

WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE

WOMEN AND WELFARE INQUIRY

ANONYMOUS WRITTEN SUBMISSION

I am the mother of L who has been affected by the welfare reforms. My daughter (currently 34) took ME at 12 years of age and it has taken over not just her life but the full family. She has since been diagnosed with fibromyalgia and sometimes when the pain is bad she has to take morphine. She has not had much of a young life and doesn't complain.

She was on incapacity benefit until last year then had to move onto ESA. L went to see the DWP doctor last year and he said she was fit to work. Within an hour of being home in tears someone called her to say the doctor had changed his mind and she wasn't fit to work but she still wasn't getting any money, the reasons being she had 2 children and ran a manual car. This sounded a bit sexist to me and she cannot afford an automatic car. Very poor excuses indeed. She spoke to me and her sister before she had her children to see if we would help her and we have done all along. Her husband is a good support also. It is a shocking example of this government.

What they have done to my daughter is take away her independence as she can't afford to run her car and made her feel like a nobody. I should say her husband works full time in family business and doesn't make a lot of money.