

# Minco Exploration PLC

2023

## Annual Report & Accounts



# Minco Exploration PLC

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## *About Minco*

Minco Exploration traces its roots in Ireland back to 1966 as Minco Ireland Limited, which has been actively involved in mineral exploration in Ireland for over fifty years, and is the successor to Irish Base Metals Limited and Gortdrum Mines Ireland Limited, both subsidiaries of Northgate Exploration Limited, which discovered and developed the Tynagh Mine in Co. Galway that operated from 1965 to 1981; and the Gortdrum Mine in Co. Tipperary that operated from 1967 to 1975. This led to the discovery of the world class Tara Mine at Navan in Co. Meath in 1970, which continues in operation today.

From 1997 until 2017, Minco Ireland was a wholly owned subsidiary of Minco PLC, an Irish public company with its shares traded on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange.

In 1996, Minco Ireland identified the geological potential of the "Pallas Green Trend" in Counties Limerick and Tipperary, attracting Noranda Inc., then one of Canada's leading mining companies, (subsequently acquired by Xstrata PLC) as a joint venture partner in 1998. This led to the discovery of the Pallas Green deposit in Limerick in 2002. The Pallas Green deposit now exceeds 40 million tonnes and is the second largest mineral deposit ever discovered in Ireland. Minco Ireland later sold its 24% joint venture interest in Pallas Green to Xstrata (now Glencore) for US\$19.5 million in 2011.

As the successor to the mineral properties of Ennex International PLC, a subsidiary of Northgate which discovered the Curraghinalt gold deposit in Northern Ireland in 1984, Minco PLC held a 2% NSR on the Curraghinalt gold deposit, which was sold to Dalradian Resources Inc. in 2017 at an attributed value of CDN\$29 million when Minco PLC was acquired by Dalradian Resources Inc. Most of the consideration was distributed to Minco PLC shareholders who also received shares in Buchans Resources Limited in a spin-out of Minco PLC's other assets.

In December 2019, Buchans Resources reorganized its mineral assets and investments and distributed to its shareholders exchangeable warrants entitling shareholders to receive shares of Minco Exploration. During 2020, 50,604,564 warrants were exchanged into Minco Exploration shares and the holders automatically became direct shareholders in Minco Exploration.

Minco Exploration is focused on mineral exploration in Ireland, internationally renowned as a major zinc-lead mining country. Minco has interests in prospecting licences strategically located in the foremost geologically prospective areas of Ireland.

Minco Exploration has a uniquely experienced leadership team, which has extensive knowledge of the Irish mineral landscape.

## Chairman's Letter to Shareholders

The year 2023 saw many challenges, including continued volatility within the global commodity industry. Renewed conflict in Israel and the Middle East, together with the ongoing war in Ukraine, has continued to divide the people of the world at a time when we should be coming together to overcome one of our greatest challenges - the energy transition and climate change. It is hoped that these humanitarian tragedies will soon end, and geopolitical stability will return.

The economies in most regions of the world have been consumed with monetary policy. The European Central Bank (ECB) raised its benchmark interest rates by 4.00 percentage points between July 2022 and December 2023, in an effort to combat high inflation. Higher interest rates dampened demand for metals. The price of zinc continued its downtrend that began in 2022 and continued throughout 2023 and into 2024, resulting from a slower than expected post-COVID rebound of China's economy and lower than forecasted mineral demand from the rest of the world.

Nonetheless, the worst may be over. There are signs of renewed economic growth in many parts of the world. It is encouraging to see that the downtrend in zinc prices reversed course in Q2 2024, mainly due to increased stimulus from China, and carbon reduction initiatives around the globe, leading to renewed demand for metals and minerals, including zinc. On 6 June 2024, the ECB cut interest rates for the first time in almost five years, to 3.75%.

Minco's purpose is to discover and develop a world-class mineral deposit and its corporate strategy is focused on exploring for zinc in Ireland, both on its own behalf and in joint venture with Boliden Tara Mines. The licences held by Minco are considered prospective exploration areas for "Irish Type" carbonate-hosted zinc-lead mineralization and quality target areas have been identified through fieldwork, reinterpretation of historical exploration data and application of advanced geological concepts.

In 2023 we completed a strategic review of our properties that resulted in focusing our efforts differently than envisioned in the previous years, culminating in the successful application for three prospecting licences in the Lisheen/Rathdowney trend covering the Rapla project and the difficult decision to drop the Moate property. Minco believes the Rapla project, located 6km and 15km to the northeast of the Galmoy and Lisheen ore deposits, respectively, is a strategically located, advanced exploration project with excellent exploration potential. For details of all exploration activities, please refer to the Review of Operations section of this Annual Report.

The major event in the Irish minerals industry was the suspension of production activity at the Tara Mine in mid-2023. The reasons given by Boliden for the decision to suspend operations were the decline in the price of zinc earlier in 2023, the high cost of energy in Ireland, inflation and operational factors. The cessation of operations at the Tara Mine had the knock-on impact of curtailing exploration activity on Minco's joint venture licences where Boliden is the operator. Happily, we can report that the Tara Mine is preparing to reopen under proposed "new ways of working" that Boliden hopes will deliver a new production target of 1.8 million tonnes per year.

### European Union's Critical Raw Materials Act

The EU's Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) received final approval on the 18th of March 2024, was formally signed by the co-legislators on the 11th of April 2024, and has immediate application in all Member States.

The Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI), the chartering body for geoscientists in Ireland, has outlined how Ireland can play its part in mining the metals required to secure decarbonization and deal with the global climate crisis under the new legislation to secure a more diverse and sustainable supply of critical raw materials in a new *Mining & Minerals Factsheet - MORE DIVERSE, SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY OF CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS IN EUROPE*, published 23 May 2024, extracts from which are included below, with acknowledgement and thanks to IGI.

"The EU aims to be the world's first climate neutral continent by 2050. Achieving the EU's Green-Deal vision depends on securing a reliable and increasing supply of raw materials crucial to building technologies for the world's green energy and digital transitions.

The EU Commission has identified 34 Critical Raw Materials (CRM), including 17 Strategic Raw Materials (SRM) of high economic importance for the EU – but at a high risk of supply disruption and crucial to the development of technologies powering the world's green energy and digital transitions. Critical because clean and renewable energy and digital technology will not happen without an ample and reliable supply of these metals for items such as smart phones, LED lighting, solar panels, and EV batteries.

Some are strategic because of Europe's over dependency on just a handful of nation states in a world where geopolitical risk is increasing. Zinc has not been classed as a Critical Raw Material by the EU Commission. However, it is still an important element that has been mined in Ireland since the 1960s. Several other Critical Raw Materials, such as germanium and gallium, are primarily produced from zinc ores. Potentially economic quantities of germanium have been identified in Irish ores and both may also be in existing and closed mines, as well as legacy mine waste facilities. [Minco notes that zinc has been classed as a critical mineral by both Canada and United States.]

Insufficient amounts of these Critical and Strategic Raw Materials are available from recycling. Presently the EU relies on imports which have been mined and processed elsewhere. For instance, China provides 100% of the EU's Heavy Rare Earth Elements (HREE) requirements, which are essential components for wind turbines. Other important suppliers include Türkiye (99% of the EU's supply of boron, used in fertilisers), Chile (79% of lithium, a key component in batteries), and Brazil (92% of niobium, used in high strength steel and alloys).

Demand for CRMs and SRMs will grow significantly to build the technologies required for climate action and the EU's digital transformation goals, for example lithium demand is projected to increase twelve-fold by 2030 due to the adoption of electric vehicles. As the world transitions towards clean energy, everyone understands the changes required at a personal level to bring about this shift. What has been less apparent, is the essential role of mineral exploration, mining, and the work of geoscientists in securing the critical elements needed to power the technologies in this new reality.

The CRMA establishes various targets, including that not more than 40% of the EU's annual consumption of each strategic raw material at any relevant stage of processing comes from a single third country.

#### ***Ireland's role & opportunity***

To achieve these targets Member States are required to identify strategic projects within the EU, and other countries, for streamlined permitting, with defined timeframes for decisions and established mechanisms to improve access to finance. Member States are also required to implement national exploration programmes to increase knowledge of European mineral resources, including those present in extractive waste, such as lead/zinc mine tailings.

Creating both obligations and opportunities for Ireland, the CRMA will require that Ireland plays its part in mining the metals required to secure decarbonisation and deal with the global climate crisis. This includes:

#### ***Opening new mines***

To achieve the extraction goals of the CRMA more mines will need to open within the EU. This could see 10 to 15 new mines opened across the Union (depending on size).

#### ***New deposits exploration***

Ireland had a mining "boom" when three zinc-lead mines were in production (Lisheen, Galmoy, and Tara Mines). During its peak, Ireland supplied almost 40% of Europe's zinc requirements. Tara Mines is a world class deposit, the largest mine in Europe and has been a significant supplier of zinc globally for over 40 years. Ireland continues to have huge potential for zinc deposits (used in utility scale zinc-air batteries and especially critical for offshore wind turbines) which may contain CRM.

Historically, Ireland has been a producer of copper from several mines. There is also exploration potential for new lithium, baryte, antimony and arsenic deposits. Without exploration, the true extent of Ireland's CRM will not be known.

To achieve the CRMA targets, EU Member States will need to do more and quicker.

Not many new mines are required to meet the targets, but mine permitting is a process that takes years. This is after a decade spent identifying a mineable deposit. If the targets are to be reached by 2030, current projects across the EU need to be accelerated.

The CRMA calls for streamlined permitting but this will be challenging as, on the company side the technical and environmental studies for a successful project cannot be rushed, and on the regulator side the sheer volume of assessments slows the process. Both operators and regulators need the support and resources to manage responsible mining.

However, these initiatives are all aimed at the mining stage when a deposit is already known and has had extensive investigation.

While there are some CRM projects at or close to this stage in the EU, it is unlikely that all of them will come into production and more discoveries will need to be made. That stage is exploration (or prospecting). This is the highest risk step within the mining timeline and the one currently facing the most challenges worldwide; financing and budgets have collapsed, permits are being delayed, while the administrative burden has risen sharply, all during a time of increasing costs and inflation.

***Further collaboration & communication with stakeholders***

One of the major stumbling blocks for all stages of exploration, extraction, and processing, are objections and appeals of permits. These can add years to a project, if not complete cancellation. While due process is essential, opposition still arises from incomplete understanding of the environmental standards applicable to modern mining practices or an unwillingness to locate mines in certain localities or communities. Further collaboration and communication with all stakeholders, including local authorities, will be essential for understanding and acceptance of modern mining.”

**Outlook and Thanks**

2024 will be a busy year for Minco as we look to fast-track exploration at Rapla, while continuing blue-sky potential exploration initiatives at our other projects. Minco has prospective properties that include exciting geological targets and the knowledge and expertise to advance them to the next stage. We remain optimistic about the long-term fundamentals for zinc and other “critical” minerals which are essential to the technologies needed to accomplish a net-zero future.

Minco remains focused on operating ethically in an environmentally responsible manner and creating sustainable long-term value for all our stakeholders consistent with the Government’s Policy Statement on Mineral Exploration and Mining. Minco’s sustainability strategy is supported by its environmental, social and governance (ESG) commitments which seek to enhance responsible exploration and development practices at all its projects.

In closing, I express my gratitude to all of our stakeholders for their ongoing support. This support is fundamental to our future success. Minco will remain focused on continuing to explore for minerals in Ireland and generating long-term value for shareholders.



*John Kearney*

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**John F. Kearney**  
*Chairman of the Board*

27 June 2024

## Review of Operations

Minco Exploration PLC ("Minco Exploration", "Minco", or the "Company") continues to focus its exploration efforts on its Prospecting Licences ("PLs") in Ireland. These are held either directly or in joint venture with Boliden Tara Mines DAC ("Boliden").

The licences held by Minco are considered prospective exploration areas for "Irish Type" carbonate hosted zinc-lead mineralization and quality target areas have been identified through field work, reinterpretation of historical exploration data and application of advanced geological concepts.

### Rapla Project, County Laois

As flagged in our Interim Report dated 23 September 2023, Minco adopted a dual focussed business model that envisages maintaining an interest in the blue-sky potential of our exploration portfolio and also identifying more advanced project opportunities which could be fast-tracked through to preliminary economic assessment. We believe that our new Rapla Project, along strike from Lisheen and Galmoy, offers such an opportunity.

Minco applied for Prospecting Licences covering the Rapla mineral prospect and adjacent ground in County Laois in mid-2023. The application was successful and three licences (75.3km<sup>2</sup>) were issued to Minco Ireland Limited on 29 April 2024. They remain valid for a 6-year term, subject to the expenditure of €200,000 during the first 2 years of the term, with a minimum of €10,000 in each of the PL's. Title can be maintained through the subsequent 4-year period by the expenditure of a further €500,000 to fund a Preliminary Economic Assessment of the Project.

The Rapla Prospect is located 6km and 15km to the north-east of the Galmoy and Lisheen ore deposits, respectively.

