



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service Briefing Note

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# Gender balance of staff presenting at SMG and Assembly Commission meetings and at Assembly Community Connect Sessions

## 1 Introduction

This Briefing Note presents the latest available statistics on the gender balance of staff presenting at Secretariat Management Group meetings, Northern Ireland Assembly Commission meetings (2016/17) and at Assembly Community Connect sessions (2016). 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

For the period 2016/17, staff deputised at SMG meetings on five occasions. Of these, a female deputised on one occasion while males deputised on four occasions (see Table 1).

Over the same period, 61 presentations were made to SMG by staff – 32 by female members of staff (52%) and 29 by male members of staff (48%). Although some members of staff made more than one presentation and in many instances staff are selected to present due to their role e.g. the Head of HR, it is noteworthy that females represent approximately 44% of all staff. The highest proportion of presentations were by females at grade 5 while the highest proportion of presentations were by males at grade 3. No females at grades 6 and 7 presented to SMG while six presentations to SMG were by males at grade 6 (14%) and grade 7 (7%).

For a more detailed breakdown of the gender balance of Secretariat staff present at SMG meetings including SMG members and officials, please see Table 2.

**Table 1: Gender balance of Secretariat staff presenting at SMG meetings, 2016/17**

Assembly grade	Female		Male	
	No.	% within females	No.	% within males
3	10	31	15	52
4	8	25	6	21
5	14	44	2	7
6	0	0	4	14
7	0	0	2	7
All grades	32	100	29	100*

*\*Figures may not sum due to rounding*

*Caution - percentages based on small numbers*

### 3 Gender balance at Northern Ireland Assembly Commission meetings

For the period 2016/17, one presentation was by a female member of staff and four presentations were by male members of staff.

For a more detailed breakdown of the gender balance of Secretariat staff present at Northern Ireland Assembly Commission meetings including SMG members and officials, please see Table 3.

### 4 Gender balance at Assembly Community Connect sessions

In 2016, there were 42 Assembly Community Connect sessions. The gender of the presenters was recorded in 29 of these. Based on the data available, 48.3% (n = 43) of presenters were female and 51.7% were male (n = 46).

## Annex A

Table 2: Gender composition of Secretariat staff at SMG meetings

Meeting Date	Clerk /CE and Directors		Officials		Deputising		Presenters	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
<b>complement</b> <b>2016-17</b> <b>Reporting year</b>	1(2)	4(1,2,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)				
2016 04 15	1(2)	4(1,2,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	0	1(3)	1(3)
2016 05 13	1(2)	3(1,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	1(4)	0	1(3)	2(3,3)
2016 06 03	2(1LH)(2)	4(1,2,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	0	3(5,5,5)	2(3,3)
2016 07 01	2(1,2)	3(2,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	0	0	1(3)
2016 09 16	2(1,2)	3(2,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	0	4(3,4,5,5,)	5(3,4,4,5,6)
2016 10 19	2(1,2)	2(2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	1(3)	7(3,4,4,4,5,5,5)	3(3,4,5)
2016 11 16	2(1,2)	3(2,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	0	2(3,4)	4(3,3,4,4)
2016 12 16	2(1,2)	3(2,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	0	3(3,4,5)	2(3,6)
2017 01 18	2(1,2)	3(2,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	1(3 part of meeting)	5(3,3,4,5,5)	3(3,6,7)
2017 02 24	1(1)	3(2,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	1(3)	3(3,4,5)	2(3,4)
2017 03 30	2(1,2)	3(2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	1(3)	3(3,5,5)	4(3,3,6,7)
<b>2017-18</b> <b>Reporting year</b>								
2017 04 24	2(1,2)	2(2,2)	1(7)	1(5)	0	1(3)	3(3,4,4)	2(3,6)

Number in () denotes Assembly Grade

Table 3: Gender composition of Secretariat staff at Commission meetings

Meeting Date	Clerk /CE and Directors		Officials		Presenters	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
<b>complement</b>	2(1,2)	3(2,2,2)	1(7)	1(5)		
2016 06 23	1(2)	4(1,2,2,2)	1(7)	1(3,5)		
2016 09 29	1(1,2)	3(2)	1(7)	1(3,5)	1(5)	3(4,4,5)
2016 11 15	1(1,2)	3(2,2,2)	0	1(3, 5)	0	0
2016 11 24	1(1,2)	3(2,2,2)	1(7)	1(3,5)	0	1(4)
2016 12 05	1(1,2)	3(2,2,2)	1(7)	1(3,5)	0	0

Number in () denotes Assembly Grade