

30% Club Financial Services Sub Committee

# MAKING THE CHANGE COUNT

A STUDY OF WOMEN IN FINANCIAL SERVICES IN IRELAND

JANUARY 2018



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## THE STORY OF THIS RESEARCH

There are many things that organisations can do to influence Diversity and Inclusion- but where should you focus your limited resources? If you haven't begun, where should that starting point be? We started the journey 12 months ago by asking ourselves those questions, and many more like them in relation to Financial Services in Ireland. We found that although many research papers have been produced, few of them focused on the Irish market and even fewer on Financial Services in Ireland. This report aims to go some way towards bridging that gap.

To ensure the confidentiality of the process and the robustness of the results we decided early on to work with an external research partner. Coyne Research has truly been our partner in the process and they have demonstrated their commitment to driving diversity in Irish organisations and we thank them for that commitment and partnership.

We also could not have completed this project without a sponsorship partner, which we were fortunate to find in AIB. AIB have been with us all the way, not just in financing the research but also assisting with advice and counsel whenever sought - our sincere thanks for their support throughout.

The research group worked with an external research partner, Coyne Research, to launch two surveys into Financial Services in Ireland:



1. ORGANISATIONAL VIEW:  
To benchmark organisation level data
2. INDIVIDUAL VIEW:  
To gauge career blockers and drivers from individuals in the sector

In trying to understand career progression for males and females, we felt it was important to capture organisation-level data and views, as well as the views of employees. Given both of these clear lines of enquiry, we agreed that we would launch two surveys - one to organisations and another to their employees. In this, we partnered with Human Resource leaders across the industry who helped us with reviewing the surveys before launch and contributing to the question set, thus ensuring the greatest degree of relevance for organisations. We must also thank HR leaders for completing the survey and for encouraging employees to complete. The response rate is a reflection of their hard work.

The resulting research is both broad and rich in its detail. In this report we are publishing our high level findings and the key learnings that we hope you can take from the research and reflect on in terms of your own organisation. We plan to delve into the different aspects of the research on an ongoing basis and continue to ask the questions that started us on this journey so that collectively we can direct our energy to make changes that will really shape the future of our industry and the experience of men and women working in Financial Services in Ireland.

30% Club Financial Services Sub Committee

## ORIGINAL RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this research was to gather specific data for Financial Services in Ireland to provide focus for ongoing work to promote gender balance in our industry.

Specifically, we aimed to ask a number of questions to fulfill these objectives:

QUESTION	OBJECTIVE
What does the pipeline of female representation look like in Financial Services in Ireland?	Establish a benchmark of female representation at different levels in Financial Services in Ireland
What might be driving the shape of the pipeline?	Identify key differences between male and female career decisions and progression
How does childcare or care giving responsibilities impact the pipeline?	Identify the impact of having a family or carer responsibilities on male and female careers
Where should the industry focus attention?	Provide data to inform specific recommendations on how to close the gender gap
What are other organisations doing that works?	Use case studies from organisations that have commenced work on driving gender diversity to illustrate best practice

## SETTING THE SCENE

Responses were received from 23 organisations out of an identified population of 56 organisations. These organisations employ 42,000+ people in the Financial Services industry in Ireland, across the banking, fund

services, and insurance segments. The level of responses received in each segment ensured that the survey data is representative of those employed within these segments.

23 organisations out of a population of 56 completed the survey, representing a 41% response rate

$$\frac{23}{56} = 41\%$$



## SETTING THE SCENE

The organisations who took part in the survey reported a 50/50 split between male and female employees. However, at senior levels the balance shifts markedly with increasing proportions of men. Of the 23 organisations taking part in the survey, the overall leadership

position of the organisation in Ireland is held by females in 13%\* of the responding organisations. This compares with a broader industry survey run by the 30% Club, Women in Management, which shows female CEOs at 17%.

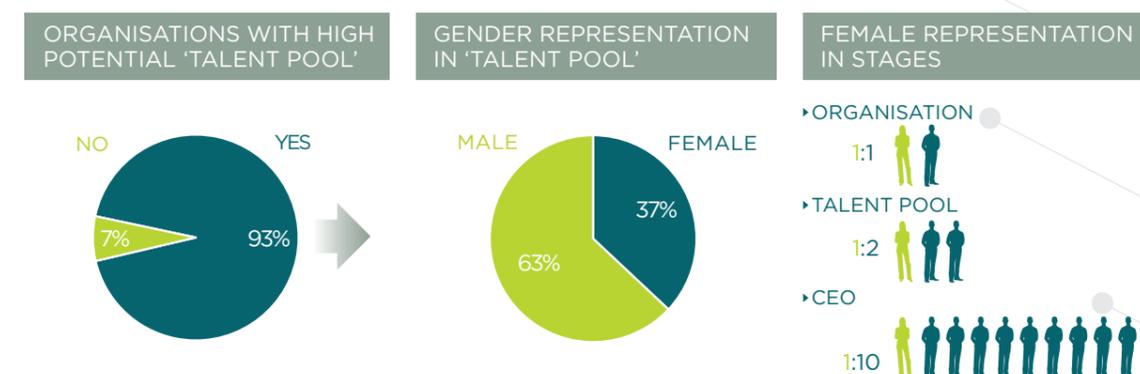
LEVEL	MEN	WOMEN
CEO	87%	13%*
1 level down from CEO	72%	28%
2 levels down from CEO	66%	34%
3 levels down from CEO	59%	41%
4 levels down from CEO	46%	54%

When split across the different segments, females at CEO level adjust as follows:

LEVEL	FUNDS	BANKING	INSURANCE	OTHER
CEO	13%	0%	33%	0%

It is important to ascertain where the mismatch between male and female representation begins to occur. Whereas the ratios hit parity at lower levels within the organisations, at higher levels there is a steady decline reflected in a 6-7percentage point reduction in female representation at each level.

Most organisations surveyed identify their 'high potential' talent pool for development and advancement. However, gender representation in the talent pool is almost two thirds male versus one third female, (63% v 37%). This raises additional questions in relation to how talent pools are identified and at what levels in organisations, which would warrant further investigation.



\* Given the small size of the population at CEO level this number is reported as the actual number of females leads in the marketplace at time of the survey

## ORGANISATION PRACTICES DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION MATURITY

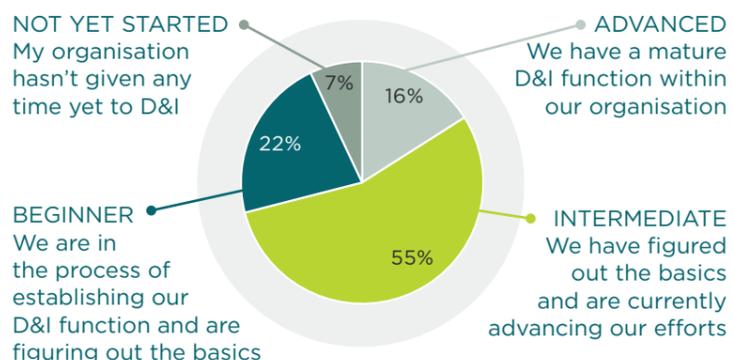
When asked about their maturity in terms of Diversity and Inclusion just over half of respondents, 55%, classify themselves as 'Intermediate' and an additional 16% identify themselves as 'Advanced'.

