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Professor Sir John Aston confirmed as president-elect of the Royal Statistical Society

Cambridge professor Sir John Aston has been confirmed as the next Royal Statistical Society (RSS) president after Dr Andrew Garrett's term of office concludes at the end of 2024.

Sir John is the Harding Professor of Statistics in Public Life at the University of Cambridge where he develops statistical techniques for public policy and improves the use of quantitative methods in public policy debates.

From 2017 to 2020 he was the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Home Office, providing statistical and scientific advice to ministers and officials. As part of the Chief Scientific Adviser Network, he was involved in the UK's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. He was knighted in the 2021 Birthday Honours for services to statistics and public policymaking.

An applied statistician, Sir John has previously worked at the US Census Bureau, Academia Sinica (Taiwan) and the University of Warwick. He is currently a non-executive director of the UK Statistics Authority with his term concluding in July 2024.

Sir John was recommended from a list of nominees put forward by RSS fellows to its President Nominating Committee, with fellows then given an opportunity to nominate an alternative candidate. Former RSS presidents include Labour prime minister Harold Wilson, Prof Denise Lievesley and Sir David Spiegelhalter.

Professor Sir John Aston, commenting on the announcement said: "I am honoured and delighted to become the RSS president in 2025. It is arguable that there has never been a more important time for statistics as a discipline and within society. The RSS will be pivotal as a voice as statistics becomes ever more crucial and I very much look forward to being part of this important work."

Dr Andrew Garrett, president of the Royal Statistical Society, commented: "I am thrilled that John is to be our next president. He brings a wealth of experience from across the discipline and his commitment to improving the use of data in public life and policymaking is in perfect alignment with the RSS's mission to promote a world with data at the heart of decision making."

Notes to editors:

- The Royal Statistical Society (RSS), founded in 1834, is one of the world's most distinguished and renowned statistical societies. It is a learned society for statistics, a professional body for statisticians and a charity which promotes statistics, data and evidence for the public good. Today the RSS has around 10,000 members across the world rss.org.uk @RoyalStatSoc
- The full list of former RSS presidents can be found here: <https://rss.org.uk/about/people/past-presidents/>
- A photo of Professor Sir John Aston is available on request.