

# HOUSING 2017

## Financing Social Housing for 35 Years



# An Exceptional Journey

The Housing Finance Agency (HFA) celebrates our 35th anniversary this year having been established in February 1982. Originally lending solely for income-related loans, to now offering a wide suite of financial products on a loan book of almost €4 billion, our business model has changed dramatically.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to those who have worked with and supported the HFA over the past thirty five years, helping to deliver quality housing to those who are in most need.

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2016  
highlights  
delivering  
value to our  
customers

### Loan Book

€3.75bn

in outstanding loans to local authorities and approved housing bodies

### Finance for New Homes

1,740

Loan approval given in 2016 for 1,740 new social housing units

### Loan Approvals

€260m

in AHB loan approvals, in 2016, for the acquisition or development of new homes

### Operating Profit

€22m

of operating profit generated in 2016

### Certified AHBs

16

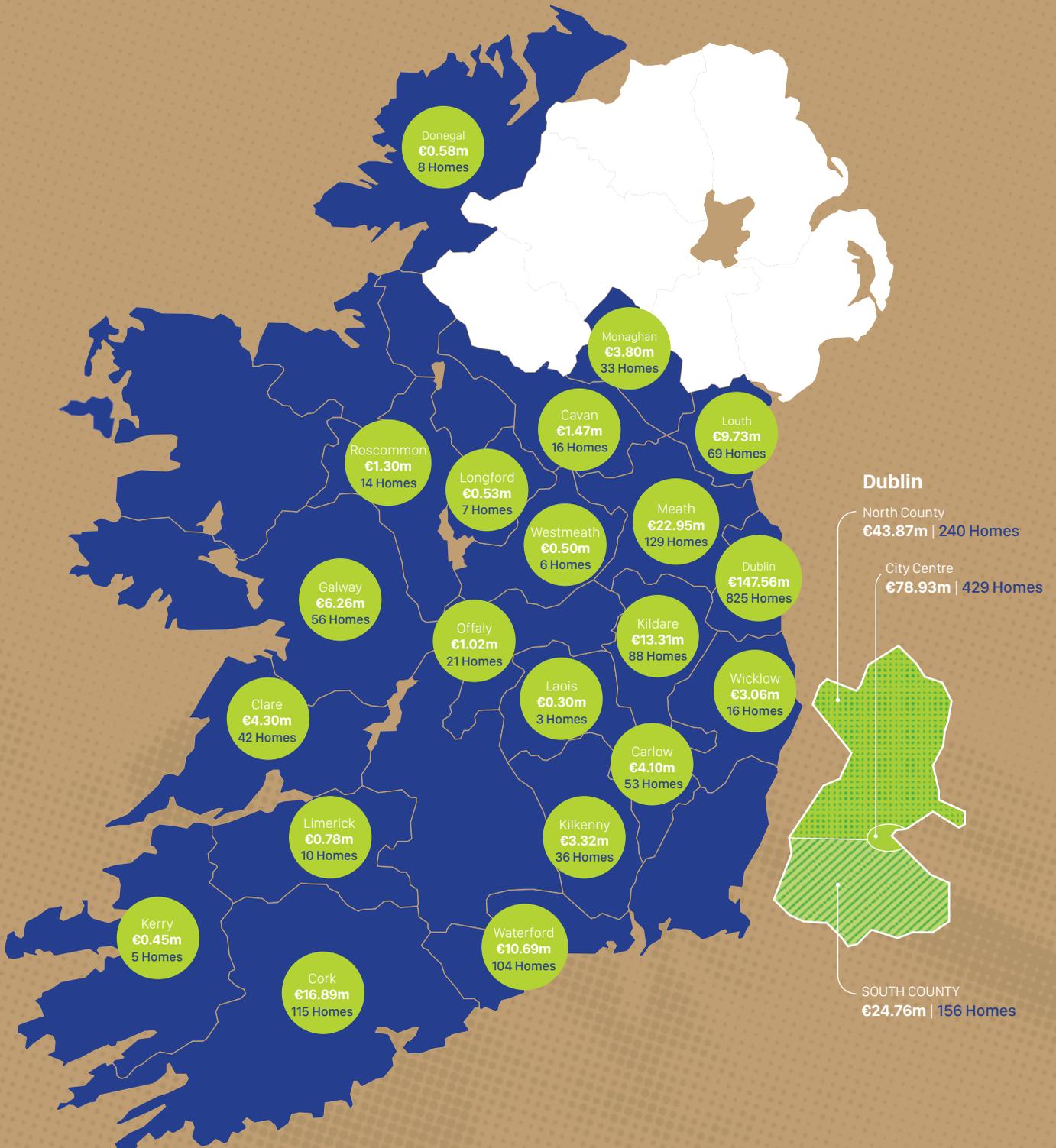
AHBs now hold Certified Body status, enabling them to borrow funds for social housing development

### Retained Reserves

€150m

of reserves retained as at 31 December 2016, increased from €128m in 2015

# 2016 AHB Loan Approvals by County



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## European Investment Bank Facility

Following the success of the HFA's previous loan facility with the European Investment Bank (EIB) launched in December 2014, which is now fully committed towards financing new social housing projects, the HFA announced a second finance contract with the EIB on 2 March 2017. At an event attended by Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Andrew McDowell, Vice President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and Barry O'Leary of the HFA, the largest ever EIB support for social housing in Ireland was formally announced.

Under the new initiative €200 million of new financing from the EIB is being matched by the HFA to provide €405 million of new lending to support investment by approved housing bodies and local authorities, in the development and upgrade of social housing.

This significant new funding will help the HFA support the ongoing strong momentum in new activity seen in 2016 and enable the continued provision of excellent value long term fixed rate funding to its customers.



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## New Lending Powers

New legislation has been enacted, and will shortly be commenced, to give increased powers to support lending by the HFA, to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The HFA has met with the Universities, and also participated in joint discussions with the Departments of Education & Skills, and Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, and representatives of individual Universities and their Representative Body. Initial discussions indicate the possibility of demand for funding for the supply of up to 8,000 student accommodation units over the period to 2020. With the provision of new student accommodation, rented accommodation units (currently provided to students) can be made available for use in supporting social housing.

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## Published Accounts Award Winner

In November 2016 the HFA's 2015 Annual report was chosen as winner, from amongst 26 finalists, of the overall 'Not for Profit' award by the Leinster Society for Chartered Accountants at its Published Accounts Awards. This followed on from our win in the 'Branding, Communication and Marketing' category in 2015. This prestigious award is an endorsement of our commitment to good corporate governance and we look forward to building on this success in the years ahead.



# Chairman's Letter

It is a great pleasure to introduce the Housing Finance Agency's 2016 Annual Report. The HFA was originally established in February 1982 to provide finance for local authority income-related loans, and has since grown substantially to hold a loan book of €3.75 billion in 2016. We also offer a wide range of lending services to our customers, in order to achieve our mission of providing good value funding for social housing and other housing supports for low income households.



2016 marked the final year of the last Board's term and the last five years have been among the most challenging and interesting in the HFA's history. During the period of the last Board's stewardship, the HFA experienced the effects of the economic recession, but, despite these challenges, accessed new sources of funding for social housing via lending facilities with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). These new lending facilities have enabled the HFA to provide 25-year fixed rate finance at market-leading rates and to provide significant additional funding to approved housing bodies (AHBs) for social housing provision.

## Meeting Social Housing Needs

There continues to be a huge demand for social housing, particularly in the urban areas of Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick. Over the last five years, the HFA has approved finance, to approved housing bodies, of €430 million for the acquisition or building of 3,800 social rented homes, including the energy efficient retrofitting of 550 homes. While this is significant, and the AHB portfolio continues to grow exponentially, it is not sufficient to meet the increasing demand for social housing.

The HFA, with its excellent fixed rate finance on offer, can do more and is in liaison with local authorities and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government to consider ways to further address the housing need, while remaining cognisant of Government fiscal constraints.

The product that the HFA offers its customers has changed dramatically over the last five years from what was predominantly a variable rate product, to the availability of up to 30-year fixed rate finance at rates incomparable elsewhere on the market. This has enabled our customers to undergo significant growth, and provide greater social housing at less cost to the Exchequer.

The HFA remains committed to collaborating effectively with members of all of the organisations involved in social housing delivery to meet the challenging targets set out in the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government's *Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness*. The HFA continues to have a significant role to play in the implementation of this plan and has regular interaction with all organisations involved in social housing provision. We will continue to actively help support delivery of the plan and constructively engage with policy makers and social housing providers.

For everyone involved in social housing provision the focus remains that of increasing housing output. The HFA's Strategy HFA 2020 (published in September 2016) provides a road map for the next four years, and the HFA remains committed to providing the homes as outlined in the Strategy – namely at least 13,500 homes.

## Corporate Governance

Proper corporate governance is essential, and central, to the sustainable growth of our business, and the HFA's Board remains committed to the highest standards of good governance: accountability, transparency, probity and a focus on the sustainable success of the HFA over the longer term.

The HFA complies with the *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies* issued by the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform in August 2016 and the relevant aspects of the Public Spending Code. This revised Code of Practice is designed to ensure that both commercial and non-commercial State bodies meet the highest standards of corporate governance. It provides a framework for the application of best practice and is intended to take account of developments in respect of oversight, reporting requirements and the appointment of Board members. In line with requirements of the Code, the HFA has a Service Level Agreement in place with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government.

## In gratitude

A new Board was appointed in early 2017. I welcome back Mr Padraic Cafferty and Mr Michael Murray who have been reappointed to the HFA Board by Minister Simon Coveney, and of course our CEO Mr Barry O'Leary who remains on the Board. I also welcome those new members – Ms Emma Cunningham, Ms Clare Curley, Mr Brian Fitzpatrick, Ms Aideen Hayden, Mr William Johnston, Ms Lianne Patterson, Mr Derek Rafferty and Ms Jennifer Ward – who joined the HFA Board in 2017. I trust that their time on the Board will be rewarding and productive. The new Board was appointed following a public advertisement

through the Stateboards.ie website and with the support of the Public Appointments Service, and this competitive process has provided a Board with a wide breadth of experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors and related to finance, strategy and housing.

I would like to offer my thanks to the members of the last Board for their valuable contributions over the last five years, with special thanks to Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive of Meath County Council who served on the Board for the last 15 years.

The Board makes all major strategic decisions and retains full and effective control while allowing HFA management sufficient flexibility to run the business efficiently and effectively within a centralised reporting framework. Each non-executive director brings independent judgments to bear on all matters dealt with by the Board, including those relating to strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the professional staff of the HFA, without which the Board and the HFA would not be able to operate. Their tireless efforts ensure that we continue to provide an excellent service to our customers – the local authorities and approved housing bodies – thereby ensuring the provision of badly needed social housing. I would also like to thank our stakeholders for their support and co-operation, including the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA), our auditors, legal advisors, I.T. contractors and other service providers. Finally, thanks are offered to the Ministers of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, Public Expenditure & Reform, and Finance, and their staff, for their assistance during the last year.



**Professor Michelle Norris**  
Chairman of the Board

27 April 2017

# Chief Executive's Review

I am pleased that the HFA has continued its strong performance in 2016, with reported profits of €21.9 million (2015: €21.6 million) bringing our retained reserves to €150 million (2015: €128 million). Overall the loan book remained static at €3.7 billion. Our results were achieved while maintaining an average variable interest rate of 1.51% (2015: 1.73%) to our customers, which is very competitive when compared with alternative sources available in the market.



2016 has been an eventful year for the HFA, with the launch of our strategy HFA 2020, published in September 2016. The strategy supports and complements *Rebuilding Ireland: an Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness and Social Housing Strategy 2020* from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government. It also provides a road map for the HFA to 2020, and forecasts the provision of finance for at least 13,500 homes. This represents a significant portion of the projected requirements in *Rebuilding Ireland* (47,000 homes).

## Strategy HFA 2020

HFA 2020, as detailed on page 16 of this Report, was developed by the HFA leadership team with input and feedback from all HFA staff and stakeholders at various stages of the process. We used our current knowledge of stakeholder requirements during strategy formulation and conducted numerous discussions with key decision makers in social housing provision, who will be essential to the success of the Strategy. The result of this analysis, engagement and discussion led to the identification of four strategic pillars which will be delivered over five years through strategic initiatives with associated priority actions.

The success of the Plan is predicated on a number of factors:

- Government capital expenditure constraints;
- the capacity of our customers to deliver homes in the numbers required;
- HFA's continued access to competitive finance; and
- rollout of the Strategy by HFA staff.

The time frame of anticipated lending in the Plan is such that the bulk of loan finance will be drawn down after 2018. This reflects the current situation where loan approval to house completion takes approximately 18 months. Net lending estimates in the Strategy for 2016 were set at €10 million, and this target was achieved in 2016. I hope to report on the continued success of our strategy in my review this time next year.

## Growth in the AHB portfolio

It is very encouraging that a further five AHBs were awarded Certified Body status in 2016, bringing the total number of approved bodies up to sixteen. Our customer base and range of product offerings continue to grow, as does demand for our 25-year fixed rate product at c.2.75% for AHBs - supported with

facilities with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). This offering represents excellent value-for-money for our customers ensuring that they can best address the needs of social housing provision with finite resources.

I am delighted to say that loans approvals more than doubled in 2016. These loans are for the acquisition or development of 1,740 homes at a cost of €260 million (2015: €124 million). These homes are well dispersed across the country, with the highest concentration in Dublin accounting for 47% of the total. This very positive trend has continued into 2017 and will be reflected in greater loan drawdowns, as projects move towards completion and homes are made available for families.

### **New lending powers**

New legislation will shortly be commenced to give increased powers to the HFA to lend to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Initial indications from the Universities indicate the possibility of demand for funding for the supply of up to 8,000 student accommodation units over the next four years.

These additions to our lending powers represent an excellent opportunity for the HFA to further enable social housing delivery, while expanding and diversifying our customer portfolio.

### **Risk and Governance**

The Board carefully oversees and manages risk and earnings, when necessary adjusting its interest margins to ensure that returns are sufficient to generate the required level of reserves.

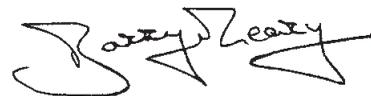
The significant financial risks and exposures to the HFA in respect of its assets, liabilities and financial instruments are summarised in Note 20 to the Financial Statements, together with the risk management objectives and policies employed.

I am pleased to report that, the HFA had the honour of winning the 'Not-For-Profit' Award category at the Leinster Society of Chartered Accountants' Published Accounts Awards for our 2015 Financial Statements. This award is an endorsement of our commitment to strong Corporate Governance and I would like to congratulate our Head of Finance, Tom Conroy and his finance team for their sterling work in this area.

### **Board and Chairman**

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their valuable contributions over the last five years of the previous Board's tenure, and welcome the new members of the Board to the HFA. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude towards our Chairman, Professor Michelle Norris, for her support for me in my capacity as CEO, and as Chair of a diverse and interesting Board. I am delighted that Professor Norris has been re-appointed as Chairman for another 5-year term and look forward to continuing our excellent working relationship. Together I believe we can deliver new and innovative products to our customers.

During the year one of our longest serving colleagues, Ms. Ursula Ellis retired after 27 years' service. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ursula for her great work with the HFA and wish her many years of health and happiness.



**Barry O'Leary**  
Chief Executive Officer

*30 March 2017*

Established to provide  
finance for local authority  
income-related loans

1982

HFA issues first  
public bond

1983



# 1986

Income-related loan scheme ceases, having advanced €403m to finance 15,500 mortgages. HFA funds house purchase loans to local authorities

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Funds all housing functions of local authorities and borrowing limit is increased to €1.9bn

# 1992

# Board of Directors



## Professor Michelle Norris Chairman

### Appointment to the Board

Initially in February 2012, and re-appointed in January 2017 as Chairman and non-executive Board Member (ex-officio).

### Committee membership\*

Credit Committee.

### Career experience

Head of School in UCD's School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice. Michelle's teaching and research interests focus on social housing policy and urban regeneration. During her career she has led or participated in 20 research projects on these issues and has produced over 100 publications on the results. Michelle's latest book entitled Property, Family and the Irish Welfare State was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2016.



## Barry O'Leary Chief Executive Officer

### Appointment to the Board

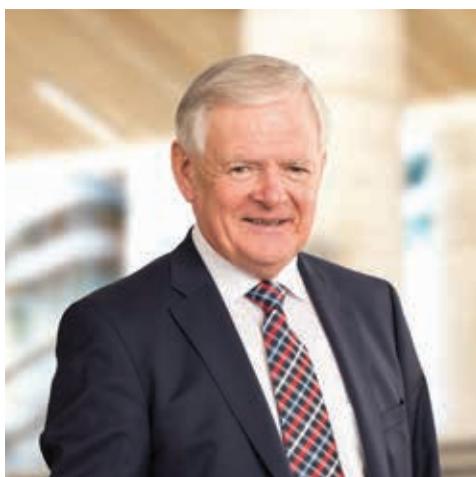
Initially in August 2013 and re-appointed in January 2017 as a Board Member (ex-officio).

### Committee membership\*

Credit Committee.

### Career experience

An accountant by profession, Barry has experience of insolvencies and previously worked with the Comptroller and Auditor General. Since 1988 Barry has worked with the Housing Finance Agency, holding the roles of Financial Controller/Company Secretary and Head of Treasury. Barry was appointed as Chief Executive Officer in September 2012.



## Padraic Cafferty Non-Executive Director

### Appointment to the Board

Initially in March 2012 and re-appointed in January 2017 as a non-executive Board Member.

### Committee membership\*

Audit & Risk and Credit Committees.

### Career experience

Founder and Chairman of Datascan, Executive Chairman at Northwood Technology Ltd, and Proprietor at Westpoint Business Centre and Sigmund Business Centre, Glasnevin, Dublin. Padraic is a member of the Institute of Directors and Past President of the Irish Security Industry Association. Padraic serves as a non-executive director of the Private Security Authority.



## Emma Cunningham Non-Executive Director

### Appointment to the Board

January 2017 as a non-executive Board Member (ex officio).

### Committee membership\*

None.

### Career experience

Principal Officer in the Banking Division of the Department of Finance, dealing with a range of issues including policy for the banking and payment sectors, in Ireland and at EU level. Emma has held a number of positions in the Department, including working as Budget Counsellor in the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union.



## Clare Curley Non-Executive Director

### Appointment to the Board

January 2017 as a non-executive Board Member (ex officio).

### Committee membership\*

None.

### Career experience

Director of Services, with responsibility for Housing in Tipperary County Council. Clare previously worked as Director of Services for Human Resources and Corporate Services, and also had responsibility for Fire and Emergency Services. She is the District Director for the Cashel Tipperary Municipal District and holds a BA degree in Public Management.



## Brian Fitzpatrick Non-Executive Director

### Appointment to the Board

March 2017 as a non-executive Board member.

### Committee membership\*

None.

