

RSS Journalism awards: 2021 criteria

The categories are as follows:

- **Data visualisation** – stories which include data visualisation to aid explanation of the statistics being presented
- **Investigative journalism** – stories which include previously unpublished statistics either through unpublished data that have been sourced and analysed by the journalist or new analyses of existing data
- **Explaining the facts** - stories which take a current issue or statistic already published and enable greater public understanding through effective explanation
- ***New for 2021* Statistical excellence in coronavirus reporting** – awarded to a journalist who has gone above and beyond in their effective use of statistics and data in their reporting of the pandemic in 2020.

Please note:

- Entries are for work published in 2020
- The awards are open to all journalists (print, online and broadcast)
- Entries can be for either national or regional publications. They do not need to be UK based but must have been published in English
- Entries should be made for just one piece of work, ie one article or broadcast package (this does not apply to the statistical excellence in coronavirus reporting award)
- The word limit is 2000 words for print and online entries and ten minutes for broadcast entries
- Entrants can submit a maximum of three entries. These entries must be different - the same piece of work cannot be entered to more than one category
- For articles that are behind a paywall, a PDF must be provided. Broadcast clips must be electronically transferred
- We particularly welcome entries from those who are early career (we define this as having worked in journalism for five years or less) and those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds
- **Entries should be emailed to journalismaward@rss.org.uk by 22 March 2021.**

All entries will be judged against the following criteria:

- Raised awareness and understanding of what statistics are, what they can be used for, and what statistical methods can achieve
- Displayed integrity in the explanation and use of statistics, avoiding distortion and highlighting the extent of uncertainties.

Additionally, the following criteria will also be used to judge each of the four categories:

Data visualisation

- Presented new or existing statistics in an original and visually appealing way, *and*

- Enabled greater public understanding of a particular topic through an accessible analysis and explanation of the statistics using data visualisation, *and potentially*
- Included an element of interactivity or other user tool to enable further exploration of the statistics or the issue by users

Investigative journalism

- Sourced, analysed and presented previously unpublished statistics in order to investigate a particular issue, *and*
- Enabled greater public understanding of a particular topic through an accessible analysis and explanation of those statistics, *and*
- Used statistics to challenge or change the decisions and policies of public or private sector bodies.

Explaining the facts

- Effectively analysed a current news story or other noteworthy issue using statistics, *and*
- Enabled greater public understanding of the issue by assuredly explaining those statistics and why they matter in an accessible and interesting way, *and potentially*
- Used statistics to challenge or change the decisions and policies of public or private sector bodies.

Statistical excellence in coronavirus reporting

- This is awarded to a journalist for their reporting throughout 2020 on the Covid-19 pandemic
- The nomination should detail how the entrant, through the effective use of statistics and data, has increased public understanding of the issues around the pandemic. A maximum of five articles should be included as examples.