

Mo Stewart

XX XXXXX XXXX XXXXXXXX XXXX XXX

Phone: XXXXX XXXXXX

Email:

Date: 8th January 2018

<http://disability-studies.leeds.ac.uk/library/author/stewart.mo>
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mo_Stewart/publications

The Rt Hon David Gauke MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Private & Confidential

Re: Disabled researcher's book exposes 'corporate demolition of welfare state'¹

“A multinational insurance company accused of racketeering and cheating thousands of Americans out of welfare benefits, is giving evidence to the British government on welfare reform. A BBC investigation has found that executives from Unum have held meetings with senior Whitehall officials to discuss changes to the benefit system...”

Hew Edwards, BBC News
6th November 2007²

Following your recent interview with Andrew Marr on 17th December 2017³, please accept this contact to alert you to deeply disturbing evidence which it seems that you and your Ministerial team chose to disregard. I write in my capacity as the lead independent researcher in the UK regarding American corporate influence with British social security policy since 1992⁴, as alerted by BBC News in 2007², and I would also advise that I am a healthcare professional by training. I make no apologies for the length of this very detailed letter, and please be further advised that this is an open letter and will be published online, and it is also being copied to various distinguished academics as well as to many other interested parties.

Your admission during the interview with Andrew Marr that there are '*cases where we sometimes get it wrong*'³ didn't suggest the significance of the often fatal consequences when the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) staff make incorrect decisions regarding those in greatest need⁵. For example, I alert you to the fact that the Waddell and Aylward biopsychosocial (BPS) model of assessment, as recommended in the 2005 DWP commissioned research *The Scientific and Conceptual Basis of Incapacity Benefits*⁶, and adopted in 2008 for use by the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) to restrict access to the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA), is demonstrated to be fatally flawed.^{7,5,4} Furthermore, the Waddell and Aylward BPS model of assessment (2010⁸) was exposed in 2016 by Professor Tom Shakespeare⁹ and colleagues as being '*policy based research*' and not '*evidence based research*', which supported my own research findings⁴.

Prior to its introduction, Consultant Psychiatrists working in their capacity as government advisers had repeatedly warned that the WCA was not fit-for-purpose, but the ‘Ruthless’ DWP ‘forced through WCA despite knowing of harm’.¹⁰

“Ministers and civil servants were “ruthless” and “reckless” in forcing through their new “fitness for work” test and refusing to abandon it even after they were told of the harm it was causing, according to a former government adviser.

“Professor Geoff Shepherd, who was one of nine members of a working group set up by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) nearly ten years ago, said the department could and should have predicted how stressful the test was going to be...

“And he said it was “reckless” of DWP to continue with the work capability assessment (WCA) once evidence began to emerge of how damaging it was, particularly to people with mental health conditions...

“Their concerns are further evidence that ministers – under both Labour and coalition governments – and senior civil servants were told repeatedly that the WCA was not fit-for-purpose and would damage claimants’ mental health, and that it was vital to obtain a wider range of information about people with mental health problems before deciding on their claims...

“And he said the department had clearly been far too close to Atos, the company paid until this year to carry out both the predecessor to the WCA – the personal capability assessment – and the WCA itself...

“A third member of the group, Dr Jed Boardman, now the lead on social inclusion for the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said suggestions made by the working group for improvements to the assessment were frequently taken away and scrutinised by the DWP legal team before being rejected...

“Last month, government-funded research by public health experts from the Universities of Liverpool and Oxford concluded that the programme to use the WCA to reassess people on incapacity benefit was linked to 590 suicides in just three years...

“Obviously there are some tragic stories here about individuals and what happened to them and I have the greatest sympathy for them and their families and I think it is tragic and I think it is reckless the way that the DWP continued even in the face of evidence that it was damaging.” [Professor Shepherd]...

“He said the development of the WCA had been “reckless” because “it wasn’t thought through and then failed to correct itself in the face of increasingly consistent evidence that it was not only ineffective, but also potentially damaging”.

‘Ruthless’ DWP ‘forced through WCA despite knowing of harm’¹⁰

John Pring

Disability News Service

11th December 2015

Adopted by the DWP in 2008 to limit funding the ESA to long-term chronically ill and disabled people⁴, and significantly reformed to the detriment of claimants by successive governments since 2010 the WCA, using the Waddell and Aylward BPS model⁶ of assessment, is demonstrated to be totally unfit for purpose by all independent investigation, and was destined to create a vast amount of preventable harm.^{4,5} Thousands of deaths directly linked to the WCA¹¹ are identified as being inevitable when ‘*killed by the State*’¹² by the introduction of ‘*corporate welfare crime*’¹², and the demonstrated dire impact of the WCA on public mental health is profound¹³ but is disregarded by the DWP.

