



*JobPath  
Victim Statements,  
January 2019.*

*Supplement to the UnitedPeople JobPath Report,  
Edition Three.*

**Picture on the front cover is of Damien Fagan and his family, outside the Dublin highcourts in 2017.**

- Damien had money illegal stolen off him by the state.
- The state admitted they don't have the legislation to do what they *still* do.
  - Damien was physical assaulted by a JobPath representative.
- Despite he even having a recording of the assault, garda have repeatedly refused to do anything. GSOC also failed to investigate correctly.
  - The Department of Social Protection along with Seetec, a private company hired by same, produced 100% fake evidence in the Dublin highcourt case. Fake staff statements, fake meetings, fake accusations.
- All this and more were proven to be completely fake in the highcourt. Again, no one here too has been held to account for crimes committed.

For all this, Damien Fagan, **THE VICTIM**, is now being told he must pay in financial amounts for the case he took in which the highcourt judge did rule that his rights had been infringed (they tried forcing him into signing a private contract) but still didn't hold to account those that lied under oath.

Meanwhile, they who actually broke the law and continue to do so, get off.

**Justice in Ireland 2019.**

# IMPORTANT.

The statements that you will read here come from all walks of life. There are elected and other representatives in the past and present that espouse that such statements only come from the lazy (supposedly couldn't be bothered to get up in the morning), from people that are just constant moaners, from people that just don't want to work, from, people just out to take and are unwilling to give anything back.

The insults towards fellow citizens that have commented about their experiences also come weekly, even across forums such as boards.ie and politics.ie (two internet forums alone that are a future legal zone of defamation suits – in part due to allowed lies to remain online and they not adhering to Irish and GDPR data protection laws. Biased moderators in charge). Cowardly people on the Irish internet, hiding behind the anonymous names, “keyboard warriors” who are often creating their own fallacies, continue to be all too disparaging against genuine good citizens of Ireland. They are backed up by biased media who take lies and half-truths and then also run with them. They all rely on the saying “*There's no smoke without fire*” in hope that their insults and downright lies might then be even half believed by the gullible.

Those that are more willing to look at citizens speaking up – and sometimes actually talk to them - will find that in 96% of cases, those commenting on their JobPath experiences are actually very decent, normally always law-abiding, consistently tax paying citizens who like most in Ireland, don't wish to cause trouble of any description. They are of all ages. Many old.

Those that are more willing to hear out those commenting about JobPath will – maybe surprisingly, maybe not – find many are part-time workers also. All from every part of Ireland

Those that are more willing to read the words of those that have suffered because of JobPath will find a massive number of highly educated people – from long time skilled craftsmen and women to other skilled professionals. Nurses, firemen, legal parallels, secretaries, carers, trained factory workers, counsellors, medical assistants, veterinarians and much more.

These are all people that have not only previously worked hard over days, weeks and years but in the case of many that have come to UnitedPeople, have worked hard for decades. Sadly, in the latter years, their social and economic circumstances have taken an unfortunate turn in part due to the death of ‘the Celtic tiger’ or other factors beyond their own control or influence.

Now they find themselves in many a bad situation due to life taking a hard turn. The state and government of the day, instead of on the ground helping them back up, is actually bullying them, punishing genuine innocent people, illegal stealing from them, abusing them, ignoring their rights, won't let them gain a decent hearing and in a number of cases, assaulting them or so much pressurising them, they end up mentally having a breakdown and attempting suicide.

Many that have come to UnitedPeople are not spouting innuendo and half tales. They have come with records, paperwork, letters, and more to back up their spoken, PM'ed, emailed words. They should certainly not be dismissed as ‘one-off’ cases. Far too many citizens, each separately not knowing about others in same situations, have come to UnitedPeople and their experiences going on within JobPath, matched up tremendously regular. Far, far too regular.

The words you will read contain anger, strong language at times, serious frustration, depression and much more. Just in the collecting of these contained statements there has been a food of tears that has eye exited from many JobPath victims. In total truth, I, Jeff Rudd, have sometimes cried along with them, such is their provable retelling of events that have deeply undermined not just JobPath victims directly but deeply also affected their partners, husbands, wives and far too many children, who also have been left suffering badly due to JobPath.

The hearing of sometimes horrific events, mental and financial imposed torture, local and national media unreported up to now, would and should stir the hearts of any decent citizen in Ireland. Those that instead, disparage victims by an all too easy brushing away of their shocking accounts, too easy dismissing victims' experiences within five minutes, quickly forgetting about them, is today still all too common. Many victims have gone to elected, then left jilted.

We have a growing section in Ireland society that genuinely call themselves "*JobPath victims care of the Department of Social Persecution*". ...And persecuted, abused, tortured, starved, etc, they certainly have been, in larger numbers than some elected would rather not be known!

UnitedPeople, the political party, at present is known to be in existence by 2% to 5% of the national public. Despite this, many that have come forth from even those percentages in their many hundreds. This should expose to the wise, it can be suspected the abuses detailed here, are honestly a scratch of a deeper abuse surface. We have NO DOUBTS that if UnitedPeople was known to exist by more people in Ireland, they aware of the three-year JobPath investigation headed by myself, the party world be absolute flooded by even more victim's coming forth. Other possible, genuine thousands would tell – expose – their experiences too.

**JobPath is now two things.**

1. It is an Irish Pandora's box which some elected have managed to keep a lid on. That lid is slowly but surely, slipping off. Those that are also doing nothing, will be judged.
2. JobPath right now is a future inquiry/tribunal/investigation for the future – but incredibly, is still in the making right now while some elected already know what's going on but refuse to do or say anything. They fear the opening of a Pandora box!

In short, what has come about through JobPath – the abusing of citizens basic rights – is part of a larger picture in Ireland where the state has adopted a principle that '*...because it's legal, it must be right*'. My reply to that is "*Just because something might be legal, doesn't make it equally morally right. In the case of JobPath but not just JobPath, it can be very wrong!*"

Part of the evidence of that, is now before you in text form. When a state setup from its conception and onward, continues to also kick citizens in the physical, mental and financial gut from day one – when they are already unfortunate down on their luck – something is seriously wrong and it urgently needs to be addressed. **TODAY!** Tomorrow victim numbers grow higher.

**Jeff Rudd.**

UnitedPeople investigator.



- **Phoned her two/three times days daily,**
- **Were constantly checking on her.**
- **On site constantly trying to bully her into taking jobs that (a) didn't suit her life or (b) she couldn't afford to take due to a drop in money.**
- **Harassed her so much, they drover her to breaking point!**

**The result? Breakdown.**



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## **NOTE.**

JobPath private companies Seetec and Turas Nua also operate across Ireland used other fronts including:

“Working Links”

“People1st”

“Network Personnel”

In all of these businesses operating there can be easily found genuine, hardworking individuals who do their very best for those that are forced to appear before them. It is others of poorer work practise that are repeatedly undermining the good work of those that care more.

Many people giving statements have allowed their name to be made public within this document. Others have asked for privacy while their victim statements are in the public domain. The latter have little issue with their I.D. being supplied privately to elected reformers.

# Victim Statements.

*(Details that helps preserve people's identity, has been left undisclosed at their request)*

I would like to share my JobPath experience, though it only started about 3 weeks ago.

This past May I finished a PLC course and my payment was switched back to Jobseekers Allowance. About 6 weeks later, (around June 20) I received a letter from the DSP "inviting" me to attend a Seetec information session. The letter stated that failure to attend and subsequent refusal to comply/attend may result in my payment being reduced or cut.

I attended a week later, as I could not afford any financial cuts so it's not like I had any choice in the matter. Myself and the others were crammed into a poky room and the manager of the centre flicked through a PowerPoint presentation so rapidly there was no time to read the slides.

We were told a DSP representative usually attended but no one was present that morning. We were also told that "failure to participate" and missing meetings with the personal advisor could result in payment being cut by €44 Euros.

We were informed that we could not sign off JobPath until we had acquired at least 30 hours work per week, and part time jobs and study would have to be arranged round it.

We were not informed that we could not move to a CE scheme or partake in any private training for the duration - this I found out later.

I had to attend a meeting with a personal advisor who had no knowledge of the requirements for my field. The offices are open plan so there is a complete lack of privacy. I was asked personal questions like my date of birth and even more mortifying, when I'd last had a paid job - all within earshot of anyone who happened to be near.

(The lack of privacy works both ways, I could hear others being asked questions about their education and work history, etc.)

I was also expected to sign a contract I wasn't given the opportunity to read. When I asked what it was, I was told that it said my information would be subject to the Data Protection Act. I felt deeply uneasy and I didn't want to sign, but I did because at the back of my mind I thought "if I refuse, will that be considered as failure to participate? Could my payment be cut?"

I'm still annoyed about this.

I also had to attend a CV workshop and an interview workshop. Both consisted of a PowerPoint presentation with bog standard information given by a disinterested employee.

I would have thought a recruitment agency would have tips on how to make your CV stand out, or how to explain gaps (a huge issue for the unemployed) but there was nothing I didn't already know or couldn't find out from a quick Google search. The interview workshop was no different.

There seems to be a very one-size-fits-all approach which simply does not work when it comes to seeking employment.

Even though I have been forced to participate for about 3 weeks, I have found it to be a very disheartening, demoralizing and stressful experience so far. I feel constantly on edge, wondering if I'll be pressured into taking any old race-to-the-bottom job.

Knowing there are people who have the power to have my money cut (while it may be true that the DSP make any cuts, the fact is that Seetec are the ones who do the reporting) when I have to scramble for every cent is a horrible feeling.

I am sure my experiences are far from unique. While I was at the centre I noticed some of the employees speak to their "clients" in a very condescending and disrespectful manner. I suspect they are afraid to assert themselves for fear of sanctions.

Varadkar and his ilk clearly despise the unemployed and blame them for being unable to magically create jobs out of thin air. This demonstrates a callous, if not frightening, lack of empathy.

It is simply unacceptable that Social Protection has anything to do with a private company, never mind one with such a dodgy past.

It is simply unacceptable that a for-profit company have been given such power over a group of already struggling, potentially vulnerable people.

Rather than paying out millions to private companies, why wasn't that money spent on creating genuine jobs that pay more than minimum wage?

Why are the poorest and most powerless been left to once again bear the brunt for the greed, failure and corruption of successive governments?

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From: M S.

Subject: Seetec

I'm currently on Seetec programme, being told to attend every week now, being forced to go to minimum wage jobs. I was a finance manager was earning over 90k. These jobs are all minimum wage, which results in a take home €343 per week. I currently receive €237 per week. If I'm forced to take one of these mind-numbing jobs I will after travel and lunch costs of €60 Euro minimum. I will also have to pay for my monthly prescription of €128 as I have just qualified for a medical card. I will be worse off than I am now, in a position that is an entry level and of no interest to me. Whilst I spend over 50 hrs in work and travel. It has a severe impact on my seeking a job with a living wage. Is there anything I can do? It's affecting my mental health. I also have a €51k personal debt, which I couldn't even possibly begin to pay on the minimum wage.

Thank you.

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Hello,

Further to my recent email, I had my three-month review, where my employment advisor was joined by her manager, who didn't say who she was or why she was sitting four feet away.

The whole tone of the appointment completely changed, using bullying tactics, was told I had to apply for the minimum wage jobs, as I was not being compliant with the programme. Every word she said was for the approval of the manager. She was sitting in order to agree I was not being compliant. So, they could reduce or cut off my Jobseeker's Allowance.

I asked her how I was not being compliant, I asked her if she had any jobs I could apply for, no answer. I asked her what jobs I've refused to apply for? No reply. The even more aggressive manager stepped up and told me to more or less comply or I'd lose my benefits.

The meeting quickly deteriorated. I was asked to leave the building or she would call the Garda. This manager was there to increase and harass me into a minimum wage job, that given my circumstances would result in my being unable to continue in my accommodation and being unable to afford my prescription.

What these people are doing is absolutely shocking, their behaviour, intimidation and harassment of people who are already in dire position both mentally financially and emotionally is disgraceful. I'm now waiting to see what action they take.

I've contacted my local TD in xxxxxxxx and am awaiting a reply. I'm a finance manager. I've earned in excess of €85k plus a year. I have bank debts of 51k, I have personal debts of 4K, I owe the chartered accountants €1,500, for a pip course I done but could not pay for. I get €240 in benefits, I pay €110 to my landlord for my room, which he could get €700, I have agreed to pay that when I get a job.

I have a medical card which covers my €216 monthly cost, I lose that if I'm forced into a minimum wage job, I will also have to pay at a very minimum €50 for buses and a lunch per week. It makes absolutely no financial sense or personal benefit to apply for one on these jobs.

The only people who benefit is Seetec, via their fee, for taking me off the dole. I have explained all this to them. They don't reply or say anything ...just that if I don't, I will lose my job seekers. If my benefit is reduced to €100 I will be homeless straight away.

My emotional state of mind now is in tatters, I'm simply struggling to cope with this pressure. I will go see my local TD on Monday clinic, but I don't have any trust in politicians who can stand by and watch people who are in dire straits treated like this.

