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Dear Professor Philip Alston,

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I am sure you will see and experience the visual effects of modern poverty and breaches of humane rights.

But I would draw your attention to the underlying causes which are many and disadvantages.

When Mr Osborne was the Chancellor he deliberately followed every step of the Tory's policies of the 1930's which lead then to deflation – today, austerity. He failed to invest in anything that would revive the economy. He failed to raise taxation of the rich and instead reduced the top rate of taxation claiming it would lead to more tax paid and sighted the following year's tax take, but failed to say it was due to carry over from previous years declarations, when they would have paid more tax due to higher rate

We are desperate for social housing and if he had invested in just that it would have increased the pool of social housing, increased tax income with a reduction in benefit payments including housing [rent] . Plus it would have reduced prices of private rents and cost of buying houses. Retained many of the teachers in the technical colleges, maintaining a supply of trained tradesmen – now lost. The increased earnings would have increased the cash circulation.

Historically governments have used the housing and construction as a political weapon. Thatcher sold much of the social housing owned by councils but failed to replace them. That caused many to be permanently placed in hotel temporary accommodation or a life in squalor on the streets or substandard private accommodation . Prior to that, councils had engaged in vast projects of clearing slums. But they did this all over the UK at the same time. That caused those close to government to form companies who mass-produced cheap - in quality but not in price – housing and multi story units. Many of which have had to be demolished. The rate of motorway construction in the 1960s outstripped the supply of cement sending the price skyrocketing.

Then in the 1970s the government threw money at the construction industry to boost the economy. But again no thought as to the lack of companies and more importantly tradesmen to take on this sudden injection of work.

The problem being every government and Local Authority was awash with money. It resulted in price increases of 400%; one contractor – like most – soon had their books full so instead of declining tenders, they marked them up intending to out price them but found they had won the contracts, so employed more staff; that was repeated to such a level he withdrew from earlier contracts, thinking he was going to make a killing. But the tradesmen soon woke up to the fact they could blackmail employers due to the shortage of tradesmen; that forced that and other contractors to file for bankruptcy. Leeds Council had tendered for the cleaning of the exterior of the townhall, but said it was too costly; but when these government grants of 66% were available they re-tendered and had it done even though their 33% contribution was more than when they had previously said it was too expensive. A waste of money, and we are in the same situation due to lack of building social housing, so something will have to give soon but we do not have sufficient trained tradesmen.

Classes at building colleges have shrunk and some trades are not represented. And the standard of apprenticeships is dismal. At 21, I was invited to teacher at a College of Building where I took 2 evening classes on Building Construction. In those days there were vast numbers of apprenticeships, where enrolment nights were crammed packed full such they had to fill out application forms on the backs of others. There were evening classes to enable them to progress to higher qualifications; now only available on day release, resulting in only architectural technicians able to do so. And they know nothing about practical hands on quality control and there are no Clerk of Works classes – gone the way of the Dodo.

When I came back from Australia I was asked to be a stand in as a teacher had phoned in sick – more like he did not know about roofs and staircases. I was shocked at what I discovered, not one student knew how to use a scale ruler and geometry had been dropped from the curriculum – they will be lost. They almost get a qualification if they know how to knock a nail in. Doomed to fail – we are not producing quality trades men, instead we have armies of DIY bodgers. At 21 I was in charge of housing sites and what would now be multi million pound contracts.

Mismanagement of funds e.g. Universal credits paid to everyone regardless of need. Resulting in millionaires being in receipt of benefit payments. Then there is the system of qualify for one benefit, which entitles you to other benefits which take you over the threshold of entitlement to benefits and the taxation threshold. A waste of public funds – my tax.

An example of this is- a known pensioner drawing government retirement pension and a work's pension, salted away all her vast savings just prior to claiming Pension Credit. Which entitled her to rent & rate assistance. If you then calculate how much a worker would have to earn to have same disposable income; one would have to earn over £40k/year.

She is housed in a modern Housing Association complex; originally owned by the City Council. Intended for over retirement aged needing some kind of support by a resident warden. But when the Housing Association took possession they disposed of the warden, meaning more accommodation to charge for and at the same time relaxed the age barrier, plus any requirement for need of support. Yet they still receive £200/month [called Supporting People Subsidy] from the Council – intended to cover cost of warden support, who now works from a central office. I understand the staff in the Housing Association are or were the original Council managers of that service - £200/month for I think 78 units for next to nothing – mismanagement of funds.

