



**Quarterly
Engagement
Report**

April-June
2022



**Climate Voting
Alerts, Banking,
Electric Vehicles,
Mining, Jet Zero,
Sainsbury's**

HUMAN RIGHTS



Bento Rodrigues district which was covered with mud after a dam owned by Vale SA and BHP burst in Mariana, Brazil

New LAPFF climate and human rights initiatives

Objective: LAPFF announced two major initiatives this quarter, one related to climate change and one related to human rights. The climate change initiative is linked to LAPFF's work on 'Say on Climate'. LAPFF aims to issue up to 50 voting alerts to members on company climate plans over the course of the next twelve months. The goal of this initiative is to drive home the importance of ensuring investors weigh in meaningfully on corporate climate strategies and initiatives.

The human rights initiative is a visit by LAPFF Chair, Cllr Doug McMurdo, to communities affected by the Mariana and Brumadinho tailings dam collapses in Minas Gerais, Brazil. LAPFF announced

this visit a couple of years ago, but it was postponed by Covid.

Achieved: LAPFF has already issued a number of climate-related voting alerts. While LAPFF is pleased to see an increasing number of company resolutions seeking investor support for corporate climate plans, the goal is not to rubber stamp these plans. The resolutions will be assessed on their merits, not merely on the basis that plans have been put to a vote.

LAPFF has recommended votes in favour of shareholder resolutions, at **Caterpillar**, **Monster Beverages**, **J-Power**, **Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group** and **Dollar Tree Inc**. The recom-

mendations supported disclosure of interim and long-term greenhouse gas (GHG) targets aligned with the Paris Agreement's aim to keep the global temperature rise to 1.5°C, company reporting on plans to reduce GHG emissions and annual reporting on progress.

In relation to Brazil, the urgency of LAPFF's visit is driven home by the findings of a major [report on mining and human rights](#) issued by LAPFF at the beginning of the quarter. This report covers concerns that there has not been nearly enough progress on housing reparations, among other issues, following the Mariana tailings dam collapse.

The report covers more than the Brazilian tailings dam collapses. It also covers

MINING

mining impacts by Anglo American, BHP, Glencore, Rio Tinto, and Vale in Australia, Colombia, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar, Mongolia, and the US. This report has been issued alongside a new human rights strategy for LAPFF that is focused on ensuring corporate impacts that lead to improved human rights outcomes.

In Progress: Both the climate and human rights initiatives are means for LAPFF to escalate its engagement in areas deemed highly important by LAPFF members. The ‘Say on Climate’ initiative will be assessed for its role in encouraging companies to take climate measures in line with the Paris Agreement. The trip to Brazil will be assessed for its role in speeding up reparations for affected communities.

Vale

Objective: LAPFF Chair, Cllr McMurdo, was able to meet with Vale Chair, José Penido, in person when he came to London in early April as part of his investor road show. The objective of the meeting was to discuss further what Vale could do to improve its response to the Mariana tailings dam collapse and to discuss LAPFF’s visit to Brazil.

Achieved: Mr Penido was very open to LAPFF’s input, discussing with Cllr McMurdo his time at Samarco – operator of the dam that collapsed at Mariana – prior to the dam collapse. LAPFF also conveyed a concern that Vale’s investor presentations focus too heavily on technical aspects of the company’s response to tailings dam safety.

While these aspects are important, LAPFF is keen to see evidence that Vale is also consulting affected communities effectively as an additional early warning measure, and to ensure that community needs are being met. For example, although Vale has stated that it has erected additional safety walls at high-risk dams, affected communities have conveyed to LAPFF that these walls would trap them in if there were to be a dam collapse at any of these sites. It is therefore critical that the company and communities have good communication to ensure adequate and appropriate safety measures are taken.

In Progress: LAPFF will meet with Mr

Penido and other Vale staff, as well as affected community members, during the visit to Brazil to understand better the obstacles to progress. Afterwards, a further assessment will be made about how to progress in a more effective manner.

Rio Tinto

Objective: For the first time in two years, Rio Tinto was able to hold its AGM in person, while also making provisions for investors to attend online. LAPFF Chair, Cllr Doug McMurdo, attended in person, both to ask a question and to speak with Rio Tinto representatives.

Achieved: Cllr McMurdo asked whether Rio Tinto would be willing to review its processes for undertaking social and environmental impact assessments. This question stemmed from a concern in the LAPFF mining and human rights report that Rio Tinto’s current processes of this nature are missing major environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks. Cllr McMurdo then had follow-up conversations with Rio Tinto CEO, Jakob Stausholm, the incoming Chair, Dominic Barton, and outgoing Chair, Simon Thompson.

This concern about impact assessments surfaced in part from LAPFF’s conversations with affected community groups, two of which LAPFF met at the AGM. Cllr McMurdo met with Yvonne Orenge of the Andrew Lees Trust, which advocates for communities affected by Rio Tinto’s QMM mine in Madagascar. He also met with Roger Featherstone and Henry C Munoz, of the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition, who are concerned about the impact of Rio Tinto and BHP’s joint venture, Resolution Copper, on surrounding Indigenous and settled communities.

Later in the quarter, Cllr McMurdo met Rio Tinto executives at an investor event in London. Among other topics discussed were block cave mining and the financial materiality of social and environmental impacts by companies.

In Progress: Rio Tinto extended further invitations for engagement to Cllr McMurdo and LAPFF, and LAPFF will seek to discuss the topic of impact assessments further with company representatives at the highest level of decision-making.

Mining Voting Alerts

Objective: Each year, LAPFF issues a select number of voting alerts for companies where it is deemed necessary to escalate an engagement or highlight a particular problem with ESG practices. One problem in this is that companies, by and large, are not putting their climate plans to a vote every year. They are merely putting their disclosure on progress to a vote. It is LAPFF’s view that the scale of the climate crisis is such that there should be annual votes on company plans and strategies to reflect the rapidly hardening scientific position and narrowing window for effective action in this area.

Achieved: Amongst the global miners, LAPFF alerts for Rio Tinto, Vale, and Glencore have been issued to date.

In relation to Rio Tinto, LAPFF recommended a vote against the annual report and accounts on three grounds. First, there was concern that a fair and just transition was not adequately addressed. Second, LAPFF found the company’s description of the risks related to its Resolution Copper joint venture project with BHP in Arizona deficient. Third, it was not clear to LAPFF that the company’s auditors had accounted for climate-related financial risks. LAPFF also recommended a vote to oppose Rio Tinto’s climate plan. While the company’s plan is better than its past plans and those of a number of its competitors, there remain many concerns about its real-world impacts.

In relation to Glencore, LAPFF opposed the annual report and the company’s climate progress report. LAPFF has engaged with Glencore for nearly five years on the company’s internal controls, requesting an independent assessment in response to a range of bribery and corruption charges the company has been facing around the world. In reviewing company developments presented in the annual report, LAPFF was dismayed to see what appeared to be a superficial and insular approach to the topic. Therefore, a recommendation to oppose the annual report and accounts was issued. This recommendation was followed a few

COMPANY ENGAGEMENT

weeks later by Glencore pleading guilty to bribery charges under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, along with paying over \$1.1 billion in fines. The company pleaded guilty to corruption charges in the UK later in the quarter. LAPFF also issued a recommendation to oppose the company's climate progress plan, in part because it appears to rely too heavily on unproven technologies such as direct air capture and carbon capture and storage, as well as too little focus on Scope 3 emissions.

