



DATA | EVIDENCE | DECISIONS

ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31 December 2025



Contents

P.3 Trustees of the Society and Senior Management

P.6 A word from the President

P.9 RSS goals and priorities

P.10 Work for the public benefit

P.11 Governance

P.15 Risk

P.18 Achievements in 2025

P. 18. Enabling a strong diverse profession

P. 21. Facilitating growth and innovation

P. 22. Championing the public interest

P. 24. Supporting public understanding and engagement

P. 25. Achievements outside of the strategic goals

P.26 Financial review

P.28 Plans for the future

P.30 Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

P.31 Independent auditor's report

P.34 Consolidated statement of financial activities

P.35 Balance sheets

P.36 Consolidated statement of cash flows

P.37 Notes to the financial statements

Trustees of the Society and Senior Management

The trustees of the Society present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025.

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's own Royal Charter, supplemental Charter, Bylaws and Regulations, as well as the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

The RSS works to reach best practice charity governance, following recommendations of the [Charity Governance Code](#). More information on how the Society is working with the code is provided in this report's section on the governance review.

The Society extends its gratitude to the following trustees, who have served between January 2025 and the publication of this report.

John Aston	President (1 January 2025 – present)
Andrew Garrett	Past President (1 January – 31 December 2025)
Guy Nason	President-Elect (1 January 2026)

Vice Presidents

Chris Brignell	Vice President for Public Understanding and Engagement (1 January 2026)
Scott Heald	Vice President for External Affairs (1 January 2025)
Sophie Carr	Vice President for Education & Statistical Literacy (until 31 December 2025)
Clare Morris	Vice President for Professional Affairs
Richard Samworth	Vice President for Academic Affairs

Honorary Officers

Kevin Barnes	Honorary Treasurer
Paul Allin	Honorary Officer, Public Statistics (until 31 December 2025)
David Caplan	Honorary Officer, Public Statistics (1 January 2026)
Simon Day	Honorary Officer, Discussion Meetings (until 25 April 2025)
Tricia Dodd	Honorary Officer for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Steven Gilmour	Honorary Officer, Publications (until 31 December 2025)
Lisa McFetridge	Honorary Officer, Conferences & Events
Brendan Murphy	Honorary Officer, Journals (1 January 2026)
Richard Pugh	Honorary Officer, Membership (until 31 December 2025)
Lucy Teece	Honorary Officer, Sections & Local Groups

Members of Council

Simon Asplen-Taylor	(1 January 2026)
Darren Dahly	
Rhiannon Edge	
Richard Emsley	(until 31 December 2025)
Chrissie Fletcher	
Emily Granger	
Clare Griffiths	
Daria Gromyko	(until 1 August 2025)
Beverley Hale	(until 31 December 2025)
Timandra Harkness	
Uma Kambhampati	(until 31 December 2025)
Mona Kanaan	(until 31 December 2025)
Theodore Kypraios	
Kate Land	(1 January 2026)
Altea Lorenzo-Arribas	
Omar McCarthy	
Edith Milanzi	(1 January 2026)
Christopher Nemeth	(1 January 2026)
Sarah Nevitt	(1 January 2026)
Louisa Nolan	
Amanda Penistone	(1 January 2026)
Murray Pollock	(until 31 December 2025)
Srshti Putcha	
Omar Rivasplata	(1 January 2026)
Donald Simeon	
David Smallbone	(1 January 2026)
Neil Spencer	
Phillippa Spencer	
Adam Sykulski	
Ayse Ulgen	

The Senior Management Team

Sarah Cumbers	Chief Executive
Jack Beeby	Director of IT, Digital and Content
Adam Jones	Director of Commercial (from 6 May 2025)
Stella Macaskill	Director of Professional Services (from 6 January 2025)
Stuart McKendrick	Director of Training and Commercial (until 28 February 2025)
Charlotte Stovell	Director of Finance

Charity number	306096 (England and Wales)
Registered office	124 City Road, London, EC1V 2NX
Operational address	Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London, EC2A 4LT
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland, London Drummonds, 49 Charing Cross, London, SW1A 2DX
Auditor	Sayer Vincent LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, 110 Golden Lane, London, EC1Y 0TG
Investment Managers	Cazenove Capital, 12 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6DR

A word from RSS President, Professor Sir John Aston

As I come to the end of my first year as President, I wanted to take a look back at what has been a really busy and exciting year. The RSS and its members have achieved so much, and I've been so lucky to be a part of it.

We closed the doors on our London headquarters in Errol Street for the final time at the end of January 2025 and staff are working from a small administrative base near Old Street while we investigate a suitable permanent new home. Our ability to continue to convene our membership and wider community in person is key to our future property strategy.

It has been great to see our membership community continuing to grow in 2025; for the fifth year in a row, we are on track to end the year with our highest ever number of fellows, at more than 7,100. Over the past ten years, fellow numbers have grown by more than 19%.

Members are at the heart of everything we do. The RSS governance review which began this year is member-led, aiming to ensure the Society is governed as effectively as possible with the right leadership structures in place, for the benefit of membership and staff and to ensure that we continue to remain in line with charity law and best practice.

Meanwhile, our advisory group for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) has been increasingly involved to ensure that EDI is considered and promoted across the RSS community. Representatives of the advisory group sit on the AI Task Force and the Honours Committee, with others active during our annual conference, including at a very successful networking session run by the Celebrating Diversity Special Interest Group and as panellists at the session on Neurodiversity in Statistics and Data Science.

Speaking of conference, one of the pleasures of being RSS president is to open and attend our annual international conference. This year's event, held in Edinburgh in September, was another record breaker, with our largest ever programme of content and a record attendance of 966 delegates (up 30% from 2024) from 42 countries.

The David Cox Medal for Statistics was awarded for the first time this year in partnership with five other societies; the winners (Dr Nancy Zhang, Professor Eric Tchetgen Tchetgen and Professor Richard Samworth) were celebrated at the Joint Statistical Meeting organised by the American Statistical Association in Nashville, and we again offer them our congratulations. More widely, the RSS is in the process of reviewing its Honours and Awards programme to ensure it is reflective of our members and the statistical community.

In education and outreach, we held our first public engagement lecture at the RSS conference, on the topic of 'Code, Calculate, Change: How Statistics Fuels AI's Real-World Impact'. Around 80 attendees demonstrated their interest through a lively Q&A and gave positive feedback after the event.

Our second cohort of William Guy Lecturers completed their terms this year, delivering talks on 'statistics in plain sight'. The lecturers delivered almost 40 talks (online or in-person) to more than 1,500 school children in total. Their online videos, extending the reach of the scheme, received a

total of just over 1,200 views. The three new Lecturers for 2025-26 have begun their terms delivering talks on 'statistics and AI'.

With the expertise of the Statistics and the Law Section, the RSS has been engaging with organisations across the legal system to highlight our broad concern with statistics in the law, building on the Section's 2022 report, and to understand where input from the RSS would be most helpful. Our call for more collaboration with statisticians has been well received in these discussions and we are now exploring a range of potential initiatives that will lead to improvements for the system.

It has been a busy and successful year for our publications, too. The inaugural editorial by the editors-in-chief of *RSS: Data Science and Artificial Intelligence* was published in July, attracting 22,000 views in the first seven weeks. More than 30 submissions have been received this year. Journal Impact Factors from the previous year for *Series A*, *B* and *C* were released in June, with the scores for all three increasing. A plan is in progress to grow the journals with a 5% increase in top quality published papers over the next four years.

Three journal webinars and five discussion meetings were held this year. The discussion meeting in April attracted one of the biggest audiences in recent years, and the number of contributions was the second highest recorded since the 1950s.

Significance magazine remains a popular benefit with members, with subscriptions increasing substantially in several parts of the world, notably Latin America, and South/South-East Asia thanks to an Indian government initiative. 2025 brought special issues dedicated to old age (January) and Africa (September), as well as a double issue in November. Our *Real World Data Science* platform has undergone an editorial refresh this year, securing a growing audience (up 16% between July and October 2025).

It has been a busy year in terms of policy. We've engaged positively with the statistical system – organising the inaugural Statistical Assembly with the UK Statistics Authority to amplify the voice of users and working with the Government Statistical Service on the 'Future Statistician' initiative, considering the future of the profession over the next decade and developing recommendations for the RSS and GSS to achieve the vision of the successful future statistician. Our Public Statistics Advisory Group have played an important role in advising on our input into the Devereux and PACAC reviews, and we continue to engage to support the strengthening of the system through high level meetings and convening wider members on statistical issues at the heart of recent challenges. We also submitted evidence to modules 7 and 9 of the Covid 19 inquiry.

We published two major research reports this year, the first of which assessed whether grants made by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council showed evidence of bias in their decisions. The second focused on how membership organisations in the UK can better collect and improve the quality of data about their members – with several organisations telling us that this report is actively informing revisions to their practices and data collection.

We also secured funding from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Insight Infrastructure for an ongoing research project into poverty data gaps in the UK. This work is being done in collaboration with the Centre for Public Data and feeds into our advocacy work that promotes public statistics.

A key part of our work to promote public understanding is to ensure that statistics and data are taught well at school. We responded to the House of Commons Education Committee's inquiry into Further Education and Skills, calling for greater emphasis on statistical competence in the skills pipeline, and submitted evidence to a forthcoming Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology briefing about the STEM skills pipeline. We met with different organisations conducting reviews of the education system (OCR and Maths Horizons) to feed in our views to their work. We have also been discussing with the Geographical Association and Royal Meteorological Society how statistics are embedded within geography qualifications.

I'm sure the next year will continue to be packed with many exciting statistical events, publications and high-profile pieces of work. I also very much look forward to working with Professor Guy Nason, President-Elect of the RSS.

Professor Sir John Aston



RSS goals and priorities

The RSS vision is ‘a world where data are at the heart of understanding and decision making.’

In 2025, the Society continued working towards and delivering in line with its four strategic goals:

- (1) **Enabling a strong, diverse profession**
- (2) **Facilitating innovation and growth**
- (3) **Championing the public interest**
- (4) **Supporting public understanding and engagement**

These four goals were created to reflect the Society’s values of being **inclusive, impactful, collaborative** and **progressive**.