When we review maturity by organisation type, 1 in 5 multinational firms consider themselves 'Advanced', while 3 in 5 consider themselves 'Intermediate'. None of the local firms surveyed describe their organisation as 'Advanced' and half consider their organisation's Diversity and Inclusion maturity to be at 'Beginner' level.

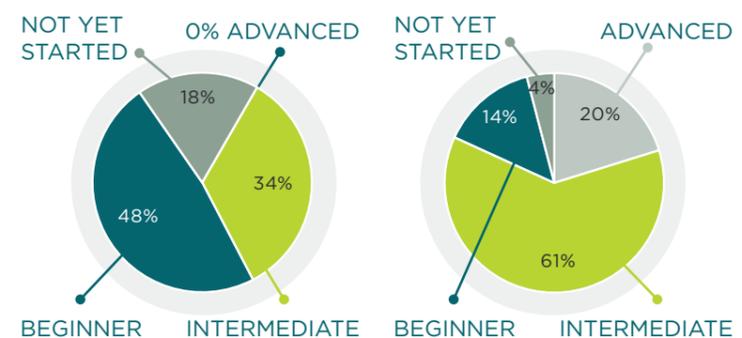
Multinational firms are also considerably more likely to have a Diversity and Inclusion strategy, with 96% identifying as having a strategy at global level and 74% reporting having a strategy at local level. By comparison 34% of local firms reported having a Diversity and Inclusion strategy.

Organisations are most likely to review hiring rates for gender discrimination and bias, followed by promotions. Meanwhile they are least likely to review job exits and lateral job moves by gender.

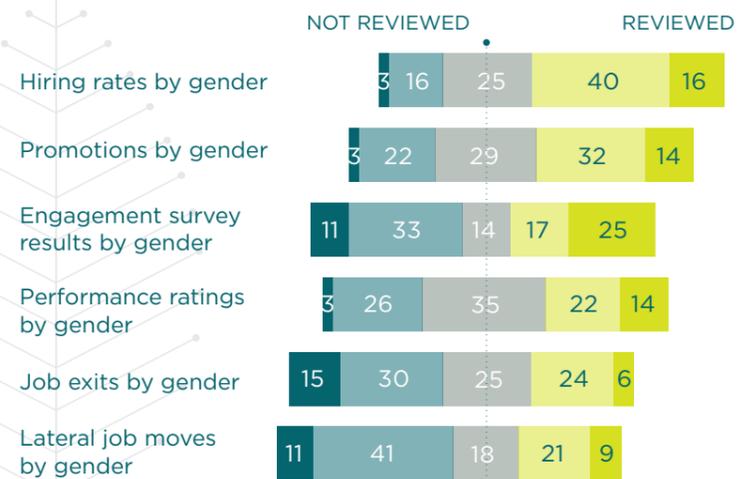
### CLASSIFICATION ON DIVERSITY & INCLUSION MATURITY SPECTRUM



### LOCAL FIRM vs MULTINATIONAL FIRM



### REVIEWED FOR GENDER DISCRIMINATION/BIAS



## CAREER DECISIONS & PROGRESSION ENABLERS

There is a high correlation between male and female experiences within organisations across a range of progression measures and other factors which are indicators of progression.

In terms of impact on career advancement, both males and females report that taking on a new role and expanding role responsibilities have had the biggest impact.

Other areas of alignment are evident in the time both males and females have been in their current role, on average 3 years and 4 months, and both males and females last received an expansion of responsibilities 2 years and 4 months ago.

Differences emerge in terms of promotions. Females are somewhat more likely to have applied for promotion in the past 3 years, and are more likely to have been offered and accepted a promotion.

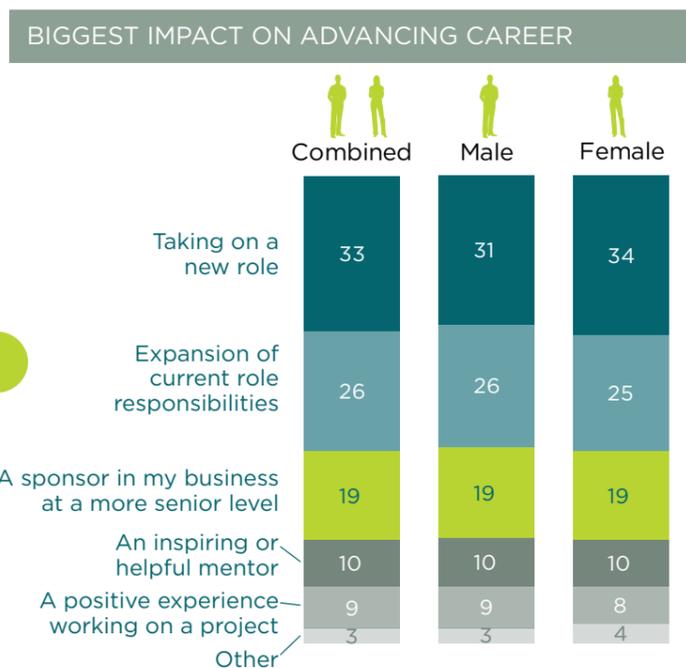


## CAREER DECISIONS & PROGRESSION ENABLERS

Another element identified as having an impact on career progression is sponsorship, with circa 1 in 5 (19%) claiming that a sponsor has had the biggest impact on advancing their careers. Despite this, sponsorship is only available in 56% of organisations surveyed and when asked, only 18% of employees said their companies offered sponsorship.

In fact this gap between the availability of policies and programmes as reported by organisations and as reported by employees did not only show up for sponsorship programs. 96% of organisations report having paid paternity leave while just 57% of employees report that it is offered in their organisations - interestingly both those with children and those without have the same level of awareness of the availability of the leave.

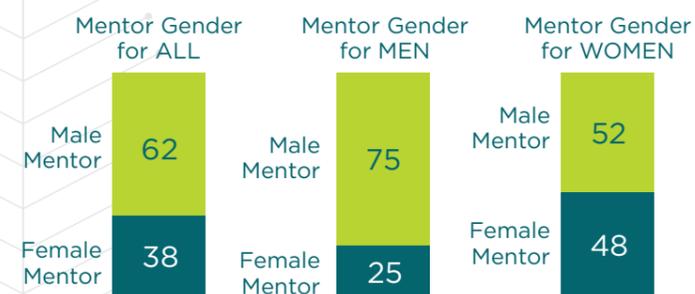
Senior levels of organisations were substantially more likely to have career mentors and sponsors and the incidence of official conversations regarding career progression is also highest amongst senior levels, 88% at CEO - 1 and 67% at CEO - 2. Males and females did report having mentors at similar rates at 15% of males and 17% for females - interestingly, of those that had a mentor, males were more likely to have a male mentor (75%) than females (52%).