For Vale, LAPFF recommended votes to oppose the chairs of the sustainability committee and the people, compensation and governance committee. These recommendations were based on the continued slow response to reparations after the Mariana tailings dam collapse in 2015. Through research for the LAPFF mining and human rights report, concerns also surfaced about an inadequate response to the Brumadinho tailings dam collapse of 2019. Consequently, LAPFF also recommended votes to oppose the compensation resolutions on the grounds that Vale's approach to compensation failed to establish adequate accountability of its executive team for the impacts of the two dam collapses.

In Progress: LAPFF has written to Glencore for a meeting to discuss governance, climate, and human rights and is continuing to engage with all three companies on these issues and others.

Technology Voting Alerts

Objective: Amazon, Meta Platforms, and Alphabet all faced a slew of shareholder resolutions this year. Similarly for mining companies, these technology firms were selected for LAPFF voting alerts to highlight particular ESG concerns. The topics of the resolutions covered a range of issues, including lobbying, climate, and board accountability. However, the overwhelming number of resolutions covered human rights, including labour rights. These resolutions mostly aligned with LAPFF's policies in all the areas mentioned.

Achieved: LAPFF issued voting alerts for all three companies and covered all but one or two shareholder resolutions.

For Amazon, 11 resolutions addressing human rights due diligence, worker



Amazon faced resolutions addressing human rights due diligence, worker safety and working conditions, including freedom of association, and tax reporting

safety and working conditions, including freedom of association, and tax reporting were among those receiving recommendations of support from LAPFF. These recommendations stemmed in part from participation in a webinar with Amazon warehouse staff in the US and Spain who voiced concerns about working conditions, including a massive anti-union campaign by the company. LAPFF is therefore keen to see more reporting from the company on how it addresses these issues.

Meta Platforms, formerly Facebook, also faced multiple shareholder resolutions, with LAPFF supporting resolutions on corporate governance, misinformation reporting, and human rights impact assessments, among others. It was noted that the company has not escaped scrutiny for its governance and human rights practices through its name change.

Alphabet, of which Google is now just one company, faced the longest list of shareholder resolutions, with LAPFF supporting 16 of them. LAPFF supported shareholder concerns about Alphabet's climate practices, human rights (including racial equity) and privacy, and board diversity.

In Progress: LAPFF's overriding concerns with all three companies were their insular approach to addressing shareholder concerns in their responses to each resolution and their failure to address their companies' impacts on society and the environment. The

insularity issue stems in part from the fact that the shareholding structures are skewed heavily toward the interests of the three founder directors at each company. The lack of focus on their impacts was evidenced by the companies' emphasis on their commitments, policies, and practices, without assessing how these stances and activities affected their wider stakeholder bases. LAPFF is seeking to make progress with the companies in each of these two areas.

Oil and Gas Voting Alerts

Objective: LAPFF issued voting alerts for both BP and Shell, opposing the companies' climate plans and supporting the 'Follow This' shareholder resolutions. The plans of the oil and gas majors are of particular importance for a society-wide fair and just transition, with LAPFF keen to escalate concerns through voting alerts and recommendations against their plans.

Achieved: We made our vote recommendation for BP in the context of our view that the company is ahead of other extractive companies, including Shell, and that BP expresses the issue of decarbonisation in clear terms; there is a limited carbon budget.

LAPFF met both the Chair and CEO of BP and was encouraged that the company welcomed our positive engagement, whilst being extremely disappointed with

COMPANY ENGAGEMENT



The Shell Oil refinery in Pernis, the Netherlands

our voting alert. However, they acknowledge our position, and are pleased we are willing to be a “critical friend” and work with them over the coming months to gain a better understanding of our respective positions – it is definitely a company willing to talk, discuss and improve.

Shell’s investor relations team responded to the LAPFF voting alert by requesting that LAPFF acknowledge 89% of investors voting at last year’s AGM supported the company’s climate plan. In LAPFF’s view, this outcome is more a poor reflection on the majority of investors than it is a vote of support for Shell’s plans, especially since a Dutch court effectively endorsed LAPFF’s condemnation of the company’s plan the week after last year’s AGM. Shell’s intransigence is also a particular concern given reports on the effect of ‘carbon bomb’ projects in the oil and gas sector.

In Progress: LAPFF will continue to engage with the oil and gas majors, to highlight the need for Paris-aligned transition plans. From LAPFF’s perspective, the industry often resembles a race to the bottom, with the worst-performing companies dragging down progress of the more promising ones. LAPFF will raise issues around just transition plans, explore what actions shareholders can take, coordinate with other stakeholders and impress upon oil and gas companies the need for viable decarbonisation plans.

Bank Meetings and Voting Alerts

Objectives: In April, LAPFF had a useful meeting with the Standard Chartered Chair, José Viñals, to determine how the company was progressing its work with clients on carbon emission reductions and aligning them with its approach to the energy transition. A meeting with Barclays representatives sought to better understand progress made on the company’s climate change strategy, as well as how the company was addressing identified gaps. A meeting was also held with HSBC representatives to determine progress on climate transition planning, given the commitment to publish a bank-wide plan in 2023.

Achieved: On the debate of absolute versus intensity targets, Standard Chartered considered that having absolute emissions targets may restrict helping clients reduce emissions in the long run. A voting alert was issued to members on the ‘pathway to net zero by 2050’ resolution. LAPFF advised members not to support due to the lack of targets in place to demonstrate the transition is fully aligned with a 1.5°C scenario.

At Barclays, progress was welcomed on setting some financed emission targets and provision of a timeline for setting others. There was also support for the company climate strategy focussing on

net zero operations and supply chain pathways. A voting alert was issued recognising this, but due to concerns of intensity emission reduction targets rather than absolute targets, members were advised to oppose the resolution to approve the 2022 Climate Strategy.

The HSBC meeting focussed on client transition plans and how investments can help drive their climate agendas.

In Progress: For all the banks, targets have been set for some sectors and plans are in place to set them for remaining sectors. A focus of engagement remains, particularly around the new financing for the oil and gas sector given that the International Energy Agency has said that no new oil and natural gas fields are needed in the net zero pathway.

Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)

Objective: LAPFF reached out to several companies this quarter, continuing to push for them to undertake human rights impact assessments with regards to the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and for those that do to publish them.

Achieved: LAPFF first met with Booking Holdings in 2021 with a follow up meeting held this quarter. LAPFF spoke with the company about publishing a human rights statement which it has now subsequently done. It would appear that the company recognises it has a way to go in developing its human rights strategy across all conflict zones but is continuing to apply due diligence on its operations. LAPFF continued to emphasise its position, insisting that companies undertake independent, third-party human rights impact assessments.

General Mills reached out in May to announce that it had sold its stake in a joint venture in East Jerusalem, leaving it with no further business operations in Israel.

