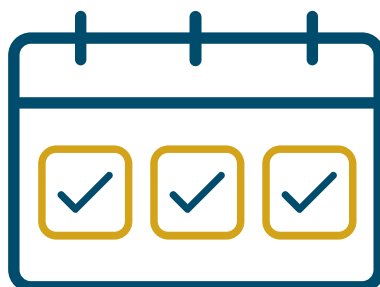


# Priorities for 2024



We have an ambitious range of activities in the pipeline to support our strategic goals. Our focus in year one of the strategy will be on three key priorities that will enable us to create a solid foundation for the future: creating a sustainable office, energising the membership, and building on what we do well.

## 1 Creating a sustainable office

This priority will encompass:

- The relocation of our office and operational transformation to build a more efficient and sustainable organisation.
- A review of governance to ensure efficiency and inclusion.
- Generation of income, including diversification and the scaling up of current revenue streams to ensure the future financial sustainability of the RSS, particularly in light of falling income from journals.

## 2 Energising the membership

Our members are the heart of the society, and much of our work aims to develop individuals and the profession: our ability to deliver public benefit also stems from our engagement with members, who invest their time and expertise in these activities. During the first year of the strategy, we will develop our value proposition to better understand the needs of our current and future members at a granular level, and what they value. As part of this we will work with key external groups to better understand their needs, for example engaging with the Government Statistical Service to anticipate how the needs of statisticians and other data professionals might evolve in the future. This work will provide the foundation for better engagement with our members, and refinement and development of our products and services through strategic reviews of accreditation, training, conferences, meetings and events, member engagement, our sections and local groups, and our content.

# Priorities for 2024

## 3 Building on what we do well

We will also build on what we do well by taking a strategic approach across key areas of work, including:

- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** – seeking funding for research to better understand the lack of reporting of personal characteristics within our membership, and supporting positive action on diversity through our Future Leaders programme, EDI committee and Celebrating Diversity special interest group.
- **Data science and artificial intelligence** – bringing together key members who can play a lead role across our strategic goals to support practitioners, facilitate knowledge sharing, drive our advocacy and influencing work and enable better public understanding.
- **Data ethics and governance** – shaping discussions around data ethics in the context of data science and AI.
- **Climate change** – building on the work of our existing taskforce to highlight the role of statistics in climate science, and support public understanding.
- **Horizon scanning** – ensuring we are well informed about developments and proactively responding to emerging issues across public understanding, public interest and the evolving discipline.

Building on what we do well also involves the continued support for, and iteration of, a whole range of activities. Particular developments of note in the first year of the strategy include:

- **Campaigns** – continuing to build on our advocacy work to reinforce the value of Household Cost Indices, as a core pillar of our influencing work in the run up to the UK general election, and embedding the principles of Public Statistics.
- **Professional affairs** – working with the Alliance of Data Science Professionals to establish the Chartered Data Science qualification and accreditation of university data science courses.

We have strong relationships in place across the official statistical system, academies and learned societies, international statistics bodies, and civil society organisations. These will be built on as we:

- Support the implementation of recommendations from the review of the UK Statistics Authority.
- Play a full role in the new National Academy for the Mathematical Sciences, ensuring that data and statistics are at the heart of solutions to national challenges around productivity, translation of research and evidence-based decision-making, and that the pipeline for the mathematical sciences is secured to meet the needs of academia, government, business and civil society.

Priorities will be re-stated on an annual basis in line with business planning, and a mid-term review may be undertaken during the strategic period to ensure agility.



### From past to present...

The image of the sheaf first appeared in our original seal. Being the end product of the harvesting and bundling of wheat, it was a pictorial way of expressing the gathering and analysis of data: the foundations of statistical work.

It also implied that statistical practice comprises more than the collection of data, but also its active interpretation and application as well (threshed for others, if the rural analogy is sustained). Rigorous data gathering is still at the heart of modern statistics, but as statisticians we also interpret, theorise and present the data we collect.



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