

The Benefit System

What is wrong with the benefit system? It's not money given freely. I do believe people have a right to better circumstances, (which have been taken from them), and for some people they can idealise the system and use it as it "should" be, but unfortunately it's not that.

For a long time, I have viewed the benefit system as something that would be a detrimental experience for me personally, as well as counterproductive, and not actually good. It's not good to take money from people who aren't really offering.

It's not good that the system insists itself as an option, and so can use that as an excuse to force you into it. As long as it's there they can hide that the alternative is also wrong, while taking money out of people's back pockets to "give" to the vulnerable. The truth is that it may be sinister, it may be a trap. Is it designed to really help anyone?

There have been times when I have genuinely needed help, as someone who wouldn't ask for help unless I really needed it, from people I believe I have a right to ask, and yet I think the system is not designed to help people like me, who would use it only as a last resort.

There is the attitude of it, that some of the point of it is actually to humble you, to prove your need to someone who would want to hear it. There are probably decent people working there, but the whole thing is kind of sick, like driving people into a corner by depleting real easy living, and replacing it with an approval process, that you are at the mercy of.

It is actually demoralising to have to compromise on something you think is wrong, bad for you, and bad for other people. No one really acknowledges this, that it actually isn't an option for some people because it just isn't.

People with extreme fortitude are punished for working tirelessly, or suffer without help. Personality trait or not, it isn't fair. These same people can then expect the same fortitude from others which can become toxic and also wrong.

Working yourself to the bone and expecting others to do the same doesn't target the problem, the real opponent. Anything that takes you away from freedom and easy living is probably a trap.

This is not about rejecting hard work, it is about choosing it as it suits you perfectly, or it will find you. Or you will lose. We stand opposed to our own failure, living is effort that we enjoy.

If you have children or a disability, I think the money is there exactly for that purpose. I also think people should have access to real help and options, not just systematically.

I am concerned that there is an equation for what is actually good, and feasible, even with the best of intentions, and that this is continually undercut to promote the idea of blame, and a system based on predation. The definition of "success" is in question.

It would be my policy to insist on a “work for the benefit” system. If you are a job seeker on a benefit, you should have the opportunity to work the hours you are getting paid for.

I think it is very important that this is done well, and in a way that has a good understanding of what is reasonable. With gentle implementation. The work available should be well suited to the person, we shouldn't be forcing anyone into difficult circumstances. We can create opportunities for people by working with businesses to provide suitable options that will also support business with an extra workforce.

At the very least people can put in the time. At the very least we can find them a chance to further their individual development, instead of doing nothing about it. We can avoid the awkward situation people currently deal with by being worse off when attempting work.

If successful it should increase benefits, this could be a popular option, especially if it means more money in hand. I will personally find them something to do if need be. Why are small businesses being destroyed and all the work opportunities disappearing?

A student allowance is a good example of the difference between a benefit and a generally accepted entitlement, something that is offered to everyone in good will.