

## **Privatisation of government statistical services**

The Central Statistical Office Departmental Trade Union Side (CSO DTUS) are in the process of campaigning against the introduction a Statutory Instrument made under the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act which would allow changes to be made to the Statistics of Trade Act. The changes would allow the private sector to bid for work currently undertaken by the civil servants of the CSO. It is expected that the SI will be before both houses of parliament by the end of March 1995. The CSO DTUS asks you to support their campaign by writing to your MP, urging him or her to vote against the introduction of the Statutory Instrument.

The CSO DTUS believe that the best quality and most cost-effective data collection of business statistics would be achieved if the work remained in the CSO. This view is supported by the Public Attitude Survey commissioned by the CSO. Businesses would not be inclined to supply data if the collection was by the private sector. This would mean larger sample sizes or a reduction in the quality of data.

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# SCIENCE & SOCIETY TRUST

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Radical Statistics Group

September 1994

Dear Friend

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Science and Society Trust would welcome applications of a generally charitable nature which fall within its aims and objectives. These are, broadly, to advance public understanding of the social role of science and technology. The scope of this interest may be illustrated by some examples of activities which it has previously supported, which include:

- \* a study of military funding of university research
- \* publication of a book on anti-racist science teaching
- \* conferences and seminars on social responsibility in science
- \* equipment for the Womens Therapy Centre
- \* a film on health hazards for women workers
- \* monitoring of public health conditions on a Belfast housing estate
- \* developing a tape-slide kit to encourage girls to study science.
- \* assistance for the science and ethics initiative of Scientists for Global Responsibility

An area where the Trust would be pleased to fund more work is that of environmental issues.

The resources of the Trust are not large, but they do permit us to make grants of some significance to smaller scale projects. Grants of up to £600 (or rather more in exceptional cases) are typical.

If you have queries on the scope of the activities which the Trust can support, please contact me at the address below, or on 071-955-7637. If you know of other individuals or groups with an interest in the areas covered by the Science and Society Trust, please copy this information to them.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Rosenhead  
(Trustee)

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Trustees: Prof. Chris Freeman; Dorothy Griffiths; David Kaye; Prof. Tom Kibble, FRS; Charlie Owen;  
Prof. Jonathan Rosenhead; Prof. Tim Shallice; Colin Thunburst; Judith Walker; Prof. Maurice Wilkins, CBE FRS