

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

WRITTEN SUBMISSION RECEIVED FROM CHARLES MCALLISTER

I wonder how many suicides will happen after all the cuts have set in...a Government that Scotland did not vote for. However let me get back to the experience of what is happening now,

Our Housing Association, Dunedin Canmore, since May are working in partnership with the Credit Reference to, as they say, get tenants a better credit rating and a bank account. I suspect it will be the opposite that it will help then turn down potential tenants if they do not have a good credit history.

I do not have a credit card I chose not to and have no debt but still be classified as a poor credit rating. I pay for my own job interviews and there is no job training courses for the over 25s.

The last job intervention organisation Jobs4 you ended up owing me £78 for travel expenses to England. I have never had it back; there are not working tax credits for short term work contracts like 3 weeks at Christmas.

My experience is that I take any job that comes my way. At Christmas I work for the Royal mail for 3 weeks I get the Minimum wage of £6.63 per hour it used to be nearly £9 when I took a similar job in London...for 3 weeks work out of that I have to pay full council tax which is £110 a month and my rent which is £330 a month. Usually the rule is if you work 5 weeks you will get your full rent paid for you and as would your council tax which would help you until you get paid.

As it's only 3 weeks you have to pay the full amount of rent hardly a way to inspire you to take short time temporary work, you're being punished for taking a job.

If this happens this year 2015 with the new universal credit it's up to 6 weeks before you get money to pay your rent and have any money to get food. If I take a 3 week job I lose nearly 9 weeks. 2 weeks lost by taking a 3 week job losing 2 weeks off the month and waiting 6 or more weeks to get any benefits once I sign on.

Ask the Royal Mail if they will increase their wage structure for casual workers the answer is no. A private firm who actually cut their casual worker's wages when they went private doesn't make sense.

Can I ask the Committee and any other MP of every sort do they actually know how many unemployed people do voluntary work? I do 8 hours a week some do over 16 hours. The point is if you paid me the national minimum wage, it would be more than my benefits. Unemployed people and volunteers keep charity's going and save them from closing.

I took a quick survey from my local job centre over 55% of people do something for their benefits, they are not scroungers it would be lovely for a change to acknowledge that unemployed and sick people do get off their back sides and do something. I pay my own interview bus fares pay for my own training.