

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAPFF Chair comments on Ryanair AGM

Below are comments from Cllr Ian Greenwood, Chair of the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum, following the significant vote against the re-election of Ryanair Chair David Bonderman at the company's AGM.

LAPFF, whose members oversee about £230bn in pension fund assets, attended Ryanair's AGM outside Dublin. The forum recommended that its members vote against Mr Bonderman's re-election and the company's annual report and accounts.

Cllr Ian Greenwood, LAPFF's chair, said: "It is encouraging that more shareholders have voted against Mr Bonderman this year. Mr Bonderman has been Chair for too long and there are significant doubts about his independence. He has not taken a lead on employee relations or making sure customers have received adequate service during the continuing strikes.

"Ryanair has failed to adequately address concerns about the company's troubled relationship with its employees and the potential impact on its business. The company's employment issues highlight long-standing concerns about its governance and in particular Mr Bonderman's ability and willingness to oversee the board and influence the CEO, Michael O'Leary."

"We hope Mr Bonderman and the board will heed the message shareholders have sent today and announce plans for him to step down. Ryanair should recruit an independent Chair who will strengthen the board to provide greater oversight and challenge to Mr O'Leary."

Background to LAPFF's voting recommendations:

Consider financial statements and reports – OPPOSE

Ryanair has faced growing criticism over employment standards and its refusal to recognise unions. Concerns about these matters, and their potential effect on the company's business model, have contributed to the downward trend in Ryanair's share price. The company has said it is not willing to compromise its low-cost, low-fare model. However, after Ryanair reduced prices as a result of strikes its stance raises questions about whether recurring industrial action and cancellations will have a negative impact on the company's business model and shareholder value.

The report and accounts fails to address this matter adequately.

Ryanair's failure to reimburse customers for flight cancellations as a result of staff strikes also risks damaging Ryanair's brand and reputation with its customers.

Re-elect David Bonderman - OPPOSE

LAPFF has concerns over Mr Bonderman's independence. He has been on the board for 22 years and previously led an investment vehicle, Irish Air L.P. which acquired a minority interest in Ryanair. He is also a member of the nomination committee, which has failed to recruit enough independent directors to the board. Only 25% of Ryanair's directors are considered independent.

The Forum also believes Mr Bonderman has been unsuccessful in his oversight of human capital management issues within the company and ensuring that customers receive adequate service during the flight cancellations throughout the summer of 2018.

ENDS

20 September 2018

For further information:

Sean Farrell, Communications consultant
PIRC Ltd (research and engagement partner to
LAPFF)
Mobile: +44 (0)7828 595578
Email: Sean.Farrell@pirc.co.uk

About the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum

The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF), founded in 1991, is a voluntary association of 79 public sector pension funds and five pools based in the UK with combined assets of approximately £230 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.' www.lapfforum.org. PIRC is the Research and Engagement partner to the Forum.