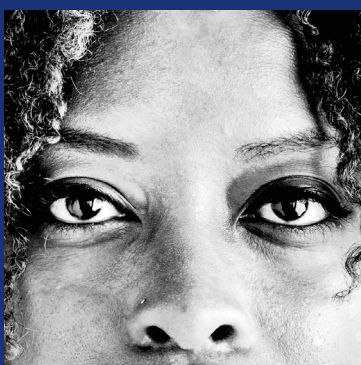
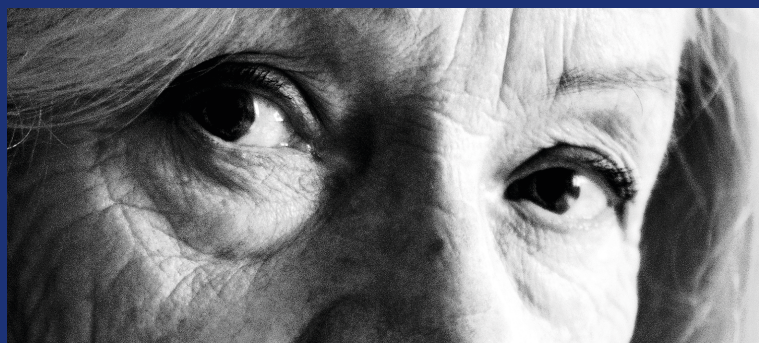


2019 Annual Report



**BECAUSE ONE LIFE
IS ONE TOO MANY**



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

An Initiative within the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Annual Report 2019

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Website: watersafety.ie



Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland
Patron of Water Safety Ireland

Chairman's Statement

Mr. Martin O'Sullivan



As the Chairman of Water Safety Ireland, I take delight in delivering a report on behalf of five thousand members whose tremendous voluntary work is the backbone to a voluntary ethos that extends back to 1945.

Looking back at 2019 affords us an opportunity to highlight the establishment of the Statutory Instrument S.I. 56 of 2019 Water Safety Ireland Establishment Order 2019.

The Order, which establishes our organisation under the new name of Water Safety Ireland, was established by Mr Michael Ring, T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development, and I invite you to read the detail of the order on the Water Safety Ireland website if you have not already done so.

In 2018 Minister Ring issued a challenge to all members of Water Safety Ireland. We were challenged to encourage the public to make water safety part of their conversation with loved ones so that best practices at aquatic environments become part of our culture. As the reader, it is a challenge for you as much as it is for your friends and family and for all volunteers with Water Safety Ireland.

The drowning statistics for the year 2019 indicated that 105 people drowned and although this is two more than in 2018, it is significantly lower than the average of 120 drownings that have occurred in each of the last ten years. This, I believe, can be attributed to the combined efforts of the voluntary members, the lifeguards and the marketing of the water safety message by the Commissions and the highly motivated staff.

As Chairman I wish to extend my gratitude to all members of Water Safety Ireland whether they serve on the Council, on the Commissions, the Committees, the Working Groups or the Water Safety Area Committees. They deserve the gratitude of the entire nation. Our range of programmes and courses expands each year which imposes ever increasing challenges on our volunteers and staff. In 2019 we made special efforts to target at-risk groups with specific marketing campaigns that promoted water safety awareness across a variety of media. We also further developed our Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) programme for schools nationwide. Our "Summer Weeks" programme of open water instruction also reaches this primary school age group when they are on school holidays.

I wish to acknowledge our volunteers nationwide for the public service they perform as Examiners, Instructors, Coaches, Trainee Instructors, Organisers and Helpers and our hardworking staff at our head office in Galway. The pillars upon which we deliver our drowning prevention strategy include our swimming and lifesaving training programmes, our education developments, our media messaging, our surf lifesaving and our water safety awareness courses. We can never fully enumerate the number of lives saved and the number of aquatic accidents prevented as a result of our many activities but we can be assured that lives have been saved as a result of the activities of our dedicated volunteers throughout the country.

A significant and pleasing reflection of our growth as an organisation is the increase of our membership. Over 5,000 people are now contributing to our organisation nationwide and to each and every one of you, I extend my personal thanks. Water Safety Ireland volunteers and our staff have been busy nationwide teaching swimming, lifesaving, basic life support, rescue skills, surf lifesaving and the promotion of water safety awareness to the public. We can certainly point to the 260 rescues by Lifeguards during the summer of 2019 as a reflection of their important work. These same Lifeguards, trained and assessed by Water Safety Ireland, administered first aid on 3,284 occasions, reunited with their loved ones a total of 289 lost children found wandering alone by the water's edge and gave advice on almost 90,000 occasions.

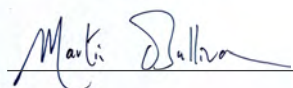
Our Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) programme is a key learning platform for parents and teachers to become aware of the importance of teaching water safety to children. Thanks to schoolteachers, volunteers and staff, water safety is brought to life in classrooms and homes throughout Ireland. Through continued government funding and sponsorship, we were able to deliver a national marketing and media campaign to highlight the dangers of our waters. Initiatives rolled out this year included the delivery of 600,000 branded wristbands to schools across the country.

The Sports Commission had a very busy and successful year; preparing, running and promoting thirteen regional and national competitions with over 2,000 competitors taking part. Our Inshore Rescue Boats Commission secured world recognition for the Rescue Driver and Crew Qualifications in 2019, placing both awards on the world equivalency table. For our Education Commission, there has been a focus on the realignment of Water Safety Ireland child protection policies, standards and procedures in line with the national guideline. The Swimming Commission initiated their Disability Swimming Teacher's Tutors course and had 28 candidates complete the programme. In terms of the Sport of Lifesaving, Water Safety Ireland's national teams had their best performances ever abroad, bringing home the highest number of medals from an International Lifesaving Championships than ever before. Every member of each team of juniors, seniors and masters, or coaches, played a pivotal role in achieving this success. We congratulate them and celebrate their accomplishments.

Throughout 2019, our Council members have demonstrated constant commitment and dedication to Water Safety Ireland's programme of work. I wish to thank each of them for their efforts and look forward to working with them again in 2020 and beyond. The staff of Water Safety Ireland's head office provide essential support all year round; without them we could not deliver our objectives. I would like to thank them for their continued hard work and welcome Pdraig Judge and Bernard Cahill who joined the team in 2019.

As we reflect on the year, our thoughts are with the families of those members who have passed away. I am also conscious of the number of members who have lost family members themselves. We extend our deepest sympathies to all families who are feeling their loss. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

We posed the question at the beginning of this statement as to whether we had met the challenge set for us by the Minister. I believe that we have in 2019 met this challenge but that we are aware that the challenge is set anew for us each year. Let us rise to this challenge together and keep drownings down.



Martin O'Sullivan
Chairman, Water Safety Ireland

Water Safety Ireland Council

Martin O’Sullivan, Chairman



Martin has been involved with water safety since 1970, when he did his lifesaving tests with the Red Cross. Martin has served as Chairman of the Cork Water Safety Area Committee at various times since 1973 and is the current Chairman of the Rescue Commission. Martin is the WSI representative on the Blue Flag jury. He is an Examiner, Swimming teacher Tutor, Senior Risk Assessment Tutor with ILS (E) and Chairman of the Technical Committee of IWS. He has been involved internationally since 1990, is a member of the Board of Directors of ILSE and is the Chairman of the Rescue Commission of ILS. He has developed the ILSE Risk Assessment Project European.

Seamus O’Neill, Vice Chairman



Seamus started lifesaving at the young age of 10 and became an Instructor in 1975. Seamus is an Examiner, Lifeguard Provider, International Beach Referee and Tutor. He is the current Chairman of the Technical Committee and has served on the WSI Sports, Education and Swimming Commissions. He is also currently Treasurer of the Donegal Water Safety Area Committee.

Michael Cuddihy



Michael “Buddy” Cuddihy has been a member of the board since 1987. During this time, he has served on many national and international committees, including the Lifeguard Commission, the European College of Referees and the Sports Commission, where he brought teams to mainland Europe, Australia, South Africa and the USA. He is currently the Chairperson of the Inshore Rescue Boats (IRB) Commission and Treasurer of the Waterford Water Safety Area Committee. He is also an active Water Safety Ireland Swim Teacher, Examiner, Senior Tutor with the IRBs, Referee, and Risk Assessor.

Anne Ryan



A Wexford native, Anne has been an Instructor and Volunteer with Water Safety Ireland since 1995. Among her many credentials within the volunteering ethos of Water Safety Ireland, Anne is also the Local Area Secretary, a Swimming Teacher and Examiner, and the Wexford Water Safety Area Committee Secretary. In addition to working on FETAC updates, Anne works on all matters assigned to the Education Commission of which she is Vice Chair and is the QQI representative. In addition to these activities, Anne finds the time to organise Cahore Outdoor Water Safety Week, with which she has played an active role since 1996.

Paul Murphy



Paul is from Dublin and has been involved with Water Safety Ireland as a volunteer for over 40 years. He is an active Water Safety Ireland Lifesaving Instructor, Swimming Teacher, Examiner, Pool & Beach Lifeguard Course Tutor, and Swim Teacher Tutor. He is currently the Vice-Chairman and Certificates Secretary of the Dublin Water Safety Area Committee and he has previously served on a number of Technical Commissions over the last 20 years. He is also the current Chairman of the WSI Lifeguard Commission.

Tom Doyle



From Wexford, Tom has been involved with Water Safety since the early seventies having worked in Wexford Swimming Pool for over 30 years. He is currently the Chair of the Water Safety Ireland Audit Commission and has previously served as Chairman of the Wexford Water Safety Area Committee, Water Safety Development Officer for Wexford County Council, and served on the Lifeguard Commission. He organizes the WSI summer programme for Wexford every year. Tom is also on the board of Wexford Credit Union and is Vice-Chair of Chapter 9, a grouping of credit unions in the south-east of Ireland. His leisure interests include electrical design, scuba diving, and cycling.

Lola O'Sullivan



Lola is from Tramore, County Waterford and been involved with Water Safety Ireland for 30 years. She is an active Instructor, Pool and Beach Lifeguard Course Provider, and Examiner in Waterford. Lola is very involved in Surf Lifesaving in Waterford and has competed in Surf Lifesaving both nationally and internationally. She is also Chair of the Waterford Water Safety Area Committee and is a Councillor with Waterford City and County Councils. She previously held the position of Sports Officer for Waterford and served as a crew member with the RNLI in Tramore.

Karen Morton



Karen lives in Dublin and is a Marketing Mentor and Consultant as well as a speaker on topics such as Mentoring and Social Media. Karen's career spans a variety of multinationals (Dell, British Airways and Eircom) and fast growth start-ups (Monster.com) in a wide range of sectors. Karen spent 10 years at Dell in Marketing leadership roles including Chief Marketing Officer of Dell Financial Services. Karen's areas of expertise include Marketing, Communications, Digital/Social, and Strategy. Karen led the Dell Women's Network for 3 years and sat on the Connecting Women in IT committee in Dublin. Karen is a graduate of the University of Limerick where she received an Honours Degree in Marketing and French and is a previous Board member of the University of Limerick Alumni Association. Karen has a keen interest in water safety and was a Lifeguard at University.

