

First Do No Harm lobby

unum : dwp

1. Margaret Thatcher first suggested the removal of the welfare state in 1982, and every UK government since then has been working to make it happen.
2. Unum Insurance have been advisers to the UK government on 'welfare claims management' since 1992, and were identified as the second worst insurance company in America by the American Association of Justice in 2008.
3. Unum Insurance use the fatally flawed bio-psychosocial (BPS) model of assessment for all claims. The BPS model is the invention of the insurance industry and was designed to disregard diagnosis, prognosis, past medical history and prescribed drugs. It is a flawed 'functional assessment', is very, very dangerous and has failed all independent scrutiny in both the US and the UK.
4. The company funded the former DWP Chief Medical Officer Mansel Aylward, and his colleague Gordon Waddell, at a research centre at Cardiff University for five years from 2004 with £1.6million. The research centre exclusively produced 'research' for the DWP.
5. In October 2005 the DWP commissioned research was published, which would begin the end of the welfare state and would guarantee that all chronically ill and disabled people who were unfit to work would learn to [live in fear of the DWP](#).
6. *'The Scientific and Conceptual Basis of Incapacity Benefits'* (Waddell & Aylward, 2005) recommended using a BPS model of assessment, which was adopted by the DWP who introduced the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) in October 2008 to restrict funding the new Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) benefit as used to replace Incapacity Benefit.
7. The critically acclaimed book *'Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state'* was published in September 2016, following several years of study, and exposed the American corporate influence of Unum Insurance with UK welfare reforms, and the political plan to gradually remove the UK welfare state in favour of private healthcare insurance.
8. In 2017 Professor Tom Shakespeare and colleagues exposed the Waddell and Aylward research which recommended the BPS model, and concluded that there was *'no coherent theory or evidence behind this model'*, and they also exposed the DWP commissioned research as *'revealing a cavalier approach to scientific evidence'*. The conclusion of the academic critique was that not only had Waddell and Aylward failed to produce any evidence-based research but, in reality, their recommended BPS model of assessment was adopted by the DWP to justify the introduction of the WCA and was identified as being *'a chilling example of policy-based evidence.'*
9. Published in December 2018, *'State Crime by Proxy: Corporate influence on state sanctioned social harm'* exposed the deaths, despair and preventable harm created by the adoption of a fatally flawed assessment that was always guaranteed to kill as it disregards all medical evidence.

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