In 2025, the Society focused on three priorities designed to set a solid foundation for the future implementation of the new strategy:

- The Society continued its search for a new headquarters, a key element in its plan to **create a sustainable office**. The Society’s new home must allow for collaboration, networking and the continuation of its ever-popular events and training courses in a central location, while ensuring that staff and members alike feel safe and welcome at all times. The RSS welcomed new staff members to aid in plans for income generation through diversification and scaling of current revenue streams. Importantly, the Society also began a review of its governance, with a dedicated working group of members reviewing current processes to understand where they could be further improved, particularly in line with the [Charity Governance Code](#).
- RSS members, wherever they are in their career or in the world, are at the heart of all the Society does; the priority of **energising the membership** was therefore designed to bring additional depth to the Society’s understanding of the wants and needs of members. In 2025, staff worked to consolidate insight on current member value and to understand the typical RSS member experience. This will greatly contribute to the enhancement of the products and services that the Society offers.
- The final of the Society’s priorities is **building on what we do well**. It built and strengthened new relationships with the official statistical system, other learned societies, international statistics bodies and civil society organisations. Of course, the RSS also held its biggest annual conference yet and made great progress in its work to improve the use of statistics in the legal ecosystem. In December, CEO Sarah Cumbers gave evidence to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry as part of the Society’s ongoing contributions to support trustworthy statistics for the public good.

Work for the public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section four of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The RSS's work contributes to public benefit by:

- Supporting the **professionalisation** of those working with data and statistics in the UK and overseas, contributing to the skills demanded by a 'data economy'
- Supporting the development of the **discipline** of statistics, which in turn leads to improvements on a wide range of **social, environmental** and **economic** issues
- Ensuring statistics are used in the **public interest**, leading to better quality policy making and decision making
- Supporting **statistical education and literacy**, enabling organisations and individuals to make better choices.

Each year, the RSS develops a detailed plan to take forward its activities. Key areas of activity in relation to the Society's goals are outlined below.

Enabling a strong, diverse profession

- Offering professional membership and qualifications
- Accreditation of university courses
- Training and continuing professional development.

Facilitating innovation and growth

- Publication of academic journals
- Running meetings and conferences
- Awarding honours
- Supporting Sections and Local Groups.

Championing the public interest

- Policy work on a range of topics to improve the use of data and statistics in public policy and the public interest
- Holding events and conducting research on topics of public interest
- Running working groups on key topics of public interest including the Society's AI taskforce
- Working in partnership with other organisations to secure change in the public interest
- Giving awards for outstanding work in journalism, official statistics and the pharmaceutical industry.

Supporting public understanding and engagement

- Statistics Under Pressure Initiative
- William Guy Lectureships
- Influencing education policy and curricula
- Publishing *Significance* magazine.

Governance

Founded in 1834, the Royal Statistical Society is a learned society and professional body incorporated by Royal Charter. It is an international membership body of **over 13,000 members** (of whom over 7,000 are designated 'Fellows'). Those Fellows with suitable qualifications, training and experience may apply for professional accreditation.

The Society's governing documents are its supplemental Charter (which came into effect on 8th March 2023) and the accompanying Bylaws and the Regulations (the latter are reviewed annually).

The RSS is currently conducting a review of its governance structure to increase efficiency and expand its best practice processes. Recommendations of this review have been informed by the [Charity Governance Code](#), with its principles aimed at shaping and cultivating good governance. The Society will additionally ensure that it remains in line with Charity Commission requirements and recommendations.

Council and Executive

The Society's Council acts as its board of trustees, and consists of:

- The President
- Twenty-four other fellows who are members of the Council and elected by the fellowship via an annual Single Transferrable Vote ballot
- Any Vice Presidents and Honorary Officers appointed by the Council
- The most recent Past President who is willing to serve on the Council or the incoming President-Elect once appointed
- Any additional person(s) co-opted to Council under the provisions in the Bylaws.

The President of the RSS serves a two-year term. Ordinary elected members usually serve a four-year term, with Vice Presidents and Honorary Officers typically serving the same. If they are not already members of the Council prior to their appointment, Vice Presidents and Honorary Officers are co-opted onto its membership and become Trustees of the Society.

The President, Vice Presidents and the Honorary Officers for EDI and Public Statistics make up the Society's Executive Committee, to whom Council delegates particular decisions.

Members of the Council are normally experts in one or more branches of statistical science and its applications. They bring this expertise and their knowledge of the statistical profession to the strategic management of the Society – it is hoped that, through the governance review, the Society will further diversify in this area and others.

With respect to their duties and responsibilities as trustees of the RSS, new members of the Council receive an induction prior to their term start. Delivered by the Governance Manager, this includes details on governance, finances, strategy and activities, as well as the crucial role held by Trustees of the Society. Updates to the whole Council are given where appropriate (for example, changes in legislation or regulation).

Risk management

During the past year, the major risks to which the charity is exposed have been identified and Council is satisfied that adequate systems are in place to manage those risks. An Audit and Risk Committee is in place to review key risks in detail as well as the Society's approach to managing them; the Committee reviews

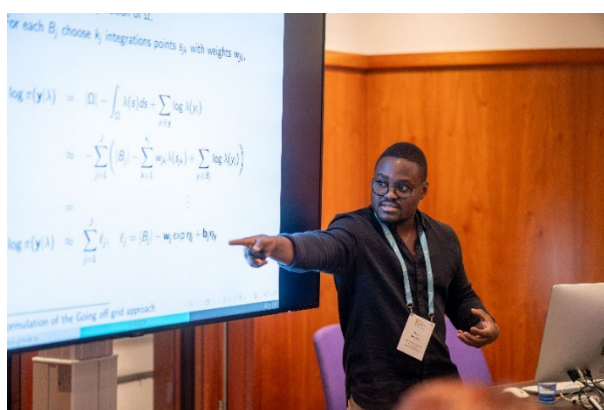
this at least annually. The Senior Management Team and the Audit and Risk Committee escalate any major risks to Council.

Scheme of delegation

The Council has a formal and detailed scheme of delegation laid out in its Regulations. Responsibilities are delegated to the Executive Committee and various other committees. The Professional Affairs Committee, for example, leads the Society's work as a professional body.

The President and Vice Presidents have the authority to speak for and represent the Society and to take urgent decisions between meetings.

The Society employs a Chief Executive, Dr Sarah Cumbers, to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity, its staff and its facilities. The Society has a small permanent staff and is therefore heavily dependent on the input of volunteers in the whole range of its activities. Volunteers are drawn from the membership and serve in a variety of ways including through committees and working groups.



The President

Professor Sir John Aston began his term as President of the Royal Statistical Society on 1st January 2025. He has led the Society as it delivered (in collaboration with the UK Statistics Authority) the first UK Statistics Assembly, engaged with the official statistics system and the law system, and held its largest conference to date.

In September 2025, the Society announced Professor Guy Nason of Imperial College London as its President-Elect. Professor Nason will begin his term as President in 2027.

Related Parties and connections with other organisations

The RSS has a wholly owned subsidiary trading company, RSS (Services) Ltd, which gifts all of its profits to the Society. The subsidiary's main activities are the running of training courses and the sale of print and online advertising. The organisation is a company limited by share capital, incorporated on 28 April 2000.

The following persons served as directors of the company during 2025:

- Paul Baxter
- Sarah Cumbers
- Adam Jones (TBC subject to Companies House authorisation)
- Stuart McKendrick (until 12 April 2025)
- Chris Murphy (until 10 November 2025)
- Branko Pecar

The Society also works with several organisations in the pursuit of its charitable activities. *Significance* is the official magazine of the Royal Statistical Society, the American Statistical Association (ASA) and the

Statistical Society of Australia (SSA). Both the magazine and RSS journals are published by Oxford University Press (OUP).

The RSS is a founding member of the Council for the Mathematical Sciences (CMS), which was established in 2001 by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA), the London Mathematical Society (LMS) and the RSS. The CMS comprises representatives and observers from the mathematical sciences community, including the Presidents and Chief Executives of these three societies. The CMS is an authoritative and objective body that exists to develop, influence and respond to UK policy issues that affect the mathematical sciences in higher education and research, and therefore the UK economy and society in general. In light of the formation of the new National Academy for the Mathematical Science, the future of the CMS is under review.

The RSS is also a member of the Royal Society's Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education (ACME), which provides advice to government and others to inform policy related to mathematics and quantitative education for 3–19-year-olds, and the transition into further or higher education or employment.

Remuneration Policy

The Royal Statistical Society sets remuneration according to a salary policy. It strives to offer a fair and affordable rate of pay for each role, with consistency and transparency. It is committed to ensuring that:

- Its salaries remain competitive in the labour market, broadly benchmarked to other professional societies and the public sector in London
- It informs employees how their pay has been determined and considers any feedback received.

Staff are not discriminated against because of gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, age, disability, pregnancy or maternity or because they work part-time or on a fixed-term contract.

The Society rewards staff through their salary and a number of other benefits. These include a pension scheme, holiday allowance, flexible working where appropriate, season ticket loans, and access to staff development opportunities including training. The Society has four salary bands.

The Executive Committee is responsible for the annual salary review for all staff, as set out in the RSS salary policy. When determining any increase, the Executive Committee considers a range of factors including inflation, wage increases in the wider economy, and affordability.

In addition to the annual pay review, individual salaries are also regularly reviewed, and further increases are considered to reflect changes in job roles. The Chief Executive and Executive Committee look at a variety of factors when reviewing individual salaries, including affordability in the context of the Society's finances and the current market rate for roles (what it would cost to replace a particular role in the market). Periodic benchmarking of individual and overall salaries may also be undertaken.

The ratio of remuneration of the highest paid to the median salary is 2.5 (2024: 2.4) based on the employees in place at the end of the financial year.

Reserves Policy

The Society maintains reserves according to a set policy which is regularly reviewed by both the Audit and Risk Committee and Council. The Society keeps reserves for a number of purposes:

- To provide an income to the Society from investments
- To pay for unanticipated in-year costs
- To allow trustees to invest in new areas of work and contribute to the long-term vision of the RSS
- To provide for a gap in funding if a core source were to shrink unexpectedly.

The Society's level of free reserves, calculated as general reserves less tangible assets, was £6.34m at the end of 2025 (2024: £2.53m). The free reserves position now exceeds the £1.5m to £2.0m range recommended by the reserves policy. The current reserves include £4.05m received from the sale of the RSS headquarters in January 2025. The Society continues to actively seek a new headquarters to purchase - these funds, minus a reserve high enough to fund operational needs for 12 months, will be used to purchase and refit this new property.