Peter Cleere



Peter Cleere is a native of Skeoughvosteen, Co. Kilkenny and has been a member of Kilkenny Water Safety since 2014. He is currently a county councillor for the Callan Thomastown Local Electoral Area for Kilkenny County Council. A former Mayor of Kilkenny, he is currently Chairman of Kilkenny County Council. He is also currently Chairperson of the Kilkenny Carlow Education Training Board (KCETB). Peter has 20 years experience in the financial services industry and is a Chartered Banker, fully Qualified Financial Adviser (QFA) and holds a Professional Diploma in Financial Services. His leisure interests include GAA, where he is currently a player and an underage coach with his local club.

Conor Coyne



Conor Coyne is from Cashel in Connemara. He is the Executive Director at Kylemore Abbey – one of the leading visitor attractions in Ireland. Prior to this, he had several corporate leadership roles across Commercial, Transformational and Operational areas in Eirvia, having previously worked with Irish Water, Ernst and Young, Bord na Móna and JP Morgan. He holds a Law degree from NUI Galway, a MBA from Trinity College Dublin and a Chartered Accountant qualification with CIMA. Conor's main interests include GAA, Connemara Pony breeding, running, and most importantly swimming, which stems from growing up in a community dominated by maritime culture. Conor resigned from the Council in September 2019.

Anastasia Ward



Anastasia, originally from Ballinasloe, County Galway, is a Barrister who qualified in 1994. She has worked as a consultant to the Office of the Attorney General and has lectured across a vast selection of subject areas in a wide variety of third-level institutions including the Law Society of Ireland and Griffith College Dublin. She also runs a small pharmacy chain in partnership with her husband. Anastasia swam competitively for a number of years in the 1980s at a provincial level, and during this time, she also undertook lifesaving training. These experiences lead her to an appreciation of the importance of watersafety generally, and of swimming as a life skill. Her leisure interests, apart from swimming, include cinema and classical music.

Philip Keleghan



Philip Keleghan is from County Wicklow and has been involved in Water Safety and other aquatic activities for over forty years. He is an active Water Safety Instructor, Examiner, and Swimming Tutor and is currently Vice-Chair of Kildare Water Safety. He has a special interest in the development of strong local area committees and is currently working to develop an Inland Water Safety and Lifesaving Training Centre in Blessington.

Clare McGrath



Clare is a member of Water Safety, Clare, and is an active Water Safety Ireland Instructor, Examiner, Tutor, and International Referee and she has worked as a referee at the highest level at European and World competitions. She is the current Chair of the Sports Commission, having been a member of the sport commission for 12 years, and has been involved in the organisation of the Regional and National lifesaving competitions, both pool and beach, for 15 years. She works with Clare County Council, as the Water Safety Development Officer within the Environment Section.

Council Meetings 2019 Attendance Record

In addition to the Council meetings, members have also attended Commission meetings, conferences, exhibitions and other water safety events throughout the year on behalf of Council.

Martin O'Sullivan	6
Seamus O'Neill	5
Michael Cuddihy	5
Philip Keleghan	5
Anne Ryan	5
Peter Cleere	5
Paul Murphy	6
Tom Doyle	5
Lola O'Sullivan	3
Karen Morton	5
Anastasia Ward	3
Clare McGrath	6
Conor Coyne	1 (stepped down)

Water Safety Area Committees

The organisation has thirty Water Safety Area Committees, arranged almost on a county basis plus the Defence Forces and the Gárdá Siochana Water Safety Area Committees. Much recognition must be afforded to these Water Safety Area Committees who devise a programme of events and courses to cover their areas for the year. In addition to delivering water safety promotional programmes and demonstrations at schools, colleges, businesses, exhibitions and community events, each Committee delivers an extensive programme of pool water safety sessions in the winter and beach, lake and river water safety sessions in the summer.

The official membership structure is of a voluntary nature with over five thousand members nationwide. It operates on a number of different levels: Life Governors, Examiners, Trainee Examiners, Tutors, Instructors, Trainee Instructors and Non-Technical Volunteer Organisers. Each Local Authority has a Water Safety Development Officer who is a member of Water Safety Ireland.

Thanks to all their efforts to promote water safety we have seen a significant increase in the development of water safety awareness in local communities.

Water Safety Ireland - Staff

- Lt. Cdr. John F.M. Leech, CEO
- Roger Sweeney, Deputy CEO & Marketing Manager
- Joan Harte, Office Manager
- Jocelyn Cunningham, Clerical Administrator
- Alison Elstone, Clerical Administrator
- Emer Gardiner, Clerical Administrator
- Oisín Foden, Education Development Officer
- Bernard Cahill, Development Executive - Education and Sport
- Pdraig Judge, Marketing Executive

National Office

Water Safety Ireland
The Long Walk
Galway

Auditors

Comptroller & Auditor General
3A Mayor Street Upper
Dublin 1

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
Mainguard Street
Galway

Solicitors

Alastair Purdy & Co. Solicitors
Corrib Castle
1 Waterside
Woodquay
Galway

Accountants

OMB (Chartered Accountants)
4th Floor
Steamship House
Dock Street
Galway

Websites:

www.watersafety.ie

www.iwsmembership.ie

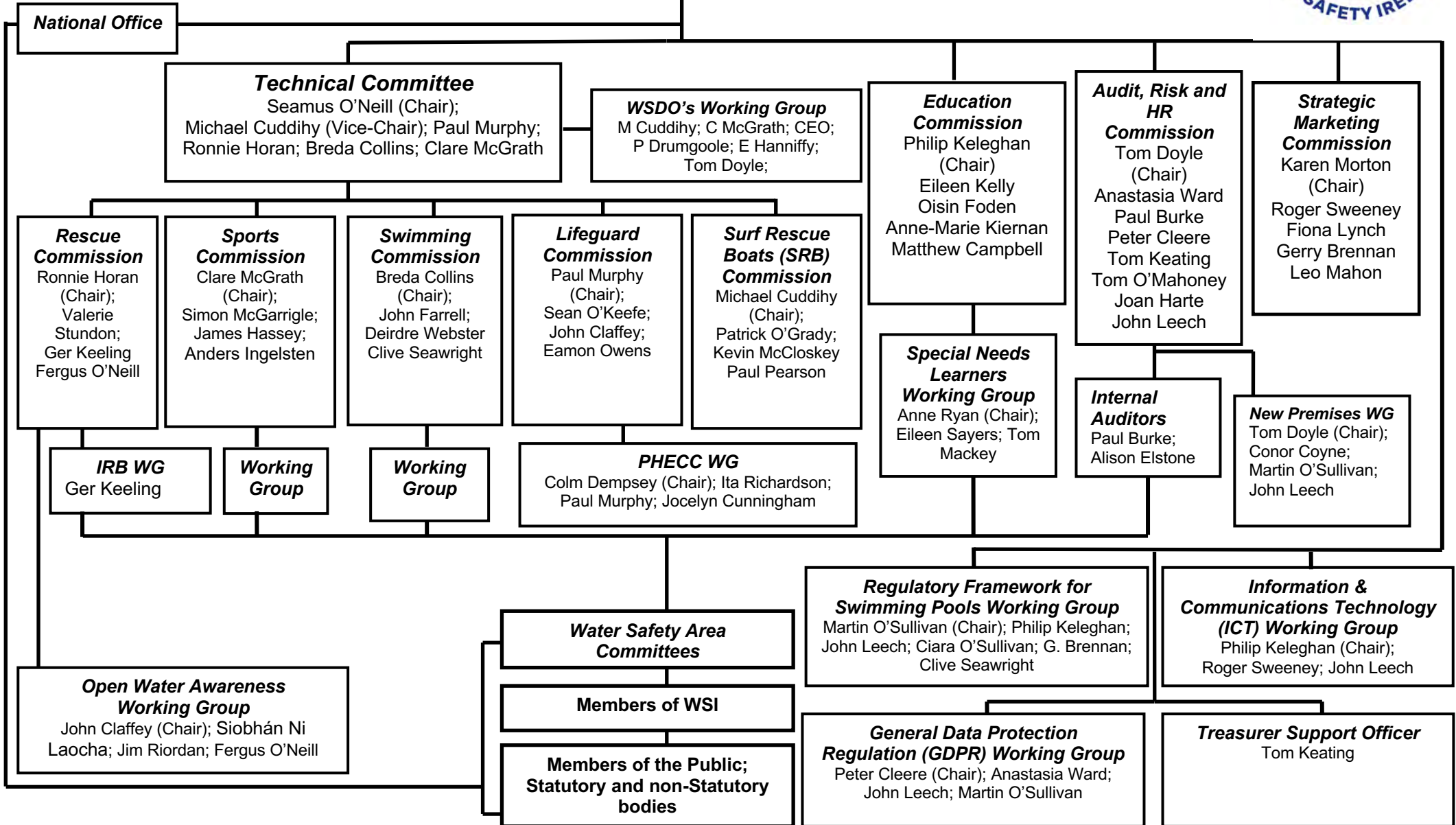
www.iwsmemberinsurance.com

www.teachpaws.ie

Organisation Structure of Water Safety Ireland 2019



Council
 Martin O'Sullivan (Chair); Seamus O'Neill (Vice-Chair);
 Michael Cuddihy; Tom Doyle; Paul Murphy; Lola O'Sullivan; Clare McGrath; Anne Ryan;
 Philip Keleghan; Karen Morton; Anastasia Ward; Peter Cleere; Conor Coyne



Water Safety Ireland – Committees

The Technical Committee

Seamus O’Neill – Chairman
Michael Cuddihy
Paul Murphy
Ronnie Horan
Breda Collins
Clare McGrath

Duties:

- Co-ordinate and monitor the work of all Technical Commissions
- Review all Technical Commission recommendations and forward as appropriate all suitable recommendations to Council for approval
- Review all Lifesaving syllabi & publications
- Manage the Annual WSI Examiner’s Conference
- Identify and prioritise new projects

Audit & HR Commission:

Tom Doyle – Chairman
Tom Keating
Paul Burke
Peter Cleere
Conor Coyne
Joan Harte
John Leech

Duties:

- Monitoring Expenditure and Income
- Internal Financial Controls & Risk Management
- Internal Audits
- HR Matters
- Define an approach for the continuation of management development for both existing and new staff
- Health & Safety
- National & International Travel
- Develop strategies to increase membership
- Recommend National & International Appointments
- Improve links with Local Authorities, meet more County Managers and County Councillors

Marketing Commission:

Karen Morton- Chair
Leo Mahon
Fiona Lynch
Gerry Brennan
Roger Sweeney

Duties:

- Produce marketing and promotional material as outlined within the S.I. and Strategic Development Plan
- Standardisation of merchandise such as certificates, books, manuals, leaflets, posters and online.
- Manage the strategy for press releases
- Ensure that IWS is well represented at exhibitions countrywide
- Liaise with RoSPA & the Marine Safety Working Group
- Promotion of the public awareness of water safety
- Assist in organising national ceremonies, conferences & events
- Represent WSI at LAMA
- Market the WSI Brand
- Monitor Press Cuttings
- Source sponsorship
- Promote the wearing of lifejackets.
- Develop the commercial strand to our organisation; improve branding and public relations.
- Liaise with the Charles Thompson Award
- Analyse drowning statistics

Rescue Commission:

Ronnie Horan – Chairman
Valerie Stundon
Ger Keeling
Fergus O'Neill

Duties:

- Promote Blue Flag safety standards and other aquatic environmental issues
- Manage Risk Assessments at local, national & international level
- Manage the VAT Inspections and run the training courses for Community Rescue Boats Ireland (CRBI)
- Manage the SEIKO JIT Rescue Award
- Assist in Rescue on Inland and maritime Waters
- Liaise with Community Rescue Boats Ireland
- Test rescue equipment
- Liaison with Irish Marine Search & Rescue Committee
- Develop and rollout a Safety Awareness Programme for those employed near aquatic environments.

