



Irish Copyright
Licensing Agency

Annual Transparency Report 2023-2024

Irish Copyright Licensing Agency CLG

This report has been compiled in accordance with the terms
of the European Union (Collective Rights Management)
(Directive 2014/26/EU) Regulations 2016.



Message from the Chair

The ICLA performed strongly throughout the 2023-2024 period. Licence income increased by 12% year-on-year, reaching a total of almost €2.7m. As inflation abated, the costs of running the organisation were kept under close review. Total administration costs amounted to €388k, less than 15% of income in the period and well inside the 20% guiding limit within which the organisation operates. A 7% increase on prior year administrative costs was largely driven by the introduction of a defined contribution pension scheme for staff – an important and long-standing objective of the Board.

The second year of centralised licence payment for primary and secondary schools facilitated a further freeing up of internal time, some of which was dedicated to the allocation and distribution of unreleased funds. The ICLA distributed a record €2.7m to rightsholders in the period, an increase of 35% on the previous year. A material proportion of the distributed funds were historic and one-off.

Changes in workflow also allowed for focus on the stakeholder communications strand of the ICLA's strategic plan. Copyright Classroom.ie will launch in 2025 with the goal of advancing and promoting understanding of how copyright supports education in the digital age. Behavioural research into how schools and further education institutions view, access, share and use content was scoped in the period and will be conducted in 2025. Research results will inform future data collection strategies and practices.

The Board agreed to a review and potential redevelopment of the ICLA's Business Licence, to be carried out across 2025/2026. An increase in digital content usage and the ongoing growth of Artificial Intelligence provides opportunity to reconsider solutions for the rights and uses of copyrighted works. Several international CMO counterparts are benefiting from a notable increase in business licence revenues.

The ICLA continued to engage constructively with stakeholders on legislative developments. The European Accessibility Act was transposed into Irish legislation by Statutory Instrument in December 2023 and will come into effect in June 2025. The European Artificial Intelligence Act was finalised by the European Parliament in August 2024 and will come into effect via phased provisions over a three-year period. The strategic role of licensing in the protection, distribution and fair remuneration of rightsholder content must be carefully considered in this context.

With sincere thanks to Samantha and the ICLA team for their hard work, dedication and flexibility throughout a period of ongoing change.

Ruth Gill

Chair, May 2025

Annual Summary by the CEO

I am delighted to present the Annual Transparency Report of the ICLA for the financial year 2023 – 2024. This has been a year of strong performance across all sectors of licensing and reflection on the evolving challenges and opportunities ahead.

The increase in income across all licensing sectors demonstrates the continuing value of our licences to the educational and business sectors. This growth reflects not only the resilience and relevance of our licensing framework, but also the commitment of our team and partners in ensuring that creators are fairly remunerated for the use of their work.

Foreign income also remains robust, underlining the importance of our international relationships and reciprocal agreements with sister organisations around the world. These partnerships are essential in a digital environment where creative and educational content is shared across borders more readily than ever.

As we look ahead, we are focussed on the twin challenges that will shape the copyright landscape. First the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence technologies presents both potential and uncertainties. While AI may offer tools to enhance licensing, searchability, and be a power for good, it raises critical questions about the use of creative works in the training of AI models and the attribution of authorship. We are committed to continue engaging constructively with policymakers, rights holders and the wider industry to ensure that copyright continues to protect and reward human creativity in the age of AI.

Secondly, there remains significant untapped potential in the business sector. Exploring that potential and increasing licensing uptake in this area will be a key strategic focus for the year ahead. By demonstrating the practical value and legal reassurance our licences provide, we aim to expand our reach and better serve creators and users alike.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Board, the staff, partners and licensees for their ongoing support and collaboration. Together, we are working to ensure that copyright continues to deliver value to creators, to users and to the broader cultural and knowledge economy.

Samantha Holman

CEO, May 2025

About ICLA

We are the Irish Copyright Licensing Agency and we were set up by copyright owners to facilitate legal access for content users to a wide range of published content whilst ensuring that the content owners are appropriately remunerated.

For over 30 years we have been providing rights and licenses to educational institutions and corporate customers. Our blanket licences allow customers to copy and share extracts from published content without having to seek permission from the copyright owners each time. We are seeking new partnerships to facilitate easy access to relevant content in these sectors.

We are a not-for-profit organisation, so our revenue is paid out to copyright owners, such as authors, publishers, visual artists, photographers and playwrights.

Legal & Governance Structure

ICLA is a collective management organisation (CMO) established by the Irish Writers Union and the Irish Publishers Association, Publishing Ireland. Members are nominated by the IWU and PI to represent the different categories of rightsholders and the members elect a board of directors.

ICLA is a company limited by guarantee and governed by a Board of Directors.

There are seven board members, three author directors and three publisher directors with an independent chair.

Authority is received through individual mandates from authors and publishers and through representation agreements with visual artists and CMOs.

