



Industry Professionals serving as non-executive directors to Alternative Funds



Hats off to Mason Hayes and Curran for sponsoring the Plain English Awards in Dublin. The National Adult Literacy Agency in Dublin describes plain English as “a style of presenting information that helps you understand it the first time you read or see it. Plain English gives us information in a language we can understand and helps us to make informed choices.”

Clearly, the author of a recent report on the Alternative Funds Industry (issued recently by a large and high profile firm) was keen to ensure that his/her readers needed to peruse the report several times. Or perhaps payment was by the word.

WHO let this sentence out?

“Talent profiles at asset managers continue to rapidly change as managers seek individuals with more diverse skill sets and backgrounds to help them transition forward with several of the priorities being driven by product proliferation as well as implementation of new technology throughout the organization”.

Or you could say: “Asset managers are constantly seeking to recruit skilled staff in order to keep up with new products and technology developments”. But that’s a bit dull.

The one thing the author did get right is “diverse skill sets”. In a world where we hear a great deal about board diversity, the real point often gets lost. What a board needs is diversity of expertise, experience and approach and not necessarily simply an exercise of gender/race balance (not that these are not good things, but should be secondary to the main objective). For example, a board composed of 2 male and 2 female accountants would not meet diversification requirements. But a male risk manager, a male IT expert and a male marketing consultant could well do so.

At IPAF we have 17 people on our panel, every one of whom has relevant and hands-on industry experience and every one different. Investment experience, risk management, ex-COOs, compliance and legal, marketing...we cover the spectrum.

We are also able to explain this clearly and simply in plain English, so you will always know what IPAF is offering.

Caroline and Stella
Directors, IPAF Group
www.ipafgroup.com

About IPAF

IPAF provides Industry Professionals – independent, knowledgeable and experienced people - as non-executive directors to Alternative Funds. IPAF is run from London with a panel of 17 directors across 7 jurisdictions: Cayman, Luxembourg, Ireland, Switzerland, the Channel Islands, Malta, and the UK. All the IPAF directors are independent of each other and no additional fee is charged by IPAF to a fund that selects a member of its panel: the fund only pays the director's fees. For more information please email info@ipafgroup.com.