

JOIN THE FIREBRIGADE

Liz Atkins

Although we have not been actively offering our services as statisticians to other groups, during the last year a few requests for help have come to us via the grapevine. This led us to consider more seriously at the AGM the problems involved in meeting these requests, and the organisational arrangements which would be needed to respond adequately to them.

Though they may have been quite unrepresentative, the requests so far were mainly for sources of information and particularly for alternatives to official statistics. It would be too ambitious to think of setting ourselves up to collect or collate information of this kind so if we are to meet this sort of request we have to draw on the knowledge and information available to members of the group. If we could tap this easily, and direct people to a member of the group in the relevant area, we would be able to supply this type of help without a great deal of effort.

The main difficulty, as shown up by our experience of last year, is that requests may require a quick response, and therefore an efficient network for referring people - something we lack at the moment. In order to get things started there seems no alternative to setting up an index of the areas in which members of Rad Stats would be willing to be contacted for advice. This would not commit them to giving help in any particular instance, so we hope that all members of the group would be willing to be listed under at least one area of knowledge. People who are familiar with published sources of statistical information would be particularly valuable.

If this side of the group's activities expands, we should try to ensure that it doesn't merely become a telephone advice service, but involves us in more direct participation with other groups. Inevitably, perhaps, only one or two people will be involved in any particular project, but through the newsletter or at meetings they will be able to raise issues/problems with the rest of the group.

For the time being the index would be handled by the Secretary, though volunteers to do this job would be welcomed, so please return the slip below to him indicating the areas in which you could provide help.

Please give details of help, sources or resources you can provide in addition or as alternatives to those below.

HEALTH	SURVEY METHODS
LABOUR	MARKET RESEARCH
CRIME/ LAW	O.R.
EDUCATION	COMPUTING
ECONOMICS	ECONOMETRICS
SOCIAL INDICATORS	PSYCHOMETRICS
ENVIRONMENT	BIOMETRICS

Name

Address

TELEPHONE : Day
 Evening