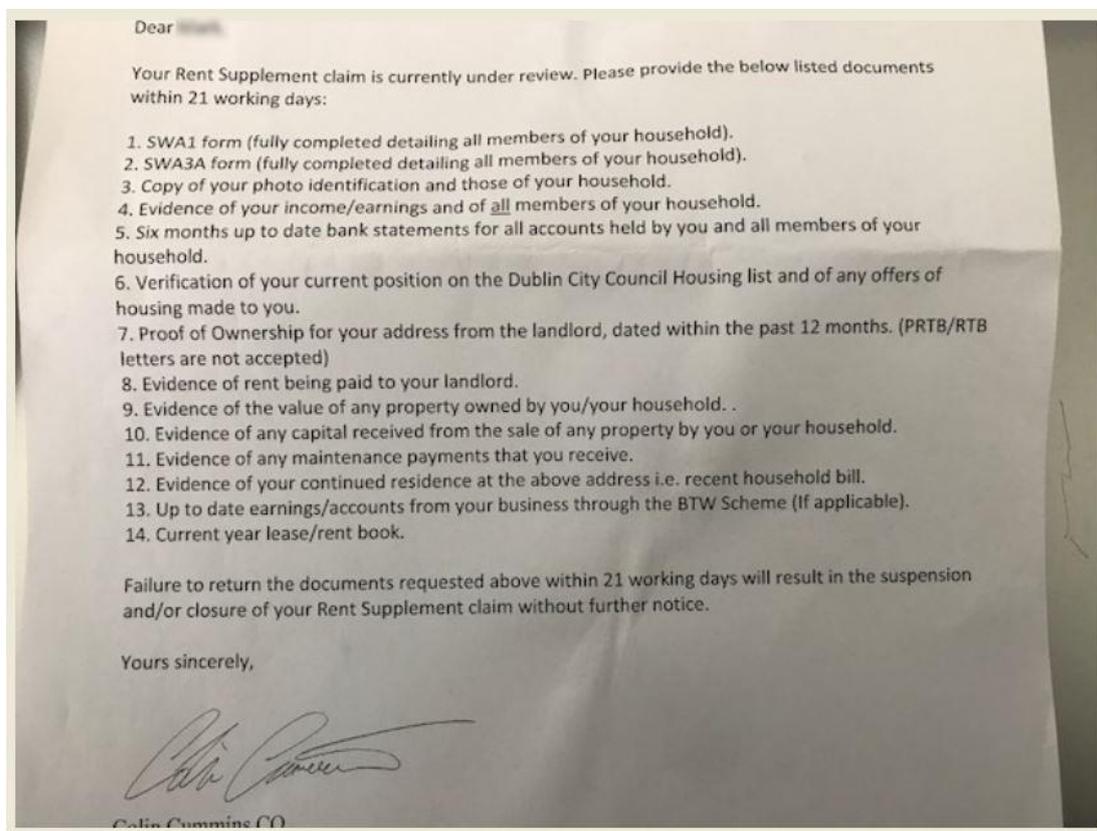
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Hello,

I'm getting so much pressure from Seetec and now the rent review people sent me this form (see below), my rental accommodation is hanging in the balance as I'm paying €100 per week, the market rent is probably nearer €600, I have absolutely no chance of getting any of these documents from my landlord. This will be the reason I will have to leave, as I won't be able to ask, as it seems they are asking for so much personal details.

I don't have any money for a deposit for another room, I've no chance. Is this a standard form? I've never been asked for so much info before, the rent scheme pays me €37 euro a week. For rent. I understand I could receive up to €85, but I can only claim that for a new accommodation.

This is just more pressure put on me by the state, I'm really struggling to cope with all this. How can they put so much pressure on people who are just about existing?



Subject: Seetec Scam

Hi, I was made do a 22 month gateway scam. I was in xxxxx library, I was hidden away in a back room. I had to implement a RFID system (self service scanning) which entailed counting every book in the library, then I had to put a sticker on every single book, then I had to scan every single book onto the computer.

When that was done I was made check every single book again, about 13 thousand books plus I had to dust the shelves as I was going along. During my time there, there was 13 different people working in the library from RCC. None of them bar one, lived in xxxxx - and she retired while I was there.

The Library had to close on 3 days because they had no staff to cover. I was never once let step foot behind the library counter. The staff clearly didn't want me there. I was born and bred in xxxxx. I have a degree in business management. When that scam finishes straight away I was put on Seetec, even though I was told in the dole office I wouldn't have to do it because I just finished a 22 month gateway scam.

I don't drive. I live on €193 per week, no money to eat and these people expect me to travel to Carrick on Shannon for this shit. Having to beg someone for lifts cos the bus and train times don't coincide. One of the Seetec people said Seetec get €600 euro per person on their books from the government. The whole town of xxxxx has to go to Carrick for this shit. All taken off the live register to make the unemployment figures look good.

xxxxx is a derelict town. There are no jobs. It's worse now than the 80's when I had to emigrate to England for 10 yrs. Seetec want me to take any job. I am a 50 year old woman.

They are starting to put the pressure on now, telling us we will have to take any job even if it's not what we want. Beggars can't be choosers kind of thing. Would I consider bar work or a part-time cleaning job? I asked about doing a community scheme instead and was told I can't.

They would lose their commission.

This is all a big scam. FG, FF and Labour have totally ruined our country. How many Seetec offices are there all over the country? How many people are on them? It's terrible.

I have seen really old men there. They have not a clue what's going on. They know nothing about CV's or computers. Really sad!

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Hi there,

I was recently referred to Seetec and I went along because I felt I had to. I'm not happy my personal info was passed on to them and I feel I'm being pushed into jobs I don't want already when I'm above qualified with a Masters for these jobs. I want to get something I studied. Can I refuse to participate because the Social Protection handed my info over without consent?

I want to add that I do suffer with a condition called trigeminal neuralgia/facial pain, so when I'm having a bad attack it prevents me from talking and eating etc. It started about 4 years ago.

They are trying to put me in customer service roles which requires a lot of talking and it's not possible for me weeks or months at a time when having a bad attack.

My medication helps take the edge of it to be able to function but that's about it. Can I request certain positions because of this? I have lots of consultant letters to back this up and had MRI and CT scans to see what's causing it.

Regards

=====

Subject: Seetec

Hi,

I've been dealing with Seetec now for 3 weeks and I just wanted to share my experiences to date.

I left school at 16 and worked in menial jobs constantly until I was 26. I lost my job in 2013, at the height of the recession, and decided to go back to college. Last month I just finished a double major degree in geography and international development.

6 DAYS after I finished college, I received the invite/threat letter and went to my first meeting.

The first guy asked me what industries I'd like to work in, and when I said with an NGO maybe he didn't know what I was talking about and recommended that I try looking into some of the jobs they offer. When I said that I already had and that I wasn't interested in doing minimum wage, menial jobs after 4 years of educating myself, he said I had a bad attitude and I had to start somewhere.

He also told me not to update my last CV until I meet my personal officer, which is not until the 26th of this month! (And these people are supposed to be helping me?!)

At the second meeting, they asked us to fill out a really vague and generic questionnaire about our hopes and aspirations which was incredibly difficult to fill out because it was so absurd!

The two Seetec employees then spoke about themselves and how they started as unemployed clients to the service and look at them now! (I've noticed all Seetec employees tell you this remarkably similar story when you first meet them).

At the third meeting, which was today, they spent an hour and fifteen minutes explaining how to find their website by googling it... I kid you not!

This company, that are supposed to help long term unemployed people learn life skills to find work, have also sent me the wrong schedule for appointments on four occasions to date.

I spent four years studying vulture companies like this because I want to help people and work in my community to improve people's lives. Every time I have to go there and sit through a talk by a corporate moron, spewing out their pyramid scheme mantras, I die a little inside.

It makes me sad to see people who don't know any better going in there happy and eager to better themselves and knowing that they'll just be exploited on minimum wage with no future just to make a profit. You can actually see some people realise this after a few minutes.

It has sapped my confidence at a time when I should be over the moon with life. It makes me feel like the last four years of studying mean nothing! For example, three of the four employees that I've met from this company have told me they have little or no education.

Now I don't think I'm better than these people, but why should I take employment advice from people who are less educated than me? I was also older than the three of them too, so I would argue that I have greater work and life experience.

This has just been my personal experience with the company. This company is nothing but a neoliberal exercise in state privatisation and massaging of the live register for political gain. This company will benefit no one but themselves, and ultimately re-enforce cycles of poverty and generational unemployment.

In many instances such as CE schemes they are essentially acting as traders in slave labour. There is no encouragement to an employer to offer a person a full-time job when they have a conveyor belt of six month contract labour for little or no expense.

If you also treat people like idiots and threaten them they will only resent you and this will further demoralise them from wanting to find a job.

They told us on the first day that it is a fifty-two week programme, so it's not in their interest to just stick us into any job because they don't get paid until the end of the programme. When I pointed out that twenty minutes earlier, they had told us that they admit new entrants every Tuesday, it must logically follow that people also complete the project every week, the room fell strangely silent for a moment before a quick subject change.

One guy I spoke to in the lobby who was completing the programme told me his personal officer hadn't contacted him for the last six months. In my first meeting, three of the group were travellers who said that they were functionally illiterate.

One was an African guy who just wanted English classes but couldn't afford them. There was also a 19 year old guy who said he has severe anxiety and bipolar issues that have prevented him from finding work.

These people various forms of social and medical care, not to be exploited by a privately owned company that they never agreed to deal with in the first place!

Sorry about the long story, but I really despise this company and all they stand for. I hope this helps.

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Hi,

I read your article about Seetec. I was called on to the programme as soon as I graduated college, they didn't even give me enough time to collect my results and look for a job independently. I'm finishing up now in September. They have done absolutely nothing but waste my time then threaten to cut my money because they failed to send out appointments. I have received a letter from the Department of Social Protection regarding reviewing Seetec and what they do.

I'm gladly going to bring up some points you have brought up in your article about Seetec. I think the points you have brought up need to be highlighted and answers given. With no thanks to Seetec, I have found a job. They didn't help with my CV, there was nothing they could do.

I asked about work experience, they didn't have a clue. They had no idea about local transport, then proceeded to joke about "Getting people off their hands and shipping them that way".

I know several other people who have been/are on this programme and everyone says the same. Utter waste of time and money.

I have to pay €30 for a taxi up and back when I have appointments. This is €30 out of the €100 I get. They won't give me the money back as I don't drive my own car. I can't tell you how much of a scam this programme is. It's disgusting.

Thank you for posting this article, it was very informative, and I will be sharing it to everyone I know. Keep up the good work.

=====

I was put on this recently and I applied for widow's pension to which I'm entitled to. I brought in the letter of confirmation of my application and the girl said I still have to go in there as planned until I receive my widows' pension which could take 3 months.

I can't believe it! What a waste of my time and not to mention I did all that on my last course through VTOS. If I don't turn up my money will be cut. An absolute disgrace.

I went in to Social Protection to talk to someone about it and I couldn't as they told me that once you're transferred to Seetec they are in charge of you and not Social Protection and I didn't give Social Protection that approval.

To me it seems very wrong, it seems like Seetec owns you once they get your details.

I also know this other girl who's on the same course as me through VTOS and some days she has to go to Seetec and she's only in for 5 minutes but if she doesn't go her money is cut, that's the treat anyway.

It's basically taking advantage of vulnerable people.

I have two kids still dependent on me so I can't cope with that treat of cutting my money off.

That's why I decided to go on widow's pension, even though I'm less off money wise as they won't pay children dependents on non-contributory widow's pension, which to me is also very unjust.

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Joan Burton quote "*Participants on JobPath receive intensive individual support to help them address barriers to employment and to find jobs*", Leo Varadkar spoke similar words.

As I am currently being forced to go to Seetec, I can safely say, that those words are the epitome of an antithesis. So much time wasting at Seetec. If one works or trains for two months during this year, it is deducted, so many people don't really do the full year.

I rang and tried to get back in and they left me waiting 5 weeks and then deducted the 5 weeks. That's only the tip of the ice-berg.

They 100% cherry picking and parking. I've witnessed it, I overheard conversations, advisors talking on the phone to employers. Sure I am being parked, parked on the computer. Their 'IT Facilities' is Internet Explorer and Indeed jobs.

They have a poor server that keeps crashing and my Hotmail seems to be incompatible with this server because I can never log in.

They are doing stuff in the background. They have Seetec jobs shown on their website, but that's just a front. 17 jobs the last time I checked, they don't show all the jobs otherwise people would ask questions as to why they can't apply for them. Click a job and it say's '*ask your advisor*' and when you ask your advisor, she dissuades me from applying '*you are not what they are looking for*', '*you need a car*', but a few days previously I told her I've a full license and getting a car as soon as I secure employment.

They are in contact with companies not advertised on their jobs portal and they're putting people in jobs, I am steadfast about this. Only people deemed suitable for these positions will be approached. It makes me feel rejected, even though I am overwhelmingly capable of doing so many things.

It's the balance of their reputation vs making money. It's imperative they don't take chances on anyone, they won't get their sustainment fees and risk damaging their reputation. It's a jobs broker, a sorting office to make assessments, screen people and put them in a category.

On the letter it say's '*if you are unable to attend you must contact us as soon as possible in advance*'. This fools both clients and government. It fools the government because it's so blatant that people don't really have to attend if they don't want to and it fools the clients because we are being used as scapegoats to make them look like they are enforcing some kind of affirmative action, so to speak, but we are like a minority group now anyway, especially the way we are being discriminated against.

