

COPS item 8(a)

EPSRC & statistics

1. IRM and its aftermath

- IRM - December 2003
- Report launched - May 2004
- RSS/COPS response presented - August
 - (AB, PJD, ILD, PJG, BJTM, VSI)
 - ‘interpreted’ report
 - proposed actions:
 - Separate peer review for statistics
 - Earmarking of MSc & PhD funding
 - More flexible use of ARF & SRF money
 - Cross-research-council coordination
 - Secondment of academic as coordinator
 - Summer u/g internships

IRM and its aftermath, ctd

- Negative response from EPSRC: proposed instead case in business plan for 'managed programme'
- Maths programme 'action plan' - September
- Joint CMS response to IRM - December
 - (PJD & GOR)
 - Comprehensive 4-year PhD training programme
 - More flexible use of ARF & SRF money
- Suggestions submitted towards case for Managed Programme on 'Contemporary Statistics and Stochastics' - December
- Annette Bramley maternity leave - December
- Anne Farrow wants 'focus', SAT approval - April '05

2. Science & Innovation awards

- Second round, deadline for outlines:
30 June 2005
- 7 research areas 'to be addressed' – includes 'Mathematical Statistics'
- Max 3 applications/university
- ~5 awards of ~£3M
- e.g. 3 L'ships, 3 RA's, 3 PhD's + support
- Substantial commitments needed from universities

3. Full economic costing

- Applies to all research councils
- From Sept '05, Research grant proposals include additional **costs**:
 - PI + technician time
 - Estates & facilities costs
 - Recruitment, insurance
 - Dept and corporate overheads
- **Price** paid by RC's initially 80% of cost
- No RC money set aside for research currently done 'on QR'
- Up to you to ensure that your university does not divert QR money!

4. Grants success data

- Comprehensive tabulation of grant applications & awards, 2001-04
- Subdiscipline x Mode x Year
- Huge variations in success rates but samples small
- All online at EPSRC and RSS websites
- No intention to repeat
 - ‘Too costly’ & ‘No demand’
- Effect? March '05 panel: 7/16 successful grants were in statistics (£1347K/£2532K)

5. Cross-research-council collaboration

- Panel with 1 officer and 1 academic from each Research Council
- Adrian Bowman
- Chaired by Ian Diamond