“WCA processes could arguably be viewed as democide, as some claimants are, in essence, killed by the state or officials on their behalf (Totten and Bartrop, 2008). This means that Maximus are also culpable because they are acting according to DWP policy which is proven to cause death with the approval of state officials. These deaths therefore can be considered democide as the government is purposely permitting and/or creating conditions which systematically produce death.

“Moreover, WCAs features share many genocidal traits: Targeted groups, like the ill and disabled, suffer gross mental and physical harm. The state has also deliberately inflicted physical destitution on a group who fails to align with their ideology (Simon, 2007; Nersessian, 2010). When WCAs are conceptualised with the language of *democide* and *genocide*, it fashions new lenses to view contemporary welfare arrangements. These words are normally associated with the horrors of the Holocaust (Rubinstein, 2014), and if the public viewed the WP [work programme] in this light they would likely deem such actions/processes criminal and demand accountability. This is why the state establish proxy measures – to distance themselves from the harmful consequences of WCAs, as the state is as intimately linked to harm production via Maximus. These processes stem from a reciprocated, reinforcing interaction between government policy, and the formats which enable the pursuit of aligned state-corporate goals. Such proxy measures provide the essential guise for the state to distance themselves from potential legal ramifications, and for the electorate to disassociate the harms and deaths caused by WCAs from the state. This is a purposeful design of the government’s proxy measures, because in the event of mishaps the state can blame Maximus for the mass mistreatment of society’s welfare dependents.”

Corporate Welfare Crime: Two Case Studies in State-Corporate Harm

Thesis for: Masters of Arts Social policy 2016, p30¹²

Lewis Elward

2016

By failing to consider diagnosis and prognosis for the fatally flawed WCA⁴, chronically ill and disabled people were destined to suffer preventable harm and many would die; which has come to pass¹¹. At some time in the future, the UK government will be held to account for this identified ongoing ideological tyranny⁴, when using discredited DWP commissioned research that was funded by corporate America¹⁴ to justify the use of the WCA.

**Furthermore, the former DWP Chief Medical Officer and co-author of that fatally flawed 2005 DWP commissioned research⁶, Professor Sir Mansel Aylward, admitted as long ago as 2012 that his recommended BPS model of assessment, as used for the WCA, was ‘*unsatisfactory*’¹⁵ and that it ‘*no longer addresses the real needs of disabled people and the exclusion of disabled people from society*’¹⁵. Therefore, the question remains as to why the DWP continue to use the demonstrably dangerous WCA, and why a notorious American corporate giant when government advisers on ‘*welfare claims management*’^{4,5} were boasting that they were guiding UK social policy reforms, and policies adopted to limit ESA are demonstrated to have been influenced by them⁴.

Your claims regarding ‘*conditionality*’³ were cause for concern, as conditionality/sanctions can and do lead to claimant deaths amongst other things¹⁶. The extremes of conditionality has led to claimants of the ESA being sanctioned for longer than any other claimant group, and the published DWP statistics are at best misleading and more often incorrect, as identified by Dr David Webster¹⁷.

“DWP has created a new publication, *Benefit Sanctions Statistics*, and is using it to highlight two new measures, namely the duration of sanctions and the proportion of claimants serving a sanction at a point in time, for UC, ESA and JSA. These measures are very misleading.

“The published durations do not show the duration of sanctions of people who stay on benefit and serve their sanction fully; they do not include the periods of reduced income endured by people who remain eligible for benefit but stop claiming it; they do not include the unserved portions of sanctions which those claimants are made to serve if they later reclaim; and they do not reflect the effect of repayment of UC hardship payments. They therefore do not show anything like the full impact of sanctions in lowering claimants’ incomes. Nevertheless it is concerning that even on these definitions, ESA sanctions are often very long, averaging some 9 weeks and with 26% lasting more than 3 months and 16% more than six months.”

*Briefing: Benefit Sanctions Statistics: JSA, ESA, Universal Credit¹⁷
and Income Support for Lone Parents*
Dr D Webster, University of Glasgow
November 2017

Your claims of ‘*having a benefits system that’s designed to get people back to work*’³ disregards the demonstrated often fatal consequences of the extremes of conditionality, as adopted for social security reform policies, which the DWP dismiss when claiming to want to change claimant behaviour.

