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# The Board

The Group's non-executive Directors are:



John B. McGuckian, aged 83, has been a Director for 35 years having been appointed as a non-executive Director in 1988 and Chairman in 2004. He has a wide range of interests, both in Ireland and internationally. He is also a Director of Cooneen Textiles Limited. He is a former Director of a number of listed companies and he has previously acted as the Chairman of; the International Fund for Ireland, the Industrial Development Board for Northern Ireland, UTV Media plc and as Senior Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Senate of the Queen's University of Belfast.

**Committee Membership:** Remuneration Committee, Nomination Committee (Chair)



**Daniel Clague** 

Dan Clague, aged 63, was appointed to the Board in August 2021. Dan is a Senior Adviser with the Transport Services and Infrastructure group of Stephens Europe, an independent investment bank for middle market companies. Dan has over 25 years' experience in investment banking and has previously held senior positions with Hawkpoint Partners, SG Hambros, ABN Amro and Baring Brothers. Prior to entering investment banking, Dan spent a number of years working in the maritime sector as a shipping and ports manager. He has global experience of both public and private company mergers and acquisitions across the transport industry including the RoRo, LoLo and port sectors. Dan is based in London.

**Committee Membership:** Audit Committee, Remuneration Committee (Chair), Nomination Committee





Éimear Moloney, aged 52, was appointed to the Board in August 2022. Éimear has over 20 years' experience in capital markets and most recently held a senior executive position with Zurich Life Assurance (Ireland) plc, with responsibility for managing asset allocation across various geographic portfolios. Éimear holds non-executive directorships at listed companies Kingspan Group plc where she is a member of the Audit Committee and Hostelworld Group plc where she chairs the Audit Committee. She also holds a nonexecutive directorship at privately owned Chanelle Pharmaceuticals Group and was previously a non-executive Director at Yew Grove Reit plc. Éimear holds a B.A. Accounting and Finance and MSc. Investment and Treasury from Dublin City University and is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. She is also a member of the Institute of Directors in Ireland.

**Committee Membership:** Audit Committee (Chair), Remuneration Committee. Nomination Committee





Lesley Williams, aged 57, was appointed to the Board in January 2021. Lesley has over 25 years' experience in capital markets having held senior positions with Investec Bank plc as Head of Irish Equities, Euronext Dublin (formerly the Irish Stock Exchange) as Head of Irish Market and Goodbody Stockbrokers as Head of Institutional Equity Sales. Lesley is a non-executive director of Origin Enterprises plc where she is chair of the ESG Committee. Lesley also holds a number of independent non-executive directorships in the asset management and International fund sectors. She is also a past director of Dublin Port Company where she held the position of Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. Lesley is an Associate member of the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute (CFA) from which she also holds a certificate in ESG investing and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment.

**Committee Membership:** Audit Committee, Remuneration Committee. Nomination Committee

The Group's executive Directors are:

Eamonn Rothwell BComm, MBS, FCCA, CFA UK Chief Executive Officer

Eamonn Rothwell, aged 67, has been a Director for 36 years having been appointed as a non-executive Director in 1987 and subsequently to the position of Chief Executive Officer in 1992. He is also a Director of Interferry European Office A.I.S.B.L. He is a former Director of The United Kingdom Mutual War Risks Association Limited, Interferry Inc and The United Kingdom Mutual Steam Ship Assurance Association (Bermuda) Limited. He is a past executive Director of former stockbrokers NCB Group, now part of Brewin Dolphin. Prior to that, he worked with Allied Irish Banks plc, Fáilte Ireland (The Irish Tourist Board) and as a financial journalist.

Committee Membership: Nomination Committee

David Ledwidge FCA, BSc (Mgmt) Chief Financial Officer

David Ledwidge, aged 43, was appointed to the Board in 2016. David joined the Group in 2006 from professional services firm Deloitte where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He has held various financial positions within the Group, including Group Risk Accountant, and most recently as Finance Director of Irish Ferries. He was appointed to his current role as Group Chief Financial Officer in May 2015.

The Company Secretary is:



Thomas Corcoran, aged 58, joined the Company in 1989 from the international professional services firm PwC, where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant. He has held a number of financial positions within the Group and is currently Group Financial Controller and Company Secretary. He was appointed Company Secretary in 2001.

# **Corporate Governance Report**



Dear Shareholder,

I have pleasure in introducing my 2022 Report on Corporate Governance. 2022 was an exciting year for the Group, as we emerged from the pandemic restrictions and welcomed returning passengers onboard our services. We continued our strategic expansion programmes, increasing capacity on our Dover – Calais service, commenced during 2021, to three vessels and made further progress on our terminal expansion and renewal project commissioning additional environmentally friendly plant during the year.

#### **Philosophy**

The Board is committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance practices which support the delivery of our strategy. The Board believes that corporate governance is not solely concerned with Boardroom practices but must be intertwined with all activity which the Group undertakes affecting our employees, customers, suppliers and all other stakeholders including the wider society in which the Group exists. The Board sets the tone for corporate governance practices across the Group through engagement, communication and policy formulation.

This Corporate Governance Report, together with the Annual Report as a whole, is presented with the objective of providing an insight into the corporate governance process at the Group.

#### **Board Changes**

We continued our program of board refreshment during 2022, with the appointment of Éimear Moloney on 25 August. Éimear has extensive experience of capital markets, macro-

economics and strategy to drive shareholder returns. Éimear also serves on the Board of a number of other listed companies. John Sheehan resigned as a Director having served terms in aggregate totalling nine years. I express my gratitude to John for his service and contributions to the Group over his tenure. Subsequent to John's resignation, Éimear, in recognition of her relevant qualifications and experience, was appointed as Chair of the Audit Committee. Other changes in roles during 2022 was the nomination of Lesley Williams as Senior Independent Director and Dan Clague as Chair of the Remuneration Committee. As detailed in the Corporate Governance Report, in relation to my own tenure as Chairman of the Board exceeding nine years, the Nomination Committee has assessed my performance and have reaffirmed my continuing position as Chairman.

#### **Engagement**

We have progressed our engagement with stakeholders on corporate governance concerns, including sustainability interests, to help us understand which aspects of our services and practices need to be prioritised to ensure we continue to align with their interests. We also continue to improve our processes and reporting in the area of sustainability as set out in the Sustainability and ESG Report on pages 36 to 59. On employee engagement, we have implemented a new talent review programme as a means of further engaging with employees and allowing them to maximise their potential within the organisation. We have also commenced engagement with our principal customers and suppliers on ESG matters and have continual engagement with our shareholders. These engagement processes are described in the Corporate Governance Report.

At our AGM held on 11 May 2022, all resolutions put to the meeting were passed. Two resolutions received less than 80% support and in accordance with the requirements of the Code, the Report of the Nominations

Committee details the concern raised

regarding composition of the Board and the Report of the Remuneration Committee details the concern around remuneration practices.

#### **Corporate Governance Code**

The Group has adopted the UK Corporate Governance Code (2018) (The Code) issued by the Financial Reporting Council and the Irish Corporate Governance Annex issued by Euronext Dublin. Copies of these are available at the respective websites, www.frc.org.uk and www.euronext.com.

The Group used the Code and Annex as a framework for developing its corporate governance processes. The Corporate Governance Report details how the Group has applied the principles and complied with the provisions set out in the Code. In certain instances where compliance with the provisions of the Code has not been achieved in the specific circumstances of the Group, explanation has been provided.

The Corporate Governance Report details on the following pages our compliance with the Code, the composition of the Board, its corporate governance processes and activities during the year, together with the reports from each of the Board committees.

Finally, I would like to thank all our stakeholders for their continued support and look forward to continued constructive engagement through 2023.

# John McGuckian

Chairman

8 March 2023

# Application of the UK Corporate Governance Code During 2022

This Corporate Governance Report presented in the context of the full Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 sets out how the Board has applied the Principles of the Code. This is supported through reporting on compliance with the Provisions of the Code. The Board considers that, other than for the deviations noted below which have been explained in this Corporate Governance Report, throughout the period under review the Group has been in compliance with the provisions of the Code and the requirements set out in the Irish Annex.

Provision 5 of the Code requires the Board to describe in its Annual Report how the interests of key stakeholders and the matters set out in Section 172 of the United

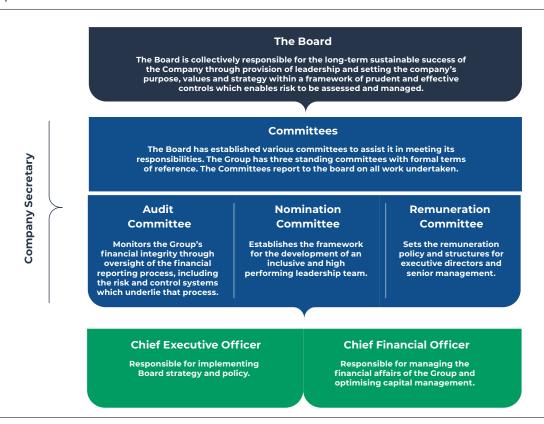
Kingdom Companies Act of 2006 are addressed. While that Act does not apply to Irish companies, the Board is satisfied that these matters have been addressed in discussions and disclosures throughout this Annual Report including discussion on strategy and business model, business review, risk processes, environmental matters and stakeholder engagement. Provision 5 also requires that employee engagement be facilitated by one of three prescribed methods. As the Board has not chosen one or more of these methods, it explains at page 84 the alternative arrangements which are in place and why it considers that they are effective.

Under Provision 19 of the Code, the Chair should not remain in post beyond nine years from the date of their first appointment. This report at page 84 provides details to the continuing tenure of Mr. John B. McGuckian as Chairman beyond nine years.

Provision 36 requires that the Remuneration Committee should develop a formal policy for postemployment shareholding requirements encompassing both unvested and vested shares. The Report of the Remuneration Committee at pages 107 and 108 sets out the reasoning for not establishing set levels for post-employment shareholdings given that the existing arrangements under the Remuneration Policy already provide for contractual restrictions on share disposals of up to five years postemployment.

Provision 39 requires that notice or contract periods should be one year or less. The Report of the Remuneration Committee at page 106 sets out why in relation to one Director a notice period of two years will apply in certain circumstances.

# Corporate Governance Framework



<sup>\*</sup>The Company secretary provides a support role to the Board and its Committees in managing information flows and in supporting corporate government processes.

# **Corporate Governance Report**

# Continued

# Board Leadership and Company Purpose

The Board is collectively responsible for the long-term sustainable success of the Group through provision of leadership within a framework of prudent and effective controls which enables risk to be assessed and managed. Pursuant to the Constitution, the Directors of the Company are empowered to exercise all such powers as are necessary to manage and run the Company, subject to the provisions of the Companies Act 2014.

In discharging this responsibility, the Board has adopted a formal schedule of matters specifically reserved to it for decision, which covers key areas of the Group's business including approval of financial statements, budgets (including capital expenditure), acquisitions or disposals of significant assets, dividends and share redemptions, board appointments and setting the risk appetite. Certain additional matters are delegated to Board Committees.

In discharging their duties, the Board has arrangements in place for Directors to disclose any direct or indirect interests which may possibly conflict with the interests of the Company. Directors must abstain on any vote regarding matters where a conflict exists.

#### **Group Strategy and Corporate Governance**

On page 16 we describe the Group's strategy. This strategy is supported by our five strategic pillars, consideration of which is interwoven throughout the Board agenda for each meeting and throughout this report.

Strategic pillar Key activities during the period

Quality service

Investment in quality assets is essential to ensure a reliable, timely and high-quality service to our customers which is essential to retaining the Group's pivotal position in international logistics chain and to driving growth in the Group's business.

- · The oversight and monitoring of performance of the fleet
- · Evaluation and approval of ongoing expansion including:
  - expansion of new ferry services between Dover and Calais.
  - Increase in the operational ferry fleet from 7 to 8 vessels, through the acquisition of the Isle of Inisheer
  - Increase in the container vessel fleet from 7 to 8 vessels.
  - Approval of the acquisition of a new ship to shore electrically powered crane at Dublin Ferryport Terminals as part of the ongoing replacement and expansion program.
  - Vessel upgrade works involving customer facing and background technical improvements.
  - Commencement of operations at the Dublin Inland Port.

## Strategic pillar Key activities during the period

#### People and culture



Our customers' experience is directly affected through their interaction with our employees and third-party contractors.

- · Overview of service quality reports.
- · Monitoring of feedback from staff briefing sessions.
- · Sponsoring of talent management programme.
- · Review of whistleblowing procedures.

#### **Financial management**



Pursuit of investment opportunities within stringent risk and reward hurdles, avoidance of speculative financial positions and Capital management.

- Reviewed the regular reports from the CEO and CFO regarding the Group's operations.
- · Monitored the financial liquidity and adequacy of borrowing facilities.
- Challenge of investment proposals presented by the executive team in terms of resilience and risk appetite.
- · Consideration of commodity and currency exposures.
- Assessed the Group's capital allocation, dividend and buyback transactions, approving the resumption of dividend payments.

#### Safety



The operational safety of our vessels and terminal facilities is paramount to maintaining the reputation of our brands which is vital to future success and a strong safety culture is promoted across all activities.

- · Oversight of Group operational safety reviews.
- · Attended briefings from the Risk Management Committee.
- · Review of risk appetite statements.
- Reviewed effectiveness of the Group's internal control and risk management systems.

# Sustainability



The Group seeks to minimise the impact of its activities on the environment through constant innovation, efficiency and awareness.

- Oversight of Group compliance with existing regulations and potential effects of new regulations.
- Approval of additional resources to formalise the development of integrated Group sustainability policy and framework.
- · Review of sustainability targets and roadmap
- · Approval of projects to improve the Group's environmental footprint.

# **Corporate Governance Report**

## Continued

#### **Stakeholder Engagement**

At ICG, we believe success in our business will deliver sustained and profitable growth for the benefit of all our stakeholders. To nurture this success, regular dialogue takes place at relevant levels within the Group and feedback is delivered to the Board through the CEO and presentations from the senior executive team.



#### **Shareholders**

The Board acknowledges its responsibility to engage with shareholders to ensure that their interests are being met and to listen to any areas of concern which they may raise.

The Board encourages communications with shareholders and welcomes their participation at all general meetings of the Company. The 2022 AGM provided an opportunity to meet once again with shareholders in-person following the virtual AGMs in 2020 and 2021. We also engaged with our shareholders and their advisers prior to the 2022 AGM. Shareholders were afforded an opportunity at the 2022 AGM to vote on advisory resolutions concerning the 2021 Annual Report which received 100% support and on the Report of the Remuneration Committee which received 74% support. Further details on the matters raised concerning remuneration are detailed in this year's report of the Remuneration Committee at page 99. The re-election of Mr. McGuckian as Director received 77% support and further details on the matters raised on Mr. McGuckian's re-election are discussed in the Report of the Nomination Committee on page 96.

In addition to the AGM engagement, other than during close periods and subject to the requirements of the Takeover Code, when applicable, the Chief Executive and the Chief Financial Officer have a regular dialogue with its major shareholders and analysts throughout the year and report on these meetings to the Board. The Senior Independent Director is also available on request to meet with major shareholders. While supporting the Group's strategy, an increasing area of interest to shareholders is our sustainability credentials. Our Sustainability and ESG Report at pages 36 to 59 explains our sustainability policy and framework and how we are increasingly embedding sustainability practices into our everyday operations.