Fundraising

Most of the Society's income is earned from its regular activities. The RSS does not generally engage in public fundraising and does not use external fundraisers. A new fundraising policy was approved by Council in November 2024, and the RSS received no complaints during the year relating to its fundraising practices.



Risk

The detailed Risk Register is monitored by the Senior Management Team and the Audit and Risk Committee. The top risks are listed below and are reviewed by the Society's Council.

Strategic risks

Failure to deliver against one of the Society's four strategic objectives

Metrics, controls and recent developments

The Society's long-term strategy is reviewed every five years. The last review was completed in March 2024 and concluded with a new set of strategic priorities.

- Council agrees annual priorities, while Executive agrees how that strategy is implemented
- Council and Executive Committee monitor performance via regular reports to hold staff accountable
- The Society's governance structure is currently undergoing a major review to ensure best practice and reduce risks across the organisation.

Detail on activities for each strategic goal are listed in this annual report and the time and cost allocated to each goal is in note 1j in the annual accounts.

Decline in membership of the Society reduces the impact and reach of the Society

Membership is a key theme of the RSS strategy. The Society is:

- reaching out to new communities including data scientists and corporate organisations to **expand member diversity**
- undertaking research on membership trends within the Fellowship.

Regular monitoring of membership numbers is undertaken at Senior Management, Executive Committee and Council meetings. Total membership increased in 2025 to 13,048 (2024: 12,973); however paid members decreased to 7,033 (2024: 7,043). This continues the trend of an increase each year since 2013. See page 20 for a full breakdown.

Loss of journal income prevents the Society from achieving its objectives

A new contract was signed with **Oxford University Press** in 2023. Open access publishing has reduced the offer any publisher is prepared to make while the agreed contract still offers an element of guaranteed income; this means that the Society has some protection against changes in revenue from academic publishing until 2027.

The Society fails to remain relevant to data users and statisticians

A key strategic priority for the Society. The RSS has:

- an active focus on **value proposition**, ensuring that the Society understands the needs of our members
- research supported by the **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee**, which seeks to ensure that the Society understand the diversity of its members
- worked to broaden its reach by recruiting from new communities such as data scientists, and by securing new **corporate partnerships**.

Business intelligence is insufficient to track and identify the key risks facing the Society

The **Customer Relationship Management (CRM)** database allows the RSS to track, collect and analyse data from members and stakeholders. Meanwhile, the "MyRSS" **member portal** on the RSS website captures users' key data, enabling the RSS to target them with personalised content and adapt to their needs.

Data is collated and used to determine the **key performance indicators (KPIs)** required to meet business needs, improve decision making and the appropriate allocation of resources.

External Risks

Economic downturn reduces all income sources and reserves

Metrics, controls and recent developments

The Society has resilience in the form of free reserves. The Society's finances are monitored on a monthly basis by SMT. Trustees actively review the Society's financial situation and, if reserve levels drop, cut back when appropriate. RSS free reserves were £6.34m at the close of 2025 (2024: £2.53m), calculated as general reserves less tangible assets. This includes £4.05m from the sale of the RSS headquarters, which will be used to purchase another headquarters.

Pension deficit requiring large payments

The Society's final salary pension scheme was closed to new entrants on 1 January 2017. A valuation of the scheme is undertaken every three years. If the liabilities for the scheme are greater than the assets, then the Society must agree a payment plan to fund the deficit. A surplus of £843k was identified in the last valuation dated 31 December 2023, it was approved in December 2024. This ended the annual payments the Society had been required to make based on the previous 2020 valuation which had identified a deficit.

Reputational risks

All Society publications have a vetting procedure, and a limited number of people are designated to issue statements on behalf of the Society.

The RSS has implemented data protection legislation, including guidance for its Sections and Local Groups and the training of employees in [UK GDPR](#). The Society is particularly vigilant about maintaining high standards in its use of any personal data. Social media accounts and mentions are monitored

[One complaint was received in 2025. The Society was not required to report this to any regulatory board; however, a complaints procedure was developed and implemented following this instance.](#)

Virus and hacking risks

Cyber security threats have increased in recent years; the RSS holds personal data on a large number of individuals and must therefore be diligent in managing these risks.

- The RSS holds the National Cyber Security Centre's "[Cyber Essentials](#)" certification, ensuring that best practice is followed to mitigate a wide range of online threats
- **Staff** access systems via a dedicated business laptop with firewall, data encryption and the latest versions of anti-virus/malware software and are regularly educated about IT security
- Devices are monitored for threats via cloud portals and regular manual checks by IT staff
- Data is stored within the Microsoft 365/Azure infrastructure giving access to enterprise level security features such as automated alerts and action triggers based on machine learning. The Society's overall security posture as measured by Microsoft Secure Score is [85% vs an average of 44%](#) for comparable organisations
- Multifactor authentication is used on all admin accounts and extensive use of granular security permissions and conditional access policies are used to restrict unauthorised access to systems and data

The Audit and Risk Committee review this risk annually.

Internal risks

A lack of volunteers prevents the Society achieving its goals

Metrics, controls and recent developments

The Society is dependent on volunteers to:

- Fill roles on Council, Section and local group committees, and working groups
- Produce the Society's journals.

Volunteer engagement is an increasing priority, with an increase in staff time allocated now and in the future.

Loss of key staff prevents the Society achieving its goals

Notice periods mirror staff seniority and difficulty of replacement. Key processes have been mapped, and SMT monitors general staff wellbeing and the intentions of key staff members.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database failure

The Society is dependent on its CRM to manage operating activities. A single supplier maintains and develops bespoke functionality for the CRM and integrated website, which results in cost and efficiency savings but introduces a potential single point of failure.

As the RSS' CRM and website are both customised versions of mature underlying technology, the level of risk is significantly reduced as data and functionality could be ported to a new supplier. Dynamics CRM is part of the wider Microsoft 365 technology stack, giving a wide range of suppliers and support specialists who can be turned to for help. As the CRM is cloud-based, all data is automatically backed up on a regular schedule and stored securely.

RSS headquarters building not fit for purpose

The pandemic led to a change in the needs of the RSS. The Society's headquarters on Errol Street was not configured for hybrid events and live streaming; it was also not accessible to people with disabilities.

Council agreed to put Errol Street up for sale in 2024 with the sale of the building completed in January 2025. The Society is now working from temporary accommodation that has been refurbished to suit its needs while staff seek out a suitable location for a new headquarters that inspires collaboration and allows for in-person training and activities to continue.

Fraud

The Society has a series of financial procedures in place to minimise the risk of fraud:

- ARC review internal controls regularly to determine they are sufficient
- External auditors Sayer Vincent review processes during their audit of the organisation
- SMT monitor and report any incidences of fraud to the trustees and relevant bodies.

To date there have been no known instances of fraud.

General

There are a wide variety of operational risks which are outlined in a detailed Risk Register; these are reviewed quarterly by SMT and annually by ARC. The detailed Risk Register was last reviewed in full in March 2026.

Achievements in 2025

The trustees continue to be proud of what the organisation is achieving and consider that the RSS is becoming increasingly influential in its work. A new strategy was launched in April 2024, and the Society made good progress towards the new priorities, as set out below.

1. Enabling a strong, diverse profession

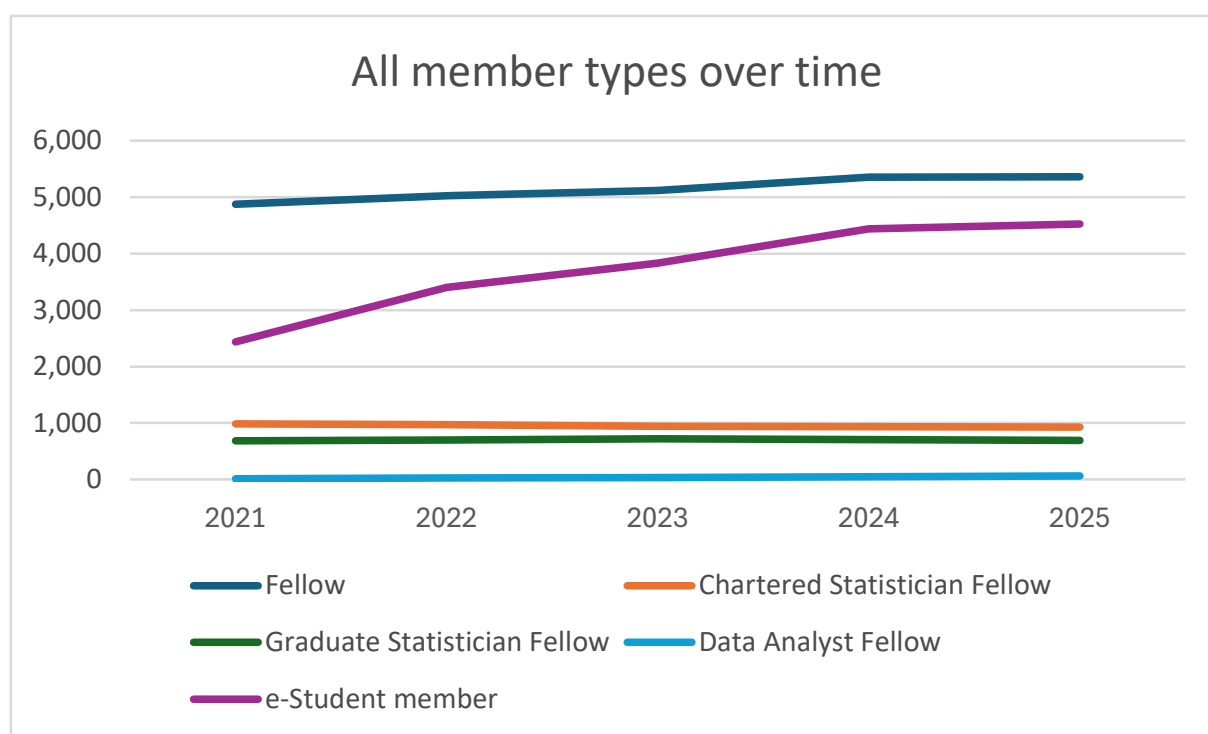
The first of the Society's goals aims to ensure that statisticians and other data professionals are developed and nurtured to enable their personal growth as part of a **well-connected community** and that the **sustainability** of the profession is maintained.