### Career experience

An accountant by profession, Brian has considerable experience in the mortgage finance industry, having served as Group Financial Controller in First National Building Society. Brian most recently worked as Finance Director and Company Secretary in BAM Contractors Ltd, Ireland's largest civil engineering & construction company, until his retirement last year. He continues to be a non-executive Director of the Company.

**Gender Balance 50%:** 50% ratio of female to male Board Members

*\*As some of the Board appointments did not occur until March 2017, a number of committees require further nominations*

## Board of Directors Continued



### **Aideen Hayden** Non-Executive Director

**Appointment to the Board**

March 2017 as a non-executive Board Member.

**Committee membership\***

None.

**Career experience**

A solicitor with a degree in Economics. Aideen holds a PhD in housing policy from UCD. Aideen was a member of Seanad Éireann from 2011 to 2016, where she served as Vice Chair of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform. She is currently chair of Threshold, National Housing Charity and was a founding member of the Residential Tenancies Board.



### **William Johnston** Non-Executive Director

**Appointment to the Board**

March 2017 as a non-executive Board Member.

**Committee membership\***

None.

**Career experience**

A solicitor with an M.A. in economics and administration from Trinity College Dublin. William was a partner in Arthur Cox for 30 years where he headed the Finance Department. He was Chair of the International Bar Association's Banking Law Division. He is a member of the Company Law Review Group and Honorary Secretary to the National Maternity Hospital.



### **Michael Murray** Non-Executive Director

**Appointment to the Board**

Initially in March 2012 and re-appointed in January 2017 as a non-executive Board Member.

**Committee membership\***

Audit & Risk and Credit Committees.

**Career experience**

An honours graduate in economics from Trinity College, Dublin, from 1977 to 2002 Michael served in several senior roles in banking in both London and Dublin. In 2004, he joined the European Commission, where he remained until 2010, and had responsibility for advising the Internal Market Commissioner on banking and securities markets regulation. Michael writes on investment issues in the Sunday Business Post.



## Lianne Patterson Non-Executive Director

### Appointment to the Board

March 2017 as a non-executive Board Member.

### Committee membership\*

None.

### Career experience

Serving as Director of Justice Delivery and Senior Finance Director since 2013 and as an Executive Board member of the Department's Audit Committee in the Department of Justice NI. Lianne previously served as Deputy Secretary and Senior Finance Director in the Department for Regional Development NI from 2008 to 2013.



## Derek Rafferty Non-Executive Director

### Appointment to the Board

January 2017 as a non-executive Board Member (ex officio).

### Committee membership\*

Audit & Risk Committee.

### Career experience

Principal Officer in the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, with responsibility for Social Housing Policy. Derek previously worked in a number of other Government Departments including the EU Commission (Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs), and the Department of Transport where he held a number of roles including Head of the Aviation Security Unit.



## Jennifer Ward Non-Executive Director

### Appointment to the Board

March 2017 as a non-executive Board Member.

### Committee membership\*

None.

### Career experience

Committee member on the "Growing Out Business" Committee of Clúid Housing Association since April 2015. She is currently an Associate on PwC Advisory-Consulting since January 2015.

**Gender Balance** 50%: 50% ratio of female to male Board Members

*\*As some of the Board appointments did not occur until March 2017, a number of committees require further nominations*

# Our Strategy

HFA 2020 was developed by the HFA Leadership Team with input and feedback from all HFA staff at various stages of the process. We used our current knowledge of stakeholder requirements during strategy formulation and have conducted numerous discussions with key decision makers in pivotal organisations who will be essential to the success of the Strategy.

## Our Role

### To facilitate and support the successful delivery of Social Housing in Ireland

In order to fulfil this role effectively, we have developed HFA 2020, a strategy which supports and complements *Rebuilding Ireland: an Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness and Social Housing Strategy 2020* from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government.

Our Strategy is categorised into four strategic pillars which are central to the delivery of HFA 2020. These pillars will be delivered over five years through strategic initiatives with associated priority actions.

The success of the Plan is predicated on a number of factors:

- Government capital expenditure constraints;
- the capacity of our customers to deliver homes in the numbers required;
- HFA's continued access to competitive finance; and
- rollout of the Strategy by HFA staff.

To facilitate and support the successful delivery of Social Housing in Ireland

# Our Strategic Pillars



**We will have increased our business portfolio to €5 billion by introducing innovative products to existing and new customers**

HFA is proposing to finance at least 13,500 new homes to the end of 2020. This comprises 9,000 units by local authorities and 4,500 units by approved housing bodies over the five year period. We have the capability to deliver more if required under Rebuilding Ireland: an Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness.



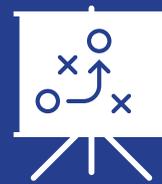
**We will enjoy a reputation for excellence among our stakeholders who clearly understand and value HFA offerings**

We will continue to adapt and respond to the needs and expectations of our stakeholders, and enhance the HFA's reputation of our product offering and capabilities.



**We will play a co-leadership role in the development and execution of an Irish Social Housing Solution**

HFA is seen as a collaborative and trusted team member of the wider 'Housing Group' which is focused on delivering 35,000 units by 2020. Our belief is that excellent work in the provision of social housing is ongoing in individual organisations, and that further success can be achieved through increased collaboration and co-operation.



**We will provide exceptional service to customers through professional and committed staff who are proud to work in the HFA**

The key to the HFA's success over the last 35 years is, and will continue to be, its people and culture. HFA will continue to promote a positive and stimulating work environment which recognises and values the contribution and commitment of its employees.



# 2002

Borrowing limit is increased to €6bn  
to accommodate loan book growth

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Annual gross lending exceeds €1bn for the  
first time. Finance Contract with European  
Investment Bank (EIB) for €25m

# 2007

Total loan portfolio exceeds **€4bn**

2008

Borrowing limit is increased to **€10bn**

2009

# Management Team



**Seán Cremen**  
Head of Treasury

Sean has over thirty years' experience working in Treasury and Capital Markets primarily with Allied Irish Banks and Keppel TatLee Bank in Singapore. Sean previously served as Executive Director on the Board of AIB Mortgage Bank and joined the HFA as Head of Treasury in 2014.



**Tom Conroy**  
Head of Finance & Company Secretary

An accountant by profession, Tom has worked for the HFA since 1999 in a number of key financial roles, before being appointed in his present capacity in 2008. As such, he has extensive experience in all elements of the HFA's business. Tom previously worked as an accountant with the Jurys Hotel Group plc.



**Damian Flynn**  
Financial Accountant

Damian joined the HFA in 2000 and currently holds the role of Financial Accountant, managing the HFA Corporate Services team. He holds an MA-Financial Management and a Higher Diploma - Public Management. Damian previously worked in the private sector for Irish Cement Ltd, (part of the CRH Group), where he qualified as an accountant.



**Maria O'Reilly**  
Senior Lending Officer

Maria currently manages the HFA Lending Services team. She graduated from the Waterford Institute of Technology in 2006 with a Bachelor of Business Studies (Hons). Maria has worked with the HFA since graduating, holding the roles of Accounts Assistant and Lending Executive AHBs, and in that time has accrued experience lending into the AHB sector.

# Housing Developments

The HFA is uniquely positioned, as a State body, to provide the funding required for social housing development at market-leading rates; and 2016 saw significant growth in demand for funding by approved housing bodies (AHBs), with the availability of 25-year fixed rate finance.

In 2016, the HFA provided finance of €126 million to AHBs for the acquisition and new-build of social housing developments. The following highlights some of the schemes financed during the year.

1

## The Iveagh Trust Annamore Court

The Iveagh Trust's scheme at Annamore Court, Ballyfermot is now well on track for completion by the end of April 2017. A €10m development to regenerate a derelict site of 38 bedsit type homes, Annamore Court will provide 70 one bed apartments in a sheltered scheme for senior citizens, delivering an all-in cost per unit of €142,000. The total cost of €10m has been met using a mixture of development finance and long-term funding provided by the HFA along with Capital Advanced Loan Facility finance from the Department of Housing, Planning Community & Local Government.

Laid out over 4 floors, all homes at Annamore are wheelchair accessible while 2 homes are specifically adapted for wheelchair users and include accommodation for overnight carers. These "A" rated apartments are all dual-aspect with good sized balconies or terraces. The development is adjacent to long established communities in Ballyfermot and within easy reach of local shops and facilities.

All tenants of Annamore Court will be nominated directly by Dublin City Council. From the outset, it was the hope of the Trust that some senior citizens currently under occupying 2, 3 and 4 bed local authority houses in the area would move to the Annamore scheme, freeing up these houses for families and maximising use of existing local authority stock. Dublin City Council has now nominated a substantial number of tenants for the Annamore that are willing to down-size from their existing local authority houses in the locality. There are many benefits to this type of approach for the tenant, housing association and local authority, in realising the potential of new-build sheltered schemes and unlocking the capacity of existing local authority stock.



## Clúid Housing Association Boireann Bheag

Clúid was delighted to work in partnership with O'Malley Construction and Galway City Council to deliver sixteen 2 and 3 bed high end new duplex apartments in Boireann Bheag, East Galway City.

The 16 homes sit in a mature settled estate that contain a good mix of houses and apartments and are within walking distance of a host of local amenities. The homes are finished to the highest of standards, are well laid out and contain very generous living space.

The scheme was completed in December 2016 and has been fully tenanted. The project was funded by the HFA and Department of Housing Planning Community & Local Government through the Capital Advance Leasing Facility.



3

## Clúid Housing Association Tubberclaire Meadows

Tubberclaire Meadows is a private development in a very established residential area of Navan. The estate has approximately 70 houses, a mix of 2, 3 & 4 bed terraced, semis and detached and all homes are occupied. Twenty five of these homes were purchased by Clúid through private finance from the HFA. The homes are located in the Athlumney area of Navan. The Athlumney area is very close to Johnstown and is convenient to all amenities of Navan town centre and Bailis Shopping Centre, which are just minutes away. There is a gym, swimming pool and numerous services and facilities located within walking distance. Athlumney is also convenient to a number of primary & secondary schools and there is an efficient & regular bus service to Dublin. This scheme is now fully completed and occupied, and has proven to be a great success.



4

## Focus Housing Association Harold's Cross

Focus Ireland has built 28 houses for families and individuals at an excellent location at Harold's Cross in Dublin 6. The story started with the very kind donation of the site by the Sisters of Charity but could only be completed, many years later, with finance secured from the HFA.

The development consists of 18 x 1 bedroom, 9 x 2 bedroom and 1 x 3 bedroom houses and apartments, all built to a very high standard, with a green area at the centre for recreation. The pictures tell the story of the development from a vacant site to its near completion.

Focus Ireland CEO, Ashley Balbirnie, stated that "Our work in developing the Harold's Cross homes has gone along-side the HFA's work in developing a range of financial supports which allow organisations like Focus Ireland to maximise our potential in tackling the housing and homelessness crisis."



5

## Túath Housing Association Thornwood

Túath Housing purchased 68 homes within the Thornwood development in Beaumont to provide social housing for applicants from Dublin City Council's waiting list. These homes are a mix of 2 and 3 bed apartments and 3 and 4 bedroom houses. The total purchase price for the 68 homes was €25.9m and was funded using both state (CALF) and private funding - 30% of the funding coming for the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government (DHPCLG) and the remaining 70% from the HFA.



6



## Respond Housing Association Oakley Wood

Oakley Wood, Tullow, Co. Carlow was acquired through a unique collaboration between NAMA, Carlow County Council and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and supported by private finance from the HFA. This estate was completed in 2013 by MDY Construction Ltd. Oakley Wood contains 10 four bed homes, 36 three bed homes and 8 two bed homes plus 7 privately owned homes.

Oakley Wood is a development of family houses located in Tullow, Co. Carlow. In the heart of Oakley is a community building that offers a range of services to residents. There is also a committee of residents that are engaging in estate enhancement programmes with the support of Respond!

Respond! was announced the winner of the ICSH Community Housing Awards for "Most Creative Supply Response" for the completion of this unfinished housing estate in 2015.

7

## Túath Housing Association Castlegrange

Túath acquired 11 second hand properties and 40 new build homes at Castlegrange, Clonsilla, Dublin in 2016 with a final 8 homes due to be delivered in April 2017. The total acquisition cost of €15.5m has been funded using a combination of (CALF) Capital Advance Leasing Facility funding available from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government (DHPCLG) and private finance from the HFA.



# Sustainability & Customer Service

Sustainability and Customer Service concepts are embedded in the heart of the HFA's business and are fundamental to achieving our vision of being the preferred finance provider for Social Housing development.

## Energy Conservation

The HFA operates from 46 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, where it leases space on one floor. Our main use of energy is for lighting, heating/air-conditioning, and the powering of computers.

In 2016, the HFA reduced its annual energy consumption by 8% when it used 26.3 MWh (2015: 28.7 MWh) of electricity. This represents an average consumption of 2.4 MWh (2015: 2.6 MWh) of electricity per employee. Our leased premises were redeveloped during 2009/2010, with energy-efficient lighting & heating installed at that stage.

- The HFA's offices have a BER rating of B1.
- The HFA recycles paper and cardboard, electronic equipment, printer toners and mobile phones.
- The HFA purchases and operates energy-rated servers, personal computers and printers.
- 90% of HFA staff use public transport for commuting, while 10% of staff cycle to and from work, encouraged by the availability of appropriate facilities in the HFA.
- HFA employees are encouraged to be energy conscious, and we endeavour to ensure that our office is operated in the most energy-efficient manner possible.
- The HFA requires that all new-build properties, for which it lends, must have an energy rating of A3 or better.
- The HFA lends for energy efficient retrofitting of homes.

## Actions Undertaken in 2016

In 2016, the HFA undertook a range of initiatives to improve our energy performance, including:

- the purchase of three new energy-saving multi-function printers and a new tape drive for the server: and
- the installation of energy-efficient windows to the rear of the building.
- implementation of various 'turn-off' initiatives (computers and lights).

## Actions Planned for 2017

Energy conservation is very important to the HFA. We will continue to deliver efficiency savings in all aspects of our business in 2017, and will explore the possibility of working with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland ("SEAI") to ascertain what further progress can be made. In 2017, the front windows of the HFA's offices will receive additional secondary glazing and insulation.

## Energy retrofits

In 2015, the HFA approved loan finance for the purpose of retrofitting 550 social housing homes. SEAI also assisted with grant funding for these dwellings.

2016 saw the approval of €260 million in AHB loan finance for the provision of 1,740 social housing units. 50% of these homes are new-builds which will have an energy-efficiency rating of A3 or higher. The HFA hopes to expand on this success over the coming year, consider the development of other sustainable energy products and to bring these to the market.

## Sustainability & Customer Service (continued)

### Information Technology

#### **Reliance on Information Technology**

With a staff of 12 full-time equivalents managing a loan book of €3.7 billion and approximately 7,000 live loans, the HFA relies heavily on the use of information technology to facilitate more efficient use of its resources and effective delivery of its services.

The HFA aims to maximise the number of online services it provides, thereby providing better customer service, improving data accessibility and reducing costs for service users. The HFA provides access to data via its online portal. This enables customers and other stakeholders to carry out tasks more efficiently. The HFA has introduced the most appropriate, reliable and integrated electronic systems to complement its ability to deliver on the expectations of customers and stakeholders. Clients can access services instantaneously, from a variety of locations and at any time of day via the HFA website.

#### **Redevelopment of LABS – HFA Loan and Treasury Management System (LTMS)**

The HFA fully re-developed its bespoke loan application, billing and treasury system during 2016, which is an essential tool in its business. The new system enables the HFA to benefit from a modern technology platform in areas such as security, user interface, and information access and retrieval. The system uses a cross-browser common web-based user interface to all elements of the solution for internal back-office administrators and external stakeholders in the DHPCLG (including the local Government Auditor, for access to local authority loans data), local authorities and approved housing bodies.

This provides a consistent and universal user experience and provide secure remote access to the system. Feedback, since its release, has been positive and it is planned that the system will be expanded and improved upon over time.

### Relationships

The delivery of excellent Quality Customer Service ('QCS') is of prime importance to the HFA. The HFA has critical relationships with stakeholders in a number of different categories: local authorities, approved housing bodies, Departmental stakeholders, and other bodies within the wider housing group.

A number of strategic initiatives with regard to Customer Service were identified in the development of the *Strategy HFA 2020*, in particular, identifying and building strong relationships with representative local authorities and AHBs to fully understand their needs and challenges. This involves organising regular information gathering sessions between HFA representatives and key LA and AHB staff, participation on Finance and Housing Groups, and developing the AHB market with appropriate structures and products.

In tandem with this, the HFA will identify approaches to enable it interact more effectively in assisting our customers and our Departmental Stakeholders in gaining clarity regarding our products and developing a communication framework to regularly update our customers and Government Departments.

## **Service Level Agreement**

The *Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies* provides that any State body involved in service provision should have a Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place with its parent Department.

The coherence of public policy in relation to housing and the coordination of the associated financing initiatives are ensured by having them all under the control of the Minister for the Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government (DHPCLG). The HFA's position under the aegis of the DHPCLG ensures that its services are efficient and fully supportive of Government policy.

The HFA has had an SLA in place with the DHPCLG since 2014, which is reviewed and updated annually by both parties with the approval of the HFA's Board. All of the objectives specified in the Agreement for 2016 were met. The SLA requires that meetings should be held between the HFA and the DHPCLG, at a minimum of a quarterly basis.

# 2011

Commence lending directly to approved housing bodies (AHBs)

Finance Contract with EIB for **€150m**

# 2014



# 2015

Introduction of low-cost lending products fixed for 25 years.

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Annual loan approvals for AHBs exceed €250m.

# 2016

Our purpose remains unchanged - to facilitate and support the successful delivery of Social Housing in Ireland - and we look forward to continuing to work closely with our stakeholders in the future.

# Directors' Report

The Directors present their report and the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2016.

## Results and dividends

	<b>2016</b>	2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Total recognised gain for the year	<b>21,863</b>	22,209
Shareholders' funds at beginning of year	<b>128,179</b>	105,970
<b>Shareholders' funds at end of year</b>	<b>150,042</b>	128,179

This is a good performance with profits generated by a margin policy, approved by the Directors, which is designed to ensure that the HFA has reserves sufficient to meet the estimated costs arising from fixed rate funding mismatches and other risks.

The Directors do not propose the payment of a dividend for 2016 (2015: nil).

A review of the significant financial risks and exposures to the HFA in respect of its assets, liabilities and financial instruments is set out together with the risk management objectives and policies employed with respect to managing those risks in Note 20 to the Financial Statements. The Directors' Report also addresses the significant business risks to which the HFA is exposed.

## Review of the development of the business

### *Loans to local authorities (approved pre 27 May 1986)*

The HFA was established to issue index-linked loans to local authorities for lending by them on an agency basis to individuals. A total of €403 million was advanced to local authorities under this scheme and was used to finance 15,571 mortgages. At 31 December 2016 such loans represented outstanding balances of €9.1 million. The HFA is liable for any credit losses that may arise on these loans.