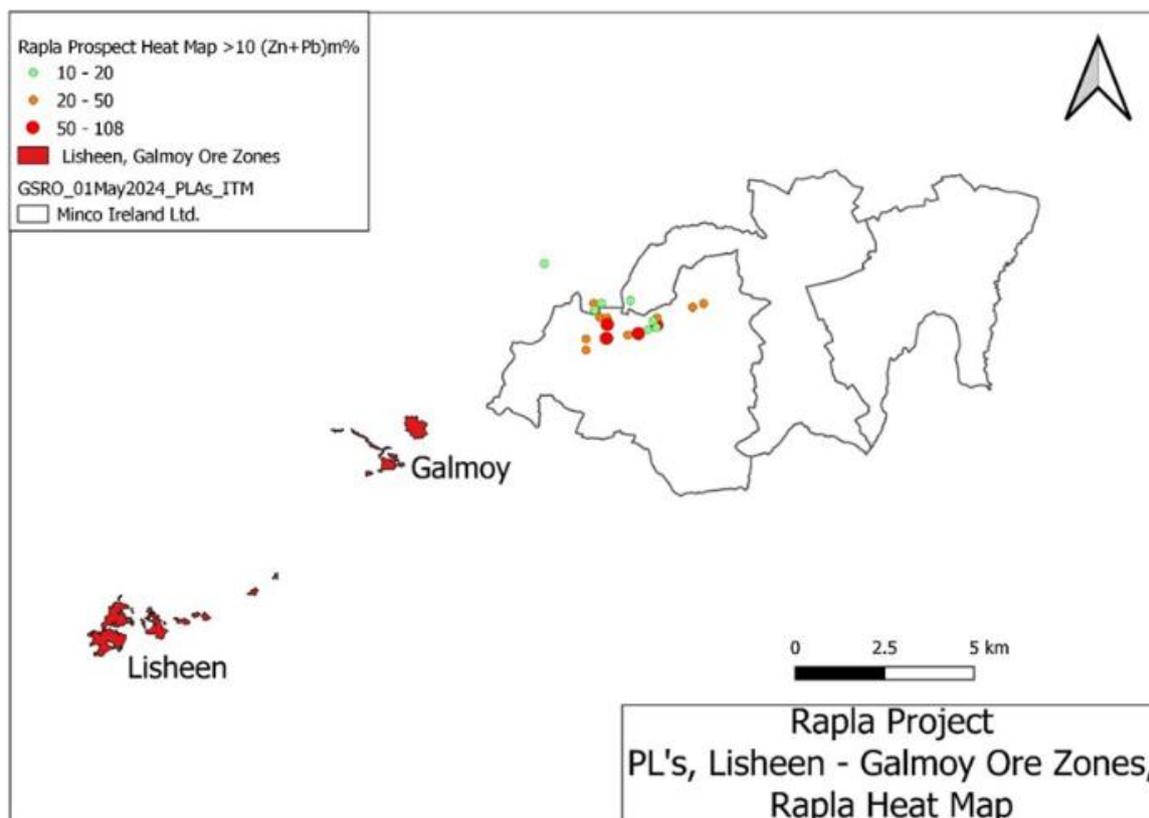


Figure 1 - Rapla licences, and historic drill results, in relation to Lisheen and Galmoy ore zones

The Prospect was discovered by Arcon Exploration Plc in the early 1990's. The Property was explored by a series of operators, including Conroy Petroleum and Natural Resources (1987 – 1993); Arcon Exploration Plc (1994 – 2005), Lundin Mining Exploration Ltd (2005 – 2013), Vedanta Exploration Ireland Ltd (2014 – 2020) and, most recently, by Zinc Mines of Ireland ("ZMI") (2020 – 2023).

The objective of the historic exploration was to discover a Lisheen look-alike. As a result, the historic drilling is widely spaced with a nominal grid of 400 by 400m, in a range of 170 to 700m, which is very wide for this style of mineralization.

The Rapla mineralization is developed within an ENE-trending zone over 3,600m of strike at / near the contact between the Waulsortian and the underlying Argillaceous Bioclastic Limestone (ABL) at a depth of 550 – 650m. The mineralization is controlled by the Rapla Fault – an en echelon / relay style extensional fault analogous to the ore controlling structures at Lisheen and Galmoy.

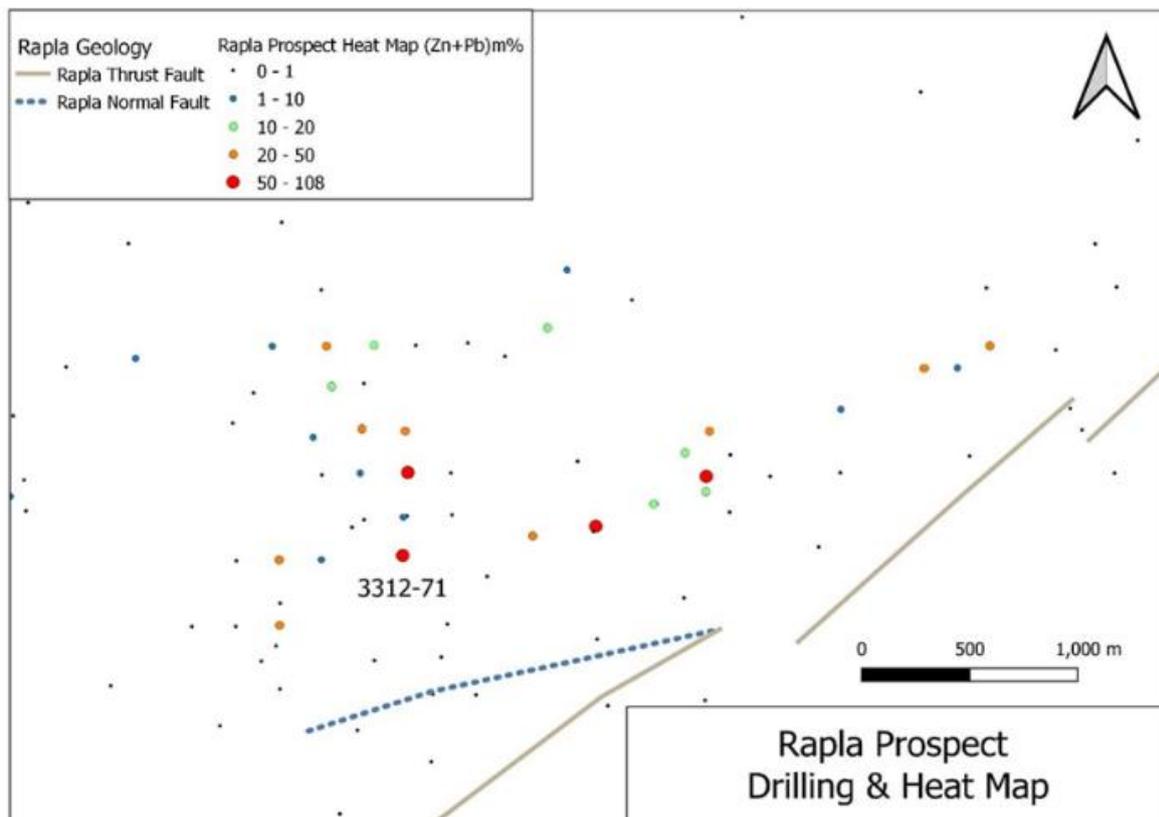


Figure 2 - Rapla Prospect drilling, highlighting the historic intersections and the location for the initial drill tests

Two styles of mineralization are present. One is massive sulphides which commonly occur proximal to the base of the Reef and is dominated by pyrite with sub-ordinate sphalerite and galena. The second is disseminated and stringer style, which tends to be more sphalerite / galena rich and pyrite poor.

Following a review of the historic drilling results we established that the best intercept - DDH 3312-71: 7.4m @ 14.59% Zn+Pb - is open along strike for approximately 600m to the south-west and to the east. It is also open towards the controlling Rapla Fault. Follow-up of this intercept will be a priority.

This Project will be a major focus of our exploration programmes in the coming year.

### Exploration at Milltown Project (PL 3788), County Clare

Mining of calcite was conducted at the Milltown site in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, via an open-pit reputed to be in the order of 35m (120 ft) deep. Base-metal mineralization was discovered in mid-1990's at a depth of about 70m beneath the coarsely crystalline calcite. It varies in thickness from 1 to 23m and is approximately 150m by 150m in horizontal extent and is both stratabound and stratiform with a best intercept of 20.4 m @ 12.03% Zn + Pb at a depth of 38.3 m in drill hole 3788/19.

Minco has compiled all of the historic exploration data. The legacy airborne geophysical data has been reprocessed and reinterpreted. This has identified an untested anomaly immediately to the east of Milltown.

It is planned to follow-up on this by completing a ground geophysical survey to validate the anomaly in preparation of a drill test.

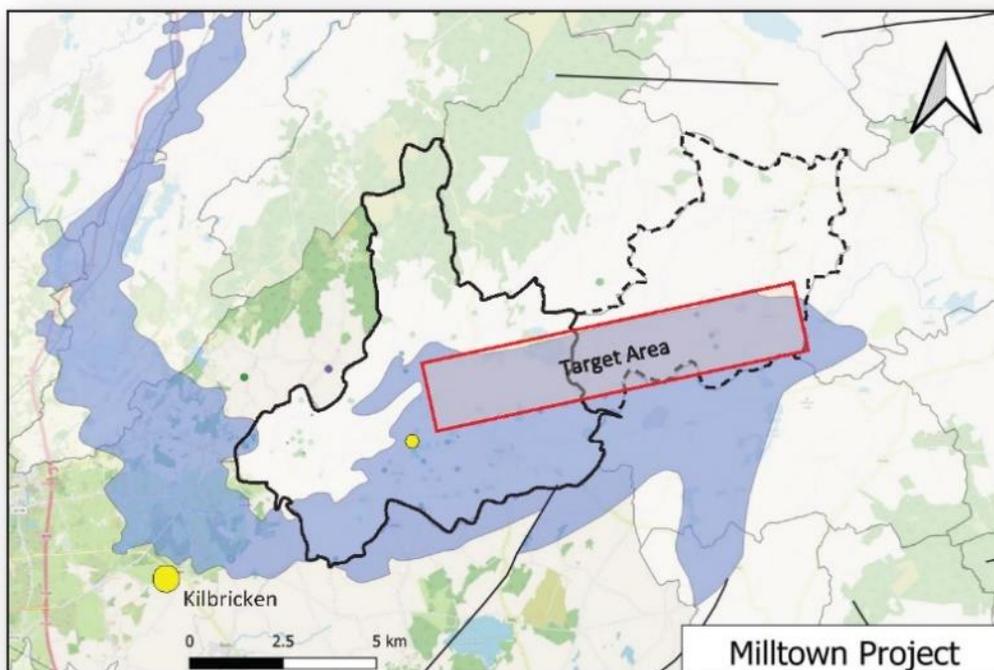


Figure 3 - Milltown Target Area

### Joint Venture with Boliden on Slieve Dart Licences, County Galway

Minco, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Minco Ireland Limited, is participating in a joint venture agreement with Boliden on eight prospecting licences in the Slieve Dart area of County Galway.

During 2023, Minco incurred expenditures of €21,637 with respect to these licences (cumulative expenditure to December 2023 - €456,656). Boliden elected not to contribute to the programme expenditures, opting to take dilution. As result, once accounts are finalized it is anticipated that Minco's interest will have increased to approximately 55%, with Boliden retaining the right to purchase or toll process all ore that may be produced from the licence areas.

Boliden holds title to a further five licences contiguous to the above. Minco has contributed 50% of the exploration costs on these licences with the intention to apply for Ministerial approval to incorporate them into the joint venture.

Several local pods of mineralization, hosted in Waulsortian Reef limestones, discovered in the 1980's, are spatially associated with the Slieve Dart Fault along the north-western border of the licence Block. The successes at Lisheen and Galmoy then diverted attention away from this area and it was not until the early 2000's that interest was renewed.

The concept driving the current phase of exploration is based on our interpretation that a regionally extensive, and basement penetrative, fault system extends through the area between Slieve Dart and Mount Mary but is concealed beneath a veneer of young cover rocks. The Slieve Dart Fault is an exposed part of that system. It is considered possible that the hidden fault system could provide a pathway for the flow of mineralizing fluids resulting in larger, and higher grade, concentrations of mineralization compared to that known along the Slieve Dart Fault.

A seismic traverse across the prospective zone was completed in 2019. This confirmed the presence of the hypothesized structural system and identified six structural-stratigraphic targets warranting drill test .

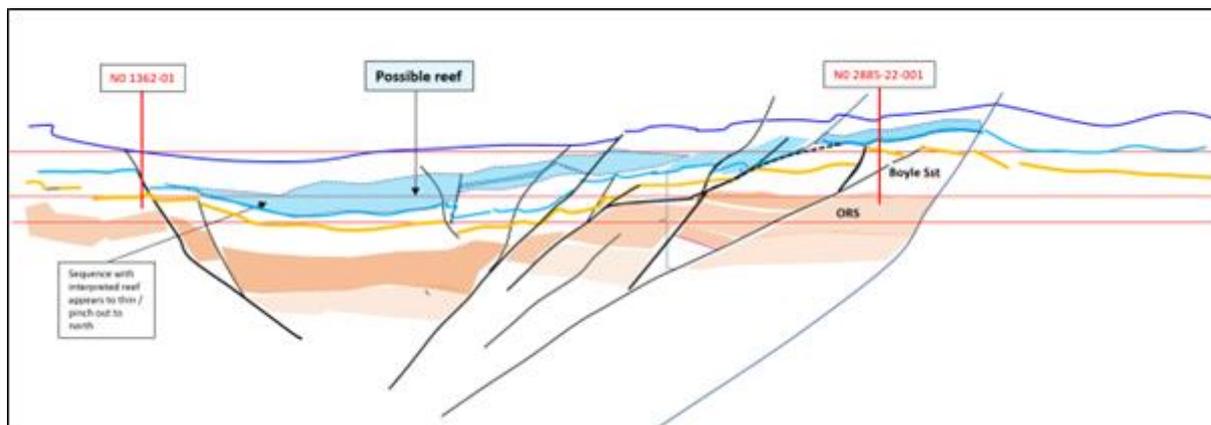


Figure 4 - Cross Section illustrating interpretation of Seismic results looking east highlighting the interpreted structures and Waulsortian Reef, and the location of the two drill tests

The first of those targets, along the strike projection of the Mount Mary Fault, was drill tested by 2885-22-01, in 2022. The drill test confirmed the interpretation and established the presence of Waulsortian Reef limestone at a depth of 293.7 – 385 m and a significant fault zone at 115 – 150 m. No mineralization or alteration was intersected.