Apart from the direct engagement described above, regular formal updates are provided to shareholders

and are available on the Group's website. During 2022, these include, the 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statements, the 2022 Half-Yearly Financial Report, Trading Updates together with investor presentations. ICG's website, www.icg.ie, also provides access to other corporate and financial information, including all regulatory announcements and a link to the current ICG Unit price.

The 2023 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 11 May 2023. Arrangements will be made for the 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Annual General Meeting Notice to be available to shareholders at least 20 working days before the meeting and for the level of proxy votes cast for and against each resolution and the number of abstentions, to be announced at the meeting. Further details on the procedures applicable to general meetings are set out on pages 88 to 90.

Further investor relations information is available on pages 196 and 197 of this Annual Report.

#### Customers

Our strategy centres around meeting our customers maritime transport requirements whether that is being a key partner in their organisation's international logistics chain or personal travel arrangements. We engage with our customers on a daily basis through the provision of our services but also proactively work in partnership with our customers so that they can achieve their objectives. Through listening to our customer feedback and requirements we adapt our offering in the provision of safe, reliable, timely, good value and high quality maritime transport, while continuing initiatives to minimise the impact of our operations on the environment. The Board receives regular updates from the CEO and senior managers on customer performance and market developments.

### **Suppliers**

The Group's partnerships with its suppliers are essential to the Group's success in delivering its services. We work closely with our suppliers to ensure the quality of supplies and services meet our exacting requirements. We support our suppliers with their innovation projects which benefit the way we can deliver our services. Increasingly this involves initiatives with an environmental benefit whether it be a new or improved product or a new way of doing things. We have in place a Supplier Code of Conduct the purpose of which is to ensure our procurement processes are aligned with our values and policies across the areas of environment, ethics, human rights and health and safety. The Board receives regular updates from the CEO and senior managers on the performance of key suppliers and innovations.

#### Workforce

We rely on our workforce to promote our values and deliver on our strategic objectives. Our customers' experience and consequentially our success is directly affected through their interaction with our workforce comprising our own employees and third-party contractors. In return, we recognise our obligation to promote employee development in an environment which promotes diversity, inclusion and realisation of potential in a safe working environment.

The Board notes the Code provision 5 relating to workforce engagement and the methods which might be used to effect same. The Board has considered these against the nature of the manner in which the Group's activities are performed. As is common practice in the maritime sector, our vessels are crewed through third-party managers. The Group has no legal rights to engage with the individual crew members who are directed and controlled by the third-party manager. The contracts between the Group and the crewing managers include detailed service level arrangements and requirements that the thirdparty adhere to international IMO regulations regarding employment terms for seafarers. The Group monitors the crewing manager certification on an ongoing basis. The Group has also entered into third-party labour contracts with respect to its terminal operations.

At peak season, the Group engages in excess of 1,200 persons, of which approximately 300 are direct employees. The Board has considered that the most appropriate manner in which it can ensure that the interests of persons employed directly or indirectly can be considered is through challenging the CEO and divisional managing directors on their regular reports to the Board.

Both formal and informal processes underlie engagement with the direct workforce. Formal processes include general briefing sessions to all employees through the management chain. During 2022, the Group introduced a new talent review programme which promotes the exchange of views and encourages individuals to realise their potential through agreed

development goals. The Group has also formulated grievance and whistleblowing procedures whereby employees can report any concern in confidence. The Group also has arrangements in place for the provision of confidential counselling services. Informally, given the small direct workforce, there is an open access policy whereby any employee has access to any manager up to the CEO. Senior management also regularly visit all Group locations. Our workforce is a rich source of information on how the Group performs in both a customer facing roles and operationally. Within the processes described, executive management report on workforce matters to the Board which are taken into consideration in further developing the Group's businesses.

The Company also facilitated Board visits to Group vessels and port operations during 2022, where the Directors had an opportunity to meet with members of the workforce. These visits had been curtailed during 2020 and 2021 in line with Group safety protocols around Covid-19.

#### **Environment and Society**

The Group acknowledges its societal responsibility to conduct business in a manner that protects our shared environment. We operate in a highly regulated industry which requires adherence to high standards of waste and resource management, pollution prevention and increasingly rigorous compliance measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the maritime sector. This involves continuous engagement with port and flag state authorities, industry representative bodies, and local and international regulatory agencies. A key step in the Group's climate change risk

framework outlined on page 63 is to engage in a research program to incorporate stakeholder views on the environment and climate change expectations into the Group's risk appetite setting and strategic planning processes. We have to date engaged with key customers and our employees to identify those aspects of the Group's services which they value most, including sustainability initiatives.

ICG is recognised as a critical infrastructure operator in providing essential transport services under the Irish Ferries and Eucon brands.

This requires collaboration with the Irish Government on areas of business continuity and network and information security. Irish Ferries is also a significant contributor to the tourism industries of Ireland, the UK and France and engages in cooperative campaign programs with regional tourism bodies to promote local tourism.

We also support various community initiatives and charities that align with our strategic pillars of safety and sustainability, which are outlined on pages 50 and 51.

# **Corporate Governance Report**

# Continued

# Division of Responsibilities

The Board is comprised of two executive and four non-executive Directors. The roles of Chairman and Chief Executive are separate, set out in writing and approved by the Board.

The Board has adopted the corporate governance structure set out below which it believes provides for segregation of the oversight functions from those of executive management.

**Chairman:** The Board is led by the Chairman who is responsible for its overall effectiveness in directing the Group.

John B. McGuckian has served as Chairman of the Board since 2004 and is responsible for leading the Board, ensuring its effectiveness through;

- Setting the Board's agenda and ensuring that adequate time is available for discussion.
- Promoting a culture of openness and debate by facilitating the effective contribution of non-executive Directors in particular and ensuring constructive relations between executive and non-executive Directors.
- Ensuring that the Directors receive accurate, timely and clear information.
- Ensuring effective communication with shareholders.

Chief Executive: The Board has delegated the management of the Group to the Executive Management Team, through the direction of Eamonn Rothwell who has served as Chief Executive since 1992. The Chief Executive is responsible for implementing Board strategy and policies and closely liaises with the Chairman and manages the Group's relationship with its shareholders.

#### **Senior Independent Director:**

The Board, having considered her experience, appointed Lesley Wiliams as the Senior Independent Director effective from 14 November 2022. The Senior Independent Director acts as a sounding board for the Chairman and serves as an intermediary for the

other Directors if necessary. The Senior Independent Director is also available to shareholders if they have concerns which have not been resolved through the normal channels of Chairman, Chief Executive or for which such contact is inappropriate. John Sheehan served as the Senior Independent Director up to his retirement as Director on 11 November 2022.

Non-executive Directors: Nonexecutive Directors through their knowledge and experience gained outside the Group constructively challenge and contribute to the development of Group strategy. Non-executive Directors scrutinise the performance of management in meeting agreed goals and objectives and monitor the reporting of performance. They satisfy themselves on the integrity of financial information and that financial controls and systems of risk management are robust and defensible. Through their membership of Committees, they are responsible for determining appropriate levels of remuneration of executive Directors and have a prime role in appointing and, where necessary, removing executive Directors, and in succession planning.

Company Secretary: The Company Secretary provides a support role to the Chairman and the Board ensuring good information flows within the Board and its committees and between senior management and non-executive Directors, as well as facilitating induction and assisting with professional development as required and advising the Board through the Chairman on governance matters. Thomas Corcoran has served as Company Secretary since 2001.

Committees: During the year ended 31 December 2022, there were three standing Board Committees with formal terms of reference; the Audit Committee, the Nomination Committee and the Remuneration Committee. In addition, the Board will establish ad-hoc sub-committees to deal with other matters as necessary. All Board committees have written terms of reference setting out their authorities and duties delegated by the Board.

The terms of reference are available, on request, from the Company Secretary and are available on the Group's website. The reports of the committees are set out at pages 91 to 108.

Independence: All of the non-executive Directors are considered by the Board to be independent of management and free of any relationships which could interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement. In considering their independence, the Board has taken into account a number of factors including their length of service on the Board, other directorships held and material business interests. The Nominations Committee reviews on an annual basis the continuing independence of the existing Directors before recommending their going forward for re-election at the AGM.

Mr. McGuckian, as Chairman of the Board, is not considered independent under the Code. Mr McGuckian was assessed to have been independent at the date of appointment as Chairman in 2004. The Board has also noted the Code's requirements around tenure, with Mr. McGuckian having served on the Board for more than nine years since his first appointment. The Board, as advised by the Nomination Committee, considered Mr. McGuckian's suitability to continue as Chairman of the Board and Director of the Company. The Board assessed Mr. McGuckian to possess an independent mindset with which he carries out his role. The Board also considered the knowledge, skills and experience that he contributes and considered him to be both independent in character and judgement and to be of continued significant benefit to the Board. While conscious of the recommendations of the UK Code, the Board - through the Nomination Committee - considered it in the best interests of the Company and its stakeholders for the Chair to continue for 2023. Mr. McGuckian's extensive knowledge of the business ensures appropriate challenge and leadership of the Board during this time of strategic expansion of activities.

**Meetings:** The Board agrees a schedule of regular meetings each calendar year and also meets on other occasions

if necessary with contact between meetings as required in order to progress the Group's business. Where a Director is unable to attend a meeting, they may communicate their views to the Chairman. The Directors receive regular and timely information in a form and quality appropriate to enable the Board to discharge its duties. Nonexecutive Directors are expected to utilise their expertise and experience to constructively challenge proposals tabled at the meetings. The Board has direct access to the Executive Management Team who regularly brief the Board in relation to operational, financial and strategic matters concerning the Group.

Director attendances at scheduled meetings are set out below. In addition, there was regular contact and updates between these scheduled meetings. The Chairman also held meetings with the non-executive Directors without the executive Directors present and the non-executive Directors also meet once a year, without the Chairman present.

Attendance at scheduled Board meetings during the year ended 31 December 2022 was as follows:

# Composition, Succession and Evaluation

**Composition:** The Board comprises two executive and four non-executive Directors. Excluding the Chairman, a majority of the Board comprises independent non-executive Directors in line with the recommendation of the Code.

Details of the professional and educational backgrounds of each Director encompassing the experience and expertise that they bring to the Board are set out on pages 76 to 77. The Board believes that it is of a size and structure and that, the Directors bring an appropriate balance of skills, experience, independence and knowledge to enable the Board to discharge its respective duties and responsibilities effectively, with no individual or group of individuals dominating the Board's decision making. Each of the non-executive Directors has a broad range of business experience independent of the Group both domestically and internationally. The Board changes that occurred during 2022 further underpinned that diversity of background and refreshment of experience.

The Board has established a Nomination Committee to lead the appointments process and plan for orderly succession at Board and senior management level. The Nomination Committee reviews the size, composition and board skillset at least annually taking into consideration the results of the Chairman led evaluation process. The Nomination Committee report is set out on pages 95 to 97.

**Appointments:** All Directors are appointed by the Board, following a recommendation by the Nomination Committee, for an initial term not exceeding three years, subject to annual re-election at the Annual General Meeting. Prior to their nomination as a non-executive Director, an assessment is carried out to determine that they are independent. Non-executive Directors' independence is thereafter reviewed annually, prior to recommending the resolution for re-election at the AGM. Under the Constitution each Director is subject to re-election at least every three years but in accordance with the Code, the Board has agreed that each Director will be subject to annual reelection at the AGM.

The terms and conditions of appointment of non-executive Directors appointed after 2002 are set out in their letters of appointment, which are available for inspection at the Company's registered office during normal office hours and at the AGM of the Company.

Éimear Moloney was appointed to the Board on 25 August 2022, Éimear was deemed independent on appointment. John Sheehan resigned as a Director on 11 November 2022 having served nine years as a Director of the Company. These Board changes further underpinned the diversity of background and the opportunity to introduce fresh thinking to the Board processes.

**Development and Induction:** On appointment, Directors are given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the operations of the Group, to meet with executive management, and to access any information they may require. Each Director

Member	Α	В	Tenure
J. B. McGuckian (Chair)	7	7	35 years
E. Rothwell	7	7	36 years
D. Ledwidge	7	7	7 years
J. Sheehan (resigned 11 November 2022)	6	6	9 years
Lesley Williams	7	7	2 years
Dan Clague	7	7	1.5 years
Éimear Moloney (appointed: 25 August 2022)	2	2	0.5 years

Column A: the number of scheduled meetings held during the year where the Director was a member of the Board.

 ${\it Column B: the number of scheduled meetings attended during the year where the Director was a member of the Board.}$ 

**Access to Advice:** There is a procedure for Directors in the furtherance of their duties to take independent professional advice, at the expense of the Group, if they consider this necessary. The Group carries director liability insurance which indemnifies Directors in respect of legal actions that may be taken against them in the course of discharging their duties as Directors.

All Directors have access to the advice and services of the Company Secretary, who is responsible to the Board for ensuring that Board procedures are followed and that applicable rules and regulations are complied with.

# **Corporate Governance Report**

# Continued

brings independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, risk and performance. The Directors also have access to the Executive Management Team in relation to any issues concerning the operation of the Group.

The Board recognises the need for Directors to be aware of their legal responsibilities as Directors and it ensures that Directors are kept up to date on the latest corporate governance guidance, company law developments and best practice.

Performance Evaluation: The Board conducts an annual self-evaluation of the Board as a whole, the Board processes, its committees and individual Directors. The purpose of the evaluation process includes identification of improvements in Board procedures and to assess each Director's suitability for re-election. The process, which is led by the Chairman, is forward looking in nature. On a triennial cycle, an independent external facilitator is engaged to further assist the process, the most recent such engagement relating to the 2021 evaluation.

The 2022 evaluation was led by the Chairman. The Company Secretary provided a briefing to the Board outlining key focus areas for consideration by the Directors against key events addressed by the Board during the year together with a review of the matters for action emanating from the previous evaluation. The focus areas included Board composition, Board agenda, Director interaction, quality of information, time allocation and decision making processes. Following the briefing, the Directors were invited to submit any observations on Board processes and performance to the Chairman. The Chairman subsequently reviewed with each Director their observations on the items raised in the presentation. Following the conclusion of the Director engagement process, the Chairman reported to the Board his conclusion from the evaluation process where he indicated that the Board as a whole was operating effectively for the long-term success of the Group and that each Director was contributing

effectively and demonstrating commitment to the role. The ongoing progress on the matters noted in the prior year was acknowledged, in particular the resumption of site visits and in-person presentations by senior managers. No further matters for action were added as a result of the latest evaluation

Separately, as part of the evaluation process, the non-executive Directors, led by the Senior Independent Director, met initially with the Chairman and then without his presence to evaluate the Chairman's performance. The Senior Independent Director subsequently reported to the Board that the non-executive Directors had concluded that the Chairman was providing effective leadership of the Board.

The results of the evaluation were also considered by the Nominations Committee in their review of Board composition.

#### **Diversity**

The Board has adopted a Board Diversity Policy in compliance with the European Union (Disclosure of nonfinancial and diversity information by certain large undertakings and Groups) Regulation 2017. The promotion of a diverse Board makes prudent business sense, promotes effective decision-making and ensures stronger corporate governance.

The Group seeks to maintain a Board comprised of talented and dedicated Directors with a diverse mix of expertise, experience, skills and backgrounds reflecting the diverse nature of the business environment in which the Group operates. For purposes of Board composition, diversity includes, but is not limited to, age, gender or educational and professional backgrounds.

When assessing Board composition or identifying suitable candidates for appointment or re-election to the Board, the Group, through the Nomination Committee, considers candidates on merit against objective criteria having due regard to the benefits of diversity and the needs of the Board.

