

# QUARTERLY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

APRIL TO JUNE 2015



## Local Authority Pension Fund Forum

The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) exists to promote the investment interests of member funds, and to maximise their influence as shareholders whilst promoting social responsibility and corporate governance at companies in which they invest. Formed in 1990, LAPFF brings together a diverse range of local authority pension funds in the UK with combined assets of over £165 billion.

# ACHIEVEMENTS

- Shareholder resolutions on strategic resilience to the **BP** and **Shell** AGMs achieved unprecedented levels of support, with votes in favour of over 98% at BP and nearly 99% at Shell. The success of these resolutions reflects the positive nature of the collaborative 'Aiming for A' group but also LAPFF's own long-term engagement with the companies culminating in twelve funds co-filing and 31 funds pre-declaring support for the resolutions. The resolutions included a request for an assessment of the companies' asset portfolio resilience against the range of IEA scenarios, which includes remaining within 2°C limits, and the role exploration, disposals and cash distributions to investors will play in the nearer term.



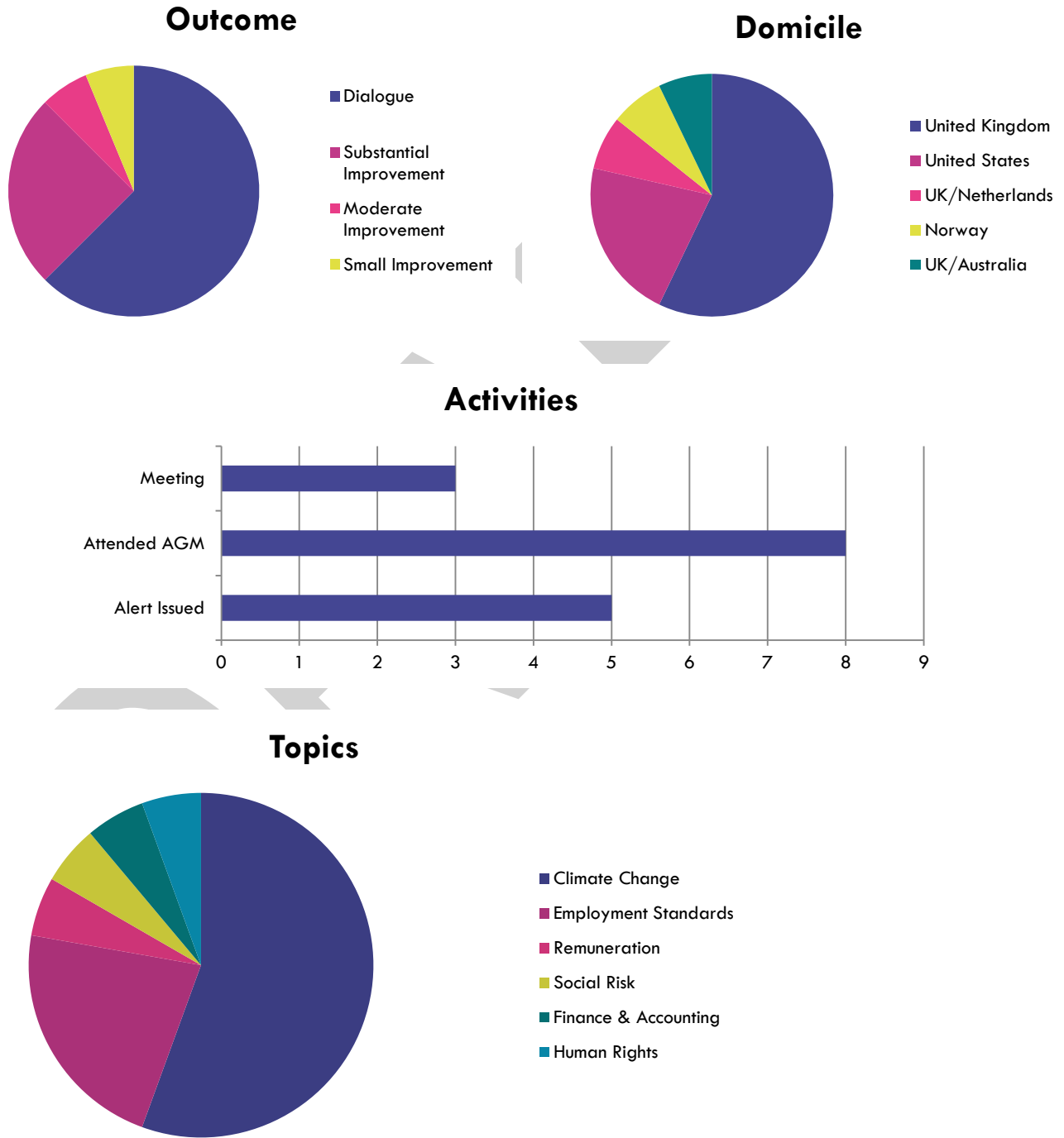
- A voting alert was issued for a similar resolution to the **Statoil** AGM, which received a correspondingly high level of support. LAPFF continued to highlight these issues with a related voting alert on cash distributions to investors for the **Chevron** AGM, on demand management strategy at **Anadarko** and supporting carbon emission targets at **ExxonMobil**.
- A meeting with the chairman of **Barclays** followed LAPFF's publicly expressed dissatisfaction with Sir John Sunderland presiding over a full year as remuneration committee chairman. The LAPFF chair also raised concerns with the accounts due to the accounting standards being applied.
- A number of LAPFF funds co-filed a shareholder resolution to the **National Express** AGM, requesting an independent assessment of labour relations at the Company's US subsidiary, Durham School Services. Cllr Greening of the LAPFF executive spoke to the motion and almost a quarter of independent shareholders failed to back National Express over labour rights at the AGM, the highest level of support for a shareholder resolution on employee rights.
- LAPFF representatives attended and proposed motions or addressed the board at eight AGMs during the quarter. These included **Rio Tinto**, where Cllr Greening raised tax transparency and carbon management; **British American Tobacco**, where health objectives linked to executive incentives were raised; **Carillion** and **Balfour Beatty**, where blacklisting and labour supply chain issues were raised and **Next** on supply chain standards in Bangladesh.



# ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

**APRIL TO JUNE 2015**

The Forum engaged with **14 companies** over the period



# COMPANY ENGAGEMENT

## LEADERSHIP ON KEY CAMPAIGNS

Attendance at a range of AGMs enabled LAPFF to address boards directly, supporting progress where relevant and highlighting areas of concern to member funds. The **Rio Tinto** AGM was a case in point, where Cllr Greening congratulated the Company on its tax transparency, asked the board to consider replacing the auditors before 2020, and to re-double efforts to seek solutions to the human rights issues raised in local communities. On carbon management, the company was pressed on how it will manage the transition from the use of coal to gas. The response from the chair, Jan du Plessis, was that there should be a greater focus on energy use and efficiency and the development of renewable energy.

## PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

### Executive Pay

LAPFF Chairman Cllr Kieran Quinn met with **Barclays** Chairman, Sir David Walker, and the company secretary, Laurence Dickinson. The meeting was requested by LAPFF following the press coverage expressing LAPFF's dissatisfaction with the fact that Sir John Sunderland had presided over another full year as remuneration committee chairman at Barclays. The week before the 2014 AGM, Barclays had indicated that Sir John was to be replaced as remuneration committee chairman by Crawford Gillies. The timing of this announcement coincided with a likely high level of dissent for the AGM against the 2014 remuneration committee report, i.e. the announcement was taken as the quid pro quo for some investors not voting down remuneration, or opposing Sir John's re-election. LAPFF generated a number of press pieces on this topic and issued a voting alert ahead of the 2015 Barclays AGM to ensure shareholders were aware of this concern. Subsequently, Sir John has left the Barclays Board.



## MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

### Energy and Environmental Risk

LAPFF's own engagement, and collaboratively with 'Aiming for A' partners, achieved an unprecedented number of global institutional co-filers, board support and high level of vote turnout for the strategic resilience shareholder resolutions to the **BP** and **Shell** AGMs. These resolutions included a request for an assessment of the companies' asset portfolio resilience against the range of IEA scenarios (which include the 2°C scenario) and the role exploration, disposals and cash distributions to investors will play in the nearer term.



The Forum also supported a shareholder resolution to **Chevron** requesting that the board adopt a dividend policy increasing the amount authorised for distribution to shareholders in light of the growing potential for stranded assets and decreasing profitability associated with capital expenditures on high cost projects. A voting alert on a shareholder resolution to the **Anadarko** general meeting supported a request for the company to address the risk of stranded assets and demand reductions for oil and gas, including analysis of long and short term financial and operational risks to the company.

In the run up to the much anticipated climate change treaty discussions in Paris in December, LAPFF has co-signed a global investor letter aiming to promote a meaningful climate change agreement at the next Conference of Parties (COP). The letter, addressed to Finance Ministers, asked for two key components for agreement in Paris: a long-term global emissions reduction goal; and submission of short to medium-term emissions pledges and country level action plans. The ultimate goal is to create policy incentives to invest in low-carbon and climate-resilient activities to prevent an average global temperature increase above 2°C.

Building on LAPFF's 2014 work as part of a coalition that encouraged palm oil providers to improve the traceability of their palm oil to prevent deforestation and inappropriate exploitation of land, the Forum co-signed a letter pressing the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) to adopt more stringent standards on palm oil production. The letter, organised by the New York State Common Retirement Fund and Green Century Capital Management, urges the RSPO to align the standards it sets for sustainable palm oil production with the industry expectations and best practices for sustainable sourcing.

## TARGETING SOCIAL ISSUES

### Employment Standards and Practices

Employment standards and human rights have figured prominently at many of the AGMs attended by LAPFF representatives. The labour standards resolution filed at the **National Express** AGM by LAPFF funds and other investors, representing around 2% of share ownership, drew attention to questions over on-going allegations of poor behaviour in Durham School Services. The proposal requested an independent review in order to best resolve these questions. LAPFF issued a voting alert outlining concerns, and Cllr Greening represented the three LAPFF co-filing funds at the AGM. The resulting vote, where nearly one quarter of the free-float voted in favour or abstained, may make this the highest vote for a labour rights shareholder resolution to a UK company.





Other AGM attendance included Cllr Richard Greening asking about blacklisting and labour standards in supply chains at the **Balfour Beatty** AGM. Leanne Clements asked about the same issues at the **Carillion** AGM and LAPFF executive member Jane Firth asked about second and third-tier supplier risks under the Bangladesh Accord at the **Next** AGM. This representation has boosted awareness of LAPFF with the companies in question and with other shareholders who attend, and is helpful in securing meetings with board members.

## Social and Reputational Risks

LAPFF members have a significant level of holdings in European pharmaceutical companies, and one issue that has come up in company dialogue is transparency of companies' clinical trials. To support this engagement, the Forum has signed on to an investor Clinical Trial Transparency Initiative, led by BNP Paribas Investment Partners and Broadwaters Advisory Services. The Initiative includes an Investor Statement that highlights the importance of clinical trials in determining the effectiveness and safety of drugs that come to market and a request that companies publish complete and accurate information on trial results so that investors can make fully informed decisions.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

### **BP and Shell strategic resilience resolutions**

[BBC World Service](#), [Professional Pensions](#), [Investment & Pensions Europe](#), [The Local \(Norway\)](#), [Lexology](#), [Forbes](#), [Blue & Green Tomorrow](#), [Local Government Chronicle](#)

### **National Express 'Independent Review' resolution**

[Satellite PR News](#), [PR Newswire](#)

### **LAPFF G20 tax transparency**

[Investors Chronicle](#), [Financial Times](#)

## NETWORKS & EVENTS

**Shell SRI Day** – investor briefing on Shell's SRI activities and opportunities to question board and senior management on carbon management, Arctic and Nigeria.

