

# 2009 Awards for statistical excellence in journalism

The Royal Statistical Society wishes to encourage excellence in journalists' use of statistics to question, analyse and investigate the issues that affect society at large. Journalistic excellence in statistics helps citizens to hold decision makers in all sectors to account – through accessible communication of complex information, highlighting of success, and exposure of important missing information.

To recognise and celebrate statistical excellence in journalism, in 2007 the Royal Statistical Society inaugurated annual awards to journalists working in print, online and broadcast media in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

## Award details

The awards recognise work in the previous year. For the year 2009, eligible work will have been first published or broadcast between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2008.

Awards are to be made in two categories:

- print and online publication – a winner and runner-up
- broadcast media – a single winner

All award winners will be presented with an engraved Waterford crystal paperweight and a cash prize. They will be entitled to describe themselves appropriately as a winner of an award for 2009.

Winners will be announced in April 2009. Winners will be invited to be formally presented with their awards at the Royal Statistical Society's Annual General Meeting in the summer of 2009.

## Judging panel and criteria

The judging panel is drawn from leading statisticians, politicians and journalists. Judges will be looking for entries that have achieved one or more of the following:

- raised awareness and understanding of what statistics are and what they can be used for, and what statistical methods can achieve
- enabled greater public understanding through an accessible analysis of the statistics put forward to support or challenge the claims of policy makers
- sourced and used statistics to investigate a societal issue and have an impact on public opinion
- used statistics well to challenge and/or change the decisions and policies of public or private bodies

All entries will be expected to show integrity in their presentation, explanation and use of statistics – avoiding distortion and highlighting the extent of uncertainties.

## Conditions of entry

Entries must have been printed or broadcast in media in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, during the period 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2008.

Entries must be made no later than 27 February 2009 – note that this is a revised deadline.

Entries may be made by an individual or by a group.

No more than two entries may be made by any one journalist. Work with others will count as an entry for each collaborator.

Each submission must be accompanied by its own completed entry form, together with four separate copies of the entry in the permitted formats. This is to facilitate distribution to the judging panel.

### Printed entries

Printed entries may be made by post, fax or email attachment. If emailing entrants are requested to have regard to the size of any attachments and to protect against transmission of electronic viruses.

Entries that appeared in print or online are limited to 2,000 words with a maximum of three tables or other graphical illustrations.

### Broadcast entries

Broadcast entries may be made on CD or DVD. Due to the size of files involved broadcast entries cannot be accepted by email.

Entries that were broadcast are limited to a maximum of ten minutes broadcast time.

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Entries should be marked as “Statistical Excellence in Journalism Awards 2009” and submitted to:

Post: Royal Statistical Society, 12 Errol Street, London EC1Y 8LX

Email: [journalismaward@rss.org.uk](mailto:journalismaward@rss.org.uk)

Fax: 020 7614 3905

For further information:

Web: [www.rss.org.uk/journalismaward](http://www.rss.org.uk/journalismaward)

Contact: Andrew Garratt on 020 7614 3920 or email [a.garratt@rss.org.uk](mailto:a.garratt@rss.org.uk)