A second drill test, 1362-01, was completed this year to the north of Clonbern. Early interpretation of the drill cores suggest the presence of a large structural system but without significant development of the prospective host reef limestones. We are awaiting results to determine if a lithogeochemical halo, indicative of a proximal mineralized system, might be present.

It is now planned to incorporate these data into refining our geological model of the area to help define centres, and the limit, of reef limestone development and their interaction with the interpreted structural trends.

As noted earlier, six prospective drill targets are identified by the seismic traverse. These are representative for circa 90 km of combined along strike potential. It would be highly serendipitous if the seismic traverse had been completed over a hidden orebody, or even a mineralized footprint. Therefore, in addition to direct drilling validation of the seismic interpretation, effort is being directed to developing a low-cost approach to prioritizing sections along the structural trends for more detailed investigation.

During 2023, a detailed, multi-element soil geochemical survey was completed along strike from the 2022 drilling towards the Mount Mary Inlier. This was designed to validate a geochemical trend identified by a Boliden review of historic data. Early interpretation of our sampling has not replicated the Boliden result. However, given the importance of the objective, further processing of the data is planned in the coming months.

#### Joint Venture with Boliden on PL 1440R (Tatestown), County Meath

Minco, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Westland Exploration Limited, continues to maintain a 20% interest in PL 1440R (Tatestown). This licence is being explored under a joint venture with Boliden (80%). PL 1440R is located within the mineralized envelope that surrounds Boliden's immediately adjacent Tara Mine orebody and hosts part of the Tatestown–Scallanstown zinc-lead deposit. A historical resource of 2.4 million tonnes averaging 7.31% zinc plus lead has been estimated for the Tatestown–Scallanstown deposit.

The temporary cessation of production activity at the Tara Mine curtailed exploration efforts during 2023. However, this has provided an opportunity to re-assess the exploration targeting opportunities within the Licence reaffirming the prospectivity of the northern portion of the licences where four, widely spaced, intercepts of pervasive low-grade zinc-lead mineralization were intersected in historic drilling.

It is anticipated that with the restart of production there will be a renewed focus on continuing exploration of these targets during the coming year.

**Joint Venture with Boliden on PL 3373 (Kells), County Meath**

Minco, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Minco Ireland Limited, has now earned a 50% interest in PL 3373 which is held in a joint venture with Boliden, who act as Operator. The licence, contiguous to the west of PL 1440R, is located approximately 10 km northwest of the Tara Mine and is bounded to the south by ground currently being explored by Boliden.

Under terms of this agreement, Minco can earn a 75% interest through expenditure of €250,000 in staged programmes. At 31 December 2023 Minco had incurred cumulative expenditure of €189,538. Boliden has the right of off-take to purchase or toll process all ore that may be produced from the licence area.

As at Tatestown, exploration was curtailed during 2023. It is anticipated however that exploration will resume during the coming year and will include drill testing of targets in the western part of the Licence.

**Moate**

Minco previously held two Prospecting Licences, Licence 1228 and Licence 1229, at Moate in County Westmeath. Following completion of the strategic review of properties that resulted in focusing our efforts differently, these licences were surrendered in 2023.

**Exploration And Evaluation Assets**

The table below shows Minco's investment in exploration and evaluation assets for the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022.

	31 December 2023	Additions	31 December 2022	Additions	31 December 2021
	€	€	€	€	€
Navan	409,883	100	409,783	6,667	403,116
Moate	-	-	366,886	-	366,886
Kells	189,538	-	189,538	-	189,538
Slieve Dart	456,656	21,637	435,019	152,000	283,019
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,056,077</b>	<b>21,737</b>	<b>1,401,227</b>	<b>158,667</b>	<b>1,242,559</b>

The two Moate licences were surrendered during 2023 and a write-down of €366,886 in exploration and evaluation assets was recorded.

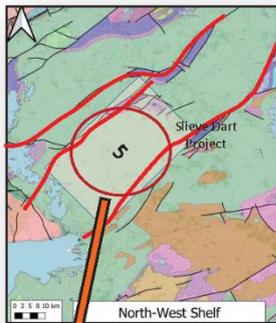
All exploration and evaluation assets are carried at cost, less any applicable impairment provision. The Directors reviewed the exploration and evaluation assets as at 31 December 2023 and are satisfied that the exploration projects have the potential to achieve mine production and no impairment provision has been recognised.

The realisation of the exploration and evaluation assets is dependent on the successful development of economic resources, including the ability to raise finance to develop the projects. Should this prove unsuccessful the value included in the balance sheet would be written off. The Directors are aware that by its nature there is an inherent uncertainty as to the value of the asset.

### The New Frontier

#### North-West Shelf

- First identified by Northgate in the 1970s, advanced by Boliden in the 2010s, now in JV with Minco.

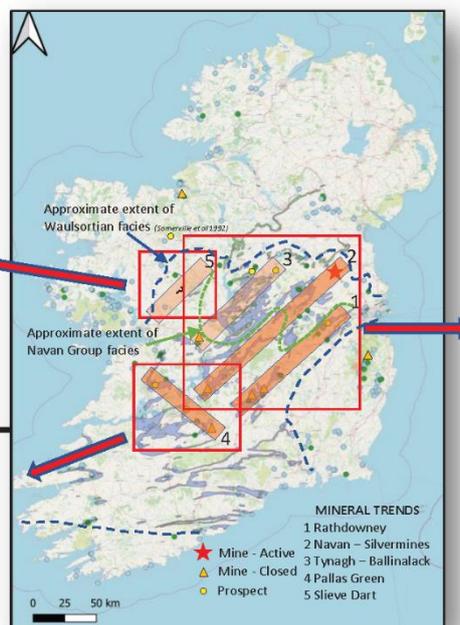


#### Slieve Dart Project

- Driven by Minco discovery at Pallas Green - now being advanced by Glencore, and Group Eleven's discovery at Ballywire.
- Combined District resources reported at approximately 50 Mt @ 8.7% Zn+Pb.

### Ireland Orefield

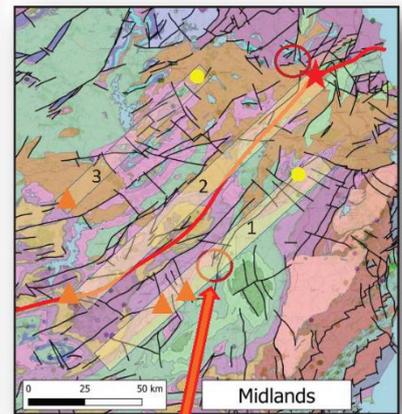
#### Geology and Mineral Trends



### The Traditional Heartland

#### Midlands

- Tynagh and Tara – operated by Boliden, Minco's JV partner at Tatestown, Kells and Slieve Dart.
- Rapla Project: in the heart of the Rathdowney Trend north-east of Lisheen and Galmoy



#### Rapla Project

Figure 5 - Overview of Irish Orefield

## Directors' Report

The Directors present their report and the audited consolidated financial statements of Minco Exploration PLC, for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### Principal Activities

Minco Exploration PLC ("Minco Exploration", "Minco", or the "Company") together with its subsidiaries Minco Ireland Limited, Minco Mining Limited, and Westland Exploration Limited (the "Minco Subsidiaries" and collectively the "Group"), has interests in exploration and evaluation properties located in geologically prospective areas of Ireland. The Minco Subsidiaries had been subsidiaries of Minco PLC prior to 30 August 2017 (See Note 2 to Consolidated Financial Statements) and have been carrying on the business of exploring and evaluation of mineral properties in Ireland since 1995. Substantially all of the Group's efforts are devoted to exploring its mineral properties.

Further information on the activities of the Group during the year and the outlook for future developments in the business of the Company is contained in the Chairman's Letter and in the Review of Operations.

### Financial Results and Dividends

The statement of income for the period ended 31 December 2023 and the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023 are included in the audited consolidated financial statements. The Company recorded no revenue in the year ended 31 December 2023. The consolidated net gain for the year ended 31 December 2023 was €20,792, before a write-down of exploration and evaluation assets, compared to a loss of €36,068 in the year ended 31 December 2022. No dividends are proposed.

During the year 2023, the Group invested €21,737 on exploration of its mineral properties.

At 31 December 2023, Minco Exploration held mineral properties with a book value of €1,056,077, after a write-down of the Moate property of €366,886 in 2023, compared to a value of €1,401,227 as at 31 December 2022. The balance sheet values for these assets may not represent that which could be obtained if the assets were to be offered for sale at this time. Information on Going Concern is disclosed in Note 4 to the financial statements.

## **DIRECTORS' COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

The Directors acknowledge, in accordance with Section 225(2)(a) of the Companies Act 2014 (the "Act"), that they are responsible for securing the Company's compliance with "relevant obligations" (Companies Act, market abuse, prospectus and tax laws) specified in the Act and confirm that:

- the Company has published a statement setting out the Company's policies that are, in the opinion of the Directors, appropriate with respect to the Company complying with its relevant obligations;
- appropriate arrangements and structures are in place designed to secure material compliance with the Company's relevant obligations; and
- review of these arrangements and structures has been performed during the year.

## **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The Group's business is subject to numerous potential risks and uncertainties associated with all companies in the exploration and mining industry which could have a material impact on its future prospects, and which could cause actual results to differ materially from expectations. Mineral exploration is a high-risk, speculative business and the realization of mineral exploration assets is dependent on the successful discovery and development of economic mineral deposits and is subject to many potential risks, the more significant of which are summarized below. Management of these risks, which often involves professional judgement, is the responsibility of the Board of Directors. The exploration and development of mineral resources require substantial commitments and no assurance can be given that Minco Exploration will be able to raise the funding required to continue exploration or develop mineral deposits.

### **Exploration, Development and Operating Risk**

The business of exploration for minerals and mining involves a high degree of risk. Few properties that are explored are ultimately developed into producing mines. There is no assurance that the Group's mineral exploration and development activities will result in any discoveries of commercial bodies of ore.

All the prospecting licences in which the Group holds an interest are in the exploration stage only and are without a known body of commercial ore. There is no assurance that the current exploration program will result in profitable mining operations. Development of the properties would follow only if favourable exploration results are obtained and a positive feasibility study is completed. No assurance can be given that minerals will be discovered in sufficient quantities to justify commercial operations or that funds required for development can be obtained on a timely basis and at an acceptable cost.

The recoverability of the carrying value of interests in mineral properties and the Group's continued existence is dependent upon the preservation of its interests in the underlying properties, meeting expenditure commitments required on the prospecting licences, the discovery of economically recoverable reserves, the achievement of profitable operations, and the ability of the Group to raise additional financing, or alternatively upon the Group's ability to dispose of its interests on an advantageous basis.

### **Failure to Obtain Additional Financing**

The Group will require additional financing to implement its exploration plans and to finance its operational and administrative expenses. There can be no assurance that the Group will be successful in obtaining any additional required funding necessary to conduct exploration on the Group's current exploration properties or any properties that may be acquired or to develop mineral resources on such properties. Failure to obtain additional financing on a timely basis could cause the Group to forfeit its interest in such properties. If additional financing is raised through the issuance of equity or convertible debt securities, the interests of shareholders in the net assets of the Group may be diluted.

### **Prospecting Licences, Mining Leases or Licences and Title Risks**

The Group holds its mineral properties in Ireland under prospecting licences issued by the Minister of Communications, Climate Action and Environment under the provisions of the Mineral Development Acts 1940, and regulations and policies issued thereunder. Operations must be carried out in accordance with the terms of such licences which include the expenditure of minimum amounts during the term of the licence. Such licences may be revoked, suspended, or not renewed if the holder fails to comply with its obligations under the licence or under the regulations.

All mining in Ireland requires either a mining lease or mining licence issued by the Minister, which is negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and conditions include adherence to best practice, ensuring full extraction of the minerals, prevention of subsidence, proper rehabilitation of the workings and financial terms including royalties. There can be no assurance that any leases, licences or permissions that the Group may require for the development of any mines that may be discovered on its prospecting licences will be obtainable on reasonable terms or on a timely basis.

### **Environmental Risks, Permitting and Climate Change**

The Group's operations are subject to environmental legislation and regulations which are evolving in pursuit of national climate change objectives and in a manner where standards are more stringent. Mineral extraction and processing can have significant environmental impacts. Mining operations require approval of environmental impact assessments and obtaining planning permissions. There can be no assurance that all permits, licences, permissions, and approvals that the Group may require for its activities will be obtainable on reasonable terms or on a timely basis.

### **Government Policy and Regulation**

The Group's activities may be affected by government policy or regulation relating to the mining industry and changes in regulation or shifts in political conditions are beyond the control of the Group. In addition, operations may be affected by government regulations with respect to production, price controls, export controls, environmental legislation, mine safety, income or mining taxes or expropriation of property. There can be no assurance that such laws and regulations will not have an adverse effect on any exploration or mining project which the Group might undertake.

### **Fluctuating Metal Prices**

Metal prices are subject to significant fluctuation and are affected by numerous factors which are beyond the control of the Group. The principal factors, in addition to market speculation, include diminished demand if economic growth is not sustained; increases in supply resulting from the discovery and the development of new sources of metals; reduced supply due to exhaustion of ore reserves or declining average grades, and supply interruptions due to changes in government policies, international trade disputes or labour action.

