

Grampian Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer



Equalities Mainstreaming and Outcomes 2025 Report

On behalf of the Grampian Valuation Joint Board

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April 2025

1. Introduction

The Grampian Valuation Joint Board (the Board) and the Assessor for the Grampian Valuation Joint Board (the Assessor) are fully committed to embracing and implementing the principle and ethos of the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012.

By fully adopting the principles and ethos of the Equality Act 2010, the Board will provide to all electors, rate payers, council tax payers and to its own staff a service provision, culture and working environment which is free from unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and where all members of our community have equal opportunities and treat each other with dignity and respect.

2. Grampian Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer

The Grampian Assessor and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) is an independent statutory official appointed and funded by the Grampian Valuation Joint Board to value non-domestic properties for rating purposes, allocate dwellings to council tax valuation bands and provide an electoral registration service for the Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray council areas. These councils lie in the North East of Scotland and their collective area is known as Grampian. The local councils collect non-domestic rates and council tax and their Returning Officers are usually responsible for conducting any elections. The Assessor & ERO has a workforce of approximately 80 staff distributed between offices in Aberdeen, Banff & Elgin.

3. The Grampian Valuation Joint Board

The Grampian Valuation Joint Board is the statutory valuation authority established by the Valuation Joint Boards (Scotland) Order 1995. The Board comprises 15 members; Aberdeen City Council appoints six Members, Aberdeenshire Council appoints six Members and The Moray Council appoints three Members. The three councils fund the Board on a pro-rata basis.

The role of the valuation authority is to appoint the Assessor and deputies as necessary for the purposes of the Valuation Acts. The Assessor and any deputies must be chartered surveyors and the Valuation Acts place the duty to assess properties on the

Assessor rather than the Board thus ensuring that the assessments are arrived at in an independent manner. Through local arrangements, the Board appointed the Assessor as Electoral Registration Officer to the three councils.

Given the respective roles of the Board and the Assessor & ERO, the Assessor & ERO reports on behalf of the Board.

4. The Legal Context

The Equality Act 2010 and the General Equality Duty

The General Equality Duty replaces the previous race, disability and gender equality duties, which aimed to mainstream equality into public sector culture. These principles continue to apply to the public sector under the Equality Act 2010. This Act increased the number of equality groups from three to nine. These groups are called protected characteristics in the Equality Act:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

The General Equality Duty as set out in the Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other prohibited conduct.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Act makes clear that having due regard to advancing equality involves:

- removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- encouraging persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The Specific Equality Duties

The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 place particular legal requirements on specified public authorities to assist them meet the requirements of the General Equality Duty. Valuation Joint Boards are specified in the regulations. The legal duties for the Grampian Valuation Joint Board are to:

- Report on mainstreaming equality.
- Publish equality outcomes and report on progress.
- Assess and review policies and practices.
- Gather and use employee information.
- Publish gender pay gap information.
- Publish statements on equal pay, including occupational segregation information.
- Consider award criteria and conditions in relation to public procurement.
- Publish in a manner that is accessible to the public.

The Specific Duties required public authorities in Scotland to publish a Mainstreaming Report and a set of Equality Outcomes by 30 April 2013. There is an ongoing duty to provide two yearly update reports and to refresh equality outcomes every four years. Accordingly, we published the first mainstreaming report in 2013 and that was followed by an update in 2015. In 2017 we introduced additional outcomes and provided an

update on them in 2019. In our 2021 report we identified further outcomes and updated progress in 2023. Our 2025 report is the seventh report since the 2012 Regulations came into force and provides an update on our progress in the past two years as well as a plan for the four years ahead.

A number of listed public authorities are required to publish the gender composition of their board members and to report on current and planned work towards board diversity. The Grampian Valuation Joint Board is not a listed authority under the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016.

5. The operational context

Neither the Board nor the Assessor & ERO operate in a vacuum albeit that the remit has a very narrow and statutory foundation. It is important to recognise that the functions are restricted but also that the impact of the functions is fundamental – providing access to the democratic process and an independent assessment service for local taxation.

Partnership working is however a key aspect of the service, with partnerships between the Scottish Assessors Association (SAA) and the 13 other individual and independent lands valuation assessors, the SAA Electoral Registration Committee and the 14 other electoral registration officers in Scotland, the Electoral Commission, the Electoral Management Board for Scotland, the Association of Electoral Administrators, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation. Through these partnerships, the service is able to benefit from the synergies of joint working. The benefits of sharing resources, research and expertise enables the Assessor & ERO to deliver cost effective but specialist and comprehensive outcomes to the local area. Specifically, membership of the Scottish Assessors' Association Governance Committee gives us the opportunity to share information on equality and diversity issues and agree best practices with colleagues from throughout Scotland.