In the UK the growing catalogue of reported atrocities, fear, deaths, human suffering, humiliation, degradation and despair, caused by the impact of the enforced welfare reforms, are the very definition of Crimes Against Humanity and were accelerated by the Coalition and Conservative governments since 2010 without any consideration of the confirmed and very obvious human consequences.^{11,12,13,16} “*Crimes against humanity, as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Explanatory Memorandum, “are particularly odious offences in that they constitute a serious attack on human dignity or grave humiliation or a degradation of human beings. They are not isolated or sporadic events, but are part either of a government policy (although the perpetrators need not identify themselves with this policy) or of a wide practice of atrocities tolerated or condoned by Government...”* (Quote from published letter to Sarah Newton MP, 18th December 2017. Enclosed)

The extremes of conditionality administered by under qualified DWP staff ¹⁸ has meant that ESA claimants, arguably those in greatest need, are sanctioned for longer with 16% sanctioned for as long as six months¹⁷. How, exactly, are these often chronically ill people expected to survive with no income for six months, when often sanctioned due to their ‘bus being a few minutes late for a Jobcentre interview, which is a consideration dismissed by DWP staff to administer devastating sanctions that are guaranteed to cause endless and unnecessary preventable harm, or even death.

“It is clear that a culture has developed amongst Decision Makers that sees the advice from Atos as forming the decision, and that they are there to ratify that decision. This is evident in language used by officials; many talk about ‘overruling’ the Atos advice rather than making an evidence-based decision, while others reference the difficulty in going against the recommendation of an Atos HCP:

“It’s difficult. I mean, they’re a doctor. They’ve assessed the person, I don’t know enough about it to overrule what they’re saying.”

Jobcentre plus Decision Maker”

An Independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment 2010, p50 ¹⁸

Professor Malcolm Harrington

2010

Secretary of State, until and unless the DWP adopt some flexibility, common sense and genuine concern into these fierce conditions, people will continue to suffer when, quite literally, ‘killed by the State’¹², and this is your responsibility as the Conservative government erode the historic ‘safety net’¹⁹, on route to the adoption of American social security policies, which is the legacy of the Thatcher era^{20, 21}.

“When Theresa May was challenged by a disabled voter over cuts to her disability benefits and social care last month, it shone a light on the way Conservative policies post-2010 have disproportionately targeted disabled people. Recent years have seen the introduction of many cuts and changes – from the rollout of “fit to work” tests to the abolition of the disability living allowance – as well as the lack of action on existing inequalities, such as inaccessible housing. It all amounts to an unprecedented assault on disabled people’s rights and living standards in Britain.”

*‘I was a citizen, now I’m nothing’:
disabled readers on life under austerity* ¹⁹

Frances Ryan and John Domokos

The Guardian

30th May, 2017

There is a dangerous and incorrect assumption within the DWP that claimants who do not challenge the result of their WCA are happy with the result, and therefore agree with it. This is demonstrated in commentary by the DWP Minister, Sarah Newton MP, and by comments made by the Conservative MP, Alex Burghart, in the WCA debate in Westminster Hall on 13th December 2017²².

**Secretary of State, these are dangerous assumptions demonstrating once again the limited understanding of politicians of those living with long-term ill health. There appears to be no comprehension at all that chronically ill claimants may not have the strength to challenge yet another incorrect DWP decision, when based on a dangerous assessment model that disregards diagnosis and prognosis; which is a system influenced by identified ‘*corporate welfare crime*’¹². Bear in mind please that the official government advisers for welfare claims management were known as UnumProvident™ Insurance, now known as Unum Insurance, and were identified in 2008 by the American Association of Justice (AAJ 2008) as the second worst insurance company in the United States²³. This begs the question as to why was this notorious corporate American giant consulted regarding the welfare of those in greatest need in the UK, and on what authority does the DWP disregard recommendations by the Work and Pensions Select Committee?²⁴

“The flaws in the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) system are so grave that simply “rebranding” the assessment used to determine eligibility for ESA (the Work Capability Assessment (WCA)) by appointing a new contractor will not solve the problems, says the Work and Pensions Committee in a report published today...

“The changes we recommend include ensuring that, where possible, paper-based assessments are used to place people in the Support Group, rather than requiring them to go through a WCA, where their health condition or disability clearly has a severe impact on their capability to work. Unnecessary and too frequent reassessments should be avoided.

“DWP should also improve the way it communicates with claimants – at the moment, the letters that are sent to claimants are too technical and complex. They need to be in plain English and avoid using jargon...”

*Employment and Support Allowance and Work Capability Assessments*²⁴

Work and Pensions Select Committee

23rd July 2014

Ministers and senior civil servants disregarded many warnings, so now we have a system of increasing physical and mental health problems associated with the WCA, with Coroners linking the WCA to suicides²⁵, and detailed academic evidence demonstrating that disability assessments are associated with adverse trends in public mental health^{13, 26}.

There has been a great deal of evidence in existence for several years^{27, 28}, which was disregarded in favour of academically challenged DWP commissioned research⁶, resulting in so many deaths linked to the use of the fatally flawed WCA that the DWP have **refused to publish** updated ESA mortality totals since 2014²⁹.