The Nomination Committee will give due regard to diversity when reviewing Board composition and considering Board candidates. The Committee will report annually, in the corporate governance section of the Annual Report, on the process it has used in relation to any Board appointments.

Beyond the Board, of 51 individuals holding a managerial position, 11 are female and in relation to the total workforce 39% are female. While the Board acknowledges that these ratios have been relatively static over recent years and the imbalance of this ratio compared to society at large, it is reflective in part of the sector in which the Group operates. While the Board has not set any gender ratio target, it is committed to improving this ratio over time. In that regard the Nomination Committee and Executive Management Team, as appropriate, actively seek out female candidates when undertaking recruitment. To ensure that this is being implemented we have commenced the monitoring of diversity and inclusion metrices across the recruitment process.

# Audit Risk and Internal Control

The Board has described its business model on pages 16 and 17 setting out how the Company generates value over the longer term and the strategy for delivering the objectives of the Company.

The Board has overall responsibility for determining the Group's risk appetite but has delegated responsibility for the review, design implementation and monitoring of the Group's internal control system to the Audit Committee. These systems are designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can only provide reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss.

In accordance with Guidance on Risk Management, Internal Control and Related Financial and Business Reporting (September 2014) issued by the FRC, the Board confirms that there is a continuous process for identifying, evaluating and managing the significant risks faced by the Group, that it has been in place for the period under review and up to the date of approval of the Financial Statements, and that this process is regularly monitored by the Board. The report of the Audit Committee is set out on pages 91 to 94. The risk management framework and processes including the principal risks and uncertainties identified are set out on pages 60 to 69.

No material weaknesses in internal controls were reported to the Board during the year.

Taking account of the Group's current position and principal risks, the Directors have set out their assessment of the prospects for the Group in the Viability Statement on page 110.

#### Reporting

The Board is committed to providing a fair, balanced and understandable assessment of the Group's position and prospects to shareholders through the Annual Report, the Interim Statement and any other public statement issued by the Group. The Directors have considered the Annual Report based on a review performed by the Audit Committee and have concluded that it represents a fair, balanced and understandable assessment of the Group's position and prospects.

#### Remuneration

The Board has delegated the approval of remuneration structures and levels of the executive Directors and senior management to the Remuneration Committee whose report is set out at pages 98 to 108.

# Matters Pertaining to Share Capital

The information set out below is required to be contained in the Report of the Directors under Regulation 21 of the European Communities (Takeover Bids (Directive 2004/25/EC)) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 255/2006). The information represents the position at 31 December 2022.

For the purposes of Regulations 21(2) (c), (e), (j) and (k) of the European Communities (Takeover Bids (Directive 2004/25/EC)) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 255/2006), the information given under the following headings: (i) Substantial Shareholdings page 111; (ii) Share Option Plans page 107; (iii) Long Term Incentive Plan pages 104 to 105; (iv) Service Contracts pages 106 to 107; and (v) Share-based Payments pages 169 to 171; (vi) Borrowings pages 157 to 160; are deemed to be incorporated into this statement

#### **Share Capital**

The authorised share capital of the Company is €29,295,000 divided into 450,000,000 ordinary shares of €0.065 each (ordinary shares) and 4,500,000,000 redeemable shares of €0.00001 each (redeemable shares). The ordinary shares represent approximately 99.85% and the redeemable shares represent approximately 0.15% of the authorised share capital. The issued share capital of the Company as at the date of this report is 170,823,142 ordinary shares. There are no redeemable shares currently in issue.

Ordinary shares and redeemable shares (to the extent redeemable shares are in issue) are inextricably linked as an ICG Unit. An ICG Unit is defined in the Constitution of the Company as one Ordinary Share in the Company and ten Redeemable Shares (or such lesser number thereof, if any, resulting from the redemption of one or more thereof) held by the same holder(s).

The rights and obligations attaching to the ordinary shares and redeemable shares are contained in the Constitution of the Company.

The Directors may exercise their power to redeem redeemable shares from time to time pursuant to the Company's Constitution where there are redeemable shares in issue.

The structure of the Group's and Company's capital and movements during the year are set out in notes 19 and 20 to the Financial Statements.

# Restrictions on the Transfer of Shares

There is no requirement to obtain the approval of the Company, or of other holders of ICG Units, for a transfer of ICG Units. Certain restrictions may from time to time be imposed by laws or regulations such as those relating to insider dealing.

For so long and to the extent that any redeemable shares are in issue, transfers of ordinary shares and redeemable shares can, in those circumstances, only be effected where the transfer of one class of share (e.g. ordinary share) involves a simultaneous transfer of the other linked class of shares (e.g. redeemable share) as an ICG Unit. As noted, there are currently no redeemable shares in issue. An ICG Unit comprised one ordinary share and nil redeemable shares at 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2021.

# **Corporate Governance Report**

# Continued

ICG Units are, in general, freely transferable but, in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 (as amended) and the Constitution, the Directors may decline to register a transfer of ICG Units upon notice to the transferee, within two months after the lodgement of a transfer with the Company, in the following cases:

- if redeemable shares are in issue, where the transfer of shares does not involve a simultaneous transfer of the other class of shares with which such shares are linked as an ICG Unit (as described immediately above);
- 2. a lien is held by the Company; or
- in the case of a purported transfer to or by a minor or a person lawfully adjudged not to possess an adequate decision-making capacity;
- 4. unless the instrument of transfer is accompanied by the certificate of the shares to which it relates (if any) and such other evidence as the Directors may reasonably require to show the right of the transferor to make the transfer: or
- 5. unless the instrument of transfer is in respect of one class only (unless redeemable shares are in issue and the proposed transfer is in respect of ICG Units).

ICG Units held in certificated form are transferable upon production to the Company's Registrars of the original share certificate and the usual form of stock transfer or instrument duly executed by the holder of the shares.

ICG Units held in uncertificated form are transferable in accordance with the rules or conditions imposed by the operator of the relevant system which enables title to the ICG Units to be evidenced and transferred without a written instrument and in accordance with the Companies Act, 1990 (Uncertificated Securities) Regulations 1996 (S.I. 68/1996) and Section 1085 of the Companies Act 2014 (as amended).

The rights attaching to ordinary shares and redeemable shares comprised in each ICG Unit remain with the transferor until the name of the transferee has been entered on the Register of Members of the Company.

No person holds securities in the Company carrying special rights with regard to control of the Company. The Company is not aware of any agreements between holders of securities that may result in restrictions in the transfer of securities or voting rights.

# The Powers of the Directors Including in Relation to the Issuing or Buying Back by the Company of its Shares

Under the Constitution of the Company, the business of the Company is to be managed by the Directors who may exercise all the powers of the Company subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts 2014 (as amended), the Constitution of the Company and to any directions given by members at a General Meeting. The Constitution further provides that the Directors may make such arrangements as may be thought fit for the management of the Company's affairs including the appointment of such attorneys or agents as they consider appropriate and delegate to such persons such powers as the Directors may deem requisite or expedient.

At the Company's AGM held on 11 May 2022, resolutions were passed whereby

- the Company, or any of its subsidiaries, were authorised to make market purchases of up to 15% of the issued share capital of the Company; and
- 2. the Directors were authorised until the conclusion of the next AGM, to allot shares up to an aggregate nominal value of 66.66% of the then present issued ordinary share capital and the present authorised but unissued redeemable share capital of the Company subject to the provision that any shares allotted in excess of 33.33% of the then present issued ordinary share capital must be allotted pursuant to a rights issue.

In line with market practice, members will be asked to renew these authorities at the 2023 AGM.

## General Meetings and Shareholders Voting and other Rights

Under the Constitution, the power to manage the business of the Company is generally delegated to the Directors. However, the members retain the power to pass resolutions at a General Meeting of the Company which may give directions to the Directors as to the management of the Company.

The Company must hold an AGM each year in addition to any other meetings in that year and no more than 15 months may elapse between the date of one AGM and that of the next. The AGM will be held at such time and place as the Directors determine. All General Meetings, other than AGMs, are called Extraordinary General Meetings.

Extraordinary General Meetings shall be convened by the Directors or on the requisition of members holding, at the date of the requisition, not less than five percent of the paid up capital carrying the right to vote at General Meetings and in default of the Directors acting within 21 days to convene such a meeting to be held within two months, the requisitionists (or more than half of them) may, but only within three months, themselves convene a meeting.

No business may be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business. Two or more members present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote at such meeting constitutes a quorum.

The holders of ICG Units have the right to receive notice of, attend, speak and vote at all General Meetings of the Company.

In the case of an AGM or of a meeting for the passing of a Special Resolution or the appointment of a Director, 21 clear days' notice at the least, and in any other case 14 clear days' notice at the least (assuming that the members have passed a resolution to this effect at the previous year's AGM), needs to be given in writing in the manner provided for in the Constitution to all the members, Directors, Secretary, the Auditor for the time being of the Company and to any other person entitled to receive notice under the Companies Act.

Voting at any General Meeting is by a show of hands unless a poll is properly demanded. On a show of hands, every member who is present in person or by proxy has one vote regardless of the number of shares held by a shareholder. On a poll, every member who is present in person or by proxy has one vote for each share of which he/she is the holder. A poll may be demanded by the Chairman of the meeting or by at least three members having the right to vote at the meeting or by a member or members representing not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at the meeting or by a member or members holding shares in the Company conferring a right to vote at the meeting, being shares on which an aggregate sum has been paid up equal to not less than one-tenth of the total sum paid up on all the shares conferring that right.

# **Deadlines for Exercising Voting Rights**

Voting rights at General Meetings of the Company are exercised when the Chairman puts the resolution at issue to the vote of the meeting. A vote decided on a show of hands is taken forthwith. A vote taken on a poll for the election of the Chairman or on a question of adjournment is also taken forthwith and a poll on any other question is taken either immediately, or at such time (not being more than 30 days from the date of the meeting at which the poll was demanded or directed) as the Chairman of the meeting directs. Where a person is appointed to vote for a member as proxy, the instrument of appointment must be received by the Company not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the appointed proxy proposes to vote, or, in the case of a poll, not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for taking the poll.

## EU (Shareholders' Rights) Regulations 2020

The holders of ICG Units have the right to attend, speak, ask questions and vote at General Meetings of the Company. The Company, pursuant to Section 1105 of the Companies Act 2014 and Regulation 14 of the Companies Act 1990 (Uncertificated Securities) Regulations 1996, specifies record dates for General Meetings, by which date members must be registered in the Register of Members of the Company to be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

Pursuant to Section 1104 of the Companies Act 2014, a member, or a group of members who together hold at least three per cent of the issued share capital of the Company, representing at least three per cent of the total voting rights of all the members who have a right to vote at the meeting to which the request for inclusion of the item relates, have the right to put an item on the agenda, or to modify an agenda which has been already communicated, of a General Meeting. In order to exercise this right, written details of the item to be included in the General Meeting agenda must be accompanied by stated grounds justifying its inclusion or a draft resolution to be adopted at the General Meeting together with evidence of the member or group of members shareholding must be received, by the Company, 42 days in advance of the meeting to which it relates.

The Company publishes the date of its AGM on its website www.icg.ie on or before 31 December of the previous financial year.

# Rights to Dividends and Return of Capital

Subject to the provisions of the Company's Constitution, the holders of the ordinary shares in the capital of the Company shall be entitled to such dividends as may be declared from time to time on such shares. The holders of the redeemable shares (if any) shall not be entitled to any dividends.

On a return of capital on a winding up of the Company or otherwise (other than on a conversion, redemption or purchase of shares), the holders of the ordinary shares shall be entitled, pari passu with the holders of the redeemable shares (if any) to the repayment of a sum equal to the nominal capital paid up or credited as paid up on the shares held by them respectively. Thereafter, the holders of the ordinary shares shall be entitled to the balance of the surplus of assets of the Company to be distributed rateably according to the number of ordinary shares held by a member. The redeemable shares shall not confer upon the holders thereof any rights to participate further in the profits or assets of the Company.

# Rules Concerning Amendment of the Company's Constitution

As provided in the Companies
Act 2014, the Company may, by
special resolution, alter or add to its
Constitution. A resolution is a special
resolution when it has been passed
by not less than 75 per cent of the
votes cast by members entitled to vote
and voting in person or by proxy, at a
General Meeting at which not less than
21 days' notice specifying the intention
to propose the resolution as a special
resolution, has been duly given.

# **Corporate Governance Report**

# Continued

# Rules Concerning the Appointment and Replacement of Directors of the Company

Other than in the case of a casual vacancy, Directors of the Company are appointed on a resolution of the members at a General Meeting, usually the AGM.

No person, other than a Director retiring at a General Meeting is eligible for appointment as a Director without a recommendation by the Directors for that person's appointment unless, not less than six or more than 40 clear days before the date of the General Meeting, written notice by a member, duly qualified to be present and vote at the meeting, of the intention to propose the person for appointment and notice in writing signed by the person to be proposed of willingness to act, if so appointed, shall have been given to the Company.

The Directors have power to fill a casual vacancy or to appoint an additional Director (within the maximum number of Directors fixed by the Constitution of the Company (as may be amended by the Company in a General Meeting)) and any Director so appointed holds office only until the conclusion of the next AGM following their appointment, when the Director concerned shall retire, but shall be eligible for reappointment at that meeting.

Each Director must retire from office no later than the third AGM following their last appointment or reappointment. In addition, one-third of the Directors for the time being (or if their number is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third), are obliged to retire from office at each AGM on the basis of the Directors who have been longest in office since their last appointment.

The Company has adopted the provisions of the UK Corporate Governance Code in respect of the

annual election of all Directors. All Directors will retire at the forthcoming AGM and following review are being recommended for re-election.

A person is disqualified from being a Director, and their office as Director ipso facto vacated, in any of the following circumstances:

- if s/he is adjudicated bankrupt or being bankrupt has not obtained a certificate of discharge in the relevant jurisdiction; or
- if in the opinion of a majority of his/ her co-Directors, the health of the Director is such that he or she can no longer be reasonably regarded as possessing an adequate decisionmaking capacity so that s/he may discharge his/her duties; or
- 3. if s/he ceases to be, or is removed as a Director by virtue of any provision of the Acts or the Articles, or s/he becomes prohibited by law from being a Director or is restricted by law in acting as a Director; or
- 4. if s/he (not being a Director holding for a fixed term an executive office in his/her capacity as a Director) resigns his/her office by notice in writing to the Company; or
- 5. if s/he is absent for six successive months without permission of the Directors from meetings of the Directors held during that period and the Directors pass a resolution that by reason of such absence s/he has vacated office; or
- 6. if s/he is removed from office by notice in writing served upon him/her signed by all his/her co-Directors; if s/he holds an appointment to an executive office which thereby automatically determines, such removal shall be deemed an act of the Company and shall have effect without prejudice to any claim for damages for breach of any contract of service between him/her and the Company; or

7. if s/he is convicted of an indictable offence not being an offence under the Road Traffic Act, 1961 or any statutory provision in lieu or modification thereof.

Notwithstanding anything in the Constitution or in any agreement between the Company and a Director, the Company may, by Ordinary Resolution of which the required notice has been given in accordance with Section 146 of the Companies Act 2014, remove any Director before the expiry of their period of office.

# **Report of the Audit Committee**



Dear shareholder,

I am pleased to present the Report of the Audit Committee (the Committee) for the year ended 31 December 2022. I have served on the Committee since August 2022 and was appointed as Chair in November 2022. On behalf of the Committee and the Board, I would like to thank my predecessor, John Sheehan, for his service as Chair of the Audit Committee.