Don't have to attend if we don't want to, but if we don't, we're penalised. That's a major oxymoron.

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Where can I go to stop Social Protection giving away my private data?

I am a plumber by trade and a plumber's union member for 40 years. I just finished scam-gate on 27 of January and I was working for Fingal council for 22 months Just one question I would like to know. Why were we told there was a good chance of getting a job with council by Social Protection and the staff that told us they were not taking any? Why were we lied to? Now I find I am on another scam "JobPath" and a 30-year-old employee from Seetec knows what's best for me and I am 60 years of age. It beggars believe!

I am just about sick of it and its bad enough taking a job at €10 an hour but why am I not given the same perks as any person coming to my country?

=====

I'm completely frustrated with JobPath, so much so I have today gone to my local TD to complain. DSP says JobPath has funding available for courses I need, yet JobPath say they have no funding. I could be working tomorrow but JobPath is blocking me any way I turn.

I am disgusted to learn about Seetec and my personal data being handed over. I was only unemployed for 3 weeks when I was 'invited' to attend JobPath. I am beyond pissed-off!

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I was called into Seetec nearly one year ago and now my year is nearly up. They are telling me I have to go to an interview in Swords.

The job is telephone sales for BT. It's called Convergry. I told her I am not at all interested in this job but she insists I go - and then to add insult, she emails that there is a €30 voucher for Dunnes Stores up for grabs, to whoever bags an interview first.

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I'm just so bloody angry. Just got letter to attend Seetec and knew nothing about it. I was attending Intreo. I feel they are bullying me into taking up a job just to make them look good. Who gave Intreo the right to give my personal information to them anyway? Anyone the same problem? I feel so stressed over all this.

=====

I am currently on a Seetec course and have attended their office in Carrick on Shannon 3 times thus far.

On the 1st day we were sat in a room and shown some details on how Seetec works. The facilitator told us we would not hold a fire drill as there was no need! After this, the same facilitator wrote down my details. Their computer system was down.

My 2nd visit entailed giving all my details again to Catherine (different facilitator) as they had not put them on the system yet! This was some weeks after my first meeting. However, I came home and emailed my cv to Catherine.

For my 3rd and latest visit last week I had yet another facilitator, Heather I think. Catherine was rushing out and though I requested she send on my cv to Heather, a further 5 minutes later she left without sending it. I repeated much of the same as the other 2 occasions and she made an appointment to see me 27th March next.

This is a con!!! 3 visits on and no one had read my cv!

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Recently been contacted by Seetec - through the "you are invited", followed by the "refusal to attend" letter. I attended wishing to not have my benefits cut.

My issue regarding what is happening at present is this. I am currently doing a BTI course in horticulture QQI level 4 with the Larkin Centre Dublin. As it stands now, Seetec has been requesting me to attend their job hunting session at the expense of the course I am presently on, despite the letter of notification that I was engaged in such.

Starting to feel the stress now. Have been doing this since last year and am beginning to reach of point of not caring,

I ventured into my local Social Protection office who informed me after speaking to one of their job facilitators, that as far as they are concerned, they are happy for me being on my BTI course as my job facilitator at the time was happy to sign me off for it.

Although I am still on a jobseeker's payment, they see no issues with me trying to further my future prospects as opposed to doing nothing. The problem they said I have is this, being passed off to Seetec, as they see it is as only part-time education, ie (9.30-1.45 mon-thur) makes me viable to be seeking work fulltime.

I explained that they are asking me to attend morning meetings at a time that is impacting my course. They could understand my dilemma but insisted it was out of their control and I should try to play ball with Seetec and hope they lay off me a bit.

I am sure that if my course was under government control, I would not have to be jumping through the Grand National hurdles to help achieving a particular skillset.

One of my coordinators said I should not be quoting any laws at Seetec in case it goes very wrong. I am at a quandary now. Many thanks.

=====

Hi guys/gals

I read your article on JobPath as during the week I found myself at my first meeting with Seetec.

I'm going to blog about it, hopefully meet others who are willing to share some of their experiences with me so I can get a fuller picture and details about this scheme.

I aim to keep a weekly record/ diary of my experience as I knew absolutely nothing about it myself, and still don't know what to really expect. Leaving word for anyone else caught up in this soul-destroying exercise.

All the best.

=====

Hi,

I'm glad there is a voice for the people in this country to point out companies like Seetec - and Seetec in particular.

I feel under constant threat from them if I don't turn up to their meetings. I am a thirty-seven-year-old father of two and have my kids on the weekends so my job applications are limited.

Seetec don't care though. I also never gave them permission to have my personal data, RSI number, emails, address, etc. I feel I have been drafted in here like a sheep waiting to be slaughtered.

Where's the legislation that has legally allowed this? I constantly feel down and depressed from one day to the next and if there is legislation for this, it has to be changed. I'm sure I'm not the only one that feels that they have you over a barrel and feel like you don't have a choice.

Jesus, don't have a family because they are using that against you ie; attend your meeting or we will stop your payment. Feel free to copy this to your site. Thanks very much reading my email.

=====

Well done UP. I have to go to a Seetec meeting today, highly annoyed that an overseas (ENGLISH) company has got this role. Also, they want my e-mail password, is this allowed or even legal?

=====

Hi there,

I had huge problems with my local SW Office but before Seetec were employed.

They treat people like criminals. I've gotten written requests to attend info sessions. When I called to say I couldn't make it, I was told the letter wasn't mandatory even though it said it was. I was told I was eligible for Springboard and did two days of course entry assessments. When I asked to be processed I was told I wasn't eligible and that I'm a liar.

That course turned out to be a scam. I was suspended for pointing out that student complaints were being ignored and co-ordinators admitted it was designed to exponentially increase student numbers with no proper course structure.

The next course I attempted was falsely advertised as a specialist qualification but was one level below one I have already. I was refused leave to miss more than three practical sessions over a two-week timeframe to give birth, deal with a potential c-section and requests to present my qualification a level higher fell on deaf ears.

I queried paying for private course and was refused the stipend unless I had a definite job offer at the end. Other offices were baffled and told me they don't put that stipulation on jobseekers. Any attempts I've ever made to call out SW on targeting or questionable or policy flouting resulted in receiving a threatening letter from them.

I reported them for two serious data protection breaches and the commissioner's office issued a generic response and ultimately were threatened by the department to back off.

Advocacy agencies have been warned by them not to challenge them which I find very disturbing.

I've had instances whereby what was said in verbal meetings in their offices was denied by inspectors and emails sent were ridiculously 'polite' in contrast so I couldn't prove what had been said.

A FOI request for my file very conveniently omits any record whatsoever of any cooperation on my part or efforts to stay in continuous employment. Legally sound verbal statements I have given have been were documented in an obscure way to make me look bad and other pertinent information was omitted or ignored to conveniently adversely affect my situation.

I can't fathom how government staff can paint one picture of their policies and procedures and behave in an entirely different manner!

---

I recently read your article on Seetec and can confirm they are intimidating bullies. As for been out of work over a year, to be contacted, not a hope.

I wasn't out of work a month and was so called "invited" in but in the next lines threatened my welfare cut if I didn't comply.

What a joke of a system! I am on it now four months and have to go in every 2 weeks for meetings. I can find my own jobs thanks. I have got many of interviews myself. So far they roped me to one which I found was very badly paid and was told it was based 15 mins from me - but the job in fact is over an hour and a half away.

Anyways besides all that nonsense, I am getting phone calls every day from them, sometimes up to four a day. I have giving up answering as I think you will find it's harassment and putting a lot of strain on my sanity.

So, every two weeks I have an appointment but in the meantime, 'we will ring you every day'. No thank you. So, when I was last in today, the woman says she's been trying to call me and I said "Oh, okay" and she continues "Is there something wrong with your phone?" I said "No".

She looks in disgust, so I asked her "Why were you calling?" and she replied, "To check up on you". So at this point my blood was boiling.

I don't think I need a babysitter. I have and still am getting my own interviews on my own accord. Is there anything that people can do to stop these bullies and who is the voice of us? I just thought I would share my experience. I am sure there are others out there.

---

I read your piece about Seetec and am sending you on my experience.

This is the text of a letter I'm handing into the Minister in about four hours. This is a fairly long letter, but at the end I'm going to offer you a possible solution, not just for me, but for any unemployed person who is willing to take it up. It may also save you money.

## **START.**

Is Seetec a scam? I'm unemployed because I've made many bad choices, and that's on me. I'm an actor and when I had to sign on I had already decided to upgrade my skills, so that I can get voice-over work. I was not and am not looking for extra money to do this. I'm content to save until I can afford it, as I write I'm about seven weeks away from being able to start.

When I mentioned this at a meeting in the Social Protection office, I was told if I do that training course, my claim might be disallowed.

About a week later I got a letter telling me I had to attend an information session at Seetec, which would last for up to three hours. Their stated goal is to help me achieve my employment objectives. The day before this session I got a call to tell me what it was all about. So I told him my employment objectives and about the training I intent to take. He laughed at my employment objectives, and discounted the training.

The information session itself was the worst one I'd seen up to that point. He spent about twenty minutes telling us that Seetec have a really big network, about ten minutes saying 'em', and he got flustered when asked for the only relevant information: how many people had they helped back to employment, out of how many people. He couldn't give the figures for the year, but for that month the number was 80, and I'm sure he said out of thousands, this was a couple of months ago, but even if he said hundreds, that's only forty percent, and if that's representative of the entire year, how much money are you losing by employing these people? It's possible that he was making these numbers up because he hadn't prepared.

However, I'm sure it's all above board because both the Seetec rep and the DSP rep assured us that it wasn't a scam. They were emphatic on that point. The impression I was left with was that the presentation was for the benefit of the DSP rep, so that Seetec could keep what I'm sure is a very lucrative contract.

My next encounter with Seetec was to meet my designated Employment Advisor. For the most part she was perfectly pleasant, but she also laughed at my employment objectives, and discounted the training I have planned. She did bring up the prospect of other training, and when I again mentioned the training I'm going to take anyway, she threatened me with the DSP.

When I got home and reviewed the print out, I saw she had put Vocational Educational Teacher as the job goal. I don't know why she didn't tell me in the office. Maybe she was afraid I would object and so took the easiest way out.

For the record, I don't object. In fact, I think that once I've had any necessary training it's an area where I could make a useful contribution. My play, Examine Your Zip, is going on at the end of March, and by then I expect to have my acting skills back up to speed.

So, why all this when I'm willing to train as a Vocational Educational Teacher?

First, I can understand the laughter at my employment objective. I told them to get me a movie deal for one of my books, and I think that is so far beyond their idea of the possible that that laughter was the only response. I don't believe it was personal. A better response would have been 'Ok, let's see how we can make this work.' Incidentally, my books don't sell, I think I've made ten euro in the last three years, feel free to dock me.

What I don't understand is the hostility towards me paying for useful training which could see me signing off for good within a couple of months of completing it, especially when they want to push me towards other training which is only guaranteed to cost you even more money.

If Seetec get extra money for placing people either in employment or in training, then their objection and their threats make perfect sense. But I did ask today and I've been assured that this isn't the case. So why threaten me with the DSP if I don't go along with them?

I realise you only have my word for this, and I know from experience that if you check this out you'll be told that I'm lying.

So, is Seetec a scam? Why are both Seetec and the DSP so set against me using my jobseekers Allowance to pay for useful training? Am I going to pay for having posted this on Facebook?

That last question is because in 2005 I went to both FÁS and my local Social Protection office with evidence that a course FÁS had outsourced was being rigged. Nobody wanted to know, I was called a liar and to the best of my knowledge, the company involved got a bigger contract. That does not mean it was the same company, and even if it was that does not mean there was a conspiracy at FÁS. The contract may well have been awarded in good faith based on the results that were coming back.

The situation at FÁS was only possible because of the cooperation of the participants, and if Seetec is a scam, that will only succeed with that cooperation of the participants. I hope it's not because, at least on paper, it's a good initiative.

Just to finish on a high note, I am perfectly willing to do the training necessary to work as a Vocational teacher.

## **THE SOLUTION**

If people want to use their Social Protection money to pay for training, let them do it without being threatened by either the DSP or companies who are basically milking the system.

**END.**

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I was with interest I read your article re Seetec. I would like to share my experience of Turas Nua with you.

I received an invitation letter to attend Turas Nua in either May or June and had been attending for a short while when I got a job offer in August, so I signed off the dole and have not been in receipt of any welfare payment since.

Yet. I still was receiving phone calls from Turas Nua wanting to know if I was still working full time and asking for my employer's registration number.

So two weeks ago I e-mailed them telling them that I did not need their help and if I did then I would contact them. I received an e-mail from a lady called xxxxxxxx xxxxxx telling me that if I would not give Turas Nua updates on my current circumstances then they would contact my employer directly and ask them because they are entitled to do this.

When I read this I was furious because for obvious reasons I don't want my employer or colleagues knowing my business and again I repeat I am NOT on any Social Protection payment nor did Turas Nua find me this employment so what right have this private organisation to contact my employer to find out anything about me?

