



## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31st December 2024

# Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

## Index to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31st December 2024

	Page
Statement of Board Responsibilities	3
Statement on Internal Control	4 -10
Comptroller and Auditor General Audit Report	11-12
Operating Statement	13
Statement of Current Assets and Current Liabilities	14
Notes To The Financial Statements	15-34

# Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

## Statement of Board Responsibilities

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB) was established on 1 July 2013 under the provisions of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013.

Section 51 of that Act requires LWETB to keep in such form and in respect of such accounting periods as may be approved by the Minister for Education with the consent of the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of the monies received or expended by it.

In preparing those accounts, the Board is required to


- (a) apply the standard accounting policies for the preparation of ETB financial statements
- (b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- (c) disclose and explain any material departures from the standard accounting policies

The Board is responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Board and which enable it to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with section 51 of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013.

The Board is also responsible for safeguarding its assets and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Chairperson** Cllr. Aoife Davitt

**Signature**

  
Aoife Davitt (Cllr. 20, 2020-27 (E 6187-1))

**Date**

30/06/2025

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Statement on Internal Control

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board was established under the Education and Training Boards Act 2013.

The Code of Practice for the Governance of Education and Training Boards is set out in Circular 0083/2024, which was issued by the Department of Education to all ETBs in November 2024. The Code of Governance was adopted by LWETB at the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2025 meeting.

A new Board was constituted for LWETB in August 2024, and at its meeting of October 2024, the Board completed the appointment of new Finance and Audit and Risk Committees.

#### **Responsibility for the System of Internal Control**

As Chairperson of Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board, I acknowledge the responsibility of the Board for ensuring that an efficient, effective and economic system of internal controls is maintained and operated. The system can only provide reasonable, and not give absolute assurance, that assets are safeguarded, transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

#### **Key Control Procedures**

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by:

- Clearly defining management and staff responsibilities.
- Establishing procedures for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective actions.
- Establishing a formal risk management system involving procedures for identifying and evaluating all risks which could prevent Longford and Westmeath ETB achieving its objectives.

The system of internal control operated in Longford and Westmeath ETB is based on:

- Detailed administrative procedures.
- Segregation of duties.
- Specific authorisations.
- Internal checks.
- Monthly management review of reports outlining the actual and budgeted results of programmes operated by LWETB.

## **The Boards Oversight Framework includes:**

The Board's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal controls is informed by:

- The Chief Executive who has responsibility for the internal control framework.
- Recommendations made by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General in management letters or other reports.
- Recommendations made by the Internal Audit Unit – ETBs
- Work of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Finance Committee.

## **Audit and Risk Committee**

The Board's oversight of the system of internal control is informed by the work of Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) who met five times in 2024. The date of the meetings were 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The work programme of the ARC included consideration of:

- Internal audit reports
- External audit reports and the management letters of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C & AG)
- Annual Financial Statements
- Risk Management Framework
- Risk Register
- Audit Register
- Compliance Audit Report
- Risk Management Reports from the Director of Organisation Support and Development
- Opinion report to the board as to the adequacy and appropriateness of the systems of internal control

The Chief Executive, Director of OSD, Internal Audit Unit and Comptroller and Auditor General and ASM provided reports on operation of controls, finances and met with the Audit and Risk Committee in 2024 and 2025.

The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal controls for the relevant reporting period on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

## **Finance Committee**

The Board's oversight of the system of internal control is also informed by the work of Finance Committee who met four times in 2024. 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The work programme of the Finance Committee included consideration of:

- Annual Financial Statements 2024 (AFS)
- Recommendation to the Board of AFS 2024
- Monthly Income and Expenditure Accounts
- Risk Management Reports from the Director of Organisation Support and Development

The Director of OSD, Director of FET, Head of Finance and Head of Development, Procurement and Allowances reported to the Finance Committee in 2024 and 2025.

The Finance Committee reviewed the Annual Financial Statements 2024 on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and recommended their adoption to the Board.

### **Internal Audit**

An internal audit service is provided by the Internal Audit Unit-Education and Training Boards (IAU-ETBs), who provide an overall opinion on areas audited. The overall opinion is based on the findings identified during the audit and the range of possible opinions is as follows:

**Comprehensive:** System of internal control is adequate and operates effectively.

**Adequate:** System of internal control is generally adequate and operates effectively.

**Inadequate:** System of internal control is inadequate and does not operate effectively.

The following internal audit reviews were carried out in the period from the 01 January 2024 - 31 December 2024.

A review of LWETBs Internal Financial Controls was undertaken by the IAU and the report was issued in January 2024. The overall finding of the Report was that there was an adequate system of Controls in place. A total of 5 recommendations were made – 1 high, 3 medium and 1 low. LWETB has addressed all the recommendations.

An audit of School Utilisation was commenced in February 2024 and the finalised report is awaiting completion by the IAU.

An audit of Apprenticeships Programme was commenced in February 2024 and is currently ongoing.

An Audit of Data Protection and Freedom of Information was commenced in October 2024 and is ongoing.

### **Sectoral audits**

On 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 the IAU issued an ICT follow up audit. All relevant recommendations for LWETB had been included in the LWETB follow up Audit.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 the IAU issued the sectoral general follow up audit report. The ARC formed the view that all relevant recommendations in this Sectoral report were already contained in the LWETB general audit follow up report received in 2023.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 the IAU issued a sectoral report on enrolment. The ARC formed the view that the current ongoing allocation audit might contain recommendations that are of more relevance to LWETB.

The recommendations from the sectoral report are kept under ongoing review.

## **Breaches of system internal control Procurement-**

1. A supplier from an outdoor education centre was used by a school even though there was a Tender (DPS) in place, and they had not registered on it. The amount involved was €9,360. The DPS allows new companies to be added, and the outdoor education centre has now been registered on the DPS.
2. Our spend on metal and welding products across all sites rose to €75,804 in 2024. Two tenders have since been put in place to cover this spend.

Longford and Westmeath ETB are continuing to work towards meeting all its responsibilities in respect of procurement regulations and requirements. There are instances where goods and services are procured across over twenty sites through competitive procurement processes, in line with Longford and Westmeath ETB's Procurement Policy, but the cumulative value across all sites exceeds National/EU tendering thresholds.

Based on analysis of 2024 expenditure tenders have been optimised and used in all locations appropriately except as outlined above.

Longford and Westmeath ETB have developed a Corporate Procurement Plan for 2025, which sets out actions to address areas of identified need and future Longford and Westmeath ETB procurement needs. Longford and Westmeath ETB will continue to monitor and review all areas of expenditure to identify opportunities where tendering and the utilisation of existing National Frameworks for goods and services where they provide best value for money and meet compliance requirements.

## **Fraud**

Longford and Westmeath have one potential incident of Fraud that is being dealt with under the Longford and Westmeath ETBs anti-fraud policy in 2024. Currently an amount of €9,000 approximately is being reviewed to establish the appropriate course of action. As per the anti-fraud policy this matter has been referred to the IAU-ETB and LWETB awaits the outcome of their deliberations.

## **Protected disclosures**

Longford and Westmeath ETB received no protected disclosures in 2024 under the Protected Disclosure Act 2014.

## **Risk Management**

Longford and Westmeath ETB have a Corporate Risk Management in place across the organisation. The Risk report was reviewed at each meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee in 2024. The Committee continues to monitor the development of the Longford and Westmeath ETB Strategic Risk Management plan.

## Issues progressing at Sectoral level

ETBs that are working with ESBS to issue SPS statements.

