



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAPFF Welcomes Rio Tinto Review as Good First Step

The Forum calls for a proportionate response based on full evidence

London 10.00 (BST)

LAPFF welcomes Rio Tinto's release of its review into the destruction of the Juukan Gorge caves in May of this year.

In particular, the Forum welcomes the Review's acknowledgment that the destruction of the caves should never have happened and that the company needs to rectify some corporate governance failings and operational processes that led to the loss of this important cultural heritage site. It is clear that there were some rudimentary failings by the Executive Management Team.

The Review identified failings including a lack of linked-up decision-making at critical points, not escalating unresolved issues to senior staff, a breakdown in communication with community groups, and an inability for protocols to accommodate new, relevant, and above all important information.

The Forum notes that Rio Tinto has committed to reducing the short-term bonuses of three senior executives, including the CEO, who the Review has clearly identified as having partial responsibility for the destruction of the caves.

Cllr Doug McMurdo, Chair of Local Authority Pension Fund Forum, said:

"The reduction of the bonuses for the CEO and other senior executives is a proper and appropriate first step. The Forum will continue to liaise with both Rio Tinto and community representatives to monitor how the company's response develops based on the Review findings and the on-going Parliamentary inquiry into the cave destruction. I would hope to see a proportionate response from Rio Tinto based on the full set of evidence that emerges. I am deeply saddened that this irreparable damage has been caused as a result of what I can only describe as poor corporate governance. "

ENDS>

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For further information:

Lara Blecher, Engagement Services Manager
PIRC Ltd, (research and engagement partner to LAPFF)
Mobile: 07741809338 Tel: 020 7247 2323 Email: lara.blecher@pirc.co.uk

About the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum: The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) is a voluntary association of 81 public sector pension funds and six pools based in the UK with combined assets of over £300 billion. It exists to 'promote the long-term investment interests of local authority pension funds, and to maximise their influence as shareholders to promote corporate responsibility and high standards of corporate governance amongst the companies in which they invest.' PIRC is the Research and Engagement partner to the Forum @lapfforum <https://lapfforum.org/>.