Operational partnerships with the three local councils responsible for the levy and collection of non-domestic rates and council tax, along with their electoral services offices that support the returning officers appointed for particular elections also prevail. Joint working at this local level ensures that the equalities themes flow across services

and measures to advance the interests of those with protected characteristics are implemented in a coordinated manner.

Through their local and national joint working arrangements it is considered that Assessors & EROs provide one of the best examples of joint working within the Scottish public sector, where the focus is on service delivery without disproportionate overheads of a structural or organisational nature.

Local and national partners also have an important role in providing feedback as to performance.

The service's strategic position is as follows:

- There are some 460,000 electors currently registered to vote in Grampian, which amounts to approximately 10% of the Scottish electorate and 1% of the UK electorate. The Elections Act 2022 introduced the UK Government's manifesto commitments on electoral integrity and the wider democratic system. During 2023/24, elements which were introduced included voter ID, the removal of time limits for the registration of overseas electors and the ability to apply online for an absent vote at UK elections. These changes have been challenging to implement and to manage but early planning and effective communication and training have been key factors in successfully integrating them into our "business as usual" workstreams. We are now looking ahead to a Scottish Parliamentary Election in 2026 and the local government election in 2027.
- Non-domestic Rating – Throughout the last 24 months the priority has been the disposal of proposals and appeals arising from the 2023 Revaluation. The 2023 Revaluation involved the assessment of rateable values for some 30,500 non-domestic properties across Grampian, with a total value close to £1billion. The revaluation came into effect from 1 April 2023. Revaluations now take place on a three yearly basis and preparation is now well under way in regard to the 2026 Revaluation, which has a 1 April 2025 valuation date.

- The Council Tax regime continues to be a stable function, with a valuation list of over 300,000 dwellings allocated to council tax bands and around 3,000 new dwellings being added each year. A recent priority was the clearing of a backlog of enquiries, proposals and appeals that had built up as a result of the Covid pandemic. Whilst reform of the council tax has been a regular topic for government and Parliament, more immediate national priorities and the challenge of determining the precise shape of any reform has resulted in the retention of a system of taxation based on values from over 30 years ago. However, Council Tax reform is now on the agenda again and currently under consideration by the Joint Working Group on Sources of Local Government Funding and Council Tax Reform.

Appendix 1 to this report provides the characteristics of the employees as at 31 March 2025. The Assessor & ERO service establishment comprises 84 full time posts. As at 31 March 2025 there were 78 full and part-time employees that represented 71 full time equivalents. The staff turnover picture has significantly improved over the past two year period with 15 new appointments and only 5 leavers.

6. Mainstreaming

Mainstreaming simply means integrating equality into the day-to-day operations of the service – considering equality in everything that is done as an employer and when planning and providing services. Senior managers must provide clear and consistent messages with the equality duties embedded within all strategy. Co-workers should be able to recognise the relevance of the equality duties to their own role and should consider it in carrying out their work. Equality therefore becomes fully integrated within structures, behaviours and culture rather than an adjunct to these aspects of the service.

Evidence is an important aspect of mainstreaming and includes monitoring service users and service activity as regards all of the protected characteristics and then analysing outcomes. Monitoring and reporting on workforce composition, recruitment, development and retention of its employees with respect to protected characteristics also assists the mainstreaming process. See Appendices 1 & 2.

6.1 Training

Training is an important tool to ensure that staff are aware of the importance of Equality issues and to ensure that they behave in a way that is non-discriminatory. We have ensured that all staff have undergone Equality & Diversity Training. This training is mandatory and all “new starts” complete this training as part of their induction package. Refresher courses in Equality & Diversity are mandatory and must be completed every two years and have been completed by all staff in the last quarter of 2024 or first quarter of 2025.

6.2 Progress in mainstreaming in the workplace

Workforce monitoring demonstrates that there have been some changes in the overall balance of the workforce since 31 March 2023 – see comments under Equal Pay Statement below.

The Board is committed to ensuring that recruitment and selection incorporates the principles of equality and fair treatment of all job applicants and that the workforce reflects as far as possible minority groups within the local community where this contributes to facilitating the delivery of continually improving, efficient and effective services.

During the last two years the service has continued to accommodate requests to move to part-time working or to change the pattern of part-time working in order to allow the workforce to meet their out-of-employment social and family responsibilities. For the past two years our employees have continued to enjoy the benefits of hybrid home/office working.

6.2 Progress in mainstreaming in our services

Equalities is now a standing agenda item for Management Team meetings to help ensure that our duty to advance equality is meaningful and ongoing.