### Single Public Services Pension Scheme

Circular Letter 11/2014 obliges ETBs to provide benefits statements and calculations to members of the Single Public Services Pension Scheme by end of June 2014. Longford and Westmeath ETB did not meet its obligations to provide annual pension statements to all members of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme in 2024. However, statements were being provided to members where they request them individually and statements for staff members nearing retirement are being prioritised. Statements have been provided for the period 2013 to 2023 in March 2025.

### ESBS-Pensions Improvement Programme:

A dedicated team in ESBS has been put in place which is working solely on resolving Pension and Superannuation Contribution matters. The Pensions Improvement Programme Team are assisting with a number of projects including, but not limited to:

- **PeopleXD Development and Testing** to address incorrect calculation of pension contributions, referable amounts, inclusion of part time service in pension module along with other required updates to the Pension Module.
- Working group for **NSSO Pensioners** to facilitate improved communications between NSSO and ETBs in relation to ETB pensioners, with the cleansing of ETB Pensioner data and the application of the Pension Increases being the current priority.
- **SPS Project** to address the remediation of pension contributions, calculation of referable amounts; preparation of databank returns and issuing of Pension Benefit Statements.
- **Part Time Service History & Pensionable Remuneration** for legacy scheme members.

The ESBS/ETB Pensions User Group has been established and meets monthly to discuss pension issues and provide clarifications and support on the use of the CoreHR Pensions module in particular. ESBS Pensions and Ops teams have identified a number of areas on PeopleXD in the pension schemes for cleansing and are working their way through them and sending items to ETBs for their review and update. Once this is completed, a full suite of reports will be created to carry out quality control checks regularly on the data.

While the PeopleXD system is being developed, an SPS Data Hub was established by ESBS to collate data from previous payroll systems into one centralised system. This data is then used to produce SPS pension benefit and leavers statements and files for the SPS Databank. 13 ETBs have completed this project so far in 2024 with the remaining 3 ETBs expected to be completed by End Year 2024 or Q1 2025 at the latest. This will mean that each ETB will have issued cumulative benefit/leavers statements from 2013 to 2023 and produced databank files from 2013 to 2023. Going forward from 2025, it is expected that the PeopleXD system will have been updated with remediated data and have had the necessary development applied to allow

the 2024 statements be produced directly from the system on or before the statutory deadline of June 2025.

### **ETB Pensioners Migration to payment by ESBS:**

ESBS ETB Payroll team have commenced the process of migrating all ETB Pensioners to ESBS Payroll (in excess of 9,700 Pensioners currently in payment by NSSO). This project was formally commenced with approval from our Steering Group on 20 June 2024 and it is anticipated that Go-Live will occur in June 2025.

Detailed liaison between ESBS and NSSO is now taking place with a view to a successful migration of the Pensioners in June 2025.

### **ETB Payroll Shared Services**

The Education Shared Business Service (ESBS) Centre has been established to deliver shared services for the Education and Training sector. All 16 ETBs are now on Payroll Shared Services with the last ETB to migrate being Donegal ETB in February 2024.

### **Payroll**

The migration of Longford and Westmeath ETB payroll to ESBS for all staff took place in July 2020. The ESBS is responsible for the processing of the payroll while Longford and Westmeath ETB are still responsible for the issuing of instructions to shared services of the changes to payrolls and HR function. The Chief Executive has confirmed that he has fulfilled his responsibilities in relation to the requirements of both the Memorandum of Understanding and also the Service Management Agreement that has been signed and is in place between Longford and Westmeath ETB and the Department of Education - Education Shared Business Service (ESBS) centre. These documents provide the framework for the operation of ESBS-ETB Payroll Shared Services on behalf of the ETB sector. The Chief Executive relies on a letter of assurance from the Accounting Officer of the Department of Education that appropriate controls are exercised in the provision of payroll services by the ESBS to Longford and Westmeath ETB.

### **Expenses including Travel and Subsistence**

Processing of expenses including Travel and Subsistence (T&S) payments is also being rolled out. Longford and Westmeath ETB transitioned their expenses to the ESBS in Q1 of 2021.

### **Apprentice payroll**

Longford and Westmeath ETB transitioned their apprentice payroll to the managed payroll service set up by ESBS in March 2020.

### **Learner payments**

Longford and Westmeath ETB have transitioned their learner payments to the managed service set up by ESBS in two waves. Wave 1 in August 2020 and Wave 2 (Youthreach and VTOS) February 2022.

### Finance Shared Services

The ESBS has been established to deliver shared services in the Education and Training Board sector with a focus on payroll and finance shared services for ETBs in the first instance. All 16 ETBs have been consolidated onto the same financial management system platform. Each ETB has their own separate instance of the financial management system. All ETBs are being migrated across to Finance Shared Service on a phased basis through to the end of 2026.

A series of projects are underway to enhance the quality of reporting and standardise processes and system coding across all ESBS shared service systems. This will facilitate the delivery of more efficient and streamlined services in the future.

### Annual Review of Controls

Longford and Westmeath ETB are committed to operating an efficient, effective and economic internal control system. I confirm that the Audit and Risk Committee at its meeting on the 31st of January 2025, conducted a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control for year ended 31 December 2024 in the manner prescribed by the Code of Practice for the Governance of Education and Training Boards.

This included:

- The Executive presented a report of its review of controls (both verbally and by written report) at its meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The Audit Committee received confirmation from the Chief Executive that the system of internal control is adequate and appropriate insofar as is reasonably practicable. The Chief Executive based this statement on information gathered from senior managers across the organisation.
- A review of internal and external audit reports issued in 2024 and to date in 2025, met with representatives from the C&AG and the IAU-ETBs, along with an examination of minutes of meetings of the Board and Finance Committee to ensure there are no inconsistencies in these with the assessment of internal control provided to the Audit and Risk Committee in Internal Audit Reports and Management representations.
- The Audit and Risk Committee presented a report (verbally and by written report) on the review of controls to the Board on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- A review of Governance and Control activities in 2024 including:
  - Engagement between the Audit and Risk Committee, Finance Committee, Board and the executive
  - Reports from the Chief Executive, Director of Organisation Support and Development (OSD), Director of Schools and Director of Further Education and Training (FET) to the Board. Adult Education Officers, Finance, Human Resources, Corporate Services and Procurement all inform these reports as part of the executive's process on the annual review of internal controls
  - Recommendations made by the C & AG in management letters or other reports
  - Recommendations made by the Internal Audit Unit
  - Risk Management Reports from DOSD
  - The Risk Register that is kept up-to-date and presented to the Audit Committee on a regular basis.

The Board reviewed and approved this statement at its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

Signed:   
Adobe Sign (t: 24 Jun 2025 17:16 GMT+1)

Date: 30/06/2025

**Chairperson**



## **Ard Reachtaire Cuntas agus Ciste** **Comptroller and Auditor General**

### **Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas** **Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**

#### **Opinion on the financial statements**

I have audited the financial statements of Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board for the year ended 31 December 2024 as required under the provisions of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013. The financial statements comprise

- the operating statement
- the statement of current assets and current liabilities, and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion,

- the financial statements properly present the income and expenditure of the Board for 2024 and the state of affairs of the Board at 31 December 2024, and
- the financial statements are in accordance with the accounting policies laid down by the Minister for Education.

#### ***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 Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board 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 Board has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the statement of Board responsibilities 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 the**  
**Comptroller and Auditor General**

**30 June 2025**

## Appendix to the report

### Responsibilities of Board Members

As detailed in the statement of Board responsibilities, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of annual financial statements in the form prescribed under section 51 of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- implementing 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 the Education and Training Boards Act 2013 to audit the financial statements of Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board 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 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.

