**IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday, 5th January 2022**

**The Alzheimer Society of Ireland CEO Pat McLoughlin retirement announcement**

It is with great regret that The Alzheimer Society of Ireland announces that our CEO Pat McLoughlin has decided that the time is right for him to step down from his role as CEO, following medical advice to receive immediate treatment and take recovery time.

As you can imagine, this has been an extremely difficult decision for Pat to make.

Pat became CEO in October 2016, and he will officially retire from his role in March 2022.

Pat has expressed his deep gratitude to his Chairman Eugene McCague, board of directors, staff, branch members, advocates and volunteers of The ASI and the thousands of people with dementia and family carers across Ireland.

 ***The ASI CEO Pat McLoughlin said:*** *“I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to lead The Alzheimer Society of Ireland over the past five years. I am honoured to have led this extraordinary organisation over this time and represent people living with dementia and their family carers across Ireland. I would like to thank the chairman Eugene McCague, board of directors and all the staff, volunteers, advocates and everyone associated with The ASI. You have been incredible, and I know you will achieve great things in the future.

“I would like to reassure everyone that I am in good health, but following a recent diagnosis, I decided to receive immediate treatment and take recovery time.* *So, after 44 years in full-time employment, I have now decided that the time is right to take a step back and deal with this health issue. I am so very proud of all we have accomplished together in my time. I am taken aback by how everyone connected with the organisation has worked so tirelessly and are so dedicated to improving the lives of those impacted by dementia in Ireland.*

 *“I leave The ASI knowing that it is in very safe hands with a very dedicated board of directors, Senior Management Team and staff and many volunteers who I know will drive the organisation forward. Thank you so much for letting me serve as your CEO for the last five years.”*

The ASI’s Chairman, Eugene McCague, has expressed his gratitude to Pat for his leadership of The ASI over the past five years.

***The ASI Chairman Eugene McCague said:*** *“On behalf of the board of The ASI, I would like to express my gratitude to Pat for his extraordinary leadership of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland over the past five years. We are very understanding of Pat’s decision to step back from his role, and I know you will join me in letting Pat know how grateful we are to him for leading The ASI over this time and supporting the thousands of people living with dementia and their family carers in Ireland. Pat brought so much expertise to this position, and this was clear for everyone to see over the last five years.*

 *“This was never more evident than since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic which brought so many complex challenges to us all and to the services that The ASI provides and the people we support. Pat showed exemplary leadership during this time, and we are just so grateful to everything that Pat has done.*

*“On a personal note, as Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to say how much I have valued Pat’s dedication and how greatly I enjoyed working with him. Pat is leaving The ASI in a very strong position in this our 40th anniversary year and I would like to thank him for his vision and leadership over his time. Thank you, Pat, from everyone in The ASI, our board, staff and many volunteers across the country.”*

The ASI board of directors will take immediate steps to recruit a new CEO. An internal interim CEO will be appointed while a new CEO is being identified.

**ENDS**

**For more information contact The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Interim Head of Advocacy & Public Affairs / Communications Manager Cormac Cahill** **cormac.cahill@alzheimer.ie** **086 044 1214**

**NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

***About The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI):***The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is the leading dementia specific service provider in Ireland. The Alzheimer Society of Ireland works across the country in the heart of local communities providing dementia specific services and supports and advocating for the rights and needs of all people living with dementia and their carers. Our vision is an Ireland where people on the journey of dementia are valued and supported. A national non-profit organisation, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland advocates, empowers and champions the rights of people living with dementia and their communities to quality support and services. The Alzheimer Society of Ireland also operates the Alzheimer National Helpline offering information and support to anyone affected by dementia on 1800 341 341.

***Alzheimer National Helpline:***

For more information on our supports and services during this challenging time, please contact The Alzheimer Society of Ireland National Helpline where you can now also book in a 1:1 session with a Dementia Nurse or Dementia Adviser. The Helpline is open six days a week Monday to Friday 10am–5pm and Saturday 10am–4pm on 1800 341 341. Email at helpline@alzheimer.ie or via Live Chat at [www.alzheimer.ie](http://www.alzheimer.ie)

**ABOUT DEMENTIA**

* There are 64,000 people with dementia in Ireland and the number of people with the condition will more than double in the next 25 years to over 150,000 by 2045.\*
* There are 11,000 new cases of dementia in Ireland each year. That’s at least 30 people every day and anyone can get dementia - even people in their 30s/40s/50s.\*\*
* Dementia is an umbrella term used to describe a range of conditions which cause changes and damage to the brain.
* Dementia is progressive. There is currently no cure. Dementia is not simply a health issue but a social issue that requires a community response.
* The majority of people with dementia (63%) live at home in the community. Over 180,000 people in Ireland are currently or have been carers for a family member or partner with dementia with many more providing support and care in other ways.
* 1 in 10 people diagnosed with dementia in Ireland are under 65.
* The overall cost of dementia care in Ireland is just over €1.69 billion per annum; 48% of this is attributable to family care; 43% is accounted for by residential care; formal health and social care services contribute only 9% to the total cost.

*Figures referenced to Cahill, S. & Pierce, M. (2013) The Prevalence of Dementia in Ireland*

*\*Figure referenced from Alzheimer Europe (2020) Dementia in Europe Yearbook 2019 ‘Estimating the prevalence of dementia in Europe’*

*\*\*Figure referenced from Pierce, T., O’Shea, E. and Carney P. (2018) Estimates of the prevalence, incidence and severity of dementia in Ireland.*