The Assessor and ERO service has had another extremely busy two-year period. The original statutory appeal disposal programme anticipated all Revaluation 2017 appeals being disposed of by the independent valuation appeal committees by 31 December

2020. That deadline was extended four times, as a result of the pandemic itself and then the transfer of large volumes of pandemic related appeals to the new First-tier Tribunal Local Taxation Chamber. Accordingly, the valuation service faced the challenge of handling proposals arising from the 2023 non-domestic revaluation at the same time as dealing with large volumes of appeals remaining in the system from the 2017 Revaluation period. In addition, the electoral team were dealing with the legislative changes brought about by the Elections Act 2022 which have affected all aspects of electoral registration, and provided full registration and support services for the United Kingdom Parliamentary General Election in July 2024.

The actual progressing of mainstreaming initiatives has been challenging against the background of the extremely demanding operational programme described above along with the necessity to continue to provide full operational and statutory services whilst tackling a high vacancy level in relation to our professional posts. Some progress has however been achieved regarding mainstreaming and the identified equality outcomes (see Section 7 below for detail.)

7. Equality Outcomes

Equality Outcome 1

Maximise the opportunities for young citizens to register to vote and therefore enable them to participate in the democratic process

Registration statistics will demonstrate progress against census outputs and other sources of young person data. In turn, the early engagement with young citizens should prove beneficial in assisting to establish a culture of engagement in mid-late teens that may be maintained into adulthood.

Activities

- Consult with partner authorities and education providers.
- Canvass and publicity plan.
- Integration of the equalities element with the Electoral Commission performance standards regime.

- Engagement with individual equalities groups to ensure removal of barriers to registration.

Measurement

- Registration rates compared to census outputs.
- Number of registration corrections and complaints.

Progress to April 2023

Registration and voter engagement activities in connection with this outcome commenced in advance of the 2014 Independence Referendum and further activity took place in advance of the 2016 Scottish Parliamentary and 2017 local government elections. These activities included providing presentations to Modern Studies teacher groups and school librarians, holding registration campaigns, running a promotional banner and leaflet design competition for school students and collaboration with local authorities including participation in mock elections in schools and manning stalls at engagement events.

Specific work was conducted in partnership with the three local authorities to ensure that children in care, known as looked after children, had the opportunity to register to vote and were given the necessary guidance and assistance. The service also facilitated young voters with anonymous registration where personal safety, or that of another member of the household, was an issue.

There were 12,519 under 18 year olds registered to vote at the date relevant date for the May 2017 Local Government Election. The number registered at 31 March 2019 fell to 11,319 and this is no doubt due to the lack of electoral events over the intervening two year period.

Although there was a marginal decrease in numbers since the 2017 Local Government Election we continued to work with the local education authorities with particular emphasis on the preparations for the Scottish Parliamentary election that took place on 6 May 2021. Our work included the provision of an animation for use on social media that was specifically designed to engage with young voters.

Our work with universities focussed on the unanticipated election to the European parliament in May 2019 and the snap election to the UK Parliament in December 2019, as both elections essentially took place whilst students were resident at their term-time residences. Since the onset of the pandemic, students have been largely resident at their home addresses and our registration engagement activities such as the annual canvass focussed on that and on promoting absent voting for all those who could not, or would prefer not to attend a polling station due to the pandemic during the Autumn 2020 by-elections and ahead of the 2021 Scottish Parliament Election.

We continued to pursue and monitor this outcome between 2021 and 2023. However, we are unable to make comparison to the statistics from previous years because of:

1. A change to the definition of a local government attainer from the previous definition which referenced attaining the age of 16 before the end of the period of 12 months beginning with 1 December next following the relevant date (and which was not well understood), to include any person who is 14 years of age or over.
2. The extension of the local government franchise to all foreign nationals from 3 August 2020 which naturally fed into any observed increase in under 18 voters from 2020 onwards.

Nevertheless, the numbers of 16 and 17 year old local government electors increased from 9,317 at 1 December 2021 to 9,946 at 1 December 2022 and the total number of under 18 registrations increased from 14,111 to 14,785 in the same time frame as a result of the ingathering of data from schools and the consequent issue of invitations to register.

Progress since April 2023

An Electoral Commission led event, “Welcome to your vote week” took place 10 – 16 March 2025 and we liaised with private schools across the Grampian area, providing the latest resources with the themes Get Informed and Get Involved.

Data from all local authority and private schools was utilised to issue Invitations to Register to school pupils aged 14 and over throughout February and March 2025, with follow up reminders to non-responders in April.

The upwards trend in registration of young voters continues with the statistics on publication of the Registers on 1 February 2025 being as follows:

14/15 year olds	16/17 year olds
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10,032	14,895
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Significantly, a further 1,770 future electors aged 14 or 15 and a further 321 electors aged 16 and 17 will be added at the next monthly update. National Records of Scotland statistics indicate that Aberdeenshire has the second highest proportion of electorate aged 16/17.

