

Royal Statistical Society statement on the planned dismantling of the  
Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics

Plans to dismantle Puerto Rico's independent statistical agency, '*El Instituto de Estadísticas de Puerto Rico*' (Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics - PRIS), have been approved by the county's Legislative Assembly. Governor Ricardo Rosselló's plans will - if necessary enabling legislation is passed - see the Institute become part of the government's Department of Economic Development, which would then outsource statistical work to the private sector.

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) feels compelled to urge Governor Rosselló and the Puerto Rican legislature to reconsider their plans and allow the Institute of Statistics to continue its job of providing impartial statistical analyses that are so critical for efficient and effective administration in Puerto Rico. The RSS believes the independent governance of all statistical systems must be preserved in order to ensure government policies are based firmly and impartially on the facts.

Whilst the RSS acknowledges the great economic challenges currently faced by Puerto Rico, the Society believes a properly resourced and independent statistical system is essential to safeguard statistical quality and, in turn, allow policy-makers to make evidence-based decisions for the benefit of society as a whole.

**Notes**

The RSS has been watching the events unfold in Puerto Rico with concern for some time, [as reported in Significance](#), which we publish jointly with the American Statistical Association (ASA).

We have been pleased to see our colleagues at the ASA take an active role in urging the relevant Puerto Rican authorities to overturn the decision. Their petition, which now has nearly 3000 signatures, can be found here: <https://www.change.org/p/puerto-rico-legislature-and-governor-ricardo-rossell%C3%B3-put-the-facts-first-governor-rossell%C3%B3-for-a-better-puerto-rico>

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