

Online survey of disabled people and their allies for Just Fair

September-November 2013 (free text outputs)

Answers to the question:

Any other issues? (having the most impact on disabled people)

12	Stress, not knowing when or if social security support of any kind is going to stop. Stress, causing physical and mental health problems to worsen. Fear of losing much needed support and been made homeless.
15	This government and media have turned society against the most vulnerable in our society with all their rhetoric. They have spewed lie after lie and told half truths which as not only made it easier for them to stop taking care of our most vulnerable, but increased attacks both verbally and physically on disabled and sick and disabled people. I'm ashamed of what this world has become, we have moved backwards not forwards. This has to stop now, before more lives are lost.
16	The Local Housing Allowance, which works in a similar way to the bedroom tax, but for private rentals. Currently all people on benefit are only given sufficient money to live in the cheapest 30% of housing, and the system for devising the price of 1 bedroomed housing is costed including bedsits and studios that have zero bedrooms.
18	Government rhetoric about "benefit scroungers" and media stories about fraudulent claims for sickness or disability benefits which give false impression of scale of benefit fraud. Failure to build social housing, meaning that the supply of adapted housing is far outstripped by demand and situation will get worse as population ages (and at the same time there are no carrots nor sticks to encourage private rented landlords to adapt properties, making it harder for newly-disabled people or first-time householders to live independently. Changes from social housing rent levels to "affordable" rent levels, putting much housing out of the reach of the poorest, which will mean particularly out of the reach of disabled poor people
19	Closure of NHS mental health units leaving relatives high and dry with only the police and the prison service to take up the responsibility for care????? People who are genuinely ill suffer the worst if they have no advocate as they are easily picked off by Atos wealthcare. All the evidence shows that the system is designed to discredit GPs implying they are in collusion with their patients. Why have GPs laid down and accepted this insult to their professional prowess. Begg the question!!!!
23	Our government (via the DWP press office) has engaged in a campaign of libellous disinformation in the press and broadcast media, about sick and disabled people, and the rates of fraud in disability and sickness benefit claims, which has resulted in widespread public suspicion of anyone who is, or appears, disabled. Disability hate-crime has risen as a result of what I can only describe as black propaganda and scapegoating, and many vulnerable disabled people have been put in fear of going out in public as a result. In addition, the current DWP regime of testing and re-testing claimants with long-term or permanent disabilities such as amputated limbs, paraplegia, blindness and cerebral palsy as a result of oxygen deprivation at birth, is, in effect, a spiteful campaign of harassment of people who are already vulnerable, and has resulted in mental illness related to stress and anxiety, and suicides
24	Politicians and media portrayal of disabled and sick people as work-shy scroungers, dividing society into strivers and skivers, workers and shirkers creating an artificial adversarial society
30	Cuts in the NHS affecting accessibility
31	removal of legal aid for benefits appeals
32	I do not understand the need of the present system to ignore medical evidence from any doctor or specialist or consultant, they treat us so they know us as their patient and are qualified to do so

33	the work capability assesement is a nightmare. it takes so long to appeal that there's only a year before it's time to start it all over again
36	the toll on your health for simply having to claim (which is a battle when you are sick or disable)
37	the hostility by gov towards its citizens with disabilities ie accusations of fraud/abusing the system/being workshy etc is being echoed now by the gullible public instead of promoting the integration of people with disabilities into a society that is welcoming and valuing their contribution small or large people with disabilities are abused spat upon and accused of being spongers by a public that has absorbed its government's callous hostility towards them
38	ATOS
42	all these changes are designed against disabled people i truly believe for the very first time.a souless heartless stupid man is allowed to come up with these policys .have they truly no grasp on the reality dealing with incurable diseases unstoppable pain trying to find the courage and will just to live one day at a time the banking and super rich caused this crisis why punish disabled when life alone has already punished them i have never wished ill to anyone but i am strongly tested with ids
53	cuts in social fund appeals failing despite medical evidence (indication that there is an inclination to decline due to the austerity cuts)
55	nhs cuts unable to see a specialist just a nurse
61	Big problem - that assessors (re WCA) do not understand complex conditions, especially complex *variable* conditions. Many GPs do not understand these conditions either, they are not specialists of course, so getting clear evidence in writing is difficult for patients. Big problem - that the governments list of conditions is sorely outdated (CRPS still listed as RSD, a name from 19 years ago, and continuing research means that the knowledge of CRPS today is totally unrecognisable from the concepts of pain condition back then). It is left to the patient to bring in many research papers to update the assessors and decision makers.
63	Prejudice against sick & disabled due to rhetoric from government enforced by the media
65	The overwhelming sense of a punitive society that is formed by the implementation of the above policies. Supported by mainstream media.
71	Last of resources in North of England in NHS services.
72	NHS cuts and MH provision in Cornwall
73	The persistent misuse of statistics and the fabricated rhetoric re scroungers, skivers etc. is heightening the feelings of mistrust and hatred towards disabled people
74	Complicated other benefits that have to be applied for including Housing Costs and Blue Badge
75	government misleading use of figures and the continued harassment of sick and disabled people by the press.Not being able to get my pension at 60. i am unlikely to live to 66
76	The cumulative impact of all these problems is providing a perfect storm of negative effects on disabled people
78	the selling off of the NHS, the proposed cap on GP visits, the suggested price for sicknotes
81	Use of MSM to demonise disabled people. Also removal of representation by legal advocate when law being unfairly applied to disabled citizens
83	My advisor at the Job Centre mislead a vulnerable me and didn't encourage or mention that I should have appealed my Work Activity Group placement.
86	The financial terror for older people who have worked hard and saved hard all their lives to own their own home, never claimed anything, and suddenly find themselves taken ill and maybe not able to look after themselves
87	I'm a carer to my severely disabled 62 year old friend who recently received the dreaded ESA50 form which has been filled in and returned to Atos. He has not yet been called for a face to face assessment but we live in fear of him being found fit for work when he does go.If he is found fit for work where does that leave me, am I expected to do what I do do, to satisfy Iain Duncan Smith's ideology? My friend would need my help to get him ready to go work and what will surely be an early grave. At this moment in time this is a hypothetical question for me but it is a dilemma 1000's of carers are placed in. There is no way my friend can go to work or any of the so called Workfare programs without my help and if I didn't help he would not get there, be