Equality Outcome 2

Maximise registration amongst high mobility citizens such as occupiers of houses in multiple occupation and tenanted dwellings.

Research has shown that high mobility citizens and citizens in tenanted dwellings are under-represented in terms of electoral registration. Ethnicity and nationality may be influencing this under-registration.

Activities

- Consult with partner authorities and housing providers.
- Canvass and publicity plan.
- Integration of the equalities element with the Electoral Commission performance standards regime.
- Engagement with individual equalities groups to ensure removal of barriers to registration.
- Focus on improved materials using straightforward language tested by relevant groups in partnership with other EROs and the Electoral Commission.

Measurement

- Registration rates compared to census outputs.
- Number of registration corrections and complaints.

Progress to April 2023

Since April 2017 the service has continued to focus on students and the tenanted housing sector to deliver this outcome. However, the allocation of resources to a critical requirement to procure a new Electoral Management System to replace an existing in-house system that would be problematic to support in the future meant that the level of activity on this outcome was not as originally planned.

Nevertheless, the service continued to work with student associations and tertiary education providers in order to promote registration.

With regard to the tenanted housing sector work was done on a Cabinet Office funded pilot exercise to research the potential benefits of using private sector tenancy deposit scheme data. This research sought to use of data from external agencies to establish whether we could improve canvass outcomes and subsequent registration levels. Our engagement with tenancy deposit scheme operators led to the possibility of a national initiative in promoting registration to new tenants, but unfortunately Cabinet Office resources were directed elsewhere and this aspiration remains unfulfilled at national level.

Progress since April 2023

The online functionality of individual electoral registration provides an ideal opportunity to integrate registration with online student enrolment or information systems and a national initiative through the SAA Electoral Registration Committee to encourage tertiary education providers to link registration with student enrolment and information systems.

The operational use of additional data sources was progressed by the installation of data mining functionality within our electoral management system. Full implementation of this aspect of our work was interrupted by the necessity to re-focus resources on operational priorities following the pandemic.

Following the extension of the franchise in August 2020 we have worked with the Scottish Refugee Council in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and supported by the Electoral Commission to promote engagement amongst the newly enfranchised

citizens resident in NE Scotland. This has included the provision of translated materials and participation in online presentations and Q&A sessions.

Equalities Outcome 3

To maximise opportunities for young people to enter the workforce

Youth employment is a key national priority, with the low percentage of employees recruited directly from school identified as a key issue. Whilst the service relies on a significant number of individuals who are required to have tertiary education and be working towards professional qualifications, analysis confirms that Under 25 year olds are under-represented in the service's workforce. Notwithstanding that recruitment is fairly minimal the opportunity nevertheless exists to enhance opportunities for young citizens.

Activities

- Promote work experience opportunities for Under 25 year olds.
- Review recruitment advertising media.
- Promote career progression schemes to encourage young people to make the service an employer of choice.

Measurement

- Annual workforce monitoring.
- Annual work-experience monitoring.

Progress to April 2023

The Barclay Review of Non-Domestic Rates led to Scottish Government funding that provided the opportunity to recruit and train four part-time Graduate Trainee Valuers from July 2019 leading to four full time posts from 1 April 2020. Unfortunately, we had limited success in our recruitment drive with only 2 of the 4 posts filled and both students left the organisation due to unforeseen circumstances within 12 months.

Recruitment advertising was reviewed and all employment opportunities are advertised online.

Regrettably we have been unsuccessful in making progress in relation to this outcome in the context of the very challenging operational environment described above.

Progress since April 2023

For most of the past two years we carried a significant shortage of qualified Chartered Surveyors whilst being at capacity in terms of our numbers of Graduate Trainee Valuers. As such, our focus had to be on addressing that shortage and we have had a fair degree of success in reducing our vacancy numbers.

We will require to refresh our efforts in relation to this Outcome over the course of the next two years.

The school pupil work experience programme has been interrupted through the changes in pupil curriculum and the pandemic that have meant that we have had no under 25s on work experience during the last 24 months.

However, this programme has recently restarted and we are now able to offer opportunities to school pupils who may be interested in property and valuation related disciplines.

Equalities Outcome 4

Our services meet the needs of all service users in our community.

Activities

- Monitor customer satisfaction across all service areas by the protected characteristics.

Measurement

- Detailed analysis of customer satisfaction surveys.

Progress to April 2023

The very challenging operational context described in Section 5 above together with the effects of the pandemic and high vacancy levels, particularly at professional levels, has led to our aspirations in respect of this Outcome being unfulfilled prior to April 2023.

Progress since April 2023

We have designed an online questionnaire, accessible either via our website or via links in all emails issued by the organisation and its staff that will enable stakeholders to provide feedback on our services whilst providing optional equalities monitoring data in regard to the protected characteristics. No meaningful data can be gathered from the limited number of responses to date, but we hope to be able to analyse responses received during the next two years in our 2027 Report.