Membership

The number of Fellows remained steady at the end of 2025, at just **over 7,000**, while more e-Students joined than ever before (bringing the total to 4,500). The Society's group membership scheme grew to **39 organisations**, representing 1,515 Fellows (21% of fee-paying members).



Membership Category	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fellow	4,873	5,023	5,120	5,356	5,362
Chartered Statistician Fellow	988	972	942	937	924
Graduate Statistician Fellow	687	698	723	706	688
Data Analyst Fellow	12	23	33	44	59
e-Student member	2,439	3,399	3,833	4,439	4,528



Professional affairs and accreditation

Professional memberships and the award of chartered status represent the highest recognition of excellence in qualifications, experience and ethical practice. RSS standards demonstrate to individuals, industry, partners and to the public that its members serve wider society with **integrity** and **impact**. Its status enhances professional credibility, opens doors to opportunities and empowers members to lead in their field.

- 24% of Fellows hold one or more professional certifications
- **108 new professional certifications** were awarded to Fellows during the year.

The university course accreditation scheme provides a **trusted mark of quality** for academic programmes and training courses in statistics and data science. The standards for the accreditation of courses ensure that teaching, learning and assessment meet rigorous standards aligned with industry and academic expectations. Accreditation provides **endorsement** for institutions, **assurance** to students and professionals and the public, reinforcing **trust** in the profession and the Society.

As a member of the [Alliance for Data Science Professionals](#), the RSS launched a new programme specifically for the accreditation of university data science courses.

Honours and awards

The **David Cox Medal** (a new award created in partnership with the American Statistical Association, Bernoulli Society, International Biometrics Society, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the International Statistical Institute) was presented for the first time in 2025.

The inaugural recipients were recognised at the annual Joint Statistical Meeting in Nashville, while the Society's award winners were celebrated separately at an Awards Ceremony held during the RSS International Conference in Edinburgh.

2025 Recipients

Barnett Award for Environmental Statistics	Professor Claire Miller
David Cox Medal	Professor Richard Samworth Professor Eric Tchetgen Tchetgen Dr Nancy Zhang
David Cox Research Prize	Dr Kartik Waghmare
Greenfield Industrial Medal	Professor Nicky Best
Guy Medal, Bronze	Professor Jenny Wadsworth
Guy Medal, Silver	Professor Richard Samworth
RSS Honorary Fellowship	Fiona Fox, Professor Marion Oswald, Professor Annette Southgate

Sections and groups

The Society has **19 Sections**, which hold meetings and discussions about their specialist area topics. Driven by the fellowship, there are Sections on, for example, social statistics, medical statistics and business and industry. The Society also has **22 Local Groups**, which run events in their respective local and regional areas, as well as **two Special Interest Groups (SIGs)**.

Section, local groups and special interest groups organised **more than 113 events in 2025**, taking place across the country and on a diverse range of topics.

Training

The RSS is a **globally recognised** authority in shaping the field of data and statistics; expert-led training helps delegates to build knowledge, strengthen skills, and apply data with confidence. The Society offers a range of courses from introductory to advanced programmes, supporting professionals at every stage of their journey.

In 2025, the public programme delivered **25 courses to over 200 delegates**, achieving an average satisfaction score of 9 out of 10. The Society also delivered five in-house courses to central government departments and agencies.

2. Facilitating innovation and growth

The objective of this goal is for opportunities for the **development** and **evolution** of statistical science and data disciplines to be recognised and utilised, and expertise harnessed so that wider society continues to be advanced by the application of both statistics and data science.

Events

Held in Edinburgh, the 2025 RSS Conference was the Society's biggest to date, with the largest ever programme leading to a record attendance of **966 delegates from 42 countries** (a 30% increase in delegates over 2024). Conference feedback was impressive ratings with 92.9% of attendees rating it as Excellent or Good.

The second UK Conference on Teaching Statistics took place in Glasgow and attracted more than 100 participants.

Real World Data Science

[Real World Data Science](#) has undergone an editorial refresh, securing an additional year of funding from the American Statistical Association (ASA) and continuing to grow its audience (which was up 16% between July and October 2025):

The site now has **four different editorial sections** – The Pulse, Foundations and Frontiers, Applied Insights and People and Pathways. Published content has ranged from step-by-step tutorials to case-study guides, think-pieces and interviews.

A new video series – Real World Data Science: Big Questions – sees a panel of data scientists discuss the urgent questions in the field.

The Society added two new members to its editorial board from the ASA and has been expanding the ways it serves state-side audience. An appearance on the ASA's Practical Significance podcast has aired to promote this.

Journals

With a plan in place to grow and an aim to increase published papers by 5% each year, 2025 was a successful year for RSS Journals:

- Series A and B increased submissions, with Series B also seeing an increase in accepted papers
- Series A and C published notices for special issue papers
- New Associate Editors were recruited to each journal series in the autumn to expand their editorial boards (Series B now has its largest ever – up by 19 to 53).



The inaugural editorial of *RSS: Data Science and Artificial Intelligence* (written by the editors-in-chief) was published in July, attracting **22,000 views in its first seven weeks**. In 2025, the new journal received 40 submissions, exceeding its projected 25.

3. Championing the public interest

The RSS works hard to ensure that societal decisions are informed and improved by the appropriate use of data and statistics that are **reliable**, used **responsibly** and **relevant** to society's most important questions.

Policy

In 2025, the Society's work to champion the public interest focused on:

- Safeguarding the **independence, quality** and **effectiveness** of the UK statistical system
- Ensuring **user needs** are prioritised
- Strengthening the **evidence base** available to government and civil society.

The RSS **deepened its engagement with the UK statistical system** during a period of institutional challenge, including changes within UK Statistics Authority leadership and the implications of the Devereux Review into the ONS. Through meetings with the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA), Office for National Statistics (ONS), Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) and the Cabinet Office, as well as contributing to the development of the National Statistician role and UKSA strategy, the Society reinforced the importance of stable governance, independence and user engagement.

The Society continued its public statistics campaign, promoting the **effective operation** of the system, protecting **public trust**, and ensuring that **statistical outputs meet societal needs**. This included continued advocacy for accrediting the Household Costs Indices. The Society initiated a roundtable programme, delivered jointly with ONS and OSR to enable members to contribute their expertise to support producers to respond to major technical and methodological issues, including **surveys, population statistics** and **census planning**. The RSS held two roundtables in 2025 and will be following up on the recommendations emerging from them in 2026.

The RSS also supported **evidence infrastructure**, through mapping gaps in UK poverty data and via its "Statistics Under Pressure" initiative, supporting statisticians working in high-pressure situations including government emergencies.

At the end of 2025, the RSS played a central role in the **Covid Inquiry's examination of economic statistics**, with CEO Dr Sarah Cumbers giving evidence and the Society's policy team ensuring that the Inquiry reflected long-standing RSS recommendations on public statistics, preparedness and **the role of data in crises**. This ensured lessons learned will strengthen the system's ability to serve the public interest long-term.

Statistical Excellence Awards

In 2025, the Royal Statistical Society recognised a range of contributions to statistics and data communication through its Statistical Excellence Awards.

The Champion Award for Excellence in Official Statistics was awarded to the Early Years Data and Analysis Team at Ofsted for delivering insights on early years provision for policymakers and the public. The Florence Nightingale Award for Excellence in Health and Care Analytics went to The Strategy Unit and the

New Hospital Programme for developing the first nationally consistent open-source model to forecast demand for hospital and community services.

The Statistical Excellence in Journalism Awards recognised Saloni Dattani (Our World in Data) for commentary on maternal mortality reporting in the United States; Oscar Ingham, Katie Riley, Chris Newell and Joe White (Tortoise Media) for data visualisation in *Peer Review*; Robert Cuffe and Megan Riddell (BBC Verify) for explaining crime statistics affecting women; and Katharine Swindells (Inside Housing) for reporting on babies and toddlers living in temporary accommodation in the UK.

The Award for Statistical Excellence in the Pharmaceutical Industry was presented to the Amgen Data Sciences team for a methodology to forecast and optimise patient enrolment in global clinical trials. The Award for Statistical Excellence in Trustworthiness, Quality and Value was awarded to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority for its dashboard on fertility treatments and outcomes. The Statistical Excellence Award for Early-Career Writing went to Zhaoxi Zhang (University of Edinburgh) for the article “Early Scottish statisticians and their lasting legacy”.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Following a renewed focus on EDI in 2024, the Society continued in its work towards ensuring that our work reflects the diversity of the discipline, that we provide equal opportunities to all members and that our policy and campaigns work prioritise an EDI lens. The annual conference (held in Edinburgh) played host to several sessions that allowed the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Committee to promote their work – these included networking sessions and roles played in a session on **Neurodiversity in Statistics and Data Science**.



The Society completed work on its **Improving Member Data** project (funded by the Academy for Social Sciences), releasing a report that gained positive feedback from similar organisations and has been considered in crucial conversations about RSS data going forward. The Society also began intersectional work on poverty data gaps, with a focus on data gaps around women and disability. This work was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation Insight Infrastructure Team and is due to be completed in early 2026.

2025 saw the start of the RSS **review of honours and awards**, to which members of the EDI Advisory Committee have contributed as an element of ensuring that EDI is pervasive across the Society and its activities. The ongoing governance review has also served as an opportunity to reflect on how RSS governance can contribute to EDI practices across the Society.

4. Supporting public understanding and engagement

The Society's activities look to aid people in **understanding** the data and statistics that influence their daily life decisions, their work, and the world around them, allowing them to feel **empowered** to meaningfully engage with issues.

Public understanding

Education policy work is a core strand of the Society's activities in **promoting statistical literacy and education**. In 2025, the Society engaged with the curriculum review, with the aim of bringing about substantial changes to statistical education in schools. This was done in partnership with the Royal Society and through responses to the select committee inquiries and government consultations. The Society was disappointed by the limited ambition of the curriculum review but are now focusing on making sure that the statistics component of the curriculum is improved as much as possible, given the limited scope.

The Society complemented this with **horizon scanning**, inviting members to identify emerging societal issues where public engagement with statistics is most needed. This ensured that future work would be **responsive, relevant** and oriented toward **building public capability** in areas of high impact. This work identified improving public understanding of the statistical aspects of **AI** as an important area of focus, and the Society will be taking that forward in 2026.