### INCIDENCE OF OFFICIAL CONVERSATIONS REGARDING CAREER PROGRESSION

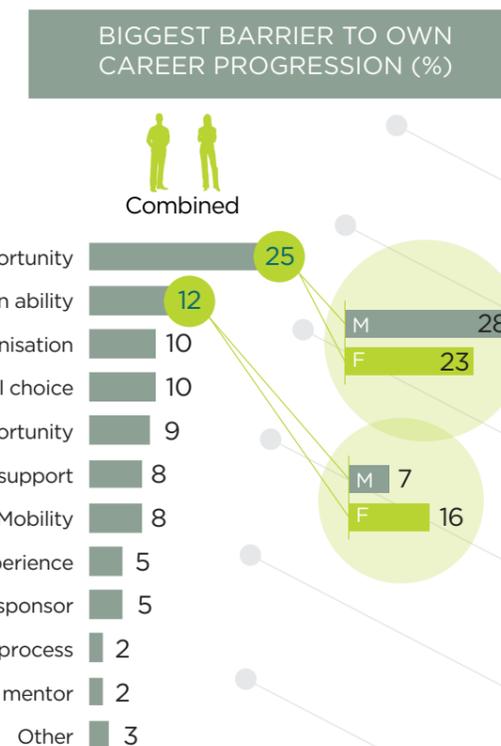
LEVEL	CAREER CONVERSATIONS	MENTORS	SPONSORS
1 level down from CEO	88%	25%	24%
2 levels down from CEO	67%	22%	25%
3 levels down from CEO	60%	14%	14%
4 levels down from CEO	57%	11%	12%

### PROFILE OF CAREER MENTORS



## CAREER DECISIONS & PROGRESSION BARRIERS

When our survey respondents spoke about barriers to their own career progression, lack of opportunity was cited as the biggest barrier by both males and females at 25% and is twice as significant as the next biggest barrier, confidence in their own ability, at 12%. Females were more likely than males to cite confidence as a barrier to progression (16% v 7%), while the organisational view reported confidence as the most important factor in assisting female employees in advancing their careers (33%), followed by knowledge, skills & experience (21%) and stretch opportunities (18%). Please refer to Appendix 4.



### BIGGEST BARRIER TO FEMALE CAREER PROGRESSION ACCORDING TO MALES

Males and females also agreed on the extent to which personal choice was a barrier to their progression at 10%. However, when asked about the biggest barriers to female progression, 20% of males believe that personal choice is the biggest barrier to female career progression presenting an interesting point of divergence.

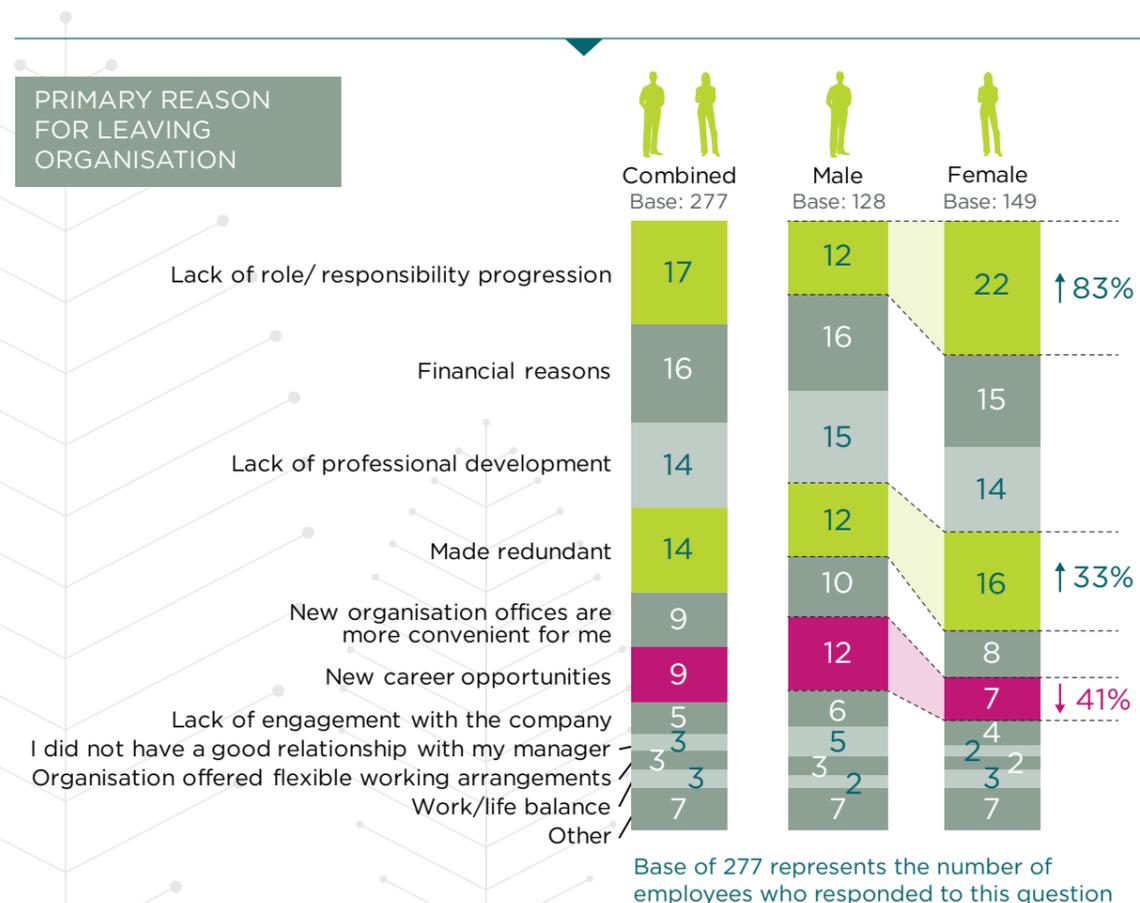


## CAREER DECISIONS & PROGRESSION REASONS FOR LEAVING

Circa 1 in 6 (17%) employees have moved to another organisation in the past 3 years. This rises to 23% amongst those in fund servicing, and 24% in 'other' sectors.

