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Samantha Jones OBE
Permanent Secretary
Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU

via email:
permanent.secretary@dhsc.gov.uk

Dear Ms Jones,

Re: Cause for serious concern

I write in my capacity as the research lead for the UK Preventable Harm Project¹ - ongoing since 2009 - to alert you to an identified and ongoing government-induced public health crisis as identified by a multitude of social policy experts.¹

It is cause for serious concern that despite volumes of published peer-reviewed academic papers, both the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have chosen to disregard the creation of a significant crisis in population mental health, which is directly linked to successive social policy reforms.²⁻⁵ This has been exacerbated by ministers and shadow ministers from successive administrations using hostile rhetoric and disturbing propaganda^{6,7} to successfully demean disability benefit claimants by tarnishing their integrity and failing to provide any credible evidence to justify their often extreme claims. More recently, claims of 'over diagnosis'⁸ have been introduced to justify more political claims that many mentally ill disability benefit claimants are undeserving.

¹ [The Preventable Harm Project](#)

² [The public health crisis created by UK social policy reforms in: *Justice, Power and Resistance* 6\(2\) :217-228 DOI: 10.1332/GQDH4178](#)

³ ['First do no harm': are disability assessments associated with adverse trends in mental health? *Journal of Epidemiol Community Health* 2016; 70: 339-345 doi: 10.1136/jech-2015-206209](#)

⁴ [Burden and benefits-related suicides: 'misperception' or state crafted reality? *Journal of Public Mental Health* 21\(1\): 46-56](#)

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

⁶ [Anger and frustration after DWP's latest jobcentre announcement and McFadden's 'incentives' comment](#)

⁷ [Letter to Helen Whately MP](#)

⁸ [Mental health conditions are overdiagnosed, Streeting says](#)



It is cause for concern to be advised by the Minister for Social Security and Disability that the DWP Serious Case Panel dismiss all evidence of preventable harm as they fail to consider published peer-reviewed papers, whilst disregarding the identified '*politics of fear*'⁹ adopted by every administration since Thatcher with the intention to remove the past psychological security of the welfare state. This has been achieved by extreme neoliberal social policy reforms, which guaranteed many thousands of deaths of those in greatest need when, covertly, '*killed by the State*'. (p.217)² Since civil servants prevent ministers from accessing disturbing published peer-reviewed evidence demonstrating the preventable harm social policies have generated, it remains unclear if ministers are alert to the population mental health crisis which they are responsible for generating. Perhaps you could please alert them to this public health crisis before many more disabled people are, covertly, '*killed by the State*' (p.217),² especially since there is no evidence of any significant increase in disability employment¹⁰ since this DWP brutality towards those in greatest need was introduced.

Yours sincerely

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Author ['Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state'](#)
Editor [The Preventable Harm Project](#)
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Dr Gail Allsopp – DWP Chief Medical Adviser
Dr Jed Boardman – Consultant Psychiatrist

² [The public health crisis created by UK social policy reforms in: *Justice, Power and Resistance* 6\(2\) :217-228 DOI: 10.1332/GQDH4178](#)

⁹ [The adoption of psycho-coercion to manipulate the UK disabled community. The creation of the politics of fear. *The Centre for Welfare Reform*](#)

¹⁰ [The Health, Poverty and Employment Effects of Cutting Income Replacement Benefits for the Disabled](#)