The Society advanced this goal with:

- **Stats and the Law:** Exploring the role of statistics in the justice system (including improving statistical literacy among legal professionals and supporting better interpretation of evidence) continues to **strengthen public confidence** in how data is used in courts and legal processes.
- **Climate Change Task Force:** By producing accessible explanations of climate related statistics, challenging misleading uses of data, and equipping the public with tools to understand climate modelling and risk, the task force directly empowers people to engage meaningfully with one of society's most pressing issues.
- **William Guy Lecturers:** The Society's WGL programme brought statistical thinking to schools and colleges across the UK, **inspiring young people, improving statistical literacy from an early age, and creating accessible pathways** into understanding how statistics shape everyday decisions.
- **Stats Ambassadors:** The RSS stats ambassadors continued to **support journalists** to accurately represent statistics in their stories.
- **Public lecture:** The Society held a **public lecture** on statistical aspects of AI as part of its conference in Edinburgh – this was a well-attended and successful event.

Significance

Significance magazine remains the **number one benefit of an RSS membership** – subscriptions have seen an increase in several parts of the world, notably Latin America (up 38%) and South and South-East Asia (up 2,466%, thanks to an Indian government initiative).

2025 saw *Significance* subscribers receive special issues dedicated to old age and to Africa, and a fantastic double issue in November.

Statisticians for Society (S4S)

The Society's skills-based volunteering programmes continued to deliver a truly positive impact in 2025, supporting a diverse range of charitable organisations across the UK to:

1. Strengthen their data capability, and
2. **Use evidence** more effectively in achieving their goals.

External funding for S4S came to an end in 2025. In anticipation of this, RSS staff developed plans to ensure the continuation of this valued initiative. The RSS is committed to maintaining the scheme, recognising its dual benefits of providing **high-quality volunteering opportunities** for its members while enabling charities (particularly smaller organisations with more limited analytical capacity) to access much-needed statistical expertise.

Achievements outside of the strategic goals

Though not directly related to the Society's strategic goals, governance, IT and digital are essential to ensuring the RSS can continue to thrive and deliver to the highest standards, while remaining **accessible**.

Governance

Along with confirming its next President, the RSS onboarded **six new trustees** following the 2025 Council Election, each bringing new expertise to the Society's trustee board. These individuals, along with the new Vice President for Public Understanding and Engagement and Honorary Officers for Public Statistics and Journals, formally began their roles in January 2026. The addition of these new trustees has ensured that the RSS continues to meet the wants and needs of its members and **make an impact** on wider society while collaborating with a **strong** and **representative** board.

The Society began its **review of governance** in 2025, with a working group of members formed to consider best practices and how these should be properly implemented to the benefit of the membership (while remaining in line with charity and UK law). Already, the Society works in alignment with both the recommendations and requirements of the Charity Commission; the principles and recommendations of the review were structured in line with the [Charity Governance Code](#), which has proved valuable in supporting working group reflections.



IT and Digital

The Society continued to strengthen its digital foundations, focusing on **AI, security** and **improved user experience**:

- An AI framework was developed to guide **safe** and **responsible** adoption across all business areas, accompanied by the rollout of Microsoft Copilot to improve efficiency and support content, data and administrative workflows
- Information security policies and processes were strengthened through updated governance documentation, enhanced technical controls and continued progress on data classification and retention to support GDPR compliance
- The website was restructured to **improve navigation** and **content discoverability**, providing a stronger foundation for the forthcoming full site redevelopment
- Engagement analytics were used to understand how content performs, informing more targeted and effective content planning across web, newsletters and social media
- Dynamics CRM remained central to the Society's day-to-day operations, with incremental improvements made to stability, integration and processes.

Financial review

A strong financial year

The Society reported **a total surplus of £3.0m** (2024: deficit of £0.4m), primarily reflecting **the sale of the Society's former headquarters at Errol Street** and a strong investment performance. Excluding one-off gains, the underlying financial position remained stable, enabling the Society to continue delivering its charitable objectives.

Total funds increased from **£3.6m to £6.6m** over the year, significantly enhancing the Society's financial resilience and capacity to invest in long-term priorities, including the acquisition of a new permanent headquarters.

Income

Total income for the year was **£5.7m** (2024: £2.3m).

- **Charitable activities** income totalled **£3.0m**, broadly in line with the prior year (2024: £xm), reflecting stable performance across the Society's core charitable activities — including membership subscriptions, publications, conferences and professional activities. Membership income remained the largest single source of recurring income.
- **Commercial activities**, primarily training and advertising delivered through the Society's trading subsidiary, generated **£0.2m** (2024: £0.3m). Available profits were gifted to the Society under Gift Aid.
- **Investment income** and gains amounted to £0.4m (2024: £0.2m), reflecting improved market conditions and the Society's diversified investment portfolio.
- **Gain on disposal of property** of **£3.3m** arose following the sale of the former headquarters in January 2025, which completed at a price significantly above the asset's net book value.

Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2025 was **£3.0m** (2024: £3.0m), in line with the previous year.

- **Charitable activities** accounted for the majority of expenditure, supporting delivery across the Society's four strategic goals.
- **Staff costs** remained the largest cost category at **£1.8m** (2024: £1.9m), reflecting both cost control and the cessation of deficit recovery payments to the defined benefit pension scheme.
- **Governance and support** costs were appropriately allocated across activities in accordance with the Society's accounting policies.

Investment performance

The Society's investments, managed within a responsible multi-asset fund, had a **market value of £6.5m** at 31 December 2025 (2024: £2.3m). During the year, surplus cash generated from the property sale was partly invested in line with the Society's reserves and investment policies. Investment gains of **£0.26m** were recognised in the year, providing an important asset to support future activity.

Reserves and financial position

At the year end, total funds stood at **£6.6m** (2024: £3.6m)

Free reserves, defined as unrestricted general funds excluding tangible fixed assets, were **£6.34m** (2024: £2.53m). This figure exceeds the Society's target reserves range of **£1.5m–£2.0m**, as set out in its reserves policy. The trustees consider this position appropriate in light of the proceeds from the property sale, which are earmarked for the purchase and fit-out of a new headquarters, while maintaining sufficient liquidity to fund at least 12 months of operating activity.

Pension position

The Society's defined benefit pension scheme showed an actuarial surplus at the most recent valuation. Under FRS 102, this surplus has been capped at nil as it is not recoverable, except through future scheme wind-up or reduced contributions. Importantly, the improved funding position enabled the cessation of employer deficit recovery contributions from January 2025, reducing ongoing financial risk.

Summary

The trustees believe that the Society is in a **sustainable financial position**. The exceptional surplus generated in 2025 provides a solid platform for the next phase of the Society's development, particularly the acquisition of a new headquarters and continued investment in activities that support members, the profession and the public good. At the same time, trustees remain mindful of future financial risks and are committed to prudent financial management and stewardship of the Society's resources.

Plans for the future

The [five-year strategy](#) published in 2024 articulates the **impact** that the Society aspires to. The RSS has an ambitious range of activities in the pipeline to support its strategic goals; these are prioritised each year during business planning. This exercise factors in the pressure on the Society's future finances and the need for operational transformation across the organisation.

The Society's focus in 2026 will be to continue to deliver against **three key priorities** that will enable it to create a solid foundation for the future: creating a sustainable office, energising the membership, and building on what the Society does well.

1. Creating a sustainable office

Along with continuing work to find a new, permanent home for the Society following its departure from its 12 Errol Street office, this priority will encompass the following crucial activities:

- A review of RSS governance, refining practices to ensure **efficiency** and **inclusion**
- The scaling up of income generation methods to safeguard financial **sustainability**
- The redesign of the RSS website to improve **navigation, security** and **communication**.

2. Energising the membership

Members continue to be at the heart of the RSS – this goal ensures that their wants and needs are understood and met:

- A new member satisfaction survey to deepen the Society's understanding of member needs
- Enhance engagement and create **meaningful opportunities** for professional development
- Continue building a **vibrant, inclusive community** that reflects the **diversity** of the profession.



3. Building on what we do well

The third of the Society's 2026 priorities will see it strengthen core activities and expand its impact through:

- **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:** Embedding recommendations from the RSS' **Improving Member Data report** and continuing initiatives like the **Future Leaders programme**
- **Data Science and AI:** Delivering on the AI Taskforce's priorities, highlighting the role of **statistics in AI**, and shaping policy around **data ethics** and **governance**
- **Professional Affairs:** Working with partners to establish the Chartered Data Science qualification and accredit university courses, while exploring ways to **support the legal system** with expert statistical advice
- **Championing statistics** within society.

Beyond these priorities, the Society will continue to advocate for the **independence** and **integrity** of official statistics, **foster understanding** of statistics across professions and launch a new campaign to improve the public's understanding of AI.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Although the Royal Statistical Society delegates governance activities and detailed oversight to the relevant committees and Sections, the ultimate responsibility is held by its trustees. The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period, and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and group, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Trustees' Annual Report has been approved by the trustees on 17 June 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Professor Sir John Aston
President

Kevin Barnes
Honorary Treasurer

Independent auditor's report

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Royal Statistical Society ('the parent charity') for the year ended 31 December 2025, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the group and parent charity balance sheets, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the group and parent charity's affairs as at 31 December 2025 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Royal Statistical Society's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine

whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements
- Sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and the parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the Audit and Risk Committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the group's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;

- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the group operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the group from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parent charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charity and the parent charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

24 June 2026
 Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor
 110 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TG

Sayer Vincent LLP is eligible to act as auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Consolidated statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:							
Donations	2a	762	-	762	314	-	314
Charitable activities							
Enabling a strong, diverse profession	2b	1,005,481	21,012	1,026,493	930,824	16,375	947,199
Facilitating innovation and growth	2c	949,801	-	949,801	918,195	-	918,195
Championing the public interest	2d	30,331	59,072	89,403	148,419	21,451	169,870
Supporting public understanding		-	-	-	-	-	-
Commercial activities	2e	197,318	-	197,318	283,686	-	283,686
Investments	2f	164,003	-	164,003	16,505	-	16,505
Gain on disposal of property	2g	3,280,340		3,280,340			
Total income		5,628,036	80,084	5,708,120	2,297,943	37,826	2,335,769
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities							
Enabling a strong, diverse profession		930,196	83,829	1,014,025	915,364	75,410	990,774
Facilitating innovation and growth		1,055,406	3,000	1,058,406	1,010,788	2,856	1,013,644
Championing the public interest		393,521	63,566	457,087	554,926	106,707	661,633
Supporting public understanding		123,723		123,723	80,097	-	80,097
Commercial activities		306,630	-	306,630	233,039	-	233,039
Total expenditure	3	2,809,476	150,395	2,959,871	2,794,214	184,973	2,979,187
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains on investments		2,818,560	(70,311)	2,748,249	(496,271)	(147,147)	(643,418)
Net gain / (loss) on investments	10	264,395	-	264,395	195,594	-	195,594
Net income / (expenditure)		3,082,955	(70,311)	3,012,644	(300,677)	(147,147)	(447,824)
Transfers between funds	17	(12,754)	12,754	-	(2,475)	2,475	-
Net income/(expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		3,070,201	-	3,012,644	(303,152)	(144,672)	(447,824)
Actuarial gain or (loss) on defined benefit pension schemes	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		3,070,201	(57,557)	3,012,644	(303,152)	(144,672)	(447,824)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		3,356,364	270,283	3,626,647	3,659,516	414,955	4,074,471
Total funds carried forward		6,426,565	212,726	6,639,291	3,356,364	270,283	3,626,647

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 16 to the financial statements.