I 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.

### 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.

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Operating Statement For The Year Ended 31st December 2024

		Year ended 31/12/2024	Year ended 31/12/2023
	Note	€'000	€'000
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Post Primary Schools & Head Office Grants	3	37,790	32,931
Primary School Grants	4	175	127
Further Education and Training Grants	5	40,749	29,903
Youth Services Grants	6	1,171	1,025
Agencies & Self-Financing Projects	7	3,073	2,806
Capital	8	37,106	2,960
		120,064	69,752
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Post Primary Schools & Head Office	9	36,635	33,011
Primary School Grants	10	165	58
Further Education and Training	11	39,281	35,378
Youth Services	12	1,171	1,034
Agencies & Self-Financing Projects	13	3,113	2,735
Capital	14	24,914	4,191
		105,279	76,407
<b>Cash Surplus / (Deficit) For Year</b>		14,785	(6,655)
<b>Movement in Other Net Current Assets</b>	25	(14,489)	6,661
<b>Accrual Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) For Year</b>		296	6
<b>Revenue Surplus /(Deficit) at 1 January</b>		15	9
<b>Revenue Surplus / (Deficit) at 31 December</b>	16	311	15

**Signed:**



Aoife Davitt (Jun 30, 2025 17:16 GMT+1)

**Cllr. Aoife Davitt**  
**Chairperson**

Date 30/06/2025

**Signed:**



Siobhan Lynch (Jun 30, 2025 17:28 GMT+1)

**Ms. Siobhán Lynch**  
**Chief Executive**

Date 30/06/2025

The notes on pages 15 to 34 form part of these Financial Statements

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Statement of Current Assets and Current Liabilities as at 31st December 2024

	Note	31/12/2024 €'000	31/12/2023 €'000
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Recurrent State Grants	17	904	2,281
Capital State Grants	18	142	2,426
Other Recurrent Income	19	246	290
Third Party Debtors	20	473	472
Bank Balance		16,506	1,721
		18,271	7,190
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Recurrent State Grants	21	2,187	1,041
Capital State Grants	22	11,237	1,975
Other Recurrent Income	23	686	604
Pay & Expense Liabilities	24	3,850	3,555
		17,960	7,175
		311	15
<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>			
<b>Represented By</b>			
<b>Revenue Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>16</b>	311	15

#### Analysis of Revenue Surplus / (Deficit)

	Retained Surplus/ (Deficit) 31/12/2024	Accrual Revenue Surplus / (Deficit) for 2024	Retained Surplus/ (Deficit) 31/12/2023
Programme	€'000	€'000	€'000
Schools & Head Office	292	290	2
Further Education & Training	-	-	-
Agency	-	-	-
Self Financing	19	6	13
	311	296	15
	16		

**Signed**

  
Aoife Davitt (Jun 30, 2025 17:16 GMT+1)

**Cllr. Aoife Davitt**  
**Chairperson**

**Date** 30/06/2025

**Signed**

  
Siobhan Lynch (Jun 30, 2025 17:28 GMT+1)

**Ms. Siobhán Lynch**  
**Chief Executive**

**Date** 30/06/2025

The notes on pages 15 to 34 form part of these financial statements

**Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**  
**Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024**

**1 Accounting Policies**

**1.1 Significant Accounting Policies**

The basis of accounting and significant accounting policies adopted by Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board are set out below. They have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year.

**1.2 General Information**

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board was established on 1 July 2013 and its functions are set out in section 10 of the Education and Training Boards Act 2013.

Community National Schools came under the Patronage of the Education and Training Board with the commencement of the 2016/2017 academic year.

**1.3 (a) Basis of Presentation**

The financial statements are presented in the form approved by the Minister for Education with the consent of the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. They consist of an Operating Statement, a Statement of Current Assets and Current Liabilities and notes to the financial statements including Accounting Policies.

**(b) Revenue and Expenditure Recognition**

*Revenue*

Oireachtas grants and other grants are recognised on a cash basis.

Other receipts are recognised on a cash basis.

*Expenditure*

*Pay*

Pay expenditure is recognised on a cash basis. Pay represents remuneration to employees including ER PRSI.

*Non Pay*

Non Pay expenditure is recognised on a cash basis. Non pay expenditure is comprised of administration and operational expenses. *Allowances*

Allowance expenditure is recognised on a cash basis. Allowances are paid to learners who are undertaking specified Further Education and Training programmes funded by SOLAS.

The Operating Statement is presented by cash receipts and cash payments per programme Grouping. The cash surplus / (deficit) is adjusted for movement in Current Assets (excl. Bank) and Current Liabilities to give an overall result for the year on an accrual basis.

**(c) Assets and Liabilities Recognition**

The Statement of Current Assets and Current Liabilities is prepared on the accrual basis by determining state grant and other funder balances at amounts that reflect the related receipts received and expenditure incurred and in accordance with the funding rules.

*Recurrent State Grants*

These grants constitute the core funding to the Education and Training Board.

*Capital Grants*

These grants are used to meet building, infrastructure, property acquisitions and refurbishment costs, and in specific circumstances may be used to fund fixtures, fittings, equipment and furniture.

*Other Recurrent Income*

*Agency and Self-financing Projects*

Agency work involves running a programme on behalf of another organisation or students according to agreed criteria and the Education and Training Board is reimbursed its cost.

Self-financing Projects are programmes run under the complete control of the Board either for the Education and Training Board or other organisations.

*Other Assets and Liabilities*

Third Party Debtors are included in Current Assets. Pay and Expense Liabilities are included in Current Liabilities.

*Comparatives*

Where necessary, the comparative figures for the previous year have been restated on the same basis as those for the current year.

**Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**  
**Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024**

**1 Accounting Policies (continued)**

**(d) Tangible fixed assets**

All tangible assets purchased including buildings, infrastructure, property acquisitions, refurbishment costs, fixtures, fittings, equipment and furniture are expensed in the year of purchase. State grants to fund the purchase of tangible fixed assets are recognised in the same year.

**(e) Stocks**

All consumable stocks are expensed as purchased.

**(f) Leases**

All lease payments are expensed as incurred.

**(g) Retirement Benefits**

The pension entitlements of ETB staff, including those who transferred from SOLAS, are conferred under defined benefit schemes. Provisions for staff employed since 2013 are included in the Single Public Service Pension Scheme.

Superannuation contributions made by employees in respect of the pre 2013 schemes are retained by the ETB to go towards funding of the Post Primary Schools and Head Office Pay grant as part of agreed Exchequer funding. Contributions paid by members of the Single Scheme are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform in accordance with the legislation. The ETB does not make any employer contributions towards the schemes. These unfunded schemes are operated on a pay as you go basis. Retirement benefits are paid by the National Shared Services Office on behalf of the ETB. ETBs are responsible for the administration of their pensions, the calculation of benefits and instructing the NSSO of entitlements. The Department of Education reimburses the National Shared Services Office for pension costs incurred and those costs are reflected in the Department of Education's Vote. Provision has not been made in the Operating Statement or the Statement of Current Assets and Current Liabilities for the present cost of the future benefits that have accrued to staff members and existing pensioners under these schemes. Disclosures on pension costs and obligations are made in a note to the financial statement which reflects the ETB's retirement benefit obligations in respect of its current, deferred and retired staff. Retirement benefit obligations represent the future pension benefits accrued to date by both serving staff and those with deferred benefits. Retirement benefit obligations are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit actuarial cost method.