	sanctioned for noncompliance and his benefits stopped leaving him destitute. As carers we should not be put in such a cruel position. I don't want to be the one responsible for helping put my friend in his grave and I don't want to be the one responsible for him losing his benefits either, it's immoral what this government are doing to the sick, disabled and vulnerable people
88	In my case... you can't cut... no social care!
89	Lack of provision of public transport especially in rural areas
92	Secret cuts to the Access To Work grant - I was unemployed and found a part time job, I'm not well enough to work full time. I was supposed to be based on the first floor of a building with my team. The A2W assessor agreed and said I needed a lift putting in the building. A2W won't fund it, so I'm on the ground floor away from my team. At least I have a job.
93	Lack of support in the work environment led me to leave my job and care for my husband. Under the new HB rules our adapted home classed as a 4 bed house, giving us 25% reduction in HB. We signed a 3 bed tenancy agreement and do not have a 4th bedroom. The Council are now classing the extra living room as a bedroom. We are appealing but also made a formal complaint to Council as to why they are classing it as a bedroom. We now have access to our housing file, and it confirms, in 1997 we were forced to leave our home after 2 years of inaction to make reasonable adjustments, we agreed to transfer, saving the Council 50% of the cost. We were promised a "like for like" transfer. Now we have discovered the Council covered up and lied about the new high rent on the adapted property. They told us the new rent was in line with everyone else. However, we were not aware they intended to charge us for a 4 bed house and an extra £20 per week for the adaptations. We pay the highest rent in comparison to all other tenants who do not have an adaptation or disability. This the third time in 16 years we are penalised all because my husband had 3 strokes age 30. The Council have now decided we were given a 3 bed tenancy agreement in "error".
95	mental health stigma amongst employers non-specialised/untrained ATOS or occupational health capability assessors
98	Carers are not getting the support they need
106	Cuts in support provided by local social services
107	Politicians making misleading statements that are repeated in the press has led some people to believe fraud is rife among disabled people. That has resulted in bullying & worse for visibly disabled people & sometimes for those invisibly disabled who are brave/ foolish enough to declare themselves disabled in public
108	WE DISABLED ARE HAVING TO CLIMB MOUNTAINS. WE HAVE SEEN LEGAL AID ABOLISHED SO WE DO NOT HAVE ANY SUPPORT AT APPEAL WE HAVE SEEN ALL OUR WELFARE RIGHTS CALL CENTERS DISAPPEAR BECAUSE OF HAVING FUNDING WITHDRAWN. ATOS it is unethical to put pressure on a doctor to change the conclusions of an assessment just so it suits your required outcome. That outcome being the one required by the DWP to help deflect public opinion away from the real reasons that remain as to why we had a financial crisis in the first place
109	council tax.doctors care
114	The press are very negative in their view of the disabled and vulnerable of this country, This no way helps
116	discrimination of the disabled
118	Lack of legal help, in all its forms.
124	HELP WITH MOBILITY ISSUES IS CRUCIAL FOR GIVING DISABLED PEOPLE independence and the feeling of having at least, some control over their lives. The ability to see friends without having to always rely on someone else to ferry them around; the freedom of an independent social life
131	Council tax benefit cut, effect 22% cut in benefit.
137	Media attacks on sick and disabled, tarring as scroungers.
145	MSM mis-/representation of issues, etc.; Political rhetoric; MSM & political polemic; Public attitudes; Rise in disability hate crime; Rise in disability hate speech; Lack of legislation specifically covering incitement to disability hate.; DWP's heavy-handed even under-handed dealings with sick &/or disabled folk; ATOS tales of mistreatment; Reports of welfare-related suicides