The Committee plays an important role in ensuring the Group's financial integrity for shareholders through oversight of the financial reporting process, including the risk and control systems which underlie that process. This report sets out how the Committee fulfilled its duties under its Terms of Reference, the UK Corporate Governance Code, the Irish Annex and relevant legislation.

#### Composition

The Audit Committee membership during the year is set out in the table below which also details attendance and tenure. At 31 December 2022, the Committee comprised of three non-executive Directors, all of whom have been determined by the Board to be independent. The members bring significant professional expertise to their roles gained from a broad level of experience gained outside of the Group. This, together with their experience as Directors of the Company, assures that the Committee as a whole has competence relevant to the sector in which the Group operates. The members' biographies are set out on pages 76 to 77. The Board has determined that Éimear Moloney has recent and relevant financial experience. Éimear is a qualified chartered accountant and has experience of audit committee membership at other listed companies. The other members of the Committee have wide experience of corporate financial and risk matters. Overall, the Committee is independent and possesses the skills and knowledge to effectively discharge its duties under the Committee's Terms of Reference. The Company Secretary acts as secretary to the Committee.

There were three scheduled meetings during the year at which all the then current members attended. In addition, where requested, the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief Financial Officer, Board Chair and other members of the Risk Management Committee also attended. The scheduled meetings normally take place on the same day as Board meetings. The Chairman provides updates to the Board on key matters discussed and minutes are circulated to the Board.

Member	A	В	Tenure
E. Moloney (appointed Chair: 14 November 2022) (appointed to Committee: 25 August 2022)	1	1	0.5 years
J. Sheehan (resigned, 11 November 2022)	3	3	9 years
L Williams	3	3	1.7 years
D. Clague	3	3	1.5 years

Column A: the number of scheduled meetings held during the year where the Director was a member of the Committee

Column B: the number of scheduled meetings attended during the year where the Director was a member of the Committee.

## **Role and Responsibilities**

The role, responsibilities and duties of the Audit Committee are set out in written terms of reference which are reviewed annually. The Terms of Reference are available on the Group's website www.icg.ie.

The principal responsibilities of the Committee cover the following areas;

- Supporting the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to the integrity of the financial reporting process including assessment of key estimates, critical accounting judgements, going concern and viability statements.
- Advise whether the Annual Report and Financial Statements, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provide the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Group and Company's position and performance, business model and strategy.
- Overseeing the functioning of the internal audit function.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Group's internal controls and risk management systems, including structures and arrangements supporting the Directors' Compliance Statement.
- Managing the relationship with the external auditor, including consideration of the appointment of the external auditor, the level of audit fees, and any questions of independence, provision of non-audit services, resignation or dismissal.

# **Work Performed**

The principal work undertaken by the Committee during the period under review was focused on the following areas:

## **Financial Reporting**

The Committee reviewed the Group's Half Yearly Financial Report for the six months ended 30 June 2022, the Preliminary Statement of Results and Annual Report and Financial Statements, for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 and the two Trading Statements issued during the year. These reviews considered;

# **Report of the Audit Committee**

## Continued

- Assessment of the effects of new standards effective for reporting in financial year 2022;
- Other than for any new standards, the consistency, appropriateness and application of the Group's accounting policies;
- The clarity and completeness of disclosures and compliance with financial reporting standards, legislative and regulatory requirements;
- Whether these reports, taken as a whole, were fair, balanced and understandable and provide the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Group's position and performance, business model and strategy;
- A comparison of these results with management accounts; and
- The critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation applied in the preparation of the Financial Statements.

In assessing if the Financial Statements have dealt appropriately with each area of judgement, the Committee challenged the key assumptions and methodologies used by management in formulating estimates. The key sources of estimation uncertainty and critical accounting judgements applied in the preparation of the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 are set out below and also discussed on pages 140 to 142.

# **Key Estimates**

### · Post-employment benefits

The Group operates a number of Group sponsored pension schemes and is also a participating employer in the Merchant Navy Officers Pension Fund, a multi-employer scheme. Details of these schemes are set out in note 31 to the Financial Statements. The size of the pension obligations at €91.6 million (2021: €140.5 million) are material to the Group and sensitive to actuarial assumptions. The Committee has reviewed actuarial advice received from the Group's external actuary on the assumptions used by the scheme actuary in estimating the outstanding pension obligations

at the year end. The Committee was satisfied that the assumptions used were reasonable and that the obligations set out in the Financial Statements are consistent with the assumptions and fairly presented.

The Committee also noted that for certain schemes, assets exceeded liabilities resulting in a pension surplus at 31 December 2022 of €33.6 million (2021: €6.7 million). The Committee made inquiries of management to ensure that this amount represented a fair estimate of the unconditional right of a refund the Group may expect in the future either by way of a contribution holiday or refund.

# Useful lives for property, plant and equipment and intangible assets

Long-lived assets comprising primarily of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets represent a significant portion of total assets. Changes in the useful lives may have a significant impact on the annual depreciation and amortisation charge. The Committee reviewed the useful life estimates of significant assets including technological developments, regulatory developments, operating performance and industry scrapping cycles and were satisfied that the estimates used were reasonable.

The Committee noted that in respect of one vessel which had reached 25 years from date of construction, that management had reviewed the remaining estimated useful life from 5 years (from an original estimate of 30 years original useful life) to 10 years. While provision for this revision to useful life is set out in the accounting policy for property, plant and equipment, the Committee gueried management on the robustness of the reasoning for this extension. Following explanation, the Committee were satisfied with the change in useful life.

#### **Critical Accounting Judgements**

## · Impairment

The Group does not have assets which are required to be tested annually for impairment. In relation

to other significant assets, the Committee made inquiries of management to determine whether there were any indications of impairment.

The Committee noted that the profitability of the Irish Ferries branded operations had been materially affected in financial years 2021 and 2020, due to the imposition of government travel restrictions. This decline in profitability had been subsequently assessed as an indication of impairment. Following the lifting of all travel restrictions in early 2022, passenger carryings recovered but remained behind prepandemic 2019 levels, which was in line with management expectations as previously modelled in the prior year recoverability assessments.

The Committee discussed with management their assessment that the declining trends in market charter rates in the second half of 2022 amounted to an indication of impairment of the Group's fleet. While the Committee noted that these charter rates remained higher than average 2021 rates, they agreed with management's decision to perform a recoverability assessment.

The Committee reviewed management's calculations of the recoverable value estimates which were prepared based on the conditions and information available at 31 December 2022. The Committee examined the methodology, key assumptions and key judgements used including the limitations of the independent vessel valuations, the rationale for treating the ferry fleet as a single cash generating unit, growth rates and the discount rate used in the value in use calculations. The Committee also considered management's views on the likely effect of environmental regulations on premature obsolescence and operating costs.

The Committee was satisfied that the recoverability assessment performed at the reporting date was robust, comprehensive and supported the carrying value of the ferry fleet as at 31 December 2022. The Committee agreed that no provision for impairment against the carrying value of the Group's fleet was required at 31 December 2022.

#### · Going concern

The Committee reviewed the appropriateness of using a going concern assumption for the preparation of the Group Financial Statements.

The Committee noted that with the removal of travel restrictions in early 2022, that the profitability of ferry operations had recovered and that the overall Group was reporting a profit attributable to equity holders of €59.8 million, a level which had exceeded budget expectations and which compared to a loss of €4.9 million in 2021.

The Committee reviewed and challenged management on their going concern modelling including assumptions and sensitivities in a number of trading scenarios including the possible effects of reduced volumes over budget levels and higher fuel prices. The Committee also considered existing and future financial resources which could reasonably be expected to be available to the Group on normal market terms. The going concern modelling covered a period of 12 months from the date of approval of the Financial Statements.

Following completion of the above, the Committee were satisfied that the Group will have adequate financial resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and the use of the going concern basis remained appropriate in the preparation of the financial statements. The Going Concern Statement is set out on page 142.

### **Viability Statement**

The Committee reviewed and challenged management's assumptions and scenarios together with the calculations supporting the Viability Statement set out on page 110. The Committee also considered

the appropriateness of the five year assessment time frame and that the Group's principal and emerging risks had been appropriately considered. The Committee was satisfied that a robust assessment had been completed and reported this to the Board.

#### Fair, balanced and understandable

The Committee reviewed the 2022 Annual Report and Financial Statements to ensure that in its opinion taken as a whole, it is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Group's position and performance, business model and strategy.

#### **Recommendations to the Board**

Based on the work undertaken, the Committee reported to the Board that the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable, and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Group and Company's position and performance, business model and strategy and recommended that the Annual Report and Financial Statements be approved by the Board.

The Committee had also recommended the approval of the Half Yearly Financial Report for the six months ended 30 June 2022 and the Trading Statements issued during 2022.

## **Engagement with Regulators**

The Committee oversaw management's engagement with the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA) regarding their inquiries into certain aspects of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021. While no adverse findings were assessed, the Company provided undertakings regarding additional clarification on certain sustainability metrics and reconciliation of certain APM measures in future financial statements. The Committee believes that it has addressed these undertakings in this 2022 Annual Report.

#### **Risk Management and Internal Control**

The Board is responsible for the Group's risk management and system of internal control. The Board's approach to risk management is set out in the Risk Management Report at page 60. The Committee, on behalf of the Board, reviews the effectiveness of the Group's control environment including internal controls and risk identification and management systems.

The Risk management report describes the principal risks and uncertainties faced by the Group. Risks are grouped under strategic, operational, IT system and cyber and financial risks. The risk management system is dynamic and monitors for signals of new emerging risks. During 2022, two areas were being actively monitored; the effect of the war in eastern Europe and Increasing Regulations Over Seafarer Working Conditions. Further details on these are set out in the Risk Management Report at page 60.

The Committee oversees the work of the Risk Management Committee (RMC) which coordinates a unified system of ongoing identification, monitoring and reporting of risks throughout the Group. The activities of the RMC are undertaken alongside the activities of Internal Audit.

During the year, the Committee met with members of the RMC and presentations were made outlining the work undertaken in managing risk monitoring systems, procedures for ensuring the Group Risk Register is being updated for new and emerging risks and the management of exposure to principal risks. The work of the RMC is also central in putting consideration of risk to the fore in business decision making throughout the Group. The Committee reviewed the updated Risk Appetite Statements prepared by the RMC which were then presented to the Board for approval. The Committee also received regular reports throughout the year including internal audit reviews, operational and safety risk reviews including information technology and cyber security. In addition, the Chairman meets regularly with Group Internal Audit and the Committee approved the 2022 Internal Audit Plan.

# **Report of the Audit Committee**

## Continued

The Committee undertook a review of the RMC and Internal Audit activities. The Committee noted that the internal audit function had not been resourced in the latter part of the year due to management changes. However, the Committee was satisfied that management had rectified the resourcing issue in early 2023. In the intervening period, existing finance personnel had been used to a limited extent to address any ad-hoc matters which arose. Notwithstanding the internal audit matter, the Committee was satisfied that all other risk management and internal control systems had been in place throughout the financial year. In conducting the review, the Committee acknowledges that the risk management and internal control system is designed to manage and mitigate rather than eliminate risk. The Committee was satisfied that the RMC and Internal Audit (for part of the year) were achieving their objectives and that the Group control environment remains appropriate and effective. This assessment has been reported to the Board.

The Committee also reviewed the effectiveness of the arrangements and structures which the Company has designed and put in place to secure material compliance with its Relevant Obligations as defined under Companies Act 2014. Relevant obligations comprise compliance with certain company law and tax obligations. The Committee reported to the Board that the arrangements and structures were sufficient to secure material compliance with its Relevant Obligations.

#### **External Audit**

The Committee is responsible for managing the relationship with the Group's external auditor and monitoring their performance, objectivity and independence. The Committee evaluates on an annual basis, at the conclusion of the audit, the effectiveness of the external audit process.

#### 2022 Audit Process

The Committee met with KPMG prior to the commencement of the audit of the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

The Committee considered KPMG's internal policies and procedures for maintaining independence and objectivity and their approach to audit quality. The Committee assessed the quality of the external audit plan as presented by KPMG and satisfied itself as to the expertise and resources being made available. The Committee also reviewed the terms of the Letter of Engagement and approved the level of remuneration.

KPMG reported their key audit findings to the Committee in March 2023 prior to the finalisation of the Financial Statements. This report, which included a schedule of unadjusted errors and misstatements, significant judgements and estimations and key areas of risk, was considered by the Committee in forming their recommendation to the Board. The Committee also considered the representations sought by KPMG from the Directors.

KPMG's key audit findings report included control weaknesses noted during their audit, none of which were considered significant deficiencies so as to cause KPMG to amend the scope of their original audit plan. The Committee has considered these and, having discussed with management, have directed remedial action be taken where considered appropriate. The Committee has also considered feedback from management involved in the audit process regarding interaction with and level of preparedness of the audit team. The Committee also meet with the audit team without the presence of management.

The Committee evaluated KPMG's performance which included an assessment of KPMG's communication process with the Committee and senior management, knowledge of the Group and industry sector and resource commitment to the external audit and the Committee is satisfied that in conducting the audit of the 2022 Financial Statements, KPMG were effective, objective and independent.

As auditor, KPMG confirmed to the Company that they comply with the

Ethical Standards for Auditors (Ireland) 2020 as issued by IAASA and that, in their professional judgement, they and, where applicable, all KPMG network firms are independent and their objectivity is not compromised.

KPMG confirmed to the Company that the lead partner will be rotated every five years to ensure continued objectivity and independence. Mr. Colm O'Sé (who was appointed in 2021) has acted as lead partner for the audit of the 2022 Financial Statements.

#### **Auditor Independence**

The Committee permits the external auditor to provide non-audit services where they are permitted under Part 27 of the Statutory Audits of Companies Act 2014 and are satisfied that they do not conflict with auditor independence. The Committee's policy on the provision of non-audit services requires that each engagement for the provision of nonaudit services requires approval of the Committee. The Committee approved the engagement of the external auditor to provide certain tax compliance services and reporting accountant services in respect of certain pension scheme in respect of the 2022 financial year. This approval was granted on the basis of procedural efficiency. The Committee must also give approval for the employment of any person who was previously employed by the external auditor within the previous two years of proposed employment by the Group.

The Audit Committee has considered all relationships between the Company and the external audit firm, KPMG, including the provision of non-audit services as disclosed in note 9 to the financial statements which are within the thresholds set out in Part 27 of the Statutory Audits of Companies Act 2014. The Committee does not consider that those relationships or the level of non-audit fees impair the auditor's judgement or independence.

Based on consideration of the above the Committee concluded that it was satisfied with the performance, objectivity and independence of the external auditor.

#### Éimear Molonev

Chair of the Audit Committee

8 March 2023



# Report of the Nomination Committee

Dear shareholder,

I am pleased to present the Report of the Nomination Committee (the Committee) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

This Report sets out how the Committee fulfilled its duties under its terms of reference and the UK Corporate Governance Code, the Irish Annex and relevant legislation.

At the heart of every organisation are its people, culture and values, which underpins the important role of the Nomination Committee. The Committee sets the framework for the development of an inclusive and high-performing leadership team and workforce. At Board level during 2022, the Committee continued its focus on Board refreshment, with one appointment made. This was a formal and rigorous process, which was designed to ensure the Board's depth of experience continued to expand. As part of orderly succession and refreshment of the Board, one Director also stepped down during 2022. At the time of writing, the Board is comprised of four non-executive Directors and two executive Directors.

