

# Professional Statisticians Forum

RSS Conference 2012

Telford

# Background

- **Survey of professional members (CSTAT, GradStat, MIS/FIS) carried out 4Q 2011**
- **Survey: Aims**
  - Understand extent to which existing services were being utilized
  - **Investigate level of support for a Professional Statisticians Forum**
- **PSF: Aims**
  - Regular meetings by, and for, Professional Statistician members of RSS
    - Statisticians, Statistical Consultants, Group Leaders
    - Industry, commerce, government, research orgs, academia
  - Discuss issues of interest to the profession as a whole
    - Topics not adequately covered elsewhere in the RSS
  - Provide a forum for networking

# Survey

- **~1700 professional members surveyed**
- **>600 responded, among whom:**
  - 74% CSTATS, 21% GradStats
  - 56% had >20yrs experience
- **RSS Professional Affairs Committee felt there was sufficient support to initiate a PSF**
  - 56% interested to attend PSF events

# PSF: Top 10 topics suggested by survey respondents

- **Ethical issues encountered by practicing statisticians**
- **CPD: how to make it effective**
- **The challenges of consultancy and how to make a success of it**
- **Sharing learning/experiences across employment sectors**
- **Recruitment and retention of statisticians: issues and successes**
- **How can we enhance the value of the CStat award?**
- **How should the RSS work with employers to best support professional statisticians?**
- **Issues in leading a statistical group**
- **Career planning**
- **Creating a mentoring culture in the profession**

# PSF: programme in year 1

- **PSF events open to professional statistician members of RSS only**
  - 1 session at Conference
  - 1 meeting at Errol Street
  - 1 virtual event
  
- **In future, PSF programme may include**
  - Joint meetings with RSS sections, local groups or AAAG
  - Open to participants of the partnering group as well as professional members

# PSF: practicalities

- **Co-ordinating committee to be established**
  - Small, say, n=3 – 4
  - Looking for members now!
- **Chaired by a member of Professional Affairs Committee**
- **Responsible for:**
  - Creating programme of events (3-4 / year)
  - Identifying event organisers
- **Event format**
  - 1 event face-to-face
  - Other events virtual (phone / web)

# PSF inaugural event: 2012 RSS conference

- **Phil Woodward (Pfizer R&D)**
- From *talking* to *action*. A personal view on making an impact
  
- **Tim Paulden (ATASS Sports)**
- Beating the odds: Successfully managing a rapidly-expanding statistical team