Many of the Housing Associations are now investing in demolishing those social houses and building high priced developments and the government says nothing. Known as social cleansing – tenants not rehoused. I [Mother and 6 of us] was brought up on Widow's Pension and National Assistance, which was vigorously controlled. So I understand associated problems of managing limited funds. I dispute the governments claim that it is cheaper to administer universal benefits in comparison to the old National Assistance as they fail to take into account the financial savings in comparison to over payment of benefits. And the IT systems should make the system of National Assistance much more efficient They think it is OK to over pay those that do not need; but come down hard on those that do need but do not have the know how or mental ability to fight back – I learnt how to challenge decisions at age 11, when our allowance was cut by an inspector; mum was too frightened to go and complain in case he reduced it even more. I went and demand he made it good and I would not leave, I had to sit on the floor in front of the door. I was there all morning and afternoon before they agreed.

Then there are the hidden effects of poverty; many families and individuals are forced into poverty due to a failing legal system. Legal aid has been cut for divorces, disadvantaging those with no funds. Plus the police are not following their STATUTORY Complaints Procedure, meaning those with a legitimate complaint of them failing to investigate claims of domestic abuse - in particular involving control of funds. That means their only recourse to resolving their complaint is going to Judicial Review; but with lawyers asking for £13k fee up front, they are priced out and the police know that, so the complaint is recorded - if at all - as withdrawn. And the home Office fail to take any action, saying - We expect the police to comply. Even when provided factual evidence of two cases, nobody in those two forces at all levels have been disciplined. And the Home Office refuse to explain their failure to take action.

Then there are those who turn to theft or suicide and drugs with increase in mental health cases. And those who have mental disabilities are left to fend for themselves – they were dumped on the community from the NHS with no consideration to their plight.

And the same happens every day with teenagers in care; at 16 they are abandoned and have to fend for themselves with no support. Any wonder they end up on the streets, prostitution etc., more poverty.

Numerous soup kitchens have sprung up in relation to cutbacks in benefit payments – the government are in denial

One has to ask, what is the foundation stone of civilisation ?

Political structure ? NO

Right to vote ? NO

There is one single thread that is common to every sector of life at every level – the legal system. Lawyers/Judges in most cases make the final decision. So if that is compromised, civilisation starts to fall apart, with various bodies forced to paper over the cracks.

Take divorce which is constantly causing the rise in broken families with mothers hit the worst – with poverty and no permanent home, the lawyers in their wisdom do not recognise the family structure and what marriage means. Marriage meant trust, but trust is not written into the laws relating to marriage breakdown. Plus the government has followed this idea and taxation is now based on individuals not the family.

The laws are now written for the convenience of administering the courts, and lawyers spend more time demonstrating their theatrical skills, instead of drilling down to basic facts. As declared by a Deputy Chief Constable in Liverpool some years ago when he took early retirement. He sighted courts were more like London theatre productions than a serious court. And Judges are more interested in old custom and practice than digging out the truth and virtually nobody gets charged with perjury.

In England if you complain about a solicitor the Solicitors Regulatory Authority [SRA], will automatically reply, without lifting a finger [I have proved that] , saying something to the effect – We have looked into your complaint, and in this instance we do not propose to take any action. Plus they said, a solicitor has no obligation to keep any records or hard copies !!!! I had to sack a solicitor and left with no documents in digital/email or hard copy.

I am sure you would be swamped out if you asked for the public to submit other examples. And they would agree the SRA should be the SDA – Solicitors Defence Authority. They claim to be totally separate from the Law Society, yet they collect all the lawyers fees – they are joined at the hip. And the supervising ombudsmen are almost the same

You have to have big bucks or be on benefits, to use the courts, Joe blogs has no chance as legal aid has been drastically reduced.

So our legal system is flawed, much like a broken ice cap; you jump in at your risk as going through the process is like riding the icebergs. Like a polar bear you risk falling off but unlike the bear you have little chance of surviving.

The Home secretary is supposed to ensure the system runs smoothly !!!!

Theresa May then Home secretary forced through a new Domestic Abuse Law, claiming it would bring clarity to that area of the law and the charities were calling for it – NOT TRUE.