### *Loans to local authorities (approved post 27 May 1986)*

With effect from May 1986, the HFA has issued loans to local authorities to be used by them for any purpose authorised by the Housing Acts, 1966-2009 to finance social housing development.

Outstanding loans to local authorities advanced since 27 May 1986, totalled €3.7 billion at end-December 2016.

A significant portion of these funds is retained by the local authorities for purposes such as land acquisition. The remainder is lent by the local authorities to individual borrowers and AHBs. The local authorities are responsible for any losses that may arise on these loans. In the context of:

- (i) local authorities being statutory bodies under the Local Government Act, 2001 and other enactments;
- (ii) their revenues or funds being security for the due payment to the HFA of all amounts due by local authorities (as set out in the agreement between each local authority and the HFA);
- (iii) all loans advanced to local authorities are approved by the Minister for the Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government;
- (iv) the Board's understanding that central Government supports local authorities in meeting their obligations to the HFA; and,
- (v) the HFA has not experienced any loan losses on its loans advanced to local authorities after 1986,

the Board is of the opinion that, in substance, no credit risk arises, other than sovereign risk, on loans advanced to local authorities on or after 27 May 1986 and no loan loss provisions are recorded in respect of these loans.

In 2016, gross loan advances amounted for Post May 1986 loans to €116 million (2015: €95m), repayments and redemptions totalled €229 million (2015: €670m), resulting in net redemptions of €113 million (2015: net redemptions of €575m). The 2015 figure includes the redemption of water-related loans of €412 million, as agreed with the DHPCLG and local authorities. Such loans represented outstanding balances of €3.46 billion (2015: €3.57 billion).

The HFA endeavours to work with the local authorities to develop appropriate loan structures for them in order to better match their financial circumstances. The HFA may provide extended loan terms, interest deferred periods or offer other renegotiations as appropriate. During 2016, the HFA renegotiated €83.15 million (2015: €136.1 million) of non-housing related loans and had 99 housing related loans renegotiated during the year totalling €20.75 million (2015: 0.6 million). These renegotiations have taken place

in the context of €3.47 billion of loans advanced to local authorities as at 31 December 2016 and represents renegotiation activity of circa 3.0% in 2016 (2015: 3.8 %).

Renegotiated non-housing related and housing related loans did not result in impairment or derecognition of the original loan assets as it did not represent a significant modification of terms. The HFA ceases to consider these loans as renegotiated once one year of up to date scheduled repayments has elapsed post renegotiation. In this regard, the HFA considers €103.89 million of loans (2015: €136.05 million) to be renegotiated in 2016 with €0.79 million (2015: €1.19 million) of interest income recognised on these assets.

As at year ended 31 December 2016, €8.22 million (2015: €25.47 million) of land acquisition loans were converted upon maturity to annuity loans repayable over a period of up to 30 years. There were no land acquisition loans considered renegotiated at 31 December 2016 as we have received one full year of up to date scheduled repayments. Interest accrued on loans converted upon maturity at 31 December 2016 amounts to €0.07 million (2015: €0.22 million).

#### *Loans to approved housing bodies*

Under Section 17 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002, the HFA is empowered to lend directly to AHBs, which includes voluntary housing bodies and co-operative housing societies. Under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative, the DHPCLG, through local authorities, leases suitable housing units from AHBs which are rented to social housing tenants nominated by local authorities. Properties are either bought or built by AHBs and financed by loan finance raised by the AHB (from the HFA or the Private Sector). Income received by the AHBs from a Payment and Availability Agreement (PAA) with a local authority for a period of up to 30 years, will fund the repayment of the HFA's loan.

AHBs wishing to borrow from the HFA have to submit to a general financial assessment in order to be assessed for Certified Body status. Only when that status has been confirmed and a master loan agreement signed, can they furnish loan applications which are subsequently assessed independently. As at 31 December 2016, sixteen applications from approved housing bodies (2015: twelve) have been successful in obtaining Certified Body status. The approved AHBs are:

- ALONE
- Circle Voluntary Housing Association
- Clúid Housing Association
- Co-operative Housing Ireland
- Dublin Simon Community
- Focus Housing Association
- Fold Ireland
- Foscadh Housing Association
- Housing Association for Integrated Living (HAIL)
- North and East Housing Association
- Oaklee Housing
- Respond! Housing Association
- Saint John of God Housing Association
- The Iveagh Trust
- Tinteán-Carlow Voluntary Housing Association
- Túath Housing Association

#### Category 2

- Arlington Novas Ireland

The HFA's Credit and Management Committees, as at 31 December 2016, have approved 195 loan applications (2015: 110) totalling €429 million (2015: €169 million), €196 million of which has been advanced (2015: €70 million). It is anticipated that 2017 will herald continued growth in the level of lending in this area. The HFA continues to have frequent interaction with AHBs to develop the suite of products on offer. These interactions resulted in the HFA offering new fixed rate products to AHB's in 2016.

# Directors' Report (continued)

## Going concern

The Financial Statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. In making its assessment of the HFA's ability to continue as a going concern, the Board of Directors has taken into consideration the significant risks and uncertainties that currently impact the HFA. The Risk Management section below and in the 'Access to Funding and Going Concern' section within the Basis of Preparation section of the Statement of accounting policies, lists the HFA's business activities and takes into consideration the significant risks and uncertainties that currently impact the HFA.

In addition Note 20 to the Financial Statements details the HFA's financial risk, management objectives, details of its financial instruments and hedging activities, and its exposures to credit, liquidity and market risks. The assessment of going concern is presented on page 42.

## Risk management

The Board is responsible for the HFA's system of risk management and internal control, which is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Board has delegated responsibility for the ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of this system to the Audit & Risk Committee. Details in relation to the Committee's work in this regard are set out in the Audit & Risk Committee Report on pages 41 to 46.

The Chief Executive Officer also reports to the Board, on behalf of Management, on significant changes in the business and external environment, which affect risk. Risk is a standing item on the agenda at each meeting of the Board. Where areas for improvements in the system are identified, the Board considers the recommendations made by Management and the Audit & Risk Committee.

## Directors

The Directors have considered the principal risks and uncertainties which impact the HFA. In this regard the Directors have concluded that the HFA has potential exposure to credit risk, liquidity risk and market risks owing to its use of financial instruments for certain types of loans. The HFA's objectives, policies and procedures for measuring and managing these risks are set out above and in Note 20 to the Financial Statements.

The Directors and Secretary have no interests in the shares or debentures of the HFA.

## Contracts

There has not been any contract or arrangement with the HFA during the year in which a Director of the HFA was interested in relation to the HFA's business.

## Post statement of financial position events

No events have taken place since the year-end that would result in an adjustment to the Financial Statements or inclusion of a note thereto.

## Electoral Act, 1997

The HFA made no political donations during the year.

## European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2012

The HFA is required to comply with the requirements of the European Community (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations, 2012, giving effect to Directive No. 2011/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2011 and its predecessor, the European Community (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations, 2002. A review of all payments made during the year ended 31 December 2016 shows no late payments were made during 2016 under the above Act.

## Accounting records

The Directors are aware of their responsibilities under Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 as to whether, in their opinion, the accounting records of the HFA are sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and are discharging their responsibility by ensuring that sufficient company resources are available for the task.

## Corporate Governance

As required by the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code, which the HFA has adopted voluntarily, the Directors have prepared a Corporate Governance Statement, which is set out on pages 35 to 40 and which, for the purpose of Statutory Instrument 450/2009 European Community (Directive 2006/46) Regulations, forms part of the Report of the Directors.

## Auditors

In accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act, 2014, the Auditors, JPA Brenson Lawlor, Chartered Accountants, will continue in office. A resolution authorising the Directors to determine their remuneration will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

## Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors have considered the principal risks and uncertainties which impact the HFA. In this regard, the Directors have concluded that the HFA's principal risk exposures are in respect of credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk owing to its use of financial instruments. The HFA's objectives, policies and procedures for measuring and managing these risks are set out in Note 20 to the Financial Statements.

## Compliance Statement

The Directors have put in place appropriate arrangements or structures that, in their opinion, provide a reasonable assurance of compliance in all material respects with the HFA's relevant obligations for the purposes of section 225 of the Companies Act 2014.

The principal arrangements and structures that the HFA has engaged, to secure material compliance with these obligations, are the HFA and the Directors having engaged suitably qualified and experienced personnel (both internal, and also external advisers) to perform and assist in the performance of the legal and tax compliance and financial functions.

The HFA is entitled to rely upon, and has access to, service-providers and professional advisers who have the requisite knowledge and experience to advise the HFA on compliance with its relevant obligations.

Specifically, the Directors are satisfied that the Company Secretary:

- has been briefed fully regarding section 225 of the Companies Act 2014;
- is aware of and understands the Relevant Obligations and their relevance to the HFA's business and operations, and vice versa;
- has undertaken a risk assessment in respect of those of the Relevant Obligations that are within his/her functional or operational responsibility;
- has implemented appropriate control processes in respect of each of the applicable Relevant Obligations;
- has, or has access to other personnel who have, the requisite knowledge, skills, experience and resources to advise the HFA on the Company's compliance with its Relevant Obligations; and
- reports regularly to the Board of Directors of the HFA, and through more frequent operational channels as necessary, regarding the control processes that are in place to ensure material compliance by the HFA with its Relevant Obligations;

such that, taken together, these arrangements and structures provide a reasonable assurance of compliance by the HFA with those relevant obligations, in all material respects.

## Dividend

No dividend is due to be declared for 2016.

## Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

## Directors' Report (continued)

Company law requires the Directors to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the Financial Statements in accordance with FRS 102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland comprising applicable law and the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland together with the Companies Act 2014. Under Company Law the Directors must approve the Financial Statements when they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the HFA and of its profit and loss for that period.

In preparing the Financial Statements the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- comply with applicable International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statements; and
- prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the HFA will continue in business.

The Directors are also required under company law to include a Directors' report containing a fair review of the business and a description of the principal risks and uncertainties. Under Company law the Directors are required to prepare a report to deal, so far as is material for the appreciation of the state of the HFA's affairs, with any change during the financial year in the nature of the business of the company.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper books of account that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the HFA and enable them to ensure that its Financial Statements comply with the Companies Act 2014. They are also responsible for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the company and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the website ([www.hfa.ie](http://www.hfa.ie)). The Directors are also responsible for preparing a Directors' report that complies with the requirements of the Companies Acts, 2014.

Each of the Directors confirms that, to the best of each person's knowledge and belief,

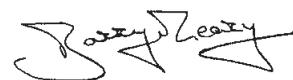
- the HFA's Financial Statements, prepared in accordance with FRS 102, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the HFA at 31 December 2016 and of the profit of the HFA for the year then ended; and,
- the Annual Report and Financial Statements, taken as a whole, are fair, balanced and understandable and provide the information necessary for shareholders to assess the HFA's performance, business model and strategy.

On behalf of the Board,



**Professor Michelle Norris**  
Chairman of the Board

30 March 2017



**Barry O' Leary**  
Chief Executive Officer

30 March 2017

# Corporate Governance

The Directors are committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance and support the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code (available at [www.frc.org.uk](http://www.frc.org.uk)), formerly known as the Combined Code, with which the HFA voluntarily complies with. The HFA also complies with the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016.

The Directors understand that the 'comply or explain' concept continues to apply for both Codes. The Board reviewed its obligations under the guidance which includes requirements on the Board and Audit Committees regarding consistency and appropriateness of disclosure, as well as a separate section for the Audit & Risk Committee in the Annual Report. As required by the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code, which the HFA has adopted voluntarily, the Directors have prepared a 'Corporate Governance Statement,' which is set out on in this section and which, for the purpose of Statutory Instrument 450/2009 European Community (Directive 2006/46) Regulations 2009, forms part of the Directors' Report. The HFA has complied with both Codes except for matters discussed in the Corporate Governance Compliance Statement.

## Application of the Principles and Provisions of Corporate Governance

The following information explains how the HFA applies the principles and provisions of the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), The Irish Corporate Governance Annex issued by the Irish Stock Exchange (ISE), and the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

## Board of Directors

The Board takes the major strategic decisions and retains full and effective control while allowing operating Management sufficient flexibility to run the business efficiently and effectively within a centralised reporting framework.

The Board has reserved to itself for decision a formal schedule of matters pertaining to the HFA and its future direction such as major acquisitions and disposals, appointment and removal of the Company Secretary, expenditure budgets and risk management policies. Each non-executive Director brings independent judgement to bear on all matters dealt with by the Board including those relating to strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct. All Board members have access to the advice and services of the Company Secretary who is responsible for ensuring that Board procedures are followed and that applicable rules and regulations are complied with. The HFA's professional advisors are available for consultation with Board members as required. Individual Directors may take independent professional advice, if necessary, at the HFA's expense.

At 31 December 2016 the Board of Directors comprised nine non-Executive Directors and one Executive Director. The Directors are appointed by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in consultation with the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform for a period not to exceed five years, unless the Minister sees fit to reappoint a Director for a second or subsequent term. The roles of the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) are separate. The CEO is employed full time and does not have any other significant commitments. All Directors, except for the CEO, are independent non-Executive Directors. The Board met seven times in 2016 and is responsible for the proper management of the HFA.

## Corporate Governance (continued)

### Attendance at meetings during the year ended 31 December 2016 and length of service at 31 December 2016

Members	Meetings held in 2016	Directors attendance	Board Service in years
Michelle Norris (non-executive Chairman)	7	7	4.83 years
Barry O'Leary (Chief Executive Officer)	7	7	3.33 years
Colm Brophy* (non-executive Director)	-	-	3.86 years
Padraic Cafferty (non-executive Director)	7	7	4.75 years
John Hogan (non-executive Director)	7	6	4.83 years
Gerry Leahy (non-executive Director)	7	5	4.67 years
Jackie Maguire** (non-executive Director)	7	7	14.75 years
James Miley (non-executive Director)	7	5	4.67 years
Michelle Murphy (non-executive Director)	7	4	4.67 years
Michael Murray (non-executive Director)	7	6	4.75 years
Philip Nugent***	2	-	7.92 years
Mary Lee Rhodes (non-executive Director)	7	6	4.75 years

\* Colm Brophy resigned on 8 February 2016 following his nomination to stand for election to Dáil Éireann.

\*\* Please see the Corporate Governance Compliance Statement on page 40.

\*\*\*Philip Nugent resigned as a Director on the Board, effective from 1 April 2016

The Board of the HFA comprises individuals who bring a wide range and depth of experience to the activities of the HFA being drawn from experts from areas such as housing policy, banking, legal services and construction, the Departments of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and Finance, which should enable the HFA to address major future challenges.

### Directors' and Management Remuneration

The Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government determines the level of remuneration for the Board of Directors. Remuneration of non-Executive Directors is not linked to performance. The table below provides details of all fees paid to Directors during the year.

Members	Fees 2016 €	Fees 2015 €
Michelle Norris*	-	-
Colm Brophy**	820	7,695
Padraic Cafferty	7,695	7,695
John Hogan	-	-
Gerry Leahy	7,695	7,695
Jackie Maguire	-	-
James Miley	7,695	7,695
Michelle Murphy	7,695	7,695
Michael Murray	7,695	7,695
Philip Nugent	-	-
Mary Lee Rhodes	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,295</b>	<b>46,170</b>

\* During 2016, a sum of €2,856 (2015: €2,856) was charged by University College Dublin as compensation for loss of hours worked by Professor Michelle Norris for time spent in her duties as Chairman of the HFA in 2016.

\*\* Colm Brophy resigned on 8 February 2016 following his nomination to stand for election to Dáil Éireann.

The remuneration of the Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer is detailed in Note 9 to the Financial Statements. In line with Appendix B.7 of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, the total number of employees whose benefits exceeded €60,000 p.a. (excluding employer pension costs) is as follows:

€	No.
100,001-110,000 (see note 9)	1
90,001-100,000	1
80,001-90,000	-
70,001-80,000	1
60,001-70,000	1

Also, as required under Appendix B.5 of the Code, expenditure on external consultancy/adviser services for 2016 was as follows:

Legal fees €433,732 (2015: €383,439)  
 Management consultancy fees €20,104 (2015: €35,246)

Total expenses reimbursed to Directors during 2016 for travel and subsistence was €8,940 (2015: €6,983) and international travel in 2016, (in relation to the UK and the EU), was €680 (2015: €Nil) .

Travel and subsistence for employees for 2016 was €4,917 (2015: €3,465) and international travel in 2016, (in relation to the UK and the EU), was €267 (2015: €440). Hospitality expenditure in 2016 was €3,525 (2015: €2,582).

### Diversity

The Board believes that diversity is important for effectiveness and has been following the debate regarding gender, age, culture, educational background and professional experience. While the Board does not think specific quotas on such criteria as gender are appropriate and believes that the opportunities should be made on merit, it does believe that a diverse mix of skills, experience, and knowledge background is important, of which gender is a significant element.

As at 31 December 2016 there were four female members on the Board out of ten members. Looking beyond the Board, the HFA also recognises the importance of diversity including gender diversity and the benefits this could bring to the organisation. We are pleased to note that since the year end a new Board has been appointed with 6 female members and 6 male members.

The CEO and employees are subject to a Code of Conduct and must comply with all statutory requirements, namely Equal Status Act (2000), Equality Act (2004), Disability Act (2005) Part 5 and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (2008) to ensure that the work environment is free of discrimination based on membership of the Traveller Community, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, disability, sexual orientation or gender in relation to employment and occupational or vocational training.

### Board Committees

The Board has an effective committee structure to assist in the discharge of its responsibilities. Please see the terms of reference for each Board Committee available on the HFA website, [www.hfa.ie](http://www.hfa.ie).

### Audit & Risk Committee

Please see Audit & Risk Committee Report on pages 41 to 46.

### Board Performance Review Committee

The Board Performance Review Committee met once during the year. The Committee was established in 2008 for the formal evaluation of the Board's performance and that of its Committees and individual Directors. This Committee reports to the Board and the Chairman annually on its findings. The Chair of the Board Performance Review Committee is rotational between its members.

The Committee reviews the Board's performance and that of its Committees and also appraises each member of the Board of Directors to ensure that they are adequately fulfilling their role and objectives. It also undertakes an annual review of each Director's independence including his/her actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interests and commitments in terms of time. For further information please refer to the Corporate Governance Compliance Statement on page 39.

### Scheduled Board Performance Review Committee meetings for the year ended 31 December 2016

Members	Meetings held in 2016	Directors attendance
John Hogan	1	1
Gerry Leahy	1	1
James Miley	1	1
Mary Lee Rhodes	1	1

# Corporate Governance (continued)

## Finance Committee

As at 31 December 2016, the following Directors are members of the Finance Committee: Professor Michelle Norris (Chairman), Barry O'Leary (CEO), John Hogan, Michael Murray and Mary Lee Rhodes.

