# GENDER PAYGAP

# Closing it together



Gillian Unsworth Head of Gender Pay Gap

## **The Government Equalities Office**

The Government Equalities Office works towards an inclusive society and an end to discrimination, by:

**Reducing the gender pay gap** 

**Tackling gender inequality in society** 

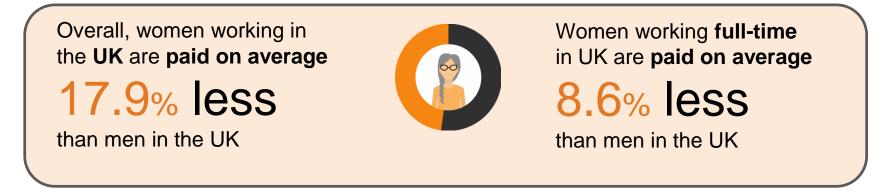
**Improving outcomes for LGBT people** 

Ensuring a world class equalities framework

Other government departments are responsible for policy around:

Race, Disability, Age, Religion, Pregnancy & maternity

# What is the Gender Pay Gap?



**Equal Pay vs Gender Pay Gap?** 



Paying men and women

**differently** for the same work Unlawful in the UK for over 45 years

### Unequal Pay Vs Gender Pay Gap

**Difference in average** pay between men and women

# Gender Pay Gap Year 2

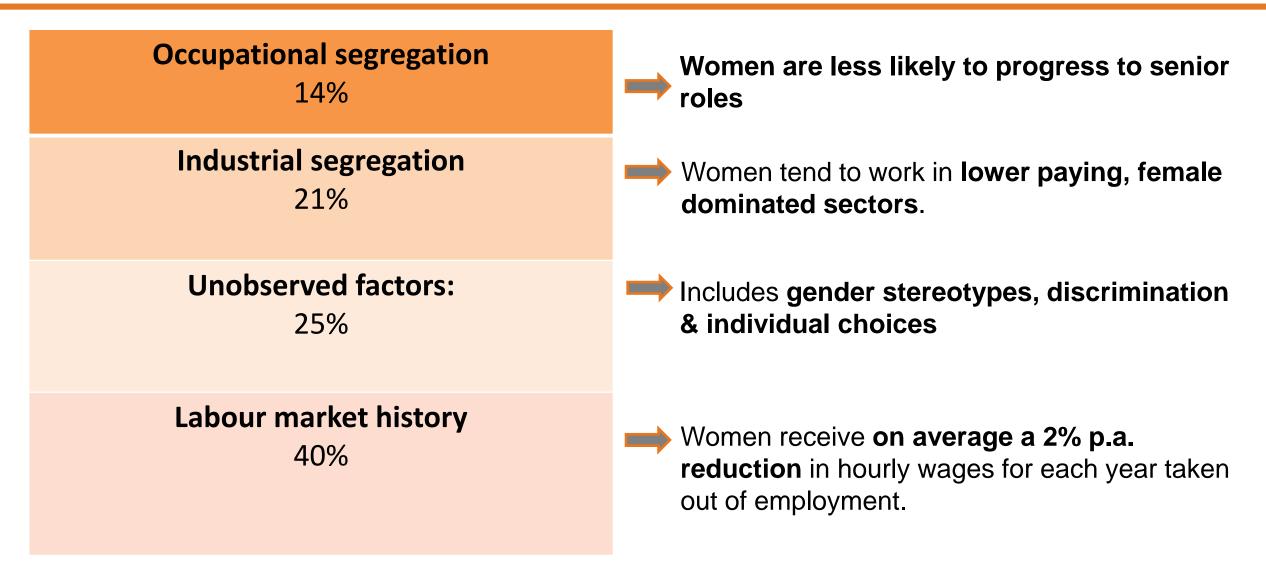
- Data transparency can help drive change
- Over 10,000 employers reported by 5<sup>th</sup> April
- 56% employers pay gap remained the same or improved
- High regional, national, international interest
- Employers are committed to taking action and want guidance
  - 3,500 engagements with our webinar & face to face engagement programme

# What we learnt in the last 2 years

- Employers value guidance when it comes to knowing what to do to close their gender pay gap
- Everyone confuses the gender pay gap with equal pay
- Numbers don't tell the full story
- Media and public scrutiny is crucial in driving employers to take action
- Employers are highly interested in the performance of their competitors
- Our GPG legislation remains of real interest to our international colleagues

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# What causes the Gender Pay Gap?



# How Does This Play Out for Women?

#### • Financial insecurity in later life

- By ages 50-59 earnings of average man £32,333 vs £18,906 average woman
- Women between 55-64 are 20% less likely to have private pension
- Women have 40% less wealth held in these pensions
- Is there a higher take up for employee share schemes among male employees?
- Evidence to show higher contribution rates for men in share schemes
- Share schemes can motive, incentivise and retain skilled staff
- The gender pay gap means this may not be working for half the population

# Support for employers

	Collating the data	<u>Acas guidance</u> <u>The Gender Pay Gap Explained</u>					
ר ר	Understanding what the data tells you	<ul> <li><u>Eight Ways to Understand Your Organisation's Gender</u></li> <li><u>Pay Gap</u></li> </ul>					
	Linking problems to actions	Evidence-based actions for employers					
	Understanding the evidence	<ul> <li>Four steps to developing a gender pay gap action plan</li> </ul>					
Ļ	Evidence based actions and how to implement them	<ul> <li><u>Family Friendly Policies: actions for employers</u></li> <li><u>Women's Progression in the Workplace: actions for</u> <u>employers</u></li> </ul>					

# **GEO Research Programmes**

**WAGE PROGRAMME:** A two year, £1.1 million, research programme designed to build evidence base on effective actions to close the gender pay gap and improve gender balance in workplaces. Collaboration with key academics, researchers and policy makers.