In Progress: LAPFF’s position remains that companies undertaking human rights impact assessments is the best way for investors to understand the risks associated with their investments in the region.

COMPANY ENGAGEMENT



Electric Vehicles

Objective: LAPFF has previously engaged with automotive manufacturers on their approach to a net zero economy, but an essential part of this transition is ensuring that it is done so in a 'fair and just' manner. LAPFF reached out to several car manufacturers to discuss their approaches to raw material sourcing and how companies ensure that this is done in a responsible manner.

Achieved: LAPFF met with two manufacturers so far, speaking to Investor Relations representatives from both BMW and Mercedes-Benz, who recently split from Daimler AG, separating the car and truck arms of the business. Mercedes provided a brief overview of its approach to decarbonising its vehicles alongside some information on its due diligence but did not provide in-depth details on how it was ensuring minerals were responsibly sourced.

LAPFF's conversation with BMW provided some insight into the company's processes and how it is managing a just transition. BMW sources minerals directly for its battery producers, which it sees as a positive step in shortening the supply chain and maintaining better transparency. It was positive to hear that although the company does not source materials from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), it was actively working with NGO's and bodies on the ground to attempt to rectify a range of human rights

and environmental issues that are ongoing in the region.

In Progress: LAPFF is currently waiting for further materials to be released by Mercedes and will likely seek further meetings with both BMW and Mercedes. Several companies have not responded to meeting requests which are currently being followed up. A meeting with Ford is planned for Q3.

J Sainsbury plc

Objective: LAPFF met with Sainsbury's to discuss a resolution filed at its upcoming AGM in relation to the company becoming accredited by the Living Wage Foundation.

Achieved: Following a collaborative engagement earlier in the year, Sainsbury's subsequently matched rates for the living wage in Outer London to the wages paid in Inner London. LAPFF met with the company to discuss its position on the resolution and what the company was doing to support its employees.

In Progress: LAPFF maintains a rapport with Sainsbury's on a wide range of issues and is monitoring the company's approach to pay.

Nestlé

Objective: As You Sow hosted a collaborative call with Nestle to discuss the company's approach to plastic packaging

and how it was working to reduce the environmental impacts that plastics have.

Achieved: The company spoke to initiatives around moving towards a circular economy, noting several located in developing countries aimed at recycling as much plastic as was produced in those regions, even if the plastic did not come from the company's own production. Nestle representatives talked about the move towards making more single use plastics, such as sachets, more recyclable in the future, and the potential for more sustainable alternatives. However it was not made clear what such alternatives would be.

In Progress: A circular economy for plastics relies on a lot of factors other than just being able to recycle the plastic itself. LAPFF is supportive of the notion that companies should be looking at alternatives to plastic where they can, to ensure that the environmental damage currently caused can be curtailed.

Suzano

Objective: Suzano is one of the Climate Action 100+ (CA100+) focus companies for which LAPFF is a co-lead. The other co-lead for this engagement is Portuguese Investment Bank BPI. Suzano is assessed on a range of climate indicators which is reviewed annually to track progress. Concerns were raised over the ambition associated with the company's emissions reduction targets as well as disclosures relating to its climate policy engagement.

Achieved: LAPFF met with the company to discuss progress in its carbon mitigation strategy. The company's existing carbon reduction targets include an ambition to reduce the GHG emissions intensity of Scopes 1 and 2 by 15% by 2030. Also included is an ambition to remove up to 40 million tonnes of carbon by 2025, this being associated with carbon sequestration from the operation of its plantations. LAPFF asked the extent to which these targets could be considered ambitious given the Scopes 1 and 2 target equates to a 1.5% annual reduction on an intensity basis. Also, company reporting highlights that 25 million tons of carbon was removed during 2020 and 2021, which would leave three years to achieve equivalent sequestration. The company

COMPANY ENGAGEMENT

highlighted that it already operated from one of the lowest carbon intensity bases when compared to peers, meaning that the easier to abate emissions had been addressed, making additional reductions more challenging.

During 2021 Suzano joined the Business Ambition for 1.5°C and Race to Zero initiatives and signed the commitment to the Science-Based Target Initiative (SBTi). Participation in the latter had been raised by LAPFF in prior engagements with the company. Suzano elaborated that it will launch, within the deadline established by the initiative, a decarbonisation target in alignment with the 1.5°C ambition, considering all the technical and scientific criteria of SBTi.

Suzano has also become a member of the CDP Supply Chain on Climate Change looking to addressing emissions throughout the value chain. This marks real progress for the company, focussing on supply chain-based emissions has been an issue LAPFF has consistently raised with Suzano.

In Progress: The company highlighted that it had brought forward the 40 million tonnes of carbon reduction target forward from 2030 to 2025 but did not anticipate amending the target further. Further questions were raised on disclosures around trade association membership and escalation strategies if member organisations did not align with the company's own approach to addressing climate change. The SBTi is scheduled to release relevant sector guidance during Q3 2022.

National Grid

Objective: Having secured a 'Say on Climate' resolution at the AGM, LAPFF and other lead CA100+ investors had two meetings to assess progress in the company's climate transition plan.

Achieved: The first meeting with National Grid representatives was timed one day after the company issued its annual report, its Responsible Business report and notice of meeting for the AGM. It was evident that significant progress had been made, notably in disclosing a science-based medium-term Scope 3 emissions target, as well as a long-term Scope 3 target for 2050. The company has made a 'strategic pivot' to electricity

in the UK, selling its majority stake in the gas transmission business and its Rhode Island Business. However, there are still challenges in New York state and Massachusetts in addressing the decarbonisation of heat. These concerns were also discussed at a later meeting with the chair, Paula Rosput Reynolds, in June.

In Progress: A voting alert has been issued for the company AGM which will take place in mid-July.

London Stock Exchange Group

Objective: A meeting with the Head of Sustainability sought to gain a better perspective of how the company can shape and promote the adoption of best practice Climate Transition Plans and to provide challenge on targets for 'real zero' for the group and for companies in its influence. This was a follow-up to the 'Say on Climate' collaborative letter sent to all listed UK companies last year asking them to put their transition plan to the vote.

Achieved: The importance of the quality of data supplied through company disclosure was identified. As an active member of the UN Sustainable Stock Exchange, the group has created its own disclosure guidance for London-listed firms, as well as providing educational resources around climate; sharing 'scorings' privately with companies and providing guidance on reporting to encourage and engage companies. The challenge for 'real zero' has in part been recognised through the group moving its own net zero targets from 2050 to 2040.

In Progress: It was considered it would be useful to progress a meeting with the senior independent director.

Anglo American

Objective: Alongside LAPFF's engagement with Anglo American on mining and human rights, LAPFF engages the company on its approach to carbon emissions. This includes participating in CA100+ engagements. These engagements focus on CA100+ expectations, including targets, capital expenditure and lobbying.

