

Bias and blindness of politicians

Boris Johnson will always fail.

There are tried and trusted ways to avoid biases. Follow this advice:

Deliberately look for ways to challenge the patterns you think you see in the data.

Obtain information and opinions from a variety of sources.

Scientists with humility and awareness use their integrity to try to challenge and disprove their theories and until they do the theories stay.

When they are disproved their theories go and are replaced by improved ones.

Politicians are exceptions to this line of intelligent honest thinking. They try to disprove Einstein. They fail every time.

Johnson will always fail because none can even imagine him following this advice:

Try to refute your favourite theories.

Consider circumstances from multiple perspectives.

Find people who disagree with you and try to understand why they think as they do.

Surround yourself with diversity.

Entertain the possibility that the truth is the exact opposite of what you believe.

Never be afraid genuinely to admit you may be wrong.”

Always consider

1. What is the problem?
2. To whom is it a problem?
3. Why have we defined this problem as most pressing rather than another?
4. What is our solution?
5. What evidence and what value judgements support our solution?
6. What benefits (medical, social, economic, personal) can be expected from our solution?
7. What costs (medical, social, economic, personal) can be expected from our solution?
8. How have we compared and balanced possible outcomes?
9. What new problems does our solution cause?
10. What are the alternatives to our preferred solution? *“(1)*

Psychological science shows how difficult it can be to think straight. It also shows us how to be honest with ourselves.

(1)With thanks to ideas from The Conservative Woman and David Seedhouse.

Nb. Life must be led in balance. Governments must run in balance. The decisions must be made in balance. Under Johnson there is an absence of any balance and hence his totalitarian diktats of stupidity.

Please bear in mind the following wisdom about dedicated clever narrow minded scientists.

“It is difficult for those who have never worked with top rate scientists to understand just how odd many of them are.

Of course, we all know they are both dedicated and highly specialized, the old joke about academics being that they end up knowing everything about nothing.

However, many, especially those at the very top, are obsessive to the point of fanaticism, their entire lives dedicated towards a single goal: the endless pursuit of knowledge gleaned from nature’s infinite complexity. As a result, they have no hinterland, sometimes poor emotional skills, with often shallow and underdeveloped understanding or interest in any other aspect of society or politics.

When I was an academic in my twenties it was noticeable that outside my own field of study it was often much easier to have an informed conversation with the laboratory technicians than with the senior

researchers.

The reason was simple: they had lives.” (2)

I would add that they lacked Common Sense. I ask you, would you let them cook for a dinner party? Would you let them all even boil a kettle?

(2) With thanks to ideas from The Conservative Woman and Andrew Cadman.

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