

2 February 2021

Dear Brian,

I am delighted to inform you that you are to be awarded the Howard Medal for 2021. The Howard Medal, established in memory of the prison reformer John Howard (1726-90), is awarded to a Fellow of the Society for outstanding contributions to the development or application of social statistics. The Society's Council wishes to join me in congratulating you on this well-deserved honour.

The citation for the Medal reads as follows:

*Brian Francis has a distinguished record of impactful statistics research working at the interface of Statistics and Social Science, particularly Criminology, throughout his career. The quality and importance of his work can be seen by its impact on Home Office policy for retention of criminal records and DNA profiles; its use by the National Probation Agency to estimate recidivism rates; its influence on how the ONS report crime figures; and being used in an extensive campaign to reduce domestic violence during the football world cup. Most recently he has been working on modelling trafficking of humans. His work has delivered methodological developments in areas such as preference models, latent class methods for longitudinal data, mixture models and categorical data problems but also significant impactful changes in the application areas specifically mentioned above. He has more than 250 publications in statistics journals such as JRSS(A) and (C), Annals of Applied Statistics, a book on statistical modelling in R as well as application field journals such as British Journal of Criminology, and International Criminal Justice Review.*

This year, the Society's medals will be awarded in Manchester on Tuesday 7 September 2021 during the Society's Annual Conference. I very much hope that you will be able to attend. My colleagues here at Errol Street will be in contact with you in due course about the arrangements.

Please can you confirm that you are willing to accept the award.

Congratulations and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Sylvia Richardson**  
President