Balance sheets

As at 31 December 2025

	Note	The group 2025 £	2024 £	The Society 2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9	41,304	824,528	41,304	824,528
Investments	10	6,503,464	2,323,049	6,504,464	2,324,049
		6,544,768	3,147,577	6,545,768	3,148,577
Current assets:					
Debtors	12	355,331	579,358	352,432	568,371
Short term deposits		30,612	226,700	30,612	226,700
Cash at bank and in hand		117,842	235,228	85,293	210,363
		503,785	1,041,286	468,337	1,005,434
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(409,262)	(562,216)	(374,814)	(527,364)
Net current assets		94,523	479,070	93,523	478,070
Net assets excluding pension liability		6,639,291	3,626,647	6,639,291	3,626,647
Defined benefit pension scheme (liability)	15	-	-	-	-
Total net assets		6,639,291	3,626,647	6,639,291	3,626,647
Funds:	17				
Restricted income funds		212,726	270,283	212,726	270,283
Unrestricted income funds:					
Designated funds		1,138	1,288	1,138	1,288
General funds		6,425,427	3,355,076	6,425,427	3,355,076
		6,426,565	3,356,364	6,426,565	3,356,364
Pension reserve (liability)	15	-	-	-	-
Total unrestricted funds		6,426,565	3,356,364	6,426,565	3,356,364
Total charity funds		6,639,291	3,626,647	6,639,291	3,626,647

The surplus of the Society for the year ended 2025 was £3.013m (2024: deficit of £448k).

Approved by the trustees on 17 June 2026 and signed on their behalf by

John Aston
President

Kevin Barnes
Honorary Treasurer

Consolidated statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 £	£	2024 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net income for the reporting period		3,012,644		(447,824)	
Depreciation charges		32,041		59,680	
(Gain) / loss on investments		(264,395)		(195,594)	
(Gain) / loss on disposal of property		(3,280,340)		-	
Dividends and interest		(164,003)		(16,505)	
Defined benefit pension employer contribution		-		-	
Defined benefit pension adjustment		-		-	
Decrease / (increase) in debtors		224,027		(173,607)	
(Decrease) / increase in creditors		(152,954)		192,889	
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities			(592,980)		(580,961)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of fixed assets		(18,479)		(51,279)	
Proceeds from sale of investments		406,107		205,694	
Proceeds from sale of headquarters		4,050,002		-	
Purchase of investments		(4,300,000)		-	
Movement on cash held in investments		(22,127)		-	
Movement on cash held in notice account		196,088		(6,608)	
Dividends and interest		164,003		16,505	
Net cash (used in) / provided by investing activities			475,594		164,312
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			(117,386)		(416,649)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			235,228		651,877
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year			117,842		235,228
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents					
		At 1 January 2025 £	Cash flows £	At 31 December 2025 £	
Cash in hand		235,228	(117,386)	117,842	
Total cash and cash equivalents		235,228	(117,386)	117,842	

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

The Royal Statistical Society is a charity registered with the Charity Commission in England & Wales and incorporated by Royal Charter.

The registered office address is 124 City Road, London EC1V 2NX.

The operating address for all correspondence is Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4LT.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Society and its wholly-owned subsidiary RSS (Services) Limited on a line by line basis. Transactions and balances between the Society and its subsidiary have been eliminated from the consolidated financial statements. Balances between the two entities are disclosed in the notes of the Society's balance sheet. A separate statement of financial activities, or income and expenditure account, for the Society itself is not presented as the summary of the result for the year is disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

The Group has taken advantage of the exemptions allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own statement of financial activities in these financial statements

In applying the financial reporting framework, the trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of the estimation means the actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. Any significant estimates and judgements affecting these financial statements are detailed within the relevant accounting policy below.

c) Public benefit entity

The Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Society's ability to continue as a going concern for 12 months after the date of signing of these accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the Society has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Membership subscriptions are recognised in the financial statements during the period in which a member becomes entitled to benefits.

Income from courses, conferences and meetings are recognised in the period in which the event takes place.

Income received from the sale of journals is recognised in the year in which the journal is published. Oxford University Press our publishers undertake the marketing and distribution of the Society's journals and the Society receives a guaranteed contribution plus a share in any surplus arising.

Grants are recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1 Accounting policies (continued)

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts to the Society, is included in full in the statement of financial activities when received.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised in the financial statements.

g) Investments, investment income and interest receivable

Investment income and interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable. Investments held as fixed assets are revalued at bid value at the balance sheet date. The gain or loss for the year is taken to the statement of financial activities. The Society's investment in its subsidiary is included at cost.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund. If funds are unspent and carried forward into a later financial period, the trustees allocate the percentage, representing the investment return, including both the income earned and the unrealised gain/loss on investments, to these funds as at the balance sheet date.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

j) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity. Support costs are then re-allocated to each of the charitable activities on the basis of staff time on each activity as follows:

Support cost reallocation	2025	2024
Enabling a strong, diverse profession	31.19%	37.61%
Facilitating innovation and growth	24.67%	27.86%
Championing the public interest	17.02%	19.24%
Supporting public understanding	4.60%	3.22%
Commercial activities	6.47%	5.12%
Governance costs	16.06%	6.95%

k) Allocation of governance costs

Resources expended and allocated support costs relating to Governance costs are allocated to each activity:

Governance cost reallocation	2025	2024
Enabling a strong, diverse profession	38.92%	40.42%
Facilitating innovation and growth	31.67%	29.94%
Championing the public interest	15.40%	20.68%
Supporting public understanding	4.59%	3.46%
Commercial activities	9.42%	5.50%

1 Accounting policies (continued)

l) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are valued at historic cost. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its

Freehold land	Not depreciated
Freehold buildings	100 years (1% per annum)
Furniture, fixtures, fittings and office equipment	6 years (16.66% per annum)
Computers & Laptops	2 years (50% per annum)
Database & Servers and conference equipment	Up to 4 years (25% per annum)

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £250. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use. Major components are treated as a separate asset where they have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits and are depreciated separately over its useful life.

The trustees have reviewed the carrying value of the freehold building. There is a regular maintenance programme which is designed to

m) Heritage assets

A heritage asset is defined as "a tangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture". The Society is of the opinion that information on the cost or valuation of such assets is not available and such information cannot be obtained due to the specialist nature of the assets, many of which are unique.

n) Short term deposits

Short term deposits represent amounts held on deposit with a maturity of between 3 months and one year.

o) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

p) Foreign exchange

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange offered by the bank on the day of the transaction.

q) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

r) Pensions

The Society operates a defined benefit scheme, The Staff Pension and Life Assurance Plan of the Royal Statistical Society. The pension scheme members' years of employment, counted in the scheme, ceased to increase with effect from 1 January 2017. The cost of providing pension and related benefits is charged to the statement of financial activities over the employees' service lives on the basis of a percentage of earnings which is an estimate of the regular cost. Variations from regular cost, arising from periodic actuarial valuations are allocated over the expected remaining service lives of current employees on the basis of a percentage of current and estimated future earnings. Any difference between the charge to the statement of financial activities and the contributions payable to the scheme shown as an asset or liability in the balance sheet.

The Society also operates a group person pension plan which is a defined contribution scheme. Contributions are charged to the statement of financial activities in the periods to which they relate. The Society has no liability under the scheme other than for the payment of those contributions.

2 Analysis of income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 Total £
a) Donations	762	-	762	314	-	314
b) Enabling a strong, diverse profession						
Membership subscriptions	916,241	-	916,241	873,324	-	873,324
Accreditation Scheme	87,740	-	87,740	57,500	-	57,500
Grants & Sponsorship	1,500	21,012	22,512	-	16,375	16,375
	1,005,481	21,012	1,026,493	930,824	16,375	947,199
c) Facilitating innovation and growth						
Publications & content	518,772	-	518,772	594,373	-	594,373
Conferences & Events	431,029	-	431,029	323,822	-	323,822
	949,801	-	949,801	918,195	-	918,195
d) Championing the public interest						
Grants & Sponsorship	30,331	59,072	89,403	148,419	21,451	169,870
	30,331	59,072	89,403	148,419	21,451	169,870
e) Commercial activities						
Training	185,756	-	185,756	259,623	-	259,623
Advertising	11,562	-	11,562	21,775	-	21,775
Venue Hire	-	-	-	2,288	-	2,288
	197,318	-	197,318	283,686	-	283,686
f) Investments						
Dividends and Interest receivable	164,003	-	164,003	16,505	-	16,505
	164,003	-	164,003	16,505	-	16,505
g) Gain on disposal of property						
Sale of headquarters	3,280,340	-	3,280,340	-	-	-
	3,280,340	-	3,280,340	-	-	-
Total income	2,347,696	80,084	2,427,780	2,297,943	37,826	2,335,769

3a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities						2025	Total £	2024 Total £
	Enabling a strong, diverse profession £	Facilitating innovation and growth £	Championing the public interest £	Supporting public understanding £	Commercial activities £	Governance costs £			
Direct Costs									
Staff costs (note 5)	552,734	437,251	301,714	81,459	114,644	284,604	1,772,406		1,851,080
Other staff costs	8,975	7,302	3,550	1,059	2,172	3,076	26,134		38,229
Direct service costs	123,089	346,004	21,592	2,350	110,122	51,367	654,524		716,716
	684,798	790,557	326,856	84,868	226,938	339,047	2,453,064		2,606,025
Support costs									
Establishment costs	54,651	44,462	21,618	6,450	13,229	18,732	159,142		142,225
IT costs	25,979	21,136	10,276	3,066	6,288	8,905	75,650		63,946
Office costs	44,048	35,837	17,424	5,198	10,662	15,098	128,267		13,867
Legal and professional	13,478	10,966	5,332	1,591	3,263	4,620	39,250		10,347
Irrecoverable VAT	13,121	10,675	5,191	1,549	3,176	4,498	38,210		57,775
Depreciation	11,004	8,952	4,352	1,299	2,663	3,771	32,041		59,680
Other expenses	11,761	9,568	4,652	1,388	2,847	4,031	34,247		25,322
	174,042	141,596	68,845	20,541	42,128	59,655	506,807		373,162
Total expenditure	858,840	932,153	395,701	105,409	269,066	398,702	2,959,871		2,979,187
Governance costs reallocated	155,185	126,253	61,386	18,314	37,564	(398,702)	-		-
Total expenditure 2025	1,014,025	1,058,406	457,087	123,723	306,630	-	2,959,871		
Total expenditure 2024	990,774	1,013,644	661,633	80,097	233,039	-			2,979,187

Direct service costs in the governance section include investment management fees of £12,270 (2024: £4,856).

