

## **AI Task Force – Terms of Reference**

The RSS has a number of groups with an interest in issues around AI – most prominently the Data Science and AI, Data Ethics and Governance, Computational Statistics and Machine Learning and Teaching Statistics Sections, the Real World Data Science Editorial Board, the Campaigns Advisory Group, and the Professional Affairs Committee / Alliance for Data Science Professionals (who are establishing data science certification and accreditation). Issues around AI are also important to individual members. A task force in this area is proposed to bring together a representative set of views on AI – allowing us to strategically plan our work in this area, develop policy positions, effectively communicate a statistical perspective on the public debate around AI and convene members to support delivery. The group would also serve to establish links between the sections and improve communication between them on the topic – as well as giving a clear line of communication for the sections to RSS HQ.

### **Remit**

The remit of the task force is to:

- Strategically plan RSS work on AI, in line with the RSS 5 year strategy.
- Identify issues and opportunities where the RSS might impact public discourse and decision-making around AI.
- Lead the development of the Society's AI policy work.
- Support RSS's engagement with the media on AI issues.
- Strengthen relationships with adjacent organisations to increase our impact in this area.
- Represent and amplify the voice of AI practitioners.
- Support proposals for grant funding, and the work that results.

### **Membership**

The membership of the task force should be composed of:

- At least one representative from each of the Data Science and AI, Data Ethics and Governance, Computational Statistics and Machine Learning and Teaching Statistics Sections – to act as links between the taskforce and sections.
- At least one representative of the Real World Data Science Editorial Board.
- At least one representative of the Campaigns Advisory Group
- At least one representative of the Professional Affairs Committee / Alliance for Data Science Professionals
- Between five to eight other members of the society selected for their interest, expertise and understanding of the policy landscape.

An important strand of the RSS's work to date around AI has been to represent the voice of the practitioner – as such, we are aiming to ensure that a substantial proportion of the group is actively working in industry.

A chair will be appointed – and they will be given authority to act as a spokesperson for the RSS on issues around AI.

### **Modes of working**

The work of the task force will be primarily conducted via email (or other mode of electronic communication if that is preferred). There will be a quarterly meeting to assess progress and determine priorities, as well as occasional ad hoc meetings when it is useful to advance a

specific piece of work. Meetings may be more regular in the first few months of operation to firmly establish the group.

A communications subgroup will be established to support the swift agreement of statements to the media. The subgroup will consist of up to three members in addition to the chair.

Members of the group will be active in contributing to and producing work to support the delivery of the strategic plan for AI.

The group will be supported by the RSS Head of Policy and Head of media and external relations.

### **Governance**

The plans, progress and work of the group will be reported regularly to the Campaigns Advisory Group (CAG) via the chair of the task force, who will be a member of CAG.