I rang xxxxxxxx xxxxxx telling her that she or Turas Nuas has no business to do any such thing, I was no longer unemployed and how dare she even suggest such a thing. She told me that at my initial meeting with Turas Nua I had signed forms giving them permission to contact a future employer. I didn't recall doing any such thing and asked her to send me proof.

However, as it turns out I had signed such a form at meeting with Turas Nua, and yes, while I realise it was my own stupidity not to read what I was signing, the thought never crossed my mind I might be signing such a thing, I was handed forms and told to sign here and then there etc, and I only signed forms because I was told that failure to comply could result in my Social Protection payment getting cut off so anything I signed was under duress.

I really don't know whether to laugh or cry at this organisations bully-boy tactics. God knows it can be soul destroying enough being unemployed without being subjected to such behaviour and I am not even unemployed anymore.

I have no idea if this has happened to anyone else, although I have a feeling it has happened with quite a few others, but I just wanted to share what has happened to me and my experience of Turas Nua with you.

Regards,

=====

Subject: I left the UK because of Seetec.

This is a criminal organisation using bully-boy tactics. They will invent appointments you didn't attend and will treat you as a cretin when you produce the letter pointing to the different date when you did attend.

Their 'training' amounts to keeping you penned doing job searches which you could perfectly well do from home. If you show a hostile attitude you will get sanctioned.

Pity they have followed me across the Irish Sea. Shame on Joan Burton too; how did she ever get into the Labour party?

=====

Subject: Turas Nua

Hi, my partner has been forced also onto this job scheme, but the funny thing is that he was badly injured in February. His finger chopped off on his first day of work by a brick, after almost 8 months hospital, they decided finger was dead and an operation was carried out to remove finger and also part of his knuckle as highly damaged. This excuse of job placement has done nothing but HOUND a man on sick certs and illness benefit since February and still continue to do so even though only last Friday he was placed on monthly benefit certs. They had him yet again \*invited\* for a meeting with bold writing or your money will be cut. Makes me laugh so much as he cannot even work, yet medical certs, hospitals notes, nothing matters to these people. They continue to hound a man on illness benefit since February to this day (12/10/2016)

Thanks for reading

=====

Subject: Seetec Harassment

My partner has been unceremoniously harassed and bullied by Seetec since being 'invited' to take part in their programme. There was no choice but for him to take part, under threat of having his payment stopped (we have two young children, this was not taken into account.).

I find it disturbing that they have been given access to what should be private information, and meetings with them take place in an open shared space with other client's present, so everyone can hear each other talking. My partner is deeply uncomfortable with this, as am I.

It seems like the most flagrant disrespect and undermines clients' right to privacy in personal matters. It is clear that those on welfare in this country are being treated as sub human, and their personal issues and reasons for being unemployed are irrelevant.

The worst thing for me is that when my partner had initial dealing with Seetec, he was quite open to working with them and in getting help to get out of his situation and make genuine progress. Since then the nature of those dealings has progressively deteriorated, with him being treated like a child who must do what they tell him to do...or else.

I began to suspect that they were getting some sort of commission for clients getting off welfare, and upon the smallest bit of research my suspicions have been confirmed. It is yet another shameful turn in Irish politics to allow this to happen, and proof, if we needed it, that the politicians who have engineered this move are morally bankrupt with no interest in developing a proper vision that would advance the needs of the Irish people and our culture.

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Subject: Shameful

Thanks for your article. Very Informative. It's an absolute disgrace what this Seetec are up to. Please continue to expose these agencies, the people and the politicians were not going to put up with their scare and intimidating tactics.

The above Seetec and their like should be scrapped forthwith. Thank you.

=====

I recently decided to go a course which I can do while on jobseekers. I have been in Seetec since March going through the motions, but saw this course (nothing to do with Seetec) on coaching etc. I really, really want to do it. They almost did not allow me do it but the condition is, if they offer me a job I have to quit the course and cannot further myself. I am very annoyed and depressed over this. I also have to continue in Seetec applying for jobs while I do the course. Is there anything I can do?

=====

Subject: Seetec bullying and threats

Constant threats and a barrage of requirements. When supplied, they informed me it wasn't acceptable and I needed (to give) more and more and more...

They are nothing more than bullies. I even over hear a manager ask a member of staff 'how many he had on his book' and he should increase it and turn over more to make it look better. As a person who has a lifetime in sales I was amazed to hear people been used as a product list.

=====

Seetec have cut my job seekers payment even though I gave them a doctor's note to say "**Due to a frozen shoulder I'm unfit for work**".

=====

Hello,

Last October I received my invitation to attend a group introductory session in my nearest Seetec office 26km away.

There was a member of staff from the Department of Social Protection at this group session. It was made very clear by one of the speakers that if we failed to attend any of our appointments without phoning in to explain then we would get a "slap on the back of the

hand" and our Seetec adviser would contact Social Protection resulting in our payment being stopped.

I was insulted by the language used and felt we were addressed not as adults but as children who had committed a wrong doing and we were being chastised for our behaviour.

We then ticked a series of boxes confirming statements like, "I'm a team player", "I am always on time for appointments". When the answers to these statements are compiled you get a reading giving a % in various categories. I memorised the brief picture (which momentarily appeared on screen) of my first "test" as it is referred to and this enable me to increase the areas each time until I got 100% in all areas on my last "test".

Since last October I have had 3 advisers. The first returned, cap in hand to his previous employer, after being out sick on a few occasions. One day he phoned in sick I was not contacted by Seetec and drove 26km to their office only to be told he wasn't in, goodbye. But, if I did that they'd cancel my payment. I had to pay a childminder who was minding my 5 year old for the hour and a half it took on that particular morning. On another occasion I had no option but to take my 5 year old along with me and I was refused entry as they said my son is not insured to be on the premises. How could that be? Surely they have public liability insurance. On that occasion I did argue this and was told to leave. This first adviser I was assigned to typed up an "alternative" CV for me. It was littered with spelling and grammatical errors and its presentation was ghastly. I would never have sent it to any employer.

My second adviser was strange to say the least. She asked me several times, during each meeting I had with her, if I was alright. In the end, I had to ask her politely to refrain from this. Apparently, this is a strange tactic used to discommode the client and make them as uncomfortable as possible. She left within 4 months of starting. I had actually become quite fond of her as she slowly fell apart professionally before my eyes. Their receptionist left in the new year 2017 too. Yes. She went back to her old employer too!

My third and new adviser I have yet to meet. My boyfriend has just taken a job in the UK and my first appointment clashed with our middle son's one and only summer camp I sent him on (it was paid for by the local parish committee, thankfully). I phoned at 9am apologised and explained I was kind of on top of my head trying to cope, it was my first week flying solo. I got no consideration. My new adviser said, "I'm marking you absent". Again, I felt like a bold child. I explained I would be away for two weeks visiting my family down the country and please would she send me an appointment for after I got back. Knowing how conniving they are, I rang Social Protection and requested a holiday form so my money would be kept for me on my return and hopefully disabling Seetec from messing about with my payment.

On Monday of this week I received 3 appointments. All at 9am, all on consecutive days of the same week. All of these appointments I must attend. They are making an already difficult situation (being on my own with 3 kids) really testing for me.

I did laugh when I saw the 'incompetent' new adviser had given me my first appointment for bank holiday Monday 7th August. I wrote and pointed this out and now I have a new appointment for when I'm away at my sister's even though I told them in my phone call of

this matter. (Social Protection told me I can have two weeks off together once I let them know.)

It is quite staggering how inconsistent and incompetent these Seetec people really are. How on earth can they possibly find me a job when they can't even read a calendar? I worked as a PA to some of the most powerful directors in one of this country's largest banks and there was never room for error in my job. The bankers were different, as history has exposed.

I now work in education and not one adviser in Seetec can tell me where posts are advertised. I'm not going to tell them about educationposts.ie. That's not my job it's theirs, besides I'm too busy correcting their errors already.

Seetec, it's not fit for purpose.

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### **JOINT COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL PROTECTION - Thursday, 20 October 2016**

**Deputy Denise Mitchell:** ...I want to touch on sanctions and travel. Who determines what is a reasonable distance and what sanctions will be taken? Is it indirectly a private company that decides ultimately whether the sanctions apply?

I want to touch on the rules of governance on JobPath as well. What conditions govern the procedures of the programme? Is there any code of practice, for instance, within the private companies relating to vulnerable persons? What auditing process takes place?

I have a few concerns about the private companies operating the programme. In a case I have seen, for instance, I had a 62 year old lady come to see me who is on the programme. She found herself very distressed. She went to see her adviser and she was given a sheet with 15 vacant slots on it to which she had to go and present. She then had to bring that sheet back so that it could be said she had looked for employment. It had to be stamped by employers. This was her second occasion to do this. At that age, she felt it was a little degrading to be knocking at the door of places. I took the day to go with her. We got only two signatures and two stamps because companies now do not have management available.

=====

I'm completely frustrated with JobPath, so much so I have today gone to my local TD to complain. DSP says JobPath has funding available for courses I need yet JobPath say they have no funding. I could be working tomorrow but JobPath is blocking me any way I turn. I am disgusted to learn about Seetec and my personal data being handed over. I was only unemployed for 3 weeks when I was 'invited' to attend JobPath. I am beyond pissed-off!

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Hi,

I was called today for the 4th time to the Seetec office in Sligo. A girl who I initially met 3 weeks ago seemed nice enough today she was very different. Arrogant and patronising. I

have to travel into Sligo from 24km away they don't care, I wanted to claim travel costs today as I only receive 12euros since December before that I would receive 60Euros a week. This raise came when my husband's work had no overtime and he was back on minimum wage again.

They seem to be very sales oriented almost pushing me to do CV prep and Interview skill I am trained in teaching this I don't need it I told them this already and they keep pushing me to do it.

It is costing me more money to travel in. I have applied to over 20 jobs this week alone everything from cleaning to Microbiologist which I have a degree in. I am also a qualified English teacher. I was treated appallingly today, I so my job search there once a week its exactly the same as at home, indeed jobbio, jobs.ie and Sligo jobs there is nothing different. It is an absolute joke, they are wasting my time.

I am doing job interviews that I organise myself as I am highly professional and hope to get the hell away from asap. I have excellent computer skills and they still push me to do this shite that they have. I am so disgusted by this as I KNOW SEETEC is a for profit organisation and I want to take this further. Can you guys help me. I'm this close to signing off completely and leaving myself in an awful situation but I can't cope with these people.

*UnitedPeople replied to the person and in part of that reply, we invited them to the September 23<sup>rd</sup> conference. They in turn, replied back to UnitedPeople...*

Thank you for the invitation, I wish I could attend however, because of the bullying I received from Seetec I signed off, I just couldn't take it anymore. I travelled 50km into my meetings never received any travel expenses I was in receipt of €140 a week, they said I would only receive travel expenses when I attended for bi-weekly appointment, with someone who was a little patronising so and so.

No privacy everyone could hear all your business. The people in there are not qualified to tell other people what to do with their lives. I know one of the guys worked in retails for 20 years and now he's telling people what they are doing wrong that they can't find work. The North West has pure muck for work but do they care.

I know people that were placed in full time jobs working for €300 a week. I have no faith in this country any more. Seetec in Sligo don't care about the people, they want subsidies. The more asses in seats, the more they receive from our corrupt government.

I have no money but I have peace.

Kind regards

=====

Hello,

Just to tell you what happened to my friend with Seetec. She is now dead two months. She was in Seetec and got diagnosed with cancer. She had to go to Galway from Leitrim for treatment. Anyhow she missed appointments but always sent letter in relation dates of her treatment etc.. They ended up cutting her off and she had no dole for two weeks until we got

it sorted. We got her on long term illness money after that. But aren't they so cruel! They said whoever was dealing with her didn't see the letters she sent in and told dole she was missing appointments with them

**UnitedPeople partial reply: *Sadly not the first case we have heard of people with cancer being treated rotten. One of the founding members of UP was in the exact same situation. He too was hounded despite he too explain that he was beyond a point of recovery, in the process of dying.***

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To admin@unitedpeople.ie

I was with TN up to last May. Just before I got a job (all by myself) they asked me to sign a PPP electronically which I told them I was unable to do, but when my daughter opened the email from them, they had signed my name themselves. Also, they sent me a letter to attend an ES session on the 26/03 which I cycled the 12 miles to attend.

When I arrived, I was told the meeting was on the 27/3 and there had been a computer glitch and they apologised to me. I later learnt they had registered me as not attending the meeting. I have been waiting nearly 2 years (and probably will have to wait another 2) for a hospital appointment in St Vincent's for an ongoing health issue. I told them this in Turas Nua and they gave me until the end of June 18 to get the problem sorted!

Were they going to pay for me to go to the Blackrock clinic? I started in my new job in May18, I never gave either Turas Nua or Social Welfare details of the job but after 3 weeks to my complete embarrassment they somehow found out where I was working and called my employer twice. The only ones who knew where I was, were the revenue, after that I don't know.

I have all the paperwork to back up the above and if they are needed, I would have no problem emailing them to you.

John.

=====

Hi,

I'm engaged in the scheme but don't want to be. My partner works full time and had done for 13 years. I have been working 3 days per week for a year. We also have two young children and I suffer from anxiety and depression - and this is just making me worse. I was 10 minutes late for an appointment this morning which was for 9.30am. Because I had to take my kids to school, I was made feel like absolute crap. The woman was so ignorant. I'm 31 years of age and when I left I cried. Why do I have to do this when myself and my partner both work?