With the Board changes which took place during the year there were consequent changes made to the Committees. Newly appointed non-executive Director Éimear Moloney joined the Committee on 25 August 2022. John Sheehan stepped down as

a member of the Committee and Board on 11 November 2022. John had served nine years as a non-executive Director of the Company and I extend our gratitude to him for his service.

#### **Committee Membership**

The Committee membership is set out in the table below which also details attendance and tenure. All Directors bring significant professional expertise to their roles on this Committee as set out in their professional biographies on pages 76 to 77.

Member	Α	В	Tenure
J.B. McGuckian (Chair)	2	2	1.5 years
J. Sheehan* (resigned 11 November 2022)	1	1	5 years
L. Williams*	2	2	1.7 years
D. Clague*	2	2	1.5 years
E. Moloney* (appointed 25 August 2022)	1	1	0.5 years
E. Rothwell	2	2	13 years

<sup>\*</sup> Independent Director

Column A: the number of scheduled meetings held during the year where the Director was a member of the Committee.

Column B: the number of scheduled meetings attended during the year where the Director was a member of the Committee.

In addition to the scheduled meeting, there was significant engagement between Committee members throughout the period to progress the Committee's business.

#### **Role and Responsibilities**

The role, responsibilities and duties of the Committee are set out in written terms of reference and are reviewed annually. The Terms of Reference are available on the Group's website www. icq.ie.

Its duties are to regularly evaluate the balance of skills, knowledge, experience and diversity of the Board and Committees and lead the process for appointments, ensure plans are in place for orderly succession to both the Board and senior management positions and overseeing the development of a diverse pipeline for succession.

The Committee's effectiveness is evaluated within the overall Board evaluation process outlined on page 86. No matters of concern were noted in relation to the Committee's effectiveness.

#### **Board Composition and Renewal**

The Committee considered the results of the Board evaluation and the changes to Board composition made during 2022. The Committee was satisfied that the Board continues to be of adequate size and composition to suit the current scale of its operations and has an appropriate balance of skills, knowledge, experience and diversity to enable it to effectively discharge its duties.

As outlined in a number of areas of this report, the Committee is placing a particular focus on ensuring greater diversity at Board and senior management level. We are confident the changes we make to succession planning will address this imbalance versus best practice in the periods

# **Report of the Nomination Committee**

## Continued

ahead. Outside of gender and ethnic diversity, as a Committee, we are confident the current Board's skillset ensures the ability to oversee management and contribute to the development of strategy.

The Committee notes the Code's comments on non-executive Director tenure and the tenure profile of the existing non-executive Directors. The average tenure of the non-executive Directors, including the Chairman, is 9.7 years and 1.3 years excluding the Chairman.

### **Appointments**

The Committee continued a comprehensive search process for future potential candidates to ensure orderly Board refreshment. A number of potential candidates were identified and screened based on an assessment of their skill set and experience, against the future requirements of the Board with due regard to the Board's diversity policy. Following this process, the Committee made a recommendation to the Board for the appointment of Éimear Moloney as a Director of the Company. Éimear was appointed as a non-executive Director effective from 25 August 2022. No external search agency was engaged for this appointment.

All non-executive Directors receive a letter of appointment setting out the terms of the appointment, responsibilities and expected time commitments. Copies of these letters are available for inspection at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and at the Company's registered office.

In compliance with the provisions of the Code, any person co-opted to the Board during the year will seek re-election at the next AGM together with all the Directors. All newly appointed Directors will as part of

the induction process be provided with comprehensive information on the Group's strategy, structure and performance reporting. They will also be afforded opportunity to meet senior management and visit Group sites.

#### **Engagement**

The Committee noted the results on the individual Director re-election resolutions tabled at the 2022 Annual General Meeting. The Committee welcomed the strong voting result in supporting the re-election of all Directors. However, the Committee noted that while the re-election of John B. McGuckian was affirmed, the resolution received 77% support which is below the threshold set in the Code. The Company had engaged extensively with its major shareholders in advance of the 2022 Annual General Meeting. The general consensus was that, notwithstanding Mr. McGuckian's tenure, that shareholders were supportive of Mr. McGuckian continuing as a Director and Chairman of the Board in the circumstances where the Group faced significant challenges relating to Covid-19 and was undertaking major strategic initiatives. In addition, certain shareholders noted the benefits of retaining Mr. McGuckian as Chair during the period of Board refreshment. The Committee was aware that a minority of shareholders had expressed a dissatisfaction with the Board's progress on achieving greater gender diversity on the Board, and voted against the re-election of Mr. McGuckian in his role as Chair of the Nominations Committee.

The Committee notes that the Board was undergoing a period of renewal and refreshment which was ongoing at the time of the 2022 Annual General Meeting. While the Board has not set diversity targets, its policy is to select candidates based on the required competencies of the role with due

regard for the benefits of diversity. The Committee appointed Éimear Moloney as Director in August 2022 and Mr. John Sheehan resigned as Director in November 2022. The Board gender diversity is currenting 33% female.

#### **Director Independence**

Outside of the newly appointed Director, the Committee reviewed and recommended to the Board the re-appointment of the remaining Directors at the Company's AGM. In considering the proposals for the re-election, the Committee had particular regard to the tenure of John B. McGuckian. John has served as Chairman of the Board since 2004 and as a non-executive Director since 1988. This recommendation was proposed following a robust review of the knowledge, skills and experience that he contributes, in the interests of the Company and stakeholders. The Committee assessed him to be both independent in character and judgement and to be of continued significant benefit to the Board. Recognising the provisions of the UK Code, the Committee was also cognisant of the appointment of John well in advance of the revisions to market expectations on Chair tenure. The Committee expects to align with the provisions of the UK Code on this issue in the future; however, at this time, and particularly in light of the strategic expansion of the Group, the Committee determined it appropriate for John to continue as Chair and leader of the Board. The Committee was also satisfied that the role of the Senior Independent Director further ensures clear division between management and oversight.

The Committee did not identify any issues that were likely to impair, or could appear to impair the independence of the non-executive Directors, Lesley Williams, Dan Clague and Éimear Moloney.

No Committee member voted on a matter concerning their position as a Director.

#### **Inclusion and Diversity**

The Committee reviewed the processes agreed in respect of workforce engagement described at page 83 and was satisfied that these arrangements remain appropriate to the Group's circumstances.

The Group values diversity and the benefits it can provide in promoting the success of the business. The Board's Diversity Policy is discussed on page 86. In considering any appointment to the Board the Committee identifies the set of skills and experience required. Individuals are selected based on the required competencies of the role with due regard for the benefits of diversity.

The Group's gender diversity is set out at page 86. Currently, the female composition of the Board is 33% (2021: 14%), 22% (2021: 21%) among senior managers and 39% (2021: 39%) across the organisation as a whole. While this indicates marginal progress year on year, the Committee continues to focus on improving these ratios. In relation to future Board and senior manager appointments the Committee will actively seek out a greater pool of female candidates for consideration. The Committee has also requested executive management to ensure this requirement is followed for recruitment across all levels of the organisation.

External search agencies independent of the Group are engaged to assist where appropriate and their mandates include considerations of diversity.

#### Other

No recruitment for senior management positions requiring the input of the Committee took place during the period.

#### John B. McGuckian

Chair of the Nomination Committee

8 March 2023

# **Report of the Remuneration Committee**



Dear Shareholder,

I am pleased present the Directors' Remuneration Report for year ended 31 December 2022. I have served on the Committee since August 2021 and was appointed as Chair in November 2022. On behalf of the Committee and the Board, I would like to thank my predecessor, John Sheehan, for his service as Chair of the Remuneration Committee.

#### **The Remuneration Committee**

The Remuneration Policy and Framework is overseen by the Remuneration Committee. Committee membership during 2022 is set out in the table below which also details attendance and tenure. All Directors bring significant professional expertise to their roles on this Committee as set out in their professional biographies on pages 76 to 77.

### **Role and Responsibilities**

The role, responsibilities and duties of the Committee are set out in written terms of reference which are reviewed annually. The Terms of Reference are available on the Group's website www. icg.ie. The Committee's duties are to establish a remuneration framework that;

- Will attract, motivate and retain high calibre individuals;
- Will reward individuals appropriately according to their level of responsibility and performance;
- Will motivate individuals to perform in the best interest of the shareholders; and
- Will not encourage individuals to take risks in excess of the Company's risk appetite.

Within this framework the Committee has formulated a Remuneration Policy which was submitted to shareholders at the 2021 AGM by way of an advisory resolution which received 87% approval. This Remuneration Report sets out how we have applied the Remuneration Policy during FY 2022 and will be put to a shareholder vote as an advisory resolution at the 2023 AGM.

The Committee ensures that the remuneration structures and levels are set to attract and retain high calibre individuals necessary at executive Director and senior manager level and to motivate them to deliver strategy in the interests of our shareholders and wider stakeholders. The committee believes that an approach to remuneration grounded in pay for performance with a bias to long term remuneration delivered in equity is the most effective way of aligning management's interests to those of our stakeholders. Remuneration levels and awards are based on an individual's

contribution to the Company against the background of underlying Company financial performance having regard to comparable companies in both size and complexity.

#### **Overview of Performance**

2022 was a year where we welcomed a return to growth having faced the twin challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit over the prior years. The Group is reporting an operating profit of €66.7 million for 2022 compared to the outturn (before non-trading items) of a €0.2 million loss and €0.8 million profit in 2021 and 2020 respectively. This improvement in performance is principally attributable to returning passenger traffic post pandemic while the Group has also leveraged its recent investments on expanding its operations in both divisions. The performance improvement has also increased cash generated from operations from €67.0 million in 2021 to €132.0 million in 2022. This has been utilised in facilitating the continued investment in our business during 2022 with strategic capital expenditure amount to €57.4 million (2021: €41.7 million) and returns to shareholders of € 73.4 million (2021: €19.8 million) by way of dividends and share buybacks.

The Committee acknowledges the strong contribution of the Executive Directors and senior managers during financial year 2022 in delivering the above result, including the actions taken in response to returning passenger flows post pandemic, delivering on the Group's expansion initiatives and embracing our ESG goals. The level of performance achieved, which exceeded budget expectations, maintained the Group's strong financial position and provides a platform for future growth.

Our approach to remuneration and variable pay seeks to consistently link variable remuneration to performance: when performance is strong, executives will be awarded higher levels of variable pay and when performance is behind where we would want it to be, variable remuneration will be low

Member	A	В	Tenure
D. Clague (Chair – appointed: 14 November 2022)	3	3	1.5 years
J. Sheehan (resigned: 11 November 2022)	2	2	9 years
L. Williams	3	3	1.7 years
E. Moloney (appointed: 25 August 2022)	1	1	0.5 years

Column A: the number of scheduled meetings held during the year where the Director was a member of the Committee.

Column B: the number of scheduled meetings attended during the year where the Director was a member of the Committee.

The Committee met three times during the period with follow up contacts between meetings. The Chairman provided an update to the Board on key matters discussed.

or nil. The Committee considers the most important aspect of variable remuneration to be the alignment between it and the interests of shareholders, stakeholders and management.

Noting the strong recovery in performance in FY2022 against FY2021, FY2020 and FY2022 budget expectations, the Committee concluded that bonus payouts approaching maximum opportunity were appropriate for 2022 for certain Directors and senior managers. However, other than for the CEO who has a contractual legacy arrangement, the Committee considered it appropriate to make downward adjustments where it considered the financial performance by which a manger was assessed was affected

by external factors outside of the manger's direct control.

We are satisfied the Committee's actions are aligned with the philosophy of our shareholder approved remuneration policy, which favours long-term equity ownership over short-term remuneration.

## Remuneration Policy and Shareholder Engagement

At the 2021 AGM, 87% of voting shareholders supported our proposed remuneration policy, a level at which the Committee is satisfied endorses our arrangements to incentivising Executive Directors. The full Remuneration Policy is available at https://icg.ie/investors/general-meetings/.

The Committee having reviewed the Policy during 2022, taking into account feedback on the 2021 Report of the Remuneration Committee, remain satisfied that it continues to be appropriate to the business needs and strategy of the Group. The Policy is next scheduled to be put to an advisory vote of shareholders at the 2025 AGM.

The 2021 Report of the Remuneration Committee was put to an advisory vote at the 2022 AGM and was supported by 74% of voting shareholders. We had engaged with major shareholders and their voting advisors and we are aware that some shareholders had raised some or all of the following concerns;

#### **Concern Raised**

# Terms and disclosure of metrics around CEO Bonus arrangements and potential for uncapped payouts

#### **Committee Response**

While the terms of the CEO's bonus are governed by a contractual agreement from the early days of his appointment, we have since continued to design a remuneration structure which responds to the specific needs of our business, our strategy and the life cycle of our assets. Accepting that the CEO's incentive scheme is distinct compared to certain market peers, with disclosure of the specific targets potentially impacting us commercially, it has been an effective structure for motivational reward in alignment with the Group's performance, long-term strategy and shareholder interests.

Despite its specificities, the link between pay for performance for the CEO has been demonstrated by the absence of pay-outs for 2020 and 2021 performance, while the EPS performance during the past fiscal year merited a pay-out. We believe focusing on this one aspect of the remuneration policy – a policy which applies to all senior management and not just the CEO – does not recognise the efforts we have made to strengthen our incentive arrangements over the past number of years and the broader impact of the incentive framework on the business.

It is a one-off, legacy arrangement that will not apply to the next CEO.

#### Level of salary increases to executive Directors

Following the in-depth review, the Committee determined that, effective from 1 January 2022, it would increase the salaries of the CEO and CFO by 20% and 26%, respectively to ensure the remuneration arrangements of our executives remain competitive, particularly as the business entered a crucial juncture, in terms of the exiting of the pandemic and executing on the evolution of our expansion strategy. While these were the primary considerations of the Committee, it was also cognisant of using benchmarking data as a reference point in determining the appropriate salary levels for high performing executives.

In relation to the CEO, other than for inflationary increases, salary levels were last adjusted in 2008.

# **Report of the Remuneration Committee**

## Continued

#### Concern Raised

# Post-employment holding requirements

#### **Committee Response**

The Company, while acknowledging that it has not set absolute holding requirements for senior executives who depart the Company, notes its remuneration structures by design since 2013 ensure that any senior executive who leaves employment contractually retains an interest in equity proportional to their variable remuneration awarded in the last five years of employment. The effect of this policy as reported in the 2021 Report was that the CEO and CFO at 31 December 2021 held 19.4 times and 2.4 times their base salary in equity which was subject to a disposal restriction for a weight average profile of 1.5 and 3.1 years respectively, over a period of one to five years. The 31 December 2022 metrics are reported later in this Report.

Also, any unvested LTIPS retained by an executive on good leaver terms remain subject to the normal rules of the Performance Share Plan which may create an additional alignment of up to 7 years post-employment.

The Committee notes that these post-employment requirements exceed market norms and are part of an enforceable contractual rather than voluntary arrangement.

The Committee believes that while not strictly complying with Provision 36 of the UK Corporate Governance Code, that these arrangements meet the objective of the Code and exceed market norms.