**(h) Critical Accounting judgement and key source of estimation uncertainty**

In the application of the ETB's accounting policy in respect of retirement benefit obligations, the Board are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of retirement benefit assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from the estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are reflected in the note disclosure in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

**(i) Retirement benefit obligations**

The assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts included in the note disclosure are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels and mortality 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:

The discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high quality corporate bonds

Future compensation levels, future labour market conditions.

Inflation expectations.

Actuarial guidance and accounting standards.

**2 Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board provides Education and Training as set out below**

Service	Number of Schools/Centres*	Number of Participants**	Number of Beneficiaries***
Primary Level	1	308	
Second Level	9	3,630	
Further Education and Training (FET)****	11		13,609
Part-time / Night Classes****	1		371

\* The number of Schools / Centres from which LWETB provides educational service and activities.

\*\* For primary and second level this is based on the academic year enrolment. Comamaddy Primary School was reconfigured and transferred to Longford Westmeath Education & Training Board on 30 August 2023.

\*\*\* Beneficiaries refers to the total number of places taken up in the year. This is calculated by adding enrolments as on 1 January and all subsequent enrolments throughout the year.

\*\*\*\* Beneficiaries of Training Centres Part- time/ Night Classes are included in Further Education and Training (FET) numbers.

**Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**

**Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024**

<b>3 Post Primary Schools &amp; Head Office Receipts</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2023</b>
	€'000	€'000
Department of Education		
Pay	33,538	29,913
** Non Pay	2,332	1,944
Associated Programmes	1,850	1,003
Department of Education - sub total	<u>37,720</u>	<u>32,860</u>
Tuition fees - students	50	38
Irish Public Bodies	20	33
	<u>37,790</u>	<u>32,931</u>

\*\* The Non Pay receipts include a cost of living measure paid to LWETB in November 2024 to support increased school running costs announced as part of the cost of living measures in Budget 2025.

<b>4 Primary Education</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2023</b>
	€'000	€'000
Department of Education	<u>175</u>	<u>127</u>
	<u>175</u>	<u>127</u>

<b>5 Further Education and Training Receipts</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2023</b>
	€'000	€'000
SOLAS	40,670	29,805
Students	29	34
Other	50	64
	<u>40,749</u>	<u>29,903</u>

<b>6 Youth Service Receipts</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2023</b>
	€'000	€'000
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth	<u>1,171</u>	<u>1,025</u>
	<u>1,171</u>	<u>1,025</u>

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

#### 7 Agencies and Self Financing Project Receipts

		Year ended	Year ended
		31/12/2024	31/12/2023
Agencies	Sponsoring Department/Funder	€'000	€'000
School Meals	Department of Social Protection Music	1,270	1,012
Music Generation	Generation & Others	744	757
Examination Bodies	State Exams Commission	129	120
Book Rental	Parents/Students	85	213
Examination Fees	Parents/Students	78	66
Léargas/Erasmus	Léargas	59	14
Other agency - 19 in number	Various	110	92
		2,475	2,274
		2,475	2,274
 <b>Self-Financing Projects</b>		 €'000	 €'000
Student Services - Student	Parents/Students	364	327
Transition Year	Parents/Students	126	95
Other - 6 in number	Various	108	110
		598	532
		598	532
 <b>Total</b>		 3,073	 2,806
		3,073	2,806

#### 8 Capital Receipts

		Year ended	Year ended
		31/12/2024	31/12/2023
		€'000	€'000
Department of Education		29,880	841
SOLAS		6,226	2,119
Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications		1,000	-
		37,106	2,960
		37,106	2,960

**Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**

**Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024**

				<b>Year Ended 31/12/2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2023</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Post Primary Schools &amp; Head Office Payments</b>			<b>Total €'000</b>	<b>Total €'000</b>
	<b>PAY</b>	<b>Pay €'000</b>	<b>Non Pay €'000</b>		
	Instruction	29,610	-	29,610	26,723
	Administration	3,120	-	3,120	2,814
	Maintenance	569	-	569	552
		<u>33,299</u>		<u>33,299</u>	<u>30,089</u>
	<b>NON PAY</b>		<u>2,137</u>	<u>2,137</u>	<u>1,967</u>
			<u>2,137</u>	<u>2,137</u>	<u>1,967</u>
	<b>ASSOCIATED PROGRAMMES</b>				
	Free Junior Cycle Schoolbooks Grant	-	373	373	-
	Student Support Services Fund	5	295	300	289
	DEIS Grant & Home School Liaison Book Grant	-	107	107	111
	DEIS Summer Programme	70	4	74	42
	ICT Infrastructure Grant	-	63	63	8
	Transition Year Grant	-	60	60	23
	Others 13 in Number	23	97	120	388
		<u>98</u>	<u>1,101</u>	<u>1,199</u>	<u>955</u>
		<u>33,397</u>	<u>3,238</u>	<u>36,635</u>	<u>33,011</u>
<b>10</b>	<b>Primary Education</b>			<b>31/12/2024 Total €'000</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2023 Total €'000</b>
	CNS Capitation Grant	-	84	84	25
	Others 12 in Number	7	74	81	33
		<u>7</u>	<u>158</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>58</u>
<b>11</b>	<b>Further Education and Training Payments</b>			<b>Year Ended 31/12/2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2023</b>
		<b>Pay €'000</b>	<b>Non Pay €'000</b>	<b>Allowances €'000</b>	<b>Total €'000</b>
	Apprenticeship	-	908	7,707	8,615
	Skills Training	-	6,470	1,100	7,570
	Training Centre Staff & Operations	4,338	821	-	5,159
	Specialist Training Providers	-	2,037	1,596	3,633
	Community Training Centres	-	1,502	607	2,109
	Youthreach	1,574	277	360	2,211
	Back to Education Initiative	1,484	441	-	1,925
	Adult Literacy	1,140	296	-	1,436
	ESOL	824	167	-	991
	PLC	851	60	-	911
	Community Education	534	77	-	611
	FET Overheads	-	607	-	607
	Other 28 in number	1,558	1,775	170	3,503
	<b>Total</b>	<u>12,303</u>	<u>15,438</u>	<u>11,540</u>	<u>39,281</u>
				<u>39,281</u>	<u>35,378</u>

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

				Year ended	Year ended
		Pay	Non Pay	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
<b>12 Youth Services Payments</b>		<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
				<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
UBU Your Place Your Space		-	765	765	692
ETB Youth Work Functions		117	15	132	141
Youth Club Grant		-	65	65	72
Youth Information Centre		-	56	56	56
Others - 3 in number		-	153	153	73
		<u>117</u>	<u>1,054</u>	<u>1,171</u>	<u>1,034</u>
<b>13 Agency &amp; Self-Financing Project Payments</b>				Year ended	Year ended
				31/12/2024	31/12/2023
		Pay	Non Pay	Total	Total
		€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Agencies</b>	<b>Sponsoring Department/Funder</b>				
School Meals	Department of Social Protection	-	1,421	1,421	955
Music Generation	Music Generation/LWETB	621	129	750	639
Book Rental	Parents/Students	11	153	164	252
Examination Bodies	State Exams Commission	152	-	152	130
Examination Fees	Parents/Students	-	75	75	62
Other agency - 16 in number	Various	6	51	57	172
		<u>790</u>	<u>1,829</u>	<u>2,619</u>	<u>2,210</u>
<b>Self-Financing Projects</b>					
Student Services	Parents/Students	-	294	294	312
Transition Year	Parents/Students	-	96	96	114
Other - 6 in number	Various	-	104	104	99
		<u>-</u>	<u>494</u>	<u>494</u>	<u>525</u>
<b>Overall</b>		<u>790</u>	<u>2,323</u>	<u>3,113</u>	<u>2,735</u>

