



# Mo Stewart Research

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

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Date: 6 January 2026

Dr Gail Allsopp, MBChB MRCS FRCGP MSc  
Chief Medical Advisor  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Level 2, Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London, SW1H 9NA

Private and Confidential

via email

Dear Dr Allsopp

Re: Written evidence to Work and Pensions Select Committee, March 2025<sup>1</sup>

Further to my previous correspondence,<sup>2</sup> and our recent virtual meetings, I write to identify a confusion between the evidence provided in your correspondence to the Work and Pensions Committee (the Committee) in March 2025 and the detailed evidence identified by the Preventable Harm Project;<sup>3</sup> which exposed the government-induced public health crisis<sup>4</sup> negatively impacting on the health, wellbeing and survival of long-term chronically ill and disabled disability benefit claimants when unable to work.

As the Chief Medical Advisor for the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) you have yet to acknowledge the research findings,<sup>3,4</sup> demonstrating the identified preventable harm generated by the hostile culture within the DWP. This was highlighted by the *Safeguarding Vulnerable Claimants*<sup>5</sup> report by the Committee, published in May 2025. Hence the confusion with the evidence you provided for the Committee<sup>1</sup> which advised that, as the DWP Chief Medical Advisor, your responsibilities include 'clinical policy' and 'clinical governance.'

In your evidence you advised that your work in clinical policy '*... uses clinical expertise to advise on policy work and changes from inception to implementation,*<sup>1</sup> and clinical governance '*... which is the system by which the department can continuously monitor and improve the clinical quality of our services and safeguard high standards in clinical care.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Written evidence submitted by Dr Gail Allsopp \(SVC0097\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Letter to Dr Gail Allsopp, DWP Chief Medical Advisor, 13 January 2025](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The Preventable Harm Project](#)

<sup>4</sup> [The public health crisis created by the UK social policy reforms](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Safeguarding Vulnerable Claimants – Work and Pensions Committee, May 2025](#)



With respect, please be advised that outside the DWP there is no significant authority who can confirm evidence of '*clinical expertise*' advising on policy work or '*high standards in clinical care,*' which have been demonstrably missing from the DWP for a very long time as highlighted by a multitude of published peer-reviewed papers and expert reports.<sup>4,6-12</sup>

It remains unclear how the DWP Chief Medical Advisor can claim to offer '*clinical expertise*' when the DWP adopted social policies which guaranteed the creation of preventable harm, a mental health crisis and a record number of suicides linked to a fatally flawed disability assessment model;<sup>13</sup> not helped by relentless hostile political rhetoric by senior DWP ministers to attract media and press attention, regardless of human consequences.<sup>14</sup>

No one is held to account for the **well-documented** government-induced public health crisis generated by the brutality of the DWP, the DWP Serious Case Panel has failed in its remit, and a lot of people are waiting for the DWP Chief Medical Advisor to provide '*clinical expertise*' to DWP ministers to advise against dangerous social policies and hostile political rhetoric.

Regardless of what may be DWP protocol, I suggest it is very unwise to disregard published peer-reviewed evidence demonstrating the public health crisis generated by the DWP.<sup>4</sup>

My new book to be published later this year will offer much greater detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mo Stewart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Mo Stewart**

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

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<sup>4</sup> [The public health crisis created by the UK social policy reforms](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Burden and benefits-related suicides: 'misperception' or state crafted reality?](#)

<sup>7</sup> ['First, do no harm': are disability assessments associated with adverse trends in mental health?](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Violent bureaucracy: A critical analysis of the British public employment service](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Preventable harm: creating a mental health crisis](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Weaponising time in war on welfare: Slow violence and deaths of disabled people within the UK's social security system](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Punitive welfare reform and claimant mental health: The impact of benefit sanctions on anxiety and depression](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Punitive benefit sanctions, welfare conditionality, and the social abuse of unemployed people in Britain: Transforming claimants into offenders?](#)

<sup>13</sup> ['Shocking' NHS stats show nearly half ESA claimants have attempted suicide](#)

<sup>14</sup> [McFadden brags about cutting disability benefits, just as his own strategy warns of 'deep material poverty.'](#)

Copied to: Dr Jed Boardman; Dr Elliott Johnson; Dr Jamie Redman; Professor Peter Beresford; BJGP President; Professor Carolyn Chew-Graham; Dr Miro Griffiths; Dr Alasdair Stewart; Kamran Mallick, CEO DRUK; Frances Leckie, Editor *Independent Living*; Dr Nasrul Ismail, Editor *Justice, Power and Resistance*; WPSC; Afua Hirsch