

State Crime by Proxy: Corporate influence on state sanctioned social harm*

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SUMMARY: In the UK there are three words that identify the government enforced suffering of sick and disabled people, and they are: Work Capability Assessment (WCA). This report identifies the influence of an American healthcare insurance giant with successive UK governments since 1992, the influence of a former government Chief Medical Officer and the use of the WCA, conducted by the private sector, as the government permit state crime by proxy when justified as welfare reform.

KEY WORDS: work capability assessment, biopsychosocial model, neoliberal politics

Historically, the United Kingdom's (UK) welfare state provided a guaranteed financial safety net for those in greatest need, from the Beveridge Report (Beveridge, 1942) until recently. With people living longer and the cost of the welfare budget rising, in 2006 the New Labour government identified future welfare reforms (DWP, 2006) to reduce the growing costs of out-of-work disability benefits.

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Mo Stewart is a former healthcare professional, originally trained in the NHS. She served in the Women's Royal Air Force (medical branch) until her medical discharge in 1984, due to the onset of a permanent illness, for which she was awarded a War Pension for life. Since December 2008, when a staff member from Atos Healthcare conducted the fatally flawed Work Capability Assessment instead of a War Pension review, Mo has been conducting self-financed independent research. Her book: '*Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state*' was published in September 2016.