The Committee is empowered on behalf of the HFA to borrow and raise money and to implement, utilise and operate any approved facilities. The Committee operates under formal terms of reference approved by the Directors. No circumstances arose during 2016 which necessitated the convening of a meeting of the Finance Committee.

## Remuneration Committee

As at 31 December 2016, the following Directors are members of the Remuneration Committee: Michelle Norris (Chairman), Gerry Leahy and Jackie Maguire.

The Remuneration Committee's Terms of Reference entitle it to make recommendations in relation to the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer for consideration by the Board, subject to the approval of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government. Details of emoluments are set out in Note 9 to the Financial Statements in accordance with the requirements of Section 155 of the Companies Act 2014.

No circumstances arose during 2016 which necessitated the convening of a meeting of the Remuneration Committee. For further information please refer to the Corporate Governance Compliance Statement.

## Credit Committee

The HFA's Credit Committee comprises Board members and Management. The Committee was established in 2009, to maintain credit risk within Board policy, to review the creditworthiness of AHBs and approve credit risk limits and to ensure that all the relevant documentation is in order before proceeding to advance such monies to AHBs. The Committee operates under formal terms of reference approved by the Board.

## Scheduled Credit Committee meetings for the year ended 31 December 2016:

Members	Meetings held in 2016	Members attendance
Michelle Norris	14	9
Barry O'Leary	14	13
Padraic Cafferty	14	12
Tom Conroy	9*	8
Sean Cremen	14	14
John Hogan	12**	9
Michael Murray	14	10
Mary Lee Rhodes	9***	4

\* Appointed in April 2016, so only available to attend 9 meetings

\*\* Appointed in February 2016, so only available to attend 12 meetings

\*\*\* Appointed in May 2016, so only available to attend 9 meetings

## Induction and Professional Development

There is an induction process for new Directors. Its content varies between Executive and non-Executive Directors. In respect of the latter, the induction is designed to familiarise non-Executive Directors with the HFA and its operations, and comprises the provision of relevant briefing material including details of the HFA's strategic and operational plans, and a programme of meetings with the Chief Executive Officer and Management.

## Relations with stakeholders

The Directors and Management maintain an on-going dialogue with the HFA's stakeholders on strategic issues. Certain specified matters require the approval of the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government and / or the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform in respect of which on-going communication with the Ministers, through their Departments, is maintained.

## Dedicated email Address for Oireachtas Members

During the year a new dedicated email address was set up for Oireachtas Members to provide enquiries to the HFA. The HFA received one such enquiry in 2016. This was acknowledged and substantively responded to within the required timelines.

## Accountability and Audit

### *Accounts and Directors' Responsibilities*

The Directors are of the view that the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2016 is consistent with the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code principles requiring the presentation of 'a fair, balanced and understandable assessment of the Company's position and prospects'. The Directors have reviewed the 2016 Annual Report and believe that it presents a fair, balanced and understandable assessment of the HFA's position and prospects.

### *Viability statement*

The Directors have assessed the viability of the HFA taking into account its current position and the principal risks facing the HFA over the next two years to 31 December 2018. The Directors have assumed that a two year time span is an appropriate period for the annual assessment given that this is the key period of focus within the HFA's strategic planning process.

The assessment considered current financial performance, funding and liquidity management of the HFA, and the governance and organisation framework by which the HFA manages and seeks, where possible, to mitigate risk, as described in Note 20. An assessment of the principal risks facing the HFA including those that affect the operations, governance and internal control systems was also undertaken and considered, the details of which are included in Note 20. The Directors have a reasonable expectation, taking into account the HFA's current position, and subject to the identified risks, that the HFA will continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due over the two year period of assessment.

## Corporate Governance Compliance Statement

The Directors are pleased to report that the HFA has chosen to voluntarily comply with the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code, issued by the Financial Reporting Council, The Irish Corporate Governance Annex, issued by the Irish Stock Exchange and the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, during the year ended 31 December 2016, except for the following matters:

### *Current Board size and structure*

Non-executive Directors are appointed by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government for a period not to exceed five years. The Minister, after consultation with the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, may appoint a Chief Executive Officer and as a result provisions B.2.1 of the Code are not applicable to the HFA. This appointment process also addresses the HFA's requirement for determination of how a Director is regarded as independent/ non independent.

There are no planned or anticipated changes to the Board's size or structure.

The Government has brought in new arrangements for making appointments to State boards and bodies. In appointing the current Board of the HFA, the DHPCLG asked persons interested to apply on their website for vacancies on the boards of bodies under their aegis.

Ministers are not necessarily confined to those who make expressions of interest but will ensure all appointees have the relevant qualifications.

The Government also decided that those who are being proposed for appointment as Chairpersons of State boards are required to make themselves available to the appropriate Oireachtas Committee to discuss the approach they will take as Chairperson and their views about the future contribution of the body or board in question. Following that discussion, decisions are taken by the Minister or the Government, as appropriate, to confirm the nominee as chairperson. Professor Michelle Norris appeared before the Oireachtas Committee for the Environment, Transport, Culture and the Gaeltacht in 2012 for this purpose.

### *Senior Independent non-Executive Director*

Consideration has been given to the matter of designating a recognised senior Board member other than the Chairman to whom concerns can be conveyed and in view of the manner of appointment of Directors, the shareholding structure and existing Board procedures, in accordance with provision A.4.1 of the Code. It has been concluded that it is not appropriate in the circumstances to nominate a non-Executive Board member as a Senior Independent non-Executive Director. This will be kept under review.

## Corporate Governance (continued)

### *Independence of non-Executive Director*

Jackie Maguire was reappointed to the Board in 2012 having been originally appointed in 2002. The length of her service on the Board exceeds nine years and the UK Corporate Governance Code, under provision B.1.1, provides that an explanation be made to stakeholders concerning her continued independence. The Board considers that the integrity and independence of Ms. Maguire is beyond doubt. She is financially independent of the HFA and has other significant commercial commitments. Ms. Maguire has extensive experience of the unique environment in which the HFA operates. Her experience and long term perspective on the HFA's business has been most valuable to the Board. It is the Board's view that the independence of Ms. Maguire has not been compromised by the virtue of her period in office exceeding nine years. Ms Maguire retired from the Board on 31 December 2016.

### *Procedures for election and re-election*

Non-executive Directors are appointed by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government and hold office for such term as the Minister specifies when making the appointment but not for a period exceeding five years, unless the Minister sees fit to reappoint a Director for a second term, and, as a result, provision B.2.1 of the Code is not applicable to the HFA Directors' appointment. There is no policy for board renewal.

### *Director's Remuneration*

There is no internally developed remuneration policy, as the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government determines the level of remuneration for non-Executive Directors. The remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer is set in line with current guidelines for pay in the public service. Remuneration of non-executive Directors is not linked to performance and is disclosed above individually for all non- Executive Directors as fees in Note 9 to the Financial Statements. Recommendations in relation to the Chief Executive Officer's remuneration are proposed by the Remuneration Committee for consideration of the Board. However the Remuneration Committee did not meet in the current year.

### *External Review of the evaluation of Board Performance*

Provision B.6.2 of the UK Corporate Governance Code requires that the Board of FTSE 350 companies should be evaluated by an external facilitator at least every three years. The HFA does not consider this provision of the Code relevant to its present structure.

### *Internal audit*

Due to the size and nature of the HFA, the Internal Audit function is not free from operating responsibility. However, the Directors are satisfied that a sufficient level of independence is afforded to the internal audit function to allow it to carry out its duties in an objective and sufficiently independent manner.

### *Defined benefit scheme disclosure for Directors*

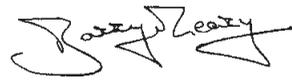
The Directors have complied with the disclosure guidelines set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, rather than following the UK Corporate Governance Code, in this respect, as they are considered to be more appropriate to the HFA.

On behalf of the Board,



**Professor Michelle Norris**  
Chairman of the Board

30 March 2017



**Barry O' Leary**  
Chief Executive Officer

30 March 2017

# Audit & Risk Committee Report

The purpose of the Audit & Risk Committee, as per its terms of reference, is to assist the Board in its general oversight of the HFA's financial reporting, internal controls and audit functions. The responsibilities of the Audit & Risk Committee are discharged through its meetings and receipt of reports from Management, the Risk Management Committee (consisting of the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Treasury and Company Secretary), external consultants, and the external and internal auditors. The Audit & Risk Committee has an agenda, as per its terms of reference, for the year that includes:

- monitoring the financial reporting process, integrity of the Financial Statements and any formal announcements relating to the HFA's financial performance;
- reviewing significant financial reporting judgements;
- reviewing any proposed changes to corporate governance practices and endorse the same for adoption by the Board;
- monitoring the statutory audit of the annual Financial Statements;
- reviewing the External Auditor's performance, objectivity, qualification and independence;
- making recommendations to the Board in relation to the appointment of the External Auditor, the approval of the Auditors' remuneration and terms of engagement;
- dealing with significant control issues raised by internal or External Audit;
- monitoring the effectiveness of the HFA's risk management and internal control arrangements; and,
- reviewing the cost of funds and interest rates charged accordingly.

In line with Provision C.3.4 of the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code, the Committee must formally advise the Board on whether the Annual Report and Financial Statements, taken as a whole, are fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the performance of the HFA, along with its business model and strategy.

Risk is overseen by the Risk Management Committee, consisting of the CEO, Head of Treasury and the Company Secretary, which report to the Audit & Risk Committee and to the Board on a regular basis. An annual review of the Risk Management and Framework Policy was performed by the Board at its 30 March 2017 meeting.

## *Scheduled Audit & Risk Committee meetings for the year ended 31 December 2016*

<b>Members</b>	<b>Meetings held in 2016</b>	<b>Directors attendance</b>
Padraic Cafferty	4	4
Gerry Leahy	4	2
Jackie Maguire	4	4
James Miley	4	3
Michelle Murphy	4	2
Mary Lee Rhodes	3*	2

*\*Appointed in April 2016 so only available to attend 3 meetings*

The Chief Executive Officer, Head of Treasury, and the Company Secretary and representatives of the External Auditors attend upon invitation.

## **Monitoring the integrity of the Financial Statements including significant judgements**

### *Financial Reporting*

The Audit & Risk Committee receives and considers regular reports on financial performance from Management during the course of the year, as well as directing the work of and receiving reports from the Internal Auditor and discussing the audit strategy and focus of the External Auditor.

Taking into account the information from these activities and views from the meetings of the Board of Directors, the Committee determined the key risks of financial reporting related to the availability of funding and going concern and provisions for doubtful debts arising on post-1986 loans in the context of current market conditions.

These issues were discussed with Management during the year and with the external auditor at the conclusion of the external audit of the Financial Statements.

## Audit & Risk Committee Report (continued)

Management represented to the Audit & Risk Committee that the HFA's audited Financial Statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applicable to the UK and the Republic of Ireland. This review included a discussion with Management of the quality, not merely the acceptability, of the HFA's accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant estimates and judgements and the clarity of disclosure in the HFA's Financial Statements, including the disclosures related to critical accounting estimates.

### *Availability of funding and going concern*

These Financial Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Guaranteed Note ("GN") Programme is guaranteed by the Minister for Finance and facilitates issuance out to a maximum maturity of thirty years from the date of issue. At end 2016 the average maturity of HFA debt was 2.3 years (2015: 2.8 years). This provides a stable funding base for the HFA's loan portfolio and significantly reduces short term liquidity risk for the HFA.

The liability maturity profile is expected to increase in 2017 as additional long term fixed rate funding is accessed via the GN Programme with the NTMA and the bilateral agreements with the European Investment Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank. In addition the HFA will continue to have access to the NTMA and the Bank overdraft for short term liquidity needs, as required. The Audit & Risk Committee is satisfied with the disclosures of the appropriateness of the going concern assumption and access to funding that are made in these Financial Statements.

### *Misstatements*

Management confirmed to the Audit & Risk Committee that it was not aware of any material or immaterial misstatements made intentionally to achieve a particular presentation.

### *Interaction with Management*

The Audit & Risk Committee, as part of the approval of the Financial Statements, obtains and reviews a paper prepared by Management which sets out the significant risks impacting the HFA, Management's detailed assessment of these risks and how they are mitigated. The Committee challenges the assumptions and judgements contained in these management reports prior to submitting the Financial Statements to the Board for approval. See pages 45 to 46 of

the Financial Statements for further information relating to the Audit & Risk Committee's ongoing responsibilities in respect of HFA's internal controls.

### **Recommendation of approval of Financial Statements**

As a result of these reviews and discussions with Management and Internal Audit, and the reports to the Audit & Risk Committee of the External Auditor, the Audit & Risk Committee has reported to the Board that it considers the Financial Statements, taken as a whole, to be fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for stakeholders to assess the HFA's performance, business model and strategy. The Audit & Risk Committee also recommended the inclusion of the audited Financial Statements in the HFA's Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2016.

### **External Audit**

#### *Audit Firm Tendering*

The Committee acknowledges the provisions contained in the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code in respect of audit tendering. As per the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code, FTSE 350 companies are now required to put their external audit contract out to tender at least every 10 years. The Committee has considered the audit tendering provisions outlined in the 2014 UK Corporate Governance Code. Given the size of the HFA it is not obliged to tender. However, in 2015 the HFA continued its practice of tendering for the provision of external audit services, to cover the 2015-2017 external audit period and JPA Brenson Lawlor were the tender winners. The Board recommended the appointment of JPA Brenson Lawlor as independent External Auditor for a tenure of 3 years.

#### *Ensuring the independence of our external auditor*

The Audit & Risk Committee believes the issue of auditor independence is taken very seriously and is reviewed annually. The Audit & Risk Committee has discussed with JPA Brenson Lawlor and Management regarding the firm's independence and there were no issues to note.

In 2016, apart from audit work, the HFA did not award any non-audit services to its independent external auditor. The Audit & Risk Committee via its terms of reference reviews non-audit work performed by the external auditor and confirms that there is no adverse effect on actual or perceived independence or objectivity of the audit work itself.

The Board of the HFA monitors the provision of non-audit services by the external auditor and the Audit committee through the ongoing review of administration expenses. Given that there was no non audit services provided during 2016, therefore there was no conflict with auditor independence.

*Fees for audit & non-audit services to the HFA's independent auditors JPA Brenson Lawlor*

Year ended	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
Audit of financial statements	26	31
Tax advisory services	-	-
Other services	-	-
<b>Total Auditors remuneration</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>

*Liaising with external auditors*

The Audit & Risk Committee provides a link between the Board and the External Auditor and is independent of the HFA's Management. JPA Brenson Lawlor, the HFA's statutory auditor, is responsible for performing an independent audit of the HFA's Financial Statements in accordance with Standards of Auditing in the UK and Ireland. The Audit & Risk Committee has ultimate authority and responsibility for selecting, compensating, evaluating, and, when appropriate, replacing the HFA's independent audit firm. In accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, the Auditor, JPA Brenson Lawlor, Chartered Accountants, will continue in office.

The Audit & Risk Committee pre-approves all services to be provided by the external auditors. Pre-approval includes audit services, audit-related services, taxation advice, and other services.

The Audit & Risk Committee also has the authority to engage its own outside advisors, including experts in particular areas of accounting, as it determines appropriate, apart from counsel or advisors hired by Management.

*Assessment of external audit process*

The performance of the External Auditor is reviewed annually by the Committee at the end of the annual audit cycle. The review encompasses taking into account feedback from Management and staff of the HFA involved in the audit process together with a review of the level of service provided by JPA Brenson Lawlor to the HFA. Based on its consideration of the feedback, together with its own on-going assessment, for example through the quality of the external auditors' reports to, and the audit partner's interaction with the Committee, the Audit & Risk Committee is satisfied that JPA Brenson Lawlor continues to provide an effective audit service.

**Risk Management**

As prescribed by the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, a risk management policy framework, overseen by the Audit & Risk Committee, was adopted by the Board and a formal Risk Management Committee, consisting of Senior Management, has been operational since 2009. The Chief Executive Officer, Head of Treasury and Company Secretary collegially manage the risk of the HFA, in place of a Chief Risk Officer, as permitted under the Code of Practice. The Risk Management Framework and Policy are regularly reviewed by the Committee. The monitoring of risk remains an ever present item at Board meetings. The HFA is a financial business and the key risks associated with the business are therefore essentially financial (i.e. credit, market and liquidity risks) and also treasury-related risk. These risks are outlined in more detail in Note 20 of our Financial Statements. The HFA has developed a risk management process which includes constant reviews of its loans and advances portfolio and an on-going review of treasury related risk, which allows it to manage these risks. The Board of the HFA adopted a Credit Policy regarding lending to AHBs in 2013 which is regularly updated, most recently in October 2016.

## Audit & Risk Committee Report (continued)

Residual risk is associated principally with fixed rate borrowings. This is dealt with by a reserves and margin policy as detailed in the HFA's Policies and Procedures Manual and also within the Risk Register of the Risk Management Framework and Policy. The HFA carries out a comprehensive annual review of risks which is approved by the Board and forms part of the HFA's interest rate and reserves policy for subsequent years. The Board is informed on a quarterly basis of developments and corrective action, if required, is taken.

The Audit & Risk Committee assesses material risks namely:

- funding, liquidity and going concern risks;
- credit risk associated with post 1986 local authority lending;
- credit risk associated with Approved Housing Body (AHB) lending;
- credit risk associated with pre 1986 local authority lending; and,
- funding risks in relation to the defined benefit pension scheme.

### *Pre 27 May 1986 Loans*

With regard to the HFA's lending to local authorities, the HFA is liable for any credit losses that may arise on pre May 1986 mortgages which are secured by the underlying mortgage property and mortgage protection insurance. Of the €11.3 million of pre May 1986 loans outstanding at 31 December 2016 (2015: €12.3 million), only €9.1 million (2015: €10.3 million) of these are still due to the local authorities from the underlying borrowers and there is a total impairment provision of €2.5 million.

The gap of €2.2 million (2015: €2.0 million) has arisen as the local authorities are not required to remit in full to the HFA monies received in relation to redemptions and repayments as allowed under the terms of the loan facility. The Board is of the opinion that, similar to post 1986 loans, in substance, no credit risk arises, other than sovereign risk, for this funding mismatch. The local authorities hold collateral against the remaining €9.1 million of loans advanced pre 27 May 1986, in the form of mortgage interests over property. Only in the event of that collateral not being sufficient to discharge the debt is the HFA liable for any impairment losses which may arise.

Individual borrowers are required to hold Mortgage Protection Insurance ('MPI') on their property. MPI covers the borrower in the event of death or disability on the loan amount outstanding, excluding arrears.