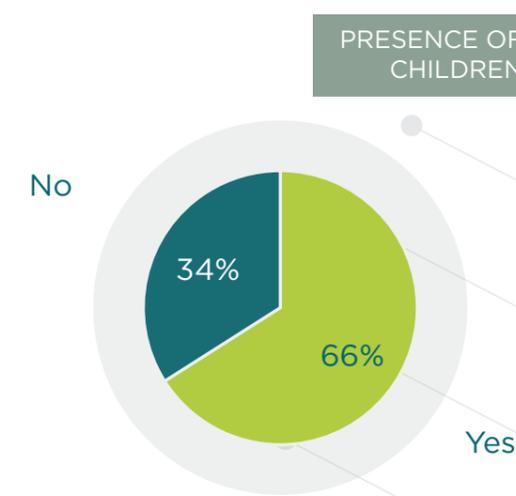
There is a similar incidence of both males and females moving to another organisation in

the past 3 years, although substantially more females than males (22% v 12%) cite lack of role/responsibility progression as the primary reason for leaving. Interestingly for men and for women "Work/life balance" was low on the list of reasons for leaving at 2% for men and 3% for women.

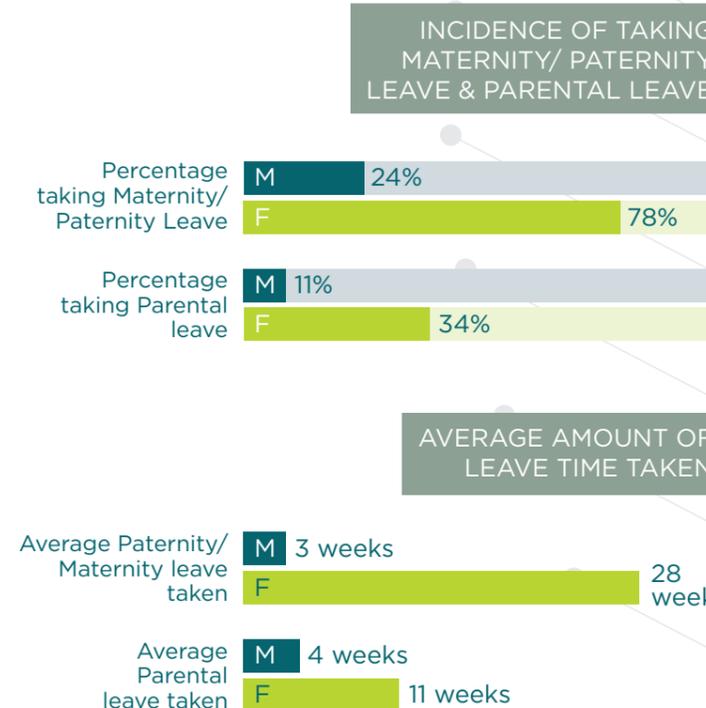


## THE IMPACT OF HAVING A FAMILY

There was an even split of males and females who had children in the sample but the results did not show any significant differences that having a family makes on male and female careers. However, those with children were more likely to report that lack of mobility and personal choice were the biggest barriers to their career progression, and while there is no actual correlation with reduced progression, the figures show that those with children are more likely to believe that availing of flexible working arrangements will impact on their career negatively and to have their commitment to the organisation questioned. Not surprisingly, parents are also more likely to have availed of flexible working arrangements in the last 5 years, and are more likely to plan to take them up in the next year.



Given the perceived impact which flexibility might have on a career, as reported in the next section, it is interesting to note that of those that have children, 1 in 3 women (34%) have availed of some sort of parental leave compared to just 1 in 10 men. Women also take longer on average for parental leave at 11 weeks compared to men who have taken an average of 4 weeks.



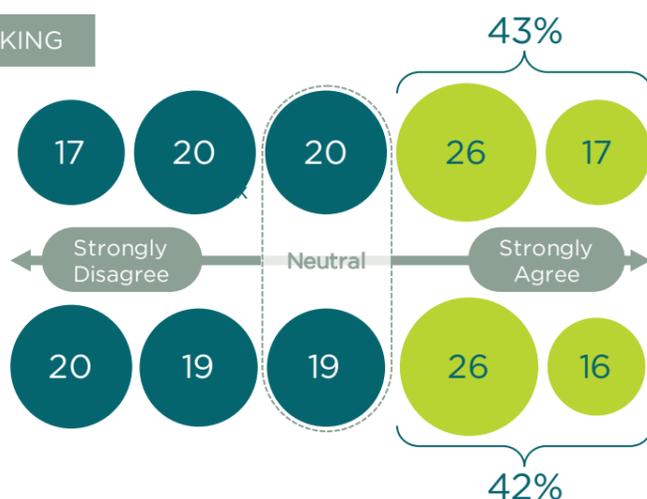
## ORGANISATIONAL PRACTICES FLEXIBILITY

Our review of flexible working led to some interesting results in relation to attitudes towards flexible working and in relation to the rate at which men and women avail of these policies.

In relation to the attitudes to flexible working, 43% of employees believe that availing of flexible working arrangements would lead to their commitment to the organisation being questioned and 42% believe that it would negatively impact on their career.

### PERCEPTION OF FLEXIBLE WORKING

I believe that by taking advantage of flexible working arrangements my commitment to the organisation would be questioned



### INCIDENCE OF TAKING UP FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS IN PAST 5 YEARS

Gender	Percentage take up
Males	35%
Females	48%
Combined	37%

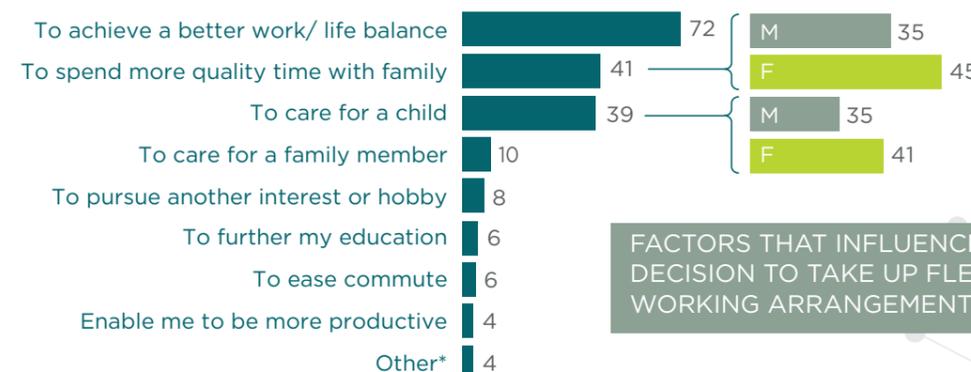
Industry	Percentage take up
Banking	30%
Fund Servicing	63%
Insurance	36%
Other	51%

Men and women agree that start/finish flexibility and other flexible working arrangements are the most important policies and programmes at 86% and 82% respectively. Please refer to Appendix 5

Despite this, organisations tell us that part-time schedule is more commonly offered to all employees, (49%) than start/finish flexibility (42%) or other flexible working arrangements (39%) and more of our respondents report availing of working from home (68%) and flexible start/end times (63%) than those availing of reduced schedule/part-time (22%).

