

All not lost for female chiefs

Take heart – while Marjorie Scardino’s departure is a loss to Pearson, she is in prime position to be tapped as a chair, of which we need more women of her calibre. And there are far more than three exceptional female leaders in UK PLCs.

As an executive search firm dedicated to finding female talent, we have tracked 209 female moves so far this year. While only one, Karen Witts, is an executive committee level, many more are leading big divisions and large private companies.

It is true that historically, not enough head-hunters have promoted diversity. Corporates must hold search firms to account, not just for women but candidates from a broad range of backgrounds and ethnicities.

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