Achieved: As the engagement is part of a long-standing series of meetings, the discussion focused on the detail of how the company was seeking to reduce emissions. It was useful to hear how they were working with their customers to seek to reduce Scope 3 emissions and how they were approaching reducing their own emissions through renewables. Anglo American has started to hold ESG updates twice a year for investors. LAPFF was interested and pleased to see that there was a heavy emphasis on water issues by the company, especially since water was a major concern raised by affected communities in LAPFF's research for its mining and human rights report. LAPFF also appreciated Anglo American's active engagement with the mining and human rights report and the concerns it raised about the company

In Progress: Engagement will continue with the company, including around making a commitment to 1.5°C scenario across Scopes 1 to 3.

Arcelor Mittal

Objective: LAPFF attended the ArcelorMittal AGM, in its role as joint-lead investor with CA100+, to ask about company ambitions for a carbon emissions reduction target aligned with a 1.5°C scenario, for a commitment to a short-term reduction target, and to put the zero-carbon strategy to shareholders for approval at the 2023 AGM.

Achieved: Aditya Mittal, the CEO, responded to the questions. He considered incorrect to conclude that the target was not 1.5°C-aligned, and believed the company was at the cutting edge and making significant progress. On shorter-term progress, he detailed various projects that exemplified progression on decarbonisation in Canada, Spain, France and Belgium, the Canadian project being the most advanced by using hydrogen in a direct-reduced iron process. He further indicated that progress would accelerate towards the end of the next decade.

In Progress: On the request for putting the transition plan to shareholder for approval at the next AGM, Mr Mittal noted that shareholder engagement on this question would be monitored before deciding for next year's AGM.

COMPANY ENGAGEMENT

Novartis

Objective: LAPFF has been engaging with pharmaceutical companies to understand if and how the Covid pandemic has changed their business strategies and models. The engagement with Novartis during the quarter was part of this series. The company's approach to the war in Ukraine was also discussed.

Achieved: LAPFF noted that while Novartis does not have a vaccines unit, the company produced a large quantity of the Pfizer vaccine to help with the Covid response. It also appeared that the company has a fairly detailed plan to respond to future pandemics. However, LAPFF found the company's response on its approach to the war in Ukraine less convincing and therefore encouraged Novartis to undertake a human rights impact assessment in relation to the war.

In Progress: LAPFF will seek an engagement with GSK on this issue and will seek further engagement with Sanofi, which to date has issued a written response but has not agreed to a meeting.

LyondellBasell

Objective: A follow-up meeting was held with LyondellBasell representatives as part of CA100+ collaborative engagement. This meeting sought to clarify action on the company's short-term carbon reduction goals as well as its more strategic positioning.

Achieved: LAPFF pressed on the rapidly falling cost-curve for renewable hydrogen, as well as the potential for partnerships in developing this market. On actions for reduction of virgin plastics production, the company considered a tipping point had already been reached.

In Progress: The issue of influencing trade associations was raised with a follow-up meeting being sought around the issue of lobbying.

Total

Objective: Total has recently announced it will divest from Myanmar and has faced significant scrutiny for its investments in Russia. LAPFF Executive member, John Anzani, was keen to discuss the

company's approach to operating in and divesting from conflict zones with a company representative.

Achieved: Total has been subject to scrutiny in this area for many years, not least in relation to litigation about its Yadana pipeline project in Myanmar. However, the company has only recently decided to divest from Myanmar, so it was helpful for LAPFF to understand the complex nature of the decision-making that went into this decision. Total's representative described the human rights due diligence process undertaken to reach this decision, as well the process used to decide to remain invested in its Russian operations, in consideration of existing EU sanctions.

In Progress: LAPFF will continue to monitor sanctions legislation pertaining to Russia, Ukraine, and other conflict areas and will engage again with Total on this issue if deemed necessary.

Reliable Accounts

Objective: As reported in the Times, the UK Endorsement Board (UKEB), the body responsible for endorsing International Accounting Standards for the UK post-Brexit, has taken a controversial approach to seeking legal advice.

Achieved: LAPFF pointed out that given that Martin Moore QC had advised both the Institute of Chartered Accountant in England and Wales (ICAEW) – the regulated party – as well as the Financial

Reporting Council (FRC) – the regulator – that LAPFF would expect the UKEB to seek legal advice on its statutory duties from elsewhere. Two legal opinions from George Bompas QC for LAPFF took issue with Mr Moore's conclusion. The Times reported that emails had become public whereby a UKEB board member who is a lawyer had said "I have spoken to Martin Moore [QC] and he is fine with supporting Michael Todd [QC] behind the scenes and understands the conflicts issue which prevents us from instructing him."

In Progress: As the FRC is responsible for funding the UKEB and overseeing its due process, the LAPFF Chair wrote to the Chief Executive of the FRC to state how that approach was unacceptable. As a result, meetings have been held with BEIS officials. Fuller reports will be given in due course. Meanwhile, Baroness Bowles has asked a number of questions in Parliament on this subject, that you can view [here](#).

Water Utilities

Objective: Water utility companies have faced significant scrutiny for their environmental performance, specifically the release of raw sewage into rivers to safeguard against flooding. LAPFF has therefore started to engage water companies on having credible plans to minimise the release of raw sewage as well as how companies are seeking to reach net zero given the sector contributes 1% to the UK's total emissions.



Water utility companies have faced significant scrutiny for their environmental performance, including safeguarding against flooding

COMPANY ENGAGEMENT

Achieved: Over the quarter LAPFF met with the chairs of both Severn Trent and United Utilities.

Severn Trent outlined its commitment to reducing pollution and the release of sewage into waterways. It was useful to hear details about the company's plans to ensure that by 2030 their operations will not lead to the harm of rivers. LAPFF recognised that the company performs well in its Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA), even if there is room for improvement. In the meeting, the company outlined their net zero commitments. Whilst insightful, there is less information about how they are seeking to reduce Scope 3 emissions.

The meeting with United Utilities focused on the company's plans and on the challenges of reducing storm overflows. This discussion covered Victorian infrastructure, combined sewers, which collect storm overflow rain runoff as well as sewage, and the costs associated with tackling the issue. Like the meeting with Severn Trent, LAPFF recognised that the company performed well in its EPA and also discussed the challenges around data collection and wider causes of river pollution.

In Progress: LAPFF is seeking to engage with other companies within the sector and will monitor environmental performances.



A farmer works in front of a coking factory in Xiaoyi Shanxi China

COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

Rathbones Votes Against Slavery

Objective: LAPFF supports Rathbones Votes Against Slavery engagement, which targets FTSE 350 companies that fail to comply with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act.

Achieved: The engagement has had a range of successes, with many companies now compliant with Section 54. LAPFF joined two calls with Segro and Synthomer to discuss the companies' approach to modern slavery and reporting, with both companies appearing to take onboard the need for more transparent reporting, particularly in regards remediation processes.

In Progress: Across engagements where modern slavery is concerned, LAPFF continues to stress the point that if and when instances of modern slavery are found, the company should transparently report on these alongside the remediation processes.

Asia Research and Engagement

Objective: As part of the Asian Transition Plan collaborative initiative, LAPFF supports company engagement in Asia's financial markets, focussing on carbon and coal risks at financial institutions, as well as coal-exposed power companies.