**Rio Tinto Pre-AGM meeting** – held the day before Rio Tinto's AGM by IndustriALL to brief investors on Rio Tinto's employment practices

**National Express Pre-AGM** - held the day before National Express' AGM by UNITE, ITF and Teamsters to brief investors on National Express' employment practices.

**Call with ITF** - regarding Chevron and the Company's Gorgon project in Australia.

## COMPANY PROGRESS REPORT (companies not previously engaged with on an individual basis noted in bold)

Company	Topics	Activity/Outcome	Domicile
<b>Anadarko</b>	Carbon Management	Voting Alert/Dialogue	US
Balfour Beatty	Employment Standards	AGM/Dialogue	UK
Barclays	Executive Pay	Meeting/Small Improvement	UK
BP	Carbon Management	AGM/Substantial Improvement	UK
British American Tobacco	Social Risk	AGM/Dialogue	UK
Carillion	Employment Standards	AGM/Dialogue	UK
Chevron	Carbon Management	Voting Alert/Dialogue	US
ExxonMobil	Carbon Management	Voting Alert/Dialogue	US
Glencore	Carbon Management	Meeting/Dialogue	UK
National Express	Employment Standards	AGM/Dialogue	UK
Next	Employment Standards	AGM/Dialogue	UK
Rio Tinto	Carbon Management	AGM/Dialogue	UK/Australia
Royal Dutch Shell	Carbon Management	Meeting - AGM/Substantial Improvement	UK/Netherlands
<b>Statoil</b>	Carbon Management	Voting Alert/Substantial Improvement	Norway

## Local Authority Pension Fund Forum Members

Avon Pension Fund  
Barking and Dagenham LB  
Bedfordshire Pension Fund  
Camden LB  
Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Pension Fund  
Cheshire Pension Fund  
City of London Corporation  
Clwyd Pension Fund  
Croydon LB  
Cumbria Pension Scheme  
Derbyshire CC  
Devon CC  
Dorset County Pension Fund  
Dyfed Pension Fund  
Ealing LB  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council  
East Sussex Pension Fund  
Enfield  
Falkirk Council  
Greater Gwent Fund  
Greater Manchester Pension Fund  
Greenwich Pension Fund  
Gwynedd Pension Fund  
Hackney LB  
Haringey LB  
Harrow LB  
Hounslow LB  
Islington LB  
Lancashire County Pension Fund  
Lambeth LB  
Lewisham LB

Lincolnshire CC  
London Pension Fund Authority  
Lothian Pension Fund  
Merseyside Pension Fund  
Newham LB  
Norfolk Pension Fund  
North East Scotland Pension Fund  
North Yorkshire CC Pension Fund  
Northamptonshire CC  
NILGOSC  
Nottinghamshire CC  
Powys County Council Pension Fund  
Rhondda Cynon Taf  
Shropshire Council  
Somerset CC  
Sheffield City Region Combined Authority  
South Yorkshire Pensions Authority  
Southwark LB  
Staffordshire Pension Fund  
Strathclyde Pension Fund  
Suffolk County Council Pension Fund  
Surrey CC  
Teesside Pension Fund  
Tower Hamlets LB  
Tyne and Wear Pension Fund  
Waltham Forest LB  
Warwickshire Pension Fund  
West Midlands ITA Pension Fund  
West Midlands Pension Fund  
West Yorkshire Pension Fund  
Wiltshire CC  
Worcestershire CC

Report prepared by PIRC Ltd. for LAPFF, [www.lapfforum.org](http://www.lapfforum.org).