**Reply to the person above, when they contacted UnitedPeople:**

Hello Txxxxy,

Your situation has been described to us many, many times previously by others also in same circumstances. The Fine Gael led government slapped this JobPath process in without any consideration as to part-time employed working already - especially those that have children and that also cannot take up full time employment due to necessary daily parental functions.

Using a state, legal made process. to intimidate people without a care as to individual people and their circumstances, sadly has become the normal approach from yet again, a bullying political party. They are not on their own however in guilt. Fianna Fáil and Independents, still propping Fine Gael up while this is being done, are now equally guilty. They are also allowing this situation to continue but are deliberate saying nothing and doing nothing as of yet, to resolve the massive situation growing in number of incidents, day by day, all across the country.

Your treatment is most definitely not on its own. Again, many that has contacted UnitedPeople, have described similar harsh and sometimes, more brutal treatment from Seetec and Turas Nua staff. The staff many times over, have been unwilling to take into consideration people's personal situations as to let people off from having to attend, would mean that, at the end of their day, their profit numbers would drop through lesser forced attendance.

Many have found that appealing either to the Department of Social Protection or to Seetec/Turas Nua (another company press-ganging people) is a waste of time. Appeals regular fall on deaf ears. We are currently looking into the legality of many situations surrounding the very inconsiderate state press-ganging of citizens. It's possible this could go to the European Court of Justice in order to see that greater fairness and better treatment of Ireland's people, is greater mandatory practised by the state.

Yours sincerely,

UnitedPeople.

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jobpath some nightmare appointment for four today made me wait an hour and tended to other customers before me. I said to her after 40 mins will I be much longer. Father was waiting for me in the car. She said your appointment is for the hour. Sit down and wait. The appointment took five minutes when she came to me. Also said only options you have are two either get transport or draw carers allowance for your parents. Getting mad now in there on account of getting me no work. I barely can afford to live nevermind driving lessons cost of a car etc etc. Did it on purpose to drive me mad. I was anxious to get home as taxi would of cost me 20 euro in which I didn't have for the lift home. Basically threatened me with get transport or get carers allowance for my parents. But the parents don't need any help at the moment. They are well able to manage. I would not be surprised if my money was cut for next week. Did all their courses trying for jobs all the time. No luck. Id say they will tell the dole I am not cooperating on todays performance on account they are getting nowhere with me.

Some I knew this would happen. And also the attendance sheet for signing today had a different date on it completely. Plus she send me home with the form I usually fill up inside about what jobs you applied for. All a plan to cut me off.

Hi Jeff, just to give you an update on Seetec. I received a phone call from Dublin the day after I received the above letter, requesting my pps number, the lady said she was ringing from Seetec Dublin. I told her I don't give my personal information over the phone. She said she needs this number to continue our conversation. But I refused, can I say she wasn't to pleased with me. .. I have participated in see Seetec 2017 for a year. And I have been referred from social welfare to a caseworker from community Development 2017, and have been working with this lady since. I rang Seetec to explain this and would not be attending there personal placement plan, as I already have 1 a signed to me , they told me to ring Dublin and let them know, I did. To cut a long story short, I had to give my pps number under duress and was told they would send another letter to me , and it was mandatory to attend or my benefit would be affected.

These people are being bullies. I was told they are running out of people to attend, that's why we are being recalled, they have to make up the numbers some way. I'm being used like everyone else, so they can get their bonuses 🙄 sickening. ..



Ken Shanks

connected on Facebook

Lives in Dublin, Ireland

7 AUGUST 03:38

Hi jeff, im in a bit of bother and wondering if you could help me.

Im currently unemployed and homeless right now.been homeless for the last year now and i cant get a place of my own even with the hap forms. But i went to collect my job seekers money from pist office monday gone and it wasnt there so i went to the social welfare office an they said i was cut off because i never went to a meeting with this crowd seetec,i didnt know about these letters that was sent out to the previous address i was living as i became homeless from there which was the family home. So i was told that id be contacted later in the day to go to this seetec meeting in a dublin center. At the time i didnt know about what this seetec was about an i done the stupedest thing by going in and talking to them and signing something which i know now is a contract. I told them i was homeless because i knew they were gonna be hounding me to get work. But they said they going to ring me tomorrow (tues) to arrange to go in and they going to see about getting me somewhere to live before they do anything to do with getting work. But it was only when i left there i done a search on youtube about seetec and found all this bad stuff about them.

How can i get out of this and get away from them? I dont want nothing to do with them but if i refuse they going to have my mo ey cut again and then ill have nothing to live on while living on the streets.its the only thing thats keeping me going at this time,ive had suicidal thoughts before but with being homeless it has gotten worse and i dont know how long i can deal with this being homeless and no place of my own,hardly no money and no work.i have a full D lic which i got just before i became homeless but cant take a job because ive no home.

I was thinking of maybe going to social welfare and telling them i am homeless and my money would be changed to something else that all homeless people get but also saying why did they give my details to a private corporation etc. Then going to seetec and demanding they take all my private info off their system totally. Is this a good idea? Or how do i go about this?

Im sick and tired of this system/government at this point.

=====

Hi Jeff, thanks for accepting my friend request. I had a run-in with those Turas Nua parasites last year. They were nothing but bullies. It got to the stage where I attempted to end my life over the stress. What happened was, at the beginning, I was asked what my interests were. I told my advisor that I'm really good with computer repair and would like a job fixing them, such as in places like PC World, etc. I also mentioned I have a love for music and to work in a radio station would be good. I'm currently doing voluntary work, but to do it as employment would be cool. Anyway, my advisor gave me a page to write down what jobs I applied for on their computers. Saw nothing in those areas, so I said why not, I'll try retail work as retail seems to be an everyday thing now such as Penney's, Debenhams or a shop. So I applied for a CeX store and Penney's. I showed my advisor what I applied for and he just laughed in my face saying stuff like "Ah you're better than that. I'm telling you, go for Eishtec, I used to work there, it's brilliant". So I was like "But I don't wanna work at call centres, id honestly lose my patience over the phone with someone". He went on and on saying if I didn't go for it then my money would be cut. Walked outta there and walking up the street I was just in tears. Couldn't take it anymore. Anyway just wanna say what you're doing is brilliant, keep it up. You should have a voice in the Dáil. Wish that jobpath would go but knowing the government they'll just make another version but a different name.



=====

Just a little update on todays meeting, she tried to get me to register the seetec online jobs site , I told her i dont feel comfortable clicking the boxes and i dont Like using my DOB as a password. I said i will also not be signing the ppp. I said i want to get advice. She asked am i talking about JEFF RUDD , She said you infuriate her and you should put your education to better use. She said the dole do have the right to cut your money, To make a long story short , i didnt sign but she told me to log on when i get home and read the terms and conditions, Said the data is only held on the pc. I v another appointment next Monday, she thinks im coming in to sign up for the website with DOB after i read through the t&c. She does not like you lol, I told her you were great and doing a great job spreading the word lol. wonder whats in store for me next lol

hi jeff how you keeping i have been with jobpath for one year and get letter today that i have to attend for another year i live in very rural part of country have 5 school going kids and one car so make it awkward for me to get work travelling they tortured me last time sent cvs in everywere no word back they says there gonna cut my money if dont get job thanks

18:37

can job path cut your money if you dont attend them

who says they going to cut your money of they don't get job? Those exact words?

\*if

not so much in them words they were sending me to jobs that was to far away from my home and wouldnt be able to get there i told them i wouldnt be able to get to them they says they can stop the money as im not copperateing with them

they also asked how far the school was from my house i told them it is 1.5 miles they says my kids could walk and me take the car for work there to young to walk that journey

i would like to be working worked hard for 16 years and to no fault of my own lost my job just very hard were im liveing to get work very rural and havent the money for second car yes they are bullys im old enough to be there father bet half the ones in it never dirtied there hands daddy put them threw collage my guess

Hello Jeff. I have to go and meet turas nua every week! I have never been unemployed.i have my job in a retreat centre.and because we don't get full time turas nua told me I need to quit that job and find full time. I have small daughter 23monyhs.and am helping with my husbands business making cakes.i have no spare minute to do nylons else. I felt so harassed by them that I had an episode at work after the meeting . f need from the stress and had to go done all the tests at the dr . It seems I just wanted armed having panick attacks. I felt like being pushed off the edge. I know I need help from social welfare cos I don't make enough money.but they are treating me.like if I was never working in my life. Like I said I never been unemployed. I have my job from 2008 and I have security there cos my boss wants me to stay.and I need to think of my daughter.anyway I hope this will end.cos I feel like I am an criminal when am there.have to go every week. Good luck Jeff.

👍 1

(Sorry predictive text of u want me to write an email I will.)

Ps: last get casual dockets for the last 3 years.not the whole time.

09:47



Hi Jeff I'm just wondering what can we do about this job path crap if people stop going their money will be stoped or cut I got called in the last time to be asked how my Christmas was and given a new appomient there was no sense to it what so ever no sight of a job or anything. Not alone that I was told I would be prosecuted for not turning up to the meetings, if I didn't start going to them but that was by my local intro office I don't want them taking the piss out of me any longer running to them for nothing. What can be done?

=====

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Message:  
Dear Sir or Madam

I am finishing a Seetec scam on Thursday the 26 of April as I have done 52 weeks. In October I will be 62 will I still be sent on another Seetec scam if they deem me fit to do so as I was told that by somebody that once I turn 62 that will be it I will not be on another Seetec course Or is it a case they Seetec and Social welfare can do as they Please. Keep up the good work just wish somebody would take on Seetec and the likes of them and put them out of business and I was one of these people that signed up to this very hard not to when there is a danger of my money cut or stopped and my wife has brain Damage and also on Social Welfare not a lot of options open to me I feel and it would not bother this no good Government to have me and my wife in the Gutter and on the Streets

Thank You  
[REDACTED]

=====

Hi Jeff had a appointment with truas nua today and at the group asked questions about different issues you have posted on your page and what i heard from others who have dealt with them and they did everything to avoid answering questions and said questions would be answered in the one on one session when a few others started agreeing with me i was first to be called out for the one on one and got no real answers i asked what would happen if i did not sign they said I would be referred back to intro i didn't sign my next payment is due next Tuesday if any of my payment is stopped I will be complaining to all local TDs etc I'm living in [redacted] Ennis co Clare keep up the good work Jeff regards [redacted]

[redacted] added you on Messenger.

12:13

You accepted [redacted] request.

Hi. This is a common tactic. In the groups sessions I have advised people to follow-up ask "Why can you not answer my general question? Is the general reply meant to be kept secret or will the one-on-one answer be any different to that might be stated in public?" - They usually avoid answering that too.

=====



MON 17:12

Can you help my husband is on the third year of turas nua they said he had to do it even though he works partime trying to put him on courses he can't read and wrote and just found out he has copd it's a joke

=====

Dear "Personal Adviser(s)",

The time I found my self forced to engage with Turas Nua a private recruitment company has come to an end!

The "Personal Advisers" assigned to me I found largely unqualified and had no background in employee resourcing nor had they an understanding of my specific long-term employment goals.

In fact the first person assigned to me attacked my character and was rude beyond belief I felt intimidated, bullied and under the constant threat my social protection benefit would be reduced or cancelled. This individual disclosed that she too didn't like the system and only works with Turas Nua until she finds something better. Throughout my time with her I was offered no advise or support and arranged appointments to meet with employment services aka the recruiters never happened even though my records will show in fact it did however, the day of the appointment they were unavailable.

xxxx xxxxx was the only adviser that understood my needs and tried her best to engage and was always very professional and polite and placed me on a useful course, this was useful as it was relevant and not duplicating my previous qualifications and capabilities thus, not a waste of tax payers money and my time. Thank You xxx on a personal basis!

My third and final "adviser" was as rude and just about as much use as the first "adviser"! Perhaps she would have improved in time however, I'm glad I no longer have to attend to find out as I'm no longer in receipt of any social protection payment.

I was forced to seek medical help and required anti depressant medication as a result of the harassment and intimidation at the hands of the private recruitment FRS aka Turas Nua all for their contractors the department of social protection.

I hope all involve in this entire JobPath scheme are deeply ashamed and horrified at how they exploit the vulnerable in society in order to earn a living and/or make a profit!

Yours,

xxxxx xxxxx

Like · Reply · 1h

My exit email to the Manager and my 3  
"Personal advisers"

Like · Reply · 1h





William O'Sullivan



Hi guy's...