### *Post 27 May 1986 Loans*

The legal relationship of post May 1986 loan advances is with local authorities and is not dependent on changes in house prices or other economic variations. In the context of:

- (a) local authorities being statutory bodies under the Local Government Act, 2001 and other enactments;
- (b) their revenues or funds being security for the due payment to the HFA of all amounts due by local authorities (as set out in the agreement between each local authority and the HFA);
- (c) all loans advanced to local authorities are approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government;
- (d) the Board's understanding that central Government supports local authorities in meeting their obligations to the HFA; and,
- (e) the HFA has not experienced any loan losses on its loans advanced to local authorities after 1986;

the Board is of the opinion that, in substance, no credit risk arises, other than sovereign risk, on loans advanced to local authorities on or after 27 May 1986 and no loan loss provisions are recorded in respect of these loans. The Audit & Risk Committee is satisfied with the use of this assumption in the preparation of these Financial Statements and with the disclosure of these circumstances. At 31 December 2016, following the renegotiation of the terms of certain loans, all local authorities were up to date with their scheduled repayments on this portfolio (see Note 20(a)). The HFA has not experienced any losses on its post May 1986 loans advanced to local authorities.

### *Approved Housing Bodies Loans*

Up until 2011, the Government grant-funded AHBs, through local authorities, for social housing. There was a rationale for the introduction of loan finance to replace grants, and for lending directly to AHBs to enable the timely completion of social housing projects. The HFA was given a central role in the provision of loan funding for the sector, in the absence of competitive rates and tenors, at the time, in the market.

The HFA established a process for the assessment of AHBs for 'Certified Body' status, i.e. deemed suitable for the provision of loan finance. The assessment process for AHBs is in two parts. The first is a market standard corporate review which uses a scoring matrix to assess current performance, corporate governance, and development & financial plans. The application is then brought before the HFA's Credit Committee for consideration. Following this, applicants are then awarded Certified Body status and can apply for funding on a case-by-case basis. Project applications are supported by the State funded Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) and a Payment and Availability Agreement (PAA).

In December 2015 the HFA launched a new lending initiative specifically targeted at Tier 2 AHBs which are not currently Certified Bodies. This product targets AHBs with lending requirements from a minimum of €250,000 up to €1,500,000 and is specifically tailored towards property acquisitions. The lending is offered on a variable interest rate basis over 30 years or with any of the fixed rates available (reverting to variable thereafter). Tier 2 AHBs who apply for the new product will not have to undergo a full HFA credit review process.

From a relatively slow start there has been a significant growth in AHB activity in 2016 and into 2017, strongly supported by the HFA's increasing range of variable and fixed rate offerings including Acquisition, New Build and Mortgage-to-Rent products. In particular the European Investment Bank ("EIB") and Council of Europe Development Bank ("CEB") financing has facilitated the introduction of 25 year fixed rate funding at a current rate of 2.75%, which has significantly de-risked the interest rate environment for AHBs borrowing from the HFA. The EIB and CEB has indicated that additional financing will be made available on the same terms if required. The HFA remains confident that it can play a central role in ensuring that any development plans can be supported with competitive and flexible financing which will meet the needs of the AHB sector.

### *Treasury*

The HFA raises funding, with the support of a Guarantee from the Minister of Finance, largely through the NTMA, local authorities and international agencies such as the European Investment Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank. Marginal funding is raised via the NTMA

using the Guaranteed Note Programme under an agreed pricing arrangement as approved by the Board.

### **Review of internal controls**

The Directors have responsibility for maintaining a system of internal control which provides reasonable assurance of effective and efficient operations, internal financial control and compliance with laws and regulations. In this context the Audit & Risk Committee has regard to what, in its judgement, is appropriate to the HFA's business, to the materiality of the financial and operational risks inherent in the business and to the relative costs and benefits of implementing specific controls. The HFA has a policy outlined in its Policies and Procedures Manual whereby employees can raise concerns, in confidence, about possible irregularities in financial reporting or other matters.

The Board has devolved the task of reviewing risks, in detail, to the Committee, and this is a standing agenda item for meetings of the Audit & Risk Committee. The Audit & Risk Committee subsequently reports and makes recommendations to the Board on its findings, with the Board tasked with overseeing risk and considering recommendations from the Committee. At most of the meetings of the Audit & Risk Committee a review is undertaken of one area of risk as detailed in Section A4 of the HFA's Risk Register, contained within its Risk Management Framework and Policy.

The HFA's system of internal control is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against the risk of material errors, fraud or losses occurring. It is possible that internal controls can be circumvented or overridden. Further, due to changes in conditions, the effectiveness of an internal control system may vary over time and the management of the HFA endeavours to amend internal control systems in line with changes in the underlying business in a timely manner.

The Internal Auditor identifies and evaluates the HFA's internal control systems as a basis for reporting upon its adequacy and effectiveness. An approved plan is agreed with the Audit & Risk Committee and the Internal Auditor plans, performs and evaluates their work based around this schedule. If significant weaknesses are found with internal controls within any sample tested then the Internal Auditor reverts to carrying out substantive tests on the areas

## Audit & Risk Committee Report (continued)

where the controls were found to be ineffective/defective. The Audit & Risk Committee reviews the reports carried out by the Internal Auditor on a twice yearly basis and the Internal Auditor also holds a yearly private meeting with the Committee, without Management present, where any issues can be raised by either the Internal Auditor or the Committee.

The Directors have established an organisational structure with defined responsibility for internal control for each element of the HFA's business and this, together with the associated responsibility for reviewing periodically the effectiveness of such internal control, is formally reported upon by the Chief Executive Officer once a year and is subject to testing by Internal Audit throughout the year with reports issued to the Audit & Risk Committee twice a year.

The key elements of the system of internal control are as follows:

- (a) a clearly defined organisational structure with appropriate segregation of duties and limits of authority;
- (b) internal financial controls documented in a Policies and Procedures Manual which is reviewed semi-annually and any subsequent changes approved by the Board;
- (c) clearly defined limits and procedures for financial expenditure including procurement and capital expenditure;
- (d) annual budgets (and means of comparing actual results with budgets during the year) and long term plans for the HFA identifying key risks and opportunities;
- (e) monthly management accounts prepared and presented to the Board;
- (f) an Internal Auditor reviewing key financial systems and controls;
- (g) an Audit & Risk Committee dealing with any significant control issues raised by internal or External Audit; and,
- (h) the preparation and issue of financial reports, including the Annual Report, managed by the Finance Section with oversight from the Audit & Risk Committee. The financial reporting process is controlled using documented accounting policies. Whilst the Directors have the responsibility for the preparation of the Financial Statements, the Directors are supported by Senior Management and professional advisors, such as

an actuary, who have responsibility and accountability to provide information in keeping with agreed policies, including the completion and reconciliations of financial information to processing systems. Its quality is underpinned by arrangements for segregation of duties to facilitate independent checks on the integrity of the financial reports. The financial information for each year is subject to review by Senior Management prior to being submitted to the Audit & Risk Committee. The Annual Report is also reviewed by the Audit & Risk Committee in advance of being presented to the Board for its approval.

The Audit & Risk Committee has reviewed and discussed with Management its assessment and report on the effectiveness of the HFA's internal control over financial reporting as of 31 December 2016.

### Discussions with the Auditor

The Audit & Risk Committee has received and discussed a report from the External Auditor on the findings from the external audit engagement, including those relating to the risks noted above. The External Auditor reported to the Audit & Risk Committee the misstatements that they had found in the course of their work and no material amounts remain unadjusted.

### Committee Effectiveness

The effectiveness of the Committee is reviewed on an annual basis by both the Board and the Committee itself. Following such reviews, the Committee is satisfied to advise that it is considered to have discharged its duties, as per its terms of reference, in an effective and efficient manner.

### Conclusion

After reviewing the presentations and reports from Management and Internal Audit and taking into account views expressed by the External Auditor, the Audit & Risk Committee is satisfied that the Financial Statements appropriately address the critical judgements and key estimates, both in respect to the amounts reported and the disclosures. The Audit & Risk Committee is also satisfied that it has sufficiently scrutinised and challenged the significant assumptions used for determining the value of assets and liabilities.

# Independent Auditor's Report

## to the Members of Housing Finance Agency plc.

We have audited the Financial Statements of Housing Finance Agency plc (HFA) for the year ended 31 December 2016 as set out on pages 50 to 87 which comprise the Income Statement, Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Accounting Policies and the Notes to the Financial Statements. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland). Our audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK and Ireland).

### Opinion and conclusions arising from our audit:

#### 1. Our opinion on the Financial Statements is unmodified

In our opinion the Financial Statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2016 and of its surplus for the year then ended; and,
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework and, in particular, the Companies Act 2014.

#### 2. Our assessment of risks of material misstatement

The risks of material misstatement detailed in this section of the report are those risks that we have deemed, in our professional judgement, to have had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in our audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. Our audit procedures relating to these risks were designed in the context of our audit of the Financial Statements as a whole. Our opinion on the Financial Statements is not modified with respect to any of these risks, and we do not express an opinion on these individual risks.

In arriving at our audit opinion above on the Financial Statements, the risks of the material that had the greatest effect on the audit were as follows:

#### *Existence and Recoverability of Loans*

There is a risk that loans on the HFA's loan book do not exist, or that funds have been disbursed to bodies other than the local authorities and approved housing bodies. There is also a risk that loans may not be recoverable and that credit risk arises on the Agency's loan book, particularly post May 1986 loans which account for the substantial portion of the Agency's loan book.

We selected a sample of loans outstanding at the balance sheet date, including loans that were advanced during the year. We inspected the documentation to support each of these loans, and we performed recalculations of the amounts outstanding on each of the loans at the balance sheet date, referring to key inputs such as interest rates and repayment history.

In all cases we discussed the status of each loan with Management. In relation to recoverability we considered the disclosures made in the Audit & Risk Committee Report in relation to the recoverability of post May 1986 loans in particular. We are satisfied that management's assessment that there is no credit risk on post May 1986 loans is appropriate.

#### *Going Concern status of the HFA*

The HFA has significant liabilities on its Balance Sheet at 31 December 2016, The total of debt securities and bank loans at year-end amounts to €3.61bn, These loans are used to fund the loans made to local authorities and approved housing bodies which total €3.75bn at year-end, There is a risk that if the HFA was unable to make capital or interest repayments on any of its external loans, it would not be able to access the appropriate funding to finance its operations, In addition in the event of default, if the loans were called in the HFA may not have the resources to settle its obligations.

We have held detailed discussions with members of the HFA's Treasury Team in order to understand how funding requirements are monitored on a day to day basis. We obtained the underlying loan agreements and we inspected the repayment terms. We tested repayments made and we ensured that the year-end position on these loans is correctly stated in accordance with the terms of the underlying agreements, We also obtained external third party confirmation of the year-end position on all of the HFA's external borrowings and we ensured that the amounts disclosed in the financial statements were appropriate.

# Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

## 3. Our Application of materiality and an overview of the scope of our audit

The materiality for the Financial Statements as a whole was set at €18.81 million. This has been calculated with reference to a benchmark of total assets, which we consider to be one of the principal benchmarks within the Financial Statements relevant to members of the HFA in assessing financial performance.

We report to the Audit & Risk Committee all corrected and uncorrected misstatements we identified through our audit in excess of €470,000; in addition to other audit misstatements below that threshold that we believe warranted reporting on qualitative grounds.

## 4. We have nothing to report in respect of matters on which we are required to report by exception

ISAs (UK and Ireland) require that we report to you if, based on the knowledge we acquired during our audit, we have identified information in the Annual Report that contains a material inconsistency with either that knowledge or the Financial Statements, a material misstatement of fact, or that is otherwise misleading.

In particular, we are required to report to you if:

- We have identified any inconsistencies between the knowledge we acquired during our audit and the Directors' Statement that they consider the Annual Report is fair, balanced and understandable and provides information necessary for shareholders to assess the entity's performance, business model or strategy; or
- The Governance and Oversight - Corporate Governance Statement does not appropriately disclose those matters that we communicated to the Audit & Risk Committee.

In addition, the Companies Act 2014 require us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of Directors' Remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

## 5. Our conclusions on other matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014 are set out below

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the Financial Statements to be readily and properly audited. The Financial Statements are in agreement with the accounting records. In our opinion, the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the Financial Statements.

## 6. Basis of our report, responsibilities and restrictions on use

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibility Statement set out on pages 33 and 34, the Directors are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the Financial Statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those Standards require us to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the Financial Statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the HFA's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Directors; and the overall presentation of the Financial Statements. In addition, we read all financial and non-financial information in the Directors' Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited Financial Statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we became aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Whilst an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK and Ireland) is designed to provide reasonable assurance of identifying material misstatements or omissions it is not guaranteed to do so. Rather, the Auditor plans the audit to determine the extent of testing needed to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements does not exceed materiality for the Financial Statements as a whole. This testing requires us to conduct significant audit work on a broad range of assets, liabilities, income and expense as well as devoting significant time of the most experienced members of the audit team, in particular the engagement partner responsible for the audit, to subjective areas of the accounting and reporting.

This report is made solely to the HFA's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the HFA's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the HFA, and the HFA's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**Thomas Mc Donald**

**for and on behalf of  
JPA Brenson Lawlor  
Chartered Accountants, Statutory Audit Firm**

Argyle Square  
Morehampton Road  
Donnybrook  
Dublin 4  
Ireland

*30 March 2017*

# Income Statement

	Note	31 December 2016 €'000	31 December 2015 €'000
Interest income	6	57,095	70,251
Interest expense	7	(33,366)	(47,003)
<b>Net interest income</b>		<b>23,729</b>	23,248
Administration expenditure	8	(1,277)	(1,462)
Operating lease	8	(197)	(184)
Depreciation on tangible assets	12	(102)	(21)
<b>Gain on ordinary activities before finance income/expense</b>		<b>22,153</b>	21,581
Finance income	10	2	10
Finance expense	10	-	(10)
<b>Gain on ordinary activities after finance income</b>		<b>22,155</b>	21,581

The accompanying notes on pages 55-87 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

On behalf of the Board,



**Professor Michelle Norris**  
Chairman of the Board

30 March 2017



**Barry O'Leary**  
Chief Executive Officer

30 March 2017

# Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note	31 December 2016 €'000	31 December 2015 €'000
<b>Gain on ordinary activities after finance income</b>		<b>22,155</b>	21,581
Actuarial (loss)/gain	19	<b>(292)</b>	628
<b>Total Comprehensive income for the financial year</b>		<b>21,863</b>	22,209

# Statement of Financial Position

		<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
<b>Assets</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	11	<b>5,753</b>	199
Property, plant and equipment	12	<b>236</b>	225
Loans and advances to local authorities and approved housing bodies	13	<b>3,752,330</b>	3,739,166
Other debtors and receivables	14	<b>4,330</b>	4,503
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>3,762,649</b>	3,744,093
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Bank overdraft	11	-	6,610
Debt securities in issue	15, 16, 17	<b>3,453,372</b>	3,493,791
Bank loans	18	<b>158,679</b>	114,946
Pension scheme deficit	19	<b>311</b>	7
Other payables		<b>245</b>	560
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>3,612,607</b>	3,615,914
<b>Equity</b>			
Called up share capital	22	<b>39</b>	39
Retained surplus	23	<b>150,003</b>	128,140
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>150,042</b>	128,179
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>		<b>3,762,649</b>	3,744,093

The accompanying notes on pages 55-87 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

On behalf of the Board,



**Professor Michelle Norris**  
Chairman of the Board

30 March 2017



**Barry O'Leary**  
Chief Executive Officer

30 March 2017

# Statement of Changes in Equity

	<b>Share Capital</b>	<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>€ '000</b>	<b>€ '000</b>	<b>€ '000</b>
Balance as at 1 January 2016 as previously reported	39	128,140	128,179
Profit for the year	-	22,155	22,155
Actuarial gain on defined benefit pension schemes	-	(292)	(292)
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2016</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>150,003</b>	<b>150,042</b>

# Statement of Cash Flows

	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Profit for the financial year	<b>22,155</b>	21,581
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Amortisation of premium discount on liabilities	<b>360</b>	360
Depreciation	<b>102</b>	21
Pension actuarial costs	<b>(292)</b>	634
Impairment charges	<b>250</b>	250
Net (increase)/decrease in loans and advances to local authorities and approved housing bodies	<b>(13,144)</b>	553,965
Net increase in other creditors	<b>(95)</b>	-
Net decrease in debtors	<b>(11)</b>	(431)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>9,325</b>	576,380
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	<b>(114)</b>	(147)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(114)</b>	(147)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Repayment of borrowings	<b>2,953</b>	(600,321)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>2,953</b>	(600,321)
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>12,164</b>	(24,088)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>(6,411)</b>	17,677
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>5,753</b>	(6,411)

# Notes to the financial statements

## 1. Statutory Information

The Housing Finance Agency is a public limited company domiciled in Ireland, registration number 87513. The registered office is located at 46, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

## 2. Compliance with Accounting Standards

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland, issued by the Financial Reporting Council. There were no material departures from that Standard.

## 3. Accounting Policies

### Basis of preparation

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the HFA's Financial Statements.

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets.

The Financial Statements comply with generally accepted accounting practice in Ireland, which includes compliance with Irish law and FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, issued by the Financial Reporting Council, as promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these Financial Statements.

Due to the nature of the HFA's business and the type of transactions it is engaged in, the Directors have adapted the Income Statement to suit the circumstances of the business in accordance with Section 3, Part II of the Companies Act 2014. The Directors have chosen to present their Financial Statements in a format which is used by similar financial institutions.

### Access to Funding and Going Concern

The Financial Statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. In making its assessment of the HFA's ability to continue as a going concern the Board of Directors has taken into consideration the significant risks and uncertainties that may impact the HFA, in particular with regard to difficulties which may arise in relation to access to funding.

The vast majority of the HFA's loans have a variable rate structure, and the funding acquired to provide these loans is similarly structured. The HFA raises the majority of its funding via the National Treasury Management Agency (NTMA) through the HFA's Guaranteed Notes (GN) programme. The GN programme is guaranteed by the Minister for Finance and facilitates issuance out to a maximum maturity of thirty years from the date of issue.

In January 2016 a new pricing arrangement with the NTMA was introduced whereby the interest rate for new issues (fixed or floating) is priced off the Irish Government bond yield curve for the respective maturity plus a margin agreed between both parties. At end 2016 the average maturity of HFA debt was 2.3 years (2015: 2.8 years). The NTMA had purchased €2.03bn in GNs at 31 December 2016 (2015: €2.42bn).

The Directors are satisfied that there is a sufficient range of funding options available, to allow the HFA continue to provide ongoing financing to its customers and to continue its operations into the foreseeable future. The Directors are also assured that, given the average life of the HFA's borrowing is significantly longer than 18 months from the date of approval of these Financial Statements, it continues to be appropriate to prepare the Financial Statements on a going concern basis and that the HFA will continue in business for the foreseeable future.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## 3. Accounting Policies (continued)

### Functional and presentation currency

These Financial Statements are presented in euro, which is the HFA's functional currency. Financial information presented in euro has been rounded to the nearest thousand except where indicated.

### Use of estimates and judgements

The preparation of Financial Statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in any future periods affected.

