

Dear Sir

I would like to tell you a little bit about the poor welfare system in place in the UK at the present time and since the introduction of the private work capability assessments were introduced and denying many the benefit they have contributed to all their working lives and find they need due to ill health.

A friend of mine suffered a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm, he did his best to die according to the the surgeon and was all but dead on arrival at hospital, only 1 in 8 people survive this, it was a very traumatic experience, my friend did survive, but he is mentally and physically scarred.

But the governments own department for work and pensions decided that he should have an assessment to see if he is fit to work, this was just 6 weeks after he had collapsed and received this life saving surgery, he hadn't even seen his surgeon post operatively to make sure he had repaired properly, the assessment was carried out by a low level nurse who reported his condition as an 'abdominal problem' which of course its not, we are talking about the main artery from the heart that had burst and he had nearly died three times on the operating table. The questions on the form and at the assessment were irrelevant, ie can he reach his top pocket, can he sit up and move from one chair to another, can he swallow, can he control his bowel and his bladder, needless to say the assessors report used by the decision maker gave contradictory evidence and the decision maker made his decision to put this poor man in his 50's with serious blood pressure problems still to be resolved and pain to be managed, his insides still had to heal, the bowel, the muscles, the skin, his trauma, his anxiety, all this stuff he had to deal with, it was decided he could go into the work related activity saving the tax man a couple of bob each week, but causing immense stress on this fragile body as he had to attend regular meetings, do home work, prepare to go back to work.

Government are spending a fortune on private companies carrying out these assessments, they are not saving money as these poor individuals are taking these decisions to appeal and winning their money back, newspapers and facebook groups are full of stories similar and worse than the above story.

Another friend of mine on Universal Credit, she is 64 and should have retired except the government changed the rules without telling an entire decade of women that they are now facing an extra 6 year delay in receiving their pensions, she has several health conditions and claims just £30 a week Universal Credit, she is facing a sanction, meaning she will not get this £30 a week for some 4-6 weeks because she hasn't done enough to find work that she is unable to do and no employer would ever take on such a sick person. Sanctions and conditionality are crippling claimants, they are becoming depressed, they are scared.

My own situation I am coming up 62, my husband isn't well enough to work, he has been denied PIP as his assessment was not fit for purpose and the report was full of lies, I cannot claim my pension as the government have changed the pension age without letting me know, we are now

living on one wage, I am tired, I am suffering with my hips and feet and on my feet all day long, there is no respite, there is no top up benefit to claim as tax credits no longer exist, and if I wanted to claim Universal Credit, I along with all other claimants would have become a working jobseeker expected to work my job and look for alternative work for more money or more hours, we struggle to make ends meet. We have found because I work and we don't get benefits, we lose out on lower gas and electric bill's, the warm home discount allowance, the lower water rates, help with healthcare and so much more. At our time of life we had expected things to be easier, we have done everything right, paid National Insurance for my pension for 45+ years since I left school, looked after our young and our old, done our bit for the community, for society, now it should be our turn relax and enjoy our latter years, but government has different ideas, work until we're 66, I didn;t find out about this change until I was 58, governments did nothing to inform me of any change.

I am so against the cruel treatment of government towards the sick, disabled and those expecting their pensions I have set up a group called WePaidInYouPayOut mainly for the pensions issues but covers the welfare system too as many of our members losing their pensions are falling fowl of the cruel system and need information and support.

Members of the group I refer to above have supplied me with their personal stories which I have collated into a paperback book, over 300 personal accounts as to how the increase in state pension age is affecting them and their families, some of the members of the group have asked me to share this book with you, it can be found on ebook format here, <https://wepaidinyoupayout.wordpress.com/> as well as much more information, research, reports, videos, about welfare and pension injustice.

I sincerely hope that the information provided will help the case towards the cruel carryings on within this government.

Trudy Baddams