



Mo Stewart Research

Fellow, Centre for Welfare Reform
Research Lead, Preventable Harm Project

Phone: xxxxx xxxxxx

Text: xxxxxxxxxxxx

Email: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Date: 6th January 2025

The Rt Hon Lord Hermer KC
The Attorney General
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

via email

Dear Lord Hermer

Re: The public health crisis created by UK social policy reforms¹

[Justice, Power and Resistance 6\(2\): 217-228](#)

I am writing in my capacity as the research lead for the Preventable Harm Project² and have been invited to alert you to the above 2023 peer-reviewed paper, which exposed the government induced public health crisis in the UK - ongoing since 2010 - and linked to thousands of deaths of those in greatest need with no-one held to account.

It is my understanding that some of your responsibilities as the Attorney General include being the 'Government's principal legal adviser dealing with (amongst others) questions of public law, international law, human rights and devolution.'³

That being the case, please be alert to this identified crisis. Various published papers demonstrate the impact of brutal social policy reforms adopted using a fiscal priority,⁴ whilst disregarding health and wellbeing, which created an inevitable public health crisis created when social policy reforms overlook the clinical need of those in greatest need⁵ and when public law and human rights are disregarded by successive UK administrations.⁶

¹ [The public health crisis created by UK social policy reforms in: Justice, Power and Resistance Volume 6 Issue 2 \(2023\)](#)

² [The Preventable Harm Project](#)

³ [The Rt Hon Lord Hermer KC - GOV.UK](#)

⁴ ['First, do no harm': are disability assessments associated with adverse trends in mental health? A longitudinal ecological study | Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health](#)

⁵ [Preventable harm: creating a mental health crisis. Journal of Public Mental Health 18\(4\): 224-230](#)

⁶ [UK government failing to protect disabled people, warns equality watchdog report | EHRC](#)



I have advised the recently appointed Minister for Mental Health⁷ regarding this identified political indifference to human need, which has shown no sign of improving since the general election. Indeed, the new Labour Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has made similar disturbing comments⁸ as the last Conservative administration demonstrating she, too, is concerned only with 'Cash Not Care'⁹ regardless of human consequences; which are often fatal due to the persecution of those in greatest need by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and successive neoliberal administrations.¹⁰

'It is of great interest that there is an Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody, chaired by Lynn Emslie and linked to the Ministry of Justice, yet there is no equivalent independent panel relating to the thousands of deaths linked to the DWP disability assessment. Whilst the Serious Case Panel was created by the DWP following various challenges, the Panel is not independent and simply goes through the motion of considering various areas of concern, but their published minutes are very, very limited and totally inadequate.'⁷

It is assumed that as the Attorney General you would wish the deaths, despair and preventable harm created by the adoption of extreme social policy reforms when influenced by corporate America,^{9,10} and the adoption of a fatally flawed disability assessment to be terminated, and I trust you may be concerned with the evidence provided in this letter.

Yours, most sincerely

Mo Stewart

Fellow, Centre for Welfare Reform
Research Lead, Preventable Harm Project



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."
Martin Luther-King Jr

Author [*'Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state'*](#)

Producer [The Preventable Harm Project](#)

Editor [Influences and Consequences](#)

⁷ [Redacted-letter-to-Baroness-Merron-Minister-for-Mental-Health.pdf](#)

⁸ [Activists ask why a Labour government is 'gleefully' backing Tory plans to tighten work capability assessment – Disability News Service](#)

⁹ [Cash Not Care – Reviewed | Guest Blog | Independent Living](#)

¹⁰ [What will become of the welfare state? Mo Stewart considers the plight of welfare in the UK - \(41 minutes\)](#)