3b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities							
	Enabling a strong, diverse profession £	Facilitating innovation and growth £	Championing the public interest £	Supporting public understanding £	Commercial activities £	Governance costs £	2024	Total £
Direct Costs								
Staff costs (note 5)	644,196	487,063	415,074	56,953	76,327	171,467	1,851,080	
Other staff costs	14,377	10,651	7,356	1,231	1,956	2,658	38,229	
Direct service costs	94,497	339,831	117,587	1,564	122,410	40,827	716,716	
	753,070	837,545	540,017	59,748	200,693	214,952	2,606,025	
Support costs								
Establishment costs	53,489	39,625	27,366	4,579	7,278	9,888	142,225	
IT costs	24,049	17,816	12,304	2,059	3,272	4,446	63,946	
Office costs	5,215	3,864	2,668	446	710	964	13,867	
Legal and professional	3,891	2,883	1,991	333	530	719	10,347	
Irrecoverable VAT	21,727	16,097	11,117	1,860	2,957	4,017	57,775	
Depreciation	22,445	16,628	11,483	1,921	3,054	4,149	59,680	
Other expenses	9,524	7,055	4,872	815	1,296	1,760	25,322	
	140,340	103,968	71,801	12,013	19,097	25,943	373,162	
Total expenditure	893,410	941,513	611,818	71,761	219,790	240,895	2,979,187	
Governance costs reallocated	97,364	72,131	49,815	8,336	13,249	(240,895)		-
Total expenditure 2024	990,774	1,013,644	661,633	80,097	233,039	-	2,979,187	

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

4 Net incoming resources for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation		
Owned	32,042	59,680
Trustees' expenses	941	1,244
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	15,800	15,200
Other services	1,300	1,250
	49,083	77,374

In 2025 6 trustees (2024: 11) were paid for expenses relating to travel, subsistence, telephone and postage.

5 Analysis of staff costs and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	1,406,782	1,334,917
Social security costs	160,243	125,058
Pension contributions		
Defined benefit pension scheme costs	-	200,000
Defined contribution pension contributions	201,992	185,585
Life assurance	3,389	5,520
	1,772,406	1,851,080

Staff are entitled to carry over a maximum of 10 days allowance of unused annual leave. For the 2025 accounting year the value of the accrued leave was calculated at £26,386 (2024: £29,376). This amount is not material and so is not included as an adjustment in the salary and wages expense.

As part of the recovery plan to reduce the shortfall in funding for the defined benefit pension scheme that was identified in the 2020 triennial pension valuation, the employer contributed £Nil (2024: £200,000) during the year. The actuarial gains and losses on the Scheme for the year, are recognised in the statement of financial activities in accordance with FRS102.

The contributions made during the year ended 31 December 2025 for the defined contribution scheme were at a rate of double that made by the contributor (between 1% and 8%) of pensionable salaries. The cost to the Society was £201,992 (2024: £185,585).

Insurance premiums for death in service benefits were payable in addition.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

5 Analysis of staff costs (continued)

The following number of employees received employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance) during the year between:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£60,000 - £69,999	2	2
£70,000 - £79,999	1	-
£80,000 - £89,999	-	-
£90,000 - £99,999	-	1
£100,000 - £109,999	-	-
£110,000 - £119,999	-	-
£120,000 - £129,999	-	1
£130,000 - £139,999	1	-
	4	4

The key management personnel of the Society comprise the Chief Executive, the Director of Professional Services, the Director of Finance, the Director of Commercial and the Director of IT, Digital & Content. The total employee benefits (including pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) of the key management personnel were £489,346 (2024: £498,799).

The trustees were not paid nor received any other benefits from employment with the Society in the year (2024: £nil). No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the Society with the exception of those detailed in note 7.

6 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Total staff	30.7	28.7
	30.7	28.7

7 Related party transactions

There were no amounts outstanding at 31 December 2025 (2024: £nil).

8 Taxation

The Society is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. The Society's trading subsidiary RSS (Services) Ltd distributes available profits under Gift Aid to the Society. Its charge to corporation tax in the year was £nil (2024: £nil).

9 Tangible fixed assets

The group and Society

	Freehold land and buildings £	Fixtures and fittings and equipment £	Computers and Laptops £	Database, Servers and Audio-visual Equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At the start of the year	1,067,145	347,714	64,418	630,701	2,109,978
Additions in year	-	590	1,558	16,331	18,479
Disposals in year	(1,067,145)	(293,229)	(29,383)	(133,305)	(1,523,062)
At the end of the year	-	55,075	36,593	513,727	605,395
Depreciation					
At the start of the year	300,191	342,968	62,228	580,063	1,285,450
Charge for the year	839	1,309	2,969	26,925	32,042
Eliminated on disposal	(301,030)	(289,684)	(29,382)	(133,305)	(753,401)
At the end of the year	-	54,593	35,815	473,683	564,091
Net book value					
At the end of the year	-	482	778	40,044	41,304
At the start of the year	766,954	4,746	2,190	50,638	824,528

Errol Street was sold in January 2025 for £4.05m, well in excess of the net book value of the asset. Land with a historic value of £60,000 was included within freehold property and not depreciated.

The RSS maintained the oldest part of its historical book collection on site at Errol Street. The collection comprises approximately 500 volumes and includes all the pre 1800 dated books as well as the collections donated by William Newmarch and George Udny Yule. In January 2025 these books were moved into long-term storage.

The majority of post-1800 books are held on permanent deposit at the University of Essex library. This collection consists of back runs of around 30 periodicals, a large book collection, and an important series of tracts – bound volumes of pamphlets on diverse topics. The core of the collection relates to statistics and statistical history, and contains much material of interest in the field of social and economic history, particularly for the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The trustees regard the Book Collection as a Heritage Asset and it is not their intention at any time in the future to sell the collection. The collection is included at nil value.

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

10 Listed investments

	The group		The Society	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Market value at the start of the year	2,323,049	2,333,149	2,324,049	2,334,149
Cash movement	22,127	-	22,127	-
Additions at cost	4,300,000	-	4,300,000	-
Disposal proceeds	(406,107)	(205,694)	(406,107)	(205,694)
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	264,395	195,594	264,395	195,594
Total market value at year end	6,503,464	2,323,049	6,504,464	2,324,049

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

11 Subsidiary undertaking

The Society owns the whole £1,000 of the issued ordinary share capital of RSS (Services) Ltd, a company registered in England (company number 0398652). The subsidiary is used for non-primary purpose trading activities. All activities have been consolidated on a line by line basis in the statement of financial activities. Available profits are distributed under Gift Aid to the Society. The Directors were Mr Branko Pecar, Professor Paul Baxter, Dr Sarah Cumbers, Mr Adam Jones (from 17 March 2026), Mr Stuart McKendrick (until 8 May 2025) and Mr Chris Murphy (until 10 November 2025). No trustees of the Society are currently directors. Dr Sarah Cumbers is employed by the Society in the position of Chief Executive. Mr Stuart McKendrick was employed at the Head of Training and Commercial and was succeeded by Adam Jones.

A summary of the results of the subsidiary is shown below:

	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover	197,316	283,686
Cost of sales	(110,122)	(122,410)
Gross profit	87,194	161,276
Administrative expenses	(5,804)	(5,937)
Management charge from parent entity	(77,993)	(59,757)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	3,397	95,582
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	-	-
Profit / (loss) for the financial year	3,397	95,582
Retained earnings		
Total retained earnings brought forward	-	-
Profit / (loss) for the financial year	3,397	95,582
Distribution under Gift Aid to parent charity	(3,397)	(95,582)
Total retained earnings / (loss) carried forward	-	-
The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds was:		
Assets	35,448	35,851
Liabilities	(34,448)	(34,851)
Funds	1,000	1,000

Parent charity

The parent charity's gross income and the results for the year are disclosed as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross income	5,856,855	2,406,490
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	3,012,644	(447,824)

Gross income for the year includes a gain from investments of £264,395 (2024: £195,594) and £3.28m from the gain from the disposal of the RSS headquarters (2024: £nil)

12 Debtors

	The group		The Society	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	36,250	29,736	35,340	23,365
Other debtors	175,601	295,635	175,601	295,635
Prepayments	143,480	253,987	141,491	249,371
	355,331	579,358	352,432	568,371

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	The group		The Society	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	44,249	181,163	37,014	175,780
Other creditors, provisions and accruals	59,796	91,318	58,205	87,381
Deferred income	279,199	273,053	249,583	246,441
Amounts owed to subsidiary company	-	-	3,994	944
Taxation and social security costs	26,018	16,682	26,018	16,818
	409,262	562,216	374,814	527,364

In June 2022 the RSS received a grant of £206k from the FTX Future Fund, the grant making body of the crypto exchange in FTX. In November 2022 the FTX was declared bankrupt. Subsequently the RSS has been contacted by the legal representatives of the FTX debtors regarding possible repayment of the grant. Any repayment of the grant and subsequent settlement agreement is subject to negotiation. This sum is not recognised as a liability within creditors as repayment is possible but not probable.