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

14 Capital Payments		Year Ended 31/12/2024	Year Ended 31/12/2023
Facility	Expenditure Type	Total €'000	Total €'000
Connolly Campus, Longford	JTF Digital Learning Hub Longford	910	57
FET Centres	Devolved Capital	702	451
Athlone Training Centre	Electrical works	592	6
Connolly Campus, Longford	Refurbishment works	447	24
Castlepollard Community College	Prefab Accommodation	208	186
Ballymahon Vocational School	SEN Modular Accommodation	170	-
Lanesboro Community College	Boiler Replacement Works	149	405
Mullingar Community College	Modular Accommodation	136	2,559
Columba College	Prefab Accommodation	127	105
Columba College	Additional Classroom Accommodation	124	69
Other	Other - 31 in number	758	274
<b>Energy Efficiency Projects</b>			
Pathfinder Projects*	School Energy project	20,512	-
 <b>During the year LWETB acted as a project manager for the following devolved projects:</b>			
Gaelscoil Longford		79	10
St. Joseph's National School - Longford		-	45
		24,914	4,191

\* Includes two LWETB schools & six other schools.

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

15 Analysis of Receipts by Funder

FUNDER	Post Primary Schools & Head Office	Primary Schools	Further Education and Training	Youth Services	Agencies and Self Financing	Capital	Total Year Ended 31/12/2023	Total Year Ended 31/12/2024
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>State Funding Received</b>								
Department of Education	37,720	175			-	29,880	67,775	33,827
SOLAS			40,670		-	6,226	46,896	31,924
Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications					-	1,000	1,000	-
Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth				1,171	-		1,171	1,025
Department of Social Protection					1,270		1,270	1,012
Music Generation & Others					562		562	624
State Examination Commission					129		129	120
Other					147		147	84
	37,720	175	40,670	1,171	2,108	37,106	118,950	68,616
<b>Non State Funding applied to State Funded Schemes</b>								
Parents/Students	50		29		-		79	72
Irish Public Bodies - Dividends/Capital Reserves	20						20	33
Other	70		50				50	65
			79				149	170
<b>Other Non State Funding</b>								
Parents/Students					888		888	886
Irish Public Bodies - insurance settlements								25
Other					77		77	55
					965		965	966
<b>Total</b>	37,790	175	40,749	1,171	3,073	37,106	120,064	69,752

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

16 Source and Use of Funds	2024	€'000	01/01/2024 <sup>a</sup>	€'000	Receipts direct from Grantor (d.)	Receipts from other sources	Total receipts per Operating Statements	Local Funding Transfers	Cash expenditure per Operating Statement	Change in Liabilities Debtors	Surplus/ (Deficit) per Operating Statement for 2024	€'000	31/12/2024
Primary Grantor Department/Office	Grant Issued	€'000	Amount due from/ (due to) Grantor	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	Amount due from / (due to) Grantor
<b>Department of Education</b>													
Pay <sup>b</sup>	33,406	33,406	964	(32,244)	(1,294)	(33,538)	-	33,298	171	-	895	895	
Post Primary Schools and Head Office	2,348	-	(458)	(2,332)	(71)	(2,403)	(43)	2,137	19	-	290	-	
Non-Pay <sup>c</sup> Local Funding Surpluses	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	-	-	-	-	(415)	
Associated Programmes	(1,850)	(1,850)	(456)	(1,850)	-	(1,850)	-	1,200	10	-	(1,096)	(1,096)	
Primary Schools	(174)	(60)	(60)	(174)	-	(174)	-	165	(2)	-	(71)	(71)	
Capital	(29,880)	2,116	2,116	(29,880)	-	(29,880)	-	22,115	560	-	(5,089)	(5,089)	
<b>Total Dept. of Education*</b>		3,850	2,106	(66,480)	(1,365)	(67,845)	-	58,915	758	290	(5,776)	(5,776)	
<b>Other Funders</b>													
Dept of Further and Higher Education													
Research Innovation and Science			(3)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(3)	(3)	
Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications		1,000	90	(1,000)	-	(1,000)	-	910	-	-	-	-	
Just Transition Funding													
SOLAS	40,749	40,749	1,278	(40,670)	(79)	(40,749)	-	39,281	(377)	-	(567)	(567)	
SOLAS Capital	6,226	(1,755)	(1,755)	(6,226)	-	(6,226)	-	1,889	86	-	(6,006)	(6,006)	
<b>Total SOLAS</b>		46,975	(477)	(46,896)	(79)	(47,975)	-	41,170	(291)	-	(6,573)	(6,573)	
Dept. of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth		1,171	(26)	(1,171)	-	(1,171)	-	1,171	-	-	(26)	(26)	
Youth Services													
Agency	745	(67)	(67)	(562)	(183)	(745)	-	750	8	-	(54)	(54)	
Dept. of Social Protection	1,270	110	110	(1,270)	-	(1,270)	-	1,421	(172)	-	89	89	
State Examinations Commission	129	133	(129)	(129)	-	(129)	-	152	-	-	156	156	
Other Funders	147	(16)	(16)	(147)	-	(147)	-	43	2	-	(118)	(118)	
<b>Total State</b>		2,291	160	(2,108)	(183)	(2,291)	-	2,366	(162)	-	73	73	
<b>Total Non State</b>		-	(474)	-	(782)	(782)	-	747	(11)	6	(514)	(514)	
<b>Total State and Non State</b>		55,287	1,376	(117,655)	(2,409)	(120,064)	-	105,279	294	296	(12,819)	(12,819)	

**Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**  
**Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024**

**16 Source and Use of Funds (continued)**

**Reconciliation of Amount due From/ (Due to) Grantor to Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) per Statement of Current Assets and Liabilities**

	<u>31/12/2024</u>	<u>31/12/2023</u>
	€'000	€'000
Amount due from/ (due to) Grantor at 31 December	(12,819)	1,376
Bank Balance	16,507	1,721
Third Party Debtors	473	473
Pay & Expenses Liabilities	(3,850)	(3,555)
Revenue Surplus/(Deficit) per Statement of Current Assets and Liabilities	<u>311</u>	<u>15</u>

**Notes**

- a Opening balances Balances are reported on an accruals basis.
- b Pay Department of Education: Post-Primary Schools & Head Office Pay Grant was funded by direct receipts from grantor of €32,244,056 and anticipated receipts from Retained Superannuation Contributions of €1,296,000. Actual receipts of Retained Superannuation Contributions were €1,294,101 which is €1,899 less than anticipated. This shortfall in receipts of €1,899 will be funded by the Department of Education in the 2025 Pay Grant.
- c Non Pay Department of Education: Post-Primary Schools & Head Office Non Pay Grant was funded by direct receipts from grantor of €2,331,816 (the non pay grant includes a once-off cost of living measure to support increased school running costs announced as part of the cost of living measures in Budget 2025), and forecasted locally raised receipts of €70,800. In 2024 actual locally raised receipts were €70,850 resulting in a surplus of receipts of €50 over the amount forecasted. Surplus receipts are due to the Department of Education and are not considered part of the current year funding.
- d Total State funding The difference between the total amount received from grantors of €117,654,912 above and the total Note 15 - Funding of €118,949,013 is represented by the Retained Superannuation Contributions of €1,294,101.

