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Fast and Furious: Some Anonymous Quotations from 43 Years Working as an Applied Statistician

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Over the last 43 years I have been privileged to work across the UK and overseas as an academic, industrial statistician, quality leader, quality executive, management consultant and external examiner and advisor to various UK Universities.

In that time, I have focussed on systemic improvement of all end-to-end processes in research and development, new product development, manufacturing, supply chain operations and all back-office support functions (HR, finance, sales & marketing) using statistical thinking.

Throughout my career I have met a wide range of professionals, the majority of whom have minimal knowledge of statistics, statistical thinking or Systems Thinking.

In my presentation I will illustrate through anonymous quotations from those professionals the lack of statistical thinking that exists in those organisations, and the systemic issues that prevail.

I will summarise those quotations into three main areas and ask key questions that arise to open a discussion on what we (ENBIS) must do to broaden and widen the education of statistical thinking in all disciplines to ensure the better design of products, systems, strategies, and decision making.

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Classification

Mainly application

Primary author: Mr GIBSON, Martin (AQUIST Consulting)

Presenter: Mr GIBSON, Martin (AQUIST Consulting)

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