

Comments

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I received a [comment on the blog this morning](#) from someone who has posted more than 500 other times. Responding to my thread posted yesterday on energy price reform he said:

And your comment is hogwash for reasons i've explained some weeks ago.

I guess he assumes that I can recall all the 160,000 odd comments on the blog over the years: I have to say that in that case he is very definitely mistaken, and nor do I have time to go and found out what he thought was so important.

He then added this:

But I am fed up with the way you gratuitously insult anyone with the temerity to disagree with the "world expert" on just about everything. Some might call it bullying.

I've followed you on here for quite a few years now, with a few "sabbaticals" when I tire of your tantrums, but this is the last time.

He obviously thinks this fair comment after all the times he has posted before, mainly (and I say this because he has survived as a commentator for so long) in broad sympathy with what the blog has to say, but let me add a few important comments in reply.

First, I have not the slightest idea who this person is. To me he is a name and an email address: I know nothing more.

Second, I have no clue what his qualifications to comment are or why he thinks he can discuss my ideas, into which some research has been put by me and rather more by others, by simply saying that they are 'hogwash'.

Third, if there is arrogance and even tantrums on display I would think they are from the person who dismisses an argument with a single word and quite a lot of abuse.

Fourth, as to the suggestion of bullying, I suggest that the person in question try writing a daily blog promoting radical and often Cassandric comments for sixteen years and see how much abuse you get. I promise you, few blogs have survived for that long for the very obvious reason that doing so can grind almost anyone down.

So, if I am robust on occasion it is because I do not think those who dismiss complex arguments with a single word or brief comments and who provides no evidence whatsoever of their qualification to comment have earned the right to be respected in a world where I and everyone else knows trolling to be rife. Perhaps it would be nice to be generously kind to all who do so: long experience proves that with trolls that really does not pay, often leading me to wonder what motivates these sad people.

Finally, I note the claim that I think I am the world expert in everything. That's odd when this blog is decidedly restricted in its scope. It's also odd when very obviously I make, and admit to, mistakes. But, making stuff up, as has happened here, is always the first resort of the person without an argument, as I find quite often.

And that is why those who comment in this way are not welcome here. Disagreeing with me is fine, welcome and often appropriate. Presenting hogwash, without comment or explanation as to the qualification of the person doing so and then demanding I respect it is not.