### **Competition**

The mineral exploration and mining industry is intensely competitive in all its phases, and the Group competes with other exploration and mining companies in connection with the acquisition of properties and such competition could adversely affect the Group's ability to acquire suitable properties or prospects in the future.

### **Management**

The success of the Group is currently largely dependent on the performance of its Directors. There is no assurance the Group can maintain the services of its Directors or other qualified personnel required to operate its business. The loss of the services of these persons could have a material adverse effect on the Group and its prospects. Some of the Directors also serve as directors and/or officers of other companies which are engaged in and will continue to be engaged in the search for business opportunities on behalf of other companies, and situations may arise where these directors will be in direct competition with the Group. Conflicts, if any, which must be disclosed, will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant provisions of applicable laws.

## Financial Risk Management

### Credit risk

The Group's financial risk management policies are described in Note 17 to the accounts. The financial assets of the Group comprise cash and cash equivalents, which give risk to credit risks on the amounts due from counterparties. The Company controls and monitors this exposure by ensuring that all deposits and financial instruments are held with reputable and financially secure institutions that have a credit rating of at least BBB-. At 31 December 2023 all short-term deposits had a maturity date of 30 days or less.

### Directors

The Directors who held office during the year and at the date of this report are as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nationality</b>
John F. Kearney, <i>Chairman</i>	Irish
Peter McParland, <i>Chief Executive</i>	Irish
Danesh Varma, <i>CFO and Secretary</i>	Canadian
John Clifford	Irish
Patrick D. Downey	Canadian
Garth Earls	Irish
Terence McKillen	Irish
Michael Power	Canadian

### Directors' And Secretary's Interests

The Directors and Secretary had the following beneficial interests (including interests held by spouses and minor children), at 31 December 2023, 2022, and 2021, in the ordinary shares of €0.01 each of the Company:

<b>Directors</b>	<b>Beneficial Interest in Shares</b>		
	31/12/2023	31/12/2022	31/12/2021
	Shares	Shares	Shares
John F. Kearney, <i>Chairman</i>	5,546,969	5,546,969	5,546,969
Peter McParland, <i>Chief Executive</i>	3,873,000	3,873,000	3,873,000
Danesh K. Varma, <i>Financial Director</i>	3,905,548	3,905,548	3,905,548
John A. Clifford, <i>Director - Exploration</i>	-	-	-
Patrick D. Downey, <i>Independent Director</i>	186,500	186,500	186,500
Garth Earls, <i>Independent Director</i>	-	-	-
Terence McKillen, <i>Independent Director</i>	213,050	213,050	213,050
Michael Power, <i>Independent Director</i>	-	-	-

No options were held by Directors during the year or at 31 December 2023. It is expected that incentive options will be granted to directors during 2024 as incentives and partial compensation for their services.

### Substantial Shareholdings

The following shareholders, except those disclosed in Directors' and Secretary's Interests, held 3% or more of the issued share capital on 31 December 2023.

<b>Shareholder</b>	<b>Number of Shares</b>	<b>% of Shares Held</b>
Buchans Resources Limited	11,227,879	14.42%
Securities Services Nominees	5,922,230	7.61%
Jayvee & Co.	3,894,035	5.00%
Pershing International Nominees Ltd	3,673,647	4.72%
The Bank of New York Nominees Ltd	2,892,059	3.71%

## **STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Board of Minco Exploration is committed to high standards of corporate governance, integrity, and social responsibility and to managing the Company in an honest and ethical manner. The Chairman is responsible for the leadership of the Board and for ensuring that the Company has appropriate governance standards in place and that these requirements are communicated and applied.

The Company seeks to conduct its operations with honesty and fairness and expects its contractors and suppliers to meet similar ethical standards. The Board recognizes the importance of communicating with its shareholders and all stakeholders in an open and transparent fashion. The Board is assisted by an Audit Committee, and a Technical Committee and has also established Remuneration and Nominating committees. All Directors may attend meetings of a committee at the committee's invitation.

### **Audit committee**

The Board has established an audit committee in accordance with Section 167 of the Companies Act 2014 with formally delegated duties and responsibilities. The audit committee is chaired by Patrick D. Downey with Michael Power being the other member of the Audit Committee, both of whom are independent non-executive directors.

The Audit Committee assists the Board in meeting its responsibilities for internal control and external financial reporting and is responsible for ensuring that the financial information of the Group is properly reported on and monitored, including by conducting reviews of the annual and interim accounts, results announcements, internal control systems and procedures and accounting policies.

### **Technical committee**

The Technical Committee is chaired by John Clifford, with Garth Earls, and Terence McKillen as members. The role of the Technical Committee is to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities with respect to the Company's exploration programs, particularly regarding those areas where technical and geological understanding is required, in reviewing and evaluating all technical and scientific issues and risks relating to the Company's mineral exploration projects, including making recommendations on technical decisions relating to exploration programs; reviewing work plans and results specific to each of the Company's mineral exploration properties; and reviewing geological and engineering reports, and disclosure relating to the Company's mineral exploration properties.

### **Remuneration committee**

The Remuneration Committee is chaired by Michael Power, with Patrick D. Downey as the other member and has responsibility for determining, within agreed terms of reference, the Group's policy on remuneration, including incentive awards. The Remuneration Committee is also responsible for recommending and/or approving grants of options under the Share Option Scheme. No Director may be involved in any decision as to their own remuneration.

### **Nomination committee**

The Nomination Committee is comprised of John Kearney and Peter McParland and assists the Board in discharging its responsibilities relating to the composition and make-up of the Board and any committees of the Board. It is also responsible for periodically reviewing the Board's structure and identifying potential candidates to be appointed as Directors.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMPLIANCE REVIEW**

Minco Exploration believes that corporate governance is more than just a set of guidelines. Rather it provides the framework whereby the Board ensures that the Company's strategy is aligned to the interest of its shareholders and takes into account the interest of all the Company's stakeholders.

The Directors of Minco recognise the importance of sound corporate governance and, although the shares of Minco are not yet listed on a stock exchange, have adopted the QCA Corporate Governance Code 2018 published by the Quoted Companies Alliance (the "QCA Code"), to the extent they consider it appropriate having regard to the size and resources of the Company.

The QCA Code sets out 10 principles listed below, and the following compliance report explains broadly how Minco seeks to apply these principles:

### **1. Establish a strategy and business model which promote long-term value for shareholders**

Minco Exploration's mission is the discovery of world class mineral deposits to create value for shareholders and which would lead to the development of mines in an environmentally, socially, and ethically responsible manner for the benefit of all stakeholders. The Board believes that the best opportunity for the creation of shareholder value and stakeholder benefit lies in the exploration for and discovery of new mineral deposits in Ireland, one of the most prospective countries in the world for zinc and lead mineralization. However, there is no assurance that the Group's mineral exploration and development activities will result in any discoveries of commercial orebodies.

### **2. Seek to understand and meet shareholder needs and expectations**

The Board of Directors is committed to maintaining good communications and having constructive dialogue with its shareholders. Shareholders have the opportunity to discuss issues and provide feedback to the Company at any time. Shareholders have access to current information on the Company through its website ([www.MincoExploration.com](http://www.MincoExploration.com)) and through direct contact with the Directors by telephone or email. In addition, all shareholders will be encouraged to attend the Company's Annual General Meeting.

### **3. Take into account wider stakeholder and social responsibilities and their implications for long-term success**

Minco Exploration is committed to high standards of corporate social responsibility and environmental, social and governance ("ESG") matters. Health, safety, and environmental protection are core values. Minco seeks to ensure open and transparent communication with all stakeholders including landowners, neighbours, communities, and regional and national authorities.

The Board oversees the Company's overall approach to sustainability and ESG matters, including:

- Ensuring the Company identifies, mitigates and monitors risks to workers (employees and contractors), the environment and communities in which it operates.
- Ensuring the Company's compliance with applicable laws and regulations associated with health and safety, environment, and social matters; and,
- Supporting the furtherance of the Company's commitment to adoption of the best practices in exploration operations, promotion of a healthy and safe work environment and environmental sound and socially responsible resource development.

### **4. Embed effective risk management, considering both opportunities and threats, throughout the organisation**

The Board is responsible for the ongoing review and management of risks that could affect the Company. Mineral exploration is a high-risk speculative business, and the realisation of mineral exploration assets is dependent on the successful discovery and development of economic mineral deposits and is subject to a numerous significant risks. Management of those risks is the responsibility of the Board of Directors and often requires the application of judgement. The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Company are summarised elsewhere in the Directors' Report.

### **5. Maintain the board as a well-functioning, balanced team led by the chair, and**

### **6. Ensure that between them the directors have the necessary up-to-date experience, skills, and capabilities**

The Board currently consists of eight directors, four of whom are considered independent. The Directors collectively have a wide range of managerial, technical, financial, and legal skills. The Board is responsible for establishing qualifications and skills necessary for an effective Board, including factors such as professional experience, particular areas of expertise, personal character, potential conflicts of interest, diversity and other commitments. The Chairman has many years of experience as chairman or director of numerous public mining or exploration companies. Profiles of the directors, summarizing their experience and backgrounds can

be found at the end of this Annual Report. The Directors are satisfied that the Board has the appropriate balance of experience and qualifications to carry out its responsibilities effectively, given the Company's current status and stage of development.

The Board recognizes that it currently has little diversity and does not have any women members. This will form a part of any future recruitment consideration if the Board concludes that replacement or additional Directors are required. The Directors believe that the interests of shareholders are best served by ensuring that directors are identified and selected from the widest possible group of potentially interested candidates. Although diversity, which includes diversity in gender, age, ethnicity, and cultural background, is one of the factors considered in the selection process, other factors, including knowledge, experience, or particular areas of expertise, and willingness to serve, are relevant considerations.

**7. Evaluate board performance based on clear and relevant objectives, seeking continuous improvement**

The Board of Directors reviews on an ongoing, informal basis the effectiveness and performance of the Board as a whole and the effectiveness and contribution of individual directors. Each year the Board will consider its appropriate size and composition to properly administer the affairs of the Company and to effectively carry out the duties of the Board.

**8. Promote a corporate culture that is based on ethical values and behaviour**

The Board of Minco Exploration is committed to high standards of corporate governance, integrity, and social responsibility and to managing the Company in an honest and ethical manner.

Directors are expected to adhere to all legal requirements in respect of any transaction or agreement in which they may have a material interest. Directors who have an interest in a transaction or agreement with the Company must promptly disclose that interest at any meeting of the Board at which the transaction or agreement will be discussed and abstain from discussions and voting. Where appropriate, any director having a conflict of interest will be expected to withdraw from the meeting and not participate in the meeting where such matter is being considered so that the remaining Directors may properly exercise independent judgment.

Certain of the Directors also serve as Directors and/or officers of, or have significant shareholdings in, other companies involved in natural resource exploration and development and consequently there exists the possibility for such Directors to be in a conflict of interest position. The Board values the participation of Directors on the boards of other companies in the mineral industry as this provides exposure to developments, and other opportunities which are useful to the experience of the Directors and potentially beneficial to the Company.

**9. Maintain governance structures and processes that are fit for purpose and support good decision-making**

The Board has overall responsibility for all aspects of the business and affairs of the Company. The Chairman has overall responsibility for corporate governance matters. The Board is assisted by an Audit Committee and a Technical Committee and has also established Remuneration and Nominating committees. The Board approves the Group's strategy and expenditure plans, exploration programs, budgets, licence terms, joint venture arrangements, and regularly reviews operational and financial performance, risk management, and health, safety, environmental and community matters.

The Directors did not receive cash compensation during 2023 and it is not expected they will receive any cash compensation for 2024. It is expected that incentive options will be granted to Directors as incentives and partial compensation for their services.

The Board is satisfied that the grant of incentive options to Directors in lieu of cash compensation is appropriate given the Company's stage of development and is aligned with shareholders' interests and expectations that all available funds are allocated to exploration.

**10. Communicate how the company is governed and is performing by maintaining a dialogue with shareholders and other relevant stakeholders**

The Board is committed to high standards of corporate governance. The Chairman is responsible for the leadership of the Board and for ensuring that the Company has appropriate governance standards in place. The Board recognizes the importance of communication with its shareholders and all stakeholders in an open and transparent fashion and is committed to maintaining good communications and having constructive dialogue with its shareholders and stakeholders. The Board is assisted by an Audit Committee and a Technical Committee, and has also established Remuneration and Nomination committees. This Directors' Report includes a review and discussion of corporate governance.

### **Charitable and Political Donations**

The Company made no political or charitable contributions during the year.

### **Accounting Records**

The Directors of the Company are aware of their responsibilities under Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 as to whether, in their opinion, the accounting records of the Company are adequate and discharge their responsibility by:

- engaging qualified and experienced accounting personnel;
- ensuring that appropriate systems and sufficient resources are available for the task; and,
- liaising with the Company's auditors and seeking external professional accounting advice where required.

The accounting records are held at the Company's office at Coolfore Road QME, Ardracran, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 KXY3, Ireland.

### **Subsidiary Companies**

The information in respect of subsidiary undertakings is set out in Note 10 to the financial statements.

### **Disclosure of Information to Auditors**

Each of the Directors in office at the date of approval of this Directors' Report confirms that:

- so far as the Directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditors are unaware; and,
- the Directors have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditors are aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014.

### **Auditors**

UHY Farrelly Dawe White Limited Chartered Certified Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm were appointed as the group's auditors and they have signified their willingness to continue in office in accordance with Section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

### **Approval**

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:

"John F. Kearney"

\_\_\_\_\_  
John F. Kearney, *Chairman & Director*

"Peter McParland"

\_\_\_\_\_  
Peter McParland, *CEO & Director*

Date: 27 June 2024

## STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

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

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period. Under that law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union. 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 assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; 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 ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. 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.

