

CONNECT	
It's About Trust	

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Trust is like virginity – you only lose it once!

- 1 Some immortal words feature in a song from 1988 about a romantic relationship - a relationship with a capital R. The lyrics: "In the middle of the madness, hold on" are exactly what most of us expect – and wish – to hear.
- 2 But what about a different kind of – non-loving – relationship? Is it still a case of "In the middle of the madness, hold on?" Because, when things get rocky – when what to believe is in doubt – when we have important questions which aren't being answered – this is when other lyrics in the song become key: *"It's about trust."*
- 3 The song is "[Nothing Can Come Between Us](#)" by the English band Sade, named after its lead singer, Sade Adu. Sade Adu, better known simply as Sade, now coincidentally lives *over the valley* from Tetbury.

The song lyrics about trust are:

*It's about faith
It's about trust, yeah, yeah
It's about faith
It's about trust*

- 4 But what *is* trust?

[Paul Thagard](#), a philosopher and cognitive scientist, describes trust as

"a central part of all human relationships, including romantic partnerships, family life, business operations, politics, and medical practices."

Thagard also says:

"If you don't trust your doctor or psychotherapist, for example, it is much harder to benefit from their professional advice."

He says that trust is based on our estimate of the probability that the person will behave as we expect them to and whether we have a positive feeling towards them. Gut feelings are key - to trust people, we need to feel good about them.

Mistrust, on the other hand, is a more emotional process – it stems from an appraisal of whether they've done what they were supposed to and also our

physiological reaction. In other words, when we don't trust someone, we are not only expecting a betrayal by them, but we also have a bad emotional feeling about them.

- 5 This mix of logic and emotion in deciding whether we trust someone is corroborated by a fascinating website called Changing Minds. This online resource on changing the way other people think, feel, believe and act is the work of David Straker, who has a long background in a range of mind-changing areas - psychology, marketing, sales, education, business change, consulting and parenting.

Changing Minds also says that [trust is both emotional and logical](#). Emotionally, you expose your vulnerabilities to people, believing they will not take advantage of your openness. Logically, you assess the probabilities, based on past performance, of how the person will behave.

- 6 So, what happens when we don't - can't - trust someone?

In a relationship with a capital R, the answer is usually simple. Either the trust is regained, or the relationship ends.

But what about other kinds of relationships? Relationships that we aren't committed to? One-to-one friendships, or perhaps relationships within groups of people?

Then there's another kind of relationship altogether, one which most certainly begins with a lower case "r": relationships we haven't chosen to be in, with the entities we tend to refer to as "authorities."

These entities include:

The government [the People's contractors] and various government departments and agents.

Local councils, the police, the armed forces, and many other entities.

The medical establishment, with doctors, nurses, other medical staff and the NHS at its heart.

- 7 So when the NHS provides misinformation to be published in the national media, as shown by a fact-checking article called "[Covid-19 hospitalisations are below last year, not 14 times higher as NHS CEO claimed](#)," how can we trust the NHS?

The CEO of NHS England, Amanda Pritchard, told the public via news outlets including Sky News, ITV News and the "I" that the number of people with Covid in hospital in November 2021 was 14 times higher than in November 2020.

The real number was actually 1.6 times *lower*.

How can misinformation such as this from the CEO of the NHS NOT harm trust in the NHS?

- 8 Misinformation about masks was also put out by the media, as shown by another fact-checking article called "[Study doesn't show masks cause 53% drop in Covid risk.](#)"
- The Guardian, New Scientist, Forbes, The Times and Metro all reported that a global study stated that mask-wearing cuts Covid incidence by 53%.
- The fact-checking article says this *isn't* what the study said – it said that mask-wearing was associated with a risk reduction but that it was difficult to draw a causal conclusion.
- How can misinformation such as this from the media NOT harm trust in the media?
- 9 Trust in the UK government was explored recently in an article published by The BMJ: "[Covid-19: What we have learnt from behavioural science during the pandemic so far that can help prepare us for the future.](#)"
- This article set out some key lessons that governments need to learn to protect against future pandemics.
- Shades of Bill Gates!
- The first lesson is that trust is one of public health's biggest prophylactics.
- Apparently, there is evidence suggesting that trust in government is one of the biggest predictors of adherence to public and social measures and vaccine acceptance.
- Who'd have thought it?*
- The article says that trust is harmed if the reasons or "the science" behind decision-making processes are not sufficiently transparent and if people sense there is "one rule for them, another for us."
- Sense?*
As in, discover?
This is gaslighting.
People don't "sense" that there is one rule for them, another for us."
We are SHOWN it regularly.
"Those in positions of authority need to be seen to be following the rules they expect the public to follow," the authors say.
- Last year's Christmas party at 10 Downing Street – at a time when the public was locked up, fearful, stressed and lonely – is merely the latest in a long series of instances of showing us that the people who make the rules, also choose whether they follow them or not.*
- Trust is also harmed if people feel as if they are not being trusted to act appropriately when needed.

