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Date: 23 January 2026

The Rt Hon Ellie Reeves MP
The Solicitor General
Attorney General's Office
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

Private & Confidential

via email

Dear Solicitor General

Re: [No one held to account](#)³

I write in my capacity as the research lead for the UK Preventable Harm Project,¹ which identified a disturbing government-induced public health crisis negatively impacting on the health, wellbeing and, often, on the survival of the chronically ill and disabled community who are unable to work,² with no one held to account,³ which I trust may be of concern given what I understand to be your responsibilities for UK human rights.

In order to demolish the welfare state, it was first necessary to remove the past psychological security provided by the welfare state. This has been achieved, with disability denial created by significant social policy reforms since 2008. ... Their often hostile rhetoric encouraged a 213 percent increase in prosecuted disability hate crimes, and successive administrations disregarded the thousands of deaths directly linked to the Work Capability Assessment, which was adopted using a discredited and dangerous biopsychosocial model of assessment to restrict access to long-term disability benefit. Influenced by corporate America since 1992, the UK social policy reforms guaranteed that many of those in greatest need were destined to die when, covertly, killed by the State. (pp.217)²

May I alert you to the fact that the 2016 United Nations (UN) report identified the UK Government as being guilty of *'grave and systemic violations'*⁴ of disabled people's human rights, which was challenged by the Conservative administration and so the unnecessary suffering of those in greatest need continued, supported by every successive administration.

¹ [The Preventable Harm Project](#)

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

³ [No one held to account](#)

⁴ [UN's conclusion that UK violated disability rights 'vindication' for activists](#)



Another UN report in 2024⁵ found that the UK ‘has failed to take all appropriate measures to address grave and systemic violations of the human rights of persons with disabilities and has failed to eliminate the root causes of inequality and discrimination’:

The report refers to complaints against the Department for Work and Pensions for ‘stirring up hostility’ against benefit claimants, as well as ‘misleading and inaccurate’ articles in the press that gave ‘a false impression about eligibility and generosity’ of the UK social security system:

“There is a pervasive framework and rhetoric that devalues disabled people and undermines their human dignity. Reforms within social welfare benefits are premised on a notion that disabled people are undeserving and wilfully avoiding employment (“skiving off”) and defrauding the system.”

It also states that it is ‘appalled’ by reports of benefit cut related deaths:

“The evidence received revealed a disturbingly consistent theme: disabled people resorting to suicide following the denial of an adequate standard of living and social protection, starkly contradicting the foundational principles enshrined in the Convention. In addition to numerous personal accounts concerning benefit deaths, a research study shared with the Committee indicated a correlation between the government’s initiative to reevaluate incapacity benefits through the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) and an estimated six hundred suicides over a span of three years.”

The report concludes that there has been no significant progress with independent living rights and active regression in relation to work and social security rights, recommending urgent measures be taken in relation to improvements in these areas.

The UK government are continuing to cut support for disabled people despite the UN’s recommendations.⁵

This ongoing government-induced public health crisis² was generated as successive neoliberal administrations adopting social policies based on a fiscal priority whilst disregarding health and wellbeing; and it all began with the Blair administration (1997-2007) who adopted American social and labour market policies and commissioned ‘policy-based’ research in 2005⁶ to justify the unjustifiable, which guaranteed human suffering on a vast scale.²

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

⁵ [Equity shares evidence with the United Nations on the UK’s treatment of disabled people: damning report published](#)

⁶ [The Scientific and Conceptual Basis of Incapacity Benefits. Gordon Waddell and Mansel Aylward TSO 2005](#)



The recent party political conferences demonstrated the relentless political attacks against those in greatest need, with the conference speech by the Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Helen Whately MP⁷ verging on disability hate speech which is against the law, yet no authority was concerned by the disturbing content of her speech which was also totally untrue:

“... millions have got themselves a sicknote from the GP and signed onto sickness benefits with just a form and a phone call. Millions are getting benefits for anxiety and ADHD along with a free Motability car. ... The problem is, you can get £5,000 more per year on sickness benefits than as a minimum wage worker, so no surprise that’s what many people are choosing, and it’s wrong. Our welfare system should be a safety net, not a lifestyle choice. ... Fix the sicknote system, bring back face-to-face assessments, end sickness benefit for low level mental health problems, stop the abuse of Motability and put British citizens first in our benefits system. ...”⁷

This was another demonstration of what the UN identify as a ‘a pervasive framework and rhetoric that devalues disabled people and undermines their human dignity,’ with no one held to account³ for the deaths, despair and suffering this has caused.

