

**Benefacts** |

Benefacts  
Annual Report  
2015

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Funding for Benefacts to build a data infrastructure for Irish nonprofits 2015-2017 has been provided under a unique three-year partnership between the Irish Government and philanthropy.



*The*  
**ATLANTIC**  
*Philanthropies*



**THE IRELAND FUNDS**

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## General Information

Directors	Ian Duffy (Chairman) Patricia Quinn Philip Smith Bob Ottenhoff (appointed 30 June 2015) Brian Sheehan Sinead McSweeney (appointed 17 December 2015, resigned 7 April 2016) Bernie Cullinan (appointed 17 December 2015)
Secretary	Geraldine Sweeney
Company Number	553387
Registered Office	6 Merrion Square Dublin 2
Auditor	KPMG 1 Stokes Place Dublin 2
Bank	Bank of Ireland St. Stephen's Green Dublin 2
Solicitors	Linda Scales 59 Park Avenue Sandymount Dublin 4

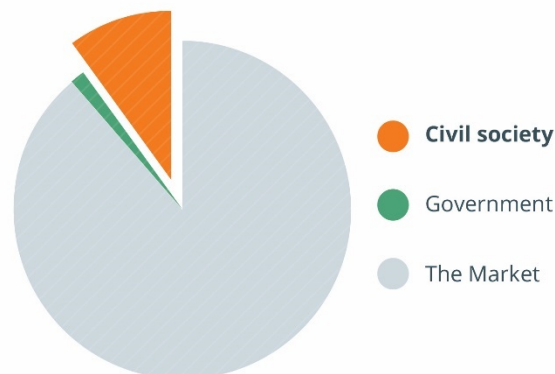
## Strategic report

### 1. Benefacts objective and activities

Benefacts is a small nonprofit company which was established in 2014 with the following mission: to make the work of all civil society entities in Ireland more accessible and more transparent, and to help reduce the burdens of administrative duplication. Using the financial statements and other regulatory disclosures of all entities in scope, Benefacts has built an extensive database with topical content, regularly updated in a way that creates no additional reporting burden on the nonprofits concerned. By republishing this data on a free public website, Benefacts provides, for the first time, a single online location that allows anyone to learn more about these organisations in terms of their public benefit purposes, their governance and their financial profile.

Benefacts seeks to be recognised as a trusted source of reliable information, impartially presented. It does not offer any evaluation or “rating” service, nor does it represent the interests of any sector or sub-sector. The company is a non-governmental entity, with no regulatory remit or powers although it relies on public bodies to make their data available in an open way.

Benefacts defines entities in scope by reference to internationally-recognised norms which distinguish between organisations that are part of the government, of the market, or of civil society.



Applying this definition, Benefacts recognises the following (non-exclusive list) as falling within its scope:

- companies limited by guarantee (CLG);
- designated activity companies constituted for public benefit,
- companies limited by shares whose sole shareholder is a CLG;
- schools and colleges of higher education;
- religious entities;
- non-governmental bodies established by charter;
- political parties;
- professional associations and trade unions;
- certain entities established as Friendly, Industrial and Provident Societies
- unincorporated associations of all kinds.

Invoking the Re-Use of Public Information regulations, Benefacts acquires such data or documents as have been furnished by these entities to public regulators or registrars, together with the registration number they have been assigned. Where it is not already available in digital form, data is harvested and digitised by Benefacts using a variety of manual or IT-assisted methodologies. Some data is available as a daily-updated feed while in other cases

the data is updated less frequently. All of this data is collected, and stored in a database which Benefacts has created for the purpose.

Benefacts has identified the URL of every entity in the database (where possible), has assigned each entity a classification code, and has identified where the organisation in question states that it complies with one or more of the voluntary codes or standards applicable to the nonprofit sector.

Benefacts has built a website where a summary of the most up-to-date available data is published and maintained. The website has been designed with the needs of various kinds of end-users in mind – people involved in nonprofit organisations whether on a professional or voluntary basis; donors and philanthropists; government funders, regulators and policy-makers; analysts and researchers; the media; and the general public.

## 2. Review of achievements and performance from establishment to December 2015

Following its establishment, the company spent a number of months concluding agreements with its three principal funders - Atlantic Philanthropies, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), and The Ireland Funds. These funding agreements cover the period to the end of 2017, and set out agreed objectives in November 2014 which are

- To promote public confidence and trust in nonprofits
- To allow the public to see where public money is being spent
- To provide more ready access to high-quality data to nonprofits and their stakeholders, as a means of simplifying bureaucracy and reducing duplication of effort

Benefacts commenced operations on 1 March 2015. The company had initial costs associated with setting up an office, establishing service agreements with suppliers, and building its core systems. Before the end of Q2 the company had recruited its management team and established its governance structures; during Q3 it recruited financial data analysts and established its core technologies for harvesting, storing and retrieving data, and commenced acquiring, cleaning and classifying it. In Q4 it built the website which will be the vehicle on which its data services will be delivered to the public and to specialised users.