Your undoubted ability to avoid answering a direct question with a direct answer is noted³, and your insistence that increased employment is due to conditionality conveniently overlooks the fact that a vast amount of employed people, on minimal wages, are operating on a zero hours contract which offers no job security. This has opened the door to many unscrupulous employers who benefit from

employing people on minimal wages, without the need to offer a formal and secure contract of employment. That is nothing to celebrate as a large workforce are manipulated for corporate profit.

It remains a mystery why you claim to be able to *'lift people out of poverty on a sustainable basis'*³ when ESA funding was reduced to the same minimal funding as Jobseekers Allowance, thus disregarding the accepted additional costs of living with a long-term illness or disability and increasing the relentless psychological distress of the vast majority of genuine disabled claimants. This demonstrates that the government's only concern is a planned reduction of the social security budget, and is unconcerned with the inevitable preventable harm that was always going to be imposed against those least able to protest, in what has been described as *'DWP medical tyranny'*^{30, 31}.

“Unum is the largest provider of “income protection insurance” (IPI) in the UK, and tougher welfare rules – including replacing incapacity benefit with employment and support allowance (ESA) – are likely to persuade more people to take out IPI, boosting the company's profits.

“Unum even launched a major media campaign in 2011 just as the coalition began a three-year programme to reassess about 1.5 million IB claimants through the new, stricter work capability assessment (WCA).

“Now DNS has secured a copy of a document on the assessment of “incapacity”, which was published in 2005.

“The document was written by Michael O'Donnell, then the company's chief medical officer, and now in the same roll at Atos Healthcare, which carries out WCAs on behalf of the government.

“O'Donnell says in the document that Unum has “always been at the leading edge of disability assessment and management”.

“He adds: “We know that our views and understanding are not yet in the mainstream of doctors' thinking, but Government Policy is moving in the same direction, to a large extent being driven by our thinking and that of our close associates, both in the UK and overseas...

“[Mo Stewart] added: The WCA is a replica of the assessment system used by Unum to resist funding insurance claims. It is a bogus, dangerous assessment and, with this evidence, it is now time that this DWP medical tyranny was ended.”

*Unum bragged about 'driving government thinking' on incapacity benefit reform*³⁰

John Pring
Disability News Service
15th February 2013

Do please bear in mind that one of your colleagues, when Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for the Coalition government, spent his time making unsubstantiated statements against claimants of Incapacity Benefit and the ESA, which guaranteed banner headlines in the tabloid press that clearly did change public behaviour³² to the detriment of chronically ill and disabled people.

“Behaviour change is not difficult to achieve when there is full access to the national press and media and when unfounded political claims, which are guaranteed to be reported, can manipulate public opinion over time which eventually creates a behaviour change in society.

“This has come to pass in recent years with the concept of State funded welfare in the UK. Welfare reform, together with austerity measures introduced by the Coalition government in 2010, and the preventable harm created by government knowingly [demonising claimants](#) of long-term disability benefit suggesting wide spread welfare benefit fraud, now sees welfare dependent chronically ill and profoundly disabled service-users [living in fear](#) of the British government and the British press. In reality, the published government figures demonstrated welfare fraud [at 0.7%](#), not 75% as claimed in [the national press](#) to influence public opinion.

“The political manipulation of public opinion was at its most fierce during the Coalition government’s term in office, for five years from 2010, as the introduction of austerity was destined to cause distress, so it was necessary for the government to offer the public someone else to blame. The very easy targets of a quickly evolved [political smear campaign](#) were the long-term chronically ill and disabled people, who were totally dependent upon welfare funding for their financial survival.

“This relentless [political attack](#) against those in greatest need was created to suggest that the UK could no longer justify the welfare budget, that following the 2008 banking crisis suddenly the UK was required to live within our means, with the suggestion that the public sector deficit should be completely removed. In reality, this situation was planned many years ago to justify the eventual [removal of the welfare state](#) on route to the adoption of private healthcare insurance, and the banking crisis was the excuse needed to introduce policies which are identified as [the legacy](#) of the first UK female Prime Minister.

“Fed by rhetoric by the Coalition government, the national press provided banner headlines insisting that [75% of claimants](#) ‘*languishing on the state*’ were faking, and this relentless government [smear campaign](#) worked very well. There was a reported 213% increase in prosecuted disability hate crimes during the Coalition government’s term in office, which the national press [willingly reported](#), whilst disregarding any responsibility they may have had by [demonising service-users](#) and suggesting that the majority of benefit dependent disabled people were unworthy of State financial support.”...

*Demonising disabled people: public behaviour and attitudes during welfare reforms.*³²

Welfare Conditionality: sanctions, support and behaviour change.

