



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAPFF Chair to Visit Tailings Dam-Affected Communities in Brazil

Will see communities hit by both Mariana and Brumadinho collapses

LAPFF Chair, Cllr Doug McMurdo, will visit communities affected by the Mariana (2015) and Brumadinho (2019) tailings dam collapses in Brazil. He will spend two and a half weeks visiting seven communities and other stakeholder groups still dealing with the fallout from the dam collapses.

This trip comes after three and a half years of engagement with both affected communities and the shareholding companies involved – BHP and Vale in relation to the Samarco (Mariana) collapse and Vale in relation to the Brumadinho collapse. The current status of these engagements has been set out in a report from LAPFF entitled [Mining and Human Rights: An Investor Perspective](#). Engagements with Anglo American, Glencore, and Rio Tinto are also covered in this report.

During his trip, Cllr McMurdo is planning to visit with Vale Chair, Mr. José Penido, and CEO of the Renova Foundation, André de Freitas. The Renova Foundation is an organisation set up by BHP, Vale, and Brazilian authorities to administer compensation, reparations, and resettlement after the Mariana collapse.

According to Cllr McMurdo: “This trip is long overdue. I was planning to visit before the Covid pandemic. The upside of the delay is that I have had an extra two years to engage with the communities and companies by video link to understand better what I will see when I am in Brazil. Sadly, in many respects, it sounds as though very little progress has been made, for example in the re-building of houses after the Mariana (Fundão) dam collapse. I am keen to see with my own eyes the impact of these disasters on the communities and to take in fully the financial consequences for the companies involved, ultimately shareholders.”

LAPFF member fund, Environment Agency Pension Fund, is pleased the trip is finally able to go ahead. “Over 6 years after a dam collapsed in Mariana, Brazil, causing 19 deaths, immeasurable distress to local people and environmental harm, the local communities are still reporting that many issues remain unresolved. This is unacceptable. LAPFF’s engagement with communities is providing us with key



information to take to our asset managers, so that they can challenge the mining companies on our behalf.”

Cllr McMurdo will speak about the trip and report on a webinar on his return.

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3 August 2022

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About the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum: The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF) is a voluntary association of 85 public sector pension funds and six pool companies based in the UK with combined assets of over £350 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/>.