While acknowledging the above concerns, the Committee also refers below to other aspects of the Company's Remuneration Policy which create some of the most stringent deferral and holding mechanisms in the Irish and UK markets, including;

- A minimum of 50% of annual bonus (after tax liabilities) to be invested in equity, with the Committee exercising discretion to apply a higher percentage in recent years.
- Up to a five-year deferral, continuing to apply post-vesting, for the entire portion of the awards reinvested in equity under the annual bonus.
- A five-year holding period, continuing to be applied postemployment, following a three-year performance period for awards vesting under the Performance Share Plan, for a total of an eight-year time horizon from grant to release;
- Shareholding guidelines for all executive Directors and members of the Executive Committee of a minimum three times base salary to be achieved within five years of appointment.

#### **Workforce Remuneration**

As a Remuneration Committee, we are always mindful of the extent to which the remuneration of the executives aligns with the experience of our stakeholder groups. The Committee has received regular updates on relevant matters affecting the workforce and have overseen the implementation of a range of measures to help and support its direct employees. The team has performed extremely well managing the return of business post pandemic and the expansion of the Group's activities. The Committee hopes to oversee further staff development, including reward frameworks that are increasingly aligned with sustainable practices and the development of succession planning.

#### **Salary Increases**

The Committee conducted a review of salary and fixed pay arrangements at the end of 2021, which focused on the importance of remuneration arrangements remaining competitive as the business entered a crucial juncture, in terms of the exiting of the pandemic and executing on the evolution of our strategy. While these were the primary considerations of

the Committee, it was also cognisant of using benchmarking data as a reference point in determining the appropriate salary levels for high performing executives. Following the in-depth review, the Committee determined that it would increase the salaries of the CEO and CFO by 20% and 26%, respectively, effective from 1 January 2022.

The Committee reviewed these salary levels at the end of 2022 in light of financial performance of the Group's businesses and the market generally. Acknowledging that the salary rates of the CEO and CFO has been reset earlier in 2022, the Committee considered it appropriate that any salary increase awarded in 2023 should be in line with the increases awarded to the workforce generally. In that respect, increases of 2.5% were awarded to the CEO and CFO effective from 1 January 2023.

### **Consideration of Discretion**

The Committee reviewed the outcomes of both the annual bonus and long-term incentive plan and considered the results both against the relevant performance targets and the wider internal and external context. As set out earlier in this report, it was

noted that as travel restrictions were lifted in early 2022, the return of prepandemic passenger travel patterns contributed to a strong financial performance in the year.

In relation to the CEO, the formulaic calculations based on Group performance indicated that a bonus would be payable under his legacy arrangement. Noting that no bonus had been payable in 2020 or 2021 under this arrangement which aligned with overall financial performance of those years, the Committee considered that it would not be appropriate to adjust the formulaic outcome of the 2022 calculations. However, the Committee did require that the full award, rather than the minimum 50%, be invested in equity through the Group's restricted share scheme which creates a five year disposal restriction.

In relation to the CFO, whilst the formulaic outcomes indicated a full bonus opportunity had been achieved, the Committee considered it appropriate to exercise discretion and reduced the formulaic outcome by 26% to account for external factors affecting financial performance not within the control of the Group. Similar downward discretion was exercised in the case of other members of the senior management team.

With regard to the vesting outcomes under the long-term incentive plan, the Committee agreed that the formulaic vesting outcomes were appropriate given performance against the three-year targets and concluded that a reduction in vesting outcome was not required. One of the strengths of our approach to remuneration is the market leading deferral requirements which, unlike the vast majority of our listed peers, allows us the flexibility to restrict the disposal of vested awards for up to five years.

## **Integrating ESG Measures**

Over recent years, there has been significant growth in the focus on ESG and sustainability, with investors and wider stakeholders raising expectations as to how companies are embedding environmental, social and governance criteria into strategies and everyday operations. As outlined elsewhere is this Annual Report, during the last year, the business has significantly advanced its integration of a range of ESG factors into the risk management and strategy frameworks. At this point in our ESG maturity, we are focused on developing frameworks, policies and formally integrating ESG into decision making in all aspects of our business.

Where ESG matters are part of a reward structure they are currently assessed in relation to progress in these programmes. As the Group moves through the ESG maturity cycle, the Committee will seek to incorporate measurable targets and outcomes into performance remuneration.

#### Outlook

2022 has been one of recovery following the disruption to our passenger business during 2020 and 2021 due to the effects of travel restrictions imposed to control the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. 2022 was also a year where the scale of our operations was expanded with the further development of our Dover Calais service commenced in 2021, an increase in the fleet and continued expansion at our terminals commissioning the latest environmentally friendly equipment. 2023 will be a year where we further build upon and leverage these developments.

# Remuneration Outcomes for executive Directors in 2022

Total Directors' single figure remuneration for the year was €4,476,000 compared with €1,722,000 in 2021 and details are set in the table

		Perfori	mance pay					
	Base salary	Restricted shares	Cash	Benefits	Pension	Options / PSP <sup>1</sup>	Fees	Total 2022
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Executive Directors</b>								
E. Rothwell	700	1,380	-	35	-	814	-	2,929
D. Ledwidge	400	444	-	22	60	335	-	1,261
Total for executives	1,100	1,824	-	57	60	1,149	-	4,190
Non-executive Directors								
J. B. McGuckian	-	-	-	-	-	-	125	125
J. Sheehan	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	43
L. Williams	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
D. Clague	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
E. Moloney	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	18
Total for non-executives	-	-	-	-	-	-	286	286
Total	1,100	1,824	-	57	60	1,149	286	4,476

<sup>1. 67.5%</sup> of the options granted on 6 March 2020 under the PSP are expected to vest during 2023 based on performance to 31 December 2022, subject to continued employment up to the vesting date. The value of any options vesting will be based on the actual share price at date of vesting. For the purposes of the above disclosure, the value of an option has been based on the difference between the option subscription price and the average closing price of an ICG Unit between 1 October and 31 December 2022.

# **Report of the Remuneration Committee**

# Continued

Details of Directors' remuneration for the year ended 31 December 2021 are set out below:

		Perfor	mance pay					
	Base salary	Restricted shares	Cash	Benefits	Pension	Options / PSP <sup>1</sup>	Fees	Total 2021
	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
<b>Executive Directors</b>								
E. Rothwell	580	-	-	35	-	230	-	845
D. Ledwidge	318	75	32	22	43	77	-	567
Total for executives	898	75	32	57	43	307	-	1,412
Non-executive Directors								
J. B. McGuckian	-	-	-	-	-	-	125	125
C. Duffy	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	18
B. O'Kelly	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
J. Sheehan	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
L. Williams	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
D. Clague	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17
Total for non-executives	-	-	-	-	-	-	310	310
Total	898	75	32	57	43	307	310	1,722

The value of options which vested during 2022 based on financial performance to 31 December 2021 reported in the prior year based on the average closing price of an ICG Unit between 1 October 2020 and 31 December 2020 has been restated based on the actual closing price on the vesting date. The restatement amounted to a decrease to the previously reported benefit in respect of Eamonn Rothwell of €74,000 and in respect of David Ledwidge €25,000.

#### **Base Salary**

The Committee reviewed the salaries of the CEO and CFO against market competitive levels for similar sized ISEQ and FTSE companies during 2021, taking into account the performance of the executive Directors; in particular their leadership of the company through the challenges of Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and significant expansion of operations. The Committee noted that these challenges were successfully managed without accessing cash from shareholders, while at the same time paying down debt and returning cash to shareholders. It was also noted that through this period, the Group had positioned itself for further growth underpinning further shareholder

value creation over the longer-term. In light of the strong contribution in protecting the resiliency of the business, and to ensure that both executive Directors are retained to execute on the recent significant strategic initiatives, the Committee determined that it would address the gap in salary between the executive Directors and rates in the market.

The Committee concluded that it was appropriate in this context to award a 20% increase in annualised base salary to Eamonn Rothwell, CEO. The Committee determined that the proposed salary level was appropriate in the context of the CEO's experience and performance, and market norms, being at the median level for other

ISEQ companies of comparable scale and the FTSE250 more broadly. The previous reassessment of the CEO salary levels, other than inflationary increases was in 2008.

The Committee also awarded a 26% increase in annualised base salary to David Ledwidge, CFO, for 2022. The adjustment set the CFO salary level in line with the median level of base pay for ISEQ20 companies of similar market capitalisation, and the lower quartile for other FTSE 250 companies. The Committee concluded that this salary level reflects the CFO's continued strong contribution and individual performance in his role.

# **Director's Pension Benefits**

The aggregate pension benefits attributable to the executive Directors at 31 December 2022 are set out below:

	D. Led	lwidge
	Total 2022	Total 2021
	€'000	€'000
Increase in accumulated accrued annual benefits (excluding inflation) in the period	1	1
Transfer value of the increase in accumulated accrued benefits (excluding inflation) at year end*	4	4
Accumulated accrued annual benefits on leaving service at year end	19	18

<sup>\*</sup> Note: Calculated in accordance with actuarial guidance note GNII.

There were no pension benefits attributable to Eamonn Rothwell as he has reached normal retirement age under the pension scheme rules and pension benefits have vested.

With regard to David Ledwidge, costs incurred in relation to defined benefit pension arrangements were €29,000 (2021: €20,000) with a further €31,000 (2021: €23,000) related to the defined contribution pension arrangements.

The Company also provides lump sum death in service benefits and the premiums paid during the year amounted to €6,000 and €1,000 in relation to Eamonn Rothwell and David Ledwidge respectively.

Executive Directors participation in Group sponsored pension schemes is on similar terms as apply to Group employees in Ireland.

#### **Performance Related Pay**

#### **Eamonn Rothwell**

Eamonn Rothwell has been with ICG since its inception as a public company and flotation in 1988. As detailed in the Remuneration Policy passed at the 2021 AGM, a legacy contractual arrangement continues to govern Mr. Rothwell's performance related pay.

The CEO annual bonus performance award is predominantly driven by a formula based on basic EPS growth which incorporates an adjustment for share buybacks and rights issues. The Committee also retains discretion to make adjustments for any non-cash non-trading items. The Company believes that EPS is consistent and transparent. EPS growth drives longterm value creation for all stakeholders and has increased in line with the company's scaling over the past two decades. EPS is one of the key performance indicators by which the Board assesses the overall performance of the Company and, as such, the Committee deems it an appropriate incentive for the Company's most senior employee.

The Committee reassessed the CEO performance incentive arrangements and in its view the arrangements remain an effective means of driving

performance and aligning the interests of the CEO, shareholders and wider stakeholders.

The Committee considered the performance of Mr. Rothwell and the significant effort expended in managing the Group's businesses throughout another year of external challenges. While the lifting of Covid-19 travel restrictions saw a return of passenger volumes, significant increased energy costs and other inflationary pressures created cost challenges to be passed through to customers. The Committee also noted the efforts in further developing and expanding the Group's strategically significant Dover Calais service, first launched during 2021. Against these developments, the Company also returned €73.4 million to shareholders through a combination of dividends and share buybacks.

The Committee assessed the formulaic outcome from the longstanding legacy arrangement and did not consider it appropriate to exercise discretion to adjust the formulaic outcome. The Committee considered that in each of 2020 and 2021, when performance of the Group was negatively affected by external factors outside of the control of the CEO resulting in a nil payout, that they had not exercised discretion to overrule the formulaic outcome. This consistent application of the performance-related pay formula was considered appropriate based on the two key factors, simplicity and performance alignment. When financial performance is strong and shareholder experience is healthy, payouts will accrue. When the converse is the case, performance related pay will be correspondingly reduced to a minor or nil amount, which runs in contrast to more complex schemes commonplace at listed companies. Based on the above considerations, the Committee approved a performance bonus of €1.380.000 be paid to the CEO in line with the formulaic outcome. of which the full amount, rather than the required minimum of 50%, was required to be invested in equity through the Group's restricted share scheme, which is subject to a disposal restriction of greater than 5 years.

#### **David Ledwidge**

The Committee assessed Mr.
Ledwidge's performance in his role
over the period and concluded that
Mr. Ledwidge was performing in line
with expectations and contributing
positively to the longer term
development of the Group.

The Committee considered it appropriate to retain for Mr. Ledwidge the maximum annual bonus opportunity of 150% current year salary, as per the Remuneration Policy, against the following parameters;

- 75% based on Group financial outturn with the targets based off 2023 budget;
- 15% based on personal objectives including completion of certain operational projects and input into strategic development;
- 10% on the continuing development of an ESG framework into the overall risk framework and enhancement of ESG reporting.

Based on the 2022 financial outturns, which exceeded budgeted levels the Committee determined that a full bonus amount of €450,000 was eligible to be paid under the financial outturn element. However, following a holistic evaluation of Company performance and in recognition that certain external factors beyond the direct control of the Group contributed to the strong performance, the Committee reduced the financial portion of the bonus to €330,000.

The Committee also assessed the personal objectives set and noted Mr. Ledwidge's significant effort during the year in managing the Group's capital facilitating a return of €73.4 million to shareholders and his contribution to strategic initiatives to position the Group for future growth. The Committee further noted the work achieved to date on ESG frameworks and reporting. Taking into account the positive aspects of personal performance, the Committee considered that a full bonus pay-out of €150,000 accrued under these criteria. However, the Committee again, in consideration of the matters discussed above determined it appropriate that this be reduced by 24% to €114,000.

# **Report of the Remuneration Committee**

## Continued

The Committee in approving the aggregate bonus of  $\leq$ 444,000 required that the full amount, rather the required minimum of 50%, be invested in equity through the Group's restricted share scheme, which is subject to a disposal restriction of greater than 5 years.

#### **Restricted Shares**

In relation to Mr. Rothwell and Mr. Ledwidge, their full annual bonus award was applied towards the acquisition of 330,935 and 106,474 ICG units respectively which will be held in the employee trust for a period of five years.

#### **Long Term Incentive**

#### (i) Options expected to vest during 2023 based on performance to 31 December 2022

The Committee has considered the performance conditions attaching to the options granted under the PSP on 6 March 2020 which are tested against Group performance up to 31 December 2022. The 2022 outcomes have been adjusted for the effects of the application of IFRS 16 Leases so that the diluted earnings per share, return on average capital employed and free cash flow ratio metrics align with the definitions per the Plan rules. The overall vesting rate is expected to be 67.5% (2021: 31.1%) and the table below details the expected vesting on each metric.

Performance Condition	Weighting	Threshold	Maximum	Actual	Outcome
Adjusted diluted earnings per share	25%	27.5c	33.4c	33.5c	25% out of 25%
Return on average capital employed	25%	13%	20%	6.7%	0% out of 25%
Free cash flow ratio	25%	100%	130%	274%	25% out of 25%
Total shareholder return					
· Versus peer group	12.5%	(30.0%)	(8.3%)	(5.1%)	12.5% out of 12.5%
· Versus FTSE 250	12.5%	(9.2%)	21.3%	(5.1%)	5.0% out of 12.5%

30% vesting occurs at threshold performance increasing pro-rata up to the maximum vesting threshold. Vesting will be conditional on the continued employment of the option holders at the vesting date in 2023. At 31 December 2022, there were 1,054,536 outstanding options granted on 6 March 2020, including 297,000 and 122,000 options in favour of Mr. Rothwell and Mr. Ledwidge respectively of which 200,475 and 82,350 are expected to vest during 2023 under the above performance outturns.

The gross value of those options expected to vest in favour of the executive Directors based on performance to 31 December 2022 has been included in the total Director remuneration table for year ended 31 December 2022, based on an estimated share price of €4.13, being the average closing price of an ICG Unit between 1 October 2022 and 31 December 2022.

## (ii) Options Vested during 2022

As reported in last year's report, the Committee determined, based on performance up to 31 December 2021, the vesting of the options granted under the PSP on 8 March 2019 at an exercise price of €0.065 at a vesting rate of 31.1 per cent, vesting 230,859 options in total.

