

Priorities for 2026



The RSS strategy was approved in March 2024, and a set of key priorities were also agreed 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 continued in 2025, with the addition of several new activities. The structure continues to reflect the areas that we need to focus on and has been used to articulate our priorities for 2026.

1 Creating a sustainable office

This priority will encompass:

- The relocation of our office to provide a new headquarters. Following the sale of Errol Street, RSS staff will continue to operate from a leased administrative base while we continue our search for more efficient and sustainable premises in London. This priority will encompass:
- A review of governance to ensure efficiency and inclusion. The review will build on foundational work undertaken in 2025 and, subject to necessary approvals, we will begin to implement changes and consider further detailed layers of governance.
- Generation of income, including the scaling up of current revenue streams to ensure the future financial sustainability of the RSS, particularly in light of the reduced level of income from journals.
- Discovery work and redesign of the RSS website to improve navigation and search so that we can more effectively communicate and promote our activities, and to ensure system security.

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.

Work to date has consolidated understanding of current member value, supported by a mapping of a typical member experience to enable the refinement and enhancement of our products and services.

During 2026, we will roll out a new member satisfaction survey as part of a longer-term plan for data collection to help us further our understanding of the needs of current and future members, and what they value. This work is providing the foundation for better engagement with our members, which is central to building our professional community and creating meaningful opportunities for our members.

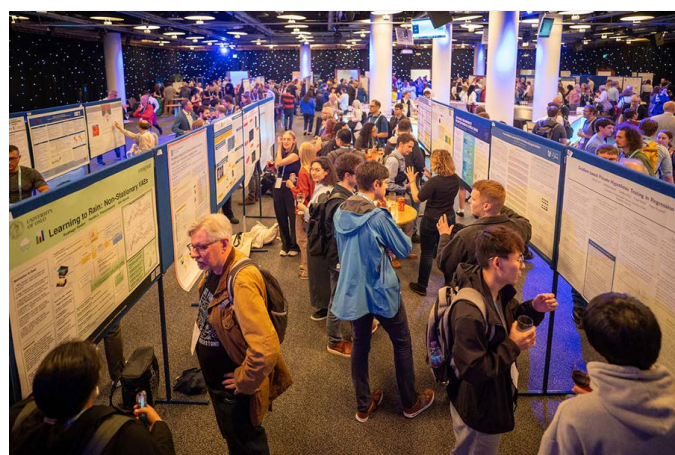
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3 Building on what we do well

We will continue to support and develop a range of activities in line with our strategic goals. Particular developments of note in 2026 include:

- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** – embedding the recommendations of the RSS Improving member data report to better understand the personal characteristics within our membership, and supporting positive action on diversity through continuation of our Future Leaders programme, EDI committee and Celebrating Diversity special interest group.
 - **Data science and artificial intelligence** – delivering the AI taskforce's priority of highlighting the relevance of statistics in AI, to increase the RSS's profile and enable us to emphasise policy priorities around AI evaluation, data ethics and governance
 - **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 ways to support the legal system accessing legal statistical expert witnesses.
- 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:
 - Launch a new campaign to improve public understanding of AI.
 - Foster a stronger understanding of statistics in key professions.
 - Continue to support improvements in the official statistics system, championing the importance of independence, clear governance, and an open culture – while emphasising the importance of ensuring a wide range of user needs are met.
 - Seek to enhance the impact of our research and policy work by working formally in partnerships with civil society organisation.

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 of wheat 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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