

Gender Pay Gap Report - 2019

1.0 Introduction

From April 2017, all organisations that employ over 250 employees are required to report annually their gender pay gap¹. The gender pay gap is defined as the differences in the average earnings of men and women over a standard period of time, regardless of their role seniority.

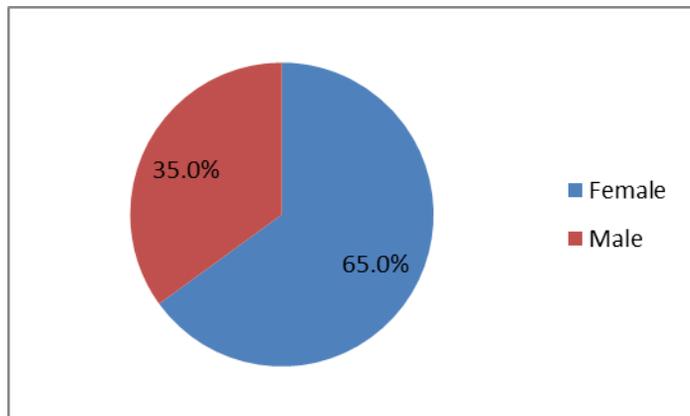
This is therefore the second year gender pay gap data has been reported.

A positive pay gap indicates that men are paid on average a greater hourly rate; **a negative pay gap** indicates that women are paid on average a greater hourly rate.

2.0 Context

Blackpool Council is a unitary authority which provides around 150 services to 142,000 Blackpool residents.

All Blackpool Council employees are remunerated according to set pay scales; posts are regularly reviewed and agreed by employee representatives through a formal job evaluation system. Our workforce is currently 2797 employees² of whom two thirds are female (65%).



Blackpool Council is committed to eliminating discrimination and encouraging equality and diversity in our workforce.

This approach is endorsed in our Council Plan which includes an assurance of equality and fairness in respect of gender.

¹ Under the Gender Pay Reporting under the Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017.

² Number of those employees in scope of the Gender pay gap.

Our equality objectives aim to get more people to tell us they experience fair treatment by Council services; to make our workforce representative of our communities, with more people from diverse backgrounds involved in decision-making at every level; that equality and diversity is embedded in staff culture; and that we celebrate growing diversity and increase respect and understanding for all.

What are we required to report?

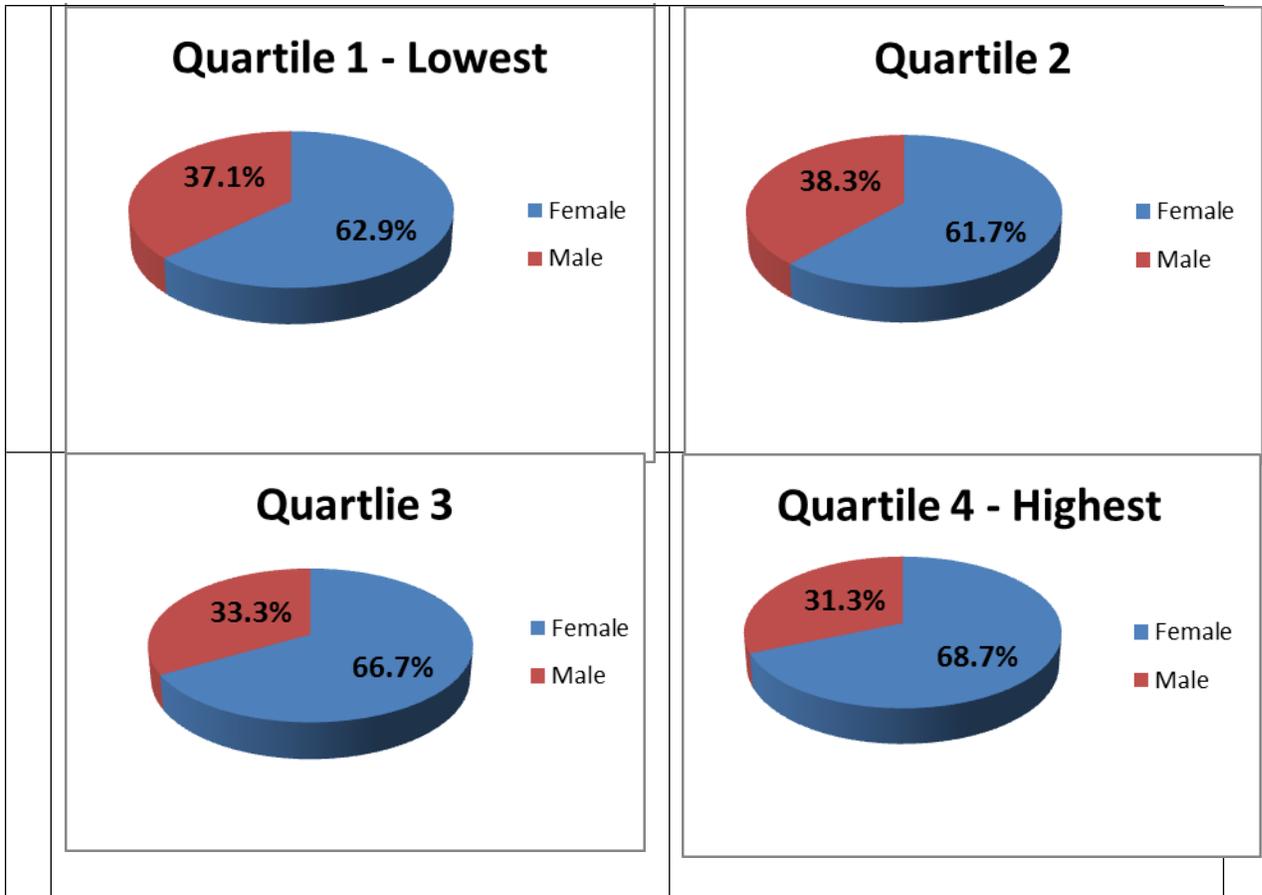
Mean gender pay gap	The difference between the mean hourly rate of pay of male full-pay relevant employees and that of female full-pay relevant employees
Median gender pay gap	The difference between the median hourly rate of pay of male full-pay relevant employees and that of female full-pay relevant employees
Mean Bonus Gap	The difference between the mean bonus pay paid to male relevant employees and that paid to female relevant employees
Median Bonus Gap	The difference between the median bonus pay paid to male relevant employees and that paid to female relevant employees
Quartile pay bands	The proportions of male and female full-pay relevant employees in the lower, lower middle, upper middle and upper quartile pay bands

