

### Why Advice is Ignored

Dr David Marsh

Former Government Project Delivery Director, UK



Advice for what?

Support to management decisions

- Authority to make a decision?
- Risk-based decision making
- Consequence of the risks?



Who asked for the advice?

Is the advice wanted by the decision maker?

- Is the advisor internal or external?
- Is it Scrutiny?
- Is it Audit?
- Potential for criticism?
- Threat to the project?

### Why Advice is Ignored......

### Ignored or taken into account but not implemented?

- Was the advice really **understood**?
- Has the advisor understood what the decision maker did with the advice?
- History will decide if the decision maker did the right thing



Is the basis of the advice **correct**?

*Is the advice accepted as sound?* 

- Does the decision maker think they know better?
- Does the decision maker really trust the advice?

### Why Advice is Ignored......

Is the person giving the advice trusted?

Shall we shoot the messenger?

- Do they have a good reputation?
- Do they have an angle?



Can this really be true?

Do I have **confidence** in the person giving the advice?

- Expertise?
- Experience?
- Motivation?

### Why Advice is Ignored......

#### **Real Life examples**

Organisational strategy mis-alignment

• British Army equipment portfolio approach

### Why Advice is Ignored......

#### **Real Life examples**

Basis of the advice can be challenged

 Royal Air Force Transport Aircraft Flight Safety



#### **Real Life examples**

Commercial, political and career risk

- UK Defence Estate management contract
- British Army AJAX Armoured Vehicle
  - <a href="https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2021/10/05/uk-convenes-top-defense-official-to-fix-or-end-the-armys-ajax-vehicle-program/">https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2021/10/05/uk-convenes-top-defense-official-to-fix-or-end-the-armys-ajax-vehicle-program/</a>
  - https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/ cmselect/cmpubacc/259/summary.html



