

# ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

## Copy of 1887 Charter

**Victoria, by the Grace of God** of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith.

**To all whom** these presents shall come, Greeting:-

**Whereas** Our Right trusty and entirely beloved cousin, Henry, Third Marquess of Lansdowne, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Charles Babbage, Fellow of the Royal Society, John Elliott Drinkwater, Master of Arts, Henry Hallam, Fellow of the Royal Society, the Reverend Richard Jones, Master of Arts, and others of Our loving subjects, did, in the year of One thousand eight hundred and thirty-four, establish a Society to collect, arrange, digest and publish facts, illustrating the condition and prospects of society in its material, social, and moral relations; these facts being for the most part arranged in tabular forms and in accordance with the principles of the numerical method, and the same Society is now called or known by the name of "The Statistical Society".

**And Whereas** it has been represented to Us that the same Society has, since its establishment, sedulously pursued such its proposed objects, and by its publications (including those of its transactions), and by promoting the discussion of legislative and other public measures from the statistical point of view, has greatly contributed to the progress of statistical and economical science.

**And Whereas** distinguished individuals in foreign countries, as well as many eminent British subjects, have availed themselves of the facilities offered by the same Society for communicating important information largely extending statistical knowledge; and the general interest now felt in Statistics has been greatly promoted and fostered by this Society.

**And Whereas** the same Society has, in aid of its objects, collected a large and valuable library of scientific works and charts, to which fresh accessions are constantly made; and the said Society has hitherto been supported by annual and other subscriptions and contributions to its funds, and has lately acquired leasehold premises in which the business of the said Society is carried on.

**And Whereas** in order to secure the property of the said Society, to extend its operations, and to give it its due position among the Scientific Institutions of Our Kingdom, We have been besought to grant to Sir Rawson William Rawson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, and Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and to those who now are members of the said Society, or who shall from time to time be elected Fellows of the Royal Statistical Society hereby incorporated, our Royal Charter of Incorporation for the purposes aforesaid.

1. **Now know ye** that We, being desirous of encouraging a design so laudable and salutary, of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, have willed, granted, and declared and Do by these Presents, for Us, Our heirs and successors, will,

grant, and declare that the said Sir Rawson William Rawson, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, and Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and such other of Our loving subjects as now are Members of the said Society, or shall from time to time be elected Fellows of "The Royal Statistical Society" hereby incorporated according to such regulations or bye laws as shall be hereafter framed or enacted, and their successors, shall for ever hereafter be by virtue of these presents one body politic and corporate, by the name of "**The Royal Statistical Society**", and for the purposes aforesaid, and by the name aforesaid, shall have perpetual succession and a common seal, with full power and authority to alter, vary, break, and renew the same at their discretion, and by the same name to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, unto and in every Court of Us, Our heirs and successors.

2. **The** Royal Statistical Society in this Charter hereinafter called "The Society", may, notwithstanding the statutes of mortmain, take, purchase, hold and enjoy to them and their successors a hall, or house, and any such messuages or hereditaments of any tenure as may be necessary, for carrying out the purposes of the Society, but so that the yearly value thereof to be computed at the rack rent which might be gotten for the same at the time of the purchase or other acquisition, and including the site of the said hall, or house, do not exceed in the whole the sum of Two thousand pounds.

3. **There** shall be a Council of the Society, and the said Council and General Meetings of the Fellows to be held in accordance with this our Charter shall, subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, have entire the management and direction of the concerns of the Society.

4. **There** shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer or Treasurers, and a Secretary or Secretaries of the Society. The Council shall consist of the President, Vice-Presidents, and not less than twenty Councillors; and the Treasurer or Treasurers and the Secretary or Secretaries if honorary.

5. **The** several persons who were elected to be the President, Vice-Presidents, and Members of the Council of the Statistical Society at the Annual Meeting held in the month of June, One thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, shall form the first Council of the Society, and shall continue in office until the first Election of officers is made under these presents as hereinafter provided.

6. **General** meetings of the Fellows of the Society may be held from time to time, and at least one General Meeting shall be held in each year. Every General Meeting may be adjourned, subject to the provisions of the Bye-Laws. The following business may be transacted by a General Meeting, viz.:-

- a) The Election of the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer or Treasurers, Secretary or Secretaries, and other Members of the Council of the Society.
- b) The making, repeal, or amendment of Bye Laws.
- c) The passing of any proper resolution respecting the affairs of the Society.

7. **Bye Laws** of the Society may be made for the following purposes, and subject to the following conditions, viz.:-

- a) For prescribing the qualification and condition of tenure of office of the President; the number, qualifications, functions, and conditions of tenure of office of the Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, and Members of Council, and Officers of the Society; for making regulations with respect to General Meetings and Meetings of the Council and proceedings thereat, and for the election of any persons to be Honorary Fellows or Associates of the Society, and defining their privileges (but such persons, if elected, shall not be Members of the Corporation), and for making regulations respecting the making, repeal and amendment of Bye Laws, and generally for the government of the Society and the management of its property and affairs.
- b) The first Bye Laws shall be made at the first General Meeting to be held under these presents, and shall (amongst other things) prescribe the time for holding the first election of officers under these presents.

8. **The** General Meetings and adjourned General Meetings of the Society shall take place (subject to the rules or bye laws of the Society, and to any power of convening or demanding a Special General Meeting thereby given) at such times and places as may be fixed by the Council.

9. **The** existing rules of the Statistical Society so far as not inconsistent with these presents shall be in force as the Bye Laws of the Society until the first Bye Laws to be made under these presents shall come into operation.

10. **Subject** to these presents and the Bye Laws of the Society for the time being, the Council shall have the sole management of the income, funds, and property of the Society, and may manage and superintend all other affairs of the Society, and appoint and dismiss at their pleasure all salaried and other officers, attendants and servants as they may think fit, and may do all such things as shall appear to them necessary or expedient for giving effect to the objects of the Society.

11. **The** Council shall once in every year present to a General Meeting a report of the proceedings of the Society, together with a statement of the receipts and expenditure, and of the financial position of the Society, and every Fellow of the Society may, at reasonable times to be fixed by the Council, examine the accounts of the Society.

12. **The** Council may, with the approval of a General Meeting, from time to time appoint fit persons to be Trustees of any part of the real or personal property of the Society, and may make or direct any transfer of such property so placed in trust necessary for the purposes of the trust, or may, at their discretion, take in the corporate name of the Society conveyances or transfers of any property capable of being held in that name. Provided that no sale, mortgage, incumbrance, or other disposition of any hereditaments belonging to the Society shall be made unless with the approval of a General Meeting.

13. **No** rule, Bye Law, Resolution, or other proceeding shall be made or had by the Society, or any meeting thereof, or by the Council, contrary to the general scope or

true intent and meaning of this Our Charter, or the laws or statutes of Our Realm, and anything done contrary to this present clause shall be void.

**In witness** whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

**Witness** Ourselves, at Westminster, the thirty-first day of January, in the fiftieth year of Our Reign.

**By warrant under the Queen's Sign Manual**

MUIR MACKENZIE