Might be a bit off topic but I finished a 52 week (ppp) with Seetec/Jobpath in January, now I have casual stewart/security work , they send me out appointments to attend more meetings for a year, just rang the freephone number and told them I couldn't make it because of my work obligations, and they basically said no you have to attend the meetings, how in hell is anyone meant to keep a job with them, this is apparently for 52 weeks, and I have work next week and the week after.....😞😞😞



Hi Jeff i have a girl working part time for me 3 days a week trainee [redacted] .. she is attending Turas nua .. they keep dragging her down their and said she has to find a new job .. I will have more work for her at Christmas but they are making things difficult for her what can she do

08:22



Listowel is a joke got a txt from then friday late afternoon saying i hadnt turned up for my appointment ,i hadnt even had notification of a appointment , as i had already recieved a slip from social welfare to office sign on , after not getting careers allowance for my wife whos on disability , then this morning i sign on at listowel social welfare no problems with the admin on it , get home to find a letter from turas nua listowel saying i had a appointment for 9.30 am this morning , which is when i was signing on plus our post doesnt get to us till gone 10am plus the letter is stamped posted only yesterday 12th feb

After reading the post on the girl with the part time job I feel compelled to tell you where we are at the moment. About 14 years ago we had our own bus that my husband drove for a living. Between school runs and taxi work we had an ok income. Then my husband became unwell and we had to give up the business, 5 years later he was diagnosed with croans disease. He started working as a school bus driver. The hours suit him well as he has time to rest and would have plenty of time off with school holidays. We get family income supplement with his wages.

In the past if the school was closed for a week instead of switching between payments the community welfare officer would top the Fis up to jobseekers level. In the last few years his health has declined further with other long term medical conditions but he still gets up everyday and goes to work. It means he usually has to lie down and sleep between the school runs, but he wants to work. He's also had to take time off work for numerous hospital appointments etc.

Well Fis, now known as working family payment, have decided we owe them thousands. For every week he had to take a day off for a hospital appointment they say he didn't work enough hours so must repay the payment for that week, for the weeks the schools were closed and the community welfare officer topped up the working family payment to jobseekers level, they want the wfp repaid to them. The only time the payment was on hold was during the summer months when he'd be off for 8 to 9 weeks.

If we were to sign on every time the schools were off he'd be changing payments every six weeks or so and then we'd have to wait for the claim to go through and then sign back off and wait for the wfp to be reactivated. This is why the community welfare stepped in and offered to top up the wfp instead of changing payments to receive the same amount of money every time.

We never gained anything from doing it, yet they are now taking the money directly from our social welfare payment. We have so much going on, and their taking what is basically our electricity top up every week and a bit more from us.

At this stage we can see their trying to push him into full time employment, they've been made aware of his health problems, but they don't care, but in reality all their doing is forcing him from a job he loves, a job that he can still do because it's two hours in the morning, a five hour break and 2 hours in the afternoon. He wants to remain working as long as he can, but it's looking more like he will be forced onto a disability payment sooner rather than later by pen pushers whose only interest is the bottom line.

There are situations where you can work and claim disability but you have to have been out of work for at least 6 months and then seek their permission to work.

If he left his job for six months the job would no longer exist, he may or may not lose his bus license and his cpc license. His employers have been brilliant and do everything possible to accommodate him. But they are also receiving hassle from the same department with constant requests for his work sheets, pay slips, monthly pay record, 2 years of his pay records were requested not once, but twice.

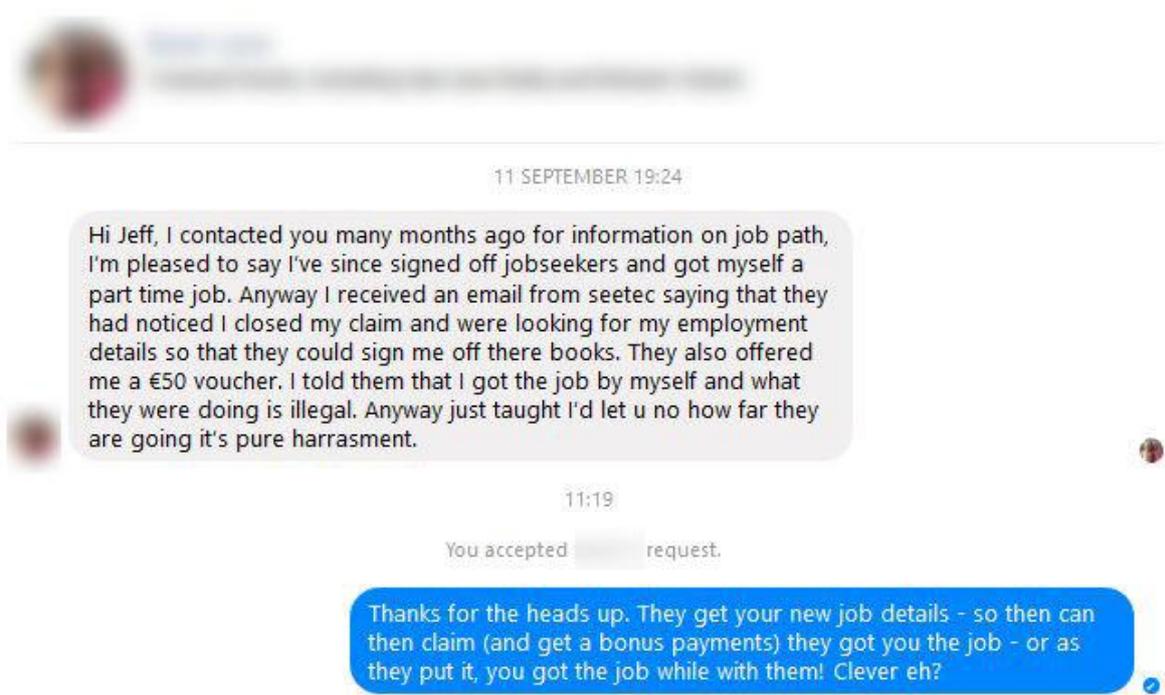
We are no longer people to the government departments, we are numbers that need to be crunched so the government can look good, they don't care that they are breaking us, they don't care that I now have to figure out which bill goes unpaid or which of my children will have to wait for the new runners that are needed. With one of my daughters having such a high arch she can only wear Nike airmax or risk permanent back problems and another daughter who's eczema is so bad that she can only wear sketchers, they don't care that each family is unique, each family deserves support, because none of that fits on a spread sheet, they don't have a calculator for adding up the heartbreak and stress they cause, they simply don't care.

=====

00:11

00:11

Hi Jeff, I hope you don't mind me messaging you out of the blue. I have been advised that you may be able to help me regarding turas nua. I have been with them since June last year, my personal advisor was changed 3 times, the last lad I had got me 3 weeks work with a builder, now he told me before I started that it was for 3 weeks only. He called me on the Wednesday, and by 5.30am the following morning I was on my way to the job. This advisor told me as it was just for 3 weeks that to go ahead and do the work and he would deal with the social side of things. I done as I was told because in my eyes these people are the social welfare and I have no say in these things. Anyway the job lasted 3 weeks. I've gone to the welfare office to sign on to be told I need to get either a p45 or a letter from the employer. This man will not answer my calls. Now this is for no reason whatsoever. But my advisor told me he would be in contact with him and get him to forward on what I need. I went on a holiday on Friday 13th of April gone I was let go the previous Friday. The Monday before I went I was in turas nua with this advisor. He told me he was very sorry about the confusion and to enjoy my holiday that he would get in touch with the employer and sort out my p45. I got back on Friday 20th to find nothing had been done. I went to the welfare office the Monday after to be told my advisor was away on holiday and wouldn't be back for a week. Nobody else in turas nua could access my advisors computer, they couldn't even tell me what to do! Anyway long story I know but I'm being pushed from the welfare to turas nua and back again and nobody is taking any responsibility for it, it's got to the stage where they're putting all the blame on me it's my own fault. Anyway if there is any way that you could help me I can forward you my number for a chat. Thank you for taking the time to read my story. Regards,





[Blurred text]

27 JANUARY 11:38

hi jeff now that the ruling has come through regarding turas nua , where legally does that leave ppl like me who where forced to sign with them , i have about 2 months left with them , constant bullying , making me apply for jobs , that i have no chance of getting and being told to lie on my cv and at interviews to increase my chances of employment ?

17:19

This just goes to show social welfare & Turas Nua , dont have a clue what they are doing , was on turas for 10 months then i applied to be full time career for my wife who is on disability, took them 4 1/2 months to tell me i didnt get it even though they agreed she needed care but not full time .So i wait to see what happens next on 30th jan i receive a signing on slip from social for 5th feb , then i receive 2 voice mails from them saying they got the wrong week and that i would actually be signing on , on the 13th feb , i thought ok great im now back on social welfare, today i receive a txt from my turas nua office saying to contact them as i had missed a arranged appointment , which was very strange as i had had absolutely know contact from them since they said i didnt have to go back to them , while the careers application was going through.The right hand dont know what the left is doing totally clueless , i will be going to sign on ,on the 13th feb see what happens after that.



UnitedPeople

#JobPath

Just had a woman on the phone from Monaghan. She declined to sign a PPP (Personal Progress Plan) Seetec private contract. She got a letter today stating that from TODAY until the 9th of January she would be completely cut off of ALL benefits.

A not so happy Christmas for her. Meanwhile her bills will stack up.

She PROVED to Seetec at local level and the dole office, that what they were doing was illegal and upper management in both, previously stated (23rd, Sept 2017) in Dublin highcourt court they actually hadn't got the legal power to do it - BUT HERE AGAIN they are still doing it!

...DESPITE they knowing it's illegal - and DESPITE the lower people in both state service and private company been shown evidence it is illegal.



THURS 23:18

THURS 23:18

hi jeff i attened your meeting in the teachers union a couple of weeks ago i was signed upto a truck driving course but i have stated i do not have the provisional c license so i would not be able to do the course after alot of more running around and more confusion saying my money could be cut again has happened twice already then this evening between 7 to half 8 there was a brown envelope addressed to me dropped in the letter box to attend a jobs fair tomorrow morning from 10.30 to 2 oclock and if i dont register with a certain stand at the fair my money could be cut but jeff im sure i seen the car that dropped it off was a unmarked silver garda car nearly 85 to 90 % sure it was p.s great work your doing highlighting serious issues for our country and future generations thank you

=====

Check out this. I was telling them that i read from one of your posts that, they harrassed a guy who got a job. Here.. im gona paste my friends reply to when i told her about them harrassing his employer...That exact thing happened my cousin and my sisters mate. My cousin got a job from a friend and signed off. That company fucking HARRASSED him for weeks phoning him constantly while he was at work trying to get him to say that they had helped him get employed. He kept saying "no you didn't, at my friends funeral a mutual friend offered me work and you guys did nothing". But they kept ringing and ringing with the same questions phrased differently to try trick him into saying they were helpful. Scum of the earth, don't let them away with it.

=====



**Siobhan O'Connor** I'm sick to death of the harassment as I'm doing my best and I'll be contacting social welfare to tell them that jobspath are forcing me attend stupid courses with them that I've already done last year

=====

My partner who has depression and anxiety and is on medication for years with this. Went and done the TUS scheme for a year. Was put back on social payment for a 6 months they made he sign up with seetec after getting letters from doctors to say he can't go into busy rooms so he missed a appointment stopped his payments. I woelrk full time but only get paid monthly and we have 2 young kids. He went to the welfare officer and because I work he was not entitled to anything. So he had to move in with his father in order to receive a payment. He has applied for disability and in august last year he got a text saying they are looking into it and now this is February and still no word. Is any where he could go to get his right payment so he can move back home with his family.

=====

31 JANUARY 22:44

added you on Messenger.

Hello Jeff - I read a very interesting post here by Con O Donnabhan regarding the Turas Nua issue.  
My partner and some people he would know have been chewed up - for want of a better word - by this scheme and although my partner found work himself, he was left destitute with no welfare payment, no wages and a continuing unaddressed appeal regarding his lost payment (8 weeks before he found work himself). The appeal has never been responded to and as he has just finished a 6 month contract he dreads any interaction with what he believes to be a local Social Protection Office which, like the aforementioned post, is strongly biased in forcing people down these routes.  
Really hoping that you can bring this issue to light. Feel free to p.m. here as my partner isn't on Facebook but when I showed him the post he was delighted (and relieved) that someone else sees through these schemes. Thanking you for your time