Mo Stewart

The University of York

July 2017

Prosecuted disability hate crimes increased by 213% during the Coalition government’s term in office³³, with the tabloid press producing banner headlines claiming that: ‘*Sick Benefits: 75% are faking*’³⁴, which was totally untrue of course, but certainly helped to change public behaviour, which

does appear to be your main priority³ when guided by discredited DWP commissioned research⁶. The DWP claimed that one million people should be removed from the former Incapacity Benefit and returned to work; without any evidence to substantiate such a claim⁴, which appears to be from the fact that in 2007 39% of Incapacity Benefit claimants had a mental health problem, which was almost one million people³⁵. This ongoing psychological tyranny by the DWP is being widely reported online, regardless of the biased right-leaning national press³⁶.

There really isn't that much to celebrate as large numbers of the British public now live in fear of the DWP. That includes those in low-paid insecure work and chronically ill people attempting to justify their existence, when terrorised by a totally discredited assessment model⁹ used to restrict access to the ESA, often for claimants who are desperately ill and for some who die when in a lengthy battle with DWP incompetence³² which has driven many to attempt suicide³⁷.

The failure to acknowledge diagnosis and prognosis for the WCA⁴, which would identify at once anyone living with a life threatening or profound illness, is influenced by the notorious American corporate government advisers, identified as the second worst insurance company in America in 2008²³. Following Unum's guidance²⁴, the DWP now force claimants to grovel for minimum subsistence level financial support, when influenced by corporate America^{38, 4} to fulfil the ambition of a former Prime Minister²¹, regardless of predictable dire human consequences^{32, 36}, as the British welfare state is gradually demolished on route to adopting the American version of social security³⁸, using private healthcare insurance^{4,30}. The question remains as to how many thousands more chronically ill and poor people will be, quite literally, *killed by the State*^{4, 12, 16, 39} before this has finally been achieved?

Secretary of State, I suggest you access the enclosed recent letters to junior Ministers, and the many references listed in this letter, to be much better briefed as to the many identified atrocities now being committed by the Conservative government, when justified using discredited DWP commissioned research as influenced and funded by corporate America¹⁴. Then attempt to justify why the latest evidence published in the British Medical Journal⁴⁰ exposes the fact that austerity measures have increased mortality figures, with the strong possibility that 120,000 more deaths have been created by the Conservatives' use of '*economic murder*'³⁹. You can't really dismiss every official report.

I further suggest you access the enclosed transcript of a BBC News report from November 2007². Both the BBC News video and the published transcript of the 2007 report mysteriously disappeared from the BBC News archives, but not before some researchers had downloaded the transcript for safe keeping. Ask yourself why this BBC News report and transcript were suddenly removed from BBC News archives, on whose authority, when reporting that the British government were being advised by '*racketeers*' from corporate America regarding welfare reform in the UK². The same American company mentioned in the 2007 BBC News report provided evidence for the Work and Pensions Select Committee on a number of occasions, demonstrating their confidence regarding their influence with the British government⁴¹.

Then, Secretary of State, perhaps, you will read the damning 2016 report by the United Nations⁴², which exposed the UK government as having conducted '*grave and systematic violations*' of the rights of disabled people⁴³, as reported by BBC News⁴⁴, which was yet another detailed and damning official report disregarded by the DWP⁴⁵.

“In 2004 Professor Mansel Aylward was appointed as the first director of the UnumProvident Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research at Cardiff University...

1. UnumProvident is pleased that the Incapacity Benefit (IB) system is being considered for reform, for indeed it was at our 2005 Beginnings event that the Green Paper was proposed. Like many other groups, we are pleased with the overall content of the Paper and will work with the Government to ensure the stated goals are achieved...

2. -Revision of the “sicknote” process...

-Change the name of Incapacity Benefit

-Benefits not to be given on the basis of certain disability or illness but on capacity assessment...

3. We endorse the name of the benefit being changed to *Employment and Support Allowance*. We have long argued for this change as it sets the tone for how the benefit is perceived...

6. Our extended experience in this field has shown us that the correct model to apply when helping people to return to work is the bio-psychosocial one...

19. Sicknotes are currently too black and white – for example someone may have a bad back, which would qualify them for a sicknote, but that does not inhibit them from many of the functions of their job as an office worker. Employees and employers treat sicknotes as being sacred – and therefore do not want to disobey them for fear of harming themselves or the employee. Equally, GPs may be concerned that they are liable if they do not provide a sicknote for someone who is sick, but can nonetheless work...

24. At UnumProvident we have a non-medical, enabling model of rehabilitation and we are working with our partners at the UnumProvident Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research at Cardiff University to better understand what places people at risk of long-term or chronic illness. Further information about this model can be made available to the committee.”