Signed on behalf of the board:

"John F. Kearney"

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John F. Kearney, *Chairman & Director*

"Danesh Varma"

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Danesh Varma, *Director*

Date: 27 June 2024

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Minco Exploration Plc (the 'Company') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the period ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Position, Company Statement of Financial Position, Group Statement of Income and Comprehensive Income, Group Statement of Changes in Equity, Company Statement of Changes in Equity, Group Statement of Cash Flows and Company Statement of Cash Flows and related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union.

In our opinion:

- the group financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the group as at 31 December 2023 and of the group's loss for the period then ended;
- the company financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2023; and
- the group and the company financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRS as adopted by the European Union as applied in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Emphasis of matter – Going concern

In forming our opinion of the financial statements, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosures made in note 4 to the financial statements, concerning the Group and Company's ability to continue as a going concern. These matters include assumptions regarding the availability of finance to meet working capital requirements of the Group and finance for the development of the Group's projects becoming available.

While the ultimate outcome of these matters cannot be assessed with certainty at this time, the directors are of the opinion that, based on their experience in the industry that such finance will become available and that it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. The financial statements do not contain any adjustments that would result if the Group and Company was unable to continue as a going concern.

Our opinion is not qualified in this regard.

### Overview of our audit approach

#### Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters, that in our professional judgement, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement identified by us, including those which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

In arriving at our audit opinion above, the key audit matters were as follows:

- assessment of the carrying value of exploration and evaluation assets; and
- assessment of the carrying value of investments

There is a significant risk in relation to the recoverability of intangible assets and the investments in subsidiaries given the subjective considerations in performing impairment analyses, which the Directors are required to perform at any time an indicator of impairment exists. The Directors have carried out a review of the carrying value of the intangible assets and of the investments as at 31 December 2023 and no impairment exists at this time.

In addressing the matters, our audit procedures included:

- Review of the directors' impairment assessments and corroboration of the information therein during the course of the audit.

**Audit scope**

- We performed an audit of the complete financial information of the parent company and all its component entities for the period under review.

**Our application of materiality and overview of the scope of our audit**

Materiality for the Group financial statements was set at €25,000 (2022: €35,000), determined as a percentage of Group net assets of which it represents 2.5% (2022: 2.5%). We consider net assets to be the most appropriate reference point as it reflects the nature of the business as a mineral resource exploration and evaluation group of companies.

Materiality for the Company financial statements was set at €6,000 (2022: €10,000), determined as a percentage of the Company net assets excluding investments in subsidiaries of which it represents 1% (2022:1%).

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (Ireland) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Group and Company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**Other information**

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion 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 such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in 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 in this regard.

**Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014**

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that in our opinion:

- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of director's remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.

**Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors 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 directors are responsible for assessing the Company'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 directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor's 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 auditor's 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: [https://iaasa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/ISA\\_700\\_UpdatedOct2023.pdf](https://iaasa.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/ISA_700_UpdatedOct2023.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities**

This 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.



**Michael Bellew**

for and on behalf of UHY Farrelly Dawe White Limited

**Chartered Certified Accountants**

**Statutory Auditor**

FDW House  
Blackthorn Business Park  
Coe's Road  
Dundalk  
Co. Louth  
Ireland

27 June 2024

**MINCO EXPLORATION PLC**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF LOSS AND COMPREHENSIVE LOSS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023, 2022 AND 2021**

Expressed in Euros	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	€	€	€
General and administrative expenses:			
Professional fees	6,470	18,294	41,792
Shareholders and investors expense	13,867	11,168	9,977
Office expenses/(recovery)	(41,136)	6,606	13,936
Write down of exploration and evaluation assets	366,886	-	-
Foreign exchange loss	7	-	(884)
Loss before income taxes	346,094	36,068	64,821
Income taxes	-	-	-
Loss and comprehensive loss for the year	346,094	36,068	64,821
<b>Earnings/(loss) per share</b>			
Basic and diluted	(0.004)	(0.000)	(0.001)

See accompanying notes to the group financial statements

**MINCO EXPLORATION PLC**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023, 2022 AND 2021**

Expressed in Euros	Notes	2023	2022	2021
Assets		€	€	€
<b>Non-current assets</b>				
Exploration and evaluation assets	9	1,056,077	1,401,227	1,242,559
Total non-current assets		1,056,077	1,401,227	1,242,559
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	12	162,333	327,614	420,409
Trade and other receivables	11	1,222	2,675	22,011
Total current assets		163,555	330,289	442,420
<b>Total assets</b>		1,219,632	1,731,516	1,684,979
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>				
<b>Capital and reserves</b>				
Share capital	14	778,587	778,587	778,587
Share premium	14	2,746,413	2,746,413	2,746,413
Deficit		(2,509,221)	(2,163,127)	(2,127,059)
Total shareholders' equity		1,015,779	1,361,873	1,397,941
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Trade and other payables	13	203,853	369,643	287,038
Total current liabilities		203,853	369,643	287,038
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		1,219,632	1,731,516	1,684,979

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 27 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

*"John F. Kearney"*  
 Director

*"Patrick Downey"*  
 Director

See accompanying notes to the group financial statements

**MINCO EXPLORATION PLC**  
**COMPANY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023, 2022 AND 2021**

Expressed in Euros	Notes	2023	2022	2021
Assets		€	€	€
<b>Non-current assets</b>				
Investment in subsidiaries	10	2,625,000	2,196,207	2,196,207
Group company receivables		-	428,793	428,793
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>2,625,000</b>	<b>2,625,000</b>	<b>2,625,000</b>
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	12	118,290	255,991	269,480
Advances receivable from subsidiaries		566,007	475,009	475,009
Trade and other receivables	11	528	2,057	6,203
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>684,825</b>	<b>733,057</b>	<b>750,692</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>3,309,825</b>	<b>3,358,057</b>	<b>3,375,692</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>				
<b>Capital and reserves</b>				
Share capital	14	778,587	778,587	778,587
Share premium	14	2,746,413	2,746,413	2,746,413
Deficit		(319,332)	(290,137)	(260,421)
<b>Total shareholders' equity</b>		<b>3,205,668</b>	<b>3,234,863</b>	<b>3,264,579</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Trade and other payables	13	104,157	123,194	111,113
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>104,157</b>	<b>123,194</b>	<b>111,113</b>
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>		<b>3,309,825</b>	<b>3,358,057</b>	<b>3,375,692</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 27 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

*"John F. Kearney"*  
 Director

*"Patrick Downey"*  
 Director

See accompanying notes to the group financial statements

**MINCO EXPLORATION PLC**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Expressed in Euros	Share Capital €	Share Premium €	Deficit €	Total €
Balance as at 31 December 2020	708,587	2,466,413	(2,062,238)	1,112,762
Issue of shares for cash	70,000	280,000	-	350,000
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	(64,821)	(64,821)
Balance as at 31 December 2021	778,587	2,746,413	(2,127,059)	1,397,941
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	(36,068)	(36,068)
Balance as at 31 December 2022	778,587	2,746,413	(2,163,127)	1,361,873
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	(346,094)	(346,094)
Balance as at 31 December 2023	778,587	2,746,413	(2,509,221)	1,015,779

**MINCO EXPLORATION PLC**  
**COMPANY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Expressed in Euros	Share capital €	Share Premium €	Deficit €	Total €
Balance as at 31 December 2020	708,587	2,466,413	(211,326)	2,963,674
Issue of shares for cash	70,000	280,000	-	350,000
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	(49,095)	(49,095)
Balance as at 31 December 2021	778,587	2,746,413	(260,421)	3,264,579
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	(29,716)	(29,716)
Balance as at 31 December 2022	778,587	2,746,413	(290,137)	3,234,863
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	(29,195)	(29,195)
Balance as at 31 December 2023	778,587	2,746,413	(319,332)	3,205,668

**Share capital**

The share capital is comprised of share capital issued for cash and non-cash considerations.

**Retained deficit**

Retained deficit comprise accumulated profit and loss in the current and prior years. Retained deficit also includes the value of expired and terminated share-based payments.

See accompanying notes to the group financial statements

**MINCO EXPLORATION PLC**  
**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023, 2022 AND 2021**

Expressed in Euros	Notes	2023 €	2022 €	2021 €
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>				
(Loss) for the year		(346,094)	(36,068)	(64,821)
Write-down of exploration and evaluation assets	9	366,886	-	-
		20,792	(36,068)	(64,821)
<b>Movements in working capital</b>				
Decrease (increase) in trade and other receivables		1,454	19,336	(16,571)
(Decrease) increase in trade and other payables		(165,790)	82,604	(24,832)
Net cash flows used in operating activities		(143,544)	65,872	(106,224)
<b>Cash flows from/used investing activities</b>				
Investment in exploration and evaluation assets	9	(21,737)	(158,667)	(122,355)
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities		(21,737)	(158,667)	(122,355)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>				
Issue of shares	14	-	-	350,000
Net cash flows from financing activities		-	-	350,000
Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(165,281)	(92,795)	121,421
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		327,614	420,409	298,988
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year		162,333	327,614	420,409

See accompanying notes to the group financial statements

**MINCO EXPLORATION PLC**  
**COMPANY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023, 2022 AND 2021**

Expressed in Euros	Notes	2023 €	2022 €	2021 €
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>				
(Loss) for the year		(29,195)	(29,716)	(49,095)
		(29,195)	(29,716)	(49,095)
<b>Movements in working capital</b>				
Decrease (increase) in trade and other receivables		1,529	4,146	(2,436)
(Increase) decrease in trade and other payables		(19,037)	12,081	(76,934)
Net cash flows used in operating activities		(46,703)	(13,489)	(128,465)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
Advances from/(to) subsidiaries		(90,998)	-	47,945
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities		(90,998)	-	47,945
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>				
Issue of shares	<b>14</b>	-	-	350,000
Net cash flows from financing activities		-	-	350,000
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(137,701)	(13,489)	269,480
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		255,991	269,480	-
Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year		118,290	255,991	269,480

See accompanying notes to the group financial statements

**MINCO EXPLORATION PLC**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 December 2023, 2022 and 2021**  
Expressed in Euros, unless noted and per share amounts

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**1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION AND COMPLIANCE**

Minco Exploration PLC (“Minco Exploration” or the “Company”) was incorporated in Ireland on 28 May 2019.

Minco Exploration and its subsidiaries, (Minco Ireland Limited, Minco Mining Limited and Westland Exploration Limited (the “Minco Subsidiaries” and collectively with Minco Exploration the “Group”) have interests in exploration and evaluation properties located in Ireland and the United Kingdom. The Minco Subsidiaries had been subsidiaries of Minco PLC prior to August 30, 2017 (See Note 2) and have been carrying on the business of exploring and evaluation of mineral properties in Ireland since 1995. Substantially all of the Group's efforts are devoted to financing and exploring its mineral properties.

The Company's head office is located at Coolfore Road, Ardbracon, Navan, Co. Meath, Ireland and the address of its registered office is 17 Pembroke Street Upper, Dublin 2, Ireland D02 AT22.

The financial statements of Minco Exploration and its subsidiaries have been prepared applying principles in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) as adopted by the European Union, and their interpretations adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (“IASB”) and comply with Article 4 of the EU IAS Regulation, and in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors of Minco Exploration on 27 June 2024.

**2. GROUP REORGANIZATIONS**

Minco PLC was a public company incorporated in Ireland and its shares were traded on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) of the London Stock Exchange until August 30, 2017.

On June 1, 2017, Minco PLC and Buchans Resources Limited (“Buchans”), entered into an agreement with Dalradian Resources Inc. on the terms of the acquisition by Dalradian of Minco PLC's 2% royalty on the Curraghinalt gold deposit, which was structured as an offer by Dalradian for the acquisition of the entire issued share capital of Minco PLC. The offer was implemented by means of a Scheme of Arrangement, under Section 450 of the Companies Act 2014 of Ireland. As part of the Scheme, Minco PLC undertook a demerger of Buchans its wholly owned subsidiary which held the Minco Subsidiaries, by way of a transfer in specie of the shares of Buchans to Minco PLC Shareholders effective August 30, 2017.

On 31 December 2019, Buchans filed Articles of Arrangement to implement the Plan of Arrangement for the group reorganization and spin-out of subsidiaries, which had been approved by Buchan's shareholders on 10 December 2019, and by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice on 19 December 2019. Under the Arrangement Buchans distributed to its shareholders, pro rata 59,868,716 exchangeable warrants (“Exchangeable Warrants”) entitling shareholders to receive either one share of Minco Exploration or 0.25 additional shares of Buchans, at the shareholder's option, for each share of Buchans held. During the year 2020, 9,227,879 Exchangeable Warrants were exchanged into 2,260,670 Buchans shares and 1,039,844 Warrants were exchanged into Minco Exploration shares. On 31 December 2020, the 49,564,720 unexercised Exchangeable Warrants were automatically exchanged into Minco Exploration shares. At 31 December 2023, Buchans held 11,227,879 shares of Minco Exploration.

### **3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **(a) Basis of consolidation**

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the Company and entities controlled by the Company (its subsidiaries) made up to 31 December each year. Subsidiaries consist of entities over which the Company is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns as well as the ability to affect those returns through the power to direct the relevant activities of the entity. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date control is transferred to the Company and are deconsolidated from the date control ceases. The financial statements include all the assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and cash flows of the Company and its subsidiaries after eliminating inter-entity balances and transactions.

The results of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of are included in the group statement of loss from the effective date of acquisition or up to the effective date of disposal, as appropriate. All intra-company transactions, balances, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation.

