Paul Fear

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Dear Sir

One of the main causes of poverty in the UK is occupational licensing and worker certification.

The whole purpose of these licences and schemes is to keep people out of an area of occupation, it is one government policy that works to great effect!

By imposing a cost burden on entry to an occupation the poorest in society are disadvantaged leaving them trapped in low paid low skilled jobs with no hope of upward mobility. The poorest citizens of the UK come from ethnic minorities.

These occupational licences and worker certification schemes are often introduced as a way of reducing health and safety risks or improving standards. However most research has rejected these claims as many of these licences and schemes fail to significantly improve standards or health and safety. Corporate interests, trade bodies and trade unions continually lobby government to increase licensing and certification, mainly for their own protectionist interests.

The most prolific worker certification scheme in the UK is the construction skills certification scheme, this scheme is controlled by corporate interests on the construction leadership council and trade bodies on the board of CSCS.

See links:

<https://www.cscs.uk.com/about/clc-one-industry-logo-2/>

<https://www.cscs.uk.com/about/cscs-board/>

By using the term “industry good practice” CSCS has in effect become an occupational licence by stealth without democratic debate, oversight or legislation.

These are the trades that now require a qualification for a CSCS card, these qualifications cost thousands of pounds.

See link:

<https://www.cscs.uk.com/card-finder/?card-grouping=Craft%20and%20Operative>

The cost burden of these schemes is enormous and stops the poorest entering an occupation.

The UK government, the Scottish government and the Welsh government now have a policy of enforcing these schemes via public procurement. So the poorest are now locked out of working on government contracts. This is economic violence!

The UK government is currently considering licensing estate agents and letting agents, yet more jobs put out of the reach of the poor.

The UK government claims that universal credit helps people back into work, yet at the same time the government is restricting employment opportunities for the poor!

If you want to understand poverty in the UK then look at occupational licensing and worker certification.

If you visit Wales I would be more than happy to meet with you to explain further how the poor are being locked out of opportunity by protectionist policies of government. It is an absolute disgrace!

I have tried to raise the matter of CSCS with the Welsh Assembly Government via an e- petition, my petition was quickly closed down after the Unite Union expressed objections.

See link:

http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgIssueHistoryChronology.aspx?IId=21489&Opt=2

Yours Sincerely

Paul Fear