and legislation
- Gain detailed insight into the standards development process
- Gain extra credibility amongst your stakeholders and customers from being involved in the standards development process
- Enhance your organization's CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activity

As trade becomes increasingly global national standards have less influence on trade with the emphasis moving to internationally recognised standards, consequently the requirement for specific national standards is now quite limited with 5 completed during the year. Significant Irish publications during 2018 included;

Pyrite and mica protocol I.S. 465 - Assessment, testing and categorisation of damaged buildings incorporating concrete blocks containing certain deleterious materials', which will be used to assess homes suspected of being affected by pyrite or mica. It will be referenced by engineers, geologists and laboratories to assess, test and categorise the damage in properties negatively affected by defective concrete blocks, due to excessive free muscovite mica and pyrite. It will also give guidance on remedial works, on what, if any, remedial works might be carried out. The Mica Action Group has publicly welcomed the NSAI standard as a positive step.



Committee Profile 2018

- Building & Civil Engineering – 70 (30%)
- Manufacturing & Machinery – 11 (5%)
- ICT – 17 (7%)
- Healthcare & Life Sciences – 26 (11%)
- Health & Safety – 4 (2%)
- General Standards (Quality Measurement,...) – 8 (3%)
- Food & Agriculture/Aquaculture – 11 (5%)
- Energy, Environment & Utilities – 29 (12%)
- Electrical/Electronic – 21 (9%)
- Consumer Products/Services – 39 (16%)

Draft guidelines on the new National Wiring Rules - were opened for consultation from December 2018 to March 2019. As the first major revision to this standard in over a decade the publication has generated significant interest through the 'Your Standards Your Say' comment portal with important changes being considered in areas such as electrical installation, safety and energy efficiency. The draft revisions will improve safeguards and bring industry standards in line with technical developments and best practice in Europe.

Almost 1,200 standards were sold and 140,000 downloaded during the year.

The most popular standard was ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management systems. Other standards which resonated with business include, ISO 19011:2018 Guidelines for auditing management systems, ISO 50001:2018 Energy management systems, and ISO 11737:2018 Sterilization of health care products.

Growing numbers of people are engaging with our standards through the 'Your Standards Your Say' portal with almost 3,000 engagements during the year on draft publications such as the Wiring Rules, Customer Communication for Utilities and Fire Detection and alarm systems for buildings.

IEC Young Professionals

The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) is the world's leading organization for the preparation and publication of International Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies.

Last year NSAI sent two young professionals to Busan in South Korea to represent Ireland at the International Electrotechnical Commission's Young Professionals Workshop from October 22nd-24th, 2018. The workshop offers the young professionals opportunities to participate in the future of international standardization and conformity assessment in the field of electrotechnology.

Excellence in Action:

Draft guidelines issued on new National Wiring Rules

In December, the new National Wiring Rules were opened for consultation. It is the first major revision to the standard in over a decade.



METROLOGY

The process of measurement is of considerable importance in almost every field of human activity, and to be meaningful, measurements must be underpinned by metrology, the science of measurement.

NSAI ensure that the elements of a national measurement system are developed and maintained in order to support trade and other measurement-related activities by increasing the reliability of measurements. These elements include the operation of the:

NATIONAL METROLOGY LABORATORY

The National Metrology Laboratory (NML) is the national metrology institute for Ireland and is responsible for establishing, maintaining, developing and disseminating the national measurement standards for physical quantities. The science of measurement underpins every developed society. Commerce, science, government, education and law all require accurate, reliable and consistent measurement standards as represented by the International Systems of Units (SI), which is the recognized world-wide system of measurement.

The measurement standards maintained by NML are the most accurate representations of the SI units available in Ireland and provide the gateway by which measurement results can be traced to the International System of Units (SI) for measurement standards for physical quantities of mass, length, temperature, humidity, pressure, voltage, resistance, capacitance, pressure, force, torque, frequency, time intervals and sound levels.

NML also provides training and calibration services.

4,627

INSTRUMENT CALIBRATIONS

2

MEASUREMENT STANDARDS
UNDER DEVELOPMENT

515

RESEARCH DAYS COMPLETED

24

COURSES HELD

8

RESEARCH PROJECTS

NATIONAL METROLOGY LABORATORY IN FOCUS 2018

International System of Units (SI) Redefinition

History was made on Friday November 16th, as leading figures in metrology from 60 nations voted to change one of the pillars of science, the kilogram. The physical metal kilogram has now been replaced by an 'electronic kilogram' which will be the new baseline measure of mass. As one of the members of the Meter Convention, NSAI voted in favour of the new SI redefinition.

EMPIR Projects

The European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research (EMPIR) coordinates research projects to address metrology challenges in health, energy, environment and industry. As an active partner in EMPIR, NML participated in eight European research projects and co-authored two scientific papers on radiation thermometry and humidity measurement that were presented at the 2018 IMEKO world congress on metrology held in Belfast. NML are also coordinating one of these EMPIR research projects.

During 2018 significant research was also carried out in the area of humidity measurement and the development of a dew point generator.

NML in Context

NML's national calibration services are regularly upgraded and extended in line with advances in measurement technology. During 2018 activities included developing and improving the capability and measurement standards in the fields of;

- Temperature - where the objective is to extend the measurement standard capacity to the low temperature range of -190oC which is becoming an increasingly important point for medical and pharma research.
- DC voltage - reflecting the increased requirements for accurate DC Voltage measurements from some of the leading ICT companies in Ireland.

During the year more than 4,600 instruments were calibrated, with typical instruments including digital thermometers, torque meters, digital multi-meters, pin and ring gauges, force gauges and load cells, mass standards.

NML held 24 training courses at its centre in Glasnevin in 2018. These included foundation courses in Measurement & Calibration, Uncertainty in Calibration, Temperature Mapping of Enclosures, Weights & Balance Calibration and practical calibration courses in dimensional and electrical metrology. In addition, NML hosted a number of technical visits from TU, Dublin and IT Tallaght and hosted a number of MSC and INTRA student placements from DCU. NML also provided two one-week placements for 12 Transition Year students from local secondary schools.



Excellence in Action:



SI Redefinition

Leading metrology figures from 60 nations made history in November 2018 when they voted to change one of the pillars of science, the kilogram. The International System of Units (SI) redefinition replaces the old system of kilogram measurement with a new 'electronic kilogram'.

LEGAL METROLOGY

NSAI Legal Metrology (LM) uphold and enforce accuracy and transparency in trade measures by inspecting and verifying measuring instruments used by traders and by inspecting pre-packaged goods to ensure correct quantity. The primary obligation of Legal Metrology is to implement the Metrology Acts 1980 to 1998 relating to controls of measuring instruments and measurements for trade purposes within the State.

In order to provide an assurance on measurement compliance, the service adopts a risk-based inspection approach model covering 40,000 traders and 75,000 measuring instruments throughout the country. Legal Metrology inspectors visit thousands of traders each year, inspecting measuring instruments used in trade and have the power to investigate and prosecute those who do not comply with the legislation.

LM uses 30 authorised verifiers to provide a nationwide verification service to ensure that instruments are compliant with the relevant legislation. This service ensures consistent levels of accuracy of measurement instruments used in trade.

4,260

PREMISES VISITED

15,660

INSTRUMENTS INSPECTED

6

TARGETED CAMPAIGNS

52,014

INSTRUMENT VERIFICATIONS
BY PRIVATE COMPANIES

Excellence in Action:

15,000 instrument inspections made in 2018

Based on a risk based inspection process, Legal Metrology made more than 15,000 instrument inspections in 2018, and visited over 4,000 premises. For 2018, the average compliance rate across the areas inspected was 88%.



LEGAL METROLOGY IN FOCUS 2018

Compliance

Through risk-based inspection, Legal Metrology completed more than 15,000 instrument inspections in 2018 and visited over 4,000 premises. The impact of the inspection and verification regime is evidenced by the compliance rates achieved following the first inspection, with the average compliance rate at 88% last year. All non-compliances detected by Legal Metrology last year were addressed in full.

Inspections

Main Instrument Type	Number of Inspections
Liquid Fuel Dispensers	6,939
Taximeters	2,909
Retail Weighing	4,134
Weighbridge -animals (e.g in Marts)	77
Weighbridge – vehicle	315
Milk Meter	42
Waste Weigher	80
Truck mounted oil meters (e.g delivering home heating oil)	110

Joint Inspections

As well as carrying out our own inspections, Legal Metrology also carried out joint inspections with the Sea Fisheries Protection Agency at fish processing plants and with the National Transport Authority when inspecting taxis.