## 3. Structure, governance, management and stakeholder engagement

Benefacts has a professional staff with expertise in data management, web development, project management, financial reporting, communications and nonprofit governance and management. This team is augmented as needed by external professional and technical advisors.

Benefacts is governed by a Board of Directors drawn from the nonprofit, IT, communications and professional services sectors. Aside from the managing director, all directors serve in a voluntary capacity. The board met 12 times during the period in question.

By agreement with its funders, Benefacts meets regularly with a Project Advisory Group (PAG) which is convened and chaired by a senior official of DPER. The Group includes representatives of the philanthropic funders, and senior public officials from the Departments of Health; Environment, Community & Local Government; Foreign Affairs; Social Protection; as well as the Health Services Executive, the Charities Regulatory Authority, and the Central Statistics Office. The PAG met 5 times during the period in question.

At the initiative of the Board, a Stakeholders' Forum was convened and is chaired by a nonprofit sector leader. Members of the Forum serve in a personal capacity, and are drawn from the community and voluntary sector, the media, and local and international development and public advocacy. The Forum met 5 times in the period in question.

Besides these fora, Benefacts engaged with a range of senior figures in the nonprofit world through their umbrella and representative bodies.

#### 4. Strategic and activity report

Benefacts' business is republishing information already in the public domain, but it does this in a way that – for the first time – will allow the public to view certain core governance and financial information for an entire population of organisations on a single online platform, presented in a way that permits comparative and trend analysis, at no cost to the user.

Benefacts adds value by digitising, aggregating and standardising data from many sources into a single database which can be used for multiple purposes, thereby creating public recognition for and ready access to the entire population of civil society entities, however regulated.

The data which Benefacts takes from these sources is variable in its form and presentation - this is particularly true of the contents of financial statements. Faithfully rendering financial data into a digital form requires interpretation by experts in financial accounting. This activity is Benefacts' biggest single source of cost and well as the greatest driver of added value.

During the year, the company devoted considerable effort to building and validating its database. This effort included identifying and resolving inconsistencies in the presentation of data, because reliable systems for capturing and classifying data are seen as essential for the company to be able to offer data services with confidence.


The company also consulted with sector leaders to develop an understanding of the potential impact on the sector of this new level of disclosure, and to encourage nonprofits to exploit the data in support of their own planning and analysis needs.

#### 5. Outlook for 2016

During 2016, Benefacts will publish the first release of its new website, and assess feedback from the organisations listed, and from the public. The company will work with partners to identify and trial data solutions that demonstrate the utility of a digital data feed to support the work of nonprofits and their stakeholders in government, philanthropy, the media and the general public. An engagement campaign will support these activities and build recognition of the identity and values of the company, and a strategic review in the second half of the year will be focused on identifying the paths to sustainable delivery of these services into the future.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ian Duffy (Chair)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Sheehan (Director)

19 April 2016

## **Directors' report**

The directors present their report for the 14 month period ended 31 December 2015. The company was incorporated on 28 November 2014 as a company limited by guarantee without share capital.

### **Principal activities**

The principal activity of the Company is the creation of an extensive database using the financial statements and other regulatory disclosures of all entities within the scope as defined in the strategic report and provision of webservices including an updated summary on a free public website.

### **Directors of the company**

The current directors are shown in General Information.

Ian Duffy, Patricia Quinn, Brian Sheehan and Philip Smith were appointed on 28 November 2014. Bob Ottenhoff was appointed on 30 June 2015. Sinead McSweeney and Bernie Cullinan were appointed on 17 December 2015. Sinead McSweeney resigned on 7 April 2016.

### **Results for the year**

The results of the Company for the reporting period are set out in the income and expenditure account and in the related notes.

### **Research and development**

The company did not engage in any research and development activities during the period.

### **Events since the balance sheet date**

No significant events have occurred since the year end.

### **Accounting records**

The directors believe that they have complied with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to adequate accounting records by employing accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and by providing adequate resources to the financial function. The account records of the Company are maintained at 6 Merrion, Dublin 2.