=====

As promised here is an update on my situation involving Seetec , as you know before the Christmas i was called for a meeting where i refused to sign a contract on the basis of having already been granted a position on a Fas scheme and after being threatened to have my payments cut i politely referred them to Damien's case and how the judge had ruled that refusing to sign a contract with a private company can not be seen as failure to engage as long as the person is making a genuine effort to go to the meetings . Once i had mentioned this and my position on Fas i was told that i may as well go home as we were just going to keep going in circles and would get nowhere but that i had up to 30 days to prove my case that i had an offer from Fas . Fast forward to after the holidays and since coming back from holidays the gentleman at Fas has been tirelessly fighting my corner and has been back and forth with various people and offices to do so . Now here is where it get's a bit ridiculous on one hand my local Intreo office has given me the all clear to go ahead on the Fas scheme no problem but then the office in Galway city is saying no i cannot proceed as my name is on the jobspath register , Galway Intreo office then told Fas that i would have to contact Seetec and have my name removed from their register so i can proceed with the scheme so today myself and the gentleman from Fas and the chairman of the scheme all went into the Seetec office to try sort it out . We produced all the documents we had explained my situation / story to them and how i was there to see about getting my name removed from the register so i can proceed to which we were told " ah them guys in Intreo love playing pass the buck " and that there is nothing Seetec can do as it's up to Intreo to have me removed from the register yet Intreo claim the opposite , they then proceeded to tell me there is no 30 day grace period to sort out this mess yet that's not what i was told by both the member of Seetec on the day of my first encounter but also by a member of staff in my local DSP office . They then proceeded to contact their manager and he also said that no there is no 30 day period so who is telling lies / misinforming me ? is one of their own employees and a staff member of the local DSP office telling me lies or is the staff i met today and their manager telling me lies either way i feel like they are just deliberately trying to run down the clock on me so i can't object / make my case to get onto the CE scheme with Fas which i was offered prior to Seetec contacting me . Either way it's becoming quite stressful on me and now i can now see why some people have sadly gone to the extreme of harming themselves over this thankfully i'm not quite gone that far myself but i can feel for them and see why they might feel that way when dealing with a shower like this . On one hand i have an opportunity to work on a scheme in an area i am both familiar with and that can further help me to progress in the right direction on the path i am aiming for in the hope of setting up my own business and they can help me along the way yet are being stone walled , and on the other hand i have a recruitment agency with a very questionable past pending court cases against them that don't give a damn about anyone's well being only that they get a name on a contract so they get paid and after that it's lump their participants into any old rubbish work that more than likely has nothing to do with their intended choice / future career path that in a lot of cases leaves them worse off than they were when on social and has little to no potential / prospect of keeping them on after their contract is expired as in the majority of cases they simply run a revolving door system of endless free slave labour , sure why pay for a full time employee when you can have endless people through your door to do it for free as long as you provide them with the very basic of training to get them through . Scambridge needs to go and i pray that at the very least the 23rd of this month see's at least a few nails put in the coffin of this farcical set up and in the coffin of those that willing look to exploit the most vulnerable people of this once fair isle . For now all i can do is wait and see what happens over the coming days as Fas continue to fight my corner with what may be the last and final push for them and after that it's a case of me being left with no other option but to accept and sign with Seetec or continue to attend but refuse to sing and then eventually more than likely end up being cut as i don't really see any other option for me at this time even though going with Seetec will more than likely do more harm than good and set me back a ways in my attempts at both furthering my education / training so i can continue on my path to eventually going self employed and running my own small business . That being said i am still going to continue to work on trying to get up and running regardless of what happens . Roll on the 23rd and may heads roll with it .

WED 21:46

finally some good news on my end , it was a long and drawn out process but i'm now officially off the seetec register and on the scheme i was supposed to be on in the first place largely thanks to the man who stuck by my case and fought my corner but also thanks to the advice you gave me so again thanks for the help and may 2018 be a better year for all caught up in this mess .

over

=====

Jeff is there anyway I can get out of a contract with Taurus nua after signing a contract with them or am I stuck in it??? My problem arises with a bit of a tricky situation, I've received a job with ██████████ County Council but it's deemed as I'm on a panel meaning I'm just waiting on a call which will be more than likely the summer(tourist season) turas nua have told me I have to turn the panel position down because it's not a present full-time position. They are organising an interview with a local convience store, I don't want to take it because I'll lose my position with the council.

=====



ive seen u post stories bout turas nua u can share mine without my name if u want il try make it short my husband was put on disability allowance in june and i remained on jobseekers i applied for carers allowance was refused and am in middle of appeal in september intreo sent me to turas nua ive had appointments every second week since and since i am my husbands carer it is very hard to make these appointments since the appeal could take up to eight months i have decided to sign of jobseekers so i dont have to deal with turas nua anymore this decision was not made lightly as my house will be down nearly 200 euro a week which we definitely cannot afford but turas nua are wearing me down i went into social welfare office and signed off no problem then rang my case worker in turas nua and told her i would not b attending any more meetings because i had signed off to which she replied with i still have to attend all future meetings with full co operation i asked why and she said thats how it works i politely told her i will not b there any more then she said there will b repercussions if i did not then i hung up how is this possible they have already drove us to despair sorry bout the long message both i was wondering have u heard of this before thanks

=====



Hi Jeff my name is [redacted] I was out of work for 1 year and received jobseekers for 9 months then was sent on a tus course for 1 year in cic loved it the placement ended on 2nd this month and the week later jobpath sent me letter to attend I went down to welfare office and asked why I was picked told it was random but it was in my best interest they said they would help me to update my CV I told them I had a updated CV and never had a problem getting a job in my life but they were not allowing me look for work on my own was told my benefit wud be cut by at least 40 euro I rang and cancelled the first app with them and told do not ring again and cancelled can u give me any advice please I'm 62 in July what do I do when asked to sign anything found out about u through tus thanking u



[redacted] thanks so much for getting back to me feel like I'm fighting a losing battle the scare tactics unbelievable

=====



**The News, Views & Spews, you won't hear in Donegal**



Yesterday at 09:02 · 🌐

So, before I left the public service building yesterday, I thought the lady over the job enterprise scheme might help me out to set up business. She was in meetings all day so i left my query, name and phone number. I have done the back to work business course where you can start up a business and they will support you.

Anyway, when she rang yesterday evening and i told her my story, she said Job path would have to release me.

RELEASE ME?

I did not realize I was now their prisoner!

I told her they didn't own me. I said I hadn't signed anything for them. So then she said then that the social welfare would have to release me as the funding would be coming from THEM!

What the hell is really going on, can somebody please tell us?

Prisoners and the workers are slaves?



**[Name]**  
[Text]

3 NOVEMBER 22:53

Hi Jeff, I just read a post you shared on Sunday about job path and the other private company. I found it very interesting after the experience I had during the summer. I was referred to job path during the summer and they told me I wouldn't be allowed to start my second year in college because I was on their books. Thankfully I wasn't that naive and ignored them and went back in September. Thank you for highlighting these dangerous company's. If they had their way I would be working for minimum wage in a job I hate for the rest of my life instead I'm studying accountancy.



THURS 16:49

Dear Jeff,

I hope this finds you well. My name is [REDACTED], an Irish citizen with a background in genetics. I am contacting you regarding my experience with the JobPath programme. Being familiar with your great work in this regard, I feel that you could be best positioned to help me.

On Wednesday, I received a letter from the Department of Social Protection, informing me that I am scheduled to attend a JobPath appointment on May 24th. I was quite surprised by this, for I have only been unemployed for a month; I finished up in Belfast City Hospital in mid-April.

In addition, I have already been through the JobPath programme. I completed it in August 2017, a month before taking up work in Belfast. I don't see the need to endure another 52 weeks of 'workshops' and 'assessments'. My CV needs no further refinement, and I understand how to do a good interview.

I feel that, if anything, all of this is hindering my ability to find work. I am currently preparing for an interview with Forensic Science Ireland, and don't need any such distractions. I have tried explaining all of this to both Seetec and the Department, but both have told me that I'm basically stuck with it.

A few moments ago, I received a phone call from [REDACTED] of Skills Team Employment Services in [REDACTED]. He told me that I am still scheduled to appear on the 24th, unless the Department decides otherwise. I would appreciate any advice in this regard, as I have no intention of being dragged through this scam again.

Thanks very much for your consideration,

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## UnitedPeople "jobpath"



<wordpress@unitedpeople.ie>

14:48



To: jeffrudd

From: <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Subject: jobpath

### Message Body:

i am working p/t 16 hours a week [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] which started in march, with a fair chance of being taken on full time ,  
im 57 years of age and , i was asked to attend at tuaras nua, the first two  
meetings i couldnt make as i was working, reverted back to social welfare they  
told me i would be put back to jobpath and if i couldnt make the meeting and  
was refered back i could be deducted money , so i was forced to ask my  
employer to leave that particuler day free, which he wasnt happy about , so i  
risked loosing my job to attend a meeting to get a job, i went to the jobpath  
meeting but refused to sign where she told me there was no reason being there  
, if i signed i cannot use any other means of getting employment except  
jobpath, what sense is that, and costing the tax payer €84,000000,, now im  
waiting to see if i am deducted money or worse struck off, mean while i am  
trying to establish my own bussiness and i will soon be taking a safe pass course  
and 360 digger machine course , , i was also on a back to work scheme , so i am  
making efforts to get back to work , well i am actually working all be it 16 per  
week, i have worked all my life up until recently in the building trade, i have  
problems with the ankle and knee so actual physical labour is out of the  
question, and my memory is very poor so learning a new field would be a tough  
task, so at 57 i feel like i am on the scrap heap,, if i loose any money from what i  
am getting i seriously doubt i could go on as it wouldnt be long before i could  
afford to pay my rent i hope n pray im not forced onto the street,,

GDPR accepted on:

August 31, 2018 1:46 pm

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This e-mail was sent from a contact form on UnitedPeople  
(<http://unitedpeople.ie>)

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Hi Jeff, I have received this letter today, from Seetec, I have already attended this last year from February to August 2017, which I was told to sign a document before they would interview me. In September I was sent another letter from social welfare to attend another interview by a [REDACTED] in Athlone, I attended this interview, and explained to him, that I have worked with community employment, for ten years, this includes Vetos, in which I studied the equivalent to the leaving cert. I continued to attend my studies in Athlone Regional College for 2 yrs in Administration information and technology. I explained to him, that I want a proper paying job and not another scheme as I have done all of these schemes already. .. in October I received another letter inviting me to do another course with tursa Nura, which I attended and was again asked to sign a lot of paper work, I did not get a chance to read what I was signing, as I was told I would not be interviewed if I did not sign. They wanted me to pick a course, minding kids in a creach, or administrator, I again explained to the 3 men that I wanted a job that will pay me after all I have all of these courses done. In November I was called for another interview from Tuse again threatening me if I did not attend my social welfare will be affected. I sent back the form letting them know i already attended an interview with Tursa Nuna and was waiting on correspondence from them, and will not be attending for interview. I feel I am being harassed and bullied by these private companies. This letter says I have been appointed as personal Employment adviser, I already have one of these from community Development, I've had enough. ..

=====

yes its not good, I'm based in [REDACTED], I will tell you my situation. First meeting I went but from what I read online, I went in with the mindset of not signing anything, got into a argument with the main person in charge who was very rude, she explained for health and safety I have to sign in, I refused and she said you have been DNA and sanctioned, I told her i'm willing to go to the meeting but not sign anything, she refused to let me into the group meeting, thankfully I wasn't sanctioned, the next meeting i went in and signed the attendance form, explained to Me that this wasn't a contract, at the end of the meeting the jobpath booklet they gave us, told us to sign the last page and hand it in there and then, I explained I didn't understand what I was signing, they have scheduled me for another meeting on Wednesday with the sole purpose of me signing the booklet, I know that this is a contract which will supersede anything else in the future, even the job progression plan which they told me I don't have to sign, also told that case on your poster saying you cannot be forced into signing a contract is pending .The way I see it is I'm there to find a job, and there job is to find me a job, not sign contracts which will limit my opportunities for example if I wanted to attend college in the future

=====



Jeff Rudd

13 mins · 🌐 ▼



#JobPath

Just off the phone to a 52 year old Cavan person. Over the last few weeks he has been been cut down and then off his benefits. Why? He upheld his legal right - as he is legal entitled to do (as confirmed by Mr John Conlon, Assistant Secretary, Dept' of Social Protection, 8th march 2018 - Dail committee room 2 - on public record) to decline signing a PPP (contract) with a private company, forcing the government JobPath setup on civilians in his area.

I have previously reported about this man (and his family, wife/3 children). Between the lot of them, they are now living on €80 a week - and that's supposed to be as a rent allowance. They have cut his family ILLEGALLY off all other benefits. they continue to do things without the law behind them to allow it - and THEY ADMIT THIS.

Naturally enough, food has become a priority. The husband and wife have now been called to a further meeting, possibly to pile on more pressure, by the rent allowance dept' in his area.

He called to keep me updated. The state is now trying to add more pressure.

\* Publicly, they say he has ever legal right to decline to sign with a private company - as long as he's still willing to "engage" otherwise as legal required - which he 100% is!

\* Privately, the state once again is using it's various departments to quite bully, starve and in this case, make people lose the roof over their heads, just so they can be coerced into signing a private contract with a private company.

Very shortly his internet at home will be also cut off - as the family have no money now to pay that bill either. The man, now will have to likely sell his car, if quickly possible, to keep the roof over his families head and they kept fed.

LET ME BE CLEAR.

\* The man, the dad, the husband, is 100% acting within his legal rights.

\* The state, the Department of Social Protection, is ACTING COMPLETELY ILLEGALLY and have even admitted in Dublin highcourt 2017 that they DO NOT even have the legal legislation to be doing what they are also now doing to this man - yet THEY ARE STILL DOING IT - BREAKING THE LAW.

Because of the state illegal actions, it now looks like the family could lose their home.

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Hi Jeff this letter just arrived. Please advise. I have done this already last year

The Department of Social Protection helps jobseekers to secure advice, job search supports, access to work experience and further training opportunities. We are pleased to inform you that you have been allocated a Personal Adviser with you to help you avail of these services. You are invited to attend a meeting with other jobseekers at the date and time shown below (this session is subject to availability).

**Date:** 06/02/2018      **Start Time:** 11:00 AM  
**Location:** Turas Nua Ground Floor Office, Anglesea Street, Clontarf, Dublin 9

The purpose of the meeting is to explain how the personal adviser will work, to provide details of the supports available and to answer any questions about the service.