Mr. Rothwell held 70,286 of the PSP vested options. Share option remuneration of €230,000 based on the market price at the vesting date has been disclosed in the 2021 remuneration table (adjusting the €304,000 previously disclosed last year which was estimated based on average prices in the last quarter of 2021). Under the rules of the PSP, the 70,286 PSP options which vested were exercised and are subject to retention in trust for a period of five years.

Mr. Ledwidge held 23,636 of the PSP vested options. Share option remuneration of €77,000 based on the market price at the vesting date has been disclosed in the 2021 remuneration table (adjusting the €102,000 previously disclosed last year which was estimated based on average prices in the last quarter of 2021). Under the rules of the PSP, the 23,636 PSP options which vested were exercised and 15,364 are subject to retention in trust for a period of five years.

The share price at date of vesting was €3.34.

#### (iii) Grants during 2022

The long term incentive scheme applicable for the 2022 financial year was the PSP approved by shareholders on 17 May 2017. The Committee had suspended future awards under the legacy 2009 Share Option Plan which remains in place to facilitate the administration of previously granted options.

On 11 March 2022, the Committee granted options over 1,552,500 ICG Units to employees of the Group. These included an annual award of options granted to Mr. Rothwell and Mr. Ledwidge in line with the annual limits set out in the PSP rules being 200% and 150% of salary respectively. The total number of options granted to Mr. Rothwell and Mr. Ledwidge based on a share price of €3.36 were 416,500 and 178,500 respectively.

Vesting of these awards are based on the achievement of the following performance conditions over a three-year vesting period;

- Adjusted Diluted Earnings per Share (EPSd)
- Return on Average Capital Employed (ROACE)
- · Free Cash Flow Ratio (FCFR)
- · Total Shareholder Return (TSR)

Each condition is equally weighted and in all cases 30% vests at threshold performance and 100% vests at maximum with pro-rata vesting between these two levels.

The performance levels were calibrated as follows;

	Vesting	Threshold
	Minimum	Maximum
Adjusted diluted earnings per share	5%	12%
Return on average capital employed	13%	20%
Free cash flow ratio	100%	130%
Total shareholder return	Median	Top Quartile

The Committee noted in setting the above targets that EPSd for financial year 2021 was negative, largely due to the continuing effect of government imposed travel restrictions. In

recognition of the continuing uncertainty around the pattern of returning passengers following the removal of these restrictions and the challenges in setting a base EPSd level, the Committee agreed in relation to the 2022 grants to set base EPSd at 0.1 cent per share. This was consistent with the approach followed in the prior year. The targets relating to the other measures were retained at previous year levels.

TSR is measured against a combination of the performance of the FTSE 250 index and a grouping of peer companies comprising DFDS, Tallink Grupp, Viking Line, Air-France KLM Group., Ryanair Group, EasyJet, Getlink, Origin Enterprises, Dalata Hotel Group and C&C Group.

The Committee considered the timing of grant of awards in the first quarter of 2022 and whether there were circumstances which may create a perception that participants benefitted from 'windfall gains'. The Committee noted that in the period leading up to the award date that there was political

uncertainty affecting financial markets generally which was not specific to the Company. The Committee further noted that the price used was calculated as per the rules of the scheme and that the timing of the grants was consistent with that of previous grant dates. The Committee did not deem it appropriate to adjust the award amounts having considered these circumstances. As with each award, the Committee will review any outcome at the time of vesting to ensure that there has not been any disproportionate windfall to any participant based on external factors.

The 2022 PSP awards granted were calculated based on a share price of €3.36, the closing share price on the day preceding the award date. In 2021, the PSP awards granted were calculated based on a share price of €4.26.

## **Options Held**

Details of movements in share options granted to Directors under the Performance Share Plan and the legacy Share Option Plan are set out in the table below:

#### F Pothwell

L. ROUIWell									
Option Type	Date of Grant	31-Dec-21	Granted	Exercised	Lapsed	31-Dec-22	Option Price (€)	Earliest Vesting Date	Latest Expiry Date
Unvested									
Performance Share Plan <sup>1</sup>	5-Mar-19	226,000	-	(70,286)	(155,714)	-	0.065	-	-
Performance Share Plan <sup>2</sup>	6-Mar-20	297,000	-	-	-	297,000	0.065	6-Mar-23	-
Performance Share Plan <sup>2</sup>	12-Mar-21	272,000	-	-	-	272,000	0.065	12-Mar-24	-
Performance Share Plan <sup>2</sup>	11-Mar-22	-	416,500	-	-	416,500	0.065	11-Mar-25	
Vested but not yet exercised	5-Mar-15	700,000	-	-	-	700,000	3.58	-	4-Mar-25
		1,495,000	416,500	(70,286)	(155,714)	1,685,500			

#### D. Ledwidge

	Date of						<b>Option Price</b>	Earliest	Latest
Option Type	Grant	31-Dec-21	Granted	Exercised	Lapsed	31-Dec-22	(€) Ve	esting Date	<b>Expiry Date</b>
Unvested									
	05-Mar-								
Performance Share Plan <sup>1</sup>	19	76,000	-	(23,636)	(52,364)	-	0.065	-	-
Performance Share Plan <sup>2</sup>	6-Mar-20	122,000	-	-	-	122,000	0.065 6	5-Mar-23	-
Performance Share Plan <sup>2</sup>	12-Mar-21	111,500		-	-	111,500	0.065 12	2-Mar-24	-
Performance Share Plan <sup>2</sup>	11-Mar-22	-	178,500	-	-	178,500	0.065 1	1-Mar-25	
Vested but not yet exercised	5-Mar-15	150,000	-	-	-	150,000	3.58	-	4-Mar-25
		459,500	178,500	(23,636)	(52,364)	562,000			

<sup>1.</sup> These are expected to vest during 2023 at a vesting rate of 67% based on performance to 31 December 2022 and the gross value has been included in the Director remuneration schedule. The delivered shares less any permitted sales to discharge tax liabilities, will be held in trust for a period of five years from the exercise date.

These will vest and become exercisable three years from the third anniversary of grant in accordance with achievement of the performance
conditions set at date of grant. These options will normally have to be exercised on or shortly after the vesting date and the delivered shares, less any
permitted sales to discharge tax liabilities, held in trust for a period of five years from the exercise date.

# **Report of the Remuneration Committee**

## Continued

# Remuneration for executive Directors in 2023

The Committee will continue to apply the existing Remuneration Policy, approved by shareholders in May 2021, during financial year 2023.

#### **Base Salary**

The Committee conducted a review of the salaries of the CEO and CFO against market competitive levels for similar sized ISEQ and FTSE companies during 2021. Taking into account the results of this review and the performance of the executive Directors, salary levels were reset effective from 1 January 2022.

The Committee noted the continuing leadership in managing the Group's businesses post pandemic and the continued expansion of operations. Nevertheless, the Committee noted that these factors had been considered in last year's review and that a further in-depth review of salaries was not warranted at this time. In recognition of the general level of salary increases awarded to the Group's employees based in Ireland, the Committee awarded an increase in salaries of 2.5% over existing levels to each of the CEO and CFO. These increases are effective from 1 January 2023.

# Pension arrangements and other benefits

Pension arrangements and other benefits will be unchanged from 2022.

## **Annual Bonus**

The Committee following review has retained the long-standing legacy CEO bonus arrangements for FY2023. The Committee remains satisfied that the outcomes reflect Group performance under this arrangement, in line with its straightforward alignment structure between Group performance and payouts, with a particular focus on EPS.

In relation to the CFO, he will be eligible for an annual bonus award with maximum opportunity of 150% of base salary. In line with 2022, any award of bonus is weighted 75% on the Group achieving stretching financial targets, benchmarked against budget

levels, 10% on ESG related measures and 15% on personal objectives. The Committee retains discretion to adjust the formulaic outcome.

#### Long-term incentive

The Committee will make an annual award of options under the PSP in line with the plan limits of 200% of base salary for the CEO and 150% for the CFO. The performance metrics, EPS growth, return on capital employed, cash flow generation and relative TSR will be set at the same levels as for the 2022 awards.

#### **Other Matters**

#### **Minimum Shareholding Requirements**

The Company encourages individuals to acquire and retain significant shareholdings to align interests of management with those of shareholders. The Company has a minimum shareholding requirement of three times base salary. The holding levels are expected to be met within five years from the date of appointment. The Committee considers these minimum holding requirements to exceed market norms. The market value inherent in vested options and any shares held under the Company's restricted share arrangements will count towards determining an individual's holdings.

The market value of the holdings of executive Directors and executive management at 31 December 2022 as a multiple of base salary at that date are shown in the following table:

	Salary multiple held
Eamonn Rothwell	186.5 times
David Ledwidge	3.1 times
Other executive management	7.2 times

#### **Non-Executive Directors**

Non-executive Directors receive a fee which is set by the Committee and approved by the Board. They do not participate in any of the Company's performance award plans or pension schemes. During 2022, the Committee

reviewed the level of fees payable to non-executive Directors which were last adjusted in January 2017. The Committee considered the increase in scale of the Group's operation since then, the increased responsibilities of nonexecutive Directors and the fee level paid by equivalent sized quoted companies. Following this review, the Committee submitted a recommendation to increase the fee payable to the Board Chairman from €125,000 to €150,000 per annum and other non-executive Directors from €50,000 to €65,000. These fee levels were approved by the Board, effective from 1 January 2023.

Non-executive Directors do not have notice periods and the Company has no obligation to pay compensation when their appointment ceases. The letters of appointment are available for inspection at the Company's registered office during normal business hours and at the 2023 AGM.

### **Director's Service contracts**

Non-executive Directors have been appointed under letters of appointment for periods of three years subject to annual re-election at the AGM.

In respect of Mr. Rothwell, CEO, there is an agreement between the Company and Mr. Rothwell that, for management retention reasons, in the event of a change in control of the Company (where over 50% of the Company is acquired by a party or parties acting in concert, excluding Mr. Rothwell) he will have the right to extend his notice period to two years or to receive remuneration in lieu thereof.

This amendment to Mr. Rothwell's contract of employment was agreed by the Remuneration Committee a number of years ago to retain and motivate the CEO during a series of attempted corporate takeover actions. No future executive contracts will include similar change of control provisions.

The letters of appointment for other executive Directors do not provide for any compensation for loss of office other than for payments in lieu of notice and, except as may be required under Irish

law, the maximum amount payable upon termination is limited to 12 months equivalent.

On termination, outstanding options may at the absolute discretion of the Committee, be retained by the departing individual in accordance with the good leaver / bad leaver provisions of the relevant plan. Any shares delivered to an individual which are subject to a retention period will remain unavailable to the individual until the end of the retention period and where applicable will be subject to clawback under the provisions of the Clawback Policy.

#### **Share Option Schemes**

There were no long-term incentive plans in place during the year other than the Group's 2009 share option plans (suspended as regards new grants) and the PSP.

The purpose of the share option plans is to encourage identification of option holders with shareholders' longer-term interests. Under the plans, options have been granted both to Directors and to employees of the Group. The options were granted by the Committee on a discretionary basis, based on the employees expected contribution to the Group in the future. Non-executive Directors are not eligible to participate in the plan.

In the ten year period ended 31 December 2022, the total number of options granted, net of options lapsed amounted to 3.9% of the issued share capital of the Company at 31 December 2022.

A charge is recognised in the Consolidated Income Statement in respect of share options issued to executive Directors. The charge in respect of executive Directors for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 is €1,149,000 (2021: €478,000).

#### **Clawback Policy**

The Committee recognises that there could potentially be circumstances in which performance related pay (either annual bonuses, and / or longer term incentive awards) is paid based on misstated results or inappropriate conduct resulting in material damage to the Company. Whilst the Company has robust management and internal controls in place to minimise any such risk, the Committee has in place formal clawback arrangements for the protection of the Company and its investors. The clawback of performance related pay comprising the annual bonus and PSP awards would apply in certain circumstances including;

- a material misstatement of the Company's financial results;
- a material breach of an executive's contract of employment;
- any wilful misconduct, recklessness, and / or fraud resulting in serious injury to the financial condition or business reputation of the Company.

For executive Directors and members of the Executive Management Team, a minimum of 50 per cent of the annual bonus will be invested in ICG equity which must be held for a period of five years, which will be subject to clawback for a period of two years per the circumstances noted above. Any awards granted under the PSP will be subject to clawback during the vesting period and any shares delivered on vesting will be subject to clawback for an initial two year period per the circumstances noted above.

#### Post-employment holdings

The Committee, in designing its performance pay initiatives, as explained below, has ensured that executive Directors and senior managers contractually retain an appropriate level of shareholding postemployment. For the past ten years, the Company has had a structure in place under which all equity awarded to executives (either under the annual bonus plan or PSP) is placed in a trust for a period of five years. Executives are restricted from disposing of those shares during this five-year period even in circumstances where they are no longer in the employment of the Company. This ensures strong alignment with investors and other stakeholders' post-employment and ensures that departing executives retain an interest in the business for a significant period after leaving the Company.

Consequently, under the annual bonus scheme a minimum of 50% of an annual award must be invested in shares and held in trust for a holding period of five years. Similarly, any shares delivered pursuant to the vesting of options under the PSP must normally be held in trust for a holding period of five years (for a total time horizon of eight years from date of grant). Therefore, at termination executive Directors and senior management participating in these schemes will contractually retain an interest in shares for up to a period of five years post-employment, proportional to the amount of variable pay awarded over the final five years of employment. At 31 December 2022, the following vested share awards were held in employee trusts relating to executive Directors and members of the executive management team with release dates between January 2023 and January 2028.

# **Report of the Remuneration Committee**

# Continued

	No. shares Held in Trust	Value €m	Salary multiple held	Weighted release profile	Release timeframe
Eamonn Rothwell	1,682,753	7.2	10.3 times	2.1 years	Jan 2023 to Jan 2028
David Ledwidge	255,259	1.1	2.7 times	3.5 years	Jan 2023 to Jan 2028
Other executive management	1,136,247	4.9	4.6 times	3.5 years	Jan 2023 to Jan 2028

The Committee believes that while not setting an absolute post-employment equity retention requirement, that the above arrangements achieve the objective of Provision 36 of the UK Corporate Governance Code and is unique in that it is an enforceable contractual commitment compared to general market practice.

#### **External Appointments**

No executive Director retained any remuneration receivable in relation to external board appointments.

#### **Payments to former Directors**

There were no pension payments or other payments for loss of office paid to any former Directors during the year.

#### **Employee Average Remuneration**

The annual percentage change in payments to Directors and an average full time equivalent employee across the Group over the past five years, together with the annual change in the ISEQ index and Company annual total shareholder return were as follows;

<b>2022</b> 68.6%	<b>2021</b>	2020	2019	2018
68.6%	(27.7%)			
	(27.770)	(44.0%)	0.0%	(74.3%)
76.9%	0.5%	18.0%	7.2%	(57.0%)
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
4.2%	24.2%	(4.2%)	2.0%	(10.4%)
(15.8%)	14.5%	2.7%	31.1%	(22.1%)
(2.1%)	0.6%	(7.0%)	17.2%	(24.6%)
	0.0% 0.0% 4.2% (15.8%)	0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 4.2% 24.2% (15.8%) 14.5%	0.0%     0.0%     0.0%       0.0%     0.0%     0.0%       4.2%     24.2%     (4.2%)       (15.8%)     14.5%     2.7%	0.0%     0.0%     0.0%     0.0%       0.0%     0.0%     0.0%     0.0%       4.2%     24.2%     (4.2%)     2.0%       (15.8%)     14.5%     2.7%     31.1%

The payments to Directors and employees include base salaries, overtime, allowances, bonuses, pension costs, other benefits and Directors' fees paid to or on behalf of employees and Directors together with profits earned on the exercise of share options but exclude employer costs expensed to the Income Statement relating to social welfare contributions.