Achieved: Statements were made at the annual meetings of Huaneng Power International, Huadian Power, Industrial and Commercial Bank China, and Bank of China. The power company statements requested commitments to stop coal power capacity addition and to phase out existing coal power capacity. The bank statements asked for commitments to net zero financed emissions in line with China's targets, sector specific pathways in line with national policies, and sustainable finance targets.

In Progress: Regular meetings continue with the coordinating group to progress company engagement meetings.

Global Standard on Climate Lobbying

LAPFF joined founding investor networks in support of a new Global Standard

on Responsible Climate Lobbying. This provides a framework to ensure companies' lobbying and political engagement activities are in line with the goal of restricting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. It calls on companies to formally commit to responsible climate lobbying, disclose funding and other support they provide to trade associations involved in climate change-related lobbying, and act if lobbying activity runs counter to the goals of the Paris Agreement. Linked to this, LAPFF was a signatory to correspondence to CA100+ European companies that had not disclosed information on their climate-related lobbying. This aimed to reinforce disclosure as an industry norm and to provide guidance by pointing the company towards the Global Standard.

Human Rights Collaborations

Objective: PRI has noted that human rights is an area that could use collective action to leverage investor support. LAPFF agrees and has undertaken several collective engagement actions on human rights with various stakeholders during the quarter.

Achieved:

Investor Collaborations

PRI Advance: The first collective engagement is to engage with PRI on its new Advance human rights initiative to see how best LAPFF can play a role. LAPFF attended an investor webinar on the initiative and then met one-on-one with PRI staff to clarify how LAPFF's work on human rights could support and complement the PRI initiative. Discussions are still underway about the best approach.

Conflict Minerals in the Semi-Conductor Supply Chain Sign-On Letter:

Stewart Investors coordinated a collaborative investor letter calling a range of companies in the semiconductor supply chain to report on their human rights due diligence processes and provide assurances about their human rights impacts.

Wells Fargo Human Rights Impact

Assessment Sign-On Letter: Wells Fargo received criticism about its loan process in relation to the financial crisis of 2008-2009. Concerns remain about its lending practices, so US investors coordinated a collaborative investor letter requesting

COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

that the bank undertake a human rights due diligence process in relation to its lending practices.

Affected Worker and Community Collaborations

LAPFF Webinar with Community Members Affected by Anglo American, Glencore, and Vale – LAPFF, with the help of London Mining Network, hosted a webinar with community members affected by Anglo American, Glencore, and Vale projects at Minas Rio, Cerrejón, and Brumadinho, the former and the last in Brazil and Cerrejón in Colombia. The community members spoke about lack of drinking water for communities, in part due to contamination, along with other types of pollution and lack of electricity that they attributed to mining practices.

IndustriALL Social Protection Webinar – IndustriALL, with LAPFF supporting, hosted a webinar with two Thai workers to highlight the often-ignored social protection gap in many workplaces. There was mention of how poor social protection can compromise health and safety. The workers spoke about particular challenges in this area during Covid and how they had to push their employer and others to obtain the social protection they were owed, in part because it is often not clear what balance of accountability states and employers have in offering this protection.

Glencore in Espinar, Peru – Community members from Espinar, Peru joined a webinar chaired by LAPFF Chair Cllr Doug McMurdo to discuss Glencore's impacts on their communities. Of major concern to the communities is the impact of Glencore's mine in the area, Antapaccay, on the drinking water for local communities. Although Glencore maintains that the local water sources are naturally undrinkable, the communities are concerned that it is the impacts of mining rendering the water unsafe. There are a number of other human rights and environmental issues of concern in this case too.

In Progress:

LAPFF will continue to engage with both other investors and affected workers and communities for two purposes. First, LAPFF members want to be sure that their investments are not leading to

negative human rights or environmental impacts. Second, these stakeholders provide useful sources of information for LAPFF members to understand their investments better.

CA100+ Transport Group

Objective: LAPFF is a member of the CA100+ Transport Group. The group aims to engage major automakers on their plans to decarbonise their operations and shift to zero emission vehicles.

Achieved: There have been concerns about Toyota's approach to zero emission vehicles. Although the company has been a large producer of hybrid vehicles, plans and capital expenditure on battery electric and other zero emission vehicles have been less developed than some of their peers. This creates potential risks to investors considering the rapid increase in the sale of electric vehicles. During the quarter lead investors met the company. The investor group also met amongst itself to discuss wider developments within the transport sector, including decarbonisation of heavy-duty vehicles. As part of this work, LAPFF signed onto a letter to US regulators regarding heavy duty vehicle emissions standards.

In Progress: LAPFF will continue to engage with the largest automakers on their plans to decarbonise their fleets.

COLLABORATIVE INVESTOR MEETINGS

Institutional Investor Group on Climate Change (IIGCC)

Objective: Participation in weekly meetings coordinated by IIGCC provided useful updates on company progress against the CA100+ benchmark, which assesses the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters on their net zero transitions.

Achieved: The benchmark scoring for these companies will formally be published in September 2022 in time for focussed engagement prior to the next proxy season.

In Progress: Most recently, LAPFF has been participating in the Global Sector Strategies work to help identify policy

actions that will have a significant impact on companies' abilities to enhance and deliver on their climate transition plans.

IOPA

Objective: The Investor Initiative for Opioid Accountability seeks transparency from pharmaceutical companies and aims to mitigate further risk across the industry. Members of the coalition have met with a number of companies and have proceeded to file multiple resolutions for 2022 company AGMs across a wide range of issues.

Achieved: Shareholder resolutions organised by the coalition have seen varying levels of support across the quarter but have seen growing numbers of support compared to previous years.

In Progress: LAPFF continues to attend monthly meetings hosted by IOPA and monitors the engagements being held by investors in the coalition.

Investor Initiative for Responsible Care

Objective: The Covid pandemic placed the spotlight on care quality and employment standards within care home sector. In response to these concerns, LAPFF was a founding member of the Investor Initiative for Responsible Care organised by UNI Global. The coalition includes 130 institutional investors with \$3.8 trillion in assets and aims to improve employment and care standards to protect shareholder value.

Achieved: Over the quarter, LAPFF, alongside other lead investors, has contacted Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) working within the nursing home sector. LAPFF also signed onto a letter regarding EU Care Strategy.

In Progress: Through the initiative LAPFF will continue to engage REITs and care home providers on employment and care standards.

COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Transportation consultation responses

Objective: In responding to the UK Department for Transport (DfT) consultations, LAPFF's aim has been to press for legislation that recognises the remaining global carbon budget, and the opportunities as well as constraints this poses for investors.

Achieved: Consultation responses included one on ending the sale of new, non-zero emission buses, coaches, and minibuses and another response to the 'Further Technical Consultation on Jet Zero' to inform the government's strategy for net zero aviation. For the former, it was good to see the earliest date range for the phase-out of non-zero emission buses being proposed as 2025, aligning with the earlier LAPFF submission on the phase out of the sale of new non-zero emission heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).

