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

Penny Mordaunt
Minister for Disabled People
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Private & Confidential

Re: STATE CRIME BY PROXY: corporate influence on state sanctioned social harm.

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

Thank you for your letter of 24th April, received today, in response to my initial contact in a letter dated 14th March 2017.

I am advised that Ministers retain their posts following the dissolution of Parliament, in advance of the next general election, and I invite you to now please access the following detailed information.

*“The co-author of the 2005 DWP commissioned research *The Scientific and Conceptual Basis of Incapacity Benefits* (Waddell and Aylward 2005), as used by the DWP to justify the adoption of the dangerous WCA, retracted his support for this fatally flawed biopsychosocial (BPS) model of assessment as long ago as 2012 (DNS 2012), and the commissioned report by David Freud (Freud 2007), which gained the author a seat in the House of Lords and an appointment as a DWP Minister, was discredited by academic excellence within months of being published (Dorling 2007).*

The above quote is from my initial contact letter and, from your reply, it would appear that you have totally disregarded the detailed evidence you were provided with in the critically acclaimed report: State Crime by Proxy, which has now attracted in excess of 4,300 online reads via ResearchGate.

The comments in your reply are noted and, sadly, demonstrate once again that regardless of the amount of detailed and critically acclaimed evidence you have been given, clearly you are determined to disregard the identified and confirmed totally unnecessary human suffering created by welfare reform policies, together with the added burden of austerity measures.

Indeed, I would venture to advise that I found the content of your letter offensive. Regardless of the overwhelming evidence, by academic experts not commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), or funded by a notorious American corporate insurance giant, you still claim that the DWP “*provide unconditional support for those claimants with severe disabilities and that we do not deny employment support to individuals who, with our help, can return to work*”.

Given these comments, I was wondering what evidence you refer to for such a statement that is demonstrably incorrect and why, together with all DWP Ministers, do you invariably fail to mention the chronically ill whose health can never recover and whose financial survival you and your DWP colleagues are determined to resist?

With respect Minister, I am the lead researcher in the UK regarding the introduction of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA), which uses the fatally flawed biopsychosocial (BPS) model of assessment and is a replica of the discredited assessment model adopted by healthcare insurance companies to resist funding insurance claims.

I most certainly do not need or require a history lesson regarding the WCA reviews by Professors Harrington and Litchfield and, given that you insist on mentioning the WCA reviews, please be advised that Professor Harrington is recently quoted as stating that the welfare reforms using the WCA are “*failing at every level*”. Furthermore, the DWP continues to disregard the detailed information provided by consecutive Presidents of the Appeal Tribunals who, in several annual reports, identified the WCA as “*failing to coincide with reality*”.

If you continue to limit your information to published government reports then I suggest you will continue to demonstrate that you are very poorly informed. The WCA is most certainly not a valid assessment Minister, and the preventable harm it has caused with the increased onset of mental health problems, deterioration in physical health conditions, the exasperation of permanent health conditions and the identified link to suicides, as identified by Coroners, demonstrate your statements to be totally incorrect as you routinely resist detailed evidence if not published by the government.

Regardless of any government commissioned reported EBR findings, may I strongly alert you to the folly of identifying government appointed “expert opinion” as, clearly, the policy based research by DWP commissioned academics is very easily demonstrated to be fatally flawed, by myself as the lead UK researcher in this area, and by distinguished academic experts.

We outline the chief features of the Waddell-Aylward BPS 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.

Professor Tom Shakespeare, Professor Nicolas Watson, Ola Abu Alghaib
https://ueaeprints.uea.ac.uk/58235/1/1351_Shakespeare.pdf

Given that the WCA is demonstrated by many distinguished experts to be based upon discredited DWP commissioned research, any government undertakings based on it are, I suggest, invariably flawed.

Furthermore, as a former healthcare professional, I would alert you to the fact that the WCA totally disregards clinical opinion including diagnosis, prognosis and the claimants past medical history and is, by definition, dangerous. Decision Makers have confirmed that they routinely disregard any medical evidence provided by claimants and simply “rubber stamp” any conclusion of the fatally flawed WCA; which has seen chronically ill people dying in their thousands as the DWP concentrate on disability and disregard profound illness.

Given that the BPS model used for the WCA is fatally flawed, the influence of a notorious American corporate insurance giant with the UK welfare reforms has been established and the DWP commissioned report used to justify the introduction of the WCA has been exposed by significant academic excellence, I suggest that as the present Minister for Disabled People you need to be much better informed.

Yours sincerely

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

Suggested further reading:

‘Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state’ by Mo Stewart

2016 New Generation Publishing

<http://bookshop.blackwell.co.uk/bookshop/product/Cash-Not-Care-by-Mo-Stewart/9781785077838>

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