In 2018, the National Transport Authority approved the proposed increase in the maximum taxi fare by an average of 3.22%. Consequently, 17,790 taximeters were calibrated and verified with the new fare, to ensure taxi operators could continue to operate.

Legal Metrology in Context

Targeted Campaign

Due to the volume of traders and instruments in trade the use of the risk-based inspections and targeted campaigns are central to the oversight of trade measurements. During 2018, LM conducted 6 targeted campaigns on;

- Non-automatic Weighing Instruments (NAWI) – Point of Sale
- Taxi Meters (x 2)
- Fisheries
- Non-automatic Weighing Instruments (NAWI) – Medical Weighing
- Meat Plants

Legal Metrology pay particular attention to information received concerning doubts about measurements and will, where appropriate, investigate alleged breaches of the Acts as part of our enforcement role.

Once an instrument is being used for trade purposes the owner is responsible for ensuring it remains compliant. LM promote voluntary compliance by traders through information campaigns and awareness raising. Where this approach is unsuccessful, further action will be initiated. Where on inspection an instrument is found to be non-compliant an inspector may issue a warning, take the instrument out of trade use or recommend prosecution.

CERTIFICATION

Conformity Assessment:

Conformity Assessment is the provision by an independent body of written assurance (a certificate) that the product, service or system in question meets specific requirements and is a useful tool for a business to add credibility, by demonstrating that products or services meets the requirements of a specific standard and expectations of customers.

For some industries, certification is a legal or contractual requirement. Within the certification industry “Accreditation” is the formal recognition by an independent body, generally known as an accreditation body, that a certification body operates according to international standards. NSAI is accredited for a diverse range of certification schemes to support Irish business needs.

NSAI Certification creates, maintains and promotes accredited certification of products, services and organisations for compliance with recognised standards, from business management systems to product approvals.

NSAI certifies businesses across a variety of sectors including transport, construction, pharmaceutical, finance, food services and many more. Our client base includes international blue-chip firms, leading pharmaceutical companies, construction businesses, SME's and family owned enterprises.

Certification services are categorised into four primary business units of Business Excellence, Sustainability and the Built Environment, Medical Devices and Market & Regulatory Support, with over 1,500 companies certified to a range of management system standards and over 12,000 product approvals issued in 2018.

Excellence in Action:



Migration to New Standards

In 2018, the quality standard ISO 9000 and the environmental standard ISO 14001 were updated. The standard provided for a transition period ending in September, requiring all the certified organisations to transition to the new standard. Working with our client base, NSAI ensured that all client organisations successfully made the changeover by the 15th of September deadline.



CERTIFICATION IN FOCUS

“In 2018, NSAI became accredited to offer the globally recognised standard for information security, ISO 27001, which has become even more important since GDPR came into effect.”

Business Excellence

NSAI's Business Excellence division focuses primarily on management system standards, which defines how an organisation manages all parts of its business processes to meet its goals and objectives. As an accredited certification body, NSAI provides independent certification to organisations enabling them to demonstrate compliance with international standards which allow their businesses operate to the highest international standards.

In 2018, NSAI became accredited to offer the globally-recognised standard for information security, ISO 27001, which has become even more important since GDPR came into effect in May 2018. The standard provides an organisation with a framework to manage their information both on and offline and a pathway to compliance in terms of risk assessment, breach notification and asset management.

In March 2018, NSAI launched I.S. ISO 45001 for Occupational Health and Safety. This standard gives organisations a framework to increase safety, reduce workplace risks and enhance health and well-being at work. More than fifty Irish companies were among the first organisations in the world to achieve certification to the new global health and safety standard, which sets the minimum standard of practice to protect employees worldwide.

Following revisions to the Quality standard I.S. ISO 9001 and the Environmental standard ISO 14001 a transition period was provided for those certified to the standards to implement the changes in their management systems. By the transition deadline of 15th September all NSAI client companies had successfully made the changeover.

850

AUDITS COMPLETED

1,132

ORGANISATIONS HOLDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
CERTIFICATION IN 2018

103

NEW MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTS ISSUED

18

BEST PRACTICE EVENTS



Excellence in Action:



ISO 45001, Occupational Health and Safety

In March the NSAI launched ISO 45001 for Occupational Health and Safety. It gives organisations a framework to increase safety, reduce workplace risks and enhance health and well-being at work. More than fifty Irish companies were among the first organisations in the world to achieve certification to the new global health and safety standard.

Sustainability and the Built Environment

2018 saw further increase in construction sector activity. The output of the industry hit €21b in 2018, and that figure is expected to grow again in 2019. Project Ireland 2040 estimates that 550,000 homes will be needed over the next 20 years, and the National Development Plan commits €11.6b to providing 112,000 new social homes by 2027.

Within this environment the number of construction product CE Mark audits also continues to grow as greater reliance is placed on certification for demonstrating that construction products and systems meet the requirements of the Construction Products Regulations.

The growth within the construction sector has resulted in an increasing demand for construction related certification services from the Sustainability and Built Environment Division.

Looking to the future, NSAI continues to work with the Department of Housing in the areas of radon protection, near zero energy buildings (NZEB), ventilation and development of Part L of the building regulations.

244

COMPANIES CERTIFIED FOR CONSTRUCTION
INSULATION SCHEMES

1,001

CONSTRUCTION PRODUCT APPROVALS
(IRISH AGRÉMENT BOARD AND CE MARK)

106

COMPANIES CERTIFIED TO
I.S. EN 1090-1:2009+A1:2011
REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT
OF STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

51

I.S. EN ISO 50001:2011 ENERGY MANAGEMENT
SYSTEMS CERTIFIED BUSINESSES

Medical Devices

Ireland is well established as one of the leading global hubs for the medical devices industry, with many of the world's best known MedTech companies choosing Ireland as their European base. The sector now makes up almost 10 per cent of all Irish exports and employs an estimated 38,000 people working in indigenous and multinational businesses. It is against this background that NSAI continued its strategic approach to offer a full range of services relating to Management System Standards and Product Certification Services for the medical device sector.

2018 was a very significant year in this approach as NSAI was confirmed as a recognised Auditing Organisation for the Medical Device Single Audit Programme (MDSAP) this allows the conduct of a single audit of a medical device manufacturers quality management system which satisfies the requirements of multiple jurisdictions such as: the Therapeutic Goods administration of Australia; FDA in the USA; Health Canada and Japan's ministry of Health. NSAI is now one of only 14 organisations worldwide with this status and confirms its standing as a leading body in the medical devices sector while enhancing Ireland's credential as a centre of excellence for the medical devices industry.

NSAI is also progressing its application for designation under the Medical Devices Regulation and the In vitro diagnostic Regulation with the European Commission and the Health Products Regulatory Authority for 2019.

The importance of NSAI's capacity to deliver medical devices certification has become more pronounced in 2018 as Ireland prepares for a post-Brexit environment. In this context, NSAI's status as a notified body will ensure a continuity of certification for the sector, giving access to European and world markets.

241

TOTAL NUMBER OF MEDICAL DEVICES
PRODUCTS CERTIFIED

13

MEDICAL DEVICES SITES CERTIFIED

5

TRAINING COURSES DELIVERED

Excellence in Action:



Medical Devices

NSAI has been confirmed as a recognised Auditing Organisation for the Medical Device Single Audit Programme (MDSAP) a global certification scheme for Medical Devices. It's one of only 14 organisations with this status and confirms the organisations standing as a leading body in the medical devices sector.



Market and Regulatory Support

NSAI is responsible for a range of schemes which enhance the safety and environmental aspects of vehicles on the road in Ireland and Europe with the provision of a range of Automotive certification services which include European Type Approval, National Type Approval and Individual Vehicle Approval for vehicles and their components

NSAI also approves test centres (ATC's) and authorised workshops nationwide for activities related to Tachograph, Plating and Road Speed Limiters.

Under these schemes, an approval by NSAI as the Irish Type Approval Authority is accepted EU-wide without further tests.

During 2018, there was a 33% increase in EU/UNECE applications and two process system upgrades were developed to improve the automotive approvals processes and services to clients.