Equalities Outcome 5

The Board is seen as an equal opportunities employer where diversity is welcomed and all staff feel valued and respected.

Activities

- Issue and monitor regular staff questionnaires by the protected characteristics

Measurement

- Detailed analysis of staff questionnaires.

Progress to April 2023

The very challenging operational context described in Section 5 above together with the effects of the pandemic and high vacancy levels, particularly at professional levels, has led to our aspirations in respect of this Outcome being unfulfilled prior to April 2023.

Progress since April 2023

Staff were invited to complete a staff survey and equalities monitoring questionnaire that has informed the statistics provided in this report. The fairly recent completion of mandatory refresher training in respect of Equalities and Diversity has no doubt contributed to 88% of staff indicating that they understood their responsibilities and that of the organisation to promote Equality and prevent discrimination and harassment. Approximately 80% of staff agreed that the Grampian Assessor & ERO promotes equality of opportunity and a similar percentage believed that diversity was welcomed and respected. The other 20% neither agreed nor disagreed.

Equalities outcome 6

To increase the representation of men or women in roles where gender segregation is evident

In common with many public sector employers, men and women are segregated into a range of roles within the organisation. The Equal Opportunities Committee of the Scottish Government has identified occupational segregation as a key equality issue nationally.

Activities

- Work with our partners such as the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and constituent councils to gain information on best practice to address and reduce gender segregation and to remove stereotypical views of occupations by gender.
- Develop a range of positive action measures to encourage males and females into non-traditional roles and work to identify any ways in which we can attract applications from the underrepresented gender and dispel any stereotypical views of particular roles.
- Analyse the percentages of males and females applying for and being successful for roles where occupational segregation is prevalent.

Measurement

Monitor occupation segregation over time. An increase in applications from under-represented candidates and a corresponding increase in under-represented candidates being successful at interview would help reduce occupation segregation.

Progress to April 2023

The surveying profession has traditionally been male dominated. The latest figures available from the RICS indicate that only 18% of surveyors are female. Against that background the organisation was successful in recruiting women into surveying roles with 37.5% of both valuation and technical positions being held by females. Significantly, at Graduate Trainee Valuer level, 2 of 5 occupied posts were held by women and in a round of internal recruitment for vacant posts held in late 2021 all three Principal Valuer posts that were advertised were taken up by women.

Progress since April 2023

The organisation's successful trend in recruiting women into surveying roles continued with 40.0% of valuation posts and 42.9% of technical positions now being held by females. Significantly, at Trainee Valuer level, 3 of 6 occupied posts are now held by women.

Equalities Outcome 7

To engage with partner bodies representing minority groups in order to overcome potential barriers to service access.

Whilst informal arrangements have been forged over time with external partners such as the Scottish Refugee Council, this outcome will drive progress towards embedding improved service delivery to minority groups in the Grampian area.

Activities

- Work with external partners to understand and overcome barriers to service delivery and access.
- Develop a communication strategy and network that enables service-related messaging to be distributed across and accessible to minority groups.

Measurement

Customer feedback and focussed consultation with external partners will inform progress.

Progress since April 2023

The very challenging operational context described in Section 5 above together with high vacancy levels has led to our aspirations in respect of this outcome being somewhat unfulfilled prior to April 2025. However, the ERO did participate in a livestreamed event with the British Deaf Association in advance of the UK Parliamentary General Election, a recording of which was made available and subsequently watched by several hundred others who could not attend the livestreamed event. In addition the ERO and the Principal Admin Officer now attend regular meetings with other ERO colleagues and the Electoral Commission as part of an electoral registration communications and outreach network. One of the principal aims in attending these meetings is to develop best practice in how to engage with underrepresented groups, put relevant information into the consciousness of electors and to learn from the experiences of others.

8. Refreshing our Outcomes

A peer review suggests that we have a significantly larger number and broader range of Outcomes than other similar organisations. We continued to add to our Outcomes despite the very challenging operational circumstances described earlier in this report i.e. the pandemic, staffing shortages, new Electoral law and new valuation appeal regimes. Whilst much has been achieved, as is evident from the detail provided in the previous section of this report, we believe that, as also detailed, there remains further

room for improvement in most areas. As such, it would seem counter-productive to delete unfulfilled outcomes and to introduce new ones when we are already trying to cover a wide range of inclusive activities. It is therefore considered prudent to continue with all seven existing outcomes for at least the next two years and allocate additional resources to ensure real progress.

9. Policies and Practices

Policy and practice reviews are carried out within the terms of section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

The Board utilises the Human Resources expertise of the Moray Council, one of its three constituent authorities, and the majority of policies are reviewed by them on a regular programme in line with the terms of the Equality Act and the Council's own policies.

