

# Financial reporting for investment funds

# Financial Accounting and Advisory Services (FAAS)

As investors, regulators and markets around the globe demand greater transparency in annual reporting through additional and more comprehensive disclosures, the annual reporting process has become more challenging and complex. At Grant Thornton, our FAAS department has a dedicated fund reporting team to assist and support all aspects of the annual reporting process and help you deal with the challenges encountered along the way.

# Challenges in a global reporting environment

In order to produce the high quality financial statements demanded from end-users around the globe, it is becoming vital that financial statements are treated as a fundamental activity, not supplemental to day-to-day fund accounting. Some of the difficulties and key issues faced are:

- different reporting and regulatory requirements in various jurisdictions that require knowledge of different accounting frameworks;
- tight timetables and spikes in workloads that stretch existing resources;
- need for continuous improvement and increased quality product; and
- coordination and communication with investment management firms, auditors and fund administrators.

## Our solutions

At Grant Thornton our dedicated fund reporting team provide quality services with experience in preparing and reviewing financial statements under multiple accounting frameworks and for multiple filing jurisdictions. As a result the company can benefit from a highly skilled team who have produced and reviewed financial statements for top ten global fund managers through long-term relationships with leading global fund administrators. We have expertise in hedge, mutual, private equity and UCITS funds. We also have the ability to tailor the level of support based on client needs, from fully outsourced and project managed service to quality control reviews of financial statements prepared in-house, utilising our automated accounts production and workflow management tools. To support existing financial reporting teams we offer other solutions such as:

- short-term staffing to alleviate pressure during busy times of the year;
- support for regulatory reporting;
- new client take-on and developing templates or improving and testing existing ones;
- support for transitioning to fully or part automated financial reporting solutions; and
- assistance on technical queries related to implementation of new standards and GAAP conversions.

### Benefits

With the assistance and support of our expert team, with emphasis on industry best practice, the following benefits can be expected:



#### Increase:

- quality control;
- client satisfaction;
- standardisation;
- efficiency in the
- production cycle;
  - cost saving; and
- first class communication protocol.



#### Decrease:

- multiple draft versions produced;
- amount of queries from clients;
- pressure on existing in-house resources; and
- inconsistency and volatility.

# Outsourced financial reporting process - high level overview of the key steps

Ongoing communication and coordination			
Pre-year end	Financial statement preparation	> Reviews	Completion and issuance
planning and timetables, dry-runs; pro-forma financial statements; ongoing preparation of note disclosures to ensure accurate data in advance of the production cycle; enhancement of templates and workbooks to drive efficiency during the production cycle; and interim financial reporting requirements.	<ul> <li>requesting information;</li> <li>compiling core statements;</li> <li>note disclosure workings (dependent upon accounting framework); and</li> <li>liaising with fund managers and auditors regarding queries.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>first and second level reviews in line with client policies;</li> <li>best practice check lists;</li> <li>limiting the number of drafts by ensuring excellent quality on draft one; and</li> <li>updating financial statements based on auditor and fund manager comments.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>board of directors' comments;</li> <li>meeting regulatory filing deadlines; and</li> <li>continuous improvement through gathering feedback from all parties involved in the productio cycle.</li> </ul>

### Contact

Key local management contacts with deep financial reporting expertise.



**Tony Thornbury** Global Account Leader T +353 (0)1 680 5613 E tony.thornbury@ie.gt.com



Fergus Condon Partner, Financial Accounting and Advisory Services T +353 (0)1 680 5610 E fergus.condon@ie.gt.com



**Shona O'Hea** Partner, Financial Accounting and Advisory Services T +353 (0)1 680 5725 E shona.ohea@ie.gt.com

# Offices in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Galway, Kildare, Limerick and Longford.



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