Supplementary memorandum submitted by UnumProvident following the
publication of the Welfare Reform Green Paper
Select Committee on Work and Pensions Written Evidence⁴¹
6th May 2006

Mr Gauke, NHS statistics never before revealed have exposed that almost half of all ESA claimants have attempted suicide^{37, 46}, so it's time to face reality and to end this American co-designed terror. There is no justification whatsoever for the continued DWP imposed tyranny, masquerading as the WCA and ‘conditionality’³, against the weakest and most vulnerable people in society attempting to claim ESA, when welfare reforms are guided by corporate America who fully expect to gain from these reforms to social security policies³⁰.

**There is no justification for continuing government policies which are killing people ^{37, 47, 40}. There is no justification for the endless threats and coercion, as included in every letter from the DWP to any claimant of social security benefits. There is also no justification to use a discredited DWP commissioned report⁶ to attempt to condone what has been identified long ago as government funded tyranny, when using the fatally flawed and very dangerous WCA justified by research as funded by corporate America¹⁴, which has a guaranteed profound negative impact on public mental health ^{13, 26} as warned by the British Psychological Society, and others⁴⁸. You have even disregarded letters of concern by top professionals alerting you to the dangers of enforced employment: ‘*The DWP must see that a bad job is worse for your mental health than unemployment*’.⁴⁹

How many more times will the Supreme Court, the High Court and the Court of Appeal rule sanctions to be ‘unlawful’⁵⁰ before you accept that psychological intimidation creates preventable harm^{49, 48}, and will not motivate chronically ill people into work? It simply motivates those in greatest need to live in fear of the DWP, which is negatively impacting on public mental health and wellbeing⁵¹.

... “*Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive*” is a very famous quote from the early C17th by Sir Walter Scott but is very apt for today’s politics, as the British government successfully deceive the British public and Parliament on route to the total demolition of the Welfare State, as originally planned thirty five years ago by the first female Conservative Prime Minister...

“The introduction of the BPS model of assessment had been successfully adopted by UnumProvident Insurance in America, to limit payment for healthcare income protection insurance claims, and LoCascio was guiding the DSS as to how to introduce the BPS model into the UK. The DSS was renamed the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in 2001 and were motivated to reduce and to eventually remove the Welfare State, whilst disregarding a parliamentary debate in 1999 which exposed UnumProvident Insurance as failing to pay out on legitimate claims for Income Protection Insurance...

“By 2005, following many successful legal cases throughout America, the California Department of Insurance Commissioner, John Garamendi, stated “*UnumProvident is an outlaw company. It is a company that has operated in an illegal fashion for years*” ...

“Eventually, distinguished academic excellence by Professor Tom Shakespeare and colleagues...would expose the Waddell and Aylward BPS model as having ‘*no coherent theory or evidence behind this model*’ and demonstrated a ‘*cavalier approach to scientific evidence*’...”

Welcome to Litte America⁵²

Mo Stewart

2017

Perhaps, Secretary of State, you should read the research evidence the Cameron Cabinet Office attempted to incentivise me to stop in 2014, as published in the critically acclaimed book: ‘*Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state*’⁴, which will help you and the DWP to become much better informed and may reduce the numbers of deaths linked to government policies ^{36, 37, 52} .

Yours sincerely

Mo Stewart

Disability studies researcher

Author of ‘*Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state*’. New Generation Publishing 2016

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mo_Stewart/publications

Enclosures

- ‘Cash Not Care ~ the planned demolition of the UK welfare state’: Academic book review by Dr Maria Berghs ~ October 2017 (Journal article)
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320169659_Cash_not_care_the_planned_demolition_of_the_UK_welfare_state
- Letter to Professor Sir Mansel Aylward, University of Cardiff ~ 12th May 2017
<https://blueannoyed.wordpress.com/2018/01/07/mo-stewart-independent-researcher-writes-to-mansel-aylward-wca/>
- Letter to Penny Mordaunt MP, Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work ~ 1st July 2017
<http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/news/letter-to-miabled-people/00336.html>
- Letter to Sarah Newton MP, Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work ~ 18th December 2017
<http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/news/letter-to-saabled-people/00352.html>
- Transcript: Deleted BBC News transcript: Unum Insurance influence with UK welfare reforms ~ 6th November 2007
<http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/library/by-az/deleted-bbc-news-item-on-unum.html>

