

Report of the Head of Corporate Services

Gender Pay Gap Report

Purpose of report

This report details the gender pay gap in Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (the Service), prior to the publication of the Gender Pay Gap Report on the corporate website and government's reporting website.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- i) The gender pay gap figures are noted***
- ii) Progress to bridge the gender pay gap is monitored via SMB***
- iii) The attached Gender Pay Gap Report is published on the corporate website and government's reporting website together with a signed statement confirming the information is accurate***

Background

The Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017 require employers with 250 or more employees to publish statutory calculations every year showing the pay gap between their male and female employees. ***It is important to note that Gender Pay Gap reporting is different to an Equal Pay Audit which measures whether men and women in the same employment performing equal work receive equal pay.***

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service are committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity and development of all employees. We are aware that we have work to do to bridge the gender pay gap and we are fully committed to ensuring equal pay between female and male members of staff.

While the gender pay gap regulations for the public, private and voluntary sectors are near identical, and the calculations are directly comparable, the public sector regulations also take into account the public sector equality duty.

By law the six calculations should be published as follows:

- average gender pay gap as a mean average (average value)
- average gender pay gap as a median average (middle value)
- average bonus gender pay gap as a mean average
- average bonus gender pay gap as a median average

- proportion of males receiving a bonus payment and proportion of females receiving a bonus payment
- proportion of males and females when divided into four groups ordered from lowest to highest pay.

The information contained within this report is based on a snapshot of pay on 31 March 2017, and must be published by 4 April 2018 on the corporate website and on the government reporting website. A signed statement that the information is accurate must accompany the results and the results should remain on the websites for at least three years.

Analysis of Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue

Gender pay gap data trends

The mean gender pay gap is 25.8%. This figure is based on a mean male hourly rate of £17.70 and mean female hourly rate of £13.13. The median gender pay gap figure is 23.6%. This is based on a median male hourly pay rate of £17.08 and a median female hourly rate of £13.04. The mean and median gender bonus gap is 0% and it should be noted no staff receive bonus payments.

The pay quartiles indicate that women make up 64.5% of the lower quartiles, 14.6% of the upper middle quartile and 2.9% in the upper quartile.

Causes of gender pay gap trends

Generally the causes of the gender pay gap are complex and can be overlapping. Females often do well at school, but tend to end up concentrated in employment sectors that offer narrower scope for financial reward. On the other hand, many of the highest paying sectors are disproportionately made up of male employees.

One of the challenges that the Service face in bridging our gender pay gap is the current low number of females in uniformed roles, in middle management and in senior management positions. However, it should be noted that the Service has a clear defined career pathway for all uniformed staff and there are examples of female uniformed staff who have been proactively supported in developing their career via gaining specialist skills and promotion. Female support staff who have been proactively supported in developing their career and gaining promotion.

Addressing the gender pay gap trends

There will be defined targets specified in the People Strategy Action Plan 2017-2020 to address the current gender pay gap. This plan will build on current initiatives which are already in place. An important first step will be to conduct an equal pay audit to identify any pay differences between men and women who carry out the same jobs, similar jobs or work of equal value.

Work will be completed to audit the culture, values and behaviours within the organisation, and intelligence gained from this will inform recruitment, secondment, talent management and continuous development programmes. Furthermore, we will continue to

align our policies and practices to support an open and transparent culture, and further explore family friendly options to continually attract, retain and develop the best people.

Conclusion

The Service will continue to make progress in embedding gender equality and will provide updates to this Committee via the People Strategy Action Plan. The gender pay gap data will be published on the corporate website and the government's reporting website in accordance with legal requirements.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	None
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	Supports and enables the People Strategy and underpins the Equality Objectives.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	Not applicable however this report demonstrates commitment to embed the Equality Duty

Background and Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Gender Pay Gap Report

Contact Officer(s)

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