National Type Approval:

- A new online application system for Individual Vehicle Approval (IVA) was introduced for category N vehicle applications. These are vehicles designed and constructed primarily for the carriage of goods. This has achieved a 47% improvement in lead times for IVA applications in 2018.
- Work has been initiated to include category M (passenger cars, buses and coaches) O (trailers towed by cars or buses) and Vehicle Adaptions for Persons with Reduced Mobility by the end of June 2019.

European Type Approval:

- A pilot project was undertaken with two of the NSAI designated technical services providers to improve lead times in relation to 715/2007/EC light duty emission approval applications. A new online system for retrieval of test data was implemented, which has led to a 50% reduction on lead times and further developments are underway to improve this system.

9,339

MOTOR VEHICLES APPROVALS WERE
ISSUED DURING 2018

4,184

INDIVIDUAL VEHICLE APPROVALS FOR
DISABLED DRIVERS

1,356

INDIVIDUAL VEHICLE APPROVALS FOR
OTHER CATEGORIES

3,668

EU/UN APPROVALS OF VEHICLES SYSTEMS
AND COMPONENTS

131

NATIONAL SMALL SERIES TYPE APPROVALS

NSAI Inc.

NSAI Inc. provides a wide array of Management System and Medical Device certification services to a primarily international client base. These activities place NSAI Inc. at the centre of support for NSAI's overall technical competencies and international client profile.

During 2018, NSAI Inc. achieved ISO 45001:2018 accreditation from ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) which enables NSAI to provide Occupational Health and Safety certifications to an international customer base. NSAI Inc was one of the first 10 certification bodies to achieve this recognition.

NSAI Inc. is accredited to the R2 certification scheme, which is a global program that supports the sustainable recycling of electronic equipment.

114

NEW MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATES ISSUED

86

NEW MEDICAL DEVICE SITE CERTIFICATES ISSUED

391

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CLIENTS REPRESENTING
OVER 765 CERTIFIED FACILITIES

234

MEDICAL DEVICE CLIENTS REPRESENTING
OVER 334 CERTIFIED FACILITIES

BREXIT

While uncertainty remains concerning the outcome of Brexit negotiations on what the future trading relationship between the EU and UK will ultimately look like, Irish businesses need to proactively take steps to get Brexit ready.

As part of the Government initiative to Get Ireland Brexit Ready, NSAI's Brexit Unit was established in 2018, with support from the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI).

The Brexit unit carried out a comprehensive review of the EU Commission's Nando website to ascertain how many Irish companies are certified by a UK notified body, and how this may affect them after Brexit. Arising from the research, key messages were formulated on the Brexit impacts for standards and certification, in areas such as construction, medical devices and green procurement. NSAI participated in the "Getting Ireland Brexit Ready" campaign during 2018 and the first in a series of NSAI Brexit specific seminars began in December with high levels of attendance recorded. Further roadshows are scheduled for 2019.

GOVERNANCE & FINANCIALS

Board Members	34
Governance Statement and Board Members' Report	35
Statement on Internal Control	42
Board Members and General Information	47
Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	48
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income	49
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position	50
Company Statement of Financial Position	51
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	52
Notes To The Financial Statements	53

BOARD MEMBERS 2018



James Kennedy
NSAI Chairperson



Geraldine Larkin
NSAI Chief Executive Officer



Roger Blackburn



Valerie Bowens



Nina Brennan



Aideen Goggin



Terry Landers



Dr Aidan O'Boyle



Fergal O Byrne



Deirdre O Hara



Kieran Ryan



Barry Smith



Deirdre Smith



Kieran Cox
Retired April 2018



Kevin Earley
Retired April 2018

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) was established on 14 April 1997 under Section 6 of the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act, 1996.

NSAI's statutory functions are defined within the following Acts:

- National Standards Authority Act 1996;
- Metrology Act 1996;
- Packaged Goods (Quantity Control) Act 1980.

NSAI delivers this infrastructure through the core programmes of metrology, standardisation, legal metrology for measurements and measuring instruments used in trade and conformity assessment.

The National Standards Authority of Ireland is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

The NSAI operates under the aegis of the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation who is empowered to; provide funds to the NSAI to enable it to discharge its obligations; to issue general policy directives; and to seek information on the NSAI's activities.

In addition to its own governing legislation, the NSAI is also required to comply with a range of other statutory (national and EU) and administrative requirements. It has put in place procedures to ensure compliance with these specific requirements.

Governance

The Board of the National Standards Authority of Ireland was established under the NSAI Act 1996. The functions of the NSAI are set out in Part 2 section 7 of this Act.

The Board is accountable to the Minister of State at the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation with responsibility for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection and is responsible for ensuring good governance and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues.

The regular day-to-day management, control and direction of NSAI are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the senior management team. The CEO and the senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board, and must ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to the entity, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The CEO acts as a direct liaison between the Board and management of NSAI.

The Authority operates in accordance with the guidelines of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016, (the Code) as issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER).

Board Responsibilities

The role and responsibilities of the Board are set out in the NSAI Governance Manual which also contain the matters specifically reserved for Board decision. Standing items considered by the Board include:

- Declaration of interests,
- Reports from committees,
- Financial reports/management accounts,
- Performance reports,
- Risk Management
- Corporate Governance and
- Reserved matters.

Paragraph 8(2) of the First Schedule to the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act, 1996 requires the NSAI to keep, in such form as may be approved of by the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it and, in particular, to keep in such form as aforesaid all special accounts as the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation may from time to time direct. In preparing the financial statements, the NSAI is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- disclose and explain any material departures from applicable accounting standards;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the NSAI will continue in operation.

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group including the wholly-owned subsidiary, NSAI Inc. and which enable it to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with Paragraph 8 of the First Schedule to the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act, 1996. The Board is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the NSAI's website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of NSAI, by reference to the Chief Executive KPI reporting and financial management reports, is undertaken on a quarterly basis.

The Board considers that the financial statements of NSAI give a true and fair view of the financial performance and the financial position of NSAI at 31 December 2018.

Board Structure

The Minister appoints the Members, in accordance with the provisions of the NSAI Act 1996, from among those interests involved in the process of standardization and certification of commodities, processes and practices, without any single interest predominating.

The Board comprises thirteen members; a Chairperson and 11 Members, all of whom are appointed by the Minister of State at the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation with responsibility for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection. The Chief Executive Officer is an ex-officio member for the term of her contract.

Members are appointed to the Board annually, on the anniversary of the establishment day of the NSAI, when the three longest serving Members present for retirement from the Board. In accordance with the NSAI Act 1996, the Minister reappointed two Members presenting for retirement in 2018.

The Board meets bi-monthly and convened 6 meetings in 2018. The schedule of attendance at the Board meetings for 2018 is set out below, including the fees and expenses paid to each member in the year.

Board Members	Role	Appointed	Retired	Meetings Attended	Fees 2018	Expenses 2018
Mr. J. Kennedy	Chairperson	9th April 2018		5	8,717	6,764
Mr K. Ryan	Deputy Chairperson	15th April 2009 Re-Appointed 27th June 2013 20th June 2016		5	7,668	0
Mr R. Blackburn	Member	20th June 2016		6	7,668	0
Ms V. Bowens	Member	12th May 2014 Re-Appointed 17th April 2018		5	7,668	654
Ms N. Brennan (Note 1)	Member	20th June 2016		6	0	0
Mr K. Cox (Note 1)	Staff Representative	14th April 2012 Re-Appointed 14th April 2015	14th April 2018	1	0	0
Mr K Early (Note 1)	Staff Representative	1st October 2015	14th April 2018	1	0	0
Ms A. Goggin (Note 1)	Member	31st January 2013 Re-Appointed 20th June 2016		6	0	0
Mr T. Landers	Member	6th March 2012 Re-Appointed 28th March 2014 29th March 2017		5	7,668	2
Dr A. O'Boyle	Member	12th May 2014 Re-Appointed 29th March 2017		6	7,668	0
Mr F. O'Byrne (Note 1)	Staff Representative	17th April 2018		5	0	0
Ms D. O'Hara	Member	31st January 2013 Re-Appointed 20th June 2016		6	7,668	1,010
Ms D. Smith	Member	12th May 2014 Re-Appointed 17th April 2018		6	7,668	765
Mr B. Smith (Note 1)	Staff Representative	17th April 2018		4		787
Ms. G. Larkin (Note 1)	Chief Executive Officer / Ex-officio member	20th February 2017		6	0	0
Total					62,393	9,980
Notes	1. Remuneration not payable in accordance with OPOS principals					

Board Fees and Expenses

Board Members fees are discharged in accordance with the Warrant of Appointment.