Non-controlling interests in subsidiaries are identified separately from the Company's equity therein. The interests of non-controlling shareholders may be initially measured at fair value or at the non-controlling interests' proportionate share of the fair value of the acquiree's identifiable net assets. The choice of measurement is made on an acquisition-by-acquisition basis. Subsequent to acquisition, the carrying amount of non-controlling interests is the amount of those interests at initial recognition plus the non-controlling interests' share of subsequent changes in equity. Total comprehensive loss is attributed to non-controlling interests even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance.

Changes in the Company's interests in subsidiaries that do not result in a loss of control are accounted for as equity transactions. The carrying amount of the Company's interests and the non-controlling interests are adjusted to reflect the changes in their relative interests in the subsidiaries. Any difference between the amount by which the non-controlling interests are adjusted and the fair value of the consideration paid or received is recognized directly in equity and attributed to the owners of the Company.

When the Company loses control of a subsidiary, the profit or loss on disposal is calculated as the difference between (i) the aggregate of the fair value of the consideration received and the fair value of the retained interest and (ii) the previous carrying amount of the assets (including goodwill), less liabilities of the subsidiary and any non-controlling interests. Amounts previously recognized in other comprehensive income/ (loss) in relation to the subsidiary are accounted for (i.e. reclassified to profit or loss or transferred directly to retained earnings) in the same manner as would be required if the relevant assets or liabilities are disposed of. The fair value of any investment retained in the former subsidiary at the date when control is lost is regarded as the fair value on initial recognition for subsequent accounting under IFRS 9 *financial instruments* or, when applicable, the costs on initial recognition of an investment in an associate or jointly controlled entity.

#### **(b) Exploration and evaluation assets**

Exploration and evaluation costs are capitalised as an intangible asset until technical feasibility and commercial viability of a mineral deposit, when the capitalised exploration costs are re-classed to property, plant and equipment. Exploration costs include an allocation of administration and salary costs (including share-based payments) as determined by management, where they relate to specific projects. Prior to reclassification to property, plant and equipment, exploration and evaluation assets are assessed for impairment and any impairment loss recognised immediately in the statement of (loss)/income.

#### **(c) Rehabilitation Provisions**

The Company will record a liability for the estimated future costs associated with legal and constructive obligations relating to the reclamation and closure of its exploration assets. This amount is initially recorded at its discounted present value with subsequent annual recognition of an accretion expense on the discounted liability. An equivalent amount is recorded as an increase to exploration assets and amortized over the useful life of these assets. Minco Exploration is currently not aware of any existing significant legal or constructive obligations relating to the reclamation of its interest in exploration assets and therefore no such liability has been recorded at 31 December 2023, 2022, and 2021.

#### **(d) Impairment of non-financial assets**

At the end of each reporting period, non-financial assets are subject to impairment tests whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amount may not be recoverable. Where the carrying value of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount, which is the higher of value in use and fair value less costs to sell, the asset is written down accordingly. Any impairment is recognized in loss.

#### **(e) Interests in joint arrangements**

A joint arrangement involves the use of assets and/or other resources of the Company and other venturers rather than the establishment of a corporation, partnership or other entity. The Company accounts for the assets it controls and the liabilities and expenses it incurs. As at 31 December 2023, 2022 and 2021, no joint arrangement existed for accounting purposes.

#### **(f) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash is comprised of cash on hand, deposits in banks and highly liquid investments having original terms to maturity of 90 days or less when acquired.

### **3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

#### **(g) Financial instruments**

##### **Financial assets**

###### **Initial recognition and measurement**

Non-derivative financial assets within the scope of IFRS 9 are classified and measured as “financial assets at fair value”, as either fair value through profit and loss (“FVPL”) or fair value through other comprehensive income (“FVOCI”), or “financial assets at amortized costs”, as appropriate. The Company determines the classification of financial assets at the time of initial recognition based on the Company’s business model and the contractual terms of the cash flows.

All financial assets are recognized initially at fair value plus, in the case of financial assets not at FVPL, directly attributable transaction costs on the trade date at which the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Cash and trade and other receivable are measured at amortized cost.

###### **Subsequent measurement – financial assets at amortized cost**

After initial recognition, financial assets measured at amortized cost are subsequently measured at the end of each reporting period at amortized cost using the Effective Interest Rate (“EIR”) method. Amortized cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and any fees or costs that are an integral part of the EIR. The EIR amortization is included in finance income in the group statements of loss.

###### **Subsequent measurement – FVPL**

Financial assets measured at FVPL include financial assets management intends to sell in the short term and any derivative financial instrument that is not designated as a hedging instrument in a hedge relationship. Financial assets measured at FVPL are carried at fair value in the group statements of financial position with changes in fair value recognized in other income or expense in the group statements of loss. The Company measures its cash equivalents at FVPL.

###### **Subsequent measurement – FVOCI**

Financial assets measured at FVOCI are non-derivative financial assets that are not held for trading and the Company has made an irrevocable election at the time of initial recognition to measure the assets at FVOCI. The Company does not measure any financial assets at FVOCI.

After initial measurement, investments measured at FVOCI are subsequently measured at fair value with unrealized gains or losses recognized in other comprehensive loss in the group statements of comprehensive loss. When the investment is sold, the cumulative gain or loss remains in accumulated other comprehensive loss and is not reclassified to profit or loss.

Dividends from such investments are recognized in other income in the group statements of operations when the right to receive payments is established.

###### **Derecognition**

A financial asset is derecognized when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or the Company no longer retains substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

###### **Impairment of financial assets**

The Company’s only financial assets subject to impairment are amounts receivable, which are measured at amortized cost. The Company has elected to apply the simplified approach to impairment as permitted by IFRS 9, which requires the expected lifetime loss to be recognized at the time of initial recognition of the receivable. To measure estimated credit losses, accounts receivable have been consolidated based on shared credit risk characteristics, including the number of days past due. An impairment loss is reversed in subsequent periods if the amount of the expected loss decreases and the decrease can be objectively related to an event occurring after the initial impairment was recognized.

##### **Financial liabilities**

###### **Initial recognition and measurement**

Financial liabilities are measured at amortized cost, unless they are required to be measured at FVPL as is the case for held for trading or derivative instruments, or the Company has opted to measure the financial liability at FVPL. The Company’s financial liabilities include accounts payable and accruals, notes payable and other liability of subsidiary, which are each measured at amortized cost. All financial liabilities are recognized initially at fair value and in the case of long-term debt, net of directly attributable transaction costs.

### **3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

#### **(g) Financial instruments (continued)**

##### **Financial liabilities (continued)**

##### **Subsequent measurement – financial liabilities at amortized cost**

After initial recognition, financial liabilities measured at amortized cost are subsequently measured at the end of each reporting period at amortized cost using the EIR method. Amortized cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and any fees or costs that are an integral part of the EIR. The EIR amortization is included in finance cost in the group statements of loss.

##### **Derecognition**

A financial liability is derecognized when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires with any associated gain or loss recognized in other income or expense in the group statements of loss.

#### **(h) Functional and presentation currencies**

The Company's presentation currency is the Euro ("€"). The functional currency of the Company and its subsidiaries is the Euro. In preparing the financial statements of the individual entities, transactions in currencies other than the entity's functional currency (foreign currencies) are recognised at the rates of exchange prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At the end of each reporting period, monetary items denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing at that date. Non-monetary items denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rates prevailing on the transaction dates. Foreign currency translation differences are recognized in the group statement of loss.

#### **(i) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty**

##### *Preparation of financial statements*

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgments related to the allocation of assets, liabilities and expenses. The actual results may differ from the results presented had the Company existed in its reorganised form for the financial statement reporting periods presented. See Note 3.

##### *Critical accounting judgements*

In the process of applying the Company's accounting policies above, management has identified the judgemental areas that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements (apart from those involving estimations), which are dealt with below.

##### *Key sources of estimation uncertainty*

Preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the statement of financial position date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the period. The nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Differences between management's assumptions, including economic assumptions such as metal prices and market conditions, could have a material effect in the future on the Company's financial position and results of operation.

##### *Exploration and evaluation assets*

The assessment of whether general administration costs and salary costs are capitalised or expensed involves judgement. Management considers the nature of each cost incurred and whether it is deemed appropriate to capitalise it within exploration assets. Costs which can be demonstrated as project related are included within exploration assets.

### **3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

#### **(i) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)**

Exploration assets relate to prospecting, exploration and related expenditure in Ireland. The business of exploring for minerals involves a high degree of risk and there can be no assurance that current exploration programs will result in profitable mining operations. The recoverability of the carrying value of exploration and evaluation assets and the Company's continued existence is dependent upon the preservation of its interests in the underlying properties, the discovery of economically recoverable mineral deposits, the achievement of profitable operations, and on the ability of the Company to raise additional financing, if necessary, or alternatively upon the Company's ability to dispose of its interests on an advantageous basis. The Company's exploration activities are subject to a number of significant and potential risks including:

- exploration, development and operating risk
- no assurance of production
- factors beyond the Company's control
- failure to obtain additional financing
- insurance and uninsured risks
- environmental risks and hazards
- government regulation and permitting delays
- infrastructure availability
- price volatility of publicly traded securities
- fluctuating metal prices

There has been no determination whether the Company's interests in its exploration and evaluation assets contain mineral resources which are economically recoverable. The recoverability of these exploration and evaluation assets is dependent on the discovery and successful development of economic mineral deposits, including the ability to raise financing to develop future projects. Major expenditures are required to locate and establish mineral deposits, to develop metallurgical processes and to construct mining and processing facilities. Should this prove unsuccessful, the value exploration and evaluation assets included in the statement of financial position would be written off to operations.

In order for the Company to carry out its exploration and evaluation activities, the Company is required to hold various licences and permits. There is no assurance that the Company's existing licences will be renewed or that new licences that have been applied for will be granted. The Group's exploration operations are subject to government legislation, policies and controls relating to prospecting, development, production, environmental protection, mining taxes and labour standards.

#### *Impairment of exploration and evaluation assets*

The assessment of exploration and evaluation assets for any indications of impairment involves judgement. If an indication of impairment exists, a formal estimate of recoverable amount is performed and an impairment loss recognised to the extent that carrying amount exceeds recoverable amount. Recoverable amount is estimated as the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. The assessment requires judgement as to the likely future commerciality of the asset and when such commerciality should be determined; future revenues, capital and operating costs and the discount rate to be applied to such revenues and costs.

#### *Estimation of rehabilitation provisions and asset retirement obligations and the timing of expenditure*

The estimated future costs associated with legal and constructive obligations relating to the reclamation, rehabilitation and closure of exploration assets are updated annually during the life of a project to reflect known developments, (e.g. revisions to cost estimates and to the estimated lives of operations), and are subject to review at regular intervals. Decommissioning, restoration and similar liabilities are estimated based on the Company's interpretation of current regulatory requirements, constructive obligations and are measured at fair value. Fair value is estimated based on the net present value of estimated future cash expenditures for the settlement of decommissioning, restoration or similar liabilities that may occur upon decommissioning of the mine. Such estimates are subject to change based on changes in laws and regulations and negotiations with regulatory authorities.

## MINCO EXPLORATION PLC

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 December 2023, 2022 and 2021

Expressed in Euros, unless noted and per share amounts

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### 3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

#### (i) Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)

##### *Income, value added, withholding and other taxes*

The Company is subject to income, value added, withholding and other taxes. Significant judgment is required in determining the Company's provisions for taxes. There are many transactions and calculations for which the ultimate tax determination is uncertain during the ordinary course of business. The Company recognizes liabilities for anticipated tax audit issues based on estimates of whether additional taxes will be due. The determination of the Company's income, value added, withholding and other tax liabilities requires interpretation of complex laws and regulations. The Company's interpretation of taxation law as applied to transactions and activities may not coincide with the interpretation of the tax authorities. All tax related filings are subject to government audit and potential reassessment subsequent to the financial statement reporting period. Where the final tax outcome of these matters is different from the amounts that were initially recorded, such differences will impact the tax related accruals and deferred income tax provisions in the period in which such determination is made.

#### (j) Taxation

Current tax expense is comprised of current and deferred income tax. Current and deferred income taxes are recognized in net loss except to the extent that they relate to a business combination, or to items recognized directly in equity or other comprehensive income.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted or substantively enacted tax rates expected to apply to taxable income in the years in which those temporary differences are expected to be recovered or settled. Deferred income tax assets also result from unused loss carry forwards, resource related pools and other deductions. A deferred tax asset is recognized for unused tax losses, tax credits and deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which they can be utilized. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realized.

#### (k) Changes in Accounting Policies

The following new accounting policies or amendments were adopted during 2023 with no material impact.

IAS 1 – In February 2021, the IASB issued 'Disclosure of Accounting Policies' with amendments that are intended to help preparers in deciding which accounting policies to disclose in their financial statements.

IAS 8 – In February 2021, the IASB issued 'Definition of Accounting Estimates' to help entities distinguish between accounting policies and accounting estimates.

IAS 12 – In May 2021, the IASB issued 'Deferred Tax Related to Assets and Liabilities Arising from a Single Transaction' that clarifies how entities account for deferred tax on transactions such as leases and decommissioning obligations.

#### (l) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

Certain pronouncements were issued by the IASB or the IFRIC that are mandatory for accounting periods commencing on or after January 1, 2024. Many are not applicable or do not have a significant impact to the Company and have been excluded. The following have not yet been adopted and are being evaluated to determine their impact on the Company. These pronouncements will be adopted as of their effective dates.