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

<b>17 Current Assets - Recurrent State Grants</b>	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Amount due from Dept. of Education Pay Grant Underfunding	896	989
Associated Grant Underfunding	8	14
Amount due from SOLAS	-	1,278
	<u>904</u>	<u>2,281</u>
<b>18 Current Assets - Capital State Grants</b>	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Amount due from Dept. of Education	142	2,426
	<u>142</u>	<u>2,426</u>
<b>19 Current Assets - Other Recurrent Income</b>	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Amount due from - Other State Bodies	246	290
Amount due from - Other Non-State Bodies	-	-
	<u>246</u>	<u>290</u>
<b>20 Current Assets - Third Party Debtors</b>	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Salary Overpayments	46	40
Community Training Centres & Specialist Training Providers	375	375
Tuition Fees	4	1
Other	48	57
	<u>473</u>	<u>473</u>
<b>21 Current Liabilities - Recurrent State Grants</b>	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Amount due to Dept. of Education		
Pay Grant Overfunding	-	24
Associated Grants Unspent	1,104	470
Local Receipts/Receivable Excess	415	458
Primary Schools Grant Unspent	72	60
Amount due to Dept. of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	3	3
Amount due to SOLAS	567	-
Amount due to Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and Youth Affairs	26	26
	<u>2,187</u>	<u>1,041</u>

**Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**

**Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024**

	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
	€'000	€'000
<b>22 Current Liabilities - Capital State Grants</b>		
Amount held for Dept. Of Education	5,230	310
Amount held for SOLAS	6,007	1,665
	<u>11,237</u>	<u>1,975</u>
<b>23 Current Liabilities - Other Recurrent Income</b>		
Amount held for - Other State bodies	173	130
Amount held for - Other Non-State bodies	513	474
	<u>686</u>	<u>604</u>
<b>24 Pay and Expense Liabilities</b>		
Pay Liabilities	1,508	1,299
Expense Liabilities	2,342	2,256
	<u>3,850</u>	<u>3,555</u>

<b>25 Movement in Other Net Current Assets</b>	Balance as at	Balance as at	Movement in Year
	31/12/2024	31/12/2023	
	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Increase/(Decrease) in Recurrent State Grants Receivable	904	2,281	(1,377)
Increase/(Decrease) in Capital State Grants Receivable	142	2,426	(2,284)
Increase/(Decrease) in Other Recurrent Income Receivable	246	290	(44)
Increase/(Decrease) in Third Party Debtors	472	472	-
	1,764	5,469	(3,705)
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
(Increase)/Decrease in Recurrent State Grant Liabilities	2,186	1,041	1,145
(Increase)/Decrease in Capital State Grant Liabilities	11,237	1,975	9,262
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Recurrent Income Liabilities	686	604	82
(Increase)/Decrease in Pay and Expense Liabilities	3,850	3,555	295
	<u>17,959</u>	<u>7,175</u>	<u>10,784</u>
Net Movement			(14,489)

**Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**

**Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024**

**26 Remuneration**

	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
<b>(a) Aggregate Employee Benefits</b>		
Staff Short Term Benefits	<u>46,728</u>	<u>41,910</u>
	<u>46,728</u>	<u>41,910</u>
<b>(b) Staff Short Term Benefits</b>		
Pay (Comprising Basic Pay/Allowances/Overtime) including Employers' P.R.S.I.	<u>46,728</u>	<u>41,910</u>
	<u>46,728</u>	<u>41,910</u>

The pay ranges and the number of employees in each range are:

<b>Pay Range*</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Cost in 2024*</b>
€	Employees	€
0 - 59,999	866	18,925,878
60,000 - 69,999	76	4,962,991
70,000 - 79,999	98	7,355,944
80,000 - 89,999	86	7,247,800
90,000 - 99,999	45	4,264,788
100,000 - 109,999	14	1,444,311
110,000 - 119,999	9	1,049,936
120,000 - 129,999	4	499,606
130,000 - 139,999	4	548,968
140,000 - 149,999	3	428,126
<b>Total</b>	<b>1205</b>	<b>46,728,348</b>

\*Costs in 2024 includes employers' PRSI

**(c) Termination Benefits**

There were no termination benefit settlements during the year (2023 €0).

**(d) Key Management Personnel**

Key management personnel in Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board consist of the Chief Executive and the Directors of Schools Youth & Music, Further Education and Training, and Organisation Support and Development. The total value of employee benefits for the key management personnel excluding employers's PRSI is set out below:-

	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	€	€
Salary	<u>501,346</u>	<u>485,607</u>
	<u>501,346</u>	<u>485,607</u>

**(e) Chief Executive Salary and Benefits**

The Chief Executive (C.E.) remuneration package excluding employer's PRSI for the year was:

	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	€	€
Basic Salary		
C.E. Liz Lavery (01/01/2024 - 01/10/2024)	105,539	125,890
Acting C.E. Brian Higgins ( 02/10/2024 - 31/12/2024)	29,830	-
	<u>135,369</u>	<u>125,890</u>
	<u>135,369</u>	<u>125,890</u>

The Chief Executive is a member of an unfunded defined public sector pension scheme and her entitlements do not extend beyond the standard entitlements available under the scheme.

**Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**

**Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024**

**27 Specific Costs**

	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	€	€
<b>(a) Consultancy</b>		
The costs of external services under the following headings:		
Legal (includes general legal advice)	10,211	11,301
Public relations/marketing	28,201	19,450
Health and Safety Risk Assessments	2,952	863
Other	2,645	4,825
Audit Fee (annual external audit)	49,800	49,800
	<u>93,809</u>	<u>86,239</u>

2022 Audit Fee were paid in 2023. The 2023 Audit Fee of €49,800 was paid in 2024. The 2024 Audit Fee of €53,000 will be paid in late 2025.

	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	€	€
<b>(b) Legal Costs and Settlements</b>		
Legal costs and settlements for the year can be analysed under:		
Legal fees - legal proceedings	-	-
Conciliation and arbitration payments	-	-
Settlements	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Additional legal costs and settlements were paid by LWETB's insurance body.

	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	€	€
<b>(c) Travel and Subsistence</b>		
Travel and Subsistence costs comprise:		
<b>Domestic</b>		
- expenses paid to Board Members	2,996	358
- expenses paid for Board Members	1,030	-
- expenses paid to employees	181,189	172,343
	<u>185,215</u>	<u>172,701</u>
<b>International</b>		
- expenses paid to Board Members	-	-
- expenses paid for Board Members	-	-
- expenses paid to employees	6,391	13,545
	<u>6,391</u>	<u>13,545</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>191,606</u>	<u>186,246</u>

	<b>31/12/2024</b>	<b>31/12/2023</b>
	€	€
<b>(d) Hospitality</b>		
Hospitality costs incurred were:		
Staff Hospitality	-	-
Other	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

#### 28 Board members' expenses

Expenses and fees are paid to Board members for travel to Board-related meetings and other meetings. The aggregate expenses paid to each member in the year ended 31st December 2024 were:

Board member	Statutory Meetings €	Interview Boards €	Attendance at Conferences / Seminars €	BOM €	Other €	Total Expenses €	Total Fees €
Mr. Luke Casserly						-	
Mr. Donie Cassidy	385					385	
Cllr. Aoife Davitt *						-	
Cllr. John Dolan						-	990
Cllr. Michael Dollard						-	
Ms. Niamh Ginnell						-	
Cllr. Ken Glynn						-	
Mr. Colm Harte	170	494	1,623			2,287	1,307
Cllr. Frankie Keena	85	95				180	1,110
Cllr. Denis Leonard						-	
Mr. Mark Murphy	143					143	
Cllr. Peggy Nolan						-	
Cllr. Pat O'Toole***						-	2,091
Cllr. Emily Wallace						-	
<b>To July 2024</b>							
Cllr. Louise Heavin						-	
Cllr. Gerry Hagan						-	
Ms. Kathleen McGahern **						-	
Cllr. Garry Murtagh						-	
Ms. Mary O'Brien						-	
Mr. Colin Whyte ***						-	
Ms. Josephine Donohue						-	
<b>From August 2024</b>							
Cllr. Pdraig McNamara						-	
Mr. Owen Catterall						-	
Ms. Sheila Corcoran						-	
Cllr. Alfie Devine						-	
Cllr. Niall Gannon						-	
Ms. Olivia Callaghan						-	
Ms. Joanne Cosgrove						-	
	<b>783</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>1,623</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,996</b>	<b>5,498</b>

\* Cllr. Aoife Davitt was Chair of LWETB in 2024.