The overall gender pay gap is defined as the difference between the median (actual midpoint) or mean (average) basic annual earnings of men and women expressed as a percentage of the median or mean basic annual earnings of men.

3.0 Data

Blackpool's Gender Pay Gap - Based on a snap shot date of 31st March 2018.

1	Mean Pay Gap	-1.0 %
2	Median Pay Gap	-5.8 %
3	Mean bonus gender pay gap	Blackpool Council does not operate any bonus scheme and therefore has no bonus gender pay gap.
4	Median bonus gender pay gap	
5	Proportion of males /females receiving a bonus payment	
6	Proportion of males and females in each quartile pay band	



4.0 Findings

You will see that if you compare the Mean Gender Pay Gap data of **-1.0 %** and the Median Gender Pay Gap **-5.8 %** to the national picture, it fares very favorably as the median pay gap among all companies that have reported is **9.7%**.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-43632763>

Although these figures are favourable for the Council, we are not complacent and will continue to monitor our performance, along with initiatives that we have in place which have contributed to these results such as:

Family friendly

- ✓ Actively supporting parents returning to work from maternity leave, shared parental leave or adoption leave by offering job share, career break or part time opportunities.
- ✓ Provision of job/career opportunities.
- ✓ Flexible working (Flexitime) in many locations.
- ✓ Voluntary Reduced Hours, Job Share and Career Break Schemes.
- ✓ Childcare Provision/Information.
- ✓ Compassionate/Special Leave arrangements.

Learning and Development

- ✓ Annual and interim appraisals for all staff to allow the opportunity to discuss key work objectives and learning and development needs.
- ✓ 360 degree feedback process for managers
- ✓ Development of Coaching and mentoring programmes
- ✓ Annual staff conference and awards ceremony

Leadership

- ✓ Maintaining a Strategic Equality and Diversity Manager who is a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- ✓ Introducing Development programmes for aspiring managers
- ✓ Audit undertaken to review resilience and governance given continuing staff reductions
- ✓ Introduction of a Leadership Charter

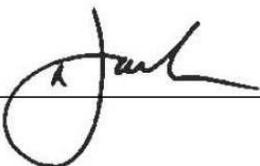
Recruitment and retention

- ✓ Establishment of an applicant tracking system for recruitment which provides data on equality of the process.
- ✓ The use of both structured and unstructured interviews in the recruitment processes
- ✓ The use of occupational testing where relevant to assist in decision making.
- ✓ Establishment and maintenance of a job evaluation system using nationally recognised NJC and Hays schemes.
- ✓ Salary Scales clearly showing incremental progression and related criteria.
- ✓ Introduction of the Foundation living wage

5.0 Agreement

I confirm that Blackpool Council is committed to the principle of gender pay equality and has prepared its 2019 gender pay gap results in line with mandatory requirements.

Signed:



Neil Jack Chief Executive

Publication Date : 1st March 2019