



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Research and Information Service Briefing Note

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Barbara Love

Gender balance of staff attending Secretariat Management Group and Assembly Commission meetings 2017-18

1 Introduction

This Briefing Note presents statistics on the gender balance of staff attending Secretariat Management Group and Northern Ireland Assembly Commission meetings for the 2017/18 reporting year. This information will inform the work of the Northern Ireland Assembly Secretariat's Gender Action Implementation Group. When drawing conclusions from the data, it is important to bear in mind that individual members of staff may have presented more than once over the time period in question. It is also important to note that in many instances presenters will have been selected due to their role.

2 Gender balance at Secretariat Management Group

SMG is currently gender balanced, comprising of the Clerk/Chief Executive (female) and three Directors (one female and two males). Attendance at SMG meetings by members of the group was gender balanced throughout 2017/18.

For the period 2017/18, staff deputised at SMG meetings on two occasions. On both occasions the person deputising was a grade 3 male.

Over the same period, 72 presentations were recorded as being made to SMG by staff, 35 by female members of staff (48.6%) and 37 by male members of staff (51.4%).

The highest proportion of presentations were by females at grade 4 (51.4%) while the highest proportion of presentations were by males at grade 3 (43.2%). It is likely that much of this variation is due to the role of the presenter.

While 22.9% of female presenters were at grade 5 compared with 10.8% of male presenters, no females at grades 6 and 7 presented to SMG while six presentations to SMG were by males at grade 6 (16.2%) and one was by a male at grade 7 (2.7%).

Table 1: Gender balance of Secretariat staff presenting at SMG meetings, 2017/18

Assembly grade	Female		Male	
	No.	% within female presenters	No.	% within male presenters
3	9	25.7	16	43.2
4	18	51.4	10	27.0
5	8	22.9	4	10.8
6	-		6	16.2
7	-		1	2.7
All grades	35	100	37	100

**Figures may not sum due to rounding*

Caution - percentages based on small numbers

3 Gender balance at Northern Ireland Assembly Commission meetings

Attendance at Assembly Commission by members of SMG was gender balanced throughout 2017/18.

For the period 2017/18, two presentations were by a female member of staff and five presentations were by male members of staff to the Assembly Commission. These presenters were at grades 3 or 4.