Other policies and practices are reviewed on a regular basis by the Management Team.

10. Gender Pay Gap

The Grampian Valuation Joint Board has a duty to publish information on the percentage difference among its employees between men's average hourly pay (excluding overtime) and women's average hourly pay (excluding overtime).

The following information is based on the employees who were in post on 31 March 2025.

GVJB has 34 male employees with an average hourly rate of pay of £25.92 and 44 female employees with an average hourly pay of £19.41.

The median (average) gender pay gap is therefore:

$(25.92 - 19.41) / 25.92 \times 100 = 25.13\%$ compared to 30.83% in 2023.

The median gender pay gap is obtained by arranging the hourly rates in descending order for both male and female employees and selecting the mid-point of each range.

The median gender pay gap calculation is:

$(21.50 - 18.70)/21.50 \times 100 = 13.02\%$ compared to 15.51% in 2023.

Full time gender pay gap (25 female and 32 male employees): 29.75% compared to 31.90% in 2023.

Part time gender pay gap (19 female and 2 male employees): -0.78% compared to 14.53% in 2023.

Full time men/part time women pay gap (32 male and 19 female employees): 31.49% compared to 31.07% in 2023.

The gender pay gap analysis has shown significant change from the previous analysis that was carried out as at 31 March 2023, with every figure other than that for the full time men/part time women pay gap, which showed a very slight increase, showing a reduction. Further detail of this challenge is provided in section 11.

11. Equal Pay Statement

The Grampian Valuation Joint Board is committed to the principle of equal opportunities for all, in every aspect of employment. This means all employees should receive equal pay for doing the same or broadly similar work within the organisation.

As of 31 March 2025, the Board had 78 employees. 43 of these are employed in professional and technical posts and are predominantly male (65%), down from 67.5% in 2023. 35 employees are in clerical and administration posts and are predominantly female (82.86%) down from 86.21% in 2023) due to an increase in male employees. 80.00% of the administration and clerical posts are in Grades 1 & 2 whereas all of the professional and technical posts are on Grade 3 and above.

The difference in male and female pay is largely due to the degree of occupational segregation that exists in the organisation. The gender pay gap is higher than the

national average. This is due in part to the operational demand to employ Chartered Surveyors within the organisation. The surveying profession has traditionally been male dominated. Currently, although the figure continues to increase, nationally only 18% of the surveying profession are female. In our organisation, 8 of our 20 valuation surveyors are female (40.0%), up from 37.5% in 2023.

In relation to Technical posts, there are 6 female employees holding technical surveying posts that amount to 42.9% of the 14 occupied posts.

With 40.0% of the organisation's valuation surveyors being female and also 42.9% of our technical posts being held by females, the organisation is showing significant progress in challenging this element of occupational segregation, particularly when viewed in the context of a ratio of 18:82 female to male in the surveying profession as a whole.

Graphs illustrating our occupational segregation are contained in Appendix 3.

12. Procurement

Regulation 9 of the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 imposes a duty on public bodies when considering award criteria and conditions in relation to public procurement, to have due regard to whether the award criteria should include considerations which will help it meet its Equality Duty. Any such award criteria should be related to and proportionate to the subject matter of the proposed agreement.

The Board enters into very few procurement contracts directly without the assistance of Moray Council's Procurement Team. All procurement is carried out in line with Moray Council's procurement procedures and in accordance with current procurement legislation. Any contracts that the Board does enter into directly without the assistance of Moray Council's Procurement Team are generally small in terms of the service procured and the monetary value of that service. Notwithstanding, the Board will have due regard to whether the award criteria should include considerations to enable us to better perform the Equality duty.

13. Conclusion

The Board will continue to support the Assessor & ERO in mainstreaming equalities throughout the service and monitor progress in relation to the protected characteristics and the specific equality outcomes identified above.

The Board will publish a fresh mainstreaming report in April 2027 and formally report on the progress made to achieve the equality outcomes by 30 April 2029.

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Appendix 1

Workforce monitoring tables

	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Total	78	100%	6	100%	15	100%	5	100%
Gender								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Male	34	44%	1	17%	6	40%	3	60%
Female	44	56%	5	83%	9	60%	2	40%
Prefer not to say	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

Sexual orientation								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Heterosexual	41	53%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Gay	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Lesbian	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Bisexual	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Undecided	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Prefer not to say	3	4%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Did not answer	32	40%	6	100%	15	100%	5	100%

Marital Status								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Married	34	44%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Single	5	6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Divorced	3	4%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Separated	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Widowed	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Living with partner	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Civil Partnership	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Prefer not to say	3	4%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Did not answer	33	42%	6	100%	15	100%	5	100%