IFRS 10 – Consolidated Financial Statements ("IFRS 10") and IAS 28 – Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures ("IAS 28") were amended in September 2014 to address a conflict between the requirements of IAS 28 and IFRS 10 and clarify that in a transaction involving an associate or joint venture, the extent of gain or loss recognition depends on whether the assets sold or contributed constitute a business. The effective date of these amendments is yet to be determined, however early adoption is permitted.

IAS 1 – Presentation of Financial Statements ("IAS 1") was amended in January 2020 to provide a more general approach to the classification of liabilities under IAS 1 based on the contractual arrangements in place at the reporting date. The amendments clarify that the classification of liabilities as current or noncurrent is based solely on a company's right to defer settlement at the reporting date. The right needs to be unconditional and must have substance. The amendments also clarify that the transfer of a company's own equity instruments is regarded as settlement of a liability, unless it results from the exercise of a conversion option meeting the definition of an equity instrument. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on January 1, 2024.

IAS 21 - In August 2023, the IASB amended IAS 21 to clarify when a currency is exchangeable into another currency; and how a company estimates a spot rate when a currency lacks exchangeability. Under the amendments, companies will need to provide new disclosures to help users assess the impact of using an estimated exchange rate on financial statements. The amendments apply for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2025. Earlier application is permitted.

#### **4. GOING CONCERN**

The preparation of financial statements requires an assessment on the validity of the going concern assumption. The validity of the going concern concept is dependent on finance being available for the continuing working capital requirements of the Group and finance for the development of the Group's projects becoming available. Should the going concern basis not be appropriate, adjustments would have to be made to reduce the value of the assets, in particular the exploration and evaluation assets, to their realisable values. Such adjustments could be material.

The Company's continued existence is dependent upon its ability to obtain necessary financing to continue exploration and evaluation of its assets and to complete development and future profitable production or upon proceeds from disposition. If the Company is unable to obtain adequate additional financing, the Company may be required to discontinue operations and exploration activities.

At 31 December 2023, the Company had not achieved profitable operations, had an accumulated deficit since inception and expects to incur further losses in the development of its business. The Company relies on equity financing to generate additional financial resources to fund its working capital requirements and to fund its planned exploration programs. There are no assurances that the Company will continue to obtain additional financial resources and/or achieve positive cash flows or profitability. Based on the assumptions that such finance will become available, the Directors believe that the going concern basis is appropriate for the group financial statements, which assumes that the Company will be able to meet its obligations and continue its operations for its next fiscal year. These circumstances represent material uncertainty and cast significant doubt about the ability of Minco Exploration to continue as a going concern.

#### **5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

##### **Group**

Transactions between the Company and its subsidiaries, which are related parties, have been eliminated on consolidation and are not disclosed for the Group but are disclosed below for the Company.

##### **Remuneration of key management personnel**

No fees were paid by the Company to directors for their services as directors of the Company in the years ended 31 December 2023, 2022 and 2021.

Amounts are advanced from the Company to subsidiary companies to finance exploration and evaluation costs and other operating expenses. These amounts are unsecured, non-interest bearing and repayable on demand.

At 31 December 2023, the Company had accrued €14,351 (2022 - €12,615 - 2021 - €Nil) payable to Buchans covering an allocation of administration costs and services and inter-company advances. See Notes 13 and 14.

**MINCO EXPLORATION PLC**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 December 2023, 2022 and 2021**  
Expressed in Euros, unless noted and per share amounts

**6. INCOME TAX EXPENSE**

a) Income Taxes

No charge to corporation tax arises in the current financial year or the prior two financial years.

b) Deferred Income Taxes

At the balance sheet date, the Group had unused tax losses of €3,358,142. The deferred tax asset has not been recognised due to the unpredictability of future profits. Losses may be carried forward indefinitely.

The actual charge for the period can be reconciled to the expected credit for the period based on the profit or loss and the standard rate of tax as follows:

	2023	2022	2021
	€	€	€
Loss before taxation	(346,094)	(36,068)	(64,821)
Expected tax credit based on the standard rate of corporation tax at 12.5%	(43,262)	(4,509)	(8,103)
Impairment expenses not deductible	42,736	-	-
Tax effect of unutilised losses carried forward	526	4,509	8,103
Taxation (credit)/charge for the period	-	-	-

**7. EARNINGS / (LOSS) PER SHARE**

Basic loss per share is computed by dividing the loss after taxation for the period available to ordinary shareholders by the sum of the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue and ranking for dividend during the period. Diluted loss per share is computed by dividing the loss after taxation for the period by the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue, adjusted for the effect of all potential dilutive ordinary shares that were outstanding during the period. Basic and diluted losses per share are the same, as the effect of the outstanding share options is anti-dilutive and is therefore excluded. The computation for basic and diluted loss per share is as follows:

	2023	2022	2021
	€	€	€
<b>Numerator</b>			
Loss for the year	(346,094)	(36,068)	(64,821)
<b>Denominator</b>	<b>No. of Shares</b>	<b>No. of Shares</b>	<b>No. of Shares</b>
Weighted average number of shares - basic and diluted	77,868,716	77,868,716	70,926,250
Basic and diluted (loss) per share	(0.004)	(0.000)	(0.001)

**8. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION**

The analysis of auditor's remuneration is as follows:

	2023	2022	2021
	€	€	€
<b>Group</b>			
Audit fees	20,228	18,150	18,110
Other non-audit services	-	-	-
	20,228	18,110	24,228

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**9. EXPLORATION AND EVALUATION ASSETS**

	31 December 2023	Write-down	Additions	31 December 2022	Additions	31 December 2021
	€	€	€	€	€	€
Navan	409,883	-	100	409,783	6,667	403,116
Moate	-	(366,886)	-	366,886	-	366,886
Kells	189,538	-	-	189,538	-	189,538
Slieve Dart	456,656	-	21,637	435,019	152,000	283,019
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,056,077</b>	<b>(366,886)</b>	<b>21,737</b>	<b>1,401,227</b>	<b>158,667</b>	<b>1,242,559</b>

The Directors reviewed the exploration and evaluation assets at 31 December 2023 and are satisfied that the exploration projects have potential for the discovery of economic mineral deposits and no impairment provision has been recognised.

The realisation of the exploration and evaluation assets is dependent on the successful discovery and development of economic mineral deposits, including the ability to raise finance to develop the projects. Should this prove unsuccessful the value included in the statements of financial position for exploration and evaluation assets would be written off. The Directors are aware that by its nature there is an inherent uncertainty as to the value of the exploration and evaluation assets.

The Company's prospecting licences are subject to government licencing requirements, social licencing requirements, and compliance with other regulatory requirements. The Company's properties are subject to the negotiation of mining leases, obtaining planning permissions and permits and may also be subject increases in taxes and/or state royalties.

Exploration and evaluation activities are subject to various laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment. These laws and regulations are continually changing and generally becoming more restrictive. The Company believe its operations are materially in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. The Company has made, and expects to make in the future, expenditures to comply with such laws and regulations. The Group's activities are also subject to a number of significant potential risks, see pages 13-15 (Directors' Report).

**Ireland**

The Company, through its wholly owned subsidiary, holds indirectly a 20% interest in Prospecting Licence 1440R (Navan/Tatestown), which is being explored under a Joint Venture agreement with Boliden Tara Mines DAC (80%), and which hosts part of the small Tatestown–Scallanstown zinc-lead mineral deposit, located adjacent to Boliden's large Tara zinc-lead mine at Navan, County Meath, about 50 km northwest of Dublin.

The Company, through its wholly owned subsidiary Minco Ireland Limited, has entered into a joint venture agreement with Boliden Tara Mines on PL 3373, at Kells near Navan, County Meath, contiguous to the west with PL 1440R. Under the terms of this agreement, the Company can earn a 75% joint venture interest through expenditures of €250,000 in staged programmes. As at 31 December 2023, the Company had earned an undivided 50% joint venture interest in the Licence. Boliden has the right of off-take to purchase or toll process all ore that may be produced from the licence area.

The Company, through its wholly owned subsidiary Minco Ireland Limited, has entered into a joint venture agreement with Boliden Tara Mines on eight licences at Slieve Dart in County Galway. Minco had the right to earn a 50% interest through expenditure of €385,000 in staged programmes, by 31 December 2023. During 2023, the Company incurred expenditures of €21,637 with respect to these licences. As at 31 December 2023, the Company had completed cumulative expenditure of €456,656 and earned an undivided 50% joint venture interest in the Licence Area. Boliden has the right of off-take to purchase or toll process all ore that may be produced from the licence area. Boliden also holds 5 other licences, contiguous to the above, where Minco has contributed 50% of the exploration costs. The intention is to seek Ministerial approval to incorporate these 5 licences into the approved joint venture.

The Company, through its wholly owned subsidiary Minco Ireland Limited, holds a 100% interest in Prospecting Licence 3788 at Milltown in County Clare, Ireland. During 2023, the Company was issued the new licence for a six-year term, with an expenditure commitment of €10,000 within the first two years.

The Company, through its wholly owned subsidiary Minco Ireland Limited, previously held two Prospecting Licences, 1228 and 1229, at Moate in County Westmeath, Ireland. During 2021, the Company incurred expenditures of €33,355 in undertaking a drill program on PL 1229, following the completion of which the licences were renewed for a further term of six years, with an expenditure requirement of €400,000. Following a reassessment of its priorities in 2023, the Company determined to surrender these licences partly because of the expenditure required to maintain the licences and partly to focus on other licences at Slieve Dart and Navan. The accumulated expenditure on these licences of €366,886 was written down upon surrender.

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**9. EXPLORATION AND EVALUATION ASSETS (CONTINUED)**

**Pennines - UK**

The Company, through its wholly owned subsidiary Minco Mining Limited, previously entered into various agreements, licences and options with certain owners of mineral rights in the North Pennines Orefield located in the counties of Cumbria, Northumberland and Durham in northern England.

Due to delayed renegotiation of the underlying contracts and agreements, and as no drilling had been carried out since 2015, an impairment charge in the amount of €1,952,100 was recorded at 31 December 2017 in accordance with the Company's accounting policies. The Company expects to continue with the objective of continuing to evaluate these properties at an appropriate time, subject to the renegotiation and /or renewal of the contracts and agreements.

**10. INVESTMENT IN SUBSIDIARIES**

	2023	2022	2021
	€	€	€
<b>Company</b>			
Investments at cost:			
Shares in subsidiaries	2,625,000	2,196,207	2,196,207

The recovery of the investment in subsidiaries is dependent on the successful realisation of exploration and evaluation assets through the development of economic ore reserves, as outlined in Note 3(d). At the balance sheet date, the Company reviewed the carrying amounts of its subsidiary companies to determine whether there was any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss.

The subsidiaries of the Company at 31 December 2023 were as follows:

Name of Company	Registered or Head office	Effective Holding	Principal Activity
Minco Ireland Limited	Ardbraccan, Navan, Co. Meath, Ireland	100%	Exploration
Westland Exploration Limited	Ardbraccan, Navan, Co. Meath, Ireland	100%	Exploration
Minco Mining Limited	The Old Church, 89a Quicks Road, Wimbleton, London, UK SW19 1EX	100%	Exploration

**11. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES**

	GROUP			COMPANY		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
	€	€	€	€	€	€
Trade receivables and prepayments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Value added tax receivable	1,222	2,675	22,011	528	2,057	6,203
	<u>1,222</u>	<u>2,675</u>	<u>5,440</u>	<u>528</u>	<u>6,203</u>	<u>3,766</u>

The carrying value of the receivables approximates to their fair value. In the opinion of the Directors, the amounts above are considered to be fully recoverable.

**12. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

	GROUP			COMPANY		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cash	162,333	327,614	420,409	118,290	255,991	269,480
Immediately available without restriction	<u>162,333</u>	<u>327,614</u>	<u>420,409</u>	<u>118,290</u>	<u>255,991</u>	<u>269,480</u>

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances held for the purposes of meeting short-term cash commitments and investments which are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Where investments are categorised as cash equivalents, the related balances have a maturity of three months or less from the date of investment. Cash at bank earns interest at floating rates based on daily bank deposit rates. Short-term deposits are made for varying periods of between one day and three months, depending on the cash requirements of the Company, and earn interest at the respective short-term deposit rates at floating rates.

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**13. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES**

	GROUP			COMPANY		
	2023	2022	2021	2023	2022	2021
	€	€	€	€	€	€
Trade creditors and accruals	189,502	357,028	287,038	89,806	110,579	111,113
Amounts due to related parties	14,351	12,615	-	14,351	12,615	-
	<u>203,853</u>	<u>369,643</u>	<u>287,038</u>	<u>104,157</u>	<u>123,194</u>	<u>111,113</u>

It is the Group's normal practice to agree terms of transactions, including payment terms, with suppliers and provided suppliers perform in accordance with the agreed terms, it is the Group's policy that payment is made as they fall due. The carrying value of the trade creditors and accruals approximates to their fair value. The Group has financial risk management policies in place to ensure that all payables are paid within the credit timeframe. The amounts due to related parties are due on demand, unsecured and non-interest bearing.

**14. SHARE CAPITAL**

The authorised share capital consists of 500 million ordinary shares at a value of €0.01 per share.

	Number	Nominal Value	Premium	Total
		€	€	€
Issued and fully paid				
Balance at 31 December 2021, 2022 and 2023	<u>77,868,716</u>	<u>778,587</u>	<u>2,746,413</u>	<u>3,525,000</u>

On 29 December 2021, the Company completed a private placement of 7,000,000 ordinary shares at a price of €0.05 per share, to raise a total of €350,000 to fund its working capital and planned exploration programs. The placement included issuance of 2,000,000 ordinary shares to John F. Kearney, a director, for cash, 2,000,000 ordinary shares to Peter McParland, a director, for cash, and 2,000,000 ordinary shares to Buchans as settlement of €100,000 account payable.

