

I am a private shareholder and have been for nearly 50 years.

In that time I have seen many changes to annual reports, legislation and other aspects of shareholder engagement. However I feel one area has been missed so far and that is the voting at a company's annual general meeting.

Although wider stakeholder involvement is always preached, in the end almost all resolutions are passed very quickly by a show of hands. The proxy votes have to be read out but there are very few companies such as Associated British Foods (ABF) who take a poll on every resolution as a matter of course.

I suggest that ABF's action is exemplary and it should be a legal requirement for all companies to take a poll on all resolutions at any general meeting.

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