

THE INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES



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GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

This is a statement, approved by the Executive Committee of the Institute on 27th March 1983 and reaffirmed on 5th February 2001, of the basis on which research projects are undertaken by the Institute. The statement's purpose is to maintain the Institute's reputation for the independence and quality of its work.

All work done at IFS is undertaken with a view to publication. Members of the Institute's staff will expect to discuss the content and format of such publication with any sponsors of particular research but the authors will have final responsibility for its content and format. The decision as to whether a particular article, book or report should be published will rest with the Executive Committee of the Institute.

The Executive Committee's judgement will be based solely on the criterion of whether the work is of sufficiently high quality to warrant publication by, or under the auspices of, the Institute. If it is not satisfied with the material as drafted it will consider what further work is necessary to achieve these standards. All publications will state explicitly that any views expressed are those of the authors and in no way represent the opinions of the Institute – which has no corporate views – or of any sponsoring body. After publication, the Institute and members of its staff will be free to make use of the work done in other ways, subject only to restrictions intended to protect any commercial value of publications. They will also be free to discuss the content of the work with academics; journalists, Members of Parliament and others interested, and will usually expect to do so.

It is recognised that it is often extremely valuable to receive frank briefings on the background to particular problems which may contain information or opinions which should not appear in print. Such confidence will of course be respected. It is also sometimes important to have access to data which may in some degree be confidential. The importance of respecting such confidentiality is appreciated. On the other hand, it is not possible for the Institute to publish conclusions unless it can also print the arguments which lead to these conclusions, and if information cannot be published in any form it will normally be impossible for the Institute to undertake work relating to it. Usually there are means by which this problem can be overcome, such as presenting data in grouped or aggregated form. In cases of difficulty the Director of the Institute or the Chairman of the Executive Committee will be happy to provide assistance.

In establishing these guidelines, the Executive Committee resolved that departure from them could only be very exceptional and would require its specific approval in each case.

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