Age								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Under 18	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
18-24	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
25-34	14	18%	1	17%	4	27%	0	0%
35-44	17	22%	0	0%	6	40%	0	0%
45-54	16	21%	3	50%	2	13%	0	0%
55-64	30	38%	2	33%	3	20%	0	0%
65+	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Prefer not to say	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Did not answer	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5	100%

Ethnicity								
Asian or Asian British								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Asian British	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Bangladeshi	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Chinese	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Indian	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Pakistani	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
African	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Black British	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Caribbean	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Asian and White	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Black African and White	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Black Caribbean and White	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
White								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
English	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Gypsy or Irish traveller	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Irish	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Northern Irish	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Scottish	39	50%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Welsh	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other European	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Another ethnic group								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Arab	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Prefer not to say/Did not answer								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Prefer not to say	3	4%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Did not answer	33	43%	6	100%	15	100%	5	100%

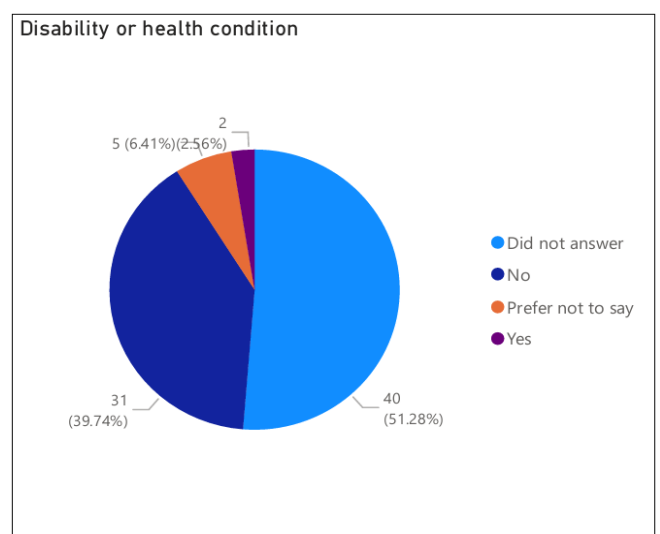
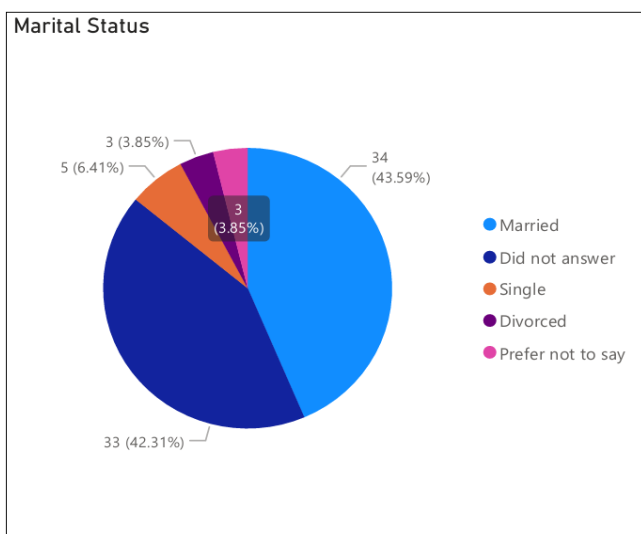
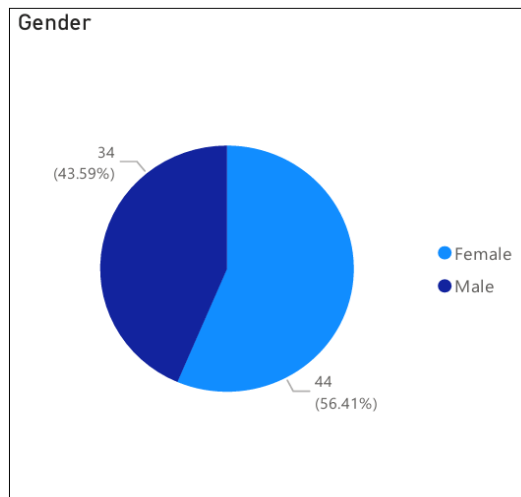
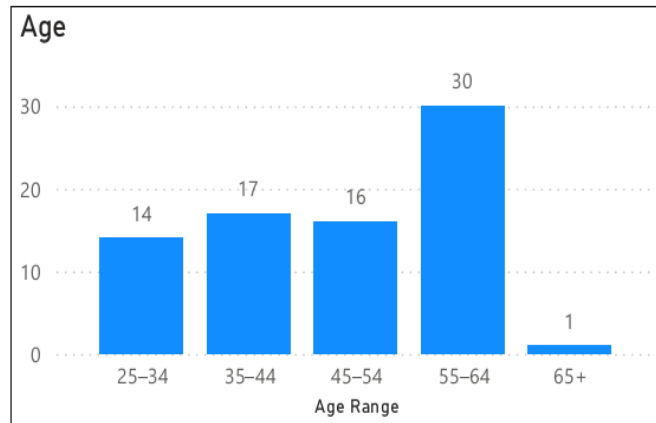
Religion or belief?								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
No religion or belief	22	28%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Buddhist	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Christian	14	18%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Hindu	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Jewish	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Muslim	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Sikh	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Prefer not to say	4	5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Did not answer	35	45%	6	100%	15	100%	5	100%