The judgements that have a significant effect on the Financial Statements and those with a risk of material adjustment in the next year are in the areas of impairment losses that may arise on loans and advances issued before 1986 and on loans to approved housing bodies.

### Impairment loss on loans and advances

The HFA lends to local authorities, approved housing bodies and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). These borrowers have different credit risk profiles. A more detailed explanation regarding this can be found in Note 20 (a).

The most significant judgement on which the Financial Statements have been prepared relates to the Directors' view of the credit risk of loans issued post 1986. In the context of (a) local authorities being statutory bodies under the Local Government Act, 2001 and other enactments; (b) their revenues or funds being security for the due payment to the HFA of all amounts due by local authorities (as set out in the agreement between each local authority and the HFA); (c) all loans advanced to local authorities are approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government; (d) the Board's understanding that central Government supports local authorities in meeting their obligations to the HFA; and, (e) the HFA has not experienced any loan losses on its loans advanced to local authorities after 1986, the Board is of the opinion that, in substance, no credit risk arises, other than sovereign risk, on loans advanced to local authorities on or after 27 May 1986 and no loan loss provisions are recorded in respect of these loans.

Other areas of estimates which have a less significant impact on the HFA's financial reporting include impairment losses that may arise on loans issued before May 1986 and loans to AHBs. The HFA is liable for any credit losses that may arise on the €9.1 million (2015: €10.3 million) still due to the local authorities from the underlying borrowers on pre-May 1986 mortgages which are secured by the underlying mortgage property. A collective provision of €2.46 million has been recognised in respect of these accounts. Refer to Note 13 for further details. Direct lending to AHBs commenced in 2012 with the total balances as at 31 December 2016 of €190.88 million (2015: €67.16 million). No loan losses were incurred on loans to AHBs and therefore no loan loss allowances were made.

### Employee benefits

The HFA operates a defined benefit pension scheme covering all employees that commenced employment prior to 2013. Four employees, recruited since 1 January 2013, are included in the Single Public Service Pension Scheme in line with government policy. The market value of the assets and actuarial value of the liabilities of the HFA's pension scheme are evaluated annually. This involves Management, with the advice of an external actuary, making assumptions regarding the future as to price inflation, salary and pension increases, return on investments and employee mortality. There are acceptable ranges in which these estimates validly fall. The impact on the results for the period and financial position could be materially different if alternative assumptions were used. Further details are disclosed in Note 19 to the Financial Statements.

### 3. Accounting Policies (continued)

The HFA's net deficit or surplus in respect of its defined benefit plan represents the shortfall or surplus, respectively, for the fair value of the plan assets over the present value of the future benefits owed to employees in return for their service in the current and prior periods. The discount rate used is the market yield on high quality corporate bonds at the year-end date that have maturity dates approximating to the terms of the HFA's obligations. The calculation is performed by a qualified independent actuary using the projected unit cost method. Actuarial gains and losses are taken directly to other comprehensive income in the year in which they are incurred. The impact on the Income Statement includes current service cost, past service cost, the interest cost of the plan liabilities and the expected return on plan assets.

#### Financial assets and liabilities

##### *Recognition*

The HFA initially recognises, at fair value, loans and advances, deposits, debt securities issued and index-linked bonds on the date that they are originated.

##### *Derecognition*

The HFA derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows on the financial asset in a transaction in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred. Any interest in transferred financial assets that is created or retained by the HFA is recognised as a separate asset or liability.

The HFA derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled or expire. The HFA may enter into transactions whereby it transfers assets recognised on its Statement of Financial Position, but retains both all risks and rewards of the transferred assets or a portion of them. If all or substantially all risks and rewards are retained, then the transferred assets are not derecognised from the Statement of financial position.

#### Financial Instruments

In previous financial years, the HFA opted-in to the requirements of FRS 26 'Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement'. FRS 26 implements the recognition, measurement and hedge accounting requirements of the International Standard IAS 39 'Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement'. IAS 39 requires Financial Assets to be classified into one of four categories. The HFA classified its loans to Local Authorities and approved housing bodies under the category of 'Loans and Receivables' in accordance with IAS 39. Therefore the HFA's loans were initially recognised at fair value of the consideration paid, and were subsequently measured at amortised cost less provision for impairment. The related income on loans and receivables was recognised on an effective interest rate basis. The Agency has considered the requirements of Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in deciding on the accounting treatment for its loans to Local Authorities and approved housing bodies.

#### Pre May 1986 Loans

The HFA is liable for any credit losses that arise on pre May 1986 mortgages which are secured by the underlying mortgage property. The Agency considers that these loans fall under the category of asset-backed securities in accordance with Paragraph 11.6 of FRS 102, and therefore they fall under the scope of section 12 which deals with complex financial instruments.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## 3. Accounting Policies (continued)

### Post May 1986 Loans

The HFA notes the definitions included in paragraphs 11.8 and 11.9 of FRS 102 and considers that its post May 1986 loans to local authorities constitute debt instruments in which the contractual return to the Agency is a fixed amount and a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate, and therefore meet the definition of basic financial instruments.

### Loans to Approved Housing Bodies

The HFA commenced lending to approved housing bodies in 2012. The HFA considers that the loans advanced to AHBs meet the definition of complex financial instruments on the basis that the loans are secured by way of charges over the underlying properties.

### Consideration of accounting treatment

Section 11 of FRS 102 requires that Basic Financial Instruments be measured initially at the transaction price, and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. This method of accounting represents no difference from what the HFA previously applied and therefore would not give rise to any transition adjustments. Section 11 applies to the most significant part of the Agency's loan books, dealing with the loans advanced to local authorities post May 1986. Section 12 of FRS 102 requires that complex financial instruments be initially recognised at fair value, and subsequently should also be measured at fair value at the end of each reporting period. As noted above the loans that would fall into this category comprise the HFA's loans advanced to local authorities prior to May 1986, and its loans to approved housing bodies. These loans collectively account for a very small portion of the HFA's total loan book.

The HFA considers that the nature of its business means that it meets the requirements to be classified as a Public Benefit Entity in accordance with FRS 100. In accordance with paragraph 11.1A of FRS 102, a Public Benefit Entity that makes or receives public benefit entity concessionary loans may refer to the paragraphs of Section 34 of the standard for the accounting requirements for these loans. In so far as it applies to the HFA, the standard defines such a loan as one that is below the prevailing market rate of interest, is not payable on demand, and is for the purpose of furthering the objectives of the Public Benefit Entity. Section 34 of the standard allows the user to apply the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of Section 11 or Section 12. The HFA has therefore opted to apply the provisions of Section 34 and continue to account for its loans at fair value on initial measurement, and at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. This applies the principles of Section 11 of the Standard covering Basic Financial Instruments.

In relation to all other Financial Instruments, the HFA is satisfied that these meet the definition of Basic Financial Instruments and therefore should continue to be accounted for in the same manner as in previous years. This does not give rise to any transition adjustments.

### Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are set off and the net amount presented in the Statement of financial position only when the HFA has a legal right to set off the amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. Income and expenses are presented on a net basis when the HFA has the intent and ability to set off the amounts.

### Amortised cost measurement

The amortised cost of a financial asset or liability is the amount at which the financial asset or liability is measured at initial recognition, minus principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation using the effective interest rate method of any difference between the initial amount recognised and the maturity amount, minus any reduction for impairment.

### 3. Accounting Policies (continued)

#### Fair value measurement

The determination of fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities is based on quoted market prices or dealer price quotations for financial instruments traded in active markets. Quoted market value for assets is based on bid prices, where available. For all other financial instruments fair value is determined by using valuation techniques. For securities where market quotes are not available, the HFA uses estimation techniques to determine fair value. Estimation techniques used include discounted cash flows, internal models that utilise observable market data or comparisons with other securities that are substantially the same.

#### Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and that the HFA does not intend to sell immediately or in the near term.

Loans and receivables are initially measured at fair value of the consideration paid and are subsequently held at amortised cost less provision for impairment. Income on loans and receivables is recognised on an effective interest rate basis.

#### Identification and measurement of impairment

At each year-end date the HFA assesses whether there is objective evidence that financial assets not carried at fair value through profit or loss are impaired. Financial assets are impaired when objective evidence demonstrates that a loss event has occurred after the initial recognition of the asset, and that the loss event has an impact on the future cash flows of the asset that can be estimated reliably.

The HFA considers evidence of impairment at both a specific asset and collective level. All individually significant financial assets are assessed for specific impairment. All significant assets found not to be specifically impaired are then collectively assessed for any impairment that has been incurred but not yet reported. Assets that are not individually significant are then collectively assessed for impairment by grouping together financial assets (carried at amortised cost) with similar risk characteristics. Impairment losses on assets carried at amortised cost are measured as the difference between the carrying amount of the financial assets and the present value of estimated cash flows discounted at the assets' original effective interest rate. Losses are recognised in the Income Statement and reflected in an allowance account against loans and advances.

All loans that are assessed for renegotiation are tested for impairment and where a loan is deemed to be impaired, an appropriate provision is raised to cover the difference between the loan's carrying value and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the loan's original effective interest rate. Where the terms on a renegotiated loan which has been subject to an impairment provision differ substantially from the original loan terms either in a quantitative or qualitative analysis, the original loan is derecognised and a new loan is recognised at fair value.

Any difference between the carrying amount of the loan and the fair value of the new renegotiated loan terms is recognised in the income statement.

Interest on the impaired asset continues to be recognised and a write-off is made when all or part of a loan is deemed uncollectible or forgiven. Write-offs are charged against previously established provisions for impairment or directly to the Income Statement.

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## 3. Accounting Policies (continued)

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash at bank and on hand, and short term investments which are primarily promissory notes or commercial paper with maturities of three months or less at date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Income from such investments is recognised on an effective interest rate basis over the period to maturity.

### Property, plant and equipment

Depreciation has been computed to write off the cost of tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives using the following rates:

Computer equipment	Straight line over 3 years
Other equipment	Straight line over 5 years

Estimates of expected useful life are reviewed at the end of each accounting period. Where necessary a provision is also made for any impairment of tangible fixed assets. The carrying amount of the tangible fixed assets is reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If such an indication exists then the asset is tested for impairment by comparing the carrying amount to the recoverable amount, which is the higher of the amount that can be obtained from selling the asset less costs or its value in use. Impairment losses are recognised in Other Comprehensive Income.

### Interest receivable and payable

Interest receivable and payable on financial instruments classified as loans and advances and financial liabilities at amortised cost, is recognised on an effective interest rate basis. This calculation takes into account interest and commissions, paid or received, that are integral to the yield as well as incremental transaction costs or, where appropriate, a shorter period to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability at initial recognition.

The effective interest rate is the rate that discounts the expected future cash flows over the expected life of the financial instrument.

### Foreign currencies

Transactions denominated in currencies other than euro are recorded at the rates ruling at the date of those transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at the rates ruling at the year-end date. The exchange differences are dealt with in the Income Statement.

### Segment reporting

The HFA has only one type of operation carried out in only one country. Management reviews the operations of HFA as a whole and does not distinguish operating segments. As a result, operations are reported in these Financial Statements as a single segment.

### Operating lease

Operating lease costs are disclosed separately in the Income Statement on an accruals basis over the period of the lease using the straight line method. Operating lease incentives are recognised on the Statement of financial position and released on a straight line basis over the period to the first review to market rate contained within the lease. Inflationary increases in lease rentals are expensed as incurred.

### 3. Accounting Policies (continued)

#### Finance income

Finance income comprises interest income on funds invested. Interest income is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest rate method.

### 4. Status of the HFA and related party transactions

Housing Finance Agency plc. is a company limited by shares promoted by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government under the terms of the Housing Finance Agency Act, 1981. The issued share capital is beneficially owned by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. The HFA was formed as a private limited company on 8 February 1982 and on 13 January 1983 became a public limited company.

In the normal course of business, the HFA is funded by the NTMA and local authorities, which are also Government bodies and are as such considered to be related parties. Details of amounts outstanding under the Guaranteed Note programme which are provided by the NTMA and local authorities, at 31 December 2016, can be found in Note 16. The interest expense relating to these facilities for the financial year was €19.67 million (2015: €32.09 million) for the NTMA, and €4.36 million (2015: €2.53 million) for local authorities.

In the normal course of business, the HFA loans funds to local authorities which are Government bodies and are, in this respect, also considered to be related parties. Interest earned on these advances is detailed in Note 6 to the Financial Statements.

The management/administration of the HFA's pension scheme (see Note 19) is performed by Irish Life Corporate Business, effective from 1 January 2012.

In the normal course of business, the HFA deposits funds from short term surpluses that arise with Allied Irish Bank plc. (who are currently owned by the State), or the NTMA, on either of the HFA's treasury related or expense accounts. Interest earned on these deposits during 2016 was €Nil (2015: €Nil) and amounts on deposit as at 31 December 2016 were € 5.75 million (2015: €Nil).

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 4. Status of the HFA and related party transactions (continued)

#### Transactions with key management personnel

Key management personnel include those personnel that have authority or responsibility for controlling the activities of the HFA, and include the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Treasury and Head of Finance. In addition to their salaries, the HFA also contributes to a post-employment defined benefit plan on behalf of key management personnel. Total key management personnel compensation comprised:

	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Salaries *	<b>274</b>	273
Directors' fees	<b>39</b>	46
Pension contributions	<b>42</b>	42
	<b>355</b>	361

\* Salaries include Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer's remuneration which is detailed in Note 9, in addition to other salaried key senior management personnel. One key management employee is in the Single Public Service Pension Scheme.

### 5. Taxation status of the HFA

Under Section 218 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, income earned by HFA from the business of making loans and advances under Section 5 of the Housing Finance Agency Act, 1981, is exempt from Corporation Tax. Income chargeable under Case III, Schedule D is also exempt from Corporation Tax.

Under Section 172(A) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1999, the HFA is entitled to pay dividends gross of Dividend Withholding Tax.

### 6. Interest income – continuing activities

	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Interest on advances to local authorities:		
Post 27 May 1986	<b>54,108</b>	69,289
Pre 27 May 1986	<b>(110)</b>	2
Interest on advances to approved housing bodies	<b>3,097</b>	960
	<b>57,095</b>	70,251

Total interest income on financial assets not carried at fair value through the Income Statement amounted to gross interest of €58.05 million which includes €0.001 million of finance income (see Note 10) for the year ended 31 December 2016 (2015: €70.97 million which included finance income of €0.01 million).

## 7. Interest expense – continuing activities

	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
	€'000	€'000
<b><i>Index linked bonds effective interest</i></b>		
Bond interest	-	1,928
Premium on redemption of bonds	-	687
<b><i>Stock and loan costs</i></b>		
Interest payable on bank borrowings, commercial paper, guaranteed notes and stock	33,617	44,131
<b><i>Fees and commission expense</i></b>		
Eurocommercial paper (ECP) fees	(251)	257
<b>Total interest expense</b>	<b>33,366</b>	<b>47,003</b>

## 8. Non interest expenditure

	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
	€'000	€'000
<b><i>Administration expenditure</i></b>		
Operating lease (Note 9)	197	184
General expenditure, Directors emoluments and Employee costs (Note 9)	1,277	1,462
Depreciation (Note 12)	102	21
<b>Total administration expenditure</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>1,667</b>

## 9. Administration expenditure

Operating lease commitments

The HFA has commitments under an operating lease (office premises) to make total payments as follows:

<b>Buildings</b>	<b>€'000</b>
Not later than one year	197
After one year less than five years	788
After five years	2,613

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 9. Administration expenditure (continued)

#### Administration expenditure

Administration expenditure has been arrived at after charging:

Year ended	31 December 2016 €'000	31 December 2015 €'000
<b>Auditor's remuneration</b>		
Audit of Financial Statements	26	31
Tax advisory services	-	-
Other services	-	-
<b>Total Auditor's remuneration</b>	<b>26</b>	31
<b>General Expenses</b>	<b>346</b>	425
<b>Directors' emoluments</b>		
Fees – Chairman	-*	-*
Fees – other Directors	39	46
Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer's remuneration	106	106
Pension contributions	42	42
<b>Total Director emoluments</b>	<b>184</b>	194
<b>Employee costs (excluding Directors)</b>		
Salaries	522	569
Social welfare costs	53	56
Pension service costs - present	143	187
<b>Total employee costs</b>	<b>718</b>	812
<b>Total administration expenses</b>	<b>1,277</b>	1,462

\* A sum of €2,586 (2015: €2,586) was charged by University College Dublin as compensation for loss of hours worked by Professor Michelle Norris for time spent in her duties as Chairman of the HFA for 2016.

Total salaries for key Management were €274,000 (2015: €273,000). The balance of €353,000 (2015: €401,000) was for administration staff. PAYE/PRSI and VAT at the year-end was €32,945 (2015: €42,975). The average number of employees, including the Executive Director, during the year was eleven (2015: eleven).

## 10. Finance income

<b>Year ended</b>	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Investment income on short-term deposits	<b>1</b>	10
Interest received on cash balances	<b>1</b>	0
<b>Net finance income</b>	<b>2</b>	10

## Finance expense

<b>Year ended</b>	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Net Interest expense on defined benefit pension scheme liabilities	<b>-</b>	10
<b>Net finance expense</b>	<b>-</b>	10

## 11. Cash and cash equivalents

<b>Year ended</b>	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>5,753</b>	199
Overdrafts	<b>-</b>	(6,610)
	<b>5,753</b>	6,411

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 12. Property, plant and equipment

Year ended	31 December 2016
	€'000
<b>Cost or valuation</b>	
At 1 January 2016	416
Additions	113
Disposals	-
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>529</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>	
At beginning of year	191
Charged for year	102
Charge on disposals	-
<b>At end of year</b>	<b>293</b>
<i>Net book value</i>	
<b>31 December 2016</b>	<b>236</b>
31 December 2015	225

### 13. Loans and advances to local authorities and approved housing bodies

Year ended	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
	€'000	€'000
Loans advanced to local authorities	3,468,894	3,578,860
Loans advanced to approved housing bodies	190,878	67,165
<b>Total balances due on advances</b>	<b>3,659,772</b>	3,646,025
Less: Collective provision	(2,461)	(2,211)
	<b>3,657,311</b>	3,643,814
Due from local authorities	95,019	95,352
<b>Total loans and advances to local authorities and approved housing bodies</b>	<b>3,752,330</b>	3,739,166

### 13. Loans and advances to local authorities and approved housing bodies (continued)

The HFA is liable for any credit losses that may arise on the €9.1 million (2015: €10.2 million) still due to the local authorities from the underlying borrowers on pre-May 1986 mortgages which are secured by the underlying mortgage property. A provision of €2.46 million (2015: €2.21 million) has been recognised in respect of these loans. Refer to Note 20 (a) for further details. This provision is based on the HFA's best estimate of the present value of estimated future cash flows compared to the carrying value of the loans as at 31 December 2016 and subject to changes in the underlying assumptions and may increase or decrease in future years.

