**Preparing students for a world full of data**

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This presentation starts with two reports which Roger Porkess wrote for the Royal Statistical Society: *The Future of Statistics in our Schools and Colleges* (2012) and *A world full of Data* (2013). These show a considerable deficit in the statistical skills provided to young people in England, both in terms of the numbers of students involved and of the relevance to other subjects of such statistics as they are taught.

Underlying this presentation is a recognition of the importance of suitable statistics if today's school students are to be well equipped for their futures, many in higher education and all in the workplace. They will need to engage with and interpret data, and to have the techniques to do so. A key element in this is the use of statistics in problem solving.

The later part of the presentation concentrates on current moves to improve the situation in England. Recent changes to the statistics curriculum are designed to ensure that more students are involved and that the statistics will be better related to their needs. Major steps include the introduction of new courses and an expectation that students will work with large sets of real data, using software where appropriate.

Although some of the difficulties outlined at the start of the presentation are not necessarily common across all education systems, the methods being followed to overcome them should be of broad interest, and delegates may ask themselves whether some of the ideas are transferable.