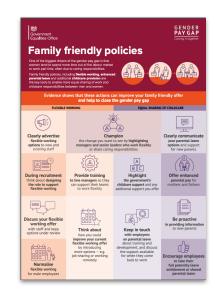
#### Aims:

- Build the evidence base and increase our knowledge of what works to reduce the gender pay gap
- Support employers to understand their pay gaps and provide them with information on evidencebased actions to take to close them

**GABI Programme:** A collaboration between GEO and the Behavioural Insights Team to develop the evidence base on behavioural economics interventions to support gender equality, using large scale employer trials to test the evidence in UK companies

#### Aims:

- Share the results to support employers to take evidence based actions
- Translate evidence into clear, practical guidance for business



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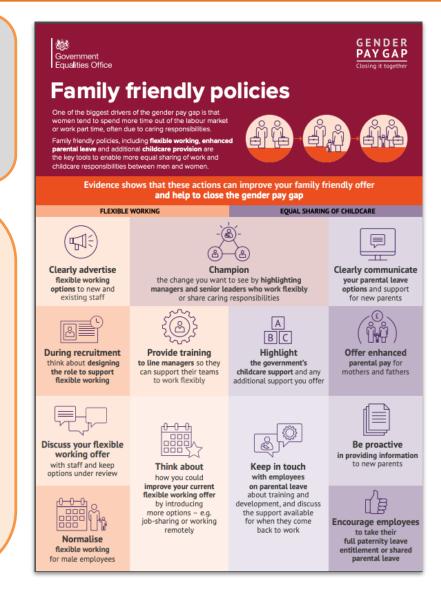
### **Evidence Based Actions - Family Friendly Policies**

#### Key themes:

- Increasing productivity and supporting talent through flexible working
- Supporting the equal sharing of childcare through parental leave
- Supporting parents with childcare

#### **Key Actions:**

- Clearly advertise flexible working options to new and existing staff
- Champion the change you want to see by highlighting managers and senior leaders who work flexibly or share caring responsibilities
- During recruitment think about designing the role to support flexible working
- Offer enhanced parental pay for mothers and fathers
- Clearly communicate your parental leave options and support for new parents
- Highlight the government's childcare support and any additional support you offer



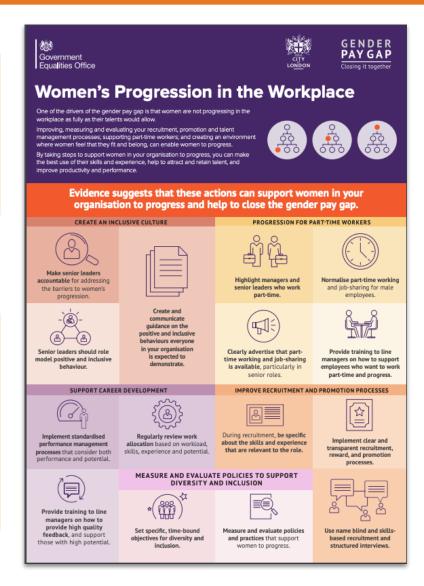
### **Evidence Based Actions - Women's Progression in the Workplace**

#### Key themes:

- Create an inclusive culture
- Support women's career development
- Progression for part-time workers
- Improve recruitment and promotion processes
- Measure and evaluate policies to support diversity and inclusion

#### **Key Actions:**

- Make senior leaders accountable for addressing the barriers to women's progression
- Clearly advertise that part-time working and job-sharing is available, particularly in senior roles.
- Implement standardised performance management processes that consider both performance and potential.
- Use name blind and skills based recruitment and structured interviews.
- Measure and evaluate policies and practices that support women to progress.



### **Evidence Based Actions - Women's Progression in the Workplace**

#### **Key themes - Progression For Part-Time Workers**

#### **Key Actions:**

- Highlight managers and senior leaders who work part-time.
- Normalise part-time working and job-sharing for male employees.
- Clearly advertise that part-time working and job-sharing is available, particularly in senior roles.
- Provide training to line managers on how to support employees who want to work part-time and progress.



# **Understanding Your Gender Pay Gap**

- Do people get stuck at certain levels within the business?
- Is there gender imbalance in promotions?
- Are women more likely to recruited into lower paid roles?
- Do men and women leave at different rates?
- Are there aspects of pay that differ by gender?
- Do men and women receive different performance scores?
- Are you looking at PT progression for all employees?
- Are you supporting both men and women with caring responsibilities?

# **Call To Action For Employers**

- Understand your GPG
- Sector level action
- Produce an action plan communicate internally & externally
- Examine **recruitment** processes
- Ask the hard questions on women's progression
- Look at job design and flexible working offer
- Recruit senior male champions agents for change

# Thank You

### **Gender equality at every stage: A roadmap for Change**

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