In the context of (a) local authorities being statutory bodies under the Local Government Act, 2001 and other enactments; (b) their revenues or funds being security for the due payment to the HFA of all amounts due by local authorities (as set out in the agreement between each local authority and the HFA); (c) all loans advanced to local authorities are approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government; (d) the Board's understanding that central Government supports local authorities in meeting their obligations to the HFA; and (e) the HFA has not experienced any loan losses on its loans advanced to local authorities after 1986, the Board is of the opinion that, in substance, no credit risk arises, other than sovereign risk, on loans advanced to local authorities on or after 27 May 1986 and no loan loss provisions are recorded in respect of these loans. Please refer to Note 20 (a) for further details.

Direct lending to approved housing bodies commenced in 2012 and losses are recognised on these loans to the extent that losses are incurred. No such losses arose in 2016 and no provision is considered necessary in respect of these advances as at 31 December 2016.

### 14. Other debtors and receivables

Year ended	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
	€'000	€'000
Amounts due to MARP Fund	4,235	4,503
Pension related receivables	95	-
<b>Total Other debtors and receivables</b>	<b>4,330</b>	<b>4,503</b>

### 15. Debt securities in issue

Year ended	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
	€'000	€'000
Guaranteed notes (Note 16)	3,355,420	3,396,200
8.75% Housing Finance Agency Stock (Note 17)	97,952	97,591
<b>Total Debt Securities Issued</b>	<b>3,453,372</b>	<b>3,493,791</b>

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 16. Debt securities in issue - Commercial Paper and Guaranteed Notes

Year ended	31 December 2016 €'000	31 December 2015 €'000
Guaranteed Notes		
National Treasury Management Agency	<b>2,032,075</b>	2,424,316
Local authorities	<b>1,292,597</b>	964,281
Environment Fund	<b>24,062</b>	2,377
GN re MARP Committee	<b>2,376</b>	222
<b>Total Commercial Paper and Guaranteed Notes advanced</b>	<b>3,351,110</b>	3,391,196
Interest Payable on Commercial Papers and Guaranteed Notes	<b>4,310</b>	5,004
<b>Total Commercial Papers and Guaranteed Notes</b>	<b>3,355,420</b>	3,396,200

The Commercial Papers and Guaranteed Notes are fully guaranteed by the Minister for Finance.

### 17. Debt Securities in issue - 8.75% Housing Finance Agency Stock

Year ended	31 December 2016 €'000	31 December 2015 €'000
8.75% Housing Finance Agency Stock at par value	<b>95,230</b>	95,230
Less: unamortised discount on issue	<b>(428)</b>	(789)
	<b>94,802</b>	94,441
Coupon interest payable	<b>3,150</b>	3,150
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,952</b>	97,591

The par value due on redemption and interest on this stock are fully guaranteed by the Minister for Finance. Maturities of the debt securities in issue are tabled in Note 20 (c).

## 18. Bank loans

Year ended	31 December 2016 €'000	31 December 2015 €'000
<b>Bank loans</b>		
Between one and two years	<b>78,679</b>	359
Between two and five years	-	950
After more than five years	<b>80,000</b>	113,637
<b>Total</b>	<b>158,679</b>	114,946

The bank loans payable are fully guaranteed by the Minister for Finance, excepting totalling less than €4 million, facilities with the European Investment Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank, for the purpose of unguaranteed lending for water, waste and environmental projects. The maturity of the amounts falling due after more than one year is further split out in Note 20 (c).

## 19. Pension scheme deficit

The HFA operates a defined benefit pension scheme covering all permanent employees (apart from employees recruited after 31 December 2012). This pension scheme is internally funded.

The latest full actuarial valuation was carried out at 30th September 2014 using the Aggregate Method. The principal assumption underlying the actuarial valuation was that the long term rate of return on investments would exceed salary inflation by 2% per annum.

At 31 December 2016, the market value of the fund's assets was €3.87 million (2015: €3.47 million). The contributions to the fund have been increased in line with the actuary's recommendations. The Actuarial Report is available for inspection by members of the scheme.

For the purposes of FRS 102 Section 28, Employee Benefits, the latest valuations have been updated to 31 December 2016 by a qualified independent actuary using the projected unit cost method. The principal actuarial assumptions used were as follows:

	31 December 2016 %	31 December 2015 %	31 December 2014 %
Rate of increase in salaries	<b>3.25</b>	3.00	3.50
Rate of increase in pensions payments	<b>2.00</b>	2.00	2.00
Discount rate	<b>2.00</b>	2.50	2.00
Inflation assumption	<b>1.75</b>	1.50	1.50
<b>Life expectancies</b>			
Post retirement – male age 65	<b>24.1 years</b>	24.1 years	24.1 years
Post retirement – female age 65	<b>27.8 years</b>	27.8 years	27.8 years

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 19. Pension scheme deficit (continued)

The (deficit) / surplus of the scheme may be analysed as follows:

	<b>31 Dec 2016</b>	31 Dec 2015	31 Dec 2014	31 Dec 2013	31 Dec 2012
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Pension Assets</b>	<b>3,869</b>	3,471	3,192	2,699	3,381
<b>Pension Liabilities</b>	<b>(4,180)</b>	(3,478)	(3,775)	(2,785)	(4,060)
<b>(Deficit)/surplus</b>	<b>(311)</b>	(7)	(583)	(86)	(679)

Based on these assumptions, the following table sets out the market value of the assets of the defined benefit scheme together with the most recent valuation of the scheme liabilities updated for movements in the financial assumptions:

	<b>Value at 31 Dec 2016</b>	Value at 31 Dec 2015	Value at 31 Dec 2014
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000	€'000
Equities	<b>3,243</b>	2,660	2,264
Bonds	<b>626</b>	532	385
Property	-	-	50
Cash and other assets	-	2,914	2,660
Total market value of pension scheme assets	<b>3,869</b>	532	2,699
Present value of pension scheme liabilities	<b>(4,180)</b>	3,471	3,192
<b>Total net pension (deficit) recognised in the Statement of financial position</b>	<b>(311)</b>	(7)	(583)

Interest income on plan assets for 2016 has been calculated based on the discount rate for the prior year which stood at 2.5%. For the year ended 31 December 2017, interest income on plan assets will be based on a discount rate of 2.0%.

## 19. Pension scheme deficit (continued)

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
	€'000	€'000
Present Value of defined benefit obligations at 1 January	<b>(3,478)</b>	(3,775)
Current and past service cost	<b>(143)</b>	(186)
Interest cost	<b>(88)</b>	(75)
Contributions by employees	<b>(20)</b>	(23)
Actuarial (losses) and gains	<b>(494)</b>	569
Benefits paid	<b>43</b>	12
Present Value of defined benefit obligations at 31 December	<b>(4,180)</b>	(3,478)

Changes in the fair value of plan assets are as follows:

	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
	€'000	€'000
Fair value of plan assets at 1 January	<b>3,471</b>	3,192
Expected return on plan assets	<b>88</b>	65
Contributions by employer	<b>130</b>	144
Contributions by employees	<b>20</b>	23
Actuarial gains	<b>203</b>	59
Benefits paid	<b>(43)</b>	(12)
Fair value of plan assets at 31 December	<b>3,869</b>	3,471

History of actuarial gains and losses:

	31 Dec 2016	31 Dec 2015	31 Dec 2014	31 Dec 2013	31 Dec 2012
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
Difference between expected and actual return on assets	<b>202</b>	59	206	404	344
Expressed as a percentage of scheme assets	<b>5.20%</b>	1.70%	6.45%	14.97%	10.17%
Actuarial (losses) and gains on scheme liabilities	<b>(494)</b>	569	(1,342)	187	(1,725)
Expressed as a percentage of scheme liabilities	<b>11.80%</b>	16.36%	35.55%	6.71%	42.49%
<b>Total actuarial (losses) and gains</b>	<b>(292)</b>	628	(1,136)	591	(1,381)
<b>Expressed as a percentage of scheme liabilities</b>	<b>6.98%</b>	18.06%	30.09%	21.22%	34.01%

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 19. Pension scheme deficit (continued)

Cumulative actuarial gains and losses recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income:

	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Cumulative amount at 1 January	<b>(2,392)</b>	(3,020)
Recognised during the period	<b>(292)</b>	628
Cumulative amount at 31 December	<b>(2,684)</b>	(2,392)

The amounts related to the defined benefit scheme that were recognised in the Income Statement and Other Comprehensive Income are presented in Note 9.

Expected Employer contributions:

	<b>2017</b>	2016
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Expected Employer contributions	<b>172</b>	130

## 20. Financial risk management

### Introduction and overview

The HFA has potential exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- credit risk
- liquidity risk
- market risks (including interest rate, inflation and currency). This note presents information about the HFA's exposure to each of the above risks and the HFA's objectives, policies and procedures for measuring and managing risk.

### (a) Risk management framework

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the HFA's Risk Management Framework. The HFA's risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the HFA, to set appropriate risk limits and controls and to monitor risks and adherence to limits. Risk management policies and systems are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in market conditions and products and services offered. The HFA's Policies and Procedures manual includes policies on the use of derivative financial instruments. These support and ensure that HFA meet its requirements under the Specification and Requirements of the Minister for Finance issued under the terms of the Financial Transactions of Certain Companies and Other Bodies Act, 1992 and take into account best practice on the use of derivative treasury instruments. The principal objective of using derivative financial instruments is to match or eliminate risk from potential movements in foreign exchange rates in the HFA's assets and liabilities.

The current 'Specification and Requirements' (valid to 31 December 2017), which follows a policy approved by the Board, allows for contracts covering interest rate swaps (€400 million), foreign exchange forwards (€6.0 billion), forward rate agreements (€80 million) and interest rate caps (€300 million). The 'Specification and Requirements' set out details of the types of counterparties and Board responsibilities in relation to the management of derivatives.

Transactions can only be carried out with the approval of the HFA's Chief Executive Officer, Head of Treasury or Head of Finance (in the case of those involving the NTMA as agent/counterparty, the NTMA has been granted authority to act on behalf of the HFA. Any transaction undertaken, while not requiring formal approval must be noted by either of the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Treasury or Head of Finance) and are subject to regular periodic internal audit checks during their lifetime.

While the below tables set out the purpose for which lending has been provided to local authorities, the HFA considers it primarily has two categories of loans to local authorities namely those approved pre and post 27 May 1986 and a separate category for loans to AHBS. These three categories have a different credit risk profile.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 20. Financial risk management (continued)

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the HFA if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations, and arises principally from the HFA's loans and advances to its customers, Irish local authorities and approved housing bodies. The HFA's maximum exposure to credit risk is set out in the table below.

<b>Financial assets</b>	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Loans advanced to local authorities	<b>3,468,892</b>	3,578,860
Loans advanced to approved housing bodies	<b>190,878</b>	67,165
<b>Total loans advanced</b>	<b>3,659,770</b>	3,646,025
Less collective provision-local authorities	<b>(2,461)</b>	(2,211)
	<b>3,657,309</b>	3,643,814
Due from local authorities	<b>95,019</b>	95,352
Cash at bank and in hand	<b>5,753</b>	(6,411)
Due from other debtors and receivables	<b>0</b>	0
	<b>3,758,081</b>	3,732,755

The HFA is currently permitted to advance money to:

- local authorities and the voluntary housing sector to be used by them for any purpose authorised under the Housing Acts 1966 to 2009.
- local authorities for capital projects authorised under Section 17 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2002.

Balances due from local authorities and AHBs are categorised as follows:

<b>Balance due on advances</b>	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Mortgage Housing related loans*	<b>1,044,240</b>	1,133,062
Capital Subsidy and Rental	<b>1,016,500</b>	1,059,571
Bridging Finance	<b>433,098</b>	447,639
Land Acquisition	<b>456,009</b>	467,819
Other Non-Mortgage Housing Related Loans	<b>516,584</b>	470,769
<b>Advances due from local authorities</b>	<b>3,466,431</b>	3,578,860
<b>Advances due from approved housing bodies</b>	<b>190,878</b>	67,165
<b>Overall total balances due on advances</b>	<b>3,657,309</b>	3,646,025

\*Loans issued pre 1986 of €11.3m are included in the Mortgage Housing related loans (2015: €12.3m)

## 20. Financial risk management (continued)

### Policies and Procedures for managing credit risk

#### *Collateral*

The HFA is liable for any credit losses that may arise on pre May 1986 mortgages which are secured by the underlying mortgage property and mortgage protection insurance. The local authorities hold collateral in the form of mortgage interests over the property and individual borrowers hold mortgage protection insurance. Only in the event of collateral not being sufficient to discharge the debt is the HFA liable for any impairment losses which may arise.

On post May 1986 loans, the HFA has security, following the discharging of priority charges and payments, over the local authority's revenues or funds for the payment to the HFA of all amounts due. With regard to loans to AHBs the HFA is permitted under Section 17 of the Housing Miscellaneous Provision Act 2002 to lend to AHBs.

Under the Social Housing Leasing Initiative of the DHPCLG, through local authorities, leases suitable housing units from AHBs which are rented to social housing tenants nominated by local authorities. Properties are either bought or built by AHBs and financed by loan finance raised by the AHB (from the HFA or the private sector). Income received by the AHBs from a lease, taken out by the DHPCLG for a period of up to 30 years, will fund the repayment of the HFA's loan.

The HFA has a credit policy regarding lending to AHBs which was approved by the Board in June 2013 and recently updated in October 2016. The Credit Committee maintains credit risk within Board limits and reports on the credit worthiness of AHBs.

#### *Impaired and past due loans*

Fair value is not assessed except where a loan is individually assessed past due or impaired. The definition of past due and impaired is as follows:

Impaired loans are loans for which the HFA determines that it is probable that it will be unable to collect all principal and interest due according to the contractual terms of the loan. Loans where contractual interest or principal payments are past due are defined as past due. The HFA had no loans and advances which are past due at 31 December 2016 (2015: nil). Details of loans that were subject to renegotiation in the year are in the Renegotiated Loans section of this note.

	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
<b>Analysis of loans to local authorities and approved housing bodies</b>	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
Pre 1986 loans	11,313	12,300
Post 1986 loans	3,455,119	3,566,560
Loans to approved housing bodies	190,878	67,165
	<b>3,657,310</b>	3,646,025
<b>Collective Provision</b>		
Pre 1986 loans	2,461	2,211
Post 1986 loans	-	-
	<b>2,461</b>	2,211

In substance, no material credit risk other than sovereign risk, arises on loans advanced to local authorities on or after 27 May 1986 and no loan loss provisions are recorded in respect of these loans. Local authorities are bodies constituted under statute. All loans advanced to local authorities are approved by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government. It is the Board's belief that, in this context, credit risk does not arise.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 20. Financial risk management (continued)

Loan losses are recognised on direct lending to approved housing bodies to the extent that losses are incurred. No such losses arose in 2016.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the oversight of the HFA's credit risk including:

- formulating credit policies in conjunction with Management, covering collateral requirements, documentary and legal procedures within the confines of statutory requirements;
- establishing the authorisation structure and approval for new counterparties (non-local authorities) and lending concentrations thereto;
- reviewing compliance with internal policies and procedures;
- monitoring of loans policy disclosure;
- approving any loans advanced to AHBs under the terms of Section 17 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2002 and to ensure that all loans advanced are in accordance with the HFA's Credit Policy;
- considering and approving the creditworthiness of each AHB prior to a Master Loan Agreement being executed by the HFA;
- ensuring that it has obtained all relevant documentation pertaining to the credit application; and,
- maintaining credit risk within Board approved limits.

#### *Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP)*

In August 2012, the DHPCLG provided assistance to local authorities in dealing with their borrowers' mortgage arrears, by issuing guidelines detailing the proposed Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP). These guidelines reflect the Central Bank's Code of Conduct on Mortgage Arrears and have the intention of standardising an approach to arrears among the Local Authorities Sector. The MARP process consists of a five steps process mentioned in the DHPCLG's guidelines.

In order to offset future losses and to allay impending financial constraints on local authority revenue streams, the DHPCLG established a MARP premium to begin to accumulate funds. MARP has been operational for local authorities since 1 October 2012 through the application of a premium to all variable mortgage related local authority loan accounts.

A MARP premium of 0.80% (from 1 January 2014) is collected on the MARP Adjudicating Panel's behalf by the HFA half-yearly and retained in separate interest bearing account with the intention of being drawn down, as necessary, when given the proper authorisation. The MARP fund purchases a Guaranteed Note for the amounts collected on their behalf.

The City and County Managers Association have established an Adjudicating Panel to operate the MARP fund and to assess applications for assistance from local authorities under the Scheme. This Panel consists of a County Manager, Heads of Finance and an Executive Manager of the Housing Management Services. Applications for assistance from the MARP Premium Fund will be made on an on-going basis by local authorities. Decisions to approve/partially approve applications will be notified to the HFA, who will then arrange for payment of the approved amount from the MARP Fund to the applicant local authority, according to instructions received from the Panel.

It should be emphasised that the HFA's only involvement in the MARP Fund is to collect the MARP premium, on the local authorities' behalf, and to pay these funds as requested by the Adjudicating Panel, as per the instructions mentioned above.

## 20. Financial risk management (continued)

### MARP Fund Reconciliation

	€ '000
Receipts to MARP Fund	27,822
Disbursements from MARP fund	(25,474)
Interest Earned	28
<b>Balance at 31 December 2016</b>	<b>2,376</b>

### Renegotiated Loans

Loans with renegotiated terms are loans that have been restructured due to budgetary circumstances and where the HFA has made concessions that it would not otherwise consider.

The HFA endeavours to work with the local authorities to develop appropriate loan structures for them in order to better match their financial circumstances. In this regard, the HFA may extend loan terms, offer deferred interest periods or offer other renegotiations as appropriate.

During 2016, the HFA renegotiated €83.14 million (2015: €136.05 million) of non-housing related loans and €20.75 million (2015: €0m) of housing related loans.

These renegotiations have taken place in the context of €3.47 billion of loans advanced to local authorities as at 31 December 2016 and thus represents renegotiation activity of circa 3.0 % in 2016 (2015: 3.8%).

Renegotiated non-housing related and housing related loans were given interest only loans that did not result in impairment or derecognition of the original loan assets as it did not represent a significant modification of terms. The HFA ceases to consider these loans as renegotiated once one year of up to date scheduled repayments has elapsed post renegotiation. In this regard, the HFA considers €103.89 million of loans (2015: €136.05 million) to be renegotiated as at 31 December 2016 with €0.79 million (2015: €1.19 million) of interest income recognised on these assets.

