

Mo Stewart

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Phone: XXXXXXXXX

Email: Mozzas01@gmail.com

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

<http://disability-studies.leeds.ac.uk/library/author/stewart.mo>

<http://www.whywaitforever.com/dwpatosveterans.html>

Professor Sir Mansel Aylward
CB DSc FFOM FFPM FRCP FLSW
Director
Centre for Psychosocial & Disability Research
School of Medicine, Cardiff University
5th Floor, Cochrane Building
Heath Park
Cardiff CF14 4YU

Private and Confidential

Dear Professor

Re: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/314045256_STATE_CRIME_BY_PROXY_corporate_influence_on_state_sanctioned_social_harm_An_independent_report

By way of an introduction, please be advised that I am the principal researcher in the UK regarding the history behind the identified preventable harm created by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), when using the Biopsychosocial (BPS) model of assessment for the Work Capability Assessment (WCA), as used to limit funding the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) to chronically ill and disabled people.

May I please remind you that when attending the International Forum on Disability Management, in 2012, you met with campaigners and promised to “*speak out*” against the WCA if you felt there was a problem with its use. John Pring, the respected Editor of the Disability News Service (DNS), reported the meeting and your comments. He reported that you unexpectedly claimed that the BPS model was deemed by you to be “*unsatisfactory*”, and that you believed that the BPS model “*no longer addresses the real needs of disabled people and the exclusion of disabled people from society*” (DNS 2012).

At the time, your reported comments did cause a reaction within the disabled community, Professor, not least due to the fact that you advised that the WCA was developed from the “*all work test*” as introduced by yourself in 1997 when at the Department for Social Security, later to become the DWP. This was surprising as you failed to acknowledge the impact of ‘*The*

Scientific and Conceptual Basis for Incapacity Benefits’ (Waddell and Aylward 2005) (SCBIB 2005), as commissioned by the DWP and co-authored with Gordon Waddell in 2005.

It was this text which identified the use of sanctions (SCBIB 2005: 166), as adopted by the DWP, which has caused the death of claimants as chronically ill people now starve to death in C21st UK when too ill to attend a meeting with the Job Centre, and so lose their meagre income for weeks. It doesn’t take too long to starve to death when all income is stopped (Gentleman 2014). Despite your warnings of the likely reaction to coercion, the DWP have adopted all the suggestions from the 2005 publication, including time-limiting ESA (SCBIB 2005: 98).

Furthermore, detailed research (Stewart 2016) identified the fact that the original BPS model was the creation of George Engel (Engel 1997), who used it in a very different context, and UnumProvident Insurance distorted the original BPS model for financial gain. Your DWP commissioned research (SCBIB 2005) was created at the Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research, which was initially funded with £1.6million by UnumProvident Insurance (Rutherford 2007), later re-named UNUM Insurance, who were identified in 2008 by the American Association of Justice as the second worst insurance company in America (AAJ 2008). Most recently, the academic excellence of Professor Tom Shakespeare and colleagues (Shakespeare et al 2016), who were not commissioned by the DWP or funded by an American corporate giant, produced the paper “*Blaming the victim all over again: Waddell and Aylward’s biopsychosocial (BPS) model of disability*”, which has been widely quoted:

The Waddell-Aylward BPS (model) has remained largely unexamined within academic literature, although it has not escaped critique by disability activists (e.g Jolly 2012, Berger and Lostheskold 2012, Stewart 2013). In this paper we build on these political challenges with an academic analysis of the model and the evidence used to justify it. We outline the chief features of the Waddell-Aylward BPS (model) and argue that, contrary to Lord Freud’s comments above, there is no coherent theory or evidence behind this model. We have carefully reviewed claims in Waddell and Aylward’s publications; compared these with accepted scientific literature; and checked their original sources, revealing a cavalier approach to scientific evidence. In conclusion, we will briefly outline the influence of the Waddell-Aylward BPS (model) on contemporary British social policy, and the consequent effects on disabled people.

Blaming the victim, all over again: Waddell and Aylward’s
biopsychosocial (BPS) model of disability.

Tom Shakespeare, Nicholas Watson and Ola Abu Alghaib
Critical Social Policy Journal, 25th May 2016

The suggestion in the 2005 publication of limiting the ESA benefit to the equivalent funding for Job Seekers Allowance (SCBIB 2005: 99) has been adopted by the DWP; and will cause a vast amount of suffering, malnutrition and preventable harm to the extent where chronically ill and disabled people, who are not fit to work, now live in fear of the DWP (Kirby 2015).