For men and women achieving better work/life balance was the most commonly cited reason for availing of flexible working hours. Of those who have not availed of flexible working, the primary reason is their perception that their role is not suitable for flexible working (45%). Of note for organisations is that almost 1 in 3 respondents (29%) agreed that one of their reasons for not availing of flexible working arrangements was organisational culture, specifically: "It is not the 'done thing' in my organisation".

## ORGANISATIONAL PRACTICES FLEXIBILITY (CONT.)



### FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED DECISION TO TAKE UP FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

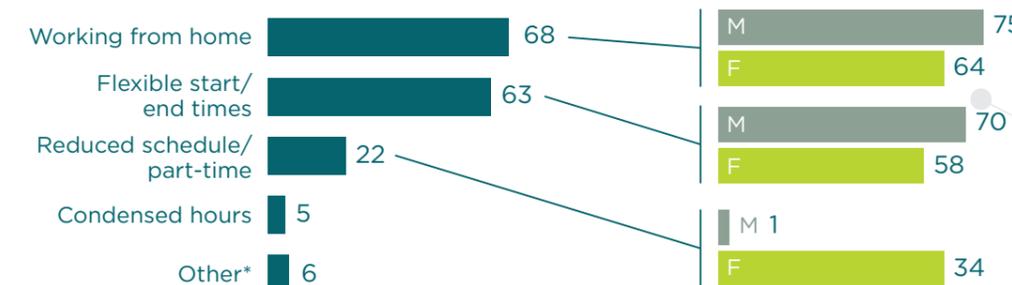


### REASONS FOR NOT AVAILING OF FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

It is interesting to see the differences in how males and females avail of flexible working. Men are more likely than women to avail of working from home (75% versus 64%) and to

avail of flexible start/end times (70% versus 58%) However, the figures for taking up a reduced schedule show a marked difference of 3% for men and 31% for women.

### INCIDENCE OF AVAILING OF FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS IN PAST 5 YEARS



From an organisational standpoint, flexible working arrangements are strongly considered to be the most important policies for retaining and developing women in the workplace with

other flexible working arrangements and start/finish flexibility coming in at one and two on the list respectively (97% and 94%).

## ORGANISATIONAL PRACTICES GENDER TARGETS

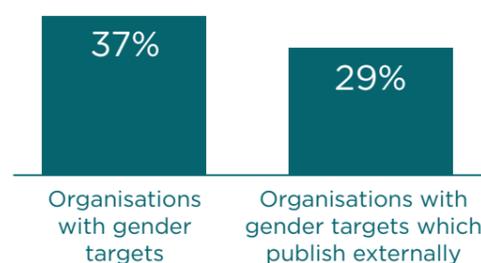
Circa 2 in 5 of the organisations we surveyed report having gender representation targets at board level (39%) with a near identical proportion having gender targets at employee level (38%). When asked about publishing their targets, 37% publish targets internally and 29% publish targets outside of the organisation.

Organisations with gender targets at employee level tend to rate higher than other organisation on a range of diversity measures:

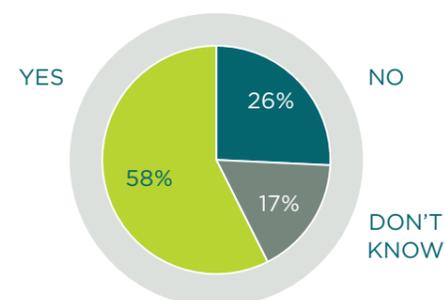
- 18% more likely to classify their organisations Diversity & Inclusion maturity as “Advanced”
- 32% more likely to offer “Start/Finish Flexibility” to “All Employees” than the total sample, and 50% more likely than organisations that do not set gender targets for employees
- 66% provide “Other Flexible Working Arrangements” compared to 39% in the total sample
- Have a higher percentage of females compared to males, however, sample size is too small to conclude if these organisations have a higher proportion of female employees at more senior levels
- Were much more confident in their ability to Develop, Retain and Attract Female talent

Gender targets are far more likely to apply at senior levels (83% at CEO and CEO-1). Amongst organisations who have targets, just 1 in 4 (25%) claim they apply to CEO - 4 level and over half report that senior leaders are held accountable for reaching these targets. The vast majority of multinationals who have targets report that these apply at a global and regional level (89%), with just 58% applicable at a local level.

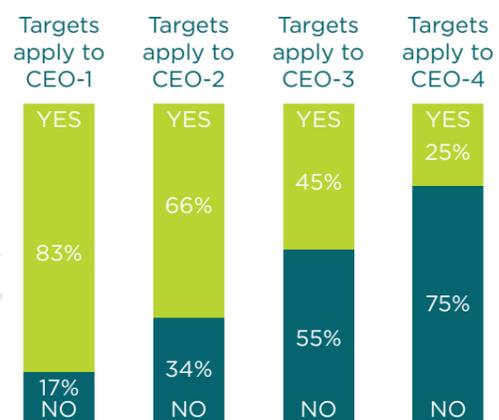
### ORGANISATIONAL REPORTING OF TARGETS



### ARE SENIOR LEADERS WITHIN YOUR ORGANISATION HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR GENDER TARGETS?



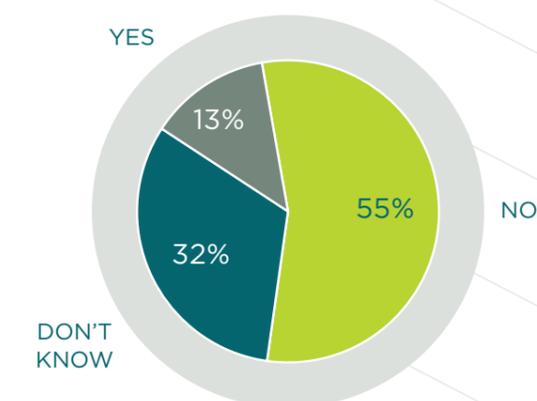
### EMPLOYEE GENDER REPRESENTATION TARGETS



## ORGANISATIONS WITHOUT TARGETS

Of organisations that currently do not have gender targets, 55% do not plan to introduce them within the next planning cycle. The top two reasons for not introducing targets are because formal targets have not yet been finalised (46%) or because the introduction of targets has not yet been considered (41%).

### INTEND TO INTRODUCE EMPLOYEE GENDER TARGETS WITHIN NEXT PLANNING CYCLE



### REASONS FOR NOT INTRODUCING TARGETS



## CONCLUSIONS

### WE SET OUT TO . . .

### WHAT DID WE FIND?

What does the pipeline of female representation look like in Financial Services in Ireland?

