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Local Authority chief executives average earnings reach £147,934

- **43% of local authority chief executives paid more than PM**
- **Pay of local authority executives revealed for the first time**

Chief executives of UK local authorities received average total earnings* of £147,934 last year, reveals the first ever major survey of senior executive pay in local government by [Incomes Data Services](#) (IDS), covering over 300 local authorities in England and Wales.

IDS reveals that 43 per cent of all local authority chief executives were paid salary and fees of more than £150,000 last year, above the Prime Minister's 2010 salary of £142,500.

Nasreen Rahman, Principal researcher of IDS's [Senior executive pay in local government 2011](#), comments: "With nearly half of all local authority chief executives earning more than the Prime Minister, clearly, in the current climate, town hall bosses will be facing tough questions from council tax payers."

However, other findings from the IDS report demonstrate that calls for pay restraint have not fallen on deaf ears, as shown by relatively modest basic salary increases for the majority of senior executives.

Nasreen Rahman explains: "Salary increases for chief executives averaged 2 per cent last year, with a large proportion foregoing an increase altogether."

According to IDS, the most highly paid senior officer was the chief executive of the London Borough of Wandsworth, who received a total pay of £299,925, made up of £242,617 in basic salary, fees and allowances and a bonus of £54,702 covering an 18 month performance period. The highest paid female chief executive last year was at Essex County Council, who received a total pay of £237,000.

At the other end of the spectrum, the chief executive of West Somerset District Council was the lowest paid with a total package of £62,261.

By region, county council chief executives in the South-East were the highest paid, with an average pay of £204,162. This compares with those in the South West, where the average pay was £158,988, the lowest across all county councils.

A similar trend emerges in district councils, with chief executives in the South East having the highest average pay of £117,884, while the North West had the lowest at £103,812.

Little sign of gender bias – female chief executives receive higher total remuneration

IDS point out that only one in five chief executives are female, but this varied from as high as one in three in county councils to as low as 15.6 per cent in London. But while female chief executives were in a minority, they did not always suffer pay disadvantages, as the table below illustrates.

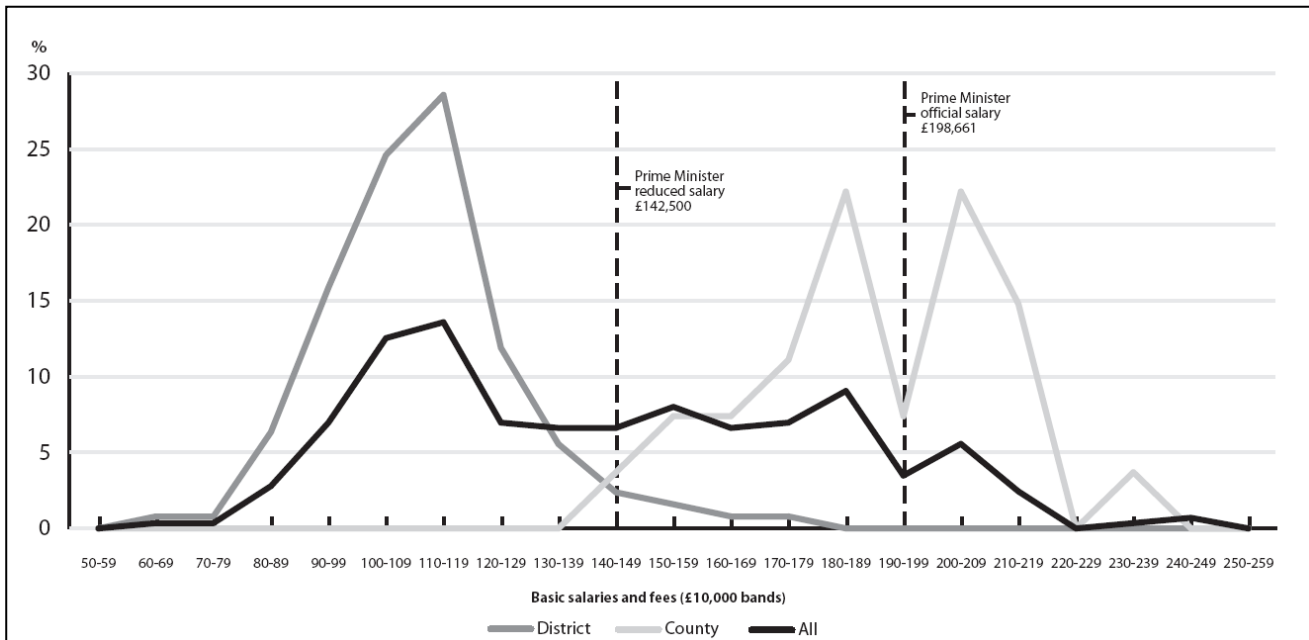
Type of council	Male chief executive	Female chief executive	Male compared to female salaries & fees
	Basic salary and fees (£)	Basic salary and fees (£)	% difference,
County councils	191,983	189,158	1.5%
District councils	111,183	107,688	3.2%
London boroughs	189,440	190,000	-0.3%
Metropolitan districts	163,920	170,000	-3.6%
Unitary authorities	157,500	160,000	-1.6%

The IDS report, *Senior executive pay in local government 2011*, is based on an extensive analysis of the statements of accounts of 312 local authorities in England and Wales. It includes all London boroughs, all county councils, all metropolitan boroughs, all English and Wales unitary authorities and 139 district councils.

Nasreen Rahman says: “For the first time, such a comprehensive picture of local authority senior executive pay is possible because of the new disclosure regulation brought in last year, where local authorities have to give more salary information on their top paid officials. This report allows local authorities to compare the rates of their senior executives against each other.”

*Total earnings includes basic salary, fee or allowance for extra duties, benefits and annual bonus. Excludes expenses and pension.

Distribution of local authority chief executive salaries and fees compared to the Prime Minister 2009/10



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