

Editorial

Welcome to Issue 86 the special conference edition of RadStats. This year the RadStats annual conference in February was held in Friends' House in London. It was well-attended, as you can see, plus you may be able to identify yourself from the photo below.



By way of introduction to the articles the theme of the conference was Privatisation: Policies and Statistics. Privatisation is changing not only the face of publicly funded services, but also their infrastructure and the way statistics can be compiled. To monitor the impact of these changes on service providers and users, reliable statistics are needed, but these are not readily available. Changes in the way statistics are compiled make it difficult to compare the situation before and after changes. Added to this, information which used to be in the public domain is disappearing from view as it becomes 'commercial in confidence'. This year's Radical Statistics conference explored these problems, with examples taken from a range of services and areas of our national life.