To Whomever it concerns,

I am not sure if my experiences can help at all but I feel compelled to so that things can hopefully change or at least a record is made of the slippery slope my country is on.

PIP experience one: there was no recording devices permitted (a huge red flag IMO) so I couldn't bring one for fear of the benifits being cut. The 'nurse' they had doing the interview (ATOS) tried leading questions nearly all the time but the worst part of that interview was being asked to explain all my previous suicide attempts. (I have CPTSD from an abusive childhood mainly but adulthood was also... fraught) she had me explain each and WHY they failed. Going into detail of what I tried, when and why... finally when I had detailed each attempt she hit me with "Do you really think you were that depressed though?" I was confused... I had just detailed several attempts to take my own life... that in my book is pretty damn depressed... she followed up with "I mean if you had really been depressed and wanted too you would have succeeded!"

She pretty much told me that I failed at living and also that I failed at dying. On top of all the things in that interview I had to painfully admit I couldn't do she made me feel like absolute crap for not doing society the favour of ridding myself from it.

I have had assessors ask if I have a debit card and take the puzzled response of yes to mean I can manage my finances un-aided (I cannot I always have help)

I Turned up once to an assessment only to be told that I could not be seen because I use a stick as an aid and the center was on the second floor... disabled enough to be deemed a risk in case of fire, apparently not enough to recive help as in the re-aranged for a ground floor place it was marked that I walk perfectly normally unaided.

One assessors marked me as 'calm and collected' the same interview were I said I was near stress vomit levels and asked if I could puke in her bin. She offered multiple times to reschedule but would not confirm if this would affect my benifits causing more stress.

This same interview I was forced into doing their exercises which while I am capable of leave me in agony (I have Fibromyalgia) both me and my support tried to get a straight answer of if refusing on the grounds of not wanting to be in more pain than I normally am would mean they cut my money and were met with the same line "its opt in or opt out only" increasingly more combative in tone and volume.

I have had more and generally the interviews have all been bad and harrowing experiences. So much so that I have now lost PIP altogether because due to these experiences its actually become a fresh new trauma trigger for me...

I am not sure if this is helpful or not and I don't want to waste your time. There is no evidence because all of them were the standard 'NO RECORDING PERMITTED' but I felt compelled to share some of the more stand out bad that come just to mind.

The worst was definitely the person insuating that I was fine because I didn't actually succeed at killing myself... that undid a lot of progress made in therapy and still has implications even now. I am under the CMHS atm.

Thank you very much if you have read. I HOPE its helpful and my deepest apologies if its not