



The Save British Science Society

SUPPORTING SCIENCE & THE APPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE

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SBS 02/21

What about all the excellent work done by scientific charities?

SBS response to the Cabinet Office Strategy Unit/Home Office consultation on *Private Action, Public Benefit*, a review of charitable status

1. SBS is pleased to submit this response to the Strategy Unit/Home Office consultation on charity law. SBS is a voluntary organisation campaigning for the health of science and technology throughout UK society, and is supported by 1,500 individual members, and some 70 institutional members, including universities, learned societies, venture capitalists, financiers, industrial companies and publishers. SBS is not a charity, and has no financial interest in any changes to charitable status.
2. Box 4.2 of the consultation document, which lists the purposes that charitable status should encompass does not include the word "science".
3. Box 4.2 does include the words "the advancement of culture" which, properly defined, would include scientific endeavours, and it does include "the advancement of health," "the prevention and relief of poverty" and "the advancement of environmental protection," none of which could sensibly be achieved on a large scale without drawing on scientific research.
4. It also includes "the advancement of education," which presumably includes scientific education.
5. For the avoiding of misunderstanding, the phrase "the advancement of culture, arts and heritage" should be altered to "the advancement of arts, culture, heritage and science". This form not only includes science, which is clearly essential for a meaningful, workable definition in the 21st Century, it also puts the areas to be advanced in alphabetical order, thus avoiding any disputes over their relative importance.

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