Disability or health condition								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Yes	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
No	31	40%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Prefer not to say	5	6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Did not answer	40	51%	6	100%	15	100%	5	100%

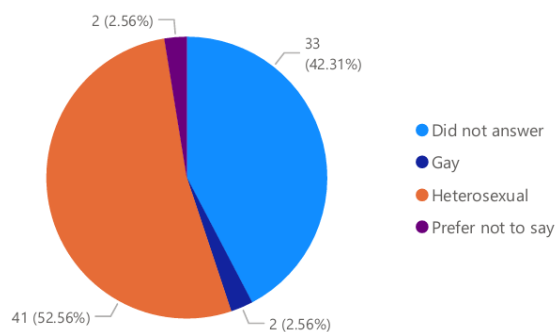
Caring responsibilities								
	Workforce Profile		Promotions		Recruitment		Leavers	
Yes	21	27%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
No	19	24%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Prefer not to say	2	3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Did not answer	36	46%	6	100%	15	100%	5	100%

Appendix 2

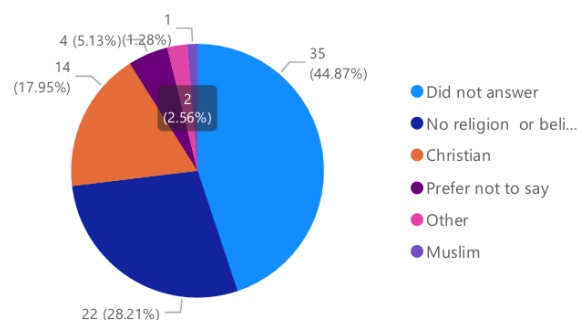
Workforce monitoring graphs



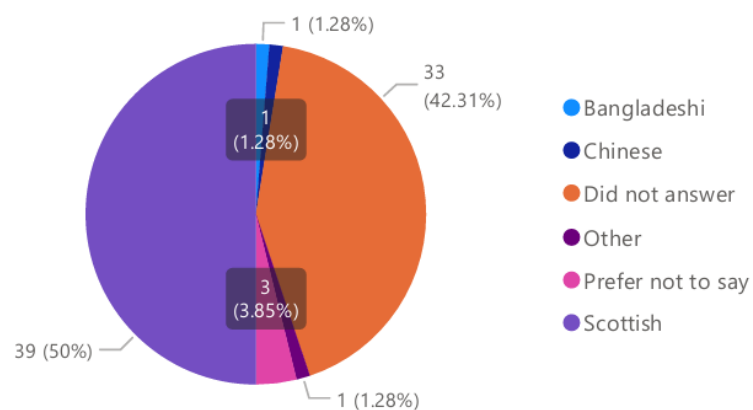
Sexual orientation



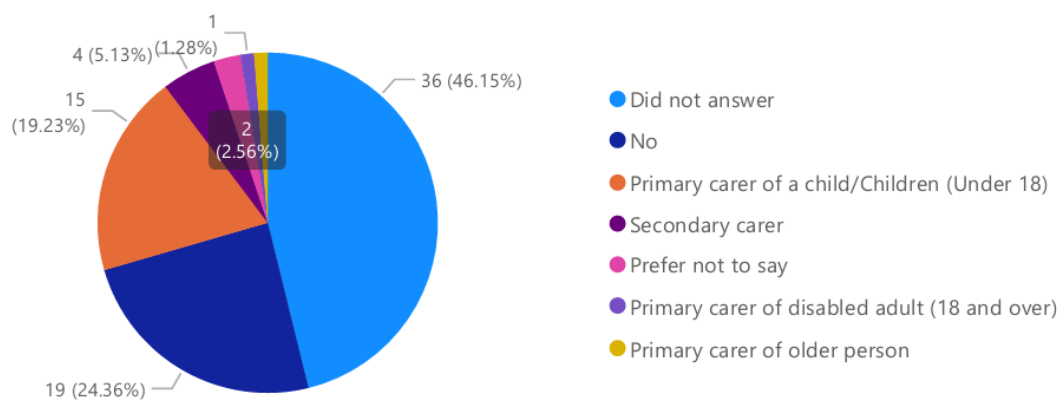
Religion or belief



Ethnicity



Caring responsibilities



Appendix 3

Occupational Segregation