### **Disclosure of information to the auditors**

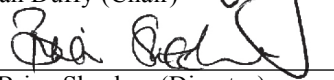
So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware. Having made enquiries of fellow directors and the company's auditor, each director has taken all the steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

### **Auditors**

KPMG, Chartered Accountants, were appointed during the period and, in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014, will continue in office.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf by

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ian Duffy (Chair)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Sheehan (Director)

19 April 2016



## **Directors' responsibilities statement**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish Company law requires the directors to prepare the financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS102 under Irish Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (Irish Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company for that period.


In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

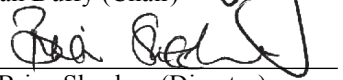
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether Irish Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company 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 about Benefacts included on the Company's website. Legislation in the Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

On behalf of the board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ian Duffy (Chair)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Sheehan (Director)



## **Independent auditor's report to the members of Benefacts**

We have audited the financial statements ("financial statements") of Benefacts for the period ended 31 December 2015 which comprise the statement of income and expenditure, the statement of financial position, the cash flow statement and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (FRS 102 - the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland).

### **Opinions and conclusions arising from our audit**

#### ***1 Our opinion on the financial statements is unmodified***

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2015 and of its results for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 - the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

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

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

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

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

In addition, the Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

### **Basis of our report, responsibilities and restrictions on use**

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

An audit undertaken in accordance with ISAs (UK & Ireland) involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed, the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors', and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Directors' Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

## **Independent auditor's report to the members of Benefacts** *(continued)*

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

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



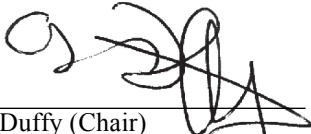
David Meagher  
**for and on behalf of KPMG**  
**Chartered Accountants, Statutory Audit Firm**  
1 Stokes Place  
St. Stephen's Green  
Dublin 2

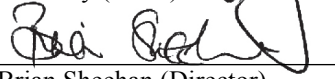
19 April 2016

**Statement of Income and Expenditure**  
for the 14 month ended 31 December 2015

	<i>Note</i>	<b>2015</b> <b>€000</b>
<b>Income</b>	3	<b>852</b>
Cost of sales		<u>584</u>
<b>Gross surplus</b>		<b>268</b>
Administrative expenses		<u>268</u>
<b>Surplus for the reporting period</b>	4	<u><u>-</u></u>

On behalf of the board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ian Duffy (Chair)


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Sheehan (Director)

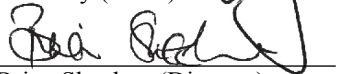
## Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2015

	Note	2015 €000
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Tangible assets	6	<u>10</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	7	36
Cash at bank and in hand		472
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>518</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	8	<u>518</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>-</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u><u>-</u></u>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Income and expenditure account		<u>-</u>
		<u><u>-</u></u>

On behalf of the board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ian Duffy (Chair)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Sheehan (Director)

## Cash Flow Statement

for period ended 31 December 2015

	<i>Note</i>	<b>2015</b> <b>€000</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Surplus for the period		-
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		3
(Increase) in trade and other debtors		(36)
Increase in trade and other creditors		518
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>		<b>485</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchases of equipment	6	(13)
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>		<b>(13)</b>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		472
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		-
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>		<b>472</b>

**Notes**  
**(forming part of the financial statements)**

**1. Basis of preparation**

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102") as issued in August 2014. The presentation currency of these financial statements is Euro. All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest €1,000.

**Going Concern**

After reviewing the company's forecasts and projections, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The company therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

**2. Accounting policies**

**2.1 Income**

Income is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure when the effect of the transaction or other event results in an increase in the company's assets. Income from grant agreements is recognised when the activity has been undertaken. Income already received in relation to future years but not yet expended is shown in creditors as deferred income.

Voluntary income is recognised when the income is received.

**2.2 Operating leases**

Rentals in respect of operating leases are charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure as incurred.

**2.3 Taxation**

Taxation on income and expenditure is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure. Taxation for the period on ordinary activities was nil.

**2.4 Basic financial instruments**

*Cash and cash equivalents*

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits.

**2.5 Employee benefits**

*Pension costs*

Pension benefits for members of the Company's defined contribution scheme are funded over the employees' period of service by way of contributions which are charged to the Statement of Income and Expenditure as they become payable.

**2.6 Government grants**

Government grants are included within deferred income in the balance sheet and credited to the income and expenditure account in periods in which the related costs are incurred.