The government response and outcome to the DfT HGV consultation is now available. In the 'Jet Zero' response, LAPFF set out its views that measures to promote net zero aviation should be considered within the context of overall provision of reliable and affordable transport including surface transport. There was support for the government pushing for domestic flights to be replaced by train journeys and for any remaining domestic flights to be provided by electric aircraft. This is in line with measures being taken by Austria, France, the Netherlands and Spain.

In Progress: LAPFF continues to participate in events to inform such submissions, the most recent being a workshop on the electrification of flight held at Cranfield University.

US National Action Plan on Responsible Business Conduct

Objective: The US last issued a national action plan (NAP) on responsible business conduct (RBC) in 2016. Given the number of developments in this area,

not least a range of mandatory human rights due diligence initiatives – including in the US – the country has decided to update its 2016 NAP. Therefore, LAPFF responded to a consultation on the US NAP for RBC to provide thoughts and insights gained through its extensive engagement with companies on this topic.

Achieved: LAPFF's consultation response encouraged the US to review the many human rights due diligence laws being proposed, and in some cases adopted, around the world. LAPFF had issued a consultation response in support of the EU's initiative in this area – the EU Directive on Sustainable Corporate Governance – and encouraged the US to look to the EU initiative for ideas. The 2016 NAP also treated climate and environment as tangential to other areas of RBC. LAPFF pointed to the major developments on both climate and environment, including the recognition of a human right to a clean and healthy environment, as evidence that both climate and environment need to be treated as integral components of RBC.

In Progress: LAPFF will now wait to see what the next version of the US NAP on RBC looks like.

CHAIR'S QUOTE

It has been interesting to note – both through voting alerts and engagements – that for all types of companies there is often a failure to report on social and environmental impacts. We hear a lot about what commitments, policies, and practices these companies have, but do their promises and activities work?

I suspect I know the answer to that question. It seems to me that a lot of shareholder money is being wasted on poor initiatives that could be improved through proper engagement with affected stakeholders.”

Local
Authority
Pension
Fund
Forum

MEDIA COVERAGE

Mining and Human Rights

Pensions Age: [LAPFF report on mining and human rights calls for greater investor engagement](#)

Environmental Finance: [“LAPFF reveals ‘litany’ of ESG risks at mining companies](#)

New Internationalist: [‘Stop the poison’](#)

Accounts

Pensions Expert: [TPR to review Stewardship Code with watchdogs and government](#)

Insurance ERM: [IFRS 17 “ripe for judicial review”, says UK peer](#)

Climate

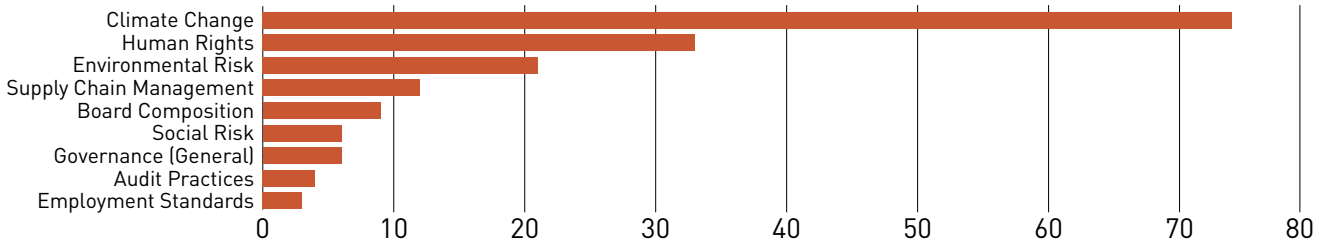
IPE: [LAPFF wants more recognition of electric flight progress](#)

Reuters: [Advisory firm PIRC opposes Shell climate plan for lacking ambition](#)

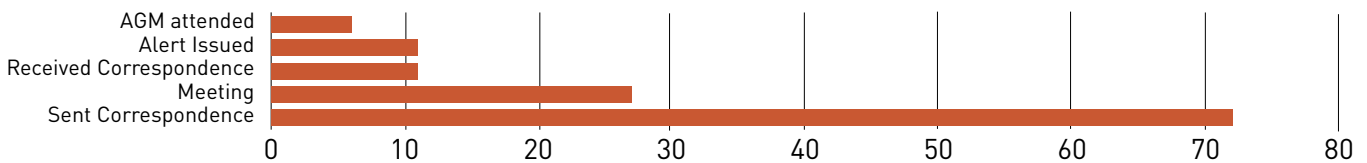
Reuters story also in Canada's [Globe and Mail](#)

