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Gender pay gap survey reveals the good, the bad and the scandalous

The UK's stubbornly wide gender pay gap is well-known. Almost half a century on from the gender pay act, there is still an 18.1% difference in average pay between men and women. Of course, such average figures for all employees tell a narrow story. They don't, for example, account for the fact more women work in lower-paid jobs or sectors.

But now people can quickly look up how things stand between the sexes in their particular job with a new interactive tool from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

For example, women classed as "chief executives and senior officials" are paid 28.7% less than men in that group. Women hold 30% of those jobs.

It's a similar story among bank managers. Women classed as "financial institution managers and directors" earn 36% less than men.

Things look better for cleaners, nurses, bar staff and further education teachers, where the gap is zero. [...]

As the statisticians point out, the reasons for the pay gap are more complex, and include the fact women are more likely to work part time, which can mean a lower rate of pay. Women are also underrepresented in senior roles, something which may be down to people's attitudes to gender roles, lack of flexible working or women taking time to look after their family. [...]

The minister for women and equalities, Justine Greening, noted that the gender pay gap was now the lowest on record and that there were more women in work than ever before. [...]

"Employers must play their part in this too and take action to tackle the gender pay gap in their organisation."

Katie Allen, The Guardian, Friday 4 December

(270 words)