

# **Privacy and data protection policy**

## **1. Statement of Intent**

From time to time, you will be asked to submit personal information about yourself through this website, such as your name and address, in order to receive or use services on our website, to respond to surveys carried out on our website, or to take part in the STAT Forum.

Whenever you provide such personal information, we will treat that information in accordance with this policy. STAT will act in accordance with current legislation and aim to meet current internet best practice.

## **2. Information on Visitors**

During the course of any visit to STAT's websites, the pages which you see, along with something called a Cookie, are downloaded to your computer (see paragraph 3 below for more on this). Most, if not all, web sites do this, and that's because Cookies allow the web site publisher to do useful things like find out whether the computer (and probably its user) has visited the site before. When a repeat visit is made, the publisher is able to check for the Cookie left there on the last visit.

Any information that is supplied by cookies can help us to provide you with a better service and assists us to analyse the profile of our visitors. For example: we might find out from your cookie which pages of the site you looked at on your last visit and highlight particular information which you may find interesting, on a second visit.

## **3. What is a Cookie?**

When you enter a site your computer will automatically be issued with a Cookie. Cookies are text files which identify your computer to our server. Cookies in themselves do not identify the individual user, just the computer used. Many sites do this whenever a user visits their site, in order to track traffic flows.

Cookies themselves only record which areas of the site have been visited by the computer in question, and for how long. Users have the opportunity to set their computers to accept all cookies, to notify them when a cookie is issued, or not to receive cookies at any time, although this of course means that certain personalised services cannot then be provided to that user.

## **4. Submitting Personal Information**

When you supply any personal information to STAT through this website we have legal obligations towards you in the way we deal with that data. We have to collect the information fairly and to let you know how we will use it and whether we will pass the information on to anyone else.

We will hold the personal information that you give us through this website on our systems for as long as required for us to meet our obligations and to maintain financial records. We will ensure that all personal information supplied is held securely, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Members of STAT should also refer to the Members' Data Protection Statement, which is appended to their membership application form). The Members' Data Protection Statement applies to all information given to STAT by members in their capacity as members.

## **5. Access to your Personal Information**

You have the right to request a copy of the personal information that STAT holds about you and to have any inaccuracies corrected. (We charge a fee for information requests.) Please address requests to the Data Protection Officer (email: [office@stat.org.uk](mailto:office@stat.org.uk))

## **6. Direct Marketing and User Surveys**

From time to time we may provide you with details of other services and products which may be of interest to you and offer you the opportunity to subscribe to them. We may also offer you the opportunity to participate in surveys carried out by STAT or its agents which help our research into the types of service we offer.

## **7. Disclosure to Third Parties**

STAT will keep a record of information provided by you. Please note that, save where otherwise indicated on this website, any information you provide to STAT through this website will only be used within STAT, and will never be supplied to third parties without first obtaining your consent. The only time we may do so is if we are obliged by law to disclose information.

## **8. Users under 18**

If you are under 18, please make sure that you obtain your parent/guardian's permission beforehand whenever you provide personal information to STAT's website. Users without this consent are not allowed to provide us with personal information.