Expenses are processed at the rates and subject to the regulations appropriate to Civil Servants of the highest grade.

Board Effectiveness and Evaluation

The Board completed an external Board Effectiveness Review in October 2018 which was reviewed and adopted by the Board in February 2019.

Committees of the Board

The Board has established three committees, as follows:

Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)

Comprising of at least four Board members the ARC is independent from the management of the organisation. The ARC is a core component of governance and of the systems of internal controls implemented by the Board. The role of the ARC is to support the Board in relation to its responsibilities for issues of risk, the control environment, financial reporting and associated assurances. The Committee ensures that the internal control systems including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The ARC reports to the Board after each meeting, and formally in an annual report to the Board. The Committee operates under terms of reference approved by the Board and convened five meetings in 2018. Management attend at the request of the ARC Chairperson and the ARC meet with the auditors annually in the absence of management.

Number of Meetings 5

Mr R. Blackburn – Chairperson	5
Dr A. O'Boyle	5
Ms N. Brennan	5
Ms D. Smith	4

Nominations Committee

Comprising of four Board members, the primary role of the Nominations Committee is to review and make recommendations to the Board regarding appointments and succession planning considering the challenges and opportunities facing the NSAI, and the skills and expertise needed on the Board in the future. In the absence of the Chief Executive, the committee also supports the Boards requirements for Appointment and Performance of the Chief Executive. The Committee operates under terms of reference approved by the Board and convened three meetings in 2018.

Number of Meetings 3

Mr. J. Kennedy - Chairperson	2
Ms. D. Smith	3
Mr. K. Ryan	1
Mr. T. Landers	3
Ms. G. Larkin – Chief Executive Officer	3

Governance Committee

Comprising of four Board members the primary role of the Governance Committee is defining and articulating the NSAI's overall corporate governance structures to ensure it complies with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, developing and recommending to the Board for approval Corporate Governance Guidelines applicable to the NSAI and reassessing such guidelines and recommending any proposed changes to the Board for approval. The Committee operates under terms of reference approved by the Board and convened one meeting in 2018.

Number of Meetings 1

Ms. D. O'Hara – Chairperson	1
Ms. V. Bowens	1
Ms. A. Goggin	1
Mr. B. Smith	1

NSAI Inc.

NSAI Inc. was established in New Hampshire, USA on July 1, 1997 as a not for profit corporation wholly-owned by the NSAI for the purpose of distribution and dissemination of information on current and proposed Irish and EU standards, the provision of technical reviews and evaluation of products, processes and practices and certification for conformity to EU, Irish and International standards. The US entity complies with the requirements of US federal and state regulations.

The subsidiary is subjected to the specific management and procedural controls approved by the Board of NSAI Inc. and are included within these overall statements of compliance and effectiveness of controls. Three members of the NSAI Inc. Board are members of the NSAI Board.

The NSAI Inc. Board operates in accordance with governance procedures approved by the Board and convened four meetings in 2018.

Number of Meetings	4
Mr. T. Landers – Chairperson	4
Ms. V. Bowens	4
Ms. G. Larkin – Chief Executive	4
Mr. C. Morrell – NSAI Inc.	4

Disclosures Required by Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016)

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the NSAI has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ("the Code"), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. Following a review of the Authorities compliance with the Code and its Assurance Framework the Members are satisfied that the disclosure requirements of the Code have been fully discharged within the notes to the Financial Statements including;

- Travel and Subsistence Expenditure – Note 3(b)
- Consultancy – Note 3(d)
- Hospitality – Note 3(f)
- Employee's benefits breakdown – Note 3(g)

Key Personnel Changes

Mr. James Kennedy was appointed Chairperson on the 9th April 2018.

Statement on Internal Controls

A comprehensive Statement on Internal Control is included with the Financial Statements.

Legal Costs and Settlements

There were no legal costs or settlements incurred. Legal fees are disclosed under consultancy costs in accordance with the Code.

Wider Governance Environment

In addition to its own governing legislation and the Code, the NSAI is also required to comply with a range of other statutory (national and EU) and administrative requirements. It has put in place procedures to ensure compliance with the following specific requirements:

EU Regulation No. 1025/2012 on European Standardization

NSAI has been notified by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation as the national standards body for CEN, CENELEC and ETSI under the EU Regulation on Standardization and is required to publish an annual report on standardization activities.

Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 and Standards in Public Office Act 2001 and ensuing regulations

In accordance with the provisions of the Acts, all Members and staff holding designated positions are required to comply with the provisions of the Acts.

Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2011 and the Equal Status Acts 2000-2012

NSAI is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and adopts a positive approach to equality in the organisation. NSAI provides several schemes, such as staff development, career breaks and flexible work arrangements which contribute to the development of a balanced work/life environment for all staff.

A policy on Dignity at Work is in operation and has been communicated to all staff.

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005

NSAI takes appropriate measures to protect the safety, health and welfare of all employees and visitors in compliance with the provisions of this Act.

Worker Participation (State Enterprises) Acts 1998

NSAI is not a designated body for the purposes of the Act. However, the NSAI observes the procedures in these Acts to provide for staff representation on the Board.

Protected Disclosures Act 2014

The NSAI received 1 protected disclosure during the reporting period 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018. The matter reported under the disclosure was investigated, no action was required to address the issue raised.

Freedom of Information 2014

NSAI complies with the provisions of this Act. The Act establishes the following statutory rights:

- Access to information held by public bodies;
- To have official information held by a public body relating to that individual amended where it is incomplete, incorrect or misleading; and
- Access to records on decisions affecting oneself taken by that public body.

Requests for information should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Officer, NSAI, 1 Swift Square, Northwood, Santry, Dublin 9.

Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003

NSAI is registered as a data controller and complies with the provisions of these Acts.

Public Spending Code

NSAI has established procedures which are consistent with the principles set out in this code.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

The Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 was amended by the European Communities (Late Payments in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002. Management is satisfied that NSAI complied with the provisions of the Act in all material respects.

Prompt Payment to Suppliers

NSAI is committed to ensuring that all valid suppliers' invoices are paid promptly, under the 15-day Prompt Payment Rule, which came into effect on 1st July 2011.

NSAI reports quarterly on the website on the performance against this requirement.

Energy Efficiency

NSAI is committed to taking every effort possible to be energy efficient. During 2018, the NSAI consumed the following energy over nine facilities:

	2017	2018
kWh of Electricity	1,209,148	1,215,311
kWh of Natural Gas	1,314,676	1,368,693

The SEAI Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting System on the public sector progress towards 33% energy savings target for the end of 2020 is reporting that NSAI has achieved a 5.35% energy saving better than 2017, a 2.9% consumption less than 2017 and overall 21.1% reduction against the baseline.

The NSAI participates in framework agreements for the supply of electricity and gas procured centrally by the National Procurement Service.

Customer Charter

NSAI's Customer Charter sets out our commitment to high quality services to our customers and is available in Irish and English at the "About NSAI – Organisation – Customer Service" section of the website. The Charter includes information on compliance with the Ombudsman Act 1980 and the Ombudsman for Children Act 2002.

Official Languages Act 2003

In accordance with Section 10 of the Act, the Annual Report is published in Irish and English.

Reuse of Public Sector Information Regulation (S.I. 279 of 2005)

NSAI complies with the requirements of the regulation regarding licencing of information for reuse.

Statement of Compliance

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Code. The Board has undertaken a review of internal controls and the NSAI assurance framework. Based on this review the Board confirms a reasonable assurance that NSAI has complied with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for 2018.



JAMES KENNEDY

Chairperson
13th June 2019

STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

Scope of Responsibility

On behalf of The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) we acknowledge the Board's responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated within the organisation which includes NSAI's wholly-owned subsidiary NSAI Inc. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016). The system of internal control includes financial, operational and compliance controls and risk management systems that support the achievement of NSAI's strategic priorities whilst also safeguarding the public and other funds and assets for which NSAI is responsible.

Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions appropriately authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way and that corrective action is effected where necessary. The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it.