I contacted the 2 charities and one said they just supported what the Home Office recommended, the other charity never replied. The committee comprised of the two charities, an unnamed police expert – who said there was enough legislation; a representative of the Police Federation, who constantly appeared on TV claiming the police needed clarity and that could only be done by another law. He even posted a long document on the internet clearly claiming there was no definition of Domestic Abuse. So I contacted him and sent him a copy of the definition of Domestic Abuse from the Home Office issued some years prior to his letter. Home Office officers were not identified and May went ahead with the new law which only changed the age from 18 to 16 and was not retrospect. Whereas the original law is retrospect with no time limits.

So we now have two laws almost identical and the police do not understand which to use. That is made more confusing by the Crown Prosecution Office, They issued a substantial document – Guide to Prosecutors It gave guidance to the new law but only 6 words tucked away near the end, referring to the existing law. It would appear the police and others have not read all the guide and not seen those 6 vital words.

I had cause to contact a police station in Leeds to instigate an action using that law; they fought tooth and nail claiming there was no means for me sighting the law. But they were only referring to the new law and ignored everything I said. So I copied the relevant page with those 6 words and emailed it to the officer and his assistant WPC. I attended a meeting and spent 2 hours in which the WPC claimed to know

..... nothing about the emailed document. I thought I must have omitted to cc the email, so asked her to access her supervisors computer and print the document. Even then her and another would not accept it and disappeared for the umpteenth time to phone the CPO; they returned saying who they spoke to is ringing back later that day, forcing me to leave and await a call. The call came and she claimed the law did not cover my claim. She was not identified and the head of CPO knows nothing about that call.

When I returned to France I checked my Emails and noticed I had CC'd the email and attachment to the WPC. So I made an official complaint – they never followed the Statutory Complaints Procedure – ALL levels of officers are in contempt; meaning my only option was to go to judicial review – at £13k I could not afford it even though it was 100% certainty they would lose.

In a totally different force on a totally different problem [fraud] I experienced the exact same problem and both overlapped. Meaning I needed £26k to take both to judicial review.

I forwarded all the details to the Home Office with several Freedom of Information requests. Their reply basically says “We expect all officers to comply with the Statutory Complaints Procedure – we are not responding to any further emails which will be filed on record.” Where does one go from there ?

STATUTORY – is delegated from the courts and failing to comply means they have broken the delegated law procedure – but the Home Office do not care and have never taken any action. If the then IPCC now IPCO office had not forwarded a copy of their procedure, I would not have known of the SCP, and I doubt if any member of the public do, and I doubt if the police provide a copy to complainants. The Home Office admit they do not know and the IPCO only issue a watered down version, which is a waste of paper.

So the Courts do not work; lawyers and judges not interested in digging out the facts and very seldom charge anyone for perjury. The police are breaking their law at all levels including the Home Office run then by the now Prime Minister.

The foundation stone of civilisation is crumbling bit by bit; causing the fragmentation of Human Rights.

Poverty is in the main, in the hands of the government, they are the providers of “Pump Prime”. Our government structure is fragmented too many different levels that operate independently. Managed on the basis political bias and membership of Free Masons, University etc., and total lack of proper planning [CPA] and preferring toys for the boys in preference to proper maintenance of what is there. Reshuffle after reshuffle instead of determining what is the ideal and drafting how to get there [CPA].

No body is actually determining the efficiency of EVERY department and you need to ensure the existing is efficient [over 95%]. Only then can you plan [CPA]. We know the NHS & Education employ over 60% of available work force. Yet we spend peanuts on determining planning [CPA], so we do not know what the waste or efficiency is. Nor do we know where each section is aiming for.

When I joined the NHS I was disgusted at the level of management and the amount of money wasted due to virtually non-existent efficient management in most departments. And the biggest problem is nobody who are in positions to create change, have no idea. I lifted my department from the floor to work study assessment of 97% in a year. No compliments just sniping from other managers.

Please ask to be shown the TV recordings of the changes to NHS catering which started at Scarborough Hospital, not instigated by any manager in the NHS such as – board members, CEO, general managers, nursing officers, nutritionist etc. A private chef visiting his mother. That change should have started at the Department of Health and NHS as the quality of hospital food just like the former British rail food was often the but of comedians jokes – again lack of efficiency caused huge waste of food nearly 50%. Yet again money wasted as those at the very top do not know how to manage or plan [a good manager is refining all the time]. Apply that to every government and LA department and vast savings can be achieved. Just cutting budgets solves nothing; they just do less.

Political structure is doomed to fail, we have National and Local Authority working against each other and waste money without any detailed auditing. They keep talking about democratic government; we should elect all MPs and councillors at the same time – all out. And all treasurers to be under the control of National treasurer. That way we would have better accountability of finances.