\*\* Kathleen McGahern is on the National Parents Association.

\*\*\* Colin Whyte ETBI Reserve Forum Representative to July 2024

\*\*\* Pat O'Toole ETBI Reserve Forum Representative from August 2024

#### 29 Committee Fees

The following fees were paid to Non-Board Committee members

		31/12/2024 €	31/12/2023 €
Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)	(No. of Non Board members 2024 5 *, 2023 3)	4,839	4,511
Finance Committee (FC)	(No. of Non Board members 2024 6 *, 2023 3)	4,854	7,101
Interview Fees	(No. of Non Board members 2024 1, 2023 0)	523	-
		<b>10,216</b>	<b>11,612</b>

\* Two separate committees in 2024

#### 30 Chief Executive Travel Expenses

		31/12/2024 €	31/12/2023 €
Domestic Travel	C.E. Liz Lavery (01/01/2024 - 01/10/2024)	5,040	5,678
Domestic Travel	Acting C.E. Brian Higgins ( 02/10/2024 - 31/12/2024)	-	-
Foreign Travel	C.E. Liz Lavery (01/01/2024 - 01/10/2024)	-	-
Foreign Travel	Acting C.E. Brian Higgins ( 02/10/2024 - 31/12/2024)	217	-
		<b>5,257</b>	<b>5,678</b>

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

#### 31 Capital Commitments

At 31 December 2024 LWETB had capital commitments of €12,609,512 (€6,409,986 in 2023). All of the above capital expenditure will be Exchequer funded.

#### 32 Lease and Other Finance Commitments

At 31 December 2024 LWETB had payment liabilities under non-cancellable agreements as follows:

	31/12/2024	31/12/2023
Payments due:	€	€
Within one year	536,257	685,851
Between two and five years	643,224	623,926
After five years	76,249	209,025
	1,255,730	1,518,802

#### 33 Contingencies

At the date of approval of these financial statements, there were no significant legal proceedings in respect of events that occurred on or before the 31/12/2024.

#### 34 Additional Superannuation Contribution

The ETB does not make pension contributions in respect of employees. Since 2013 all new entrants are obliged to join the Single Public Pension Scheme.

From 1 January 2019 onwards, members of public service defined benefit pension schemes pay an additional superannuation contribution (ASC) arising from the Public Service Stability Agreement (2018-2020) and the Public Service Pay and Pensions Act 2017. ASC is a permanent contribution in respect of pensionable remuneration.

The ETB deducted Additional Superannuation Contributions from employees amounting to €1.361.264 (2023 €1.201.485) which were remitted to the Department of Education.

#### 35 Retirement Benefit Obligations

The Department of Education's Vote records pensions paid in the financial year for the ETB sector. The note below provides information on Longford and Westmeath ETB pension obligations and costs on an accruals basis

##### Staffing

Retirement benefit obligations were reflected for the first time in the notes to the 2023 financial statements. The opening position as at 1st January 2022 was estimated by the actuary, based on market conditions at that time.

##### Description of schemes

##### Superannuation schemes (pre 1/1/2013)

These pension schemes are defined benefit arrangements with benefits and contributions outlined in the scheme rules. The schemes provides for the payment of a gratuity and an annual pension, to the member on retirement. Pension benefits are based on final pensionable salary and the members' service. There is also provision for the payment of benefits to the member's spouses and children on the death of the member.

Minimum retirement age is in accordance with the scheme rules. In general a member who joined the scheme prior to 2004 has an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector pay policy. Pension Contributions from staff are retained by the ETB as part of agreed Exchequer funding.

##### Single scheme

New entrant pensionable employees engaged by the ETB after 1 January 2013 are members of the Single Public Service Pension Scheme in accordance with Public Sector Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Acts 2012. Contributions paid by members of the Single Scheme are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform in accordance with the legislation.

The Single Scheme is the occupational pension scheme for new entrant public servants hired since 1 January 2013. It is a defined benefit scheme, with retirement benefits based on career average pay. The scheme generates pension credits and retirement lump sum credits for each scheme member. These money credits, known as referable amounts, accrue as percentages of pay on an ongoing basis. The referable amounts accrued each year are revalued annually until retirement in line with inflation increases (Consumer Price Index). The annual pension awarded on retirement is the cumulative total of a scheme members pension referable amounts, and retirement lump sum awarded is, similarly, the total of the scheme member's lump sum referable amounts.

##### Valuations

The valuation used for this disclosure has been based on an actuarial report carried out by a qualified independent actuary taking account of the requirements of generally accepted accounting rules in order to assess the schemes obligations at 31 December 2024. A full actuarial valuation of the scheme obligations is carried out on a triennial basis. The last full actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 December 2023. The next full actuarial valuation is due to be completed as at 31 December 2026.

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

#### 35 Retirement Benefit Costs (continued)

On retirement, members pensions are paid by the National Shared Service Office on behalf of the ETB and those payments are funded by the Department of Education.  
The principal actuarial assumptions used to calculate the components of the defined benefit cost for the year ended 31 December 2024 were as follows:

<b>Financial Assumptions:</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2023</b>
Discount rate	3.50%	3.30%
Salary Increase	3.35%	3.55%
State pension increase	2.35%	2.55%
Pension increase – Superannuation schemes	2.85%	3.05%
Pension increase – Single scheme	2.10%	2.30%
Inflation rate	2.10%	2.30%
<b>Demographic Assumptions- Mortality*:</b>	<b>Life Expectancy</b>	<b>Life Expectancy</b>
Male aged 65	22.2 years	22.1 years
Female aged 65	24.4 years	24.3 years

\*Standard mortality tables have been used. The mortality assumptions have been updated in line with the recommended basis for standard transfer values published by the Society of Actuaries in Ireland 2014.

#### Movement in net retirement benefit obligations during the financial year

	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 31/12/2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Scheme liabilities at beginning of year	251,790	245,980
Current service cost	9,017	8,136
Interest on retirement benefit scheme liabilities	8,176	8,840
Experience Losses/(Gains)	(5,212)	450
Changes in assumptions	(15,660)	(2,621)
Benefits paid	<u>(10,116)</u>	<u>(8,995)</u>
Scheme liabilities at end of year	237,995	251,790
Split between		
Single Public sector pension scheme	8,800	9,610
Superannuation schemes (pre 1/1/2013)	<u>229,195</u>	<u>242,180</u>
	237,995	251,790

#### Retirement benefit costs

	<b>Year ended 31/12/2024</b>	<b>Year ended 31/12/2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Current service costs	6,993	6,298
Interest on retirement benefits liabilities	8,176	8,840
Employee contributions	<u>(2,024)</u>	<u>(1,838)</u>
	13,145	13,300

The deferred funding obligations for retirement benefit as at 31 December 2024 amounted to €237.995m (2023: €251.79m)

#### History of defined benefits obligations

	<b>Year ended 31/12/2024</b>	<b>Year ended 31/12/2023</b>
	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Defined benefit obligations	237,995	251,790

#### 36 Write - Offs

In 2024 sanction was given by Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to the National Shared Services Office (NSSO) who act as payroll providers for ETB pensioner payments to write off overpayments to the value of €250 for individual deceased pensioners on the Superannuation Scheme/Schemes. In 2024, €51.21 was written off on behalf of LWETB (1 pensioner).