Establish a benchmark of female representation at different levels in Financial Services in Ireland

- The benchmark of female representation for Financial Services in Ireland tells us that while the general population is equally balanced, significant differences emerge as you progress to more senior levels
- Female representation at the top of organisation varies by segment
- Diversity and Inclusion activity in Financial Services organisations is varied by segment, however clearly there are some leading edge activities happening across the sector

What might be driving the shape of the pipeline?

Identify key differences between male and female career decisions and progression

- Male and female decisions in relation to their careers may not vary as much as we might think and in fact the data would suggest that we limit our assumptions in relation to our male and female colleagues. Therefore policies to address career drivers and blockers apply to both male and females

How does childcare or care giving responsibilities impact the pipeline?

Identify the impact of having a family or carer responsibilities on male and female careers

- Childcare and care giving do seem to have an impact on careers. Given the data in relation to part-time working and to the perceived impact which working flexibly has on careers this may be impacting women more than men

Where should the industry focus attention?

Provide data to inform specific recommendations on how to close the gender gap

Based on the results of the survey we believe that there are a number of areas which industry can focus on to drive real change. Additionally, each organisation may use these results to determine what the reality of experience is for their own employees. For our part, the 30% Club Financial Services Sub Committee will continue to provide insight and detail from this extensive set of data to enable real change.

### HOW CAN WE ADDRESS THE FINDINGS?

What are other organisations doing that works?

Use case studies from organisations that have commenced work on driving gender diversity to illustrate best practice

- Develop Diversity & Inclusion in Financial Services in Ireland

- Build a practice and culture of sharing between organisations
- Leverage the experience of organisations that are further along the D&I spectrum

- Implement gender targets

- Drive the implementation and publication of gender targets across Financial Services
- Introduce targets at local levels to track Irish organisation progress
- Extend targets to all management levels to track pipeline progress

- Address career drivers and blockers

- Consider how organisations can enable increased role responsibility/new roles for males and females
- Correct perception of confidence as main barrier to female progression
- Implement official career progression discussions at all levels
- Consider introducing sponsorship and mentoring for less senior levels
- Work to support all employees in understanding the impact that bias may play in decisions related to staff progression

- Target perceptions and practice in relation to flexible working

- Drive management review of flexible working to assess how roles can be made more flexible
- Address perception of flexibility impacting career progression
- Communicate value of flexible start/finish and other types of flexibility over part-time
- Communicate availability of paternity leave to close the gap between availability of the leave and employee awareness

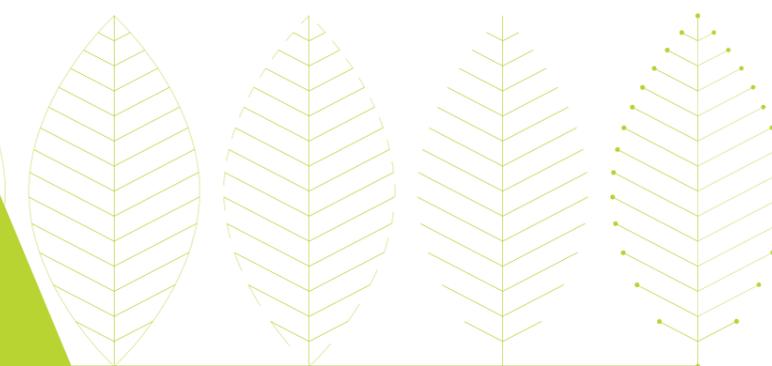
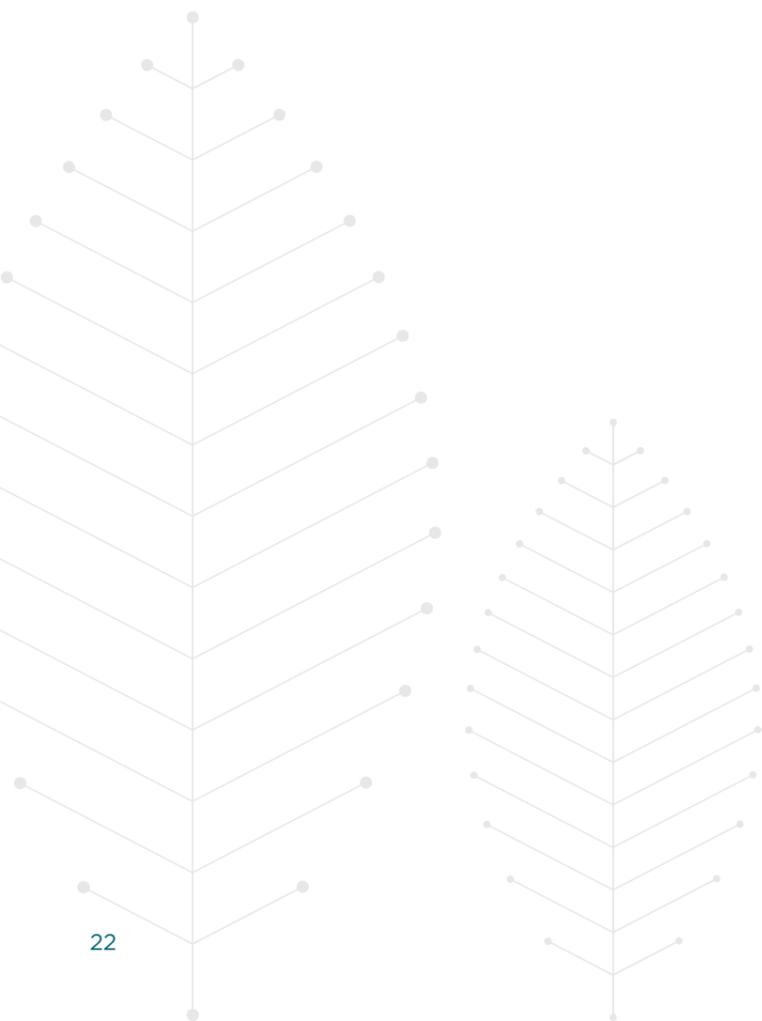
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# ADDITIONAL DATA FROM SURVEY

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## APPENDIX



## APPENDIX 1 RESPONSES RECEIVED

8<sup>1</sup> of the 10 largest Financial Services employers responded.

