

Psychological Tyranny Masquerading as Welfare Reform

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SUMMARY: Influenced by corporate America with an alternative agenda, the ongoing welfare reforms have created preventable harm and psychological tyranny for those too ill to work

KEY WORDS: work capability assessment, employment and support allowance

Introduced by the New Labour government, the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) long-term sickness and disability benefit was adopted in the UK by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in October 2008. Since then, a great deal has been researched and written about the identified preventable harm created by the introduction of the work capability assessment (WCA), as used by the DWP to assess ESA claimants and to restrict access to the benefit (W&P 2014, Garthwaite 2014, Warren et al 2014, Ryan 2015, Barr et al 2015, Patrick 2016, Stewart 2016, Geiger 2017).

No other academic since Rutherford (2007; 2008; 2011) has identified the influence of a corporate American healthcare insurance giant with future UK welfare reforms since 1992 (Stewart, 2016). This American corporate influence with future UK social welfare policies enabled the DWP to introduce the WCA by adopting the fatally flawed biopsychosocial (BPS) assessment (Stewart, 2018a), as recommended by DWP commissioned research (Waddell and Aylward, 2005) when funded by the same American corporate giant when known as

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