

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Appointment of Women to Public Office

Date of release: 26 March 2014

Information request

How many of the paid public appointments made by your department between April and September 2013 were made to women and to which posts, and of these, which were reappointments and which new appointments.

Total number of paid public appointments made by your department between April and September 2013.

Information released

This Government's aspiration is that 50% of new public appointees should be women by the end of this Parliament. The Cabinet Office has published an action-based diversity plan outlining how Government is working to meet that target. In the first six months of this financial year 45% of new public appointments made by Whitehall departments were women. This is the first year this information has been published and it will be updated on a six monthly basis. Over the last 8-10 years the number of women appointed to the boards of public bodies has remained static at around 36%. This is not just about gender; diversity is about encouraging applications from candidates with the widest range of backgrounds.

The total number of paid public appointments made by the department between April and September 2013 was 63. Of these appointments, 19 were made to women, which included 14 new appointments and 5 reappointments.

Women were appointed to the following posts:

Title	New	Reappointment
Arts and Humanities Research Council - Board Member	2	
Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council - Board Member	1	
Eng. & Physical Sciences Research Council - Board Member	1	
Economic & Social Research Council - Board Member	2	
Medical Research Council - Board Member		1
Natural Environment Research Council - Board Member	1	
Science & Technology Facilities Council - Board Member		1
Competition Commission Reporting Panel Members	6	
Acas council member (independent representative)		1
Acas council member (employee representative)		1
Central Arbitration Committee - Deputy Chair		1
Non-executive Director (IPO Steering Board)	1	

The above includes both Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointment (OCPA) and non-OCPA regulated appointments but does not include extensions to existing appointments. For paid appointments we have also excluded those posts that receive only an allowance or travel and substance.