Largest 4 Employers in the Banking Segment<sup>2</sup>

4 of the 5 Largest Employers in the Funds Servicing Segment<sup>3</sup>

3 of the 5 Largest Employers in the Insurance Segment<sup>4</sup>



Responding organisations (Alphabetical order)

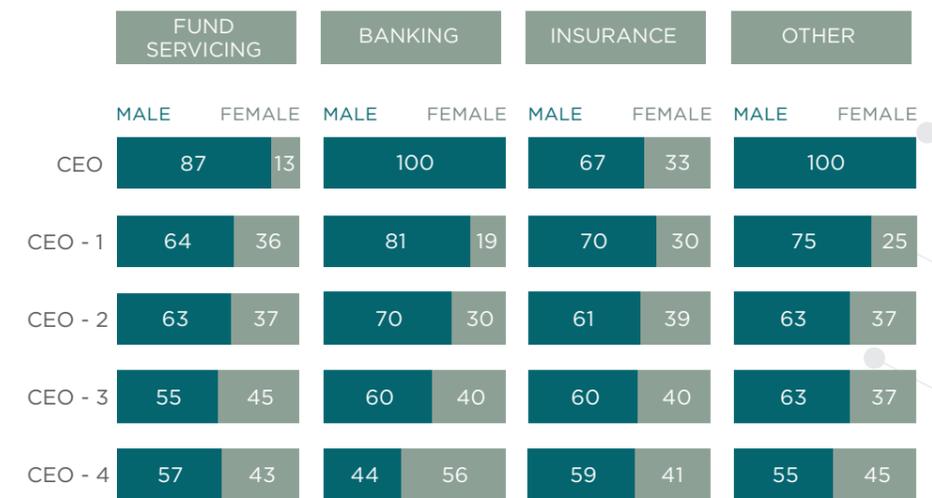
COMPANY		COMPANY	
1	AIB	13	Goodbody
2	Aon Ltd	14	Investec Bank plc
3	Aviva	15	Irish Life
4	Bank of Ireland	16	Mercer
5	BNY Mellon	17	Northern Trust
6	Brown Brothers Harriman	18	Partner Reinsurance Europe
7	Citco	19	Permanent TSB
8	Citibank	20	RBC Investor & Treasury Services
9	Davy	21	State Street
10	FBD	22	Ulster Bank
11	Fidelity Investments	23	Willis Towers Watson
12	GAM Fund Management Ltd		

1. Excludes Capita and XL  
2. Next largest banking institution is Wells Fargo at 178 people  
3. Excludes Capita  
4. Excludes XL & Liberty Insurance

## APPENDIX 2 MALE/FEMALE BREAKDOWN

42,000+ employees covered by organisation responses:  
Banking = 24,505      Fund servicing = 7,793  
Insurance = 6,655      Other = 3,508

Proportion of Males/Females at different levels by segment



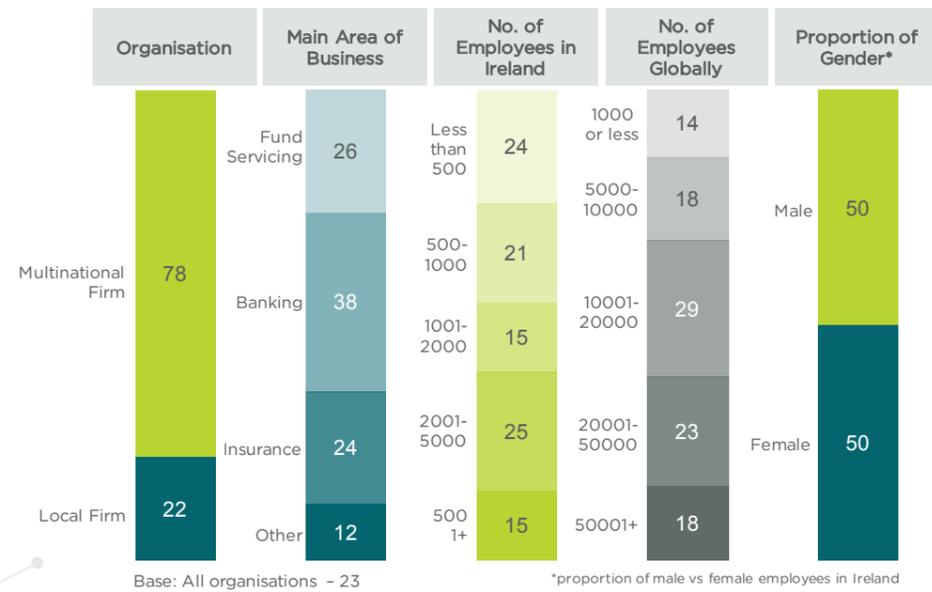
Proportion of Males/Females at different levels by gender targets



