

28 MAY 2021

TO EACH MEMBER FSU – THE FINANCE UNION UNITED KINGDOM

RE: ANNUAL RETURNS CERTIFICATION OFFICER

In accordance with the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 – as amended, it is necessary for the Union to make a financial return to the Certification Officer which includes certain statutory requirements which are dealt with below:-

Financial Statements

To comply with legal provisions a copy of the financial statements for 2019 is enclosed.

“Independent auditors’ report to the General Council of FSU - Financial Services Union

Report on the audit of the non-statutory financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, FSU - Financial Services Union’s non-statutory financial statements (the “financial statements”):

- give a true and fair view of the fund’s assets, liabilities and financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its surplus and cash flows for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland (accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council of the UK, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland”); and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Union Acts 1896 to 2014.

We have audited the financial statements, which comprise:

- the statement of financial position (combined balance sheet) as at 31 December 2020;
- the income and expenditure account (general fund and benevolent fund) and statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the cash flow statement (combined cash flow) for the year then ended;
- the statement of changes in funds' balances (combined) for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (“ISAs (Ireland)”).

Our responsibilities under ISAs (Ireland) are further described in the Auditors’ responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, which includes IAASA's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue.

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the general council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the fund's ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the general council with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the General Councils' Report and Financial Statements other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The general council are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the general council for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the General Councils' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 3, the general council are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

The general council are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the general council are responsible for assessing the fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the general council either intend to liquidate the fund or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Our audit testing might include testing complete populations of certain transactions and balances, possibly using data auditing techniques. However, it typically involves selecting a limited number of items for testing, rather than testing complete populations. We will often seek to target particular items for testing based on their size or risk characteristics. In other cases, we will use audit sampling to enable us to draw a conclusion about the population from which the sample is selected.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA website at:

https://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf

This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the general council as a body in accordance with the Trade Union Acts 1896 to 2014 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come, including without limitation under any contractual obligations of the fund, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Matters on which we have agreed to report

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the fund were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Chartered Accountants

Dublin

20 May 2021”

Statutory Statement to Members:

In accordance with the Legislation mentioned above, the undernoted Statement is issued for the attention of all members.

“A member who is concerned that some irregularity may be occurring, or have occurred, in the conduct of the financial affairs of the union may take steps with a view to investigating further, obtaining clarification and, if necessary, securing regularisation of that conduct.

The members may raise any such concern with such one or more of the following as it seems appropriate to raise it with: the officials of the union, the trustees of the property of the union, the auditor or auditors of the union, the Certification Officer (who is an independent officer appointed by the Secretary of State) and the police.

Where a member believes that the financial affairs of the union have been or are being conducted in breach of the law or in breach of the rules of the union and contemplates bringing civil proceedings against the union or responsible officials or trustees, he should consider obtaining independent legal advice.”

Remuneration of General Secretary

The following is the detail of the Salary and Benefits of the General Secretary of the Union in 2020:-

General Secretaries pay 2020	Total
Basic Pay	€132,115
Car Allowance	€15,000
Pension	€15,000
TOTAL	€162,115

Summary of Financial Information	€	€
Total Income of Union		6,364,493
Total administrative expenditure	(5,563,878)	
FRS 102 Pension Liability Re-measurement	134,000	
Total Expenditure		(5,429,878)
Subscription income from Members		2,788,834

John O'Connell
General Secretary