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Screening of CS Group  
By Ethical Consumer  
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### Computer Software Group plc (CS Group)

Like many UK-focused service providers, CS Group (Computer Software Group plc) has few negative references on the Ethical Consumer database – the only examples are one for its absence of environmental reporting and one for having a subsidiary with operations in the USA, a country considered by ECRA to have an oppressive regime. It does not, however, have a particularly good ethical profile in terms of positive efforts to improve transparency around issues such as health & safety, equal opportunities or the environment, which are not mentioned in any of the company's public documents or on its website. This is definitely an area with room for improvement, especially given the company's apparent intention to expand its not-for-profit and charity sector operations.

Further information is given below on CS group's investors, which do not seem to pose a significant problem for [the client], its directors (ditto), and its customers, which may warrant further consideration. It should be stressed that there is no evidence that the services CS Group provides to GKN, Electrolux, Siemens or Kraft have any immediate connection with those companies' activities which may be of concern to [the client]. CS Group's services seem all to relate to more benign consumer-facing operations of companies with a wide range of operations.

### Investors

CS group is partly owned by 4 venture capital groups. These are:

- Elderstreet, concentrating on internet and software companies but with a general portfolio of mainly small UK firms.
- Northern Venture Managers, which has a portfolio of general investments. None of those made public appear to be in sectors of obvious concern to [the client], such as the arms trade.
- Rathbones, which publicises its ability to offer offshore (tax haven) investments, for which it is criticised by Ethical Consumer.
- Rensburg, which has two venture capital trusts, both of which have holdings in CS Group. Other holdings include computing, food and medical supplies companies.



## **Board of Directors**

Directors mainly have crossovers with internet and software companies, some of them associated with gambling, the largest of them Sage Group, a major business-to-business software company. There are also cross-board relationships with some of the venture capital groups with investments in CS Group, notably Elderstreet.

## **Customers**

Distribution software:

- GKN Driveline – a major automotive components company, part of the GKN group of businesses which includes a substantial military aircraft manufacturing component.
- Several divisions of Electrolux, mainly white goods distribution. Electrolux is part of the Investor AB group which also owns military electronics and aircraft manufacturer Saab.

Field Service software:

- Siemens, which has EC database records for non-strategic manufacture for the military and has boycott or divestment calls against it over Burma and Sudan. It is also thought to be in the process of purchasing a company which is looking at re-starting the highly controversial Ilisu Dam project in Turkey, which was the subject of considerable controversy for Balfour Beatty in 2002 due its environmental impacts, destruction of an ancient town and forced displacement of local people in a politically volatile area.
- Kraft Foods, which is part of the Altria Group (formerly Philip Morris), a major international tobacco company.

## **Internal policies**

None of CS Group's internal policies on issues such as Health & Safety, Equal Opportunities or the Environment seem to have been made publicly available in any format.

## **DISCLAIMER**

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