

As Scottish Autism employs more than 250 colleagues, it is required to comply with government regulations and report annually on its gender pay gap, so demonstrating the difference in women's and men's earnings. For Charities, including Scottish Autism this must be published by 4th April each year, and within one year of the 'snapshot' data being taken. Scottish Autism took its 'snapshot' data on 5th April 2024.

Gender pay gap is different from equal pay:

- Equal pay is awarding men and women the same amount to do identical or equivalent work. This is a legal requirement in the UK and has been for many years.
- Gender pay gap is the difference between average earnings for men and women. If women are being paid more, that's called a negative pay gap and is expressed as a minus figure.

The report is required to publish data on:

- the mean and median salary pay gap
- the proportion of men and women in each pay quartile
- the pay gap between men and women for staff who receive bonus payments.

Scottish Autism Data:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Difference in median pay: | -2.7% |
| Difference in mean pay: | -4.2% |
| Median Bonus gender pay gap: | 8.4% |
| Mean Bonus gender pay gap: | 6.3% |
| Percentage who receive a bonus: | 87% |

| Salary Quartiles | % Women | % Men |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Lower quartile | 73.2% | 26.8% |
| Lower middle quartile | 71.2% | 28.8% |
| Upper middle quartile | 75% | 25% |
| Upper quartile | 76.4% | 23.6% |
| Total | 74% | 26% |

Summary to Explain Scottish Autism's Gender Pay Gap

The gender pay gap reporting for Scottish Autism continues to give an insight into the equality of pay within the organisation.

Most of our staff are employed in care and support related roles, and this is reflected in our overall workforce make up, which is 74% women and 26% men. We have seen an increase of 0.5% of male representation compared to 2023. This is positive given these roles have traditionally been considered gendered work. We are keen to encourage more men to enter work in social care and have a focus to ensure we are targeting our recruitment approaches to show how they can progress their careers in our sector and our approach to learning and development, fair work and pay progression will support development opportunities for all.

Proportionately, there is greater representation of women (76.4%) and lower representation of men (23.6%) in the upper quartile. However, we have seen an increase of 1.5% of men in the upper quartile, but a decrease of 6.7% in the upper middle quartile.

An increase in 2.4% in the mean gender pay gap compared to 2023 shows that on average women continue to be paid slightly more than men. Although we review all data from this exercise, our focus is on the median, which reduces the impact of extremes that can skew averages (mean). Scottish Autism's median gender pay gap has changed by 5.5% between April 2023 and April 2024 from 2.8% (in favour of men) to -2.7% (in favour of women).

The reportable mean bonus pay gap for 2024 is 6.3% which indicates a bonus pay gap in favour of men. In line with the guidance for gender pay gap reporting, Scottish Autism's financial support payment, made in the winter of 2023, to support colleagues with the high cost of living was included. This was targeted for all employees in the lower two pay quartiles and the amount was based on the individual's contracted hours with full time colleagues receiving 100% of the bonus. Scottish Autism made this payment to support our workforce and does not anticipate repeating it.

The bonus pay gap is due to us having a higher proportion of men than women in the lower two quartiles who were in receipt of the targeted one-off payment and with a greater proportion on higher weekly contracts.

Scottish Autism is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion and complies with the Equality Act, 2010. Equal pay audits are undertaken every 3 years to support Scottish Autism in best practice for pay equality. We actively encourage applications from all sectors of the community and appoint people to roles and remunerate colleagues based on merit regardless of protected characteristic.

Dorry McLaughlin
Chief Executive