Control Environment, Risk and Procedures

NSAI has an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) comprising of Board members with financial and audit expertise. The ARC met on 5 occasions in 2018. The internal audit function and its work programme is informed by analysis of risk and control issues within NSAI. The internal audit plan is approved by the ARC and advised to the Board. In addition, the NSAI is also subject to accreditation, quality management and other reviews which are undertaken by third parties and considered by Management.

NSAI has Governance and Nominations committees comprising of board members with terms of reference approved by the Board. These committees provide regular reports to the Board.

NSAI has an overall risk management framework and process which includes a risk management policy and a risk appetite statement. The risk management policy is available to all staff. There is a Chief Risk Officer Role. The corporate risk register is considered by Management pre review by the ARC and presentation to the Board. Risk management is a regular Board agenda item.

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment is in place with the following elements:

- a Code of Business Conduct requiring Board members, management and staff to maintain the highest ethical standards,
- ensuring compliance with the requirements in the Ethics in Public Office Acts ,
- policies and procedures for staff performance management and continuing professional development,
- systematic reviews by Internal Audit of internal controls and risk issues,
- documented procedures for all key business processes,
- specific training and awareness programmes designed to mitigate identified risks related to current and emerging threats and significant compliance issues,
- matters reserved for the Board decision,
- the assignment of financial responsibilities and corresponding accountability at management level,
- a comprehensive budgeting system with an annual plan and budget which is subject to Board approval,
- systems and procedures in place aimed at ensuring the security and resilience of the information technology systems,
- financial control systems in place to ensure stewardship of financial resources and safeguarding of assets,
- procedures for determining and reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.

Ongoing Monitoring and Review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes in a timely manner. Where control deficiencies are identified the necessary improvements are agreed with those responsible for taking corrective action and appropriate reporting made to management, the ARC and the Board as appropriate.

The system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management reporting, administrative procedures including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability.

In particular, it includes:

- key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies,
- ongoing monitoring by the Board of the approved annual plan and budget including KPIs, and
- regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance of both financial and non- financial reports which indicate performance against budgets and objectives.

Procurement

NSAI has a dedicated procurement officer/ procurement function. The procurement arrangements include annual procurement plan, regular procurement updates for managers, the use of OGP Frameworks and the use of mini-competitions as appropriate to the needs of the organisation.

We confirm that NSAI has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that during 2018 NSAI complied with those procedures.

Review of Effectiveness

We confirm that NSAI has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. NSAI's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees their work and the senior management within NSAI responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

We confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2018 at the Board meeting on 26 April 2019. This review was informed by the formal report on the internal controls systems by the ARC, which was considered as an item on the ARC meeting agenda on 24 April 2019.

Internal Control Issues

No weaknesses in internal control were identified which have resulted in material losses in relation to 2018 that require disclosure in the financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

JAMES KENNEDY

Chairperson
13th June 2019

GERALDINE LARKIN

Chief Executive Officer
13th June 2019

COMPTROLLER & AUDITOR GENERAL

REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of the National Standards Authority of Ireland for the year ending 31 December 2018 as required under the provisions of paragraph 8 of the First Schedule of the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act 1996.

The financial statements comprise

- the consolidated statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the consolidated statement of comprehensive income
- the consolidated statement of financial position
- the company statement of financial position
- the consolidated statement of cash flows and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of National Standards Authority of Ireland at 31 December 2018 and of its income and expenditure for 2018 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Emphasis of matter - deferred pension funding

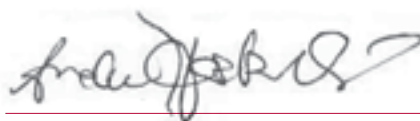
Without qualifying my opinion I draw attention to note 12 (c) to the financial statements. The National Standards Authority of Ireland recognises an asset in respect of deferred retirement benefit funding - the current value of the funding it anticipates will be provided in the future by the State to meet retirement benefit liabilities as they fall due. Inherent in this accounting treatment is an assumption that any income generated by the National Standards Authority of Ireland will in the first instance be applied towards current expenses and that State funding will meet any current or future shortfall in resources including future retirement benefit liabilities.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the National Standards Authority of Ireland and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Report on information other than the financial statements, and on other matters

The National Standards Authority of Ireland has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report including the governance statement and Board members' report and the statement on internal control. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report. I have nothing to report in that regard.



ANDREW HARKNESS

For and on behalf of:
Comptroller and Auditor General
18th June 2019

Appendix to the report

Responsibilities of Board members

As detailed in the governance statement and Board members' report, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of financial statements in the form prescribed under paragraph 8 of the First Schedule of the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act 1996
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 8 of the First Schedule of the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act 1996 to audit the financial statements of the National Standards Authority of Ireland and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.
- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the National Standards Authority of Ireland's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the National Standards Authority of Ireland to cease to continue as a going concern.
- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. 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.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

BOARD MEMBERS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Board of the NSAI

NSAI Board Members, who are appointed by the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation comprise of the following:

Board Members

Mr. J. Kennedy - Chairman. Appointed 9 April 2018

Mr. K. Ryan - Deputy Chairman

Ms. G. Larkin - Chief Executive Officer

Mr. R. Blackburn

Ms. V. Bowens - Reappointed 14 April 2018

Ms. N. Brennan

Mr. K. Cox - Retired 14 April 2018

Mr. K. Early - Retired 14 April 2018

Ms. A. Goggin

Mr. T. Landers

Dr. A. O'Boyle

Mr. F O'Byrne - Appointed 17 April 2018

Ms. D. O'Hara

Mr. B. Smith - Appointed 17 April 2018

Ms. D. Smith - Reappointed 14 April 2018

Mr. P. Bracken - Board Secretary

General information

Head office

1 Swift Square,
Northwood,
Santry,
Dublin 9.

Auditors

Comptroller and Auditor General
3A Mayor Street Upper,
Dublin 1.

Bankers

Allied Irish Banks, plc.

Solicitors

Eversheds Sutherland

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND RETAINED REVENUE RESERVES

For the year ended 31 December 2018

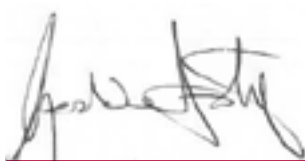
	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Income	2	25,110,096	22,657,771
Expenditure			
Administration and general expenses	3	25,604,988	24,014,149
Retirement benefit costs	12(a)	4,269,921	3,954,159
		29,874,909	27,968,308
Deficit before Oireachtas grant		(4,764,813)	(5,310,537)
Oireachtas grant	4	6,156,810	5,794,151
Operating surplus for the year		1,391,997	483,614
Transfer (to)/from capital account	5	(47,887)	205,161
Translation adjustment		144,314	(334,907)
Surplus for the year		1,488,424	353,868
Balance at 1 January		5,263,521	4,909,653
Balance at 31 December		6,751,945	5,263,521

The consolidated statement of cash flows and Notes 1 to 19 form part of the consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:



JAMES KENNEDY
Chairperson



GERALDINE LARKIN
Chief Executive Officer

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Surplus for the year after appropriations		1,488,424	353,868
Experience gain/(loss) on retirement benefit obligations	12(d)	(2,814,000)	201,000
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of retirement benefit obligations		2,467,000	391,000
Total actuarial gain/(loss) in the year		(347,000)	592,000
Adjustment to deferred retirement benefits funding	12(b)	347,000	(592,000)
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,488,424	353,868

The consolidated statement of cash flows and Notes 1 to 19 form part of the consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:



JAMES KENNEDY

Chairperson



GERALDINE LARKIN

Chief Executive Officer

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Non - current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	3,443,395	3,392,827
Current assets			
Receivables	8	5,716,731	5,277,603
Cash & cash equivalents		2,854,348	1,293,991
		8,571,079	6,571,594
Current liabilities (falling due < 1 year)			
Payables	9	1,819,134	1,308,073
Net current assets		6,751,945	5,263,521
Total Assets less current liabilities before Pensions		10,195,340	8,656,348
Retirement benefits			
Deferred retirement benefit funding asset	12(c)	89,050,000	85,022,000
Retirement benefit obligations	12(b)	(89,050,000)	(85,022,000)
		-	-
Net Assets		10,195,340	8,656,348
Representing			
Capital account	5	3,443,395	3,392,827
Retained revenue reserves		6,751,945	5,263,521
		10,195,340	8,656,348