## 2.7 Tangible assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost less estimated residual value of all tangible fixed assets over their expected useful lives using the straight-line method. The rates applicable are:

- Computer Hardware 3 years

## 2.8 Impairment of assets

At each reporting period fixed assets are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying value is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

## 3. Income

Income, analysed by category, was as follows:

	<b>2015</b> <b>€'000</b>
<b>Government Grants</b>	
Department of Public Expenditure & Reform	350
<b>Non-Government Grants</b>	
Atlantic Philanthropies	800
Ireland Funds	110
<b>Donations</b>	
Arthur Cox	5
<b>Less: Deferred Income</b>	
Deferred Income	(413)
	<b>852</b>

## 4. Surplus on ordinary activities

The surplus on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after:

	<b>2015</b> <b>€'000</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>	
Once-off setup costs	265
Database production	173
Web delivery	127
Data services development	19
	584
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>	
Core management & governance	147
Marketing/communications	70
Fixed overheads	46
Auditor's remuneration	5
	268
	<b>852</b>



## 5. Directors and employees

No director received or is due fees for services as a director.

In respect of services as an executive, one director received total remuneration of €125,359 for the 14 month period ended 31 December 2015, including a pension contribution of €7,391 and €18,595 in respect of pre-incorporation services provided.

Staff costs during the 14 month period were as follows:

	<b>2015</b>
	<b>€'000</b>
Wages and salary costs	<b>390</b>
Social security costs	<b>41</b>
Pension costs	<b>21</b>
	<hr/>
	<b>452</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

Two employees receive an annual salary in the range of €90,000 to €100,000. Two employees receive an annual salary in the range of €70,000 to €80,000. No other employee receives an annual salary in excess of €70,000.

The company operates an Executive Pension Scheme for its employees to which the company contributes an employer contribution. The assets of the scheme are invested with an independent pensions provider who are also the scheme Registered Administrators. Pension payments recognised as an expense during the period amount to €20,146 and no amounts were due to the scheme at 31 December 2015.

The average number of employees of the company during the period was:

	<b>2015</b>
	<b>Number</b>
Full-time	<b>7</b>
Part-time	<b>2</b>
	<hr/>
	<b>9</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

**6. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Computer hardware €'000</b>
Cost	
At 1 November 2014	-
Additions	<u>13</u>
<b>At 31 December 2015</b>	<b><u>13</u></b>
Depreciation	
At 1 November 2014	-
Charge for the period	<u>3</u>
<b>At 31 December 2015</b>	<b><u>3</u></b>
<b>Net book amount at 31 December 2015</b>	<b><u><u>10</u></u></b>
Net book amount at 1 November 2014	<u><u>-</u></u>

**7. Debtors**

	<b>2015 €'000</b>
Prepayments	11
Other Debtors	24
<b>At 31 December 2015</b>	<b><u><u>36</u></u></b>

## 8. Creditors: falling due within one year

	<b>2015</b>
	<b>€'000</b>
Trade Creditors	52
Other Creditors	18
Accruals	20
Leave Pay Provision	15
Deferred Income	413
<b>At 31 December 2015</b>	<b><u>518</u></b>

The deferred income represents grant income received which exceeded the costs incurred in the reported period. This deferred income is expected to be fully released to the Statement of Income and Expenditure in 2016.

The leave pay provision represents holiday balances accrued as a result of services rendered in the current period and which employees are entitled to carry forward. The provision is measured as the salary cost payable for the period of absence.

## 9. Operating leases

Non-cancellable operating lease rentals are payable as follows:

	<b>€'000</b>
Within one year	25
Between one year and five years	25
<b>At 31 December 2015</b>	<b><u>50</u></b>

During the reporting period €22,338 was recognised as an expense in the income and expenditure account in respect of operating leases.

## 10. Contingent liabilities

Grant income becomes repayable to the funders if the company fails to comply with the terms of the grants in any material respect.

## 11. Related parties

### *Transactions with key management personnel*

Total compensation of key management personnel is €125,359 including pre-incorporation expenses which is described in Note 5, Directors and employees.

There were no other related party transactions during the 14 month reporting period to 31 December 2015.

## 12. Approval of financial statements

The directors approved the financial statements on 19 April 2016.

## Data for social good

Benefacts is an Irish company that has created the Database of Irish Nonprofits - a unique and authoritative source of regulatory, financial and governance data on nonprofits in Ireland.

Benefacts harvests data from many public sources, curates it and publishes current extracts on [benefacts.ie](http://benefacts.ie) for easy access.

Working with partners in the public and nonprofit sectors, Benefacts has developed a number of online and bespoke data solutions for the benefit of the sector and its stakeholders.

Contact us at:

[info@benefacts.ie](mailto:info@benefacts.ie)

6 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland

[www.benefacts.ie](http://www.benefacts.ie)