149	Lack of understanding of reality of disability, decisions made by able bodied.
153	Lack of advice services legal help as all either closing or overwhelmed by demand
155	Changes to the NHS over time which started some while back with the internal market, gathered pace with pfi and are now running rampant with the recent legislation effectively privatising the NHS. The practical effect of all this has been a cutback in health services which affect many sick and disabled people. For example, there's a shortage of psychiatric beds. There's a shortage of GPs. There's a shortage of hospital nurses. It all affects sick and disabled people
156	Cuts in education for disabled children forcing under resourced services to cut corners and only the shouty middle class privileged parents will kick off which further perpetuates disenfranchisement and disadvantage. Disability hate crime going up cos of attitudes in the media, surrounded by people constantly disparaging disabled people is really tiring. I work with disabled students and they're feeling unable to access support they need and are entitled to because of attitudes making them feel like scroungers or being weak for needing support.
157	I think that as the UK* ratified the UNCHRDP* in 2007* the right to live independently(article19) should be part of UK* law! (from #217, same person): am concerned about the right to independent living! as I understand it under article19* of the UNCHRDP*, the right is enshrined in law! I feel as the UK* ratified this treaty in 2009* it should be a right in UK* law!*
159	Media stories misrepresenting disabled people as scroungers. The stories appeared to be based on un-analysed DWP statistics which makes the reporting highly political: http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/261337/Sick-benefits-75-are-faking http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2302122/Just-sickness-benefit-truly-ill-work-Almost-million-drop-benefits-claim-avoid-new-test.html
165	means testing and time limiting contributory esa
172	NHS GP surgeries taking charge of own budgets. Has led to a situation where many GPs are putting profits before patients and begrudge writing prescriptions, making hospital referrals or carrying out necessary tests. A related issue is the indefensible refusal of many GPs to adequate support vulnerable patients suffering under WCA assessments: Refusing to provide evidence: Submitting incomplete and/or inadequate evidence should the DWP or appeals process contact them; Refusing to sign standard letters flagging up patients at risk of harm under regulations 25 and 31. The way in which many NHS doctors are now adopting a DWP-style bullying and disparaging attitude towards patients known to be on benefits. Evidence of stealth rationing of NHS treatments including dialysis where older/disabled/benefits recipients are involved. Often this involves failing to inform patients of abnormal test results and diagnoses
177	Reduction in disabled parking spaces in council car parks, which reduces accessibility to shops - more council income. People having to pay full Community Charge when in receipt of benefits - doesn't affect me but
179	assessment of mental health issues such as depression, anxiety and PTSD which render myself and my husband unable to work. We end up as carers for each other when we are suffering but this is not considered as it is not everyday
184	Council tax. Last year we ere exempt.This year due to the cut back from central government to local authorities we now have to find Â£50 a month from either my carers allowance, my husbands d.l.a. or our e.s.a. (which has already taken into account my carers all). Like the bedroom tax this is an underhand way of grabbing back cash. Right across all political parties our M.Ps should be ashamed.
186	mandatory reconsideration. delays. abuse of power re appeals
191	Constant government inspired attacks on the sick and disabled in the media which always contain false information or misused statistics to try and bolster their argument. It has led to an atmosphere of hatred against the unemployed, the sick and the disabled. The public are led to believe that the vast majority of the welfare spend goes on the unemployed and sick, when in fact it is a tiny percentage. In reality, according to the DWP's own figures more fraud is

	committed against pension credit than JSA, ESA or DLA. The media is being complicit in what amounts to a desire to end the social security system.
198	Council tax increase
199	The impact of crime on disabled victims is not taken into account when assessing criminal damage to mobility equipment
204	also finding money for council tax. re-assesments.....if it is broke and will never be fixed no matter what...why oh why do people need to reapeat this? Do they think a miriacle will happen
205	Encouraged fraud by atos employees is killing us off
207	Untrained, inexperienced benefit decision-makers. People who will not listen or who are incapable of understanding the issues sick and disabled people face
210	people's attitudes, like we're parasites, burdens on 'taxpayers' and 'hard working families'!
212	NHS reforms and the mess that it is in now
215	Changes to the appeals process that will undoubtedly push sick and disabled on to Job Seekers Allowance, while under Mandatory Review.
216	1. Sanctions in the WRAG 2. Lack of REAL training for REAL qualifications in the WRAG (for those who may have MORE than BASIC numeracy and literacy and IT skills). 3.**Mandatory Reconsideration BEFORE lodging and appeal following a disputed Fit For Work Decision after October 28th** during which NO MONEY will be paid at assessment rate for ESA.
220	THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ON ESA ARE FINISHED AFTER 12 MONTHS (after some mickey mouse from atos has declared them "FIT FOR WORK") ,THEY THEN AFTER BEING TOLD THEY ARE FIT FOR WORK GO TO THE JOB CENTRE AND TRY AND GET JSA TO FIND OUT THAT THEY DONT QUALIFY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT PAID ENOUGH TYPE 1 NATIONAL INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS WITHIN THE LAST2/3 YEARS(THIS IS NEVER GOING TO BE THE CASE FOR MOST DISABLED PEOPLE) THERE ENTITLEMENT THEREFORE IS Â£00.00 AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE THAT WAY UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN IN WORK AND PAYING TYPE 1 NI. CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2 YEARS.YOU THEREFORE WILL GET NOTHING AND THESE PEOPLE DO NOT THEN APPEAR ON THE GOVERNMENTS MASSAGED STATISTICS. HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED IN THIS WAY AS OUR "GOVERNMENT" SEEMS UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO CALCULATE THIS FIGURE!! THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPLY FIGURES OF DISABLED PEOPLE WHO AFTER BEEN REMOVED FROM THE BENEFIT SYSTEM THEN GO ON TO FIND JOBS, UNFORTUNATELY THIS WOULD THEN SHOW THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN THROWN ONTO THE SCRAP-HEAP.THOSE FOUND TO BE IN THIS POSITION ARE NOT COUNTED AND NOT CARED FOR THEY ARE JUST CASUALTIES OF THIS SYSTEM
223	I am a carer for a blind person. He has DLA(c at middle)(m at low)SDA topped up with IS.He is happy with his benefit, I am a single mum on income support, he pays me carers allowance but had part of his benefit stopped. MY Main ISSUE is a complete lack of information especially on gov.uk. The NON existent advise from DWP. I am not complaining but I am finding all of this very difficult to keep up with. I can not imagine that I am on my own here -coping with confusing rules on council tax, the DWP stopping IS and creating a rent for me and a eviction notice, as well as taking care of my friends paper work created again by the DWP , he has been blind since 1994 ,has never been sent a review form to complete,until now. Two days later he gets a letter saying he will receive the first of his DIRECT PAYMENTS, with an AGE ADDITION of Â£10.70!? He has not applied for anything(as a change of circumstances = move to PIP ahead of when he should be in 2015.I have wrote but have not been acknowledged. I have the distinct feeling there is underhandedness going on. My friend thinks my concerns are unfounded, because they are part of the government and are there to help people- I think we are all about to become the victims of the biggest street robbery Britain has ever seen. The purses and the wallets will be gone, those who can get up after the assault and move on-will, those who can't will be left. Able bodied people are been crushed under the weight of this welfare steam-roller ,are struggling to make ends meet and to keep on their feet- how are supposed to do the right thing and help other people up of the ground and help them move on to- a person has only so much resolve. There needs to be more information, tools, tip n trick, loopholes,hints whatever .You can not navigate this with nothing. one last thing. It could be that I am accessing it all wrong but..has gov.uk replaced what used to be a quite informative, help full site with the an

	electronic version of what used to be the counter staffs job at the old DHSS ? 'Just fill the form in love and we'll let you know
226	the deliberate and abhorrent misleading by this goverment and there press buddies to turn people against the disabled
229	The government and opposition rhetoric constantly attacking disabled people is really bad
232	Governments demonization of sick and disabled benefit claimants leading to "hatred" in communities and in social media
235	Bedroom tax I'm full time active wheelchair user. I do not need a carer - though when I'm frequently ill I do. My concern is as a wheelchair user I need an extra room to store disability equipment such as spare wheelchair - medical & incontinence. Also need larger area in which to move around. Although allocated 2 bed need as single disabled person I am not entitled to discretionary housing benefit. DLA taken into account. If I was to move I need to find an equally adapted home. I discovered that the local authority would not fund a further disability facilities grant - DFG if I left an adapted home - but needed this. I assume this is an intentionality issue. It's concerning as government state moving is possible even for disabled people which is incorrec
239	DLA has been stopped illegally