ENGAGEMENT DATA

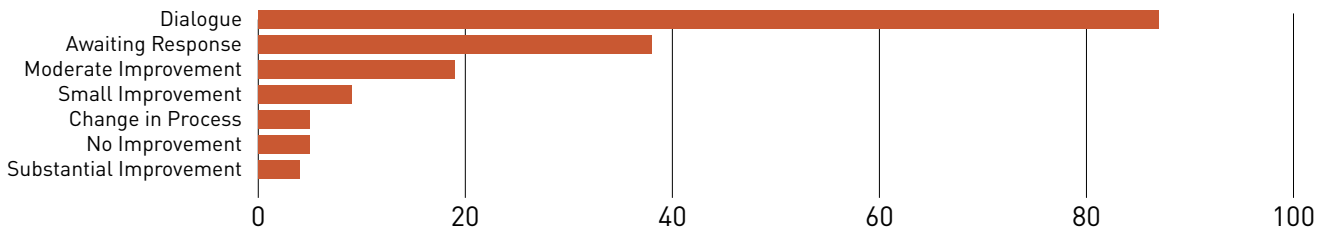
ENGAGEMENT TOPICS



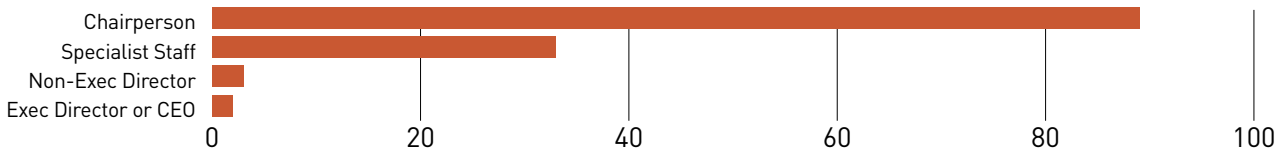
ACTIVITY



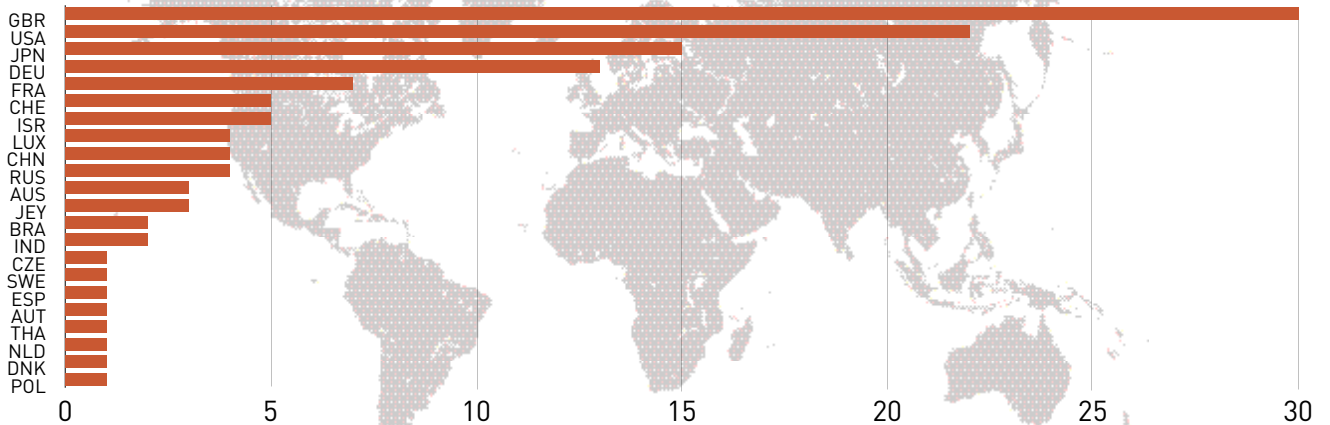
MEETING ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES



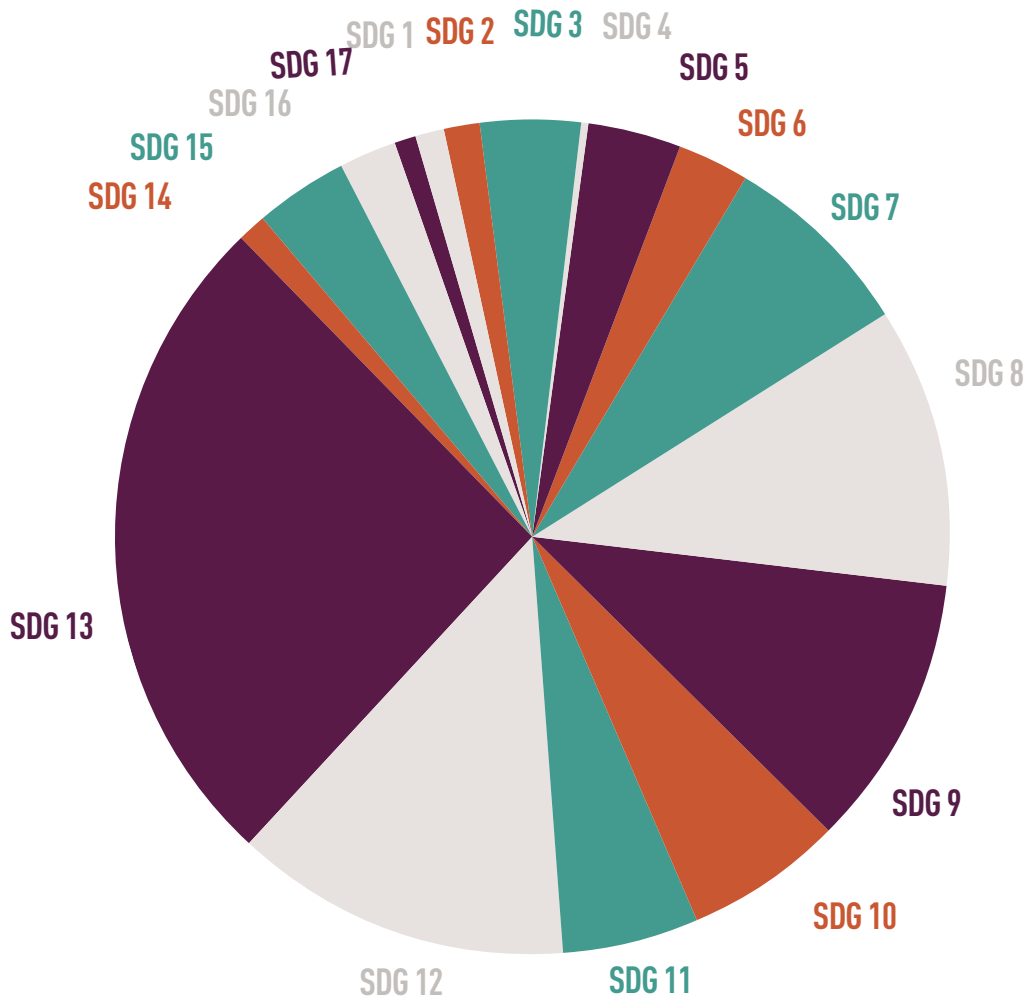
POSITION ENGAGED



COMPANY DOMICILES



ENGAGEMENT DATA



LAPFF SDG ENGAGEMENTS

SDG 1: No Poverty	4
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	5
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	13
SDG 4: Quality Education	1
SDG 5: Gender Equality	12
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	10
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	25
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	37
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure	36
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	21
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	18
SDG 12: Responsible Production and Consumption	44
SDG 13: Climate Action	88
SDG 14: Life Below Water	4
SDG 15: Life on Land	12
SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	8
SDG 17: Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	2

COMPANY PROGRESS REPORT

90 Companies engaged over the quarter

*The table below is a consolidated representation of engagements so reflects the number of companies engaged, not the number of engagements

