



# Priorities for 2025



The RSS strategy was approved in March 2024, and progress has been made against 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. These priorities will continue in 2025, with the addition of several new activities:

## 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. Following the sale of Errol Street, we will establish RSS staff in temporary accommodation while we continue our search for new premises in London.
- A review of governance to ensure efficiency and inclusion. The review will build on scoping work undertaken in 2024, with implementation in 2026.
- Generation of income, including diversification and the scaling up of current revenue streams to ensure the future financial sustainability of the RSS, particularly considering 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 2025, we will continue to develop our value proposition to better understand the needs of our current and future members at a granular level, and what they value.

Member data was analysed to inform value proposition development, and we will continue to work with key external groups to better understand their needs, engaging with different groups of members. 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.

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## 3 Building on what we do well

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

- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** – progressing 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** – building on the formation of the AI taskforce, bringing together key members who can play a lead role across our strategic goals to support practitioners, facilitate knowledge sharing, drive our advocacy and influence work to enable better public understanding.
- **Data ethics and governance** – shaping discussions around data ethics in the context of data science and AI.
- **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 2025 include:

- **Campaigns** – embedding the principles of Public Statistics, using the first Statistical Assembly to build momentum; continuing to build on our advocacy work to reinforce the value of Household Cost Indices; and building stronger understanding of statistics in key professions.
- **Professional affairs** – working with the Alliance of Data Science Professionals to establish the Chartered Data Science qualification and full roll out of accreditation of university data science courses; exploring a training and accreditation programme for legal statistical expert witnesses; and reviewing the RSS Code of Conduct.

We have strong relationships in place across the official statistical system, other 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, including working in partnership with the UKSA on the first Statistical Assembly.
- Seek to enhance the impact of our research and policy work by working formally in partnerships with civil society organisations.

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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