*Again, the authors are trying to gaslight us.
People do not "feel" that they are not trusted by the government.
They ARE NOT trusted.*

The authors argue that Denmark is a good example of how two-way trust between a government and its people can help with high levels of compliance with Covid-19 policies and vaccine acceptance.

The trouble is - trust is like virginity.

Once it's lost - it's lost.

The article was – shockingly – written by a psychologist, a social psychologist, a professor of social interaction and a professor of health psychology.

Despite all their qualifications, their experience and their combined minds, these four people appear to be lacking in one specific area of understanding.

It is that trust, once it has gone, cannot be simply replaced like a faulty light bulb – it's gone.

To have a logical expectation that the government will behave as the People need them to behave would be, frankly, delusional.

To have a positive emotional feeling towards the government would require a person to be detached from their survival instincts.

- 10 The time for other governments to learn from Denmark, historically a high trust country, has long passed. The UK government, like most governments, has chosen a different path.

So, when the authors of this article say:
"Building people's trust in government, and building a government that trusts its people, is a long-term investment for the next pandemic"

it is clear that they understand that the trust has gone.

It is also clear, however, that they think trust is not like virginity but is, rather, like feathers from a feather pillow that has been ripped open and its contents scattered to the four corners of the earth. An odd expression, since the earth is a globe, I might add.

The authors must think that all the feathers can be found, collected and put back in the pillow.

Er... hardly. Short of altering - or removing - our memories, the issue can never be resolved.

The article's authors seem not to understand this, but perhaps they know about something I don't.

One of the authors is [Susan Michie](#), who, like David Straker above, is an expert in changing the way other people think, feel, believe and act.

Unlike Straker, Michie, as a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies [SAGE], advises the Government on behavioural compliance with regulations during the Covid-19 pandemic.

She is also a member of the Covid-19 SAGE's Scientific Pandemic Insights group on Behaviour [SPI-B] and a member of the Independent Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, better known as Independent SAGE.

The latter is, oddly, supposed to be a group of scientists that are unaffiliated with the government.

I say oddly, because other members – as well as Michie – are also in the government SAGE.

Like SAGE, Independent SAGE also advises the government about the COVID-19 pandemic.

Susan Michie – incidentally, coincidentally or otherwise – is a member of the Communist Party, which does in a way mean she is not affiliated with the Conservative Government – she is not affiliated with their values.

Two of the article's other authors are also members of Scientific Pandemic Insights group on Behaviour [SPI-B] and one of these is a member of Independent SAGE, as well.

- 11 Even [Heidi Larson](#), founder of the Vaccine Confidence Project – who is extremely vaccine-insistent – admits that governments have not done much to build their people's trust :

"One of the features of the Covid-19 response has been that it requires cooperation and compliance with government – and if you don't trust your government... well, there's an epidemic of distrust in the world, and governments haven't done a lot to help us build trust."

Although it is disappointing that she talks about an epidemic of distrust, rather than an epidemic of falsehoods, gaslighting and abuse of power, at least Heidi Larson acknowledges that government are to blame for people not trusting them. I'd prefer it if she realised that they are fully, not partly, to blame, but it's a start at least.

- 12 Even the police are jumping on the "let's rebuild people's trust in us" bandwagon. This is stunning. They have made the most of their greater powers and reduced accountability over the last two years, in particular.

The police have made it abundantly clear that they don't value people's trust in them. This is shown not only by how often murder, rape and assault is committed by police officers, including [the tragic case of Sarah Everard](#), but

how seldom they are even tried for these crimes, let alone sentenced. But perhaps there are merely a few "bad apples" in the police's bucket? Sadly – and dangerously for the people who come into contact with them – this is not the case. An article called [Half of Londoners no longer trust the police](#) makes clear that the problem goes all the way to the top.

The police, like the other "authorities" that are not trustworthy, simply do not understand trust. Metropolitan Police Service Commissioner Dame Cressida Dick is quoted as saying she would like more people to trust the police.