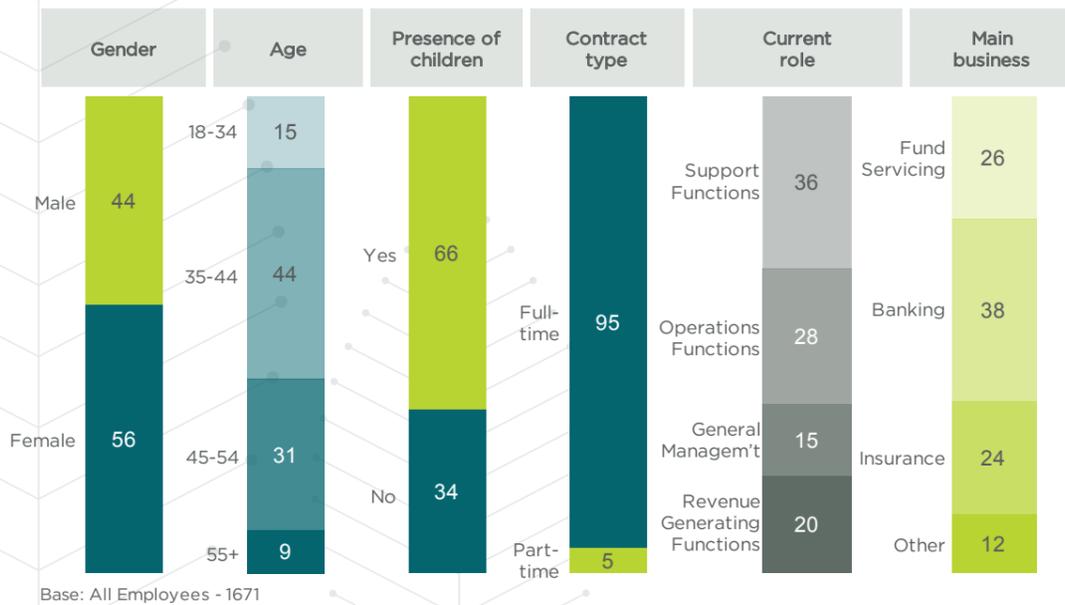
### APPENDIX 3

#### SURVEY BREAKDOWNS

##### ORGANISATIONAL SURVEY

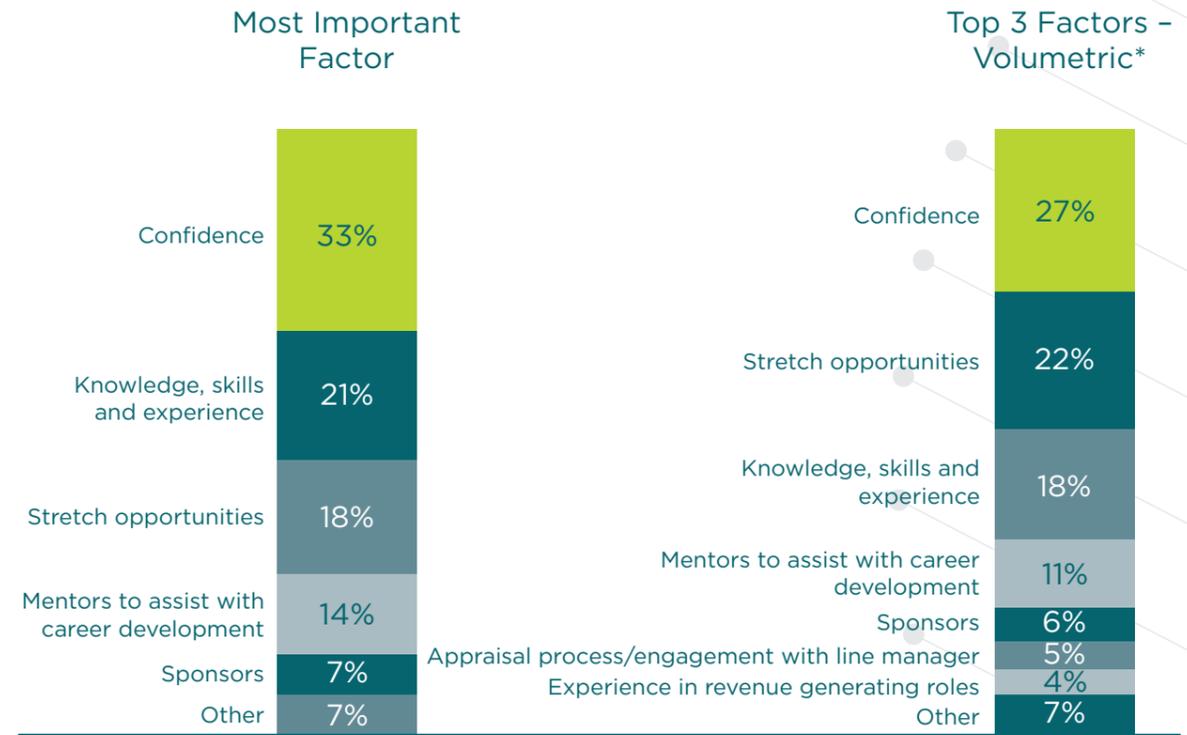


##### EMPLOYEE SURVEY



### APPENDIX 4

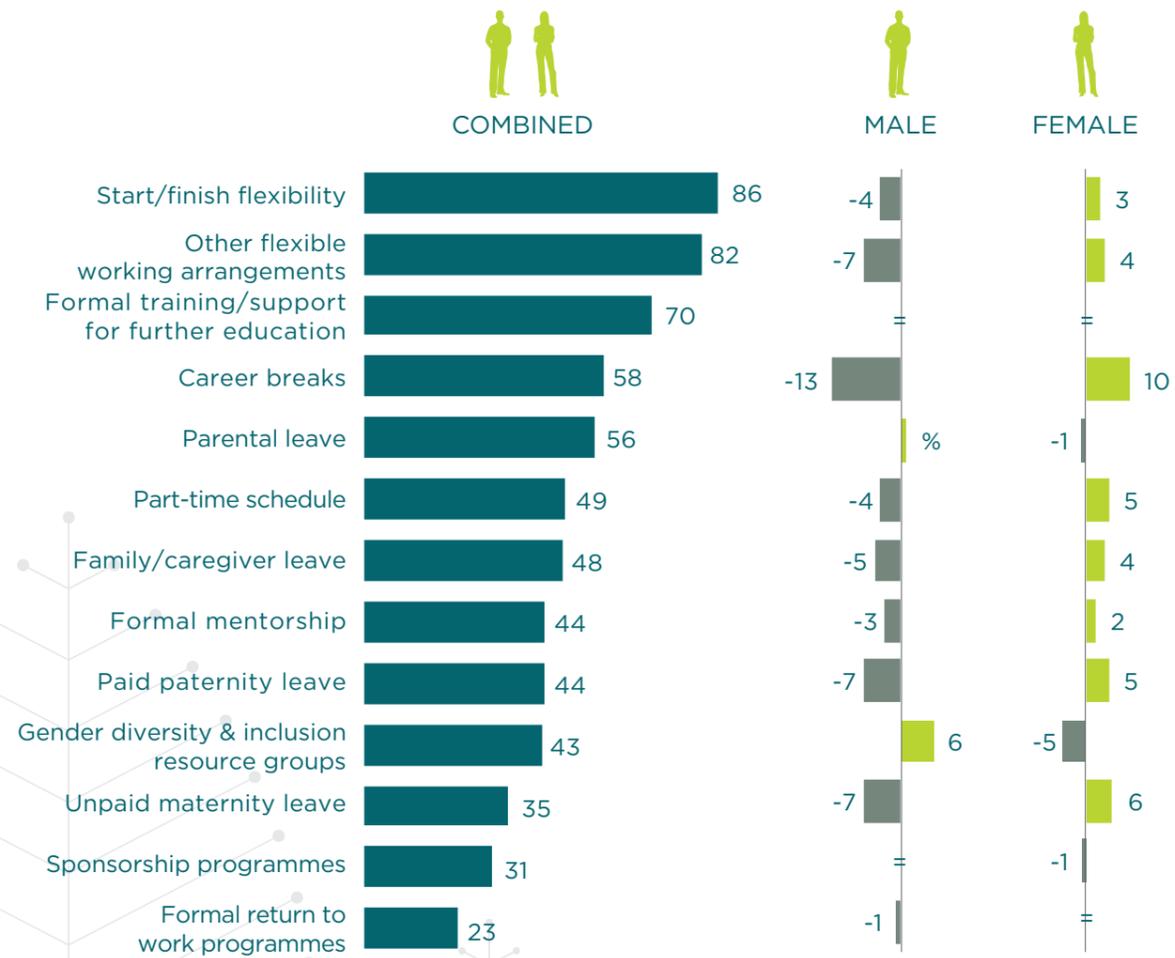
#### IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN ASSISTING FEMALE EMPLOYEES IN ADVANCING THEIR CAREERS AS REPORTED BY ORGANISATIONS



\*Volumetric score calculated by applying a weighting factor to each score - the 1st choice being twice as important as 2nd etc.

## APPENDIX 5

### IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING POLICIES & PROGRAMMES BY GENDER AS REPORTED BY INDIVIDUALS



## FINANCIAL SERVICES SUB COMMITTEE

The 30% Club Financial Services Sub Committee is made up of 13 members, of whom the following 4 produced this report:

- Andrea Dermody
- Niamh McLoughlin
- Anne-Marie Taylor
- Richard Kinsella