



## **Irish Fund Directors Association**

### **Update to Members of IFDA Council Activities for Quarter 2, 2020**

#### **Enhanced Governance and Oversight & Contingency Models**

Dear Members,

This is the second quarterly Council update to the IFDA membership in 2020. We continue to work through, what can be reasonably observed as, the initial COVID 19 period. There have been some positive signs of 'normality' returning to both the capital markets and societal norms. Unfortunately, we have to temper any presumption of a 'return to normal' with the real knowledge that the virus threat remains significant and a second wave is largely expected.

The messaging from our recent meeting with the CBI pointed to an extended period of market disruption and the economic modelling indicates a marked recession is expected. The role of the INED in this new era of dislocation and disruption is significant. There are real challenges emerging around property funds, illiquid assets and credit portfolios. The advocacy of the CBI to prioritise the INED engagement on themes covering liquidity, contingency, performance, leverage, risk and cyber security will be retained as a standard framework for INED assessment going forward.

We independent fund directors have a valuable contribution to make and the IFDA is a valuable network to offer support and assistance to our members over the next phases of the market disruption. In the meantime, the Council extends our best wishes to our members and their families and hope that you all stay well in these trying times.

It goes without saying, that there is still important work to address at Council and it has been a busy Qtr. 2 for the Association. As previously noted we have continued to pursue positive engagement with industry stakeholders in particular with the CBI on CP 130, Time Commitments and the Authorisation Process, Irish Funds and our colleagues at Duff & Phelps, PWC, BONYM and KMPG in supporting their several on line forums and webinar sessions.

#### **AGM and Annual CRO Filing.**

As you will know the IFDA is a registered company limited by guarantee. There are copies of the 2017 CRO filing of our Memo & Arts available on the IFDA website.

The AGM for the IFDA was held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Financial Statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 were presented and approved. The annual B1 filing was completed in June 2020.

### **Time Commitment Working Group and Survey.**

In response to several lines of inquiry from members regarding the time commitment assessment which is part of the 'Fitness & Probity' process at the CBI, we established a working group to collect your feedback on this matter. A survey document was shared with the members in June and we would ask you to please complete the survey. Your feedback data will allow the IFDA to assess where greater clarification may be needed in the management INED time commitments going forward. Everyone who completes and returns the survey questionnaire will be invited to attend a special briefing where the detailed aggregated results will be presented in anonymised form with insights.

### **The IFDA Memo and Articles of Association.**

As mentioned above the 2017 CRO version of our Memo & Arts is available for your review. The Council is currently undertaking a review to update these documents to ensure that they fully reflect the needs of the Association going forward. There are a number of suggested amendments that will be presented to you for your review and approval in the near future.

Your support and response to this initiative would be much appreciated.

### **Associate Members.**

We presented the Associated Membership initiative earlier in the year. This category of new IFDA member (subject to an initial limit of 30 members) is open to potential INED's or persons thinking of becoming INED members of IFDA, who have already served or are currently serving in a Central Bank of Ireland Pre Approval Controlled Function (PCF1 - PCF48 incl.) senior regulated role currently.

Council has identified this new membership option as being an important step to encourage and engage next generation INEDs. We believe this initiative will contribute to the growth and diversity of the membership and help develop the IFDA goals into the future.

We would like to ask for your support in recommending at least one potential Associate Member colleague that you think could be interested in obtaining associate membership of IFDA and benefiting from the IFDA offering. Please email your new Associate Member recommendations / suggestions to the [Secretary@ifdassoc.ie](mailto:Secretary@ifdassoc.ie) ideally no later than 5pm on July 17<sup>th</sup> 2020.

### **The 2020 IFDA Council Elections & Next Steps.**

As you will know, the current council is nearing the end of its two year term. Subject to the amendments to the Memo & Arts noted above, there will be a formal election process to form the next IFDA Council for the term 2021- 2022.

If you would like to put your name forward to be included in the election process in November, the IFDA Council Elections & Nomination Committee invite you to register your interest in writing to the IFDA Secretary E-mail address on / before end September 2020. Further reminders will issue prior to the closing date.

### **Culture and Diversity Committee.**

The IFDA C&D Committee has continued its excellent work in engaging across our industry to advocate diversity as a key development to better and more effective ethical models and governance standards.

During the period a diversity survey was carried out and feedback shared with participant members. The recent 'Thought Leadership' Webinar in conjunction with KPMG was very well received and our sincere thanks to our industry colleagues in KPMG for their support in hosting the event. The annual review of IFDA's Diversity Policy has been undertaken, which includes an updated focus on diversity and inclusion. The policy will be uploaded to the website shortly. The Committee welcomed two new members during the period, Bernard Hanratty and Kieran Walsh.

### **Membership Update and Subscription Fees.**

Our current membership cohort stands at 150 members. The efforts made to move the diversity dial has proved very encouraging. The IFDA now has 34 female directors as registered members and associate members.

The 2020 annual subscriptions were issued in Qtr1. If you have yet to complete the payment process online, can we ask you to address this as soon as is practicable please?

### **Members Meetings**

We started 2020 with a members meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, in the St. Stephens Green Club.

The January meeting also offered Council an opportunity to frame our strategy for 2020. The presentation to the members noted the following areas of focus.

- Continue to focus on the Four Pillars
- Hold a minimum of four members meetings this year.
- Focus on membership benefits
- Focus on social media facilities (use and benefits).
- Expanding the membership base
- Build relationships with similar international groups.
- Hold the 2020 Council Elections later in the year.

This followed up with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Members meeting at the St. Stephens Green Club in March 2020, where Irish Funds and Pat Lardner met with and discussed his Association's mission and objectives with our IFDA Membership.

We have to note that the public health restrictions imposed in late March have resulted in the IFDA having to curtail our plans to hold members meeting for the next several weeks/months. The Council will seek to continually engage with the members by sharing invites to industry forums, provide updates on current and emerging discussions with the CBI and share industry papers to support awareness on the key topics noted above. We hope you have found the invites and papers shared in

the period to be of use. Do let us know if there are particular themes or topic that you would like us to develop and source for you.

**basis.point Award.**

The IFDA continues to support the excellent Funds charity work at basis.point. During the period we made a special donation on your behalf which has been warmly recognised by basis.point, please see the attached note of thanks.

To conclude, please do stay well and enjoy the summer.

Kind Regards

**IFDA Council.**

**9<sup>th</sup> July 2020**