References

- 1 DNS 2016a: Disabled researcher’s book exposes ‘corporate demolition of welfare state’
<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/disabled-researchers-book-exposes-corporate-demolition-of-welfare-state/>
- 2 BBC 2007: BBC News 2007 transcript: a BBC investigation, 6th November 2007
<http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/library/by-az/deleted-bbc-news-item-on-unum.html>
- 3 BBC 2017: The Andrew Marr Show, 17th December 2017
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b09jvlnf/the-andrew-marr-show-17122017>
- 4 STEWART M 2016a: Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state. London, New Generation Publishing, 2016, 188 pp, ISBN: 978-1-78507-783-8 (pbk)
- 5 STEWART M, 2017a: State Crime by Proxy: corporate influence on state sanctioned harm.
<http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/library/by-az/state-crime-by-proxy.html>
- 6 WADDELL G and AYLWARD M 2005: The Scientific and Conceptual Basis of Incapacity Benefits. The Stationary Office, 2005, 234pp, ISBN: 0 11 703584 X (pbk)
- 7 STEWART M 2015: The influence of the private insurance industry on the UK welfare reforms.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/271199429_The_influence_of_the_private_insurance_industry_on_the_UK_welfare_reforms
- 8 WADDELL G AND AYLWARD M 2010: *Models of Sickness and Disability applied to common health problems*, London, Royal Society of Medicine. ISBN: 978-1-85315-904-6
- 9 SHAKESPEARE T, WATSON N, ALGHAIB O A 2016: Blaming the victim all over again: Waddell and Aylward’s biopsychosocial (BPS) model of disability. (Journal article)
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0261018316649120>
- 10 DNS 2015a: ‘Ruthless’ DWP ‘forced through WCA despite knowing of harm’.
John Pring, Disability News Service
<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/ruthless-dwp-forced-through-wca-despite-knowing-of-harm/>
- 11 BUTLER P 2015: Thousands have died after being found fit for work.
Patrick Butler, The Guardian
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/aug/27/thousands-died-after-fit-forwork-assessment-dwp-figures>
- 12 ELWARD L R 2016: Corporate Welfare Crime: two case studies in state-corporate harm. MA Dissertation, the University of Liverpool.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311683866_Corporate_Welfare_Crime_Two_Case_Studies_in_State-Corporate_Harm

- 13** BARR B, TAYLOR-ROBINSON D, STUCKLER D, LOOPSTRA R, REEVES A, WHITEHEAD M 2015: 'First do no harm': are disability assessments associated with adverse trends in mental health? A longitudinal ecological study. (Journal article) <http://jech.bmj.com/content/70/4/339>
- 14** COVER 2004: UnumProvident teams up with Cardiff University
<https://www.covermagazine.co.uk/cover/news/2151231/unumprovident-teams-cardiff-university>
- 15** DNS 2012: Former DWP medical boss makes WCA pledge to protesters.
John Pring, Disability News Service
<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/former-dwp-medical-boss-makes-wca-pledge-to-protesters-2/>
- 16** GENTLEMAN A 2014: Vulnerable man starved to death after benefits were cut.
Amelia Gentleman, The Guardian
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/feb/28/man-starved-to-death-after-benefits-cut>
- 17** WEBSTER D 2017: 11-17 Sanctions Stats Briefing, November 2017
<http://www.cpag.org.uk/david-webster>
- 18** HARRINGTON M 2010: An independent Review of the Work Capability Assessment.
ISBN: 9780108509476
- 19** RYAN F & DOMOKOS J 2017: 'I was a citizen, now I'm nothing': disabled readers on life under austerity. Frances Ryan and John Domokos, The Guardian
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/may/30/disabled-readers-austerity-disability-cuts>
- 20** DAGUERRE A 2004: Importing workfare: policy transfer of social and labour market policies from the USA to Britain under New Labour
<http://eprints.mdx.ac.uk/306/>
- 21** YOUNG H 2013: Margaret Thatcher left a dark legacy that has still not disappeared.
Hugo Young. The Guardian.
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/apr/08/margaret-thatcher-hugo-young>
- 22** WCA 2017: Westminster Hall debate, 13th December, 2017
<https://www.theyworkforyou.com/whall/?id=2017-12-13a.162.0>
- 23** AAJ 2008: The Ten Worst insurance Companies in America. The American Association of Justice.
https://www.justice.org/sites/default/files/file-uploads/AAJ_Report_TenWorstInsuranceCompanies_FINAL.pdf
- 24** WORK AND PENSIONS SELECT COMMITTEE 2014: Employment and Support Allowance needs fundamental redesign, says MPs. July 2014
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/work-and-pensions-committee/news/esa-wca-report-substantive/>
- 25** DNS 2015b: Coroner's 'ground-breaking' verdict: Suicide was 'triggered' by 'fit-for-work' test. John Pring, Disability News Service.
<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/coroners-ground-breaking-verdict-suicide-was-triggered-by-fit-for-work-test/>
- 26** MARKS, COWAN & MACLEAN 2017: Mental Health and Unemployment in Scotland
<https://www.napier.ac.uk/~media/worktribe/output-688533/mental-health-and-unemployment-in-scotland.pdf>
- 27** STEWART M 2010: Atos Healthcare or Disability Denial Factories?
<http://www.whywaitforever.com/dwpatosveteranssummary.html>
- 28** BACH M 2012: Memorandum on Disability Insurance
<http://www.whywaitforever.com/dwpatosmemodisins.html>
- 29** WHITEFORD E 2016: Social Security Benefits: Written question – 41684
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-07-04/41684/>
- 30** DNS 2013: Unum bragged about 'driving government thinking' on incapacity benefit reform. John Pring, Disability News Service
<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/unum-bragged-about-driving-government-thinking-on-incapacity-benefit-reform/>