The Rescue Commission coordinated joint VAT shore-based inspections in 9 declared CRBI stations as part of a review of the inspection process. The Rescue Commission approved 15 applications for Just In Time Awards, 18 Rescue Appreciation Awards, 1 Posthumous Rescue Appreciation Awards and 3 Des Kenny Awards for members of the public who saved a life in

the aquatic environment. 68 Risk Assessments were carried out during 2019 on inland and coastal areas by Risk Assessors. A total of 44 Water Safety Awareness Courses were held for Government Departments, Local Authorities, Waterways Ireland and the OPW during 2019. 455 were certified at the end of the courses. An ILSE Refresher course was held for Risk Assessors in October. A conference was held for all CRBI units with the Irish Coast Guard in October to follow up on the challenges facing units and to identify how we can best work together to help secure their services into the future.

Sports Commission:

Clare McGrath – Chairman
Simon McGarrigle
Gary Knox
James Hassey

Duties:

- Liaison to Swim Ireland, Federation of Irish Sport and Coaching Ireland
- Manage National and International Competitions
- Develop Life Saving Clubs nationwide
- Train & appoint Coaches, Referees and Officials
- Ensure all WADA regulations are enforced for our athletes
- Recommend Sports Equipment
- Manage International Life Saving Sport & Competitions
- Promote and develop lifesaving sport in Ireland
- Liaison with the Olympic Council of Ireland
- Draw up procedures for all sports activities and competitions

Lifeguard Commission:

Paul Murphy – Chairman
Sean O'Keefe
John Claffey
Eamon Owens

Duties:

- The promotion of efficiency and standardisation of the Lifeguard Service
- The improvement of national standards for Lifeguards
- All matters dealing with Lifeguards (Pool, Beach, River)
- Recommend national standard for all lifesaving equipment
- Train Lifeguards in rescue crafts
- Water Safety Development Officers Conference
- The provision of instruction in water safety, rescue, resuscitation and recovery skills
- European Qualification Framework in Lifeguarding

Activities included the updating of the WSI National Syllabus, the National Pool Lifeguard Manual to Edition 2 Revision 1, Local Authority Beach Lifeguard Test to a more advanced and relevant Beach Lifeguard Skill Based Test. The Lifeguard Commission also revamped the WSI Basic Life Support Awards as per PHECC guidelines. The Lifeguard Commission also liaised with the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Network.

Education Commission:

Philip Keleghan – Chairman
Anne Ryan
Ashling Nesbitt
Anne-Marie Kiernan
Matthew Campbell

Duties:

- Promotion of measures, including the advancement of education, related to the prevention of accidents in the aquatic environment
- Maintain and develop training and water safety awareness programmes within the Irish Educational System.
- Develop a Transition Year water safety programme
- Manage the Teachers Training Courses
- Development of further FETAC awards
- Manage all Children's interests
- Review and update all Children's and educational documents
- Arrange seminars for Designated Persons
- Liaise with the Dept of Education to maximise water safety awareness training and public awareness programmes.
- Manage, monitor and enforce best practices in accordance with Children First and our own Code of Ethics for children.

Swimming Commission:

Breda Collins – Chairman
John Farrell
Deirdre Webster
Clive Seawright

Duties:

- The provision of instruction in swimming in order to teach lifesaving
- Liaise with Swim Ireland in relation to swimming standards
- Train & examine Swimming Instructors and Tutors
- Manage the Annual Water Safety Area Committee Officers Conference
- Improve membership and communication with WSAC's
- Monitor standards of Governance of WSAC's
- Represent WSI at IFSTA
- Ensure WSI is represented on the White Flag Jury
- Monitor Swimming Pool Standards
- Develop a document and template for Risk Assessment in swimming pools
- Evaluate the number of Swim Certificates in WSI

Media Partnerships 2019

We are very grateful to the provincial and national media in helping us to target at-risk groups. Thirteen press releases issued, 65 media interviews were conducted.

PRESS RELEASES

- St Patrick's Weekend
- Easter
- May Bank Holiday
- June Bank Holiday
- Draft Regulatory Framework For Swimming Pools
- National Water Safety Awareness Week
- Weekend Water Safety and 2018 Drowning Statistics
- August Bank Holiday
- Public Meeting – A draft regulatory framework for Aquatic Leisure facilities in Ireland
- Storm Lorenzo – Prepare yourself and family for flooding and violent winds
- October Bank Holiday Weekend
- National Awards Ceremony
- Christmas and New Year Advice

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS

- IPPN National Conference, Jan 24 – 25
- Holiday World, Jan 25 – 27
- Ireland Angling Expo, Feb 16 – 17
- Irish Skipper Show, March 8 – 9
- INTO National Conference, April 22 – 24
- Emergency Services Day Parade, Sept 7
- National Ploughing Championships, Sept 17 – 19
- WSI National Annual Awards Ceremony, Nov 28
- HSA "Keep Safe" partnership events nationwide
- PEXPO Ireland, March 4th

National Water Safety Awareness Week (June 17th – June 23rd)

The campaign included the distribution of wristbands to every primary school in Ireland. The wristbands show the meaning of flags flown at lifeguarded waterways, explaining when it is safe to swim and when it is not. By making every child aware of the dangers, they can become ambassadors in their own families, influence their behaviour around water and bring the number of drownings in Ireland down.

The SEIKO “Just In Time” Award

Seventeen lives were saved from drowning through the brave actions of rescuers who received recognition at Water Safety Ireland’s National Awards Ceremony at O’Reilly Hall, UCD, Dublin on Tuesday 26th of November 2019. WSI is grateful to Timemark for sponsoring the Seiko watches. Details of each rescue are listed in this report. Long-Service Volunteer Awards were also be presented to 61 volunteers, recognising a combined total of 1,275 years of service teaching swimming, water rescue and survival skills in communities nationwide.

WSI Water Safety Themed Calendar

Distributed to members nationwide thanks to financial support from sponsors.



Transition Year students from Dominican College, Wicklow Town with their teacher Joan Morton after taking part in a water safety course. Photo: Joan Morton



Pupils from Scoil Noamh Mhuire, Cnoc Bride, Co. Louth pictured following a CPR course delivered by Arlen Donnelly, trainee instructor with Water Safety Ireland – Louth. Photo: Majella Donnelly

Certification

There are two broad categories of certification – Swimming and Lifesaving. Certification reflects the efforts of our voluntary members who change skills, attitudes and behaviours by instilling water confidence and deep-water swimming and survival ability.

Water Safety Area Committees processed 23,991 Swimming, Lifesaving and Water Safety certificates in 2019. In addition, a further 44,080 Primary School Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) certificates were processed, 24,895 of the Seal, Marlin and Orca certificates were issued, and 415 PHECC Awards were presented, giving a total certification by Water Safety Ireland of 93,381.

Aquatics Organiser	30	Rescue 1	1274
Assistant Swimming Teacher	471	Rescue 2	1074
Beach Lifeguard	222	Rescue 3	845
Beach Lifeguard Revalidation	244	Rescue 4	298
BLS 1	2733	Safety 1	1525
BLS 2	1779	Safety 2	1875
BLS 3	947	Safety 3	1743
Challenge 1	141	Safety 4	1960
Challenge 2	246	Surf 1	2
Disabilities Aquatics Level 1	32	Surf 2	538
Disabilities Aquatics Level 2	19	Surf Award Instructor	13
Disabilities Swimming Teacher Tutor	28	Surf Instructor Beach Safety	62
Endurance 1	425	Surf Instructor Beach Safety Rev	89
Endurance 2	704	Survival 1	347
Instructor	120	Survival 2	606
Inland Open Water Lifeguard	19	Swim Teacher Lifesaving	12
Inland Open Water Lifeguard Revalidation	11	Swimming Teacher	172
WSI Code of Ethics	229	Swimming Teacher Tutor	10
National Pool Lifeguard Level 1	318	Water Safety Awareness	262
National Pool Lifeguard Level 1 Revalidation	162	Water Safety Awareness General & Pool	220
National Pool Lifeguard Level 2	1313	Water Safety Awareness Tutor	11
National Pool Lifeguard Level 2 Revalidation	859	Total	23991
Pool Lifeguard Course Tutor	1		

Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) is Water Safety Ireland's program of certification for primary school children and a component of the physical education strand of the primary school curriculum, A total of 44,080 PAWS Certificates were issued in 2019.

PAWS 1 in the Classroom	PAWS 1 in the Water	PAWS 2 in the Classroom	PAWS 2 in the Water	PAWS 3 in the Classroom	PAWS 3 in the Water
5507	1322	5298	2188	7241	3731
PAWS 4 in the Classroom	PAWS 4 in the Water	PAWS 5 in the Water	PAWS 6 in the Water	PAWS 7 in the Water	PAWS 8 in the Water
4864	4728	4057	2679	1639	883

Summer Water Safety Weeks

WSI Water Safety Area Committees nationwide run an extensive series of swimming and water safety weeks throughout the summer in pools, rivers, lakes and beachfronts. Many of these classes extend beyond the summer in places that have pools and leisure centres.

Swim weeks consist of instruction in swimming and water safety weeks develop skills in rescue, water survival and basic life support. Details of these programmes are regularly updated on www.watersafety.ie.