The unelected Lord Freud was clearly an admirer of your work when appointed as a DWP Minister, whose own 2007 research '*Reducing Dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of welfare to work*' (Freud 2007) was produced in only six weeks, and included a number of your suggestions, adopted by the DWP since 2010. Lord Freud hastily resigned from the DWP once the errors in his commissioned report (Freud 2007), as identified by Professor Danny Dorling (Dorling 2007), were publicly exposed at the book launch of 'Cash Not Care'(Stewart 2016), in London, in October 2016.

It remains unclear to the disabled community if you are personally aware of the high numbers of predictable deaths, despair and the preventable harm (Rutherford 2009) created since the adoption of the reforms by the DWP to limit the numbers of ESA claimants, as identified in your 2005 publication (SCBIB 2005). All this preventable harm and needless suffering is to remove the welfare state to adopt the American model of welfare, funded by private healthcare insurance (Stewart 2016), as originally suggested by the Thatcher government in 1982 (Travis 2012). However, no-one is reporting the consequences of this fatally flawed American system for chronically ill people who can't afford private insurance (Betancourt 2016).

Given that it is your 2005 commissioned research (SCBIB 2005) which has fuelled the DWP welfare reform policies, and seemingly incentivised Lord Freud when still in post with endless ideas as to how to create preventable harm, as the welfare state is effectively demolished, perhaps now is the time to "*speak out*" (Stewart 2017) against the use of the dangerous WCA, the totally discredited UK version of the BPS model (Shakespeare et al 2016), and the time-limited ESA regardless of diagnosis, together with savage sanctions (Stewart 2017b).

Yours sincerely

Mo Stewart
Disabled veteran (WRAF)
Disability studies researcher
Retired healthcare professional

Co-signatures

Dr Maria Berghs - De Mountford University
Liz Ellis, BSc. (Hons), MSc, PhD, University of Gloucestershire
Dr Fiona Kumari Campbell, BLS(hons), PhD, University of Dundee
Dr Simon Duffy – Director : Centre for Welfare Reform
Susan Archibald – Archibald Foundation
Dr Christopher Johnstone (GP), Sue Jones – Psychologists for Social Change,
Ellen Clifford – Inclusion London, Virginia Moffatt - Ekklesia Associate
Gen William J Taggart III, AdDip.Prof.Con.Phys.CertIT - N.C.A – Human Rights Consultant
Dr Richard House, C.Psychol, Gill Thornburn, Rick Burgess,
Paul Nicolson – Taxpayers Against Poverty, Mike Sivier – Editor : Vox Political,
Pat Onions – Pat’s Petition, George Kenneth Berger, Gail Ward - Cradle2Grave campaign,
Steven Preece – Editor : Welfare Weekly, Jayne Linney - Disability Activist,
Anna Annana – Admin DWPexaminations.org, Merry Cross – DPAC
Denise McKenna – Mental Health Resistance Network, Frances Kelly – Pat’s Petition
Karen Whelan-Springer - OpenEye Film, Derbyshire DPAC, Jan O’Malley, Barbara Hulme,
Julia Smith, Lesley Edwards, Dilip Chakravarti, Harold Smith, Linda Ashford, Louise Reed,
Jan O’Malley, Gill Thornburn, Barbara Hulme, Guy Longworth, Anne Pridmore, Elizabeth
Cook, Rick Burgess, Lee Adkins, Lesley Edwards, Claire Davey, Dilip Chakravarti, Harold
Smith, Richard Atkinson, Susan Smith, Julia Smith, Paul Townsend, Fiona Robertson, Jan
Johnson, Natalie Pearse, Debbie Sayers, Chris Smith, Nancy Farrell IOW DPAC, Jayne
Phillips DPAC, Roy Bard – Mental Health Resistance Network

Copied to:

Professor Peter Beresford, Professor Tom Shakespeare, Professor Danny Dorling, Professor
Clare Bambra, Professor Martin McKee, Professor Roy Sainsbury, Professor Anna Lawson,
Professor Dan Goodley, Professor Woody Caan, Professor Nicholas Watson, Professor
Richard Wilkinson, Professor David Taylor-Robinson, Professor Chik Collins; Dr Marie
Berghs, Dr Anne de Bono, Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite, Dr Stephen Weatherhead, Dr Joe
Greener, Dr Rich Moth, Dr Simon Duffy, Dr Jon Warren, Dr Anne Daguerre, Dr Jed
Boardman, Dr Richard House, Dr Chris Grover, Sir Bert Massie, Lewis Elward, John Pring –
Editor, Disability News Service, Steven Preece – Editor, Welfare Weekly,
Mike Sivier – Editor, Vox Political

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