I have tried and failed to alert the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) to the ongoing government-induced public health crisis generated by the DWP, but every time the civil servants block all attempts to contact a DHSC Minister and advise that this matter is related to the DWP. However, given that the DWP are the cause of this ongoing public health crisis, they are very unlikely to admit responsibility, despite a very critical report by the Work and Pensions Select Committee in 2025 whose *Safeguarding Vulnerable Claimants*⁸ inquiry identified a hostile culture within the DWP and the recommended appointment of an ‘independent body to investigate serious harms, to improve security and ensure appropriate action is taken when cases are mishandled.’ (pp.102)⁸

Given the recommendation, I wrote a proposal for ‘An Independent Advisory Panel on DWP-Related Deaths’⁹ which I have brought to the attention of the latest DWP Secretary of State¹⁰ in a detailed letter, which I very much doubt will receive a reply. Given that as long ago as 2016 NHS Digital identified published statistics demonstrating that almost half the chronically ill and disabled claimants of the main out-of-work disability benefit in England had attempted suicide at some point,¹¹ it is cause for increasing concern that any suggestion of ‘support’ is in short supply given the relentless hostile political rhetoric aimed at the disabled community.

³ [No one held to account](#)

⁷ [Letter to Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Helen Whately MP, 13 October 2025](#)

⁸ [Safeguarding Vulnerable Claimants - Work and Pensions Committee, May 2025](#)

⁹ [An Independent Advisory Panel on DWP-Related Deaths, a Proposal by Mo Stewart, February 2025](#)

¹⁰ [Letter to Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Pat McFadden MP, January 2026](#)

¹¹ [‘Shocking’ NHS stats show nearly half ESA claimants have attempted suicide](#)



Within three weeks of his appointment as the DWP Secretary of State, Pat McFadden MP was appearing in a TV interview¹² and making totally false claims, and this relentless and misleading hostile political rhetoric has been ongoing for over 15 years.

Their anger and frustration only increased when new work and pensions secretary Pat McFadden claimed in an interview that there were currently “incentives” in the system for people to declare themselves unfit for work so they can “double their money”, and also claimed that people were “declaring themselves long-term sick”.

McFadden will have been aware that claimants cannot declare themselves “long term sick” but instead must go through the harsh work capability assessment in order to be found not fit for work, and he should have been aware that this system has led to countless deaths.¹²

The claim by successive administrations is that it is necessary to remove as many disabled people as possible from disability benefits into work, yet detailed academic research consistently demonstrates that ‘reducing benefit payments did not improve employment, and instead increased the risk of severe poverty. This is also consistent with other evidence that such policies often have no, or small effects on employment of people with disabilities.’¹³

Someone of significance should surely be asking how much longer this ideologically motivated preventable harm impacting on those in greatest need will continue, and how many more people will die when, ‘*covertly, killed by the State*’? (pp.217)²

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mo Stewart', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mo Stewart

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

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

Editor [The Preventable Harm Project](#)

Researcher [Influences and Consequences](#)

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

¹² [Anger and frustration after DWP’s latest jobcentre announcement and McFadden’s ‘incentives’ comment](#)

¹³ [The Health, Poverty and Employment Effects of Cutting Income Replacement Benefits for the Disabled: A Difference-in-Difference Analysis of the 2016 Welfare Reforms](#)

Copied to: Kamran Mallick, CEO Disability Rights, UK