Photo (right): Daire Mitchell and Ryan Hurley, both aged 7, expanding their knowledge and having fun during a Water Safety Week at Wicklow Harbour. Photo: Celine Quinn

Carlow	Bagnelstown	July	Water Safety
Carlow	Bagnelstown	August	Water Safety
Cavan	Greaghlonge Lake, Shercock	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lough McNear, Blacklion	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Annagh Lake, Butlersbridge	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Annagh Lake, Miltown	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Killykeen, Killeshandra	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Crover, Lough Sheelin	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Grownneys Wood, Lough Ramor	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Lavey Lake, Lavey	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Haltons River, Cootehill	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Fitzpatricks Shore, Lough Gowna	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Brackley Lake, Bawnboy	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Garty Lough, Arva	July	Water Safety
Cavan	Riversdale Pool, Ballinamore	July	Water Safety
Clare	Miltown Malbay	July	Swim, Safety, Rescue
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 4
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Safety 3 & 4
Clare	West County Hotel	August	Safety 3
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Endurance 1 & 2
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 2
Clare	Kilrush	July	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Kilrush	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Flagmount	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Doonbeg	July	Swim & Safety
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Safety 1 & 2
Clare	West County Hotel	July	Safety 3
Clare	Labasheeda	August	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Labasheeda	July	Swim, Safety & Rescue
Clare	Kilkee	August	Safety & Rescue

Clare	Kilkee	July	Safety & Rescue
Clare	Mountshannon	August	water safety
Clare	Ennis pool	August	Rescue 3 & 4
Clare	Ballyvaughan	August	Swim, Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Clare	Ennis pool	July	Rescue 1
Cork	Ardgroom	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Sherkin	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Midleton	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Schull	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ardfield	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Carrignavar Pool	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cuil Aodha	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballibrannigan	August	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Skibbereen	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Adrigole	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Garrylucas	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cuil Aodha	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Oysterhaven	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Bere Island	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballingeary	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Cape Clear	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballymacoda	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Eyeries	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Courtmacsherry	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Youghal	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Union Hall	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Kilcrohane	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Rosscarbery	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Garnish Pier	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Glandore	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Urhan	July	Swim & Water Safety
Cork	Ballycotten	July	Swim & Water Safety
Donegal	Malin Head	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Arranmore	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Mountcharles	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Moville	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Rathmullen	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Portsalon	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Greencastle	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Nairn/Portnoo	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Nairn/Portnoo	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Kilcar	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Creevy	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Kincasslagh	July	Swim, Safety, Survival

Donegal	Kincasslagh	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Bun An Inver	July	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Bun An Inver	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Port Na Blaith	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Killybegs	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Donegal	Downings	August	Swim, Safety, Survival
Dublin	Rush	July	Swim & Water Safety
Dublin	Skerries	August	Swim & Water Safety
Galway	Portumna	July	Water Safety
Galway	Salthill	August	Water Safety
Galway	Inis Meain	July	Water Safety
Galway	Inis Oirr	July	Water Safety
Galway	Loughrea	August	Water Safety
Galway	Lettermullen	June	Water Safety
Galway	Carraroe	July	Water Safety
Galway	Salthill	June	Water Safety
Galway	Inis Mor	June	Water Safety
Galway	Clifden	July	Water Safety
Galway	Cor Na Mona	July	Water Safety
Galway	Tir An Fhia	August	Water Safety
Kerry	Brandon	June	Swim
Kerry	Minard	June	Swim
Kerry	Brandon	July	Safety
Kerry	Caherciveen	July	Swim
Kerry	Waterville	July	Swim
Kerry	Cromane	July	Swim
Kerry	Ceann Tra	July	Swim
Kerry	Portmagee	July	Swim
Kerry	Caherciveen	July	Safety
Kerry	Ballyheigue	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Swim
Kerry	Ceann Tra	July	Safety
Kerry	Templemore	July	Swim
Kerry	Portmagee	July	Safety
Kerry	Meenoghane	July	Safety
Kerry	An Daingean	July	Swim
Kerry	Ballinskelligs	July	Swim
Kerry	Ballybunion	July	Swim
Kerry	Rossbeigh	July	Swim
Kerry	Castlecove	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Swim
Kerry	Kells	July	Safety
Kerry	Ballybunion	August	Safety

Kerry	Touist	August	Swim
Kerry	Fenit	August	Swim
Kerry	Valentia	August	Swim
Kerry	Fenit	August	Safety
Kerry	Valentia	August	Safety
Kerry	Derrynane	August	Swim
Kerry	Derrynane	August	Safety
Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh	July	Water Safety
Laois	Ballinakill	July	Swim & Water Safety
Laois	Castletown Bridge	August	Swim & Water Safety
Leitrim	Keeldra	July	Swim
Leitrim	Gulladoo	July	Swim
Leitrim	Drumshambo	June	Swim
Leitrim	Fahy	August	Swim
Leitrim	Rossinver	August	Swim
Limerick	Copsewood	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Copsewood	August	Water Safety
Limerick	Askeaton	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Askeaton	August	Water Safety
Limerick	Glin Pier	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Glin Pier	August	Water Safety
Limerick	Pallaskenry	July	Water Safety
Limerick	Pallaskenry	August	Water Safety
Longford	Annagh	July	Swim & Water Safety
Longford	Annagh	August	Swim & Water Safety
Louth	Clogherhead	July	Water Safety
Louth	Gyles Quay	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Mullaghroe	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Mullaghroe	August	Water Safety
Mayo	Ballina	July	Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Mayo	Ballina	August	Safety, Endurance, Rescue
Mayo	Claremorris	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Ballyhaunis	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Castlebar	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Ballycastle	June	Water Safety
Mayo	Lacken	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Clare Island	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Inishturk Island	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Inishturk Island	August	Water Safety
Mayo	Kilmovee	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Belmullet	July	Water Safety
Mayo	Belmullet	August	Water Safety
Mayo	Castlebar	July	Water Safety

Mayo	Charlestown	July	Water Safety
Offaly	Birr	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	Banagher	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	Clara	July	Swim & Water Safety
Offaly	Edenderry	July	Swim & Water Safety
Roscommon	Castlerea pool	July	Swim
Roscommon	Castlerea pool	July	Safety & Rescue
Roscommon	Roscommon pool	June	Swim
Roscommon	Roscommon pool	July	Swim
Sligo	Aughris pier	July	Water Safety
Sligo	Enniscrone	August	Water Safety
Tipperary North	Ballina	July	Water Safety
Tipperary North	Roscrea	July	Water Safety
Tipperary North	Nenagh	August	Water Safety
Tipperary South	Cahir	July	Water Safety
Tipperary South	Clonmel	July	Water Safety
Tipperary South	Ardfinnan	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Tramore	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Boatstrand	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Ardmore	July	Water Safety
Waterford	Ardmore	August	Water Safety
Westmeath	Mullingar	August	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	Athlone	August	Safety, Rescue
Westmeath	Athlone	July	Safety, Rescue
Wexford	Rosslare	July	Swim
Wexford	Bunclody	July	Swim
Wexford	Tinabearna	July	Swim
Wexford	Courtown	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Bunclody	August	Water Safety
Wexford	Curracloe	August	Swim
Wexford	Cahore Pier	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Kilmore	July	Swim
Wexford	Ferrybank	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Carne	July	Swim
Wexford	New Ross	July	Water Safety
Wexford	Cullenstown	July	Swim
Wexford	Fethard	August	Water Safety
Wicklow	Wicklow Harbour	July	Swim

WSI Representation at National Level

- Forum of Chairpersons of State Sponsored Bodies – Martin O’Sullivan
- An Taisce Blue Flag Jury – Martin O’Sullivan
- ACESA (Assoc Chief Executives of State Agencies) – John Leech
- Irish Marine Search and Rescue Committee – John Leech
- Commissioner’s Irish Lights (Users Group) – John Leech
- Marine Safety Working Group – Roger Sweeney
- Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Jury – Roger Sweeney
- Community Rescue Boats Ireland – Ronnie Horan & Ger Keeling
- PHECC (Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council) – Paul Murphy
- ILAM White Flag Jury – John Farrell
- Internal Auditor - Alison Elstone and Paul Burke
- Green Coast Award – Gerard Keeling
- Federation of Irish Sports – Sports Commission Member
- Swim Ireland – NGB for Lifesaving Sport – Clare McGrath
- Charles Thomson Award Jury – Breda Collins and John Leech
- National Designated Liaison Person – Paul Burke
- CISM Network Ireland – Debbie Harvey

WSI Representation at International Level

- Martin O’Sullivan – International Life Saving (ILS) board member
- Seamus O’Neill – ILSE (Europe) Sports Commission
- John Leech – ILSE (Europe) Management & Administration Commission
- John Farrell – International Federation of Swimming Teachers Association
- Tom Doyle – Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA)
- Clare McGrath – College of Referees Panel ILS Europe
- John Leech – International Maritime Rescue Federation

Conferences

- CFR PHECC Upskill

13th January, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

- Water Safety Area Committee Treasurer’s Meeting

26th January, Athlone, Co Westmeath

- National Pool Lifesaving Championships

23rd February, University of Limerick, Co. Limerick

- ILSE Meetings
7th – 9th March, The Netherlands

- Water Safety Development Officer's Conference
11th – 12th April, Co. Roscommon

- Water Safety Area Committee Seminar
12th May, Athlone, Co Westmeath

- ILSE Board Meetings
17th – 18th May, Cyprus

- ILSE Board Meetings
17th – 18th May, Cyprus

- National Surf Lifesaving Championships
31st August, Kikee, Co. Clare

- RA Scan Course
19th October, Co. Dublin

- RA Version 9 Revalidation
20th October, Co. Dublin

- National DLP Meeting
26th October , Athlone, Co Westmeath

- Sport's Officers Meeting
2nd November, Athlone, Co Westmeath

- National Awards Ceremony
26th November, UCD, Dublin

Risk Assessments

Water Safety Ireland volunteers carried out 68 Risk Assessments on bathing areas and waterways nationwide that may pose a particular risk to the public. In order to make these waterways safer, recommendations typically include the erection of public rescue equipment, signage and other necessary facilities. We also complete public rescue equipment usage checks and advise Local Authorities, state agencies and private enterprises on matters relating to water safety.

Donegal	Culdaff	Mayo	Silver Strand, Dugort, Achill BF
Donegal	Downings	Mayo	Keel, Achill BF
Donegal	Fintra	Mayo	Keem, Achill BF
Donegal	Killahoey	Mayo	Ross, Ballina BF
Donegal	Ladys Bay	Mayo	Old Head BF
Donegal	Lisfannon	Mayo	Carrowniskey, Louisburg GC
Donegal	Marble Hill	Mayo	Portacloy, Erris GC
Donegal	Murvagh	Mayo	Cross, Belmullet GC
Donegal	Naran, Portnoo	Mayo	Silver Strand, Louisburg GC
Donegal	Port Na Blagh	Mayo	Srah, Belmullet GC
Donegal	Portsalon	Mayo	Tranaun, Inisturk GC
Donegal	Rathmullan	ESB	Ardnacrusa
Donegal	Rossnowlagh	Galway	Tracht, Kinvara (BF)
Donegal	Malin Head	Galway	Loughrea Lake (BF)
Donegal	Stroove	Galway	Rivers - Salmon Weir to Nimmos Pier only
Donegal	Carrickfinn	Galway	Aillebrack, Ballyconneely
Donegal	Bundoran	Galway	East End, Inishboffin
Cork	Garrylucas Beach	Galway	Dumhach, Inishboffin
Cork	Fermoy Flood Works Scheme	Galway	White Strand, Renvyle
Cork	Fountainstown Beach	Galway	Trá, Inis óirr
Cork	Inch Beach	Galway	Trá Poll na gCaorach
Sligo	Rosses Point	Galway	Portumna (BF)
Sligo	Mullaghmore	Clare	Whitestrاند, Doonbeg - Blue Flag
Waterford	Tramore	Clare	Whitestrاند, Miltown - Blue Flag
Waterford	Goat Island GC	Clare	Kilkee (beach only) - Blue Flag
Waterford	Guilleamene & New Town Cove	Clare	Lahinch - Blue Flag
Waterford	Checkpoint Pier/harbour	Clare	Fanore - Blue Flag
Waterford	Clonea	Clare	Bishops Quarter - Green Coast Flag
Kerry	Beal Ban	Clare	Quarry at Garus, Ennis
Kerry	Castlegregory beach	Louth	Templetown BF
Kerry	Ballinskelligs	Louth	Clougherhead
Kerry	Cromane	Louth	Port
Kerry	Fenit BF	Tipperary	Suir Blueway
Kilkenny	Graiguenamanagh	Laois	Portlaoise

Lifeguard Rescues and Preventive Actions

Our Local Authorities employ Water Safety Ireland assessed lifeguards during the bathing season at popular bathing sites nationwide. The table below gives a clear picture of the effectiveness and value they contribute to saving lives each year and we commend them for this work in drowning prevention.

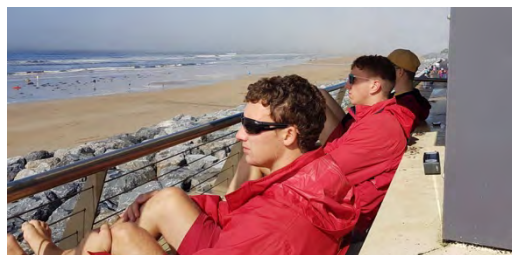


Photo (right): Lifeguards on duty. Lahinch, Co.Clare

	Rescues without craft	Rescue Craft Rescues	First Aid	Lost Child Found	Advice Given	Accidents Prevented	Other incidents
Carlow	2	4	24	0	255	14	0
Cork	2	2	330	14	18934	4782	30
Clare	33	40	676	29	5389	1948	51
Donegal	1	6	176	4	13817	2972	18
Dublin	4	14	40	1	3570	730	17
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown	6	7	35	1	131	51	0
Fingal	8	7	169	29	3353	401	97
Galway	7	14	352	15	6645	1256	355
Kerry	11	21	428	47	4832	855	1318
Kilkenny	8	1	8	0	681	58	1
Limerick Co.	7	4	29	0	187	81	3
Louth	0	0	68	2	1219	70	8
Mayo	2	4	132	9	5528	12	12
Meath	0	0	16	0	43	0	0
Roscommon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sligo	2	2	7	1	4764	2580	1914
Tipperary	3	0	8	0	4750	0	0
Waterford	7	5	228	17	6857	1849	484
Wexford	8	2	289	17	921	73	48
Wicklow	5	11	269	103	7103	607	0
	116	144	3284	289	88979	18339	4356
Total Rescues		260					

Lifesaving Sport - Still & Surf Competitions 2019

National Nipper Champions	Cork Senior Nippers
National Junior Champions	Clare Junior Girls
National Senior Champions	Clare Men
National Masters Champions	Waterford Masters



Action from the 2019 National Lifesaving Championships (Pool and Beach) – Photos by Niall Cosgrove

Sport Commissionn Report:

- Chair - Clare McGrath
- Member - Simon McGarrigle
- Member - James Hassey
- Member - Anders Ingelsten (resigned July 2019)
- Gary Knox - July to Dec 2019



Jan - Aug	4 Regional squad camps in each region - 2 pool, 2 open water - 120 athletes 4 National Squad camps - 40 athletes 2 National team camps - 30 athletes
February	National Lifesaving Championships, UL Arena 352 Athletes - Junior 146, Senior 114, Masters 92
March	Regional Nipper Pool Championships, 567 athletes Ulster Connaught 97, Leinster 167, Munster 303 National Squad selection criteria updated & approved
April	National Nipper Pool Championships 334 athletes
May	National Squad compete at Spanish Open Championships 25 athletes, 2 coaches, 2 chaperones RESULTS - 4 Gold medals, 2 National Records, 10 Top 8 finishes

July National team trials – pool & beach
 Inter Regional Nipper Event
 Regional Open Water Championships, Nipper 640 athletes, Junior Nipper – Ulster Connaught 191, Leinster 156, Munster 293
 Junior – Ulster Connaught 62, Leinster 78, Munster 108



Photos: Action from the 2019 National Lifesaving Championships (Pool and Beach) Anne Kingston, Niamh Morrison, Eilish Harte and Anne McCarthy with their medals after winning Gold at the 2019 European Lifesaving Championships in Riccione, Italy. Photo: Anne Beechinor

August National Open Water Championships
 823 athletes – Nippers 420, Juniors 205, Seniors 104, Masters 104

September European Championships Italy
 Officials – 6, including Chief Referee, Deputy Referee and Area Referees
 Athletes – 12 Junior, 12 Senior
 Coaches – 2
 RESULTS – 40 medals – 4 gold, 20 silver, 16 bronze
 13 National Records
 Top 5 finishes 60, top 10 finishes 157



National Lifesaving teams 2019, Italy

Turlough Barrett and Bernard Cahill, European Board Rescue Champions 2019

Pictured at the 2019 European Lifesaving Championships in Riccione, Italy are Norma Cahill, Sinead Mortell, Triona McMenamin, Lisa Dalton, James O'Sullivan, Brid Cantwell & Mary O'Sullivan. Photo: James O'Sullivan

November Annual sport review conference
 National Sport Awards:- Male Bernard Cahill, Clare. Female Aisling Barry, Cork

December National Squads 2020 announced

Openwater Championships

Senior Ladies

1. Clare Ladies A
2. Wicklow Ladies A
3. Cork Ladies A

Senior Men

1. Clare Men A
2. Waterford Men A
3. Cork Men A

Masters

1. Waterford Masters
2. Clare Masters
3. Sligo Masters

Junior Girls

1. Clare
2. Cork
3. Wicklow

Junior Boys

1. Clare
2. Wexford
3. Waterford

Nippers

Nipper 8-11

1. Clare
2. Cork
3. Waterford

Nipper 12-14

1. Cork
2. Wicklow
3. Clare

Stillwater Championships

Senior Ladies

1. Clare Ladies A
2. Wickows Ladies A
3. Clare Ladies B

Senior men

1. Clare Men A
2. Cork Men A
3. Waterford Men A

Masters

1. Waterford Masters
2. Cork Masters
3. Wexford Masters

Junior Girls

1. Wicklow Girls A
2. Clare Girls A
3. Cork Girls A

Junior Boys

1. Wexford Boys A
2. Wicklow Boys
3. Waterford Boys A



Action from the 2019 National Junior and Nipper Lifesaving Championships 2019

National Awards Ceremony

O'Reilly Hall, UCD, Tuesday 26th of November

The Minister for Rural and Community Development Michael Ring TD and the Chairman of Water Safety Ireland, Martin O'Sullivan, presented a range of Awards including the SEIKO Just in Time Awards, Life Governor Certificates and Medals, Long Service Awards, Recognition Awards for services rendered to Water Safety Ireland and also the Volunteer of the Year Award. Among the recipients are members of the public, members of Water Safety Ireland and other individuals and organisations who assist in the reduction of drownings by supporting the work of Water Safety Ireland throughout the year.

Long-Service Volunteer Awards were presented to 61 volunteers, recognising a combined total of 1,275 years of service teaching swimming, water rescue and survival skills in communities nationwide.



Kathleen O'Connor and Anne McCreary- both receive their Long Service Awards. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring.

Community and Social Responsibility Awards

In recognition of the support given to Water Safety Ireland's community work, charitable activities and commitment to drowning prevention initiatives and the reduction of aquatic related injuries.

Timemark



Timemark Limited is a distributor of leading Watch and Jewellery brands. Founded in 1979, and entirely Irish owned and managed, Timemark sponsors the SEIKO Just In Time Award, which they have supported since its inception in 2001 and for which we are deeply grateful.

Dublin Swimming Club



In May this year, Dublin Swimming Club celebrated 100 years of female participation in the club with 'Mná ag Snámh' at the newly refurbished Clontarf Baths. To mark the 100 years, over 100 women - along with the odd man wearing a wig and bikini - swam over 100 metres (4 lengths) of Clontarf Baths to raise money for Water Safety Ireland. The funds raised will help promote the participation of teenage girls in water sports. DSC has a proud history of female participation going back a century. At a time when women did not have equal

voting rights to men, DSC swimmer Marguerite Dockrell (aged 16) was the first woman to take part in an Irish Olympic swimming team at the 1928 games. We are very grateful to the DSC for fundraising to give more teenagers like Marguerite an opportunity to learn swimming and lifesaving skills with Water Safety Ireland in Dublin.

Gavin Buckley



Gavin's brother Aaron was tragically taken from us in June as a result of a water accident. Shortly thereafter, Gavin began a journey to spread awareness about water safety and help Water Safety Ireland with fundraising, published articles and radio interviews and talks to secondary schools about the importance of water safety. We are extremely grateful to Gavin for supporting Water Safety Ireland's efforts to change attitudes and behaviours around water and we commend Gavin for undertaking this journey in honour of Aaron.

Lorraine Teevan

Little did Cavan-based freelance photographer Lorraine Teevan know that a photo she took of children having a summer splash would be published on the front page of the June 27th edition of the Irish Times newspaper. Lorraine's photograph reflects her skill as a photographer in capturing the joy that children experience when learning water safety as part of Water Safety Ireland's outdoor training at Annagh Lake in Cavan, one of many summer week training sessions nationwide. As a child, Lorraine took water safety classes in the very same location and participates to this very day, where her own 8-year old child is now learning to become a proficient lifesaver of the future. This is the second time that one of Lorraine's photos of Water Safety Ireland's classes has been published in The Irish Times and we are very grateful to her for helping us to encourage parents around the country to enrol their children in water safety classes in their area.



Leon Quinlan Perpetual Award

Scoil Eoin, Kilbarrack, Co. Dublin



When young Leon Quinlan drowned, his mother Lynn contacted Water Safety Ireland about running an event to raise awareness about water safety. Funding from that event enabled WSI to recruit an Education Development Officer to visit primary schools and teach water safety awareness to pupils. Lynn's support has enabled thousands of children to learn how to stay safe near water. We wish to thank Scoil Eoin for delivering Water Safety Ireland's Primary School Aquatics

Programme – Primary Aquatics Water Safety (PAWS) to their pupils, co-ordinated by their teacher Ms Coppinger. The children learned about hazards in the home, on the farm and near water in their local area. They also investigated the locations of defibrillators in their local area and their use. They ran poster competitions, designed water safety promotion posters for display in their school and even created simple tutorial videos on how to prevent incidents occurring and how to conduct simple rescues. We are very grateful and congratulate Scoil Eoin for a particularly strong effort to teach water safety to the children in their care.

Sports Persons of the Year Award

Aisling Barry, Cork



This year Aisling competed for Water Safety Ireland both nationally & internationally. She won many medals at the National Stillwater Championships in the University of Limerick in February, and also won several medals at the National Senior and Junior Championships in Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo and in Kilkee, Co. Clare. She represented Ireland at the Spanish Nationals pool competition in May 2019, achieving an Irish senior record in the 100m manikin carry with fins and she was also part of a relay team that broke a senior Irish record. Aisling represented Ireland at the European Junior Championships in Italy in September, breaking a further Senior Irish record and winning a total of three medals in team events. Aisling is a dedicated competitor, a hard worker and a champion of team spirit.

Bernard Cahill, Clare



Bernard excelled in his events in the National Still Water Championships, in the University of Limerick in February of this year and again at the National Open Water Lifesaving Championships in Kilkee, Co. Clare in September. Bernard comfortably won all four individual water events in the Senior Men category. His performance at the European Senior Championships in Italy was outstanding – he won two senior European titles in Surf Swim and Ocean Man events, attained silver in the Surf Ski event and bronze in a Board event. In team events he won gold in the Board Rescue event, silver in the Ocean Relay, and silver in the Mixed Taplin Relay. In the pool events, Bernard broke two individual Irish Senior records, and was part of relay teams that also broke two further Irish records. Bernard is a strong competitor, a diligent worker and a great role model for our younger competitors.



Bernard Cahill in action at the European Lifesaving Championships 2019 in Riccione, Italy.

Long Service Awards

Long Service Awards are presented in recognition of a voluntary commitment to promoting a public awareness of water safety and rescue based on the humanitarian goal of saving life. Water Safety Ireland extends a sincere debt of gratitude to the following volunteers.

First Name	Last Name	County	Years of Service
Thomas	Fitzgerald	Banna	10
Joe	Pigott	Bantry	10
Mary	Wrafter	Defence	10
David	O Mahony	Derrynane	10
Martin	Anderson	Donegal	10
Edel	McCarthy	Dublin	10
Aidan	Malone	Kildare	10
Sam	Murray	Kildare	10
David	Byrne	Wexford	10
Pauline	Lehane	Wexford	10
David	Lee	Wexford	10
Thomas	Ward	Banna	15
Rob	McGuinness	Bantry	15
Jonathan	Mahony	Ballybunion	15
Grace	Flahive	Ballybunion	15
Bláthnaid	Wall	Carlow	15
Geraldine	Deasy	Derrynane	15
Noel	Donnelly	Derrynane	15
Michael	Turner	Derrynane	15
Lisa	Anderson	Donegal	15
Paul	Hayes	Dublin	15
Sarah	Ryan	Wexford	15
Colette	Allen	Wexford	15
Ruairi	Farrell	Wexford	15
Elizabeth	Callaghan	Wexford	15
Emer	Doyle	Wexford	15
Toby	Campbell	Bantry	20
Anthony	Nolan	Carlow	20
Deirdre	Wall	Carlow	20
Helen	O'Hara	Cavan	20
Anne Marie	McCaul	Cavan	20
Elizabeth	McCaul	Cavan	20
Hilary	Lynch	Cork	20
Michael	Brogan	Defence	20
Lynn	Anderson Gormonly	Donegal	20
Mary	Anderson	Donegal	20

John	Farrell	Dublin	20
Peter	Hennelly	Tipperary North	20
Brian	Dunne	Tipperary North	20
Emer	Timmons Lunn	Wexford	20
Sarah	Horgan	Wexford	20
Aine	O'Connell	Wexford	20
Sinead	Byrne	Wexford	20
Matt	Murphy	Bantry	30
Oliver	Goggin	Bantry	30
Diarmuid	Hurley	Bantry	30
Seán	O'Ceilleachair	Cork	30
Michael	Donnelly	Derrynane	30
Charlie	Kennedy	Donegal	30
Sarah	Kelly	Donegal	30
Paul	McGuinness	Donegal	30
Darina	Byrne	Dublin	30
Carmel	Crean	Wexford	30
Helena	Duggan	Wexford	30
Mary	O'Leary	Wexford	30
Teresa	Finnegan	Cavan	40
Andrew	Mason	Dublin	40
Paul	Devins	Dublin	40
Kathleen	O'Connor	Wexford	40
Anne	McCreary	Wexford	40
Ursula	McCarroll-Carty	Wexford	40



Elizabeth Ryan - Receives a 15 Year Long Service Award. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring and Ronnie Horan (WSI).



Martin Anderson - Receives a 10 Year Long Service Award. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring and Ronnie Horan (WSI).



Edel Mc Carthy - Receives a 10 Year Long Service Award. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring and Ronnie Horan (WSI).



Mary Wrafter - Receives a 10 Year Long Service Award. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring and Ronnie Horan (WSI).



Sarah Ryan - Receives a 15 Year Long Service Award. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring and Ronnie Horan (WSI).



Toby Campbell - Receives a 20 Year Long Service Award. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring and Ronnie Horan (WSI).



Darina Byrne- Receives a 30 Year Long Service Award.



Teresa Finnegan- Receives a 40 Year Long Service Award. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring and Martin O Sullivan (WSI).



Carmel Crean - Receives a 30 Year Long Service Award. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring and Martin O Sullivan (WSI).



Noel Donnelly - Receives a Long Service Award. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring and Martin O Sullivan (WSI).



Paul Devins - Receives a 40 Year Long Service Award. Pictured with Minister Michael Ring and Martin O Sullivan (WSI).

Volunteer of the Year Award

Leo Mahon, Kildare



In the past year Leo was instrumental in commencing an outreach programme with Scouting Ireland in Kildare. This program has resulted in over 400 beavers from 16 separate groups receiving an introduction to water safety and some basic stay safe training, just in time for their summer programme.

As chairman of Kildare, Leo has driven the delivery of the PAWS programme to schools which have delivered 50,000 PAWS certificates over the previous four years. In

addition, Leo has been committed to outdoor Water Safety Training through the development of the first Inland Water Safety training venue at Blessington, Co. Wicklow. This venue caters for over 50 trainees twice a week during the summer months. It also allows for the provision of water safety training to other interested groups such as rowing clubs and youth groups. Under Leo's stewardship the venue has become extremely well equipped. There are three rescue boats in constant use, and the Kildare can provide training equipment to cater for over 50 people at any one time.

In the last two years, working as a member of the Marketing Commission he has championed the delivery of nine printed editions of our members' magazine, as he sees this as a key tool for reaching out to volunteers and to the public.

As well as his "normal" pool and outdoor classes, Leo has been closely aligned with the Transition Year programme in Newbridge College for many years. The delivery of Pool Lifeguard and resuscitation training is considered a key element of the programme and is strongly supported by the school. When he is not involved in teaching and taking a leading role in Kildare Water Safety, Leo also acts as a Risk Assessor for the organisation.

Leo has taken on the provision of standardised clothing for the whole organisation. Through his drive and ambition, an originally local initiative to provide clothing and equipment for Kildare Water Safety Area Committee, has now become standard bearer provider of choice for Water Safety Ireland clothing and equipment nationwide.

Leo was a founding developer of www.ringbuoys.ie which allows members of the public to report missing and damaged ringbuoys. Leo also created the "Uisce Bear" polar bear mascot to deliver water safety messages to children.

Leo is passionate about the volunteering ethos of Water Safety Ireland and on average he contributes 10-15 hours per week to our cause. All his commitment, time and effort are invested back into the development of our organisation, both at a local and national level.

Pictured L to R: Philip Keleghan (WSI Council and WSI Kildare) , Minister Michael Ring, Leo Mahon, Martin O'Sullivan (Chairman WSI)

Life Governor Awards

Bronagh Stafford, Wexford

Bronagh has been involved in Water Safety Ireland since before its foundation; she was at one time one of only two swimming teachers in north Wexford when WSI first started. She has been actively involved in teaching and starting venues, and continues to teach every summer.

Bronagh has actively taught swimming to local children for over 50 years voluntarily with the rationale that if a child can swim it will be safe on or near the water. She was also actively involved in fundraising for the RNLI and was chairman of Courtown RNLI fundraising branch for many years.

Bronagh swam for Ireland and has been actively involved in swimming, WSI and is trustee of Courtown Sailing Club.

She installed two swimming pools in her holiday park, Prospect Holiday and Leisure Park. In these she teaches swimming, lifesaving, aqua aerobics and much more. In her own pools where Bronagh employs five Water Safety Ireland trained Lifeguards, safety is of the utmost importance.

Bronagh is a volunteer and gives her time freely so that children can learn to swim and be safe around water. In her own pools she proudly starts children from toddlers through to young adults who then go on to work as Lifeguards, swimming teachers and Water Safety Ireland instructors around the world. Her aim is to have all the children swimming and confident in water. Her aim is to teach swimming, promote safety and awareness so the drowning stats fall.

The Des Kenny Award

Galway bookseller Des Kenny and his wife Maureen were regular sea swimmers in Salthill, starting each day with a dip at Blackrock and Ladies Beach. One day, Des was swimming with his eight-year-old son, Tom, off Blackrock when the young boy disappeared underwater. His head surfaced, and vanished again, but his father eventually managed to get him ashore and out of harm's way. "When we got home, the first thing my father did was get on the phone to find out where he could learn about water safety", Tom Kenny remembers. At the time, the Irish Red Cross in Dublin was the responsible body, and so Des Kenny signed up for training, completed all his lessons and became an instructor. He approached his new skill with enthusiasm and devotion, teaching his own children and members of Our Lady's Boy's Club in Galway City, setting up training courses throughout the county and beyond, and speaking to local authorities about safety on beaches and riverbanks. Being a fluent Irish speaker, he both set up and ran the first water safety courses on the Aran Islands. Like many west coast fishermen, Aran islanders had long lived, and died, by the "pisreog" that it was better not to know how to swim, and let the sea take one quickly if one's boat got into trouble. Des Kenny managed to break that spell, working with school students who in turn influenced their parents to get involved. Des Kenny was Chairman of Water Safety Ireland from 1971 to 1987.

The Des Kenny Award Recipients:

Padraig Begley & Conor McKeown



On the 30th June 2019, two Lifeguards, Padraig Begley & Conor McKeown, were packing up to go home after their Lifeguarding duty on Port beach, when a member of the public informed them that a kite surfer had been lifted up by the wind and dropped onto the beach. Both Lifeguards ran to the Lifeguard hut and Conor obtained the first aid kit while Padraig ran to the injured man. After an assessment of the casualty, both Lifeguards realised that the casualty was unconscious, so they proceeded to perform first aid. After approximately 40 minutes the paramedics arrived and both Lifeguards gave the necessary information to the emergency services. The man was taken to hospital and made a full recovery.

Megan Kelly - Kilkenny



On the 5th of December 2018, Megan was walking towards Christchurch after college when she noticed a man collapsed at a bus stop. Megan went to the man's aid and following rolling him over, she immediately asked her friend to phone emergency services. Megan then opened an airway and checked for breathing. She then proceeded to administer chest compressions. After 50 seconds of chest compressions the man gasped. Megan continued compressions and asked her friend to search for an AED. The man gained consciousness. Megan began to reassure the man and stayed with him until emergency services arrived. The man made a full recovery.

Rescue Appreciation Awards

Garda Gerard Dunne and Garda Brendan Byrne



On the 30th of July 2019, Garda Gerard Dunne and Garda Brendan Byrne were alerted to a woman suspended from railings above the River Liffey. With very few details about the person, the Gardaí assessed the area and spotted a woman hanging onto the railings a short distance away. Both Garda Dunne and Garda Byrne grabbed a secure hold of woman's wrists just as she let go. They held onto the woman for roughly ten minutes, before Dublin Fire Brigade arrived at the scene and assisted in the securing of the person's rescue.

Sergeant Bobby Feery, Garda Thomas Kelly, Garda David Gilmore, Garda Kenneth Nerney, Garda Sharon McMeeking, Garda Gavin Conway, Garda Noel Ruane, Garda Niall Kenny, Garda Conor Murphy and Paul O' Dononvan (Athlone Sub Aqua)



On the 18th of March 2019, a man entered the River Shannon and was quickly swept downstream. Gardaí were on proactive patrols in the area at that time and after receiving a phone call, they arrived at the scene shortly afterwards. Upon discovering the man using torches, the units split onto both banks of the river. They encouraged him to stay calm, tracked his journey and directed the RNLi crew to locate him when they arrived. In an attempt to help the rescue efforts, another member of the public fell into the water and was assisted out

of the river by Garda McMeeking and Garda Nerney. The Gardaí also coordinated with paramedics to ensure the man was attended to swiftly.

Fintan Ryan and Eoin Atkinson



On the afternoon of the 10th of October 2019, both Fintan and Eoin were working on a project at crescent quay when they heard shouting from a person in distress in the water. They immediately went to his aid and pulled him out of the water to safety. They called emergency services and stayed with him until they arrived. The man made a full recovery.

Crew of "The Kerlogue" – Posthumous Award

On 29th of December 1943, the 'Kerlogue' ship with its crew of ten, was 580 km south of Fastnet Rock on passage from Lisbon to Dublin when it was circled by a German long range reconnaissance aircraft signalling "SOS" and heading southeast. The Kerlogue altered course to southeast, where it came upon an appalling scene. The German *Narvik*-class destroyer Z27 and two *Elbing* class torpedo boats, T25 and T26, had been sunk. More than 700 men, most of them dead, were in the water. The brave crew of the Kerlogue spent ten hours plucking survivors from the icy water in the Bay of Biscay. 168 people were rescued.

Eric Giggins – Posthumous Award

On board the Kerlogue that fateful day, was Chief Engineer Eric Giggins. The heroic actions of Eric and his colleagues saved the lives of 168 people. Eric and his brother Roy were immersed in seafaring life and trained other seafarers for many years. Eric also spent time working on ships for Guinness Ireland. Accepting today's posthumous Award is Eric's daughter Mary, a Water Safety Lifeguard and her daughter Alison, also a trained Lifeguard.

The SEIKO “Just In Time” Award

Presented to those who came to the assistance of person(s) in difficulty in water and in danger of drowning.

Matthew Sills - Waterford



On the 5th of August 2019, Matthew was out and about in Tramore when he noticed a large group of people looking very panicked on the prom. This group was watching a brother and sister trying in vain to escape a rip current. A doctor and former lifeguard, Matthew had rescue equipment in his car and instantly ran for a rescue tube. He rushed into the water fully clothed and made his way to the two swimmers. At this point the woman had lost a lot of energy so Matthew placed the rescue tube around her and offered practical advice to the man. Matthew remarkably steered the swimmers ashore.

Tom Breen - Waterford

On the 14th of September 2019, Tom was taking part in his surf heat for the West Coast Surf Club Open Competition. Events took an unexpected turn when two nearby swimmers got into difficulty. Realising the peril they were in, Tom paddled out at speed to help the two people struggling in the water. As one of the swimmers experienced hypothermia, Tom brought this person onto his board and provided reassurance to the other in stressful circumstances. From there, Tom guided both swimmers onshore to safety, where the organisers of the competition were on hand to give assistance.

Barry Mahoney - Wicklow



On the 27th of October 2018, Barry Mahoney was walking with his family along The Cove beach in Greystones. The family stopped after noticing a woman going for a swim in very difficult conditions. A number of strong waves hit the swimmer and she became disorientated as a result. Upon noticing her distress, Barry immediately responded to the unfolding emergency. He discarded his belongings and entered the sea with a lifebuoy. In spite of high waves and strong winds, Barry reached the woman and thankfully pulled her to safety.

Tom Upritchard – Cavan



On the 15th of August 2019, Tom Upritchard was kayaking with his family at Craigavon Watersport Centre when his father became unstable in the water and fell overboard. With Tom's father beginning to panic, Tom sprang into action and jumped into the water. Calling on his own expertise he not only calmed his father by offering reassurance, he also gave practical advice to ensure they made it out of the water safely. Tom directed his father to turn onto his back and float. Both men managed to return to the shoreline with Tom's father completing an inverted breaststroke and a crisis was averted.

Cyril McKeon, Damien McCabe and Paul Gilmartin – Leitrim



On the 6th of May 2018, a training session almost resulted in disaster for a prospective marathon runner. While preparing for an upcoming event, the man fell into the canal at Blueway Waterway. Luckily, Cyril McKeon, Damien McCabe and Paul Gilmartin were on hand as they too were training along the canal. After hearing a splash in the water all three raced to the gentleman's assistance. The men performed CPR and made sure ambulance personnel were called to the scene.

Garda Karl Byrne – Dublin



On the 10th of November 2018, a man entered the River Liffey. Another individual saw the incident and decided to try to save the gentleman. Unfortunately, this attempt proved unsuccessful and two people were now in difficulty in the water. Thankfully, a quick thinking member of the public drew the attention of a passing Garda van. Garda Karl Byrne showed decisiveness when arriving at the scene and jumped into the river from a nearby bridge without fear. Despite the dangers of poor visibility and a strong current, Garda Byrne's efforts proved effective and he managed to rescue the two men in the water.

Garda Donal Tully and Garda Neill Gavin – Dublin

On the night of 31st October 2018, Gardaí were alerted to a woman in distress at White Rock Beach, Killiney. Upon reaching the location, it became obvious the woman was in difficulty and would need to be saved. Garda Donal Tully swam roughly 500 metres in cold and hazardous conditions to the individual. Garda Neill Gavin assisted in the operation, obtaining a lifebuoy further along the beach and throwing it to Garda Tully. The woman was subsequently brought to shore and successfully removed from the water.

Garda Mark O' Sullivan and Garda Gerard Doyle - Donegal



On the 19th of June 2019, Garda Mark O' Sullivan and Garda Gerard Doyle were called to Ballywhorskey Pier where a woman entered the water. Garda O' Sullivan threw a lifebuoy to the woman and she managed to grab onto of it. The two men pulled the woman close to the pier. Suddenly the Gardai recognised the woman was in shock and had very little strength. Demonstrating calm in a pressurised situation, Garda O' Sullivan entered the water to hold onto the woman, while Garda Doyle retrieved a body brace from their patrol

car. This was put around the woman's head to provide extra support. Both Garda held onto the woman until further emergency arrived and removed the woman from the water. The woman was transported to hospital and made a full recovery.

Garda Caroline O' Brien, Garda Aoife Doyle and Garda James McGuill - Kilkenny



On the 7th of July 2019, Garda Aoife Doyle saw a young man hanging from a wall. Garda Doyle and her colleagues rushed to the area in an attempt to stop the person from falling into the river below. Unfortunately, the man plunged into the water. Garda Caroline O' Brien also entered the water and brought the man to the surface. In the meantime, Garda Doyle found a lifebuoy nearby. Garda James McGuill then threw the lifebuoy to Garda O' Brien who was still keeping the man afloat in the water. Garda McGuill and Garda O' Brien pulled the man to safety. He was brought to hospital and made a full recovery.

Deborah Reilly - Westmeath



On the morning of the 12th of November 2018, at the River Shannon (Wolf Tone Terrace), while driving to work Deborah noticed a small crowd of people gathered at the water's edge. She noticed that there was a woman in the water. Deborah immediately instructed that someone phone emergency services and she entered the water. After a period of time, she managed to bring the woman to safety.

Stephen Kiely, Sean Cremin and Tomás O'Riordan - Cork



On the 8th March 2019, at Ballincollig Regional Park, fisheries officers Stephen Kiely & Sean Cremin were on patrol in the River Lee. They were informed that a man was in the river. Both officers went to the area and climbed down the bank to the casualty. They managed to bring the unconscious casualty onto the river bank. Officer Tom Riordan instructed Stephen on various steps of responsiveness from the casualty and informed him that they should commence CPR.

Both Sean & Stephen performed CPR on the individual for approximately 7-10 minutes. The casualty eventually started to respond with signs of life. Emergency services arrived and took the casualty to hospital where he made a full recovery.

Media Appreciation Awards

Presented in appreciation for covering drowning prevention and water safety issues throughout the year.

Local Radio Station Award: Kfm (Kildare)



Kfm is a local radio station serving broadcasting 24 hours a day to Kildare. It began broadcasting in 2004. Thanks to their coverage of water safety issues, listeners are more aware of the dangers at aquatic environments, and for this we are very grateful.

Community Radio Station Award: This Island Nation (by Tom MacSweeney)



“This Island Nation” is a programme that broadcasts on community radio stations around the country and is designed to be a reflective, informative and entertaining programme about maritime matters including water safety. It is produced by Tom MacSweeney who is also a columnist with the Evening Echo in Cork and with Afloat Ireland’s national sailing magazine and is a Special Correspondent with Ireland’s national fishing industry newspaper, The Marine Times. He was formerly Marine Correspondent with RTE. We are grateful to Tom for including our water safety messages in his programme.

National Radio Broadcaster: RTÉ

Radio Telefís Éireann began broadcasting in 1926, making it one of the oldest continuously operating public service broadcasters in the world. We are grateful to RTÉ for liaising with Water Safety Ireland on specific water safety issues to deliver important messages to the public and for helping us to raise awareness and to change attitudes and behaviours at our aquatic environments.

National TV Broadcaster: Virgin Media – Ireland AM

Every summer, hundreds of thousands of people are attracted to Ireland’s waterways nationwide. Many of those taking to our wonderful aquatic environments have very little knowledge of the dangers of open water. We are grateful to the Ireland AM show on Virgin Media for helping us to raise awareness and to change attitudes and behaviours around water.

Provincial Press Award: The Clare Champion

The Clare Champion is a weekly local newspaper that has continued to serve the people of County Clare since it was founded in 1903. A strong voice for the local community, the newspaper has featured many of Water Safety Ireland’s messages to readers. We congratulate the Clare Champion and thank them sincerely for helping to highlight water safety awareness.

National Press Award: The Irish Independent



The Irish Independent is an Irish daily newspaper that was launched in 1905. Their printed and digital editions have covered many topical water safety issues throughout the year. We are truly grateful for this support as it helps to encourage parents to get their children involved in water safety training that instils essential water rescue and survival skills that helps to keep them safe at pools and open water areas nationwide and abroad.

Media Appreciation Award – online broadcasting: Emergency Services Ireland



Since it was first published in 2001, 'Emergency Services Ireland' has provided a platform for state and voluntary emergency services to highlight their initiatives and projects nationwide.

We are most grateful to the editor Grace Heneghan and team for including articles about Water Safety Ireland's volunteers at the frontline of water safety education, training and rescue.

Media Appreciation Award – Periodical: The Marine Times



The Marine Times is a newspaper for Ireland's Fishing, Marine & Coastal Communities. The paper has for three decades, supported the fishing industry and ancillary industries associated with the marine sector, and has given coverage to all related developments, especially on matters related to safety and we are very grateful to them for including Water Safety Ireland's messages on a regular basis throughout the year.

Analysis of Drownings 2019

Water Safety Ireland - targeting at-risk groups with drowning prevention initiatives.

