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Jonathan Marron
Director General, Primary Care and Prevention
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London, SW1H 0EU

Private & Confidential

via email

Dear Director General

Re: The public health crisis created by UK social policy reforms
[Justice, Power and Resistance 6\(2\): 217-228](#)¹

I write in my capacity as the research lead for the Preventable Harm Project² that I've led since 2009 and, as a former healthcare professional, I must alert you to disturbing research findings.

This contact is to advise you and colleagues at the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to an identified government induced public health crisis, linked to a discredited and fatally flawed assessment model,³ which was adopted in 2008 to limit access to long-term disability benefit for the chronically ill and disabled community who are unable to work.

The government's persecution of those in greatest need is relentless and was adopted by every administration since Blair. These political attacks became ferocious when the Coalition administration decided in 2010 to blame the chronically ill and disabled community to justify the introduction of austerity measures, which was a political choice not a financial necessity. The ideologically motivated political persecution of disability benefit claimants continues.²

As a consequence of successive administrations adopting social policy legislation based on a fiscal priority, whilst disregarding the health and wellbeing of those in greatest need, thousands have died - often by suicide - and as a direct result of social policy reforms which negatively impacted on public mental health⁴ with no-one held to account.

¹ The public health crisis created by UK social policy reforms – [Justice, Power and Resistance 6\(2\): 217-228](#)

² The Preventable Harm Project - [Mo Stewart Research | Cash Not Care](#)

³ Blaming the victim all over again: Waddell and Aylward's biopsychosocial (BPS) model of disability. Tom Shakespeare, Nicholas Watson, Ola Abu Alghaib - [Critical Social Policy 2017, 37\(1\): 22-41](#)

⁴ 'First do no harm': are disability assessments associated with adverse trends in mental health? Ben Barr et al. [J Epidemiol Community Health 2016; 70: 339-345](#)



Please be advised that those in greatest need are living in very dark times. The chronically ill and disabled community who are unable to work now live in fear of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), which was initially created to help and support them. Now the DWP terrorises disability benefit claimants by adopting '*violent bureaucracy*',⁵ with no concern regarding the thousands who have died over the years when '*covertly, killed by the State*'.¹

It is cause for serious concern that the national press have been silenced, and refuse to report the influence of corporate America with UK social policy reforms since 1992, or their co-design of a disability assessment model that was guaranteed to cause death, despair and preventable harm to many.^{1,2,6} It was corporate America who advised that the assessment of the chronically ill and disabled community to limit access to disability benefit should disregard diagnosis, prognosis and past medical history, so all evidence of clinical need is disregarded.¹ Death was always inevitable and I believe these assessments are a threat to public health.

All the leading medical authorities demanded that this brutality should end, and the flawed DWP enforced Work Capability Assessment should be removed, including the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of General Practitioners. They were disregarded, as is all evidence of the public health crisis generated by the DWP's persecution of those in greatest need. Given that no-one accepts responsibility for this ongoing government induced public health crisis,¹ I am alerting you as the Director General of the DHSC in the hope that political decisions and social policy primary legislation designed to discredit the welfare state, and to threaten the health and wellbeing of those in greatest need,¹ will be cause for serious concern. Social policies that negatively impact on public health is I believe a DHSC problem.

Yours, most sincerely

Mo Stewart

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¹ The public health crisis created by UK social policy reforms – [Justice, Power and Resistance 6\(2\): 217-228](#)

⁵ Violent bureaucracy: A critical analysis of the British public employment service. Jamie Redman and Del Roy Fletcher. [Critical Social Policy 2021: 1-21](#)

⁶ The Department for Work and Pensions: Deaths, cover-up, and a toxic 30-year legacy. John Pring, DNS 2022 [Disability News Service](#)

Copied to:

Professor Julia Black, President of the British Academy

Professor Lucy Chappell, CEO Chief Scientific Advisor, National Institute for Health Research – DHSC