The consolidated statement of cash flows and Notes 1 to 19 form part of the consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:



JAMES KENNEDY
Chairperson



GERALDINE LARKIN
Chief Executive Officer

COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Non - current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	3,382,553	3,310,930
Current assets			
Receivables	8	3,774,390	3,523,458
Cash & cash equivalents		1,440,133	708,053
		5,214,523	4,231,511
Current liabilities (falling due < 1 year)			
Payables	9	4,045,449	3,650,663
Net current assets		1,169,074	580,848
Total Assets less current liabilities before Pensions		4,551,627	3,891,778
Retirement benefits			
Deferred retirement benefit funding asset		89,050,000	85,022,000
Retirement benefit obligations		(89,050,000)	(85,022,000)
		-	-
Net Assets		4,551,627	3,891,778
Representing			
Capital account	5	3,382,553	3,310,930
Retained revenue reserves		1,169,074	580,848
		4,551,627	3,891,778

The consolidated statement of cash flows and Notes 1 to 19 form part of the consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:



JAMES KENNEDY

Chairperson



GERALDINE LARKIN

Chief Executive Officer

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Net cash flows from operating activities			
Operating surplus/(deficit) for the year		1,391,997	483,614
Bank interest		(584)	(1,312)
Depreciation charge	6	563,631	628,994
Loss/(profit) on disposal of property, plant & equipment		(10,155)	6,727
(Increase)/decrease in receivables		(439,128)	(540,206)
(Decrease)/increase in payables		511,061	(196,752)
Currency translation adjustment		144,314	(334,907)
Net cash inflow from operating activities		2,161,136	46,158
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments to acquire property, plant & equipment	6	(612,613)	(445,311)
Receipts from sale of property, plant & equipment		11,250	14,751
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(601,363)	(430,560)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Bank interest		584	1,312
Net cash inflow from financing activities		584	1,312
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		1,560,357	(383,090)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		1,293,991	1,677,081
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		2,854,348	1,293,991

The consolidated statement of cash flows and Notes 1 to 19 form part of the consolidated financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:



JAMES KENNEDY
Chairperson



GERALDINE LARKIN
Chief Executive Officer

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2018

1. Accounting Policies

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by the National Standards Authority of Ireland in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the year and for the preceding year.

General information

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) was established on 14 April 1997 under Section 6 of the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act, 1996.

NSAI's statutory functions are defined within the following Acts:

- National Standards Authority Act 1996;
- Metrology Act 1996;
- Packaged Goods (Quantity Control) Act 1980.

NSAI delivers this infrastructure through the core programmes of metrology, standardisation, legal metrology for measurements and measuring instruments used in trade and conformity assessment.

The National Standards Authority of Ireland is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE).

The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the Authority.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of National Standards Authority of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2018 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), as promulgated by Chartered Accountants Ireland.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements comprise the results of the Authority and its wholly-owned subsidiary NSAI Inc. NSAI Inc. was established in New Hampshire, USA on July 1, 1997 as a not for profit corporation, see Note 13 for further details. The accounting policies of the subsidiary do not differ to those of the Authority.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities that are measured at fair values as explained in the accounting policies below. The financial statements are in the form approved by the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation with the concurrence of the Minister for Department of Public Expenditure and Reform under the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act, 1996.

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to NSAI's consolidated financial statements.

Income

All income, other than Oireachtas Grant, is accounted for in the period in which it has been earned. Fees paid in advance are treated as deferred income and are reported as a current liability. This income is released to the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves on delivery of the service.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Continued**Oireachtas grant**

Oireachtas grants are recognised using the performance model. A grant that does not impose specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient is recognised as income when the grant proceeds are received. A grant that imposes specified future performance-related conditions on the recipient is recognised as income only when the performance-related conditions are met.

Translation of foreign currencies**(a) Foreign currency transactions**

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the exchange rates ruling at the Reporting date. Income and expenses are translated at the exchange rates ruling at the dates of the underlying transactions. Profits and losses arising from foreign currency translations upon settlement of amounts receivable and payable in foreign currency are dealt with in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

(b) Foreign operations

When translating the results of the foreign operation for inclusion in the financial statements, assets and liabilities are translated at the exchange rate ruling at the Reporting date. The translation difference arising from the restatement of foreign operations in the functional currency euro due to changes in exchange rates, is recognised in reserves (the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves under the heading "translation adjustment" in respect of monetary items and the Capital Account in respect of fixed asset re-translation differences.) Income and expenses are translated at monthly period average exchange rates. Any resulting translation difference compared to the Statement of Financial Position rate is also recognised in reserves of the operation.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment, which are owned by the NSAI, are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and adjusted for any provision for impairment. Depreciation is calculated in order to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of each asset on a straight line basis as follows:

i. Equipment, Fixtures & Fittings	5 years
ii. Computers	3 years
iii. Land and Buildings	50 years
iv. Motor Vehicles	5 years

Residual value represents the estimated amount which would currently be obtained from disposal of an asset, after deducting estimated costs of disposal, if the asset were already of an age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

If there is objective evidence of impairment of the value of an asset, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves in the year.

Capital account

The capital account represents grant income utilised for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and is written down in line with the depreciation and revaluation policies for the related assets.

Receivables

Receivables are recognised at fair value, less a provision for doubtful debts. The provision for doubtful debts is made against specific doubtful debtors with additional provision against other trade debts when there is objective evidence that NSAI or NSAI Inc. will not be able to collect all amounts owed. All movements in the provision for doubtful debts are recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

Operating leases

Rental expenditure under operating leases is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves over the life of the lease. Expenditure is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease period, except where there are rental increases linked to the expected rate of inflation, in which case these increases are recognised when incurred. Any lease incentives received are recognised over the life of the lease.

Employee benefits**(a) Short-term Benefits**

Short term benefits such as holiday pay are recognised as an expense in the year, and benefits that are accrued at year-end are included in the Payables figure in the Statement of Financial Position.

(b) Retirement Benefits

The Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves, Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position recognise pension transactions, movements and balances in accordance with the requirements of Section 28 of FRS 102: Employee Benefits.

NSAI Scheme

NSAI operates a defined benefit pension scheme which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and from contributions deducted from staff salaries.

Retirement benefit costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees, and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are retained by the NSAI. An amount corresponding to the retirement charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains or losses arising from changes in actuarial assumptions and from experience surpluses and deficits are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year in which they occur and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

Retirement benefit obligations represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred retirement benefit funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

Single Public Service Pension Scheme

NSAI also operates the Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Scheme"), which is a defined benefit scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. Single Scheme members' contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER).

Pension Related Deduction

Under the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2009, a pension related deduction was introduced for all staff who are members of a public service pension scheme, including staff of the National Standards Authority of Ireland. The deduction is collected and remitted to the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. (see Note 3)

Critical accounting judgements and estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the year end and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

(a) Impairment of property, plant and equipment

Assets that are subject to depreciation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less cost to sell and value in use. For the purpose of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

(b) Retirement benefit obligation

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and healthcare cost trend rates) are updated annually based on current economic conditions, and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- i. the discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds
- ii. future compensation levels, future labour market conditions
- iii. health care cost trend rates, the rate of medical cost inflation in the relevant regions.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Continued**2. Income**

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Certification fees		20,007,974	17,891,079
Sale of standards		1,132,371	1,075,335
Other income		288,167	264,045
Bank interest		584	1,312
		21,429,096	19,231,771
Net deferred retirement benefit funding	12(c)	3,681,000	3,426,000
		25,110,096	22,657,771

3. Administration and general expenses

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Pay	3(a)	12,436,846	11,252,904
Board members remuneration and expenses	14	73,160	57,763
Travelling expenses	3(b)	1,470,064	1,180,226
Subcontractors	3(c)	5,447,044	5,651,107
External Service Delivery		700,534	579,287
Consultancy	3(d)	156,010	134,061
Rents, rates, repairs and maintenance		1,844,215	1,772,585
Other operating expenses	3(e)	2,151,063	2,011,938
Loss/(profit) on disposal of property, plant and equipment		(10,155)	6,727
Subscriptions to organisations		772,594	738,557
Depreciation	6	563,631	628,994
		25,604,988	24,014,149

(a) Pay:

	Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Wages and salaries		11,442,343	10,330,049
Overtime		68,417	87,378
Allowances		64,889	70,820
Social welfare costs		858,390	769,528
Superannuation costs		2,807	(4,871)
		12,436,846	11,252,904

Pension related deductions of €533,444 (2017: €488,733) have been deducted from salaries and paid to the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

Single Public Service Pension Scheme deductions of €66,549 (2017: €45,260) have been deducted from employee's salaries and paid to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

The number of persons employed (whole time equivalent) at 31 December 2018 was 155. (2017:147).