What causes poverty ?

Lack of funds, wasting funds, poor housing, poor education, poor health, class politics.

High rates for essential utilities which reduces the more you use. This leads to waste as those with money are the biggest wasters. Therefore the system should be reversed – the lower rates applied to homes with a limit in relation to number of occupants. Then an increasing sliding scale, which means those with rain water shower heads et., who waste water will have to pay more to ensure they system is able to provide it. And Large houses that leave all the lights on and have huge floodlights will have to pay more.

London receive a ridiculous sum per head, compared to the pittance in northern areas. A total imbalance of investment in every sector.

Plus the Olympics were squashed in to London and the mystical third runway has been shoe horned into London area – WHY ?

First of all Willie Walsh then head at Heathrow stated in a Televised interview that there was a need for an Air Port HUB. If it was not built in England it would be built in Europe. Which immediately demonstrates it can be built anywhere not just around London.

Plus it has been made clear they are already calling for at least 2 other runways.

Willie Walsh went on to say it is a HUB not another airport to serve London; most passengers will not leave the airport to go into London they will change flights to proceed to their destination.

Building an extra runway in London is sticking a plaster over the problem. Plus it will add to the already out of control pollution by planes, cars and commercial vehicles. The government has to commit to hugely expensive development logistic costs. It will cost 300% to 400% more than if built in the North of England. Far less government funding, Less highway congestion and pollution; it would bring employment to areas of waste due to lack of government investment. That would reduce the benefit budget and increase the tax take. There would be all the usual air port staff and their associated industries which would attract other companies and house building again reducing housing benefits. A win win for the treasury and the people in the forgotten north. That would do more to lift families out of poverty and at the same time save a vast fortune of public funds - my tax. But too many politicians have vested interests or are commercially blind. Plus it could save all the HGVs from having to travel all the way to London from the north to deliver goods for commercial goods flights. Who knows there might be room for some passenger flights to save having to travel down to London with the need for hotel accommodation.

Government mismanagement continues:-

The selling off of nationalised services and selling to overseas companies.

Water, telephone etc., are classical examples.

The government had just completed the upgrading of the phone service to digital when it sold it – for a song - to the same managers buyout and prices started to increase; they then sold out to overseas companies after asset stripping and awarding themselves huge salaries and pension deals. Same with all the energy services, and where does all the money go ? Overseas not into the government coffers – too many tax loopholes. So slowly the UK is being bled to death due to lack of money. A waste of public funds, a short gain to balance government books but a long term loss. A short sighted political policy, but there comes a time when there is no more family silver to sell - and we are almost there and who pays ? The workers not the millionaires.

Too much personal credit as a percentage of their disposable income at too high a level of interest, poor incomes Combined with ease to file for voluntary bankrupts and being able to do the same over and over again.

Creditors who enter into a loan agreement should be held to be an equal risk party, if things go belly up due to no fault of the borrower then they both stand to risk 50%. But if either party acted irrationally when issuing/accepting the loan then that party should stand all the risk or in proportion to their actions.

That would make the credit card companies more cautious.

More Waste of funds / Mismanagement

Government cut top tax rate, cut many benefits at same time, cut budgets aggravating the situation.

Some people prefer drugs to food or housing.

Government copied the Tory 1920s budget which lead to deflation which deepened austerity pain

Government and LA fail to maintain existing assets in preference to expanding and buying new – a false policy and short sighted.

All prefer paper qualifications at the expense of proven experience. Plus it helps if you have strong political contacts with the government of the day; are a member of the Free Masons, known clubs etc. You will find it uncomfortable to be efficient at your job and rock the boat.

Too many people in all governments who know nothing about managing or planning – two vital needs to success. Gone are the days when councillors used to ensure the likes of the City Engineer were not taking back handers. Now we have house wives telling the city engineer what to do; and we now need someone to monitor the fiddles of the councillors.

In 1932 the city Engineer said Leeds needed a tube system to avoid gridlock and he built stretches of dual carriageways with plans to build more. No more built, in fact they built houses on one stretch. Parking meters were introduced and the council said the takings would go to develop several free large parking areas/multistory units. They built one multistory with charges.

The councils do not build communities like a village; they instead build dormitories with no life in them. Kids have to play on the streets as no open places; any wonder there are problems.

Sorry I have gone over your suggested word count; but how could I delete anything ?

Kind regards

Sydney MARSH

P.S. I have no objection to you publishing this or any part of it as you see fit.