<b>31 December 2016</b>	<b>Number of loans</b>	<b>Carrying value €'000</b>
Opening renegotiated loans	<b>77</b>	<b>136,050</b>
Renegotiated during the year	<b>138</b>	<b>103,896</b>
Repaid during the year	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Less loans no longer considered renegotiated	<b>(77)</b>	<b>(136,050)</b>
<b>Closing renegotiated loans</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>103,896</b>
<b>31 December 2015</b>	<b>Number of loans</b>	<b>Carrying value €'000</b>
Opening renegotiated loans	106	238,950
Renegotiated during the year	77	136,050
Repaid during the year	0	0
Less loans no longer considered renegotiated	(106)	(238,950)
<b>Closing renegotiated loans</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>136,050</b>

As at year ended 31 December 2016, € 8.22 million (2015: €25.47 million) of land acquisition loans were converted upon maturity to annuity loans repayable over a period of up to 30 years. Interest accrued on loans converted upon maturity at 31 December 2016 amounts to € 0.07 million (2015: €0.22 million).

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## 20. Financial risk management (continued)

### *Concentrations*

All loans and advances are to local authorities and AHBs all of which are approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government.

The HFA's credit risk also consists of its exposure to institutions (primarily the NTMA), with which it holds short term investments. An investment and counterparty exposure policy is periodically approved by the Board. Investments arise at present only in the context of day- to-day liquidity management. At 31 December 2016 the HFA had no investments (2015: €0 million) in Exchequer Notes with the NTMA.

Allied Irish Bank plc. is currently the main counterparty for cash, with a surplus of €5.75 million held at 31 December 2016 (2015: €6.41 million overdraft balance). At 31 December 2016, the Standard & Poor's rating for Allied Irish Bank plc. was BBB- (2015: BB).

### *(b) Liquidity risk*

Liquidity risk is the risk that the HFA will encounter difficulty in meeting its obligations from its financial liabilities. The HFA currently has €1.764 billion of floating rate guaranteed notes held by the National Treasury Management Agency.

These floating rate notes have maturities tranching at six monthly intervals from January 2018 to January 2021. The interest rates are refixed on a quarterly basis, at a margin over the three month Euribor rate. In addition to this the HFA holds a fixed rate ten year guaranteed note worth €75m with the NTMA, with a maturity date in July 2026. The HFA also agreed €200m of fixed term deals with the NTMA, in five tranches of €40m, with a start date of September 2017 and maturity dates ranging from September 2027 to September 2046.

The GNs are guaranteed by the Minister for Finance of Ireland. In contrast, loans and receivables have an average original loan term of 26 years (2015: 26 years). This represents a significant mismatch in the maturity profile, however given the assurances received from the NTMA concerning the continuity and quantum of floating-rate funding, the Board considers that sufficient resources are available to cover any liquidity risk that may arise over the next 24 months. The HFA also holds GNs with local authorities and a small amount with the Environment Fund (see Note 16).

In managing liquidity risk, HFA management hold regular meetings with the NTMA, the Banks, AHBs and other market participants to assess future loan demand and funding requirements; agree access to funding sources; explore alternative funding sources and structures; negotiate terms and conditions and obtain the necessary funding commitments. In this regard the NTMA has confirmed that the HFA's funding requirements for 2017 have been included as part of the overall planning process for State funding.

## 20. Financial risk management (continued)

The following table presents the maturity analysis of financial liabilities on an undiscounted basis by remaining contract maturity at the year-end date:

	Carrying amount	Gross nominal outflow	Less than 1 month	1–3 months	3 months to 1 year	1–5 years	More than 5 years
31 Dec 2016	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Non-derivative liabilities</b>							
Floating Rate FRN	(1,764,000)	(1,767,570)	(3,570)	-	-	(1,764,000)	-
Guaranteed Notes facility (LA)	(1,292,597)	(1,295,155)	(469,828)	(320,009)	(505,318)	-	-
NTMA 10 Year Fixed Rate	(75,000)	(82,661)	(404)	-	(400)	(3,224)	(78,633)
Guaranteed Notes Facility (MARP)	(2,376)	(2,376)	(2,376)	-	-	-	-
EIB and CEDB loans	(158,680)	(171,310)	(129)	(56)	(6,607)	(26,616)	(137,902)
Fixed Rate Stock 8.75%	(94,802)	(104,612)	-	(4,166)	(4,166)	(96,280)	-
	<b>(3,387,455)</b>	<b>(3,423,684)</b>	<b>(476,307)</b>	<b>(324,231)</b>	<b>(516,491)</b>	<b>(1,890,120)</b>	<b>(216,535)</b>
	Carrying amount	Gross nominal outflow	Less than 1 month	1–3 months	3 months to 1 year	1–5 years	More than 5 years
31 Dec 2015	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Non-derivative liabilities</b>							
Guaranteed Notes facility (LA)	(3,390,974)	(3,398,394)	(641,723)	(224,545)	(258,319)	(2,021,162)	(252,645)
Guaranteed Notes Facility (MARP)	(222)	(222)	(222)	-	-	-	-
EIB and CEDB loans	(114,946)	(124,894)	(86)	(59)	(6,927)	(25,028)	(92,794)
Fixed Rate Stock 8.75%	(94,442)	(112,945)	-	(4,166)	(4,166)	(104,613)	-
Overdraft	(6,611)	(6,611)	(6,611)	-	-	-	-
	<b>(3,607,195)</b>	<b>(3,643,066)</b>	<b>(648,642)</b>	<b>(228,770)</b>	<b>(269,412)</b>	<b>(2,150,803)</b>	<b>(345,439)</b>

# Notes to the financial statements (continued)

## 20. Financial risk management (continued)

### Management of liquidity risk

The HFA's policy in relation to liquidity risk is to ensure, by periodic reviews of cashflow requirements, that it can meet its funding obligations for an appropriate period ahead.

The Board approves a rolling update of a five-year Corporate Plan in the first half of each year. This takes into account the HFA's internal resource calculations on estimates of loan advances, loans maturing during the year and funding options. Regular review of the HFA's financial position is presented, along with monthly management accounts, to the Board.

The Board regularly reviews the current debt programme, which includes, borrowings and advances report on a quarterly basis by loan type and maturity detailing capital, interest rate structure, currency composition, borrowing costs, maturity profile.

The HFA finances its operations by a combination of bond, bilateral funding agreements, and Guaranteed Notes issuance, bank overdrafts and retained profits. The NTMA had purchased €2.03bn in GNs at 31 December 2016 (2015: €2.42bn).

Given the assurances received from the NTMA concerning the continuity and quantum of funding, the Board considers that sufficient resources are available to cover any liquidity risk that may arise over the next 12 months. The HFA also holds GNs with local authorities and a small amount with the Environment Fund (see Note 16).

The HFA's overdraft facilities (€50 million available at 31 December 2016) are subject to annual review by the HFA's bankers. The HFA historically issued a number of long term fixed rate loans to local authorities for housing and related purposes and funded these loans with matched 8.75% fixed rate stock. Because of this, these loans are fully matched in loan term and interest rate, and present no liquidity risk.

The HFA predominantly borrows at floating interest rates.

The average variable cost of the HFA's debt in 2016 was an annualised 0.72% compared with 0.95% in 2015, as a result of decreases in the Euribor rates in 2016.

### (c) Market risks

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rate and foreign exchange rates will affect the HFA's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to minimise or eliminate market risk exposures.

### Management of market risks

The HFA splits market risks into risks related to changes in variable and fixed interest rates. Interest rate risk exposure is managed by minimising mismatches between its borrowings and its advances within its individual programmes, fixed rate and floating rate. The following uncertainties are taken into account in determining the policy:

- where borrowers can redeem without penalty;
- where specialised markets may not always be receptive to issues and redemptions; and,
- where the HFA's business is subject to changes in Government policy.

The HFA's general approach in relation to managing its interest rate risk exposure is to generate margins to increase profitability and also by taking action to set interest rates to protect the HFA against perceived residual risks, by reference to various scenarios and assumptions. The Board assesses the situation regularly and determines the level of reserves required annually.

## 20. Financial risk management (continued)

The gross financial assets are analysed below:

	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
<b>Fixed rate</b>	<b>190,273</b>	54,426
<b>Floating Rate:</b>		
Euribor	<b>3,574,505</b>	3,685,042
	<b>3,764,778</b>	3,739,468

The HFA made new fixed and floating rate advances during the financial year. Fixed rate €139.27 million; Floating rate €102.78 million. (2014: Fixed rate €0.10 million; Floating rate €152.47 million). The HFA's index linked advances are classified as floating rate assets. Interest rate risk profile of financial assets as at:

	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
Weighted average fixed interest rate	<b>3.24%</b>	4.63%
Weighted average floating interest rate	<b>1.51%</b>	1.72%
Weighted average period of fixed interest assets	<b>23.4 years</b>	20.6 years

A large proportion of the HFA's fixed rate loans consist of 25 and 30-year loans issued to Approved Housing Bodies. Post 27 May 1986 new advances are fixed for shorter periods, averaging from five to ten year loan periods. Floating rate loans consist mainly of loans to local authorities of terms between one and fifty years. Based on original loan balances advanced, the weighted average original loan term is 26 years (2015: 26 years).

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 20. Financial risk management (continued)

The financial liabilities principal amounts are analysed below:

	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
<b>Fixed rate</b>	<b>249,802</b>	124,441
<b>Floating Rate:</b>		
Euribor	<b>3,354,790</b>	3,476,142
Prime	-	6,611
	<b>3,604,592</b>	3,607,194

Interest rate risk profile of financial liabilities as at year-end date:

	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2015
Weighted average fixed interest rate	<b>6.97%</b>	3.99%
Weighted average period for which fixed interest liabilities are fixed (years)	<b>11 years</b>	6.6 years
Weighted average floating interest rate	<b>0.62%</b>	0.83%
Weighted average period for which variable interest liabilities are fixed (days)	<b>115 days</b>	97 days

Floating rate liabilities include the HFA's GNs, European Investment Bank and Council of European Development Bank debt. This debt consists of short-term debt priced off a variable index (Euribor). The Directors believe the debt is appropriately classified as floating rate.

The floating rate financial liabilities comprise bank borrowings and Guaranteed Notes bearing interest at rates fixed in advance for periods ranging from three to six months by reference to the six-month and three month Euribor. The previous years figure only included fixed rate stock debt and has now been restated to include all fixed rate debt as at the year end.

The following table presents the contractual maturity and repricing of financial assets at the year-end date:

	<b>Maturity</b>	Repricing
	<b>31 December 2016</b>	31 December 2016
	<b>€'000</b>	€'000
<b>Maturity and interest rate of financial assets</b>		
Amounts falling due in one month or less	<b>100,772</b>	3,576,721
Amounts falling due between one and three months	-	-
Amounts falling due between three and twelve months	<b>463,103</b>	1,895
Amounts falling due between one and two years	<b>15,721</b>	564
Amounts falling due between two and three years	<b>6,957</b>	487
Amounts falling due between three and four years	<b>22,325</b>	149
Amounts falling due between four and five years	<b>14,021</b>	25
Amounts falling due after more than five years	<b>3,141,879</b>	184,937
	<b>3,764,778</b>	3,764,778

## 20. Financial risk management (continued)

	<b>Maturity 31 December 2015 €'000</b>	Repricing 31 December 2015 €'000
<b>Maturity and interest rate of financial assets</b>		
Amounts falling due in one month or less	<b>279,993</b>	3,687,646
Amounts falling due between one and three months	-	-
Amounts falling due between three and twelve months	<b>280,994</b>	1,164
Amounts falling due between one and two years	<b>13,491</b>	3,274
Amounts falling due between two and three years	<b>18,831</b>	979
Amounts falling due between three and four years	<b>8,323</b>	664
Amounts falling due between four and five years	<b>24,096</b>	182
Amounts falling due after more than five years	<b>3,113,740</b>	45,559
	<b>3,739,468</b>	3,739,468

The following table presents the maturity and repricing of principal amounts of financial liabilities at the year-end date:

	<b>Maturity €'000</b>	<b>Repricing €'000</b>
<b>Maturity, liquidity measures and interest rate of financial liabilities as at 31 December 2016</b>		
Maturing in one month or less	<b>707,056</b>	<b>749,162</b>
Maturing between one and three months	<b>300,987</b>	<b>333,487</b>
Maturing between three and twelve months	<b>504,542</b>	<b>508,141</b>
Maturing greater than 1 year and less than 2 years	<b>598,802</b>	<b>598,802</b>
Maturing greater than 2 years and less than 3 years	<b>504,000</b>	<b>504,000</b>
Maturing greater than 3 years and less than 4 years	<b>504,000</b>	<b>504,000</b>
Maturing greater than 4 years and less than 5 years	<b>252,000</b>	<b>252,000</b>
Maturing greater than 5 years	<b>233,205</b>	<b>155,000</b>
	<b>3,604,592</b>	<b>3,604,592</b>

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 20. Financial risk management (continued)

	Maturity	Repricing
	€'000	€'000
<b>Maturity, liquidity measures and interest rate of financial liabilities as at 31 December 2015</b>		
Maturing in one month or less	648,048	692,785
Maturing between one and three months	224,118	259,118
Maturing between three and twelve months	257,999	292,849
Maturing greater than 1 year and less than 2 years	504,000	504,000
Maturing greater than 2 years and less than 3 years	599,392	598,442
Maturing greater than 3 years and less than 4 years	504,000	504,000
Maturing greater than 4 years and less than 5 years	504,000	504,000
Maturing greater than 5 years	365,637	252,000
	<b>3,607,194</b>	<b>3,607,194</b>

#### Undrawn committed facilities

The HFA had undrawn committed facilities at 31 December 2016 of €291.3 million (2015: €185.05 million), these are the amounts yet to be drawn down on approved committed facilities.

#### Sensitivity to interest rate risk

An analysis of the HFA's sensitivity to an increase or decrease in market interest rates (assuming a constant statement of financial position) would impact on gains/ (losses) for the financial year as follows:

	<b>100 bp parallel increase</b>	<b>100 bp parallel decrease</b>	<b>50 bp parallel increase</b>	<b>50 bp parallel decrease</b>
	<b>€'000 gain</b>	<b>€'000 loss</b>	<b>€'000 gain</b>	<b>€'000 loss</b>
<b>At 31 December 2016</b>	<b>6,671</b>	<b>(11,139)</b>	<b>3,336</b>	<b>(3,707)</b>
At 31 December 2015	8,571	(10,422)	4,286	(4,410)

The above figures have been calculated using outstanding balances of variable rate loan advances offsetting outstanding variable rate GN funding, at the above dates. Increases in interest rates above assume mid-point average for the calendar year. Fixed rate advances and fixed rate funding have no sensitivity to changes in market interest rates and are therefore excluded from this analysis.

## 20. Financial risk management (continued)

### Fair value

The following tables outline the fair values of the financial assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2016 and 31 December 2015.

The carrying amount of all other financial assets and liabilities not carried at fair value is considered to be a reasonable approximation of fair value. Information for loans is presented below:

	Carrying value €'000	Fair value €'000
<b>31 Dec 2016</b>		
<b>Financial assets</b>		
<i>Loans and receivables:</i>		
Fixed rate	190,273	232,223
Floating rate	3,574,505	3,954,126
	<b>3,764,778</b>	<b>4,186,349</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Fixed rate	249,802	260,176
Floating rate	3,354,790	3,354,790
	<b>3,604,592</b>	<b>3,614,966</b>

The carrying amount of all other financial assets and liabilities not carried at fair value is considered to be a reasonable approximation of fair value. The previous year figure did not include fixed rate stock debt and has now been restated to include all fixed rate debt as at the year end. Information for loans is presented below:

	Carrying value €'000	Fair value €'000
<b>31 Dec 2015</b>		
<b>Financial assets</b>		
<i>Loans and receivables:</i>		
Fixed rate	54,426	78,169
Floating rate	3,685,042	4,074,934
Index linked	-	114,691
	3,739,468	4,267,794
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Fixed rate	124,441	143,383
Floating rate	3,476,142	3,476,142
Prime	6,611	6,611
Index linked	-	-
	3,607,194	3,626,136

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

### 20. Financial risk management (continued)

The HFA operates in a relatively niche market serving a need for funding of local authorities and social housing. It is thus difficult to obtain market observable information on which to calculate a fair value of its indexed linked and fixed rate financial assets and liabilities. Estimated fair values of financial fixed rate and indexed linked assets and liabilities have been discounted using relevant Irish Government bond yields as at the Statement of financial position date. This is based on the HFA's exposure to sovereign risk as discussed in the liquidity risk section of this note. As per the prior year, the floating rate liabilities are shown at par value due to the short term nature of their maturities.

The fair value of the HFA's assets has been estimated as €4.19 billion (2015: €4.27 billion) while the fair value of its liabilities has been estimated as €3.61 billion (2015: €3.62 billion). A significantly different amount may arise if alternative assumptions were used in calculating fair value. The previous years figure only included fixed rate stock debt and has now been restated to include all fixed rate debt as at the year end.

In selecting this methodology, it was considered that the value by reference to variable rates gave a more accurate reflection of the situation and allowed both assets and liabilities to be assessed on a similar basis

### 21. Movement in cash, liquid resources and financing

	At 31 December 2015	Cash flows	Non-cash movements	At 31 December 2016
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Analysis of changes in net debt</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	199	5,554	-	<b>5,753</b>
Overdraft	(6,610)	6,610	-	<b>-</b>
	(6,411)	12,164	-	<b>5,753</b>
Guaranteed Notes	(3,391,196)	40,086	-	<b>(3,351,110)</b>
Bank loans	(114,946)	(43,734)	-	<b>(158,680)</b>
8.75% HFA Stock 2018	(94,441)	-	(360)	<b>(94,801)</b>
Interest payable on facilities	(8,154)	695	-	<b>(7,459)</b>
	(3,608,737)	(2,953)	(360)	<b>(3,612,050)</b>
<b>Net Debt</b>	<b>(3,615,148)</b>	<b>9,211</b>	<b>(360)</b>	<b>(3,606,297)</b>

Proceeds from the issue of borrowings during 2016 amounted to €34.09 billion (2015: €40.34 billion) and the repayment of borrowings during 2016 amounted to €34.11 billion (2015: €40.37 billion).

## 22. Share capital

There are 30,000 ordinary shares of €1.30 authorised, allotted, called up and fully paid amounting to €39,000 at 31 December 2016 and 2015.

## 23. Reconciliation of retained surplus

	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
	€'000	€'000
Retained surplus at beginning of year	128,140	105,931
Total comprehensive income for the financial year	21,863	22,209
Retained surplus at end of year	150,003	128,140

## 24. Reconciliation of shareholder's funds

	31 December 2016	31 December 2015
	€'000	€'000
Opening shareholder's funds	128,179	105,970
Total recognised gain for the financial year	21,863	22,209
Closing shareholder's funds	150,042	128,179

## 25. Loan commitments

With regard to proposed lending by the HFA to AHBs, loan applications of €233.0 million were approved but undrawn at 31 December 2016 (2015: €113.4 million).

## 26. Post statement of financial position events

There were no significant events after the year-end which require disclosures or adjustments to the accounts.

## 27. Contingent liability

No dividend is due to be declared for 2016.

## 28. Approval of Financial Statements

The audited Financial Statements, which are in the form approved by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, were approved by the Directors on 30 March 2017.

# Corporate Information

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