

Final Report: London GSS Learning & Development Initiative

(Successful in obtaining QIF funding in 2012/13)

Background

QIF Funding (£7.5K) was bid for by (and granted to) the Methodology Advisory Service during the first QIF round, 2012/13. The bid outlined a requirement for five extra statistical short courses to run in London during 2012. The aim was to boost the availability of course places in London and to enable GSS staff to obtain free statistical training at a time when training budgets were being cut.

Use of the QIF Funding

Five extra statistical short courses were organised by the Statistical Training Unit (ONS) to run at Etc Venues in Pimlico, London during June and July 2012. Table 1 shows the course topics, course dates and number of participants that attended each course.

Table 1. Course Topics, dates and number of participants

Topic	Date 2012	Number of Participants
Data Collection Methodology	19 th June	13
Statistical Disclosure Control	4 th July	15
Data Visualisation	10 th July	16
Record Linkage	12 th July	15
Sample Design and Estimation	13 th July	15
	Total	74

The £7.5K awarded via QIF, was partitioned as set out in the initial bid: Data Collection Methodology £1,200; Statistical Disclosure Control £1,200; Data Visualisation £1,200; Record Linkage £1,200; Sample Design and Estimation £1,200; Statistical Training Unit (for administration and evaluation of all courses) £1,500.

Results

The Statistical Training Unit has deemed the run of statistical short courses in London a success. All courses, except for Data Collection Methodology, were filled to capacity within one week of the advert being placed on StatNet, demonstrating the strong demand for statistical training courses for London GSS staff.

A large number of departments benefitted from this training, including: DECC, DH, DfE, BIS, HMRC, MoJ, MoD, OfT, FSA and SG. The Statistical Training Unit is pleased with the wide cross-section of departments that these training courses were able to attract.

Course evaluations were positive and all participants reported that the objectives of the sessions were fully met. Table 2 shows the percentage of course participants who stated that knowledge had improved as a result of the course; Table 3 shows the percentage who stated that their skills had improved as a result of the course.

Table 2. Percentage of course participants who stated that their knowledge had improved as a result of attending the course

Course	%
Data Collection Methodology	~ 83
Statistical Disclosure Control	100
Data Visualisation	100
Record Linkage	100
Sample Design and Estimation	100

Table 3. Percentage of course participants who stated that their skills had improved as a result of attending the course

Course	%
Data Collection Methodology	~ 83
Statistical Disclosure Control	100
Data Visualisation	100
Record Linkage	100
Sample Design and Estimation	~ 73

These results are as expected, although the values for improved knowledge and skills are disappointing for Data Collection Methodology and Sample Design and Estimation. However, it is possible that the lower percentages are due to the 'free' training attracting participants who did not fully require this level of training.

Next Steps

The Statistical Training Unit is aware of the mis-match between supply and demand of statistical short courses taking place in London, hence are attempting to host more courses in London as part of the annual short course training programme. Unfortunately, these will be hard-charged to GSS staff in order to cover the costs of ONS Trainers' in terms of preparation time, delivery time and travel and subsistence.

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