**15. PARENT COMPANY, MINCO EXPLORATION PLC, STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

In accordance with section 304(1) of the Companies' Act 2014, the Company is availing of the exemption from presenting its individual Statement of Comprehensive Income to the Annual General Meeting and from filing it with the Registrar of Companies. The loss in the parent Company for the year ended 31 December 2023 amounted to €29,195 (2022 - €29,716 – 2021 - €49,095).

**16. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT**

The primary objective of the capital management of the Group is to ensure that it maintains an adequate capital ratio in order to support its business and enhance shareholder value. The capital structure of the Group consists of issued share capital and reserves. The Group manages its structure and makes adjustments to it, in light of the changes in economic conditions. No changes were made in the objectives, policies or processes during the period ended 31 December 2023.

**17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

The Group's financial instruments comprise cash balances and various items such as trade receivables and trade payables which arise directly from trading operations. The Group also enters into derivative transactions, primarily warrants and convertible notes. The main purpose of these financial instruments is to provide working capital to finance Group operations. The Group undertakes certain transactions denominated in foreign currencies, hence, exposures to exchange rate fluctuations arise. The Group's cash balances are held in Euro, Sterling and US dollar.

The Group's strategy for managing cash is to maximise interest income whilst ensuring its availability to match the profile of the Group's expenditure. This is achieved by regular monitoring of interest rates and a monthly review of expenditure. The Group has a policy of not hedging and therefore takes market rates in respect of foreign exchange risk; however, it does review its currency exposures regularly and may consider the use of currency hedges in the future.

**Fair Value Hierarchy**

The fair value hierarchy has the following levels: (a) quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1); (b) inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e., as prices) or indirectly (i.e., derived from prices) (Level 2); and (c) inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs) (Level 3). At 31 December 2023, the Company's financial instruments that are carried at fair value, consisting of exchangeable warrants, have been classified as Level 2 within the fair value hierarchy.

## **17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)**

### **Interest rate risk**

The Group finances its operations through the issue of equity shares, and has no fixed interest rate agreements. The Group had €162,333 in cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023. A one percent change in interest rates will result in a corresponding change in interest income of approximately €1,623 based on cash and cash equivalents balances existing at 31 December 2023.

### **Liquidity risk**

The Group's liquidity exposure is confined to meeting obligations under short term trade creditor agreements. This exposure is financed from a combination of cash, additional issues of ordinary equity shares and other financing arrangements.

### **Foreign currency risk**

Although the Company is incorporated in Ireland, the Group has operations in UK, none of which presently generate cash from operations. The functional currencies of the majority of the Group's operations are Euro. However, the expenditure is not considered to be a monetary asset, and has been translated to the functional currency at the rates of exchange ruling at the dates of the original transactions. The Group also has transactional currency exposures. Such exposures arise from expenses incurred by the Group in currencies other than the functional currency.

The Group seeks to minimise its exposure to currency risk by closely monitoring exchange rates. The Group does not presently utilise swaps or forward contracts to manage its currency exposures, although such facilities may be used where appropriate in the future.

During 2021, all accounts in currencies other than the Euro were closed. Accordingly, there is no foreign exchange impact on the assets and liabilities held at the end of the year.

### **Credit risk**

With respect to credit risk arising from financial assets of the Group, which comprise of cash and cash equivalents, cash deposits give rise to credit risks on the amounts due from counter parties. The Company controls and monitors the distribution of this exposure by ensuring that all financial instruments are held with reputable and financially secure institutions and that exposure to credit risk is distributed across a number of institutions. At 31 December 2023 all cash, short term deposits had a maturity date of 30 days or less. Credit risk is actively managed across the portfolio of institutions by ensuring that material surplus funds are placed with counter parties that are either covered by Government guarantee schemes or have a credit rating of at least BBB-.

## DIRECTORS PROFILES

**John F. Kearney, Chairman** <sup>(4)</sup>, is a mining executive with over 50 years of experience in the mining industry. He is currently Chairman of Buchans Resources Limited, Labrador Iron Mines Holdings Limited, and Canadian Manganese Company Inc. He was formerly Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Northgate Exploration Limited, Canadian Zinc Corporation and former Chairman of Minco PLC and Scandinavian Minerals Limited. Previously a director of Irish Base Metals Limited, Gortdrum Mines Ireland Limited and Ennex International PLC. He holds degrees in law and economics from the University College Dublin and a Masters in Business Administration from Trinity College Dublin.

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**Peter McParland, Chief Executive Officer** <sup>(4)</sup>, is the founder and Managing Director of Quarry and Mining Equipment (QME), with over 40 years of experience in the mining industry. QME is an International Mining Contractor providing underground contracting services to Boliden, Lundin, Dalradian, among others, and is also a global equipment supplier of both new, and reconditioned, mining and tunnelling equipment. He is a Director of Buchans Resources Limited and several private companies, both in the mining and medical and health care fields. He was previously a Director of Minco PLC.

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**Danesh K. Varma, Finance Director**, is a Chartered Professional Accountant with over 40 years of experience in the mining finance industry, having been a director of American Resource Company, Northgate Exploration Ltd. and Westfield Minerals Ltd. He is a director of Buchans Resources Limited, Labrador Iron Mines Holdings Limited, and Brookfield Investment Corp. He was previously Finance Director of Minco PLC.

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**John Clifford, Director – Exploration** <sup>(3)</sup>, is a mining professional with over 50 years of experience in over 40 countries around the world. From 2008 to 2018 he managed the northern hemisphere copper exploration projects of Antofagasta Minerals SA, a major Chilean mining company. Previously, he was technical advisor for Andean Resources in Argentina and Exploration Manager for Equatorial Mining Ltd. in South America. Earlier in his career he was Exploration Manager – Europe for Ennex International and was a contributor to the discovery of the Curraghinalt gold deposit in Northern Ireland and the Cononish gold deposit in Scotland. He holds a M. Sc. in mineral exploration from London University, a diploma in mineral exploration from the Royal School of Mines, Imperial College, London and a B.Sc in Geology from University College Cork. He is a member of the Irish Association for Economic Geology, a Senior Fellow of the Society of Economic Geology, and holds his P.Geol from the Institute of Geologists of Ireland and EurGeol from the European Federation of Geologists. He is Chairman of the Technical Committee.

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**Patrick D. Downey, Director** <sup>(1)(2)</sup>, is a Canadian Chartered Professional Accountant and an Institute of Corporate Directors Certified Director with over 40 years of experience in the mining industry. He has been a director, CEO and CFO of Toronto Stock Exchange and New York Stock Exchange listed companies, including Northgate Minerals Corp. He is currently a Director of Buchans Resources Limited and was previously a Director of Minco PLC. He is Chairman of the Audit Committee.

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**Garth Earls, Director** <sup>(3)</sup>, is a Consulting Economic Geologist and Professor in the Department of Geology, University College Cork. He is currently a Director of Conroy Gold and Natural Resources and was previously a Director of Dalradian Gold. He is a former Director of the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland and former Chairman of the Geosciences Committee of the Royal Irish Academy and is currently Vice-Chair of National Museums Northern Ireland and Executive Chairman of International Geoscience Services. He is a Fellow of the Society of Economic Geology, and holds his P.Geol from the Institute of Geologists of Ireland and EurGeol from the European Federation of Geologists. In the 1980s he was part of the Ennex team that discovered the Curraghinalt gold deposit in Northern Ireland. He is a member of the Technical Committee.

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**Terence N. McKillen, Director** <sup>(3)</sup>, is a retired professional geologist with over 50 years of experience in the mining industry. He holds degrees in geology from the University of Dublin (Trinity College) and the University of Leicester. He is a lifetime honorary member of the Association of Professional Geoscientist of Ontario. Mr. McKillen is a director of Buchans Resources Limited and Conquest Resources Limited. He was Chief Executive of Minco PLC from 2007 until April 2013, leading the Minco technical team involved in the discovery of the Pallas Green zinc-lead deposit in Co. Limerick, Ireland. Mr. McKillen previously was Vice President Exploration for Northgate Exploration Limited and Westfield Minerals Limited, having started his career in Ireland as a geologist with Irish Base Metals Limited. He is a member of the Technical Committee.

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**Michael Power, Director** <sup>(1)(2)</sup>, is a Chartered Financial Analyst and also a Professional Engineer registered in Ontario with over 50 years of experience in the mining industry in Canada and worldwide. Mr. Power is a director of Buchans Resources Limited, Canterra Minerals Corporation, Highrock Resources Ltd., and Minerex Drilling Contractors Limited. He was formerly Vice-President and Secretary of Moydow Mines International Inc., Vice-President of Corporate Development at Hemlo Gold Mines Ltd. and Noranda Mines. He is a member of the Audit Committee, and Chairman of the Remuneration Committee.

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(1) – Member of the Audit Committee

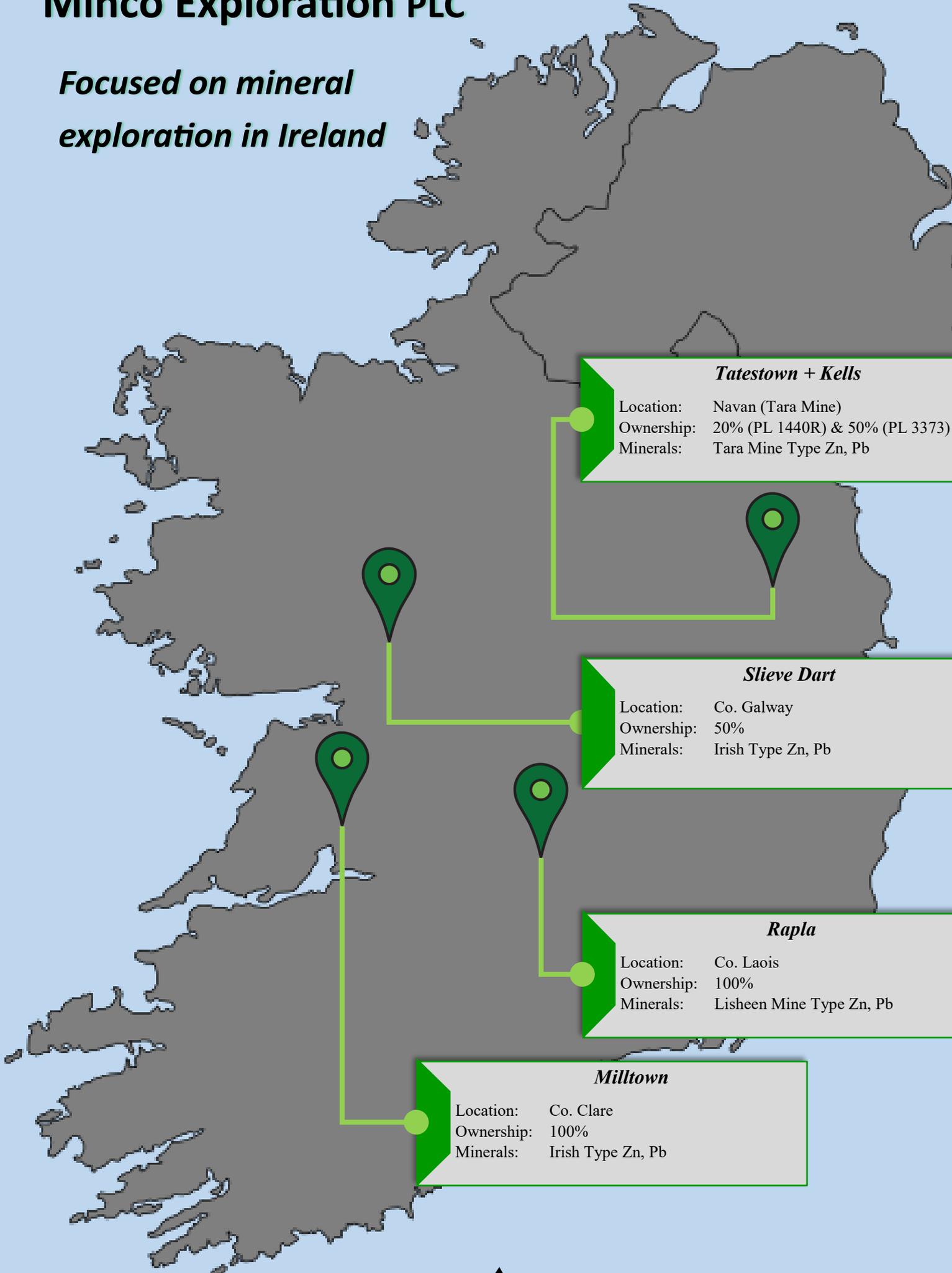
(3) – Member of the Technical Committee

(2) – Member of the Remuneration Committee

(4) – Member of the Nomination Committee

# Minco Exploration PLC

*Focused on mineral exploration in Ireland*



## ***Tatestown + Kells***

Location: Navan (Tara Mine)  
Ownership: 20% (PL 1440R) & 50% (PL 3373)  
Minerals: Tara Mine Type Zn, Pb

## ***Slieve Dart***

Location: Co. Galway  
Ownership: 50%  
Minerals: Irish Type Zn, Pb

## ***Rapla***

Location: Co. Laois  
Ownership: 100%  
Minerals: Lisheen Mine Type Zn, Pb

## ***Milltown***

Location: Co. Clare  
Ownership: 100%  
Minerals: Irish Type Zn, Pb

# Minco Exploration PLC

## Company Information

### MAIN OFFICE

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C15 KXY3, Ireland

### LONDON OFFICE

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### REGISTRAR

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