- 31 STEWART M 2013: The Hidden Agenda**
The Centre for Disability Studies, the University of Leeds
<http://pf7d7vi404s1dxh27mla5569.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/files/library/THE-HIDDEN-AGENDA-a-research-summary-March-2013.pdf>
- 32 STEWART M 2017b: Demonising disabled people: public behaviour and attitudes during welfare reforms. Welfare Conditionality: sanctions, support and behaviour change.**
The University of York
<http://www.welfareconditionality.ac.uk/2017/07/demonising-disabled-people-public-behaviour-and-attitudes-during-welfare-reforms/>
- 33 WHEELER C 2015: EXCLUSIVE: Hate crimes on disabled up 213%**
Caroline Wheeler, The Express.
<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/551327/EXCLUSIVE-Hate-crimes-on-disabled-rise-by-213>
- 34 LITTLE A 2011: Sick Benefits: 75% are faking.**
Alison Little. The Express.
<https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/261337/Sick-benefits-75-are-faking>
- 35 RUTHERFORD J 2007: New Labour, the market state, and the end of welfare.**
Soundings Journal, Issue 36, Summer 2007, p40-54
https://www.lwbooks.co.uk/sites/default/files/s36_04rutherford.pdf
- 36 BELL D 2015: Mental illness and its treatment today**
<https://www.bpc.org.uk/mental-illness-and-its-treatment-today-0>
- 37 DNS 2017: ‘Shocking’ NHS stats show nearly half ESA claimants have attempted suicide**
John Pring. Disability News Service
<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/shocking-nhs-stats-show-nearly-half-esa-claimants-have-attempted-suicide/#prettyPhoto>
- 38 DAGUERRE A & ETHERINGTON 2014: Workfare in 21st century Britain: the erosion of rights to social assistance**
<http://eprints.mdx.ac.uk/15825/>
- 39 MATTHEWS-KING A 2017: Landmark study links Tory austerity to 120,000 deaths.**
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/tory-austerity-deaths-study-report-people-die-social-care-government-policy-a8057306.html>
- 40 BMJ 2017: Effects of health and social care spending constraints on mortality in England: a time trend analysis.**
British Medical journal, Volume 7, Issue 11
<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/11/e017722>
- 41 W&P 2006: Supplementary memorandum submitted by UnumProvident following the publication of the Welfare Reform Green Paper. Select Committee on Work and Pensions**
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmworpen/616/616we37.htm>
- 42 UN 2016: Inquiry by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.**
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/InquiryProcedure.aspx>
- 43 DNS 2016b: UN’s conclusion that UK violated disability rights is ‘vindication’ for activists. John Pring. Disability News Service**
<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/uns-conclusion-that-uk-violated-disability-rights-is-vindication-for-activists/>
- 44 BBC 2016: BBC News: ‘Grave’ disability rights violations under UK reforms**
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-37899305>
- 45 DUFFY S 2016: UK in breach of international human rights.**
<http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/news/uk-in-breachhuman-rights/00287.html>
- 46 BULMAN M, POLIANSKAYA 2017: Attempted suicides by disability benefit claimants more than double after introduction of fit-to-work assessment.**
May Bulman, Alina Polianskaya. The Independent
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/disability-benefit-claimants-attempted-suicides-fit-to-work-assessment-i-daniel-blake-job-centre-dwp-a8119286.html>

47 DUFFY S 2017: Government policy is killing people

<http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/news/government-pling-people/00348.html>

48 COWBURN A 2017: Scrap Benefits sanctions or risk mental health crisis, psychologists warn

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/benefits-sanctions-letter-mental-health-crisis-british-psychological-society-a7600596.html>

49 INDEPENDENT: LETTERS FEB 2017: The DWP must see that a bad job is worse for your mental health than unemployment.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters/a-bad-job-is-worse-for-your-mental-health-than-unemployment-a7600411.html>

50 STONE J 2016: Benefit sanctions handed out to thousands of people 'unlawful'.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/dwp-defeated-in-court-again-over-unlawful-retroactive-benefit-sanctions-a7006466.html>

51 STEWART M 2016b: The Human Costs of Welfare Reforms

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/311667353_The_Human_Cost_of_Welfare_Reform

52 STEWART M 2017c: Welcome to Little America

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316545213_WELCOME_TO_LITTLE_AMERICA

Copied to: