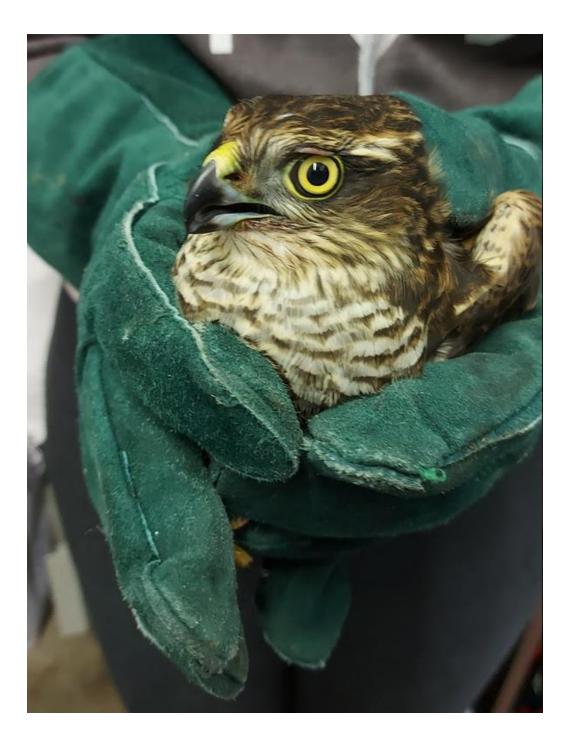
WILDLIFE REHABILITATION IRELAND





Annual Report For the period ended 31st December 2021



Contents

Company information	3
Chairman's report	4
Mission Statement	5
WRI activities	6 - 16
Audited accounts 2021 Financial statements	17, 18
Acknowledgements to funders	19





Company information

DIRECTORS

Heidi Bedell (Chairperson) Emma Higgs (Company Secretary) Pat Nolan (Treasurer) David Duffy Sharon Murphy David McCarrick June Stanley Michael Gunn

COMPANY NUMBER

555237

CHARITY NUMBER

20991

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

20142551

REGISTERED OFFICE

10 High Meadows, Duleek, Co Meath, Ireland Tel: +353 (0)41 9880663

AUDITOR

Whiteside Cullinan Fleming Court, Flemmings Pl, Ballsbridge, Dublin, 4



Chairman's Report

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair."

— Charles Dickens

Dear Staff, Volunteers and Supporters,

2021 was a wild ride for WRI. We successfully built the first ever Wildlife Hospital in Ireland, ran it for a year and then dismantled it. We smiled at national TV cameras, dined with Lords and Ministers and won awards. We became tenants, employers and builders. We dealt with issues in HR, planning, logistics, health and safety, Covid 19, animal quarantine, facility management, fundraising, licensing, volunteers and public relations.

What was achieved stands as a tribute to all involved and can never be taken away. The challenges that now face WRI are simply that – challenges. Although my time as Chair has come to an end, I feel confident that the remaining board will rise to meet those challenges and prevail.

While the planning issues are considerable, they are not insurmountable and while moving again is unthinkable, it is not impossible. What remains a constant is that Wildlife in Ireland needs WRI and needs this facility and that is why volunteers and supporters have persisted and will continue to persist into the future.

leidi Bedell

Chairperson





Mission Statement

Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland was established to:

- support, extend and improve wildlife rehabilitation resources in Ireland;
- promote awareness and education about Irish wildlife for the general public and for professionals working in this and adjacent fields;
- take any other action that will improve wildlife welfare and conservation in Ireland.

These aims were successfully worked towards during 2020 under various strategies as described below:

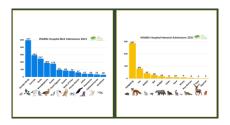
- 1. Hospital and Visitor Centre
- 2. The Community of Rehabilitators
- 3. Ongoing Education Programme
- 4. Wildlife Crime
- 5. Strategic partners, alliances, bodies, stakeholders etc
- 6. Communications and Media
- 8. Governance
- 9. Finances
- 10. Grants and Acknowledgements



Hospital and Visitor Centre







Monthly Emergency Helpline Calls 2021 🦛







Pandemic

2020 was an extraordinary year, with COVID 19 impacting our capital project plans, funding, training, and networking activities.

Wildlife Crisis

In Jan 2021 WRI responded to an animal welfare crisis that presented itself as a direct result of the Covid pandemic – as people were confined to their homes and locales they became more aware of the wildlife on their doorsteps and as a result 'rescued' twice as many wild animals as normal which in turn increased the pressure on voluntary rehabilitators nationwide and a central, resourced hospital became a very urgent need.

Emergency Hospital

In response to the request for help from rehabilitators nationwide, WRI set up an interim emergency Wildlife Hospital in Garlow Cross, Navan, Co Meath to take the excess casualties from the rehabilitators.

Casualties

2021 was a baptism by fire – WRI was inundated with wildlife casualties – 2,500 injured/orphaned wild animals were taken in for rehabilitation from the public, gardai, NPWS and nearly every SPCA including the ISPCA and Ulster SPCA.

WRI also responded to 7,500 phone calls from members of the public calling about wildlife incidents. These figures starkly demonstrate the need for a permanent state funded dedicated Wildlife Hospital.

Volunteers

Thousands of hours of volunteering were provided by the local community, without their help the project would not have been a success. Tradespeople who were housebound due to Covid, came and provided their services for free. We had every type of tradespeople fixing roofs, gutters, electrics, plumbing, heating, and building enclosures.

The good will and generosity from the general public for this project was wonderful to see first hand.

Then we had c. 50 animal care volunteers on a rota. In the height of the baby bird season; Spring, we had to recruit 'Evening baby bird feeders' to cope with the volume of animals.



Hospital and Visitor Centre cont.









Internships

Fifteen Internships were provided with onsite accommodation with interns coming for 3-6 months from a variety of countries, including Ireland, UK, Portugal and, Malta. The majority of them were zoology graduates, and one was a vet from Spain.

Students

Students from various colleges got first-hand experience working with our Animal Care Team as part of their work experience.

Visitor Centre

An Education Tent and walking route was set up in Garlow Cross which allowed us to welcome small groups for talks. The Halloween talks were particularly welcomed, and we enjoyed a sold out week.

Relocation

Garlow Cross was to have been WRI's permanent location, but catastrophically, due to circumstances beyond WRI's control, this agreement changed and WRI were give three months' notice to re-locate the assets of the hospital (temporary buildings, enclosures, equipment and animals) until such time as the facility could be re-established.

WRI's site requirements were very specific if it were to continue operating as a Wildlife Hospital and be up and running within 3 months for the peak wildlife casualty season – Spring 2022.

After a search of over 90 sites/leads, a site at Mornington was identified and the landowner offered to lease a portion of the site to WRI with an option to potentially buy some of the land at a later date for the permanent Hospital.

The Community of Rehabilitators



For most of 2021 WRI had a close relationship with Wildlife Rehabilitators around Ireland.

We invested in a new phone system to support the Rescue and Transport volunteers and this set-up provided an excellent service. Our Animal Care team were on hand to provide advice and support around the clock and the WhatsApp groups liaised to make sure that very few calls went unanswered.

Vet Fees which were incurred by volunteers were paid by WRI. Grants were also provided for rehabilitators.

Annual Report to 31st Dec 2021



Education Programme





Education

While our two day training courses went on hold in 2021 due to diversion of resources to the Hospital and/or Covid 19 restrictions, successful programmes of education were designed and implemented at the Hospital in Garlow Cross.

Outreach

Wildlife talks were provided to schools in 2021 when covid allowed, including Colaiste na hInse, East Meath and Santa Sabina, Dublin

Online presentations

Veterinary Ireland Journal

compromising their welfare.

Many virtual talks were presented via zoom to various groups and Companies - Accenture, Salesforce, SRI, Trinity College, Wild About Navan, Westmeath County Council, to name a few. We also hosted a number of children's on site/on line talks such as Wild Ways, Be Wildlife Aware, Halloween Wildlife and to TY students.

In February 2021, one of our Instructors, Aoife Hand MVB, O'Malley Veterinary Hospital, Bray, wrote an article for the Veterinary Ireland Journal Small Animal section on how to equip general practitioners with

the tools to appropriately triage and treat fox casualties without

How to approach fox casualties in general practice



Hand MVB, O'Malley Veterinary Hospital, Bray, outlines the ways in which titioners can successfully treat fox casualties while prioritising the welfare of



Heritage week

We produced a series of 7 short wildlife educational videos and hosted them on our social media daily through Heritage week.

We also designed and produced a new information leaflet; 'Fantastic Footprints', on the identification of wildlife footprints. These now form part of our practical sessions with young people where we teach them how to make 'footprint traps' to find out what animals are visiting their area etc.



Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland

Education Programme cont.

<text>

Webinars

Duggan Veterinary Group kindly hosted a wildlife webinar on behalf of WRI. Liz Mullineaux presented a talk on 'Wildlife Casualty Triage' to Irish veterinary professionals and interested parties. This was Duggan's second most popular webinar with over 90 individuals tuning in.





Wildlife in University College Dublin Veterinary Hospital

In September 2021 WRI provided final year veterinary nursing students in UCD's veterinary hospital with training in Wildlife treatment and first aid. This is now a compulsory part of their curriculum and an essential part of veterinary education due to the inevitability of wildlife casualties being brought into practices nationwide.

Due to Covid restrictions the class sizes were reduced, and social distancing guidelines strictly adhered to. Nonetheless the sessions were enjoyed by students and WRI alike. Many thanks to our Instructor Aoife Hand MVB.

External soft release and wilding up sites





Strategic partners, alliances, bodies, stakeholders etc

WRI continues to work with key government and local communities to promote the welfare and rehabilitation of wildlife.











An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



Baron Randal Plunkett

Randal is the founder of Dunsany nature reserve, which is Ireland's largest privately owned nature reserve and at present Ireland's only recognized large scale rewilding project. WRI developed a very positive partnership with Randal resulting in some fantastic enclosures being constructed on his land to help with the rehabilitation of wildlife that came through WRI's hands; otters, foxes, hedgehogs and raptors.

Public Participation Network

WRI have been a member of the Meath Environment Network (MEN) Group of the Public Participation Network (PPN) since 2014. As a member, WRI attended virtual meetings of the Meath Environment Network during the year of the pandemic.

Irish Environmental Network

As of November 2017, WRI became a member of the Irish Environmental Network (IEN), this body is made up of nationally active Irish Environmental NGOs. The group represent a broad range of environmental issues including everything from wildlife conservation to climate change.

Fingal County Council

While the Hospital moved to a site in Meath in 2021 and is still based in Meath, the relationship with FCC is still good and the site in Donabate, while not currently accessible, has been earmarked for development of an Animal Rehabilitation Centre in the Fingal draft Development Plan.

NPWS

In 2021 WRI met with Minister Malcom Noonan and NPWS staff online, to discuss WRI's application for an annual Licence.

Minister Noonan also attended the release of one of Ireland's red listed birds of prey in Dunsany Estate at the end of the year.

The Wheel

The Wheel is Ireland's national association of community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises. It is a representative voice and a supportive resource that offers advice, training, influence and advocacy for the sector. WRI has been a member of The Wheel since 2016.

Annual Report to 31st Dec 2021



WRI Communications: Websites





Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland

www.wri.ie

WRI's main website offers rehabilitation resources. It covers standardised wildlife casualty processes, volunteer forms for rehabilitation establishments, wildlife career options, publications and further education - all of which aim to facilitate individuals actively involved in rehabilitation and/or conservation.

Irish Wildlife Matters

www.irishwildlifematters.ie

WRI produced the wildlife first aid website 'Irish Wildlife Matters' (IWM) which was launched in May 2010. Its purpose is to address the lack of easily accessible information on Irish wildlife rescue and first aid. IWM provides an easily accessible, online overview of the rescue methods, medical treatment, rehabilitation and release procedures for the most commonly seen species of Irish wildlife casualties.

Wildlife Crime Ireland

www.wildlifecrime.ie

In 2015 WRI, in association with retired NPWS ranger Val Swan, produced a new wildlife crime website and wildlife crime information brochure that were launched at the Irish Wildlife Crime Conference 2015. This website is a comprehensive site for the general public to get information on what to do and who to call for help in Ireland should a wildlife crime be suspected.

Wildlife Rehabilitation & Teaching Hospital

www.wriwildlifehospital.ie

A new Wildlife Hospital website has been constructed and has been very positively received with lots of new subscribers.



WRI Communications cont.



Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter. We greatly appreciate your interest and support, you're the best!

Wildlife Hospital Update

We have received otters, pine martens, buzzards, ducklings, hedgehogs, red squirrel kits, badger

Media

RTE NEWS SPORT ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS LIFESTYLE CULTURE PLAYER TV RADIO

Patients arrive at Ireland's first wildlife hospital updard / Thurday, 13 Feb 2011 18:44



By Philip Bromwell

The first patients have arrived at Ireland's first hospital dedicated to sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland (WRI) facility opens tomorrow in the grounds of a Co Meath pub shuttered because of the Covid-19 nandemic





Home UK World Politics US Climate Science & Tech Business Ents & Arts

Ireland's only wildlife hospital in need of 'serious funding' as it seeks new home

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland facility is calling for government help to raise money, saying it would show politicians are serious about tackling the climate and biodiversity emergency - but a minister says it is "not that simple".





Communications: WRI e-newsletter

Communication with rehabilitators and subscribers continues to be a priority for WRI.

Sent out quarterly e-newsletters to a constantly growing mailing list, todate over 2,000 subscribers.

Social Media

WRI has a large following on Facebook and Instagram. We use these platforms to inform people on all things wildlife, rehabilitation and the Wildlife Hospital project. The number of followers has grown exponentially since the opening of the Hospital in Garlow Cross.

Media

There is a huge amount of media interest in the WRI Wildlife Hospital, and we featured in all media forms both in Ireland and internationally.

Over 35 articles can be found online, including but not limited to the Times, Independent, RTE, AFP France, Sky News, and as far afield as Hong Kong and Singapore!

It was also mentioned on radio/TV including but not limited to Newstalk, Today FM, LMFM, Morning Ireland, Moncrieff, RTE and Sky News.

A selection:

https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2021/0205/1195235-ireland-wildlife-hospital/ https://www.irishpost.com/news/irish-pub-set-to-reopen-after-being-

converted-into-animal-welfare-centre-202912 https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40254452.html

https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/wildlife-hospital-appeals-for-help-to-expand-due-to-influx-ofanimals-40258766.html

https://www.thejournal.ie/wildlife-rehabilitation-ireland-5395719-Mar2021/ https://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/irish-pub-reopen-doors-very-23433020

https://droghedalife.com/news/meath-pub-to-become-irelands-first-wildlife-hospital

https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/shuttered-wet-pub-transformed-intocountrys-first-wildlife-hospital-1073690.html

https://lovin.ie/news/irelands-first-wildlife-hospital-to-open-in-meath-pub https://www.lmfm.ie/news/lmfm-news/shuttered-co-meath-pub-to-housewildlife-hospital/

https://meathlive.net/2021/02/03/from-night-life-to-wildlife-local-pub-turnedinto-animal-hospital/

https://singaporenewslive.com/locked-down-pub-becomes-irelands-firstwildlife-hospital/128905/

https://hongkongcityportal.com/locked-down-pub-becomes-irelands-firstwildlife-hospital/

https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210221-locked-down-pub-becomesireland-s-first-wildlife-hospital



WRI Governance





Governance Code

During 2021 the Board practiced the policies in place to adhere to the Charities Governance Code.

The AGM was held online 24th March 2021

WRI held regular monthly Board meetings online during the Covid 19 restriction period.

First Audited Accounts – WRI engaged Whiteside Cullinan to do a full Audit of the WRI accounts for the first time in the history of the organisation. This is always a milestone for any organisation and we thank all those (especially Pat Nolan) who helped to get us 'over the line'.

WRI Personnel – Directors



Directors

As WRI grows, it needs an ever-broader skill set to guide it. Recruitment of new Directors is open and transparent and focused on creating a diverse and effective team who oversee the operations and contribute to the strategic direction of the charity.

Two new directors were recruited in 2021.

Rotation of Directors will mean some new faces at the Board meetings including a new Chairperson.

Staff

In 2021 we became employers taking on 1 full-time staff and 4 part-time.

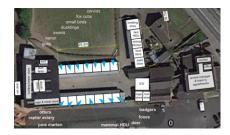


Challenges

WRI was faced with a huge number of challenges in 2021. With considerable effort and good timing, the vast majority of those challenges were overcome. Some still remain to be solved in 2022.













Pandemic emergency response challenges

At the end of 2020 the demand for an additional purpose-built wildlife rehabilitation facility had become critical. Covid 19 had caused an explosion of interest from the general public and the individuals around Ireland taking in wildlife for rehabilitation were exhausted, with many complaining of burn-out. WRI were asked to step up and we felt that we could no longer put off the establishment of an emergency temporary Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital.

Location challenges

After a number of meetings with Fingal County Council staff – including a direct meeting with the County Manager, it was clear that the site at Turvey Nature Reserve, in Donabate would not be available for at least 12 to 24 months due to planning requirements. WRI started a campaign to find an alternative site.

Casualty volume challenges

In January 2021 WRI signed a lease with the McCarthy brothers to rent a flat above their pub, and the adjacent stables, at Garlow Cross, Co. Meath which at the time, were out of use due to Covid 19 restrictions. What followed was an extraordinary demonstration of good will from the public with resources and volunteers arriving in their droves to build a Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital and Education Centre.

The site included accommodation for staff and interns and plenty of space to build aviaries, kennels and enclosures. A large barn provided space for an Education Centre, temporary office, and social space for volunteers. Old horse stables were cleaned out and converted into wildlife cages for otters, badgers, foxes etc. Some became High Dependency Units for small mammals and baby birds, others were converted for use for all species of garden, water, seabird and raptors. The foaling stable became an animal kitchen, the tack room became a wildlife triage room. Other stables were converted for use for bedding, food, equipment, and medical storage spaces.

Portacabins originally used in Howth as a primary school were recycled and converted into an Intensive Care Unit and a veterinary cabin.

The rehabilitation process was fast and furious and we couldn't build enclosures fast enough! To facilitate the final stage of the rehabilitation process – 'wilding up', we reached out to contacts further afield for space to erect/create large secluded pre-release enclosures.

We were lucky enough to find space for this in a forest in Wicklow, a stud farm near Blessington, and a nature reserve near Moynalty.

We also reached out to nearby Lord Randal Plunkett in Dunsany Castle who kindly offered a variety of locations on his estate. We brought all sorts of species to Dunsany for re-wilding including foxes, hedgehogs, and four of our otters who went into Randal's disused tennis court!.



Challenges cont.







Employment challenges

In February 2021 WRI took on Dan Donoher as a full-time Animal Manager. In November we also engaged Adrian Martinez as WRI's Onsite Veterinary Surgeon, Aoife McPartlin as Education & Media Manager, Leyton Jones as Site Maintenance Manager and Sean Byrne as Animal Care & Education Officer. WRI was registered as an employer and set up a Revenue Online Services account to manage the payroll. Together with the rent and running fees, the employment contracts represented a significant financial commitment.

The Fundraising Sub-committee together with Media and Social Media volunteers achieved a remarkable income which kept the organisation afloat throughout the year. While WRI is grateful for grants made available to us, particularly from the IEN, it is on the general public donations that WRI has been most dependent and to which we owe the success of what was achieved. It is extraordinary considering what was done throughout 2021, that WRI was in a good financial position at the end of the year and could rise to the challenge of moving location.

However, the challenges of being an employer are not only financial and the management of staff in WRI is an area that will be given additional attention in 2022. Due to the change of WRI circumstances, only Leyton Jones is still employed by the organisation currently.

Licence challenges

Because our facility was the largest in the country with a high profile, we found ourselves the subject of a number of inspections. During the year these were passed favourably, and a new annual licence was granted for our type of facility. This replaced the requirement to apply for a licence for each individual animal. With over 2,500 animals passing through the Hospital, this cut down on administration for both WRI and the NPWS. In retrospect, it is likely that the workload in the Hospital was too much for the number of people trying to carry it out. Talks have been taking place between WRI and NPWS to explore how these systems can be improved going forward



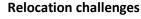
Social Media challenges

Our explosion onto social media was spectacular but became difficult to control. A new Code of Conduct for WhatsApp groups had to be introduced towards the end of the year and this should help to keep communication constructive going forward. The majority of the WhatsApp groups in 2021 have been closed down to facilitate the relocation of the Hospital.



Challenges cont.





As the year progressed though it became clear that our Landlord had plans for the site and WRI had to begin a new search to find an alternative location for the Hospital once more.

Challenges going forward

Planning challenges

Many of the challenges of 2021 have followed us into 2022. Due to the exceptional circumstances we faced, i.e.; having to re-locate the Wildlife Hospital within three months, with the aim of being able to assist with the rehabilitation of wildlife in the busiest season – Spring, WRI are now facing planning permission challenges. While we have set up at a new location in Mornington, Co. Meath, we are now working on regularising our planning status.

Without being able to provide a service to wildlife until we can open again, the rehab network are continuing to operate as best they can.



NPWS challenges

Our discussions with the NPWS are ongoing and we hope to have a positive outcome later this year.

Funding challenges

While we had budgeted to rebuild a Hospital in Mornington, any additional costs due to planning process delays will have to be taken into consideration. Fundraising is ongoing and grant bodies are continuing to provide support albeit limited due to lack of site security.

WRI will concentrate on resolving these issues in 2022 with the intention of reopening in early 2023.



Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland **PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**

for the financial year ended 31 December 2021

	2021 Notes €	2020 €
Turnover	232,092	34,015
Cost of sales	(37,373)	-
Gross profit	194,719	34,015
Administrative expenses	(104,004)	(23,191)
Profit before taxation	90,715	10,824
Tax on profit		
Profit for the financial year	90,715	10,824
Total comprehensive income	90,715	10,824

Approved by the board on 7 May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Emma Higgs Director

Emm Higgs Jleidi Bedell

Heidi Bedell Director



Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 December 2021

	Notes	2021 €	2020 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	7	37,702	
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		140,335	56,314
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(33,181)	(2,173)
Net Current Assets		107,154	54,141
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		144,856	54,141
Reserves			
Retained surplus		144,856	54,141
Equity attributable to owners of the company		144,856	54,141

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard.

Approved by the board on 7 May 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Emma Higgs Director

Emme Higgs

Heidi Bedell Director

Our full Statutory Accounts are available on our website www.wri.ie



WRI Grants to Rehabilitators



Given by WRI

- WRI offered grants of up to €1000 to rehabilitators to further their wildlife rescue/rehabilitation efforts.
- Recipient: Amy Walsh bat rehabilitator
 - July 2021, WRI Rehabilitator Grant Fund, Amount €1,000 for Cabin for wildlife rehabilitation
- WRI provided in excess of €5,000 in financial support to rehabilitators throughout Ireland, cost covered included veterinary, food, and expenses for wildlife rescues.

Acknowledgements to funders and supporters









An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



Grants Received

WRI would like to thank all the generous individuals who donated their time and or money during the year. WRI relies on donations and grants to carry out the work we do, so your support is very gratefully received. We would especially like to thank the following:

- Irish Environmental Network, dispersed from the Department of the Environment, Community and Communications, the Department of housing, planning and local Government and the Department of Rural and Community Development:
 - Core Funding, Amount €25,096
 - COVID Adaptation Fund 2021, Amount €554 for two laptops
 - Capacity Building Funding, Amount €9,000 for Wildlife Hospital
- Meath County Council:
 - June 2021, Indaver Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme 2020 CEPGS/2020/06 Amount €1,500 for WRI Animal Foster Carers
 - March 2021, Covid-19 Emergency Fund Round 2, provided by the Dept of Rural and Community Development - Grant No 3250, Amount €900, to convert educational talks to digital content
 - Community Grants Scheme, Virtual Walk in the Woods €380
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:
 - December 2021, discretionary funding, Amount €20,000, to cover deficit incurred through running the Wildlife Hospital in 2021
- July 2021, Heritage section winner of the National Lottery Good Causes award €11,000 spent on wildlife rehabilitation during 2021.



