

Female stars call on BBC 'to sort gender pay gap now'



Some of the BBC's most high-profile female personalities have called on the corporation to "act now" to deal with the gender pay gap.

Presenters Clare Balding, Victoria Derbyshire and Emily Maitlis are among those who have signed [an open letter](#) to director general Tony Hall.

They urge him to "correct" the disparity over gender pay, which they say has been known "for years".

Lord Hall said "work is already well under way" to resolve the pay gap.

On Wednesday, the BBC revealed the salaries of stars earning more than £150,000.

The salaries, [published in the corporation's annual report](#), revealed two-thirds of its stars earning more than £150,000 are male, with Radio 2 DJ Chris Evans the top-paid on between £2.2m and £2.25m.

Claudia Winkleman - whose name was not on the original letter - was the highest-paid female celebrity, earning between £450,000 and £500,000 last year.

Education Secretary Justine Greening said the BBC's gender pay gap was "hard to justify", while Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said discrepancies were "astronomical".

- [How much do BBC stars earn?](#)
- [What else did we learn?](#)
- [What will the industry make of star pay?](#)
- [Reality Check : The gender pay gap](#)

More than 40 signatories include BBC Sport's Sue Barker, BBC Radio 4 Today programme journalists Mishal Husain and Sarah Montague, BBC News and Antiques Roadshow presenter Fiona Bruce and The One Show's Alex Jones.

The report shows "what many of us have suspected for many years... that women at the BBC are being paid less than men for the same work," the letter says.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-40696402>