

# Mo Stewart

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<https://www.mostewartresearch.co.uk/>  
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The Right Honourable Sir Keith Lindblom Q.C., P.C.  
Senior President of Appeal Tribunals  
Room C120, Royal Courts of Justice  
Strand, London  
WC2A 2LL

**by email only**

Dear Sir Keith

## Re: Public Health Crisis Created By Social Policy Reforms

Please excuse this unsolicited contact as I write in my capacity as the research lead for the Preventable Harm Project<sup>1</sup> at the request of colleagues who are familiar with the research findings, which are cause for concern.

The Project<sup>1</sup> ran for ten years (2009-2019), exposing the influence since 1992 of corporate America with UK social policy reforms, which guided the introduction of the fatally flawed Work Capability Assessment (WCA) by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to limit access to disability benefits.

Please be alert to the fact that the WCA adopted the discredited<sup>2</sup> Waddell-Aylward non-medical biopsychosocial (BPS) functional model of assessment, which disregards all clinical opinion, as initially introduced by the income replacement health insurance industry in the US to limit or to delay funding claims. It is therefore cause for concern that the WCA is regularly mistakenly referred to as a 'medical assessment,' as demonstrated in the 'Reforming Benefits Decision-Making Report'<sup>3</sup> by Justice and the Administrative Justice Council.

In reality, the Waddell-Aylward BPS model of assessment is a 'non-medical functional assessment,' which was guaranteed to cause preventable harm to many of those in greatest need as it is a 'policy-based assessment',<sup>2</sup> unrelated to detailed research evidence or to clinical need.<sup>4,5</sup> Indeed, evidence from the Project identified the WCA as being fatally flawed by design when using the Waddell-Aylward BPS model, and disregarding clinical opinion, including the clinical opinion of GPs of disability benefit claimants for access to the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and, most recently, for the health component of Universal Credit (UC).

*"Influenced by the American corporate giant Unum (Provident) Insurance since 1992, future social welfare policies would create fear within the disabled community, with an NHS report advising that 50% of ESA claimants had attempted suicide at some point. The Waddell and Aylward BPS model of assessment disregards diagnosis, prognosis, past medical history and prescribed medicines. So does the WCA."*<sup>5</sup>

In an effort to offer more detailed evidence of the identified preventable harm created by the adoption of the WCA, please accept access to a research paper now under consideration by the new *Journal of Justice, Power and Resistance*, which will be published in April. I believe the detailed references in the paper provides more evidence demonstrating the ongoing public health crisis created by the use of the fatally flawed and very dangerous WCA.<sup>6</sup>

I should advise that I am a healthcare professional by training, not an academic, and it is my opinion following twelve years of research that the thousands of deaths directly linked to the WCA will continue unless and until the WCA is abolished. The WCA was adopted using a fiscal priority and is unrelated to 'helping' anyone. Influenced by corporate America, it was designed to limit access to disability benefits to as many as possible, regardless of predictable fatal human consequences.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

In closing, I hope this contact is welcome and I thank you for your time.

Yours, most sincerely



Mo Stewart

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<https://www.mostewartresearch.co.uk>

<https://www.centreforwelfareform.org/library/influences-and-consequences.html>

Copied to:

Stephen Timms MP – Chair, Work and Pensions Committee

Debbie Abrahams MP – Work and Pensions Committee

Professor Danny Dorling – Halford Mackinder Professor of Geography, University of Oxford

Professor Ben Barr – Professor of Applied Public Health, University of Liverpool

Professor Peter Dwyer – Professor of Social Policy, University of York

Liz Sayce – International Inequalities Institute

Ken Butler – Disability Rights UK

Lord Low of Dalston CBE

Judge Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Bilal Siddique

Judge Kate Markus QC

Jodie Blackstock QC

Enclosure:

The Public Health Crisis Created By UK Social Policy Reforms

pending publication by the *Journal of Justice, Power and Resistance*

References:

1. The Preventable Harm Project

<https://www.mostewartresearch.co.uk/>

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

*Journal of Critical Social Policy* 2017, Vol. 37(1): 22-41

<https://www.mostewartresearch.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Blaming-the-victim-Tom-Shakespeare..pdf>

3. Reforming Benefits Decision-Making. A Report by Justice and the Administrative Justice Council

<https://justice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/flipbook/50/book.html>

4. Preventable Harm: creating a mental health crisis

*Journal of Public Mental Health* Vol. 18 No. 4, pp. 224-230

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335614899\\_Preventable\\_harm\\_creating\\_a\\_mental\\_health\\_crisis](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335614899_Preventable_harm_creating_a_mental_health_crisis)

5. Psychological tyranny prescribed by the DWP: preventable harm is government policy.

*British Journal of General Practice* <https://bjgp.org/content/68/677/579>

6. Killed By The State: webinar <https://citizen-network.org/library/killed-by-the-state.html>