#### **External Advisers**

The Committee's independent advisor during the year was Ellason LLP, who provide advice and external market perspectives on remuneration for the Executive Directors. During the year, this included advice on general remuneration developments and provision of market data on base salaries. Ellason LLP is a member of the UK's Remuneration Consultants Group and a signatory to its Code of Conduct. Other than the services above, Ellason LLP did not provide any other services to the Group in the period from 1 January 2022 to the date of this report.

#### Market price of shares

The closing price of an ICG Unit on Euronext Dublin on 31 December 2022 was €4.28 and the range during the year was €3.20 to €4.75, with an average daily closing price of €4.03.

### **Dan Clague**

Chair of the Remuneration Committee 8 March 2023

# **Report of the Directors**

The Directors present their Report together with the audited Financial Statements of the Group for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

## **Results for the year and Business Developments**

Details of the results for the financial year are set out in the Consolidated Income Statement on page 124 and in the related notes forming part of the Financial Statements. The fair review of the development of the business of the Company and its subsidiaries is set out in the Strategic Report on pages 4 to 73. This includes a description of the principal activities, principal risks, uncertainties, alternative performance measures and environmental and employee matters.

#### **Research and Development**

The Group actively monitors developments in vessel design and vessel availability with an emphasis on product improvement, environmental efficiency and achievement of economies of scale. During the reporting period, the Group has worked with external suppliers to adopt new technologies into its operations, both on its vessels and onshore.

## **Dividend and Share Buyback**

The Company recommenced the payment of dividends during financial year 2022, returning €24.2 million to shareholders. The Company is proposing to pay a final dividend in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2022 of 9.45 cent per ICG Unit on 9 June 2023 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 14 May 2023. The cumulative payment to all shareholders in respect of this dividend is estimated at adequate accounting records by €16.1 million. Irish dividend withholding tax will be deducted where applicable. Payment of this dividend is subject to the approval of shareholders at the AGM scheduled for 11 May 2023.

approach to returning cash to shareholders, through a combination of dividends and share buybacks. No dividends were paid during the years ended 31 December 2021 and 2020 due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the financial outturn. The Company during financial year 2022 bought

back 12,006,403 (2021: 4,565,000) of its shares, representing 6.5% (2021: 2.4%) of its issued share capital at the beginning of the financial year for a total consideration of €49.2 million (2021: €19.8 million). Further details are contained at note 19 to the financial statements.

Dividends are declarable at the discretion of the Directors, and as with buybacks, following assessment of the Company's performance, its cash resources and distributable reserves. At 31 December 2022, the Company's retained earnings amounted to €111.0 million, substantially all of which were considered to be distributable.

#### **Board of Directors**

The Company's Constitution requires that one third of the Directors are required to retire from office at each AGM of the Company. However, in accordance with the provisions contained in the UK Corporate Governance Code, the Board has decided that all Directors should retire at the 2023 AGM and offer themselves for re-election. Biographical details of the Directors are set out on pages 76 to 77 of this report and the result of the annual board evaluation is set out on page 86.

Éimear Moloney joined the Board on 25 August 2022 and John Sheehan retired from the Board on 11 November 2022.

## **Accounting Records**

The Directors believe that they have complied with the requirements of Section 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to maintaining employing accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and by providing adequate resources to the finance function. The accounting records of the Company are maintained at the Company's registered office, Irish The Company has adopted a progressive Continental Group plc, Ferryport, Alexandra Road, Dublin 1, Ireland.

## **Non-Financial information**

The Group is not subject to the reporting requirements of the European Union (Disclosure of Non-Financial and Diversity Information by certain large undertakings and groups) Regulations 2017 (as amended). Notwithstanding the Group provides certain non-financial information in its Sustainability and ESG Report contained at pages 36 to 59.

#### **Going Concern**

The Financial Statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. The Directors report that, after making inquiries, they have a reasonable expectation at the time of approving the Financial Statements, that the Group and Company are going concerns, having adequate financial resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. In forming this view, the Directors have considered the future cash requirements of the Group and Company in the context of the economic environment of 2023, the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Group (pages 65 to 69), the Group's 2023 budget plan and the medium-term strategy of the Group, including capital investment plans. The future cash requirements have been compared to bank facilities which are available to the Group and Company.

The introduction of measures in response to Covid-19 by governments in the jurisdictions in which we operate services in March 2020 and which continued in various forms throughout the period to January 2022 had a material effect on the Group's financial results in that period. This was particularly concentrated on our passenger business where international travel was affected resulting in a material reduction in passenger revenues compared to pre-pandemic levels. Following the removal of the last of these restrictions in January 2022, passenger volumes have returned, though at levels less than 2019, the last comparative full year pre-pandemic.

The Group's RoRo, LoLo, chartering and port stevedoring services which were not materially affected by the pandemic effects have continued to operate largely in line with expectations. The Group generated cash from operations of €132.0 million (2021: €67.0 million) in financial year 2022, with free cash flow after maintenance capital expenditures of

# **Report of the Directors**

# Continued

€108.0 million (2021: €44.3 million). The Group retained cash balances and committed undrawn facilities at 31 December 2022 of €67.4 million. The leverage covenant level at 31 December 2022 calculated in accordance with the lending agreements, was 1.2 times EBITDA, within maximum permitted levels of 3 times.

In the period from 1 January 2023 up to the date of the approval of the financial statements, trading has been performing satisfactorily and largely within expectation.

In making their going concern assessment, the Directors have considered a number of trading scenarios including lower trading activity in light of the current economic uncertainty. This modelling assumed maintenance of a full schedule of services and cash management within the terms of the Group's existing financing arrangements. Based on this modelling, the Directors believe the Group retains sufficient liquidity to operate for at least the period up to March 2024.

#### **Viability Statement**

The Directors have assessed ICG's viability over a timeframe of five years which the Directors believe reflects an appropriate timeframe for performing realistic assessments of future performance given the dynamic nature of our markets as regards the competitive landscape, economic activity, long-life assets and the continued capital investment commitments related to our operations.

In making their assessment, the Directors took account of ICG's current financial and operational positions and contracted capital expenditure. These positions were then rolled forward based on a set of assumptions on expected outcomes to arrive at a base projection. Sensitivity analysis was then performed on the base projection against potential financial and operational impacts, in severe but plausible scenarios, of the principal risks and uncertainties and the likely

degree of effectiveness of current and available mitigating actions as set out on pages 65 to 69. It was further assumed that functioning financial markets exist throughout the assessment period with bank lending available to the Group on normal terms and covenants. The process, which was performed by management, was subject to examination and challenge by the Audit Committee and the Board.

Based on this assessment, the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company and the Group will be able to continue in operation and meet all their liabilities as they fall due over the five year assessment period.

#### **Directors' Compliance Statement**

The Directors acknowledge that they are responsible for securing compliance by the Company with its Relevant Obligations as defined by the Companies Act 2014 (the Relevant Obligations).

The Directors confirm that they have drawn up and adopted a compliance policy statement setting out the Company's policies that, in the Directors' opinion, are appropriate to the Company with respect to compliance with its Relevant Obligations.

The Directors further confirm the Company has put in place appropriate arrangements or structures that are, in the Directors' opinion, designed to secure material compliance with its Relevant Obligations. For the year ended 31 December 2022, the Directors have reviewed the effectiveness of these arrangements and structures during the financial year to which this Report relates.

In discharging its obligations under the Companies Act 2014, as set out above, the Directors have relied on the advice of persons employed by the Company or retained by it under a contract for services, who the Directors believe to have the requisite knowledge and experience to advise the Company on compliance with its Relevant Obligations.

# Disclosure of Information to Statutory Auditors

In accordance with the provisions of Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, each Director of the Company at the date of approval of this report individually confirms that;

- So far as they are aware, there is no relevant audit information, as defined in the Companies Act 2014, of which the Statutory Auditor is unaware; and
- They have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a Director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information (as defined) and to ensure that the Statutory Auditor is aware of such information

# International Financial Reporting Standards

ICG presents its Financial Statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union. The Group has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) of the IASB that are relevant to its operations and effective for accounting periods beginning on 1 January 2022 and that have been adopted by the European Union.

## **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The Group has a risk management structure in place which is designed to identify, manage and mitigate the threats to the business. The key risks facing the Group include strategic, operational, financial and information technology and cyber risks arising in the ordinary course of business. Further details of risks and uncertainties are set out on pages 65 to 69.

#### **Substantial Shareholdings**

The latest notifications of interests of 3 per cent or more in the share capital of the Company received by the Company on or before 8 March 2023 and as at 31 December 2022 were as follows:

	8 Marc	h 2023	31 December 2022		
Beneficial Holder as Notified	Number of Units	% of Issued Units	Number of Units	% of Issued Units	
Eamonn Rothwell	30,388,085	17.7%	30,388,085	17.7%	
Wellington Management Company, LLP	18,205,979	10.6%	18,816,956	11.0%	
Kinney Asset Management, LLC	11,606,002	6.7%	11,606,002	6.7%	
Marathon Asset Management, LLP	10,899,056	6.3%	10,899,056	6.3%	
Ameriprise Financial Inc.	6,517,249	3.8%	7,633,033	4.4%	
FMR, LLC	6,229,035	3.6%	6,229,035	3.6%	
Brewin Dolphin Wealth Management	5,895,833	3.4%	5,895,833	3.4%	

#### **Directors, Secretary and their Interests**

The interests of the Directors and Secretary of the Company and their spouses and minor children in the share capital of the Company at 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2022 all of which were beneficial, were as follows:

	31/12/2022 ICG Units	01/01/2022 ICG Units	31/12/2021 Share Options	01/01/2021 Share Options
Director				
John B. McGuckian	296,140	296,140	-	-
Eamonn Rothwell	30,496,605	30,095,384	1,685,500	1,495,000
David Ledwidge	261,757	149,968	562,000	459,500
John Sheehan (resigned: 11 November 2022)	-	90,000	-	-
Lesley Williams	10,000	10,000	=	-
Dan Clague	-	-	-	-
Éimear Moloney (appointed: 25 August 2022)	10,000	-	-	-
Company Secretary				
Thomas Corcoran	388,623	272,780	350,500	506,000

ICG Units are explained on page 196 of this report.

#### **Auditors**

KPMG were appointed auditor by the shareholders voting on an ordinary resolution tabled at the AGM held on 12 May 2021 and have expressed their willingness to remain in office. Section 383 of the Companies Act 2014 provides for the automatic reappointment of the auditor of an Irish company at a company's AGM, unless the auditor has given notice in writing of his unwillingness to be re-appointed or a resolution has been passed at that meeting appointing someone else or providing expressly that the incumbent auditor shall not be re-appointed.

As required under Section 381(1) (b) of the Companies Act 2014, the AGM agenda will include a resolution authorising the Directors to fix the remuneration of the auditor.

# **Corporate Governance**

The Group applies the principles and provisions of The UK Corporate Governance Code (2018) as adopted by Euronext Dublin and the UK Financial Conduct Authority and of the Irish Corporate Governance Annex (the Irish Annex) issued by Euronext Dublin. A Corporate Governance Report is set out on pages 78 to 90 and is incorporated into this Report by cross reference.

The Group has established an Audit Committee whose Report is included at pages 91 to 94.

# **Key Performance Indicators**

The Group uses a set of headline Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure the performance of its operations. These KPIs are set out on pages 18 to 20 and are incorporated into this report by cross reference.

# **Report of the Directors**

# Continued

#### **Future Developments**

2022 was a year of progress with a return to profitability following the challenges presented in the two previous years due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on our passenger business. The improvement of passenger markets through 2022 following the lifting of travel restrictions earlier in the year has provided momentum to an expected recovery to pre-pandemic levels. We look forward to the Ferries Division benefiting from this passenger growth together with the benefit of our increased scale following the recent expansion of services on the Dover - Calais route.

In our Container and Terminal business, the recent and ongoing investment in capacity expansion and plant modernisation at our container terminals will provide a platform for both growth and more efficient operations at our Dublin terminal. This will be further aided by the operations at our new Dublin Inland Port facility which commenced during 2022.

We note the ever increasing expectations and regulatory requirements to reduce the effects of our operations on the environment. While the Group acknowledges that its operations have an inevitable effect on the environment, reducing this effect is embedded within the Group's strategy through achievement of efficiencies and reflected in our capital investment program. We remain committed to our decarbonization targets set out in the Sustainability and ESG Report.

While geopolitical events have given rise to inflationary pressures and increased volatility in fuel prices, our policy is to pass these through the logistics chain in the form of increased rates. While there is some uncertainty around economic growth rates, we look forward to continued growth

during 2023 through the leveraging of our recent investments and the continued support of all customers.

#### **Events after the Reporting Period**

No events have occurred between 31 December 2022 and the date of approval of these Financial Statements which require to be separately reported.

#### **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

This Annual Report together with the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2022 was approved by the Directors on 8 March 2023. The Directors consider that the Annual Report and Financial Statements, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's position and performance, business model and strategy.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Notice of the AGM, which will be held on 11 May 2023, will be notified to shareholders during April 2023.

On behalf of the Board

Eamonn Rothwell, David Ledwidge,

Director

Director

8 March 2023

Registered Office: Ferryport, Alexandra Road, Dublin 1, Ireland.

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# **Directors' Responsibility Statement**

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the Group and Company financial statements, in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare Group and Company financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the Directors are required to prepare the Group financial statements in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the European Union and applicable law including Article 4 of the IAS Regulation. The Directors have elected to prepare the Company financial statements in accordance with FRS 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework and in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014.

Under company law the Directors must not approve the Group and Company financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Group and Company and of the Group's profit or loss for that year. In preparing each of the Group and Company financial statements, the Directors are required

- · select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- · make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- · state whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assess the Group and Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- · use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Group or Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are also required by the Transparency (Directive 2004/109/ EC) Regulations 2007 and the Transparency Rules of the Central Bank of Ireland to include a management report containing a fair review of the business and a description of the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Group.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the provision of the Companies Act 2014. The Directors are also responsible for taking all reasonable steps to ensure such records are kept by its subsidiaries which enable them to ensure that the financial statements of the Group comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014 including Article 4 of the IAS Regulation. They are responsible for such internal controls as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Group, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Directors are also responsible for preparing a Directors' Report that complies with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Group's and Company's website www.icg.ie. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland concerning the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

## Responsibility statement as required by the Transparency Directive and UK **Corporate Governance Code**

Each of the Directors, whose names and functions are listed on pages 76 and 77 of this Annual Report, confirm that, to the best of each person's knowledge and belief:

- · The Group financial statements, prepared in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the European Union and the Company financial statements prepared in accordance with FRS 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, and financial position of the Group and Company at 31 December 2022 and of the profit or loss of the Group for the year then ended:
- The Directors' Report contained in the Annual Report includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the Group and Company, together with a description of the principal risk and uncertainties that they face; and
- · The Annual Report and financial statements, taken as a whole, provides the information necessary to assess the Group's performance, business model and strategy and is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's position and performance, business model and strategy.

On behalf of the Board

Eamonn Rothwell, David Ledwidge, Director Director