Company/Index	Activity	Topic	Outcome
AIR LIQUIDE SA	Received Correspondence	Climate Change	Moderate Improvement
AIRBNB INC	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Awaiting Response
ALPHABET INC	Alert Issued	Human Rights	Dialogue
AMAZON.COM INC.	Alert Issued	Employment Standards	Dialogue
ANGLO AMERICAN PLC	Received Correspondence	Climate Change	Moderate Improvement
AP MOLLER - MAERSK AS	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
ARCELORMITTAL SA	AGM	Climate Change	Small Improvement
BANDAI NAMCO HOLDINGS INC	Sent Correspondence	Board Composition	Awaiting Response
BANK HAPOLIM B M	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Awaiting Response
BANK LEUMI LE-ISRAEL BM	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Awaiting Response
BANK OF CHINA LTD	AGM	Climate Change	Dialogue
BARCLAYS BANK PLC	Meeting	Climate Change	Moderate Improvement
BARCLAYS PLC	Alert Issued	Climate Change	Moderate Improvement
BAYERISCHE MOTOREN WERKE AG	Meeting	Environmental Risk	Moderate Improvement
BEZEQ THE ISRAELI TELECOMMUNICATION CORP LTD	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Dialogue
BHP GROUP LIMITED (AUS)	Sent Correspondence	Governance (General)	No Improvement
BOOKING HOLDINGS INC.	Meeting	Human Rights	Awaiting Response
BRIDGESTONE CORP	Sent Correspondence	Board Composition	Dialogue
BRITVIC PLC	Meeting	Social Risk	Substantial Improvement
CATERPILLAR INC.	Alert Issued	Environmental Risk	Dialogue
CENTRICA PLC	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
CEZ AS	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
CISCO SYSTEMS INC.	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Dialogue
DANONE	Sent Correspondence	Social Risk	Dialogue
DOLLAR TREE INC	Alert Issued	Climate Change	Dialogue
E.ON SE	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT CO	Alert Issued	Climate Change	Dialogue
EXPEDIA GROUP INC	Sent Correspondence	Audit Practices	Awaiting Response
FUJIFILM HLDGS CORP	Sent Correspondence	Board Composition	Awaiting Response
GAZPROM OAO	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
GENERAL MILLS INC	Received Correspondence	Human Rights	Substantial Improvement
GENERAL MOTORS COMPANY	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Awaiting Response
GLENCORE PLC	Alert Issued	Climate Change	Dialogue
GSK PLC	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Awaiting Response
HOLCIM LTD	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
HONEYWELL INTERNATIONAL INC.	Sent Correspondence	Environmental Risk	Awaiting Response
HSBC HOLDINGS PLC	Meeting	Climate Change	Moderate Improvement
HUADIAN POWER INTL CORP LTD	AGM	Climate Change	Dialogue
HUANENG POWER INTERNATIONAL	AGM	Climate Change	Dialogue
IBERDROLA SA	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
INDORAMA VENTURES PCL	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Awaiting Response
INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL BANK CHINA	AGM	Climate Change	Dialogue
ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK LTD	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Awaiting Response
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Awaiting Response
KAMIGUMI CO LTD	Sent Correspondence	Board Composition	Awaiting Response
KUBOTA CORP	Meeting	Board Composition	Small Improvement
LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE GROUP PLC	Meeting	Climate Change	Moderate Improvement
LUKOIL OAO	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
LYONDELLBASELL INDUSTRIES N.V.	Meeting	Climate Change	Small Improvement
LYONDELLBASELL INDUSTRIES N.V.	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
MARKEL CORPORATION	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Awaiting Response
MARUBENI CORP	Sent Correspondence	Board Composition	Awaiting Response
MERCEDES-BENZ GROUP AG	Meeting	Human Rights	Dialogue
META PLATFORMS INC	Alert Issued	Governance (General)	Dialogue
MIZRAHI TEFAHOT BANK LTD	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Awaiting Response
NATIONAL GRID PLC	Meeting	Climate Change	Substantial Improvement
NESTLE SA	Meeting	Social Risk	Small Improvement
NEXTERA ENERGY INC	Received Correspondence	Climate Change	No Improvement
NINTENDO CO LTD	Sent Correspondence	Environmental Risk	Awaiting Response

COMPANY PROGRESS REPORT Continued

NISSAN MOTOR CO LTD	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Awaiting Response
NOVARTIS AG	Meeting	Governance (General)	Change in Process
OMV AG	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
OTSUKA CORPORATION	Sent Correspondence	Board Composition	Awaiting Response
PHILLIPS 66	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
POLSKA GRUPA ENERGETYCZNA SA	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
RENAULT SA	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
RIO TINTO GROUP (AUS)	AGM	Human Rights	No Improvement
RIO TINTO GROUP (AUS)	Meeting	Governance (General)	Dialogue
ROLLS-ROYCE HOLDINGS PLC	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Small Improvement
ROSNEFT OIL COMPANY	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
SAINSBURY (J) PLC	Meeting	Employment Standards	Dialogue
SAINT-GOBAIN SEKURIT INDIA	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
SEGRO PLC	Meeting	Human Rights	Moderate Improvement
SEVERN TRENT PLC	Meeting	Environmental Risk	Moderate Improvement
SEVERSTAL OAO	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
SIEMENS AG	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
SSAB (SVENSKT STAL AB)	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
STANDARD CHARTERED PLC	Alert Issued	Climate Change	Moderate Improvement
STELLANTIS N.V.	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
SUMITOMO MITSUI FINANCIAL GROUP	Alert Issued	Climate Change	Dialogue
SUZANO SA	Meeting	Climate Change	Small Improvement
TESLA INC	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Awaiting Response
THYSSENKRUPP AG	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
TOYOTA MOTOR CORP	Meeting	Environmental Risk	Dialogue
UNILEVER PLC	Meeting	Social Risk	Moderate Improvement
UNIPER SE	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
UNITED UTILITIES GROUP PLC	Meeting	Environmental Risk	Moderate Improvement
VALE SA	Meeting	Human Rights	Dialogue
VEDANTA LTD	Sent Correspondence	Climate Change	Dialogue
VOLKSWAGEN AG	Received Correspondence	Human Rights	Small Improvement
WELLS FARGO & COMPANY	Sent Correspondence	Human Rights	Dialogue

LOCAL AUTHORITY PENSION FUND FORUM MEMBERS

Avon Pension Fund
Barking and Dagenham Pension Fund
Barnet Pension Fund
Bedfordshire Pension Fund
Berkshire Pension Fund
Bexley (London Borough of)
Cambridgeshire Pension Fund
Camden Pension Fund
Cardiff & Glamorgan Pension Fund
Cheshire Pension Fund
City of London Corporation Pension Fund
Clwyd Pension Fund (Flintshire CC)
Cornwall Pension Fund
Croydon Pension Fund
Cumbria Pension Fund
Derbyshire Pension Fund
Devon Pension Fund
Dorset Pension Fund
Durham Pension Fund
Dyfed Pension Fund
Ealing Pension Fund
East Riding Pension Fund
East Sussex Pension Fund
Enfield Pension Fund

Environment Agency Pension Fund
Essex Pension Fund
Falkirk Pension Fund
Gloucestershire Pension Fund
Greater Gwent Pension Fund
Greater Manchester Pension Fund
Greenwich Pension Fund
Gwynedd Pension Fund
Hackney Pension Fund
Hammersmith and Fulham Pension Fund
Haringey Pension Fund
Harrow Pension Fund
Havering Pension Fund
Hertfordshire Pension Fund
Hounslow Pension Fund
Islington Pension Fund
Kent Pension Fund
Kingston upon Thames Pension Fund
Lambeth Pension Fund
Lancashire County Pension Fund
Leicestershire Pension Fund
Lewisham Pension Fund
Lincolnshire Pension Fund
London Pension Fund Authority

Lothian Pension Fund
Merseyside Pension Fund
Merton Pension Fund
Newham Pension Fund
Norfolk Pension Fund
North East Scotland Pension Fund
North Yorkshire Pension Fund
Northamptonshire Pension Fund
Nottinghamshire Pension Fund
Oxfordshire Pension Fund
Powys Pension Fund
Redbridge Pension Fund
Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund
Shropshire Pension Fund
Somerset Pension Fund
South Yorkshire Pension Authority
Southwark Pension Fund
Staffordshire Pension Fund
Strathclyde Pension Fund
Suffolk Pension Fund
Surrey Pension Fund
Sutton Pension Fund
Swansea Pension Fund
Teesside Pension Fund

Tower Hamlets Pension Fund
Tyne and Wear Pension Fund
Waltham Forest Pension Fund
Wandsworth Borough Council Pension Fund
Warwickshire Pension Fund
West Midlands Pension Fund
West Yorkshire Pension Fund
Westminster Pension Fund
Wiltshire Pension Fund
Worcestershire Pension Fund

Pool Company Members

Border to Coast Pensions Partnership
LGPS Central
Local Pensions Partnership
London CIV
Northern LGPS
Wales Pension Partnership