But she doesn't accept that the Met Police has failed the people it is has a duty to serve.

She doesn't dispute the statistics from a poll which showed 49% of Londoners no longer trust her officers, so clearly her definition of failure is not the one usually in use.

It should be noted that this article is not just someone's opinion on social media. It is published on Police Professional, which is the journal for law enforcement and the most authoritative voice in policing.

Given the time of year, may I suggest that "Dame Dick Denial," although it sounds rather like the title of a pantomime, would make an interesting news headline.

- 13 So, despite clear failures of entities to carry out their duties, including to tell the truth, serve the People and be transparent - the media, the police, the NHS and the government - Susan Michie and her chums who co-wrote [the article in The BMJ](#) write rather chirpily about the future. In relation to the next pandemic [!], they wrote that building people's trust in the government, and the government's trust in people, needs to be a long-term investment. Now, this is awkward.

Because these authors are *clever* people – and advisers to the government.

BUT they apparently didn't realise, until recently, that the government depended on people's trust.

They didn't realise, until recently, that public health depended on people's trust.

They didn't realise, until recently, that vaccine take-up depended on people's trust.

Perhaps that is why – it would seem - they didn't advise the government on how to nurture the trust that then existed.

Could it be that they didn't understand that lies get found out?

Even if it takes a year, like the 2020 Christmas party at 10 Downing Street – during lockdown – and in the middle of a pandemic.

How the self-appointed elite must have laughed – yet again - at how gullible the British public is to *trust* the government.

My advice to those advisers is to keep picking up those feathers – and keep stuffing them back in the pillow.

In their shoes, that's what I'd do, because their advice to the government has been, frankly, a bit of a turkey.

No pun intended.

- 13 People usually decline the Covid-19 “vaccine” for good reasons. One of those good reasons is that the entities pushing the “vaccine” – the NHS, the media and the government - are not trustworthy.

This is being shown yet again right now, by Boris Johnson attempting to distract attention away from his own failings to the “vaccine” programme.

His technique, as ever, is to keep people running so fast that they will be too busy to look at the reasons why he, along with the other “authorities” cannot be trusted.

In this case, among the many things Johnson has done is to enable a party during lockdown in his own house – which, as the BBC have reported, [the police are not going to investigate](#).

All these stories about parties during lockdown, however, are – as ever – designed to distract us from more important issues. Such as, that illegal drug taking is rife among British MPs in the Houses of Parliament.

These revelations about cocaine snorting among the self-appointed elite, which might partly explain why nothing the “government” is saying or doing makes sense, is not being covered by the BBC or investigated by the police.

Many other media platforms are, however, covering the story, among them [Gravitas](#).

Among the many things Johnson is not doing is accepting that he and his cronies – along with all the “authorities” are breaking the law, breaking their own rules and frankly - laughing at the British people.

As ever, “vaccination” and a new “scariant” - which has only mild symptoms [and is an anagram of MORONIC] – are being used as distraction ploys.

How can we trust Boris Johnson, his “government”, the political system which nurtures such manipulation and abuse of power, the police who don't investigate their crimes, or any of the other “authorities”? To do so would be insane.

CONNECT'S Maxim and Oath

Connect is only interested in finding and sharing the TRUTH.
In search of that TRUTH, we only pose questions – we have no answers.

By: Helen King

Source: Tetbury CONNECT: [Magazine](#)

- 3 [LINK:](#) Sade: Nothing Can Come Between Us
- 4 [LINK:](#) Psychology Today: Paul Thagard PhD: What Is Trust?
- 5 [LINK:](#) Changing Minds: What is Trust?
- 7 [LINK:](#) FullFact: Covid-19 hospitalisations are below last year, not 14 times higher as NHS CEO claimed
- 8 [LINK:](#) FullFact: Study doesn't show masks cause 53% drop in Covid risk
- 9 [LINK:](#) The BMJ: Covid-19: What we have learnt from behavioural science during the pandemic so far that can help prepare us for the future
- 10 [LINK:](#) Wikipedia: Susan Michie
- 11 [LINK:](#) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine: Vaccine Hesitancy: Heidi Larson
- 12 [LINK:](#) BBC: Sarah Everard: How Wayne Couzens planned her murder
- 12 [LINK:](#) Police Professional: Half of Londoners no longer trust the police
- 13 [LINK:](#) BBC: The police are not going to investigate [lockdown breaches at 10 Downing Street]
- 13 [LINK:](#) Gravitas: The British Parliament is rotting with drug abuse

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