(b) Travelling Expenses:

NSAI's head office is located at Swift Square, Santry and has regional offices and centres throughout Ireland. It also has a subsidiary office in Nashua, New Hampshire, USA. Travel outside of Ireland for all staff based in Ireland is considered International Travel. For Staff based in the USA, travel within the USA is regarded as Domestic travel, travel outside the USA is regarded as International travel. The total costs incurred re Domestic travel and subsistence in 2018 was €994,073 (2017 : €842,376). The total costs incurred re International travel and subsistence in 2018 was €475,973 (2017 : €337,850)

(c) Subcontractors

Subcontractors costs relate to the use of specialist experts engaged in the delivery of NSAI income generating activities.

(d) Consultancy

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

	2018 €	2017 €
Human Resources & Pensions	31,119	59,710
Legal advice	100,610	65,907
Finance/Actuarial	5,500	2,500
Other	18,781	5,944
	156,010	134,061

(e) Other Operating Expenses

	2018 €	2017 €
Advertising, Marketing and PR	318,564	331,135
ICT Costs	520,521	468,374
Communication, Printing & Publications	436,646	444,885
Finance Costs	172,893	251,319
Insurance	257,423	246,681
Staff Development	238,560	83,724
Audit Fee - C&AG	23,000	23,000
Audit Fee - Internal Audit fees	30,954	11,450
Other Operating Expenses	152,502	151,370
	2,151,063	2,011,938

(f) Hospitality expenditure:

Hospitality expenditure in 2018 was €22,285 (2017 : €20,765) consisting of client hospitality €8,710 (2017 : €7,695) and employee engagement/staff welfare €13,575 (2017 : €13,070). Employee engagement/staff welfare includes a contribution to staff social club events and staff team building exercises.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Continued**(g) Employee benefits breakdown:**

Employee's short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands:

	No. employees 2018	No. employees 2017
€60,000 - €69,999	22	27
€70,000 - €79,999	13	17
€80,000 - €89,999	31	27
€90,000 - €99,999	8	3
€100,000 - €109,999	6	4
€110,000 - €119,999	2	2
€120,000 - €129,999		
€130,000 - €139,999	1	
€140,000 - €149,999		
€150,000 - €159,999		

Figures do not include NSAI Inc details as they are employed by NSAI Inc and not NSAI.

4. Oireachtas grant

Notes	2018 €	2017 €
Grant for administration and general expenses	6,156,810	5,794,151

The Oireachtas Grant is issued by The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and includes an amount of €500,000 (2017: €408,021) in relation to capital purchases in the year. Funding is from Vote 32, Subhead A.6.

5. Capital account

	2018 Group €	2018 Company €	2017 Group €	2017 Company €
At 1 January	3,392,827	3,310,930	3,610,074	3,491,269
Movements on property, plant & equipment	47,887	71,623	(205,161)	(180,339)
Transfer to/(from) Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	47,887	71,623	(205,161)	(180,339)
Currency translation adjustment	2,681		(12,086)	
At 31 December	3,443,395	3,382,553	3,392,827	3,310,930

6. Property, plant & equipment

Group	Equipment, Fixtures & fittings €	Computer equipment €	Land & buildings €	Motor vehicles €	Total €
Cost:					
At 1 January 2018	5,161,037	4,277,826	4,362,903	329,170	14,130,936
Additions	262,138	350,475			612,613
Disposals	(254,050)	(5,472)			(259,522)
Translation adjustment	1,021	10,029	3,393		14,443
At 31 December 2018	5,170,146	4,632,858	4,366,296	329,170	14,498,470
Depreciation:					
At 1 January 2018	4,579,446	3,874,629	1,969,268	314,766	10,738,109
Charge for the year	192,193	284,665	82,341	4,432	563,631
Disposals	(252,955)	(5,472)			(258,427)
Translation adjustment	771	8,943	2,048		11,762
At 31 December 2018	4,519,455	4,162,765	2,053,657	319,198	11,055,075
Net book value:					
At 1 January 2018	581,591	403,197	2,393,635	14,404	3,392,827
Net movement for year	68,850	65,810	(82,341)	(4,432)	47,887
Translation adjustment	250	1,086	1,345		2,681
At 31 December 2018	650,691	470,093	2,312,639	9,972	3,443,395
Company	Equipment, Fixtures & fittings €	Computer equipment €	Land & buildings €	Motor vehicles €	Total €
Cost:					
At 1 January 2018	5,139,482	4,066,028	4,291,329	329,170	13,826,009
Additions	262,138	331,254			593,392
Disposals	(254,050)	(5,472)			(259,522)
At 31 December 2018	5,147,570	4,391,810	4,291,329	329,170	14,159,879
Depreciation:					
At 1 January 2018	4,565,041	3,700,427	1,934,845	314,766	10,515,079
Charge for the year	189,277	259,187	67,778	4,432	520,674
Disposals	(252,955)	(5,472)			(258,427)
At 31 December 2018	4,501,363	3,954,142	2,002,623	319,198	10,777,326
Net book value:					
At 1 January 2018	574,441	365,601	2,356,484	14,404	3,310,930
Net movement for year	71,766	72,067	(67,778)	(4,432)	71,623
At 31 December 2018	646,207	437,668	2,288,706	9,972	3,382,553

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Continued**7. Property**

NSAI occupies premises at a number of locations. Our head office is located at 1 Swift Square, Santry, Dublin 9. These premises are leased, the lease was entered into in January 2008 for a period of 20 years. There was a rent review completed in 2018. There was an increase of €82,711/11% on the base rent. The next 5 year rent review is due to be undertaken in January 2023 covering the period commencing 1 January 2023.

NSAI has Regional Offices in Limerick and the USA. The Limerick office is located at Plassey Park Road, National Technology Park, Castletroy, Co Limerick, these premises are owned by NSAI. The regional office in the USA is located at 20 Trafalgar Square, Nashua, NH 03063, USA, these premises are leased, the lease was entered into in September 2015 for a period of 5 years.

The NSAI National Metrology Laboratory is located at Glasnevin, Dublin 9, these premises are owned by NSAI. The NSAI has a number of Legal Metrology Service Regional Centres. These centres are located at Cork, Limerick, Dublin, Sligo, Dundalk, Waterford and Galway. All of these premises are owned by NSAI.

8. Receivables

	2018 Group €	2018 Company €	2017 Group €	2017 Company €
Trade receivables	3,784,143	2,038,945	3,722,740	2,085,824
Accrued income	938,027	822,011	837,610	795,329
Prepayments	970,091	888,964	717,253	642,305
Taxation, social insurance and VAT	24,470	24,470		
At 31 December	5,716,731	3,774,390	5,277,603	3,523,458

All receivables are due within one year. All trade receivables are due within the Authority's normal terms. Trade receivables are shown net of impairment in respect of doubtful debts. The movement in impairment in respect of doubtful debts is as follows:

	2018 Group €	2018 Company €	2017 Group €	2017 Company €
Balance at 1 January	576,270	436,442	475,802	370,409
Utilised in the year	(17,988)	(18,879)	6,542	4,588
Provision adjustment	(23,362)	(71,413)	93,926	61,445
Balance at 31 December	534,920	346,150	576,270	436,442

9. Payables (falling due < 1 year)

	2018 Group €	2018 Company €	2017 Group €	2017 Company €
Trade payables	47,256	44,653	289,135	277,713
Other payables and accruals	1,281,407	1,102,782	667,272	599,246
Deferred income	490,471	490,471	329,767	329,767
Taxation, social insurance and VAT			21,899	21,899
Intercompany		2,407,543		2,422,038
	1,819,134	4,045,449	1,308,073	3,650,663

10. Operating lease commitments

Payments made under Operating Leases on Buildings charged in the financial statements amounted to €949,718 (2016: €949,024). Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2018 Group €	2018 Company €	2017 Group €	2017 Company €
Within one year	869,876	811,315	785,929	728,604
Between two to five years	3,284,693	3,245,260	3,012,409	2,914,415
After five years	3,245,260	3,245,260	3,643,019	3,643,019
	7,399,829	7,301,835	7,441,357	7,286,038

11. Taxation

The Authority is exempt from taxation on its income.