The total number of drownings in Ireland in 2019 was 105, two more than in 2018 when 103 drowned. The average number of drownings each year over the past ten years is 120. Each figure in the following graphical analysis, be it accidental, suicide or of undetermined cause, reflects a preventable tragedy that affects so many lives. Water Safety Ireland continues to target at-risk groups with initiatives to highlight best practices so that drownings are reduced.

A synopsis of some general contributory factors over the years:

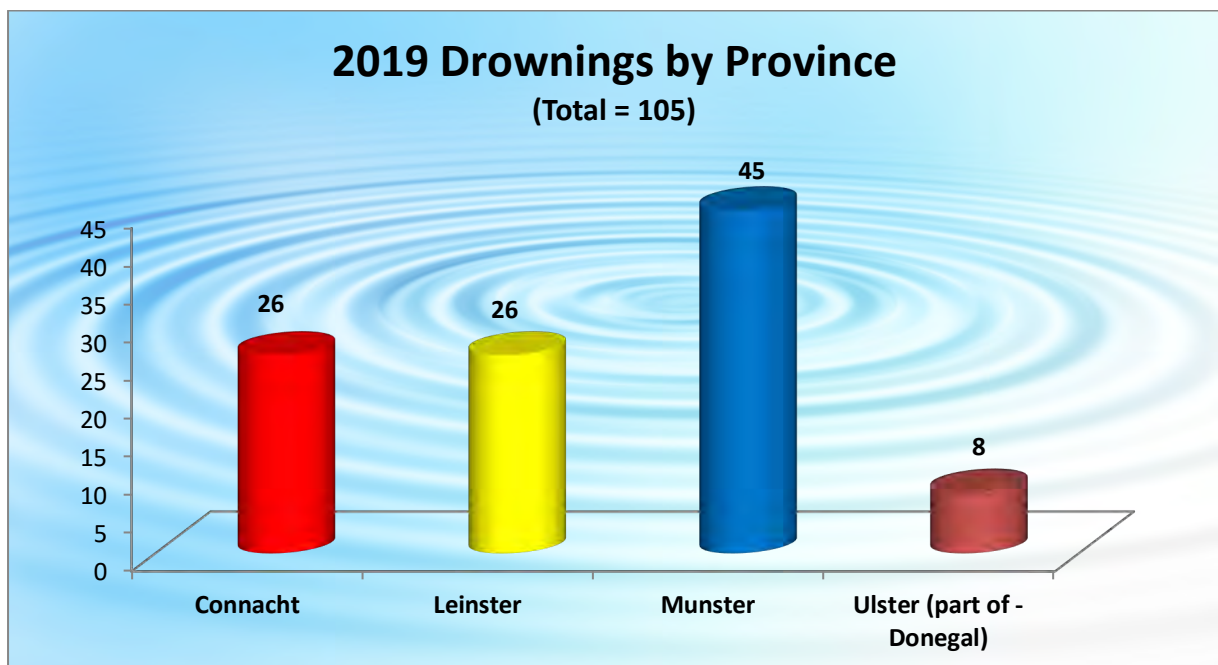
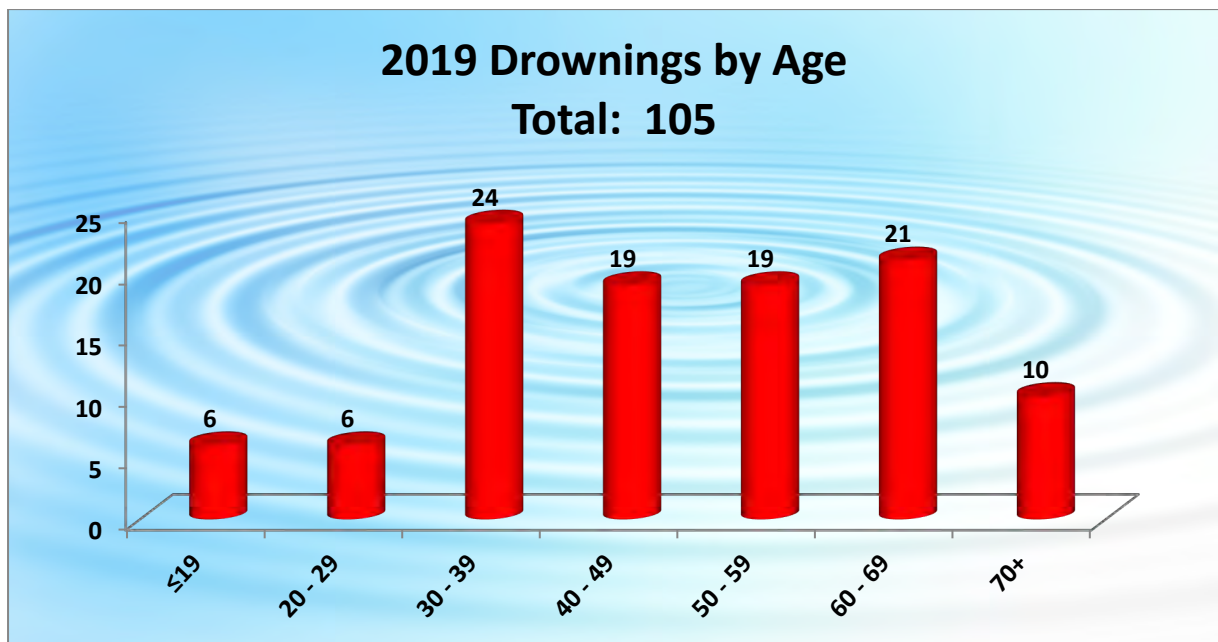
1. Poor or inadequate equipment (e.g. boats or lifejackets);
2. Not wearing a correctly fitting lifejacket;
3. Alcohol consumption;
4. Falling unexpectedly into water;
5. Improper use of boats and equipment;
6. Overestimation of skills; underestimation of ability;
7. Lack of local knowledge when travelling in Ireland and abroad;
8. Not being able to swim or not having lifesaving and water survival skills;
9. Easy unauthorized access to waterways;
10. Cold water shock and hypothermia;
11. Current (including rip currents, river currents, and tidal currents);
12. Offshore winds (including flotation devices);
13. Pre-existing diseases;
14. Underwater entanglement;
15. Bottom surface gradient and stability;
16. Waves (coastal, boat);
17. Water transparency;
18. Impeded visibility (including coastal configuration, structures and overcrowding);
19. Lack of parental supervision (infants and children);
20. Change in weather conditions;
21. Excessive "horseplay" or over exuberant behaviour;
22. Swimming outside the depth of the user.

A synopsis of some general preventive and management actions:

1. Public education by Water Safety Ireland regarding hazards and safe behaviours;
2. Teaching children to stay away from water when unsupervised through the WSI PAWS (Primary Aquatics Water Safety) programme;
3. Continual adult supervision of children;
4. WSI media campaigns that drowning can happen quickly and quietly;
5. Promote in WSI press announcements, the restriction of alcohol provision before or during aquatic activities;
6. Provision by Water Safety Ireland of properly trained and equipped lifeguards;
7. Provision of rescue services;
8. Water Safety Ireland Risk Assessments that include assessments of local hazard warning notices, access to emergency response and availability of resuscitation skills/facilities and other factors;
9. Development by Water Safety Ireland of rescue and resuscitation skills among general public and user groups;

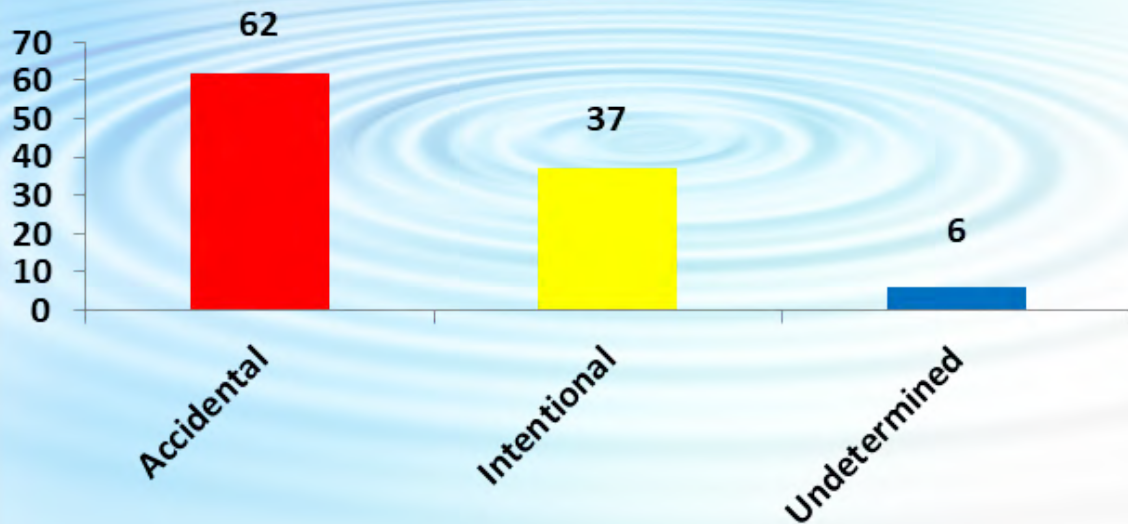
10. Coordination by Water Safety Ireland with user group associations concerning hazard awareness and safe behaviours;
11. Wearing of adequate lifejackets and Personal Flotation Devices when boating;
12. Fencing and doors to isolate outdoor aquatic environments.

*Any interpretation of the figures must be exercised with caution because they are provisional, pending supplementary documentation and therefore subject to change pending further correspondence.



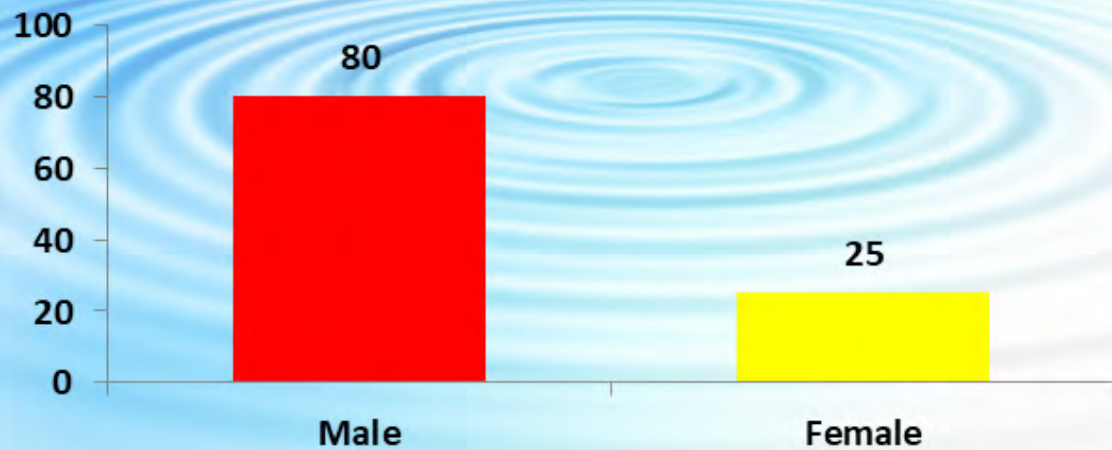
2019 Drownings by Cause

Total: 105



2019 Drownings by Gender

Total: 105





Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

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