#### 37 Annual Contribution to Education and Training Board Ireland

LWETB made a contribution of €130,699 to E.T.B.I. in 2024. This included a membership contribution of €50,000.

#### 38 Charity Note

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board has charitable status under the Charities Act 2009 and is registered with the Charities Regulator. The Charity Number is 20083762.

#### 39 Connected persons

There were no transactions with connected persons during the year.

## Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

### Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

#### 40 Property

LWETB provides educational service and activities from the properties listed below (40A-40C inclusive):

40A Owned			
Category	Location	Annual Rent per agreement	Expiry Date
<b>Post Primary Level</b>			
Ardsooil Phádraig	Granard, Co. Longford	n/a	n/a
Athlone Community College (Site only)	Retreat Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	n/a	n/a
Ballymahon Vocational School	Ballymahon, Co. Longford	n/a	n/a
Castlepollard Community College	Mullingar Rd, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath	n/a	n/a
Columba College	Killucan, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	n/a	n/a
Lanesboro Community College	Main Street, Lanesboro, Co. Longford	n/a	n/a
Mullingar Community College	Millmount Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	n/a	n/a
Templemichael College	Templemichael, Longford, Co. Longford	n/a	n/a
<b>Centres</b>			
Athlone Training Centre	Garrycastle, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	n/a	n/a
Adult Education Centre, Battery Road, Longford	Battery Road Campus, Battery Road, Co. Longford	n/a	n/a
Horticulture Prefabs (x2), Belvedere House & Gardens	Belvedere House & Gardens, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	n/a	n/a
40B Category	Location	Annual Rent per agreement	Expiry Date
<b>Property not Owned - Leased</b>			
Category	Location	Annual Rent per agreement	Expiry Date
<b>Administrative Offices</b>		<b>€ including VAT</b>	
IWETB Head Office Marlinstown	Marlinstown Business Park, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	€108,784	01/02/2025
Administrative Offices Longford	Battery Road Campus, Battery Rd, Co. Longford	€26	24/12/2030
<b>Centres</b>			
Athlone FET Centre, Clonown Road	Unit 1, Deerpark Commercial Centre, Clonown Rd, Athlone	€52,000	20/03/2026
Ballymahon YouthReach	Upper main Street, Ballymahon, Co. Longford	€32,000	31/07/2030
Delvin FET Centre Main Building	The Courtyard, Main Street, Devlin, Co. Westmeath	€10	31/12/2030
Delvin FET Centre Training (Shop Units)	The Courtyard, Main Street, Devlin, Co. Westmeath	€7,000	30/06/2030
Granard FET Centre	Main Street, Granard, Co. Longford	€14,900	31/12/2026
Kilbeggan Youth Reach	Unit 2A, Midland Gateway Business Park, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath	€46,740	28/02/2030
Longford Youth Reach	Battery Road Campus, Battery Rd, Co. Longford	€45,000	31/12/2030
Mullingar FET Centre, Marlinstown	Marlinstown Business Park, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	€68,512	01/02/2025
Mullingar FET Centre, Marlinstown - 3 Additional FET Rooms on the Ground Floor of Block A, Marlinstown	Marlinstown Business Park, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	€18,758 up to 26 August 2024. €19,680 up to 26 August 2020.	26/08/2029
O'Growney Drive FET Campus, Mullingar BTEI	O'Growney Drive/Ashe Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	€31,284	28/02/2025
<b>Post Primary Level</b>			
Castlepollard CC - T. Murray & Sons - 2 x 98m <sup>2</sup> Prefabs	Mullingar Rd, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath	€66,420	Rolls Annually
Castlepollard CC - Extra Space Solutions - 1 x Prefab	Mullingar Rd, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath	€14,022	Rolls Annually
Castlepollard CC - McAvoy Group 2 x 120 m <sup>2</sup> Prefabs	Mullingar Rd, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath	€102,335	Rolls Annually
Columba College - SpaceCab - 1 x Prefab	Killucan, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	€9,594	Rolls Annually
Columba College - McVey Building Systems - 4 x 49m <sup>2</sup> Prefabs	Killucan, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath	€101,057	30/06/2025
Ballymahon VS - McAvoy Group - 2 x 49m <sup>2</sup> Prefabs	Ballymahon, Co. Longford	€19,188	Rolls Annually
<b>Primary Level</b>			
Cornamaddy Community National School PortaKabin - Classroom Prefab	Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	€32,491	Rolls Annually

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024

40 Property (continued)				
40C Property not Owned - Other (Licenced, Managed, Service Level Agreements and PPP)				
Category	Location	Status	Annual Rent per agreement (including VAT)	Expiry Date
<b>Post Primary Schools</b>				
Athlone Community College (School building only)	Retreat Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	DoE Deed of Assignment to PPP Company	N/A	N/A
St. Anthony's Athlone	St Mary's Hall, Northgate Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	Licence Agreement	€2,000	30/09/2028
Cornamaddy Community National School	Cornamaddy, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	Diocese Agreement	N/A	N/A
<b>Centre</b>				
Ballalvey Lane, Athlone	Ballalvey Lane, Athlone, Co. Westmeath	Licence Agreement	€6,000	31/03/2025
Edgeworthstown Digital Hub - licence of 4 person room in Digital Hub	5 Main Street, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford, N39 AH64	Licence Agreement 1 year licence (01/12/2023 to 30/11/2024)	€12,989	30/11/2024
40D Properties in use by a 3rd Party				
Category	Location	Status	Annual Rent per agreement	Expiry Date
N/A	N/A	N/A	€ N/A	N/A
40E Properties not in use:				
Location	Status			
<b>Centres</b>				
Arts Centre, Kinnegad	Old National School, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath	Building ownership was transferred from LWETB to Westmeath County Council in 2023 as part of the Kinnegad Joint Development Agreement. **		

\*\* As of 2023, LWETB have transferred ownership of the "Old National School" in Kinnegad to Westmeath County Council under the Kinnegad Joint Development Agreement. Under this agreement, Westmeath County Council will redevelop the site into a new modern Library and FET Centre using funding from the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund. Construction started in 2023, and the development is expected to be completed by mid to late 2025. Once complete, LWETB will then lease the FET part of the new building from Westmeath County Council at a nominal annual fee, for a period of 900 years.

**Notes:**

**Owned** - LWETB/DE hold full title and ownership of these properties.

**Leased** - LWETB holds a lease for these properties.

**Licensed** - LWETB holds a licence for these properties. A Licence is used for shorter term agreements where LWETB do not wish to commit to a long term lease due to operational reasons and funding, LWETB Properties in use by a third party also operate under a licence agreement as LWETB do not issue leases for any of its properties.

**Managed** - The property is owned by another party (usually Department of Education or County Council) and LWETB only manage the property or part thereof. LWETB is not the owner or the patron.

**Service Level Agreement** - Similar to Managed Properties.

**PPP**- Public Private Partnership

## **Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board**

### **Notes to The Financial Statements - Year Ended 31st December 2024**

**41 Post Balance sheet events**

There were no Post Balance Sheet events.

**42 Approval of the Financial Statements**

The Financial Statements for year ended 31/12/2024 were approved by the Board of Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board on 25/03/2025.