12. Retirement benefit costs

(a) Analysis of total retirement benefit costs charged to the Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

	2018 €	2017 €
Current service costs	3,135,000	2,922,000
Interest on retirement benefit scheme liabilities	1,602,000	1,492,000
Employee contributions	(467,079)	(459,841)
	4,269,921	3,954,159

(b) Movement in net retirement benefit obligations during the financial year

	2018 €	2017 €
Net retirement benefit obligation at 1 January	85,022,000	82,188,000
Current service costs	3,135,000	2,922,000
Interest costs	1,602,000	1,492,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	347,000	(592,000)
Pensions paid in the year	(1,056,000)	(988,000)
Net retirement benefit obligation at 31 December	89,050,000	85,022,000

(c) Deferred funding for retirement benefits

NSAI recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of a set of assumptions and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation schemes, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. NSAI has no evidence that the policy referred to above will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

The net deferred funding for retirement benefits recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves was as follows:

	2018 €	2017 €
Funding recoverable in respect of current year retirement benefit costs	4,737,000	4,414,000
State grant applied to pay retirement benefits	(1,056,000)	(988,000)
	3,681,000	3,426,000

The deferred funding asset for retirement benefits at 31 December 2018 amounts to €89.05m (2017: €85.0m).

(d) History of defined benefit obligation

	2018 €	2017 €
Defined benefit obligations	89,050,000	85,022,000
Experience (loss)/gain on defined benefit scheme liabilities	(2,814,000)	201,000
Percentage of scheme liabilities	(3.2%)	0.2%

As at 15 July 2014 there was 39 Forfás staff working in NSAI. Under Paragraph 3 of the Second Schedule of the Industrial Development Act, 1993, Forfás was responsible for the employee pension entitlements of these staff. With effect from the 16th of July 2014, under part 5 of the Industrial Development (Forfás Dissolution) Act 2014 the said serving staff became members of the staff of NSAI and accordingly responsibility for all pension entitlements of the serving staff transferred from Forfás to NSAI.

(e) General description of the schemes**NSAI Scheme**

The retirement benefit scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current “model” public sector scheme regulations. The scheme provides a pension (eightieths per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (three eightieths per year of service) and spouse’s and children’s pensions. Normal retirement age is a member’s 65th birthday, and pre 2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

Single Public Service Pension Scheme

The new Single Public Service Pension Scheme (“Single Scheme”) commenced with effect from 1 January 2013. All new entrants to pensionable public service employment on or after 1 January 2013 are members of the Single Pensions Scheme. The Single Pension Scheme is based on a career averaging model. This means that retirement benefits are based on a % of pensionable earnings throughout the member’s public service career as a member of the Scheme.

(f) Schemes valuation

The valuation used for FRS 102 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation performed in February 2019 by a qualified independent actuary, taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2018.

The principal actuarial assumptions were as follows:

	2018	2017
Rate of increase in salaries	2.67%	2.87%
Rate of increase in retirement benefits in payment	2.17%	2.37%
Discount rate	1.84%	1.90%
Inflation rate	1.67%	1.87%

12. Retirement benefit costs Continued**(g) Mortality**

Average future life expectancy according to the mortality tables used to determine the pension liabilities.

	2018	2017
Male aged 65	21.4	21.2
Female aged 65	23.9	23.7

13. NSAI Inc

NSAI Inc. was established in New Hampshire, USA on July 1, 1997 as a not for profit corporation wholly-owned by the NSAI for the purpose of distribution and dissemination of information on current and proposed Irish and EU standards, the provision of technical reviews and evaluation of products, processes and practices and certification for conformity to EU, Irish and International standards.

The balances and transactions of NSAI Inc. have been included in these financial statements.

The consolidated surplus for the year includes a surplus from the operations of NSAI Inc. of €650,035 (2017: €114,538). See Note 13(a) for an outline of financial details.

(a) Outline of the NSAI Inc financial details are as follows:

Statement of Income and Expenditure	2018	2017
	€	€
Income		
Certification fees	7,062,014	6,141,765
Expenditure		
Pay and superannuation costs	2,034,826	1,593,859
Travelling expenses	371,624	228,870
Subcontractors	3,223,875	3,429,328
Consultancy	19,334	26,459
Rents, rates, repairs and maintenance	76,172	80,998
Other operating expenses	440,045	328,230
Subscriptions to organisations	195,594	200,834
Depreciation	42,958	44,071
Net intercompany charge	7,551	94,578
	6,411,979	6,027,227
Operating surplus for the year	650,035	114,538

Pay includes the cost of termination payments issued to 2 individuals. Total cost €36,372 including legal fees.

Statement of Financial Position	2018 €	2017 €
Non - current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	60,842	81,897
Current assets		
Receivables	1,942,341	1,754,145
Cash & cash equivalents	1,414,215	585,939
Intercompany	2,407,543	2,422,038
	5,764,099	4,762,122
Current liabilities (falling due < 1 year)		
Payables	181,229	79,449
Net current assets	5,582,870	4,682,673
Net Assets	5,643,712	4,764,570
Represented by:		
Capital account	60,842	81,897
Retained revenue reserves	5,582,870	4,682,673
	5,643,712	4,764,570

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Continued**14. Board members – disclosure of transactions**

In the normal course of business, the NSAI may enter into contractual arrangements with undertakings in which NSAI Board Members are employed or otherwise interested. The NSAI adopted procedures in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the disclosure of interests by Board Members and these procedures have been adhered to by the NSAI during the year.

(a) Directors remuneration – paid in 2018

		Note	2018 €
Mr. J. Kennedy	Chairman - Appointed 9 April 2018		8,717
Mr. K. Ryan	Deputy Chairman		7,668
Mr. R. Blackburn			7,668
Ms. V. Bowens			7,668
Ms. N. Brennan	DBEI Representative		0
Mr. K. Cox	Retired 14 April 2018	(i)	0
Mr. K. Early	Retired 14 April 2018	(i)	0
Ms. A. Goggin		(i)	0
Mr. T. Landers			7,668
Dr. A. O'Boyle			7,668
Mr. F. O'Byrne	Appointed 17 April 2018	(i)	0
Ms. D. O'Hara			7,668
Mr. B. Smith	Appointed 17 April 2018	(i)	0
Ms. D. Smith	Reappointed 14 April 2018		7,668
Ms. G. Larkin	Chief Executive Officer		0

The total Directors remuneration for 2018 was €62,393 (2017: €54,178)

i) Remuneration not payable in accordance with OPOS principle.

(b) Directors expenses

The total Directors expenses for 2018 was €10,767 (2017: €3,585)

(c) CEO salary

Ms. G. Larkin, was appointed as Chief Executive Officer on the 20th of February 2017. The total remuneration paid to Ms. G. Larkin in 2018 was €137,258 (2017: €110,639). The CEO is a member of the single public service pension scheme. Ms. G. Larkin did not receive any performance related payments in 2018.

(d) Key management remuneration

All directors, board members, CEO and certain senior employees who have authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Authority are considered to be key management personnel. In 2018 NSAI revised its key management personnel organizational structure. Total remuneration in respect of these individuals is €511,803 (2017: €997,014). The comparable figure for the revised key management personnel organizational structure were it in place in 2017 would have been €413,315.

15. Related Party Disclosure

There are no related party transactions.

16. Financial Instruments

The analysis of the carrying amounts of the financial instruments of the company required under section 11 of FRS 102 is as follows:

	2018 Group €	2018 Company €	2017 Group €	2017 Company €
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost				
Trade receivables	3,784,143	2,038,945	3,722,740	2,085,824
Prepayments	970,090	888,964	717,252	642,305
Cash and cash equivalents	2,854,348	1,440,133	1,293,991	708,053
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost				
Trade payables	47,257	44,653	289,135	277,713
Accruals and other payables	1,281,407	1,102,781	667,272	599,246

17. Subsequent events

There were no significant events affecting the Authority subsequent to the year-end.

18. Capital commitments

There were capital commitments of €141,135 at the year-end.

19. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board on the 26th of April 2019.







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