

## Gender Pay Gap Report for 2023/24 (Snap-Shot 05 April 2024)

### Introduction

Mandatory gender pay gap reporting was introduced in 2017 with the aim of narrowing and eventually eliminating the pay differential between men and women.

The framework is a tool for a complex issue and does not consider full- and part-time working arrangements, or of differences in occupation, grade and location. Neither does it factor in family structures, caring responsibilities, education, career aspirations, or personal choices employees make in their employment.

Across the UK economy, men are more likely than women to be in senior roles. Women are more likely than men to be in front-line roles and are also more likely than men to have had breaks from work that have affected their career progression, for example to bring up their children. Women are also more likely to work part-time, and many of the jobs that are available across the UK on a part-time basis are relatively low paid.

This pattern from the UK economy as a whole is reflected in the make-up of our organisation.

### Gender Pay Gap Report

This is our annual gender pay gap report for the snapshot date of **5 April 2024**:

- Our mean gender pay gap is 5.39% (6.64% in 2023)
- Our median gender pay gap is 0.53% (0.52% in 2023)
- Our mean gender bonus gap is 2.38% (28.12% in 2023)
- Our median gender bonus gap is 1.84% (-5.69% in 2023)
- The proportion of male employees receiving a bonus is 2.55% (8.28% in 2023) and the proportion of female employees receiving a bonus is 3.40% (4.91% in 2023)

**Table 1: Pay quartiles by gender – 2023 and 2024**

Band	Males 05/04/23	Females 05/04/23	Males 05/04/24	Females 05/04/24	What is included in this band?
A	12.11	87.89	18.09	81.91	All employees whose standard hourly rate is within the lower quartile
B	16.74	83.26	17.70	82.30	All employees whose standard hourly rate is more than the lower quartile but the same or less than the median
C	14.54	85.46	17.91	82.09	All employees whose standard hourly rate is more than the median but the same or less than the upper quartile
D	18.94	81.06	22.39	77.61	All employees whose standard hourly rate is within the upper quartile

## Why do Somerset Care have a gender pay gap?

Legally, men and women must receive equal pay for:

- the same or broadly similar work;
- work rated as equivalent under a job evaluation scheme; or
- work of equal value

We are committed to equal opportunities and equal treatment for all employees, regardless of sex, race, religion or belief, age, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation, gender reassignment or disability. We have developed a clear Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy outlining that we pay employees equally for the same or equivalent work, regardless of their sex or any of the protected characteristics

We are confident that our gender pay gap is not because we pay men and women differently for the same or equivalent work. Instead, our gender pay gap is because men and women work in different roles and those roles have different salaries.

There were a total number of 1877 employees included within the snapshot for the period, an increase from 1816 in 2023 (1638 reported for 2022, 2136 employees reported for 2021, 1972 employees reported for 2020, and 2367 employees for 2019). This is due to the increased number of 'relevant' employees to be included for the purposes of Gender Pay Reporting.

Employers must not count any employee within the Gender Pay Gap figures if they are paid less than their usual basic pay or, or none at all, because of being on leave during the pay period in which the snapshot date falls (the relevant pay period).

The specific reasons employees at Somerset Care Limited have been excluded from the calculation are for the following reasons:

- Employee is on low pay
- No hours worked in the period
- No Payslip in the period
- Zero pay rate calculated

The low pay exclusion is for anyone with the following payments listed in the period:

- Statutory Sick Pay/Ordinary Sick Pay
- Statutory Maternity Pay (or any other parental leave payment)
- Special absence (including dependency leave)
- Employees receiving Furlough Payments under the CJRS

As for the specifics behind any other exclusion reason, it does fall in line with the HMRC published guidance.

There are further exceptions to 'relevant' employees than we have employees, this is due to exceptions being generated per employee post. For example, an employee could have 3 posts with exceptions, but one valid post; an employee may have 1 contract role and 3 relief roles where none of the relief roles were worked in the reference period, however they would still be a valid employee for the calculations.

It is unsurprising that there is a significant increase in the number of relevant employees for the snapshot timeframe due to the increase in number of employees overall.

### How does our gender pay gap compare with that of others?

The mean gender pay gap for the whole economy [according to the October 2024 (ONS) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) figures] decreased to 13.1% in April 2024, from 14.2% in April 2023.

In 2024, the gap among full-time employees decreased to 7% from 7.7% in 2023 (8.3% in 2022, 7.7% in 2021). This is still below the gap of 9.0% before the coronavirus pandemic in 2019.

The gender pay gap is higher for all employees than it is for full-time employees, or part-time employees. This is because women fill more part-time jobs. Compared with full-time jobs, part-time jobs have lower median hourly pay. ASHE data show that in 2024, approximately 85% of male employees were in full-time jobs, compared with approximately 61% of female employees.

The gender pay gap has been declining slowly over time. Over the last decade, it has fallen by approximately a quarter among both full-time employees, and all employees.

	<b>Somerset Care 05/04/23 (snapshot)</b>	<b>ONS ASHE whole economy 2023</b>	<b>Somerset Care 05/04/24 (snapshot)</b>	<b>ONS ASHE whole economy 2024</b>
Mean gender pay gap	6.64%	14.2%	5.39%	13.1%

### What are we doing to address our gender pay gap?

We are committed to doing everything we can to reduce the gap. However, we also know this is a difficult task. For example, we have no control over what people choose to study or the career choices that they make.

As part of reviewing our recruitment practices and HR metrics, Somerset Care Limited can take the following steps to understand:

- the number of men and women applying for jobs and being recruited;
- the number of men and women applying for and getting promotions;
- the number of men and women leaving our organisation and their reasons for leaving;
- the number of men and women in each role and pay band;
- the number of men and women working flexibly and their level within our organisation;

- the number of men and women who return to their original job after maternity or other parental leave; and
- the number of men and women still working a year after they took maternity or other parental leave.

We will continue to review our gender pay information and support our employees and implement the right people strategies to enhance our culture.

We confirm that all calculations have been carried out in line with the guidance and regulations, with all efforts made to ensure a robust and methodical approach to the production of our findings.

**Our Purpose is Our People.**

**Jonathan Palmer**  
**Chief Executive Officer**