

Statistics and Policy

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De Bono's Six Thinking Hats

- White Hat – information known or needed
- Red Hat – feelings, hunches and intuition
- Black Hat – Devil's Advocate (or pessimism)
- Yellow Hat – optimism
- Green Hat – creativity, new ideas
- Blue Hat – manage the thinking process
- Could add ideology

Key point

- Policy decisions are not just based on facts – this has to be understood by statisticians

Six Principles for interacting with the Policy Process

1. Statisticians have to behave in a way that they can be trusted
2. Policy relevance not Policy Advocacy
3. Understand probability and distributions
4. Understand variation
5. Meta data should be provided to help with interpretation
6. Communication must take account of user understanding