14 Deferred income

The deferred revenue below represents prepayments by our customers and members for goods or services that have yet to be delivered. £238,337 (2024: £233,105) relates to membership subscriptions for the future year with the remaining balance consisting of delegate fees for events and training courses for the upcoming year.

	The group		The Society	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
Balance at the beginning of the year	273,052	272,895	246,440	221,250
Amount released to income in the year	(261,807)	(262,319)	(235,195)	(210,674)
Amount deferred in the year	267,954	262,476	238,338	235,864
Balance at the end of the year	279,199	273,052	249,583	246,440

15 Pension scheme

The Society operates a defined benefit scheme, *The Staff Pension and Life Assurance Plan of the Royal Statistical Society*. The most recent actuarial assessment for accounting purposes was at 31 December 2023, it showed a funding surplus of £843k. The previous two valuations showed a funding shortfall which required the Society to agreed a recovery plan to pay contributions to meet the shortfall in funding. Between 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2024 the employer paid £1m, with the scheme now in surplus all payments have ceased from 1 January 2025. Please note this assessment is calculated on a different basis from the deficit included in the financial statements, which is calculated in accordance with FRS 102.

At the year-end 31 December 2025, the RSS's defined benefit pension scheme was valued for accounting purposes as an asset with a value of £1.915m. The RSS follows the accounting standard FRS 102. Under this accounting standard, an entity should recognise an asset in a defined benefit pension scheme only 'to the extent that it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan'. No refund of contributions to scheme can be considered until the scheme is wound up, as such the valuation of the defined benefit pension asset has been capped at nil.

The pension scheme members' years of employment, counted in the scheme, ceased to increase with effect from 1 January 2017.

The Scheme has a number of purchased annuities in respect of past retirements. The annuity contracts held by the trustees are included as both an asset and liability, with the fair value of the asset taken to equal the present value of the liability.

Insurance premiums for death in service benefits were payable in addition.

The employee benefit obligations recognised in the balance sheet are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Present value of funded obligations	(3,240,000)	(3,311,000)
Fair value of plan assets	5,155,000	5,091,000
	1,915,000	1,780,000
Amounts in the balance sheet:		
Liabilities	(3,240,000)	(3,311,000)
Assets	5,155,000	5,091,000
Net asset or (liability)	1,915,000	1,780,000

Amounts recognised in net incoming resources are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Net interest credit or (charge)	99,000	63,000
Total	99,000	63,000
Actual return on plan assets	241,000	266,000

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

15 Pension scheme (continued)

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Opening defined benefit obligation	3,311,000	3,686,000
Interest cost	179,000	168,000
Actuarial (gains) / losses	(73,000)	(260,000)
Benefits paid	(177,000)	(283,000)
Closing defined benefit obligation	3,240,000	3,311,000

Changes in the fair value of plan assets are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Opening fair value of plan assets	5,091,000	4,908,000
Interest Income	278,000	231,000
Actuarial gains / (losses)	(37,000)	35,000
Contributions by employer	-	200,000
Benefits paid	(177,000)	(283,000)
Closing fair value of plan assets	5,155,000	5,091,000

Net actuarial (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme

	2025 £	2024 £
Actuarial gain/ (loss) on plan obligations	73,000	260,000
Actuarial gain/ (loss) on plan assets	(37,000)	35,000
	36,000	295,000

Principal actuarial assumptions at the balance sheet date (expressed as weighted averages):

	2025 %	2024 %
Retail Price Inflation assumption	3.00%	3.15%
Consumer Price Inflation assumption	2.80%	2.90%
Discount rate at the end of the year	5.65%	5.55%
Statutory revaluation in deferment	2.90%	2.90%
Future salary increases	3.30%	3.40%
Future pension increases	3.45%	3.60%
Life expectancy - Male	87 years	87 years
Life expectancy - Female	89 years	89 years

Amounts for the current and previous four periods are as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £	2023 £	2022 £	2021 £
Defined benefit obligation	(3,240,000)	(3,311,000)	(3,686,000)	(3,732,000)	(6,395,000)
Plan assets	5,155,000	5,091,000	4,908,000	4,855,000	5,275,000
Asset (deficit)	1,915,000	1,780,000	1,222,000	1,123,000	(1,120,000)
Experience loss on benefit obligation	(4,000)	(66,000)	(33,000)	(171,000)	(250,000)
Asset return less expected return on assets	(37,000)	35,000	(246,000)	(578,000)	349,000

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

16a Current year analysis of group net assets between funds

	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	41,304	-	-	41,304
Investments	6,503,464	-	-	6,503,464
Net current assets	(119,341)	1,138	212,726	94,523
Defined benefit pension asset	-	-	-	-
Net assets at the end of the year	6,425,427	1,138	212,726	6,639,291

16b Prior year analysis of group net assets between funds

	General funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	824,528	-	-	824,528
Investments	2,323,049	-	-	2,323,049
Net current assets	207,499	1,288	270,283	479,070
Defined benefit pension liability	-	-	-	-
Net assets at the end of the year	3,355,076	1,288	270,283	3,626,647

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

17a Current year movements in funds

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Francis Wood Memorial Medal Fund	4,607		-	516	5,123
Chambers Medal Fund	8,878		-	994	9,872
Greenfield Industrial Medal Fund	1,525		(620)	101	1,006
Bradford Hill Medal Fund	3,129		-	350	3,479
David Cox Research Prize Fund	66,887		(2,000)	7,267	72,154
Cathie Marsh Memorial Bursary Fund	4,162		(500)	410	4,072
John Howard West Bursary & Medal Fund	21,995		(2,500)	2,183	21,678
Barnett Award Fund	28,063		-	-	28,063
David Spiegelhalter Prize Fund		20,000		933	20,933
David G. Kendall Award for Young Researchers	3,438		-	-	3,438
David Cox Medal	11,568		(11,943)	-	(375)
Mardia Interdisciplinary Workshop Prize Fund	31,776	1,012	(17,085)	-	15,703
Statisticians for Society (Big Lottery Fund)	52,181		(52,181)	-	-
EDI Future Leaders (AcSS)	10,623		(4,400)	-	6,223
EDI Peer review (AcSS)	21,451		(21,451)	-	-
Gaps in poverty data (JRF)		54,072	(32,715)		21,357
LGBTQ+ positive research culture research		5,000	(5,000)		-
Total restricted funds	270,283	80,084	(150,395)	12,754	212,726
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
C. Oswald George Prize Fund	1,288	-	(150)	-	1,138
Total designated funds	1,288	-	(150)	-	1,138
General funds	3,355,076	5,695,115	(2,612,010)	(12,754)	6,425,427
Non-charitable trading funds	-	197,316	(197,316)	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	3,356,364	5,892,431	(2,809,476)	(12,754)	6,426,565
Pension fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds including pension fund	3,626,647	5,972,515	(2,959,871)	-	6,639,291

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2025

17b Prior year movements in funds

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
Francis Wood Memorial Medal Fund	5,417	-	(810)	-	4,607
Chambers Medal Fund	10,176	-	(1,298)	-	8,878
Greenfield Industrial Medal Fund	2,184	-	(659)	-	1,525
Bradford Hill Medal Fund	3,946	-	(817)	-	3,129
David Cox Research Prize Fund	68,887	-	(2,000)	-	66,887
Cathie Marsh Memorial Bursary Fund	4,162	-	-	-	4,162
John Howard West Bursary & Medal Fund	24,109	-	(2,114)	-	21,995
Barnett Award Fund	28,805	-	(742)	-	28,063
David G. Kendall Award for Young Researchers	3,438	-	-	-	3,438
David Cox Medal	-	12,375	(3,282)	2,475	11,568
Mardia Interdisciplinary Workshop Prize Fund	29,529	4,000	(1,753)	-	31,776
Statisticians for Society (Big Lottery Fund)	116,972	-	(64,791)	-	52,181
Stats under pressure (FTX Future Fund)	93,330	-	(93,330)	-	-
EDI Future Leaders (AcSS)	24,000	-	(13,377)	-	10,623
EDI Peer review (AcSS)	-	21,451	-	-	21,451
Total restricted funds	414,955	37,826	(184,973)	2,475	270,283
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
C. Oswald George Prize Fund	1,438	-	(150)	-	1,288
Total designated funds	1,438	-	(150)	-	1,288
General funds	3,658,078	2,209,851	(2,510,378)	(2,475)	3,355,076
Non-charitable trading funds	-	283,686	(283,686)	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	3,659,516	2,493,537	(2,794,214)	(2,475)	3,356,364
Pension fund	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds including pension fund	4,074,471	2,531,363	(2,979,187)	-	3,626,647

Purposes of restricted funds

All restricted funds represent grants, donations, bequests etc received by the Society, along with interest earned thereon. The majority of funds are used to meet future costs of awarding medals, prizes and bursaries. Those funds that are not are as follow:

- > The Barnett Award is a named lecture, usually presented at the RSS Annual Conference, in the field of environmental statistics.
- > The Mardia Interdisciplinary Workshop Prize funds events or workshops in emerging interdisciplinary areas.
- > The Statisticians for Society project was begun in 2018 as a pilot programme to support RSS members to give their skills on a pro bono basis to organisations in the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. In 2019 we were awarded a grant from the National Lottery Fund to continue the development across the UK, this grant was exhausted in 2025.
- > The Stats under pressure project was funded by FTX Future Foundation to build a movement of research aware, Bayesian minded public services
- > The Academy of Social Sciences awarded two separate grants to the RSS. In 2023 the Future Leader programme was launched with the aim of promoting strong leadership and mentors in the statistics and data professions in all of their diversity. The second grant was commissioned by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to carry out an independent exploration of its portfolio of research grants to measure the diversity applicants and any bias in the process.
- > In 2025 the Joseph Rowntree foundation awarded a grant to fund a nine-month project to identify and help fill statistical gaps relating to UK poverty, with a focus on civil society engagement and administrative data.
- > The University of Birmingham awarded a grant to the RSS in 2025 for a research project for cultivating and coordinating positive research culture For LGBTQ+ STEM Researchers.

In accordance with accounting policy on fund accounting (h) the trustees have transferred the percentage, representing the investment return, including both the income earned and the unrealised gain on investments, from the General fund to these funds as at the balance sheet date.

Purposes of designated funds

The C. Oswald George Prize Fund has been awarded to the authors of the best article in *Teaching Statistics* since the magazine launched in 1979.

18 Post balance sheet events

The RSS is in the process of purchasing a new headquarters with the purchase to likely complete in 2026.