Membership of Other Bodies

During this financial period ICLA has been a member of or affiliated to the following bodies:

- International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations (IFRRO)
- International Authors Forum (IAF)
- International Publishers Association Educational Publishing Forum (IPA)
- International Standard Name Identifier (ISNI, Member)

Relationship with Other CMOs

We have contractual relationships with other CMOs whereby we act in two particular capacities:

1. Representation Agreements with overseas CMOs

We have reciprocal agreements with overseas CMOs which enable us to include their repertoire in ICLA licences sold in the Republic of Ireland and for our repertoire to be included in licences sold in their territories overseas. We also have a number of unilateral agreements with overseas CMOs which permit us to distribute money collected overseas under statutory or extended collective licence schemes for Irish copyright owners where such schemes do not exist under Irish legislation.

2. Agency Licensing Agreements with CMOs in Ireland and the UK

We also act as agents for other CMOs in selling their repertoire in a joint licence where we have an established presence in a market and well-developed relationships. In 2023-2024 we represented:

- a. Newspaper Licensing Ireland (NLI) in the field of Education and Overseas
- b. NLA Media Access Ltd (NLA) in the field of Education

Deductions for Social, Cultural and Educational Services

ICLA, as per the Distribution Policy, maintains support for writers, affiliated organisations and charities following criteria put forward by the Board and agreed by the General Assembly. In the financial year 2023-2024 we have supported the Dublin Book Festival, Children's Books Ireland, the Irish Writer's Union, Publishing Ireland and The Zebbie Awards.

Activities separate to normal collective rights management activities

ICLA did not undertake any activities other than collective rights management.

Information on refusals to grant a licence

We have not refused to grant any licences in the period of this report.

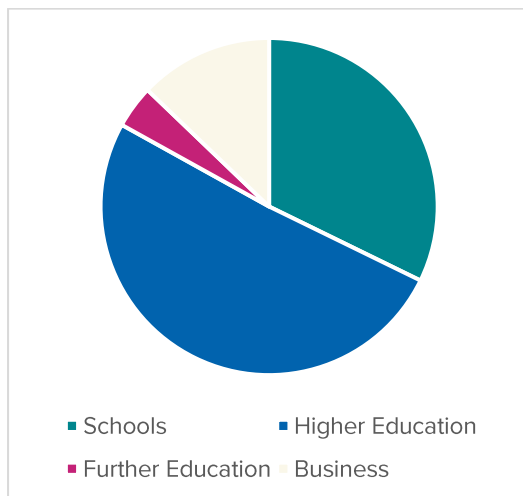
Financial Statements

The financial statements for the financial year 2023-2024 are also published on our website and available in the Companies Registration Office.

A summary of financial activities for the financial year is set out below.

* ICLA distributes national income received in the previous financial year based on allocation from the auditor. In 2023-2024 we also released historic undistributed money from reserves.

Domestic Reprographic Income by Source



Domestic income source

Schools – 32.2%

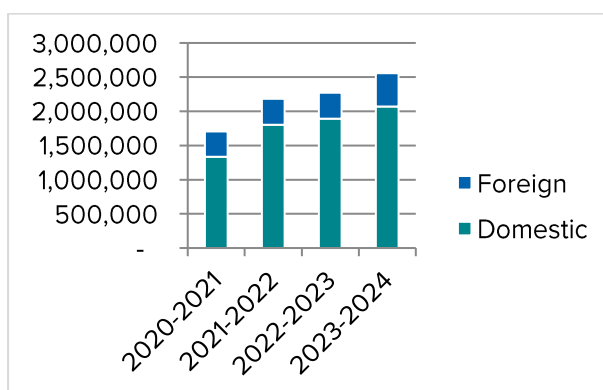
Higher Education – 50.8%

Further Education – 4.1%

Business – 12.8%

Total domestic income: €2,068,505

Total Reprographic Income



Percentage of Domestic vs Foreign Income

	Domestic	Foreign
YE 2021	78%	22%
YE 2022	83%	17%
YE 2023	83%	17%
YE 2024	81%	19%

Financial Information on Rights Revenue

Sector licence analysis

Sector	Income in year	Admin cost allocation	Available for Distribution*	Allocated	Distributed	Unallocated
Schools	666,797	105,272	486,685	766,238	671,025	268
HE	1,051,224	165,965	846,374	1,282,051	1,249,616	27
FE	84,990	13,418	73,662	75,200	75,157	-
Business	265,494	41,916	170,498	134,495	170,635	2
PLR	134,495	-	134,495	134,495	134,873	-
International	490,040	61,255	428,785	426,883	428,379	7,147
Total	2,693,040	387,826	2,140,499	2,855,502	2,702,505	7,443

Geographical source analysis

CMOs	Income from CMOs	Distributed to CMOs
Ireland	188,659	148,533
Europe	564,687	661,053
Rest of the World	52,459	200,542
Total	805,805	1,010,129

Remuneration of Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors

	2024	2023
Directors at year end	7	7
CEO		
Emoluments and other remuneration	€88,000	€83,667

There are no fees paid to non-Executive Directors.



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