You will meet representatives from Turas Nua Limited, a company which provides employment supports on behalf of the Department of Social Protection. You will be invited to discuss your employment supports needed to achieve your employment goal and to develop your personal development plan. As you know all jobseekers in receipt of a jobseeker payment are invited to attend these sessions to improve their employment prospects and are expected to take part in these sessions. Officers of group and individual meetings and any subsequent development opportunities. Accordingly any refusal or failure to attend a meeting or to subsequently participate in JobPath information sessions or to subsequently participate in JobPath information sessions may result in your jobseeker payment being reduced.

If you are unable to attend or if you have any additional support requirements please contact your Personal Adviser.

Department of Social Protection  
**NOTICE TO ATTEND INFORMATION SESSION**

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I will refuse to sign anything

They couldn't make me do CE scheme before Xmas I've been expecting this

TUES 12:39

ive just left a turas nua meeting, when i refused to sign ppp, they immediately threatened me with social welfare payment cuts. i took all documents including ppp with me and informed them that it was my right to do so. what should i expect to happen next

You should expect to be cut by €45 immediately. They will sentence you as guilty of breaking rules they invented - but that their top barristers in Dublin highcourt, have admitted, they DO NOT have the legal power to actually do. In other words they will deduct you and rob you ILLEGALLY. That's a Fine Gael government of 2018.



**Trevor Duffy** It's not random a week after I finished my degree in May they sent me to Turas Nua!

Like · Reply · 14h



**Trevor Duffy** Trying to push me into call centre's ever since! I made my 9 months to date with them more of a nightmare for them in the end, I'm starting work next week in my chosen field! They intimidated me attacked my character and pushed me too far I ended up on anti depression tablets, I didn't make it easy on them and fought back and tied them up and tongue tied them at every meeting with my obvious higher intelligence. My advice is keep asking them what they can do to help today and tell them that's not helping that's something you can do without them and ask how they're qualified to advise on these matters etc. Etc..

Like · Reply · 14h



**Matthew Roche** I was with turas nua last year and they are looking to rope me in for another year. I was talking to a woman in the DSP office yesterday and she said "you have been referred for jobpath" I said referred ? Referred by who ? . she said " oh well not referred but you name is on my system. . . I have to say Jeff Rudd has the shit scared out of them and they are scrambling like rats to cover up their mess before he comes out for round 2. Well done Jeff . you are a star 👍👍

Like · Reply · 13h



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**Damien Dayo O'shea** I was on job path a while back I was working between 3-5 days a week was on x's and O's forms most weeks I wouldn't be entitled to a payment the social told me it wasn't enough even though it was well paid they tried to make me take a job for €10 a hour I told them to piss off threatening me because I be working and couldn't attend meeting stopping money it's a disgrace

=====



**Luke Smyth** Ive been ordered in again tomorrow for the fourth time in two weeks in navan seetec...its got to the stage now where I hate the place and u know their all talking about u behind ur back...I stand up for myself and they don't like that...they treat people like their a problem that needs to be fixed...I lost the rag last week and told her I wasnt a criminal that I was unemployed,I didnt do anything wrong...im sure they had a good sneer about that when I left...this crap has my head wrecked two weeks before Christmas



[Redacted text]

17:40

I was been put on seetec in the summer of last year and though i told them i have no transport and starting a course soon in my local town of bailieboro and they said if i dont attend the meeting my money will be cut

21:06

Sadly, that's a regular issue that crops up. They don't like it when you can't attend due to you trying to further educate yourself.

=====

Hi Jeff

I was talking to a friend of mine about job, she is also working in a hospital (Clonmel). She is very involved with Forsa. However, neither of us can understand how nurses can end up on JobPath. We are crying out for nurses across the country so really, they shouldn't be in this situation.

Regards xxxxx.

=====

**John Colohan** <[xxxxxxxxxx@yahoo.com](mailto:xxxxxxxxxx@yahoo.com)>

Fri, 7  
Dec,  
20:39

to admin@unitedpeople.ie

I was with TN (Turas Nua) up to last May. Just before I got a job (all by myself) they asked me to sign a PPP electronically which I told them I was unable to do, but when my daughter opened the email from them, they had signed my name themselves. Also, the sent me a letter to attend an ES session on the 26/03 which I cycled the 12 miles to attend. When I arrived, I was told the meeting was on the 27/3 and there had been a computer glitch and they apologized to me.

I later learnt they had registered me as not attending the meeting. I have been waiting nearly 2 years (and probably will have to wait another 2) for a hospital appointment in St Vincent's for an ongoing health issue. I told them this in TN and they gave me until the end of June 18 to get the problem sorted! We're they going to pay for me to go to the Blackrock clinic?

I started in my new job in May18, I never gave either TN or SW details of the job but after 3 weeks to my complete embarrassment they somehow found out where I was working and called my employer twice, only ones who knew where I was, were the revenue after that I don't know. I have all the paperwork to back up the above and if they are needed, I would have no problem emailing them to you.

John.

=====



Profile name and details are blurred.

THURS 20:11

Hi Jeff really sorry to bother you mate I can see and appreciate how busy a man you are and having read through all of your details in trying to expose Jobpath for what it is I wish you all the best of luck. I am on my second year with them after enduring an absolute nightmare first time around! Jeff I am a decent human being who is trying his best. I live in [redacted] which is on google as being the most depressed town in Ireland. This place took a complete battering a few yrs ago and has not recovered nor will it by the looks of things. I was made to fill out the exact same questionnaire 6 times in my first yr and not allowed to pursue a course I wanted to do instead I had to wait until my year with them was up then having to rely on my mothers financial help to eventually do my course where I got my Personal Trainer Diploma. I am trying to get started on my own but living here its really hard to get going I only had my Diploma a couple months and Turas Nua came hounding me again and this time its even worse! I am on the verge of cracking up with them. Its all a complete waste of time and is shambolically organised! A group of toddlers could organise better. The personal advisors havent a bloody clue what theyre doing. I could tell you some horrific stories Jeff but Id be here all night. Do I just keep going through the motions Jeff or can you advise anything else Im truly at my wits end with it all. I appreciate your time Jeff and fair play to you for having the balls to stand up to this nonsense its just a pity that more dont stand up to them. This is Thatcherism all over again. Im no fool Jeff ive seen Docherty in the Dail spewing utter lies and its stomach churning. This is a beautiful wee country but um telling you its being completely ruined as we all stand by and let it happen. Thanks again Jeff goodman and all the best to you 🙏

30 NOVEMBER 00:32

hi Jeff, I am a Tús Supervisor, soon to be made redundant due to Jobpath. In the past, we had a placement ratio of 1:3 or 1:2 for our referrals, and no time pressure. we were able to look after people, find them a suitable placement, put them on the long finger if they had personal issues and keep the dogs off. Never had to coerce people, and we had some really great personal success stories; also many happy and helped community groups. The past 3 years, we have got the scraps from Jobpath, and have witnessed firsthand the wreck that Turas Nua are doing in [redacted]. As you say, some people have been driven to breakdown and suicide - more just utterly demoralised. One man with Huntingtons and his sister came to me for help - I found him a lovely gardening job on Tús with a group who would have looked after him - instead, TNua insisted on taking him on and forcing him into half day classroom sessions which was pure torture for him and had a terrible effect. The greed and cruelty behind this scheme has infuriated me, and now it is finally costing me my job too. But socially and on a macro-economic level too, Jobpath is a totally negative and destructive force. Any info you have would be appreciated and passed on. Too late to save my job, but I want this thing stopped

=====

UnitedPeople in three years has heard many harrowing cases of bullying, physical and mental. The following is just a simple example of one such incident. Below is part of what became a long correspondence. All willing to testify and go on public record.



**Pamela Flynn** A relative of mine went through all the above. He found his own CE scheme but Seetec would not let him take it unless he signed a fraudulent document stating that THEY had found it for him (and so get paid for finding hit for him) He refused on the grounds it was a fraudulent doc.,so they barred him from taking it up and cut his payment, all of it,off. He turned up and worked for two weeks at this scheme as the centre management tried to get them to let him take it (they needed a worker) They simply would not. He went on to find a full time job but is worried they will find out and harrass his new employers to sign a document saying they found it. You couldn't make this up.

Like · Reply · 1h



**UnitedPeople asked could it publish an account of what happened?**



Yes Of course. Please do. I will ask Jamie to give me his other paper work too as some awful things were said and done to him. Including three of them physically backing him into a corner and shouting at him. He said it was what he imagines a police interrogation would be like. He often was reduced to tears telling me about this when he came home. He still did not sign the PPP. He is stubborn (I don't know where he got that! LOL) They also said to him in - in response to his saying "That is illegal!"..." It doesn't matter if it is or not - we will do it" . I'll get back to you with more when comes to me. Cheers.Pam

=====

Hey Damien and Jeff

First of all, I'd like to thank ye and your team for standing up for people like me,

My name is Kate O'Riordan from Limerick, I am working part time, and only claim one maybe two days a week, some weeks I get more hours than others. I started with Turas Nua July 2017 and only finished up July just gone!

My p.a got me to sign a PPP (personal progression plan). I asked him was it a contract and if so I won't be signing it. And he said no and if I didn't sign it my payment would be affected.

Some days I couldn't go to my appointments as I was working or had doctor appointments as I have severe anxiety and depression. I asked him how long he trained to become a p.a and he said 3 weeks!

3 weeks to tell someone what to do with their lives and force them to sign things that they don't want to sign! In the end I had to ring in loads of times to cancel appointments as I was starting to harm myself. I felt I was stuck with no way out.

He was applying for jobs that wouldn't suit me and jobs that I had no qualifications in. Care for elderly etc, I told him I wasn't qualified for to work with the elderly and he said he applied for it for me to chance it. I don't drive and this job was miles out at the other side of the city, I live in the country with hardly no public transport. I got so bad that. I had to get a doctor's letter to give me a break from them.

The last ppp he signed it for me as I couldn't use the pen as my hands were shaking, I felt like crying in there every time I went in as it's very degrading to be spoken to like a child.

Now Dec 11th of this year 2018. I got another letter referred back to them, after I just finished up the end of July. I'm stuck with them for another year as I was forced to sign the first ppp again and I'm contemplating just signing off as I can't go through all of this again. I'd rather starve before I go back there and be treated like this again.

They are forcing people into jobs that don't suit them or are too far away to travel. I'm at my wits end this time and just can't cope with all the calls emails and texts I'm receiving from them.

Thank you for taking time to read this if you have. All the best with fighting JobPath. We are all rooting for you,

Regards Kate.

=====

My name is Michelle and I'm with Turas Nua in Athy for about 6 months and Andrew about 11 months. Never in our lives have we dealt with more ignorant rude people. You feel intimidated to do things that they're suggesting because the threat of having your Social Welfare Payment cut/suspended is always the topic of conversation if you don't jump when they say so.

The 2 PAs we had both talk to you and treat you like complete and utter dirt. The office has 5 desks and everyone is spoken to at the various desks. There's no actual private one to one everything is done in public.

When I (Michelle) first started there I had Pdraig as a PA to 'help' me with my CV even though I did the majority of it myself at home. I butted heads with Pdraig as I found him to be very pompous and basically told him they are all nothing but a bunch of bully's, making people sit there and apply for crap jobs that they don't even want.

The very first course I was sent on was called 'Assess', Pdraig told me he wanted feedback after the course which I gave him, his reply was "I couldn't care less I'm only here to push paper". After that I was briskly moved on to Anne and she's blessed with even more ignorance. After a few meetings she decided I was disengaging so she sent me to my local Social Welfare Office to discuss my payment.

I received my appointment for a meeting with my local Social Welfare Office which I went to, only to go up and have no-one to meet with me at all. So I got sent back to Turas Nua where I had an appointment every single day this week.

Andrew is waiting for surgery on his shoulder which he has told his PA and still she's sending him appointment after appointment to job search even though legally he wouldn't be insured to work in a main stream job such as a warehouse or a courier.

We've told the PA that I have family commitments every week, meaning we also have to arrange someone to mind the kids to attend these endless/pointless meetings. We both work 2 nights delivering for a local Chinese Takeaway which suits us down to the ground with these family commitments. Anne's answer to this is you need to give up your current job and take on full time employment elsewhere, even though there is no full time work available in our town.

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Roisin McGee to  
admin@unitedpeople.ie

Hi Jeff,

I emailed the UnitedPeople page about an issue I have with People First (JobPath). I am currently struggling with missed call emails and endless threats of loss of my €80 euro a week jobseekers allowance. I live in a rural disadvantaged area in West Donegal. I have only been unemployed for 4 months, but I can't be released from terms of this group though I have sent doctors letters and explained I don't drive and have no access to public transport as mainly there isn't any. I sent emails to Pat the Cope, Pearse Doherty and Michael Cholm. Local TD's. To date I have none that can actually help me. I have included the email I sent to Pearse. I'm struggling as people first have told me my husband needs to take a day off work for the meetings. That's totally ridiculous obviously that he may risk his full time job to take me half hour away to People First - for a total time wasting session as a qualified IT trainer and have several copies of my CV.

Also, I'm perfectly capable of researching jobs and above all else I have absolutely no way to attend these endless meetings that will be of no benefit to me whatsoever. I appreciate I have to adhere to their stipulations or be cut off jobseekers but this is a ridiculous situation.

I sent this e-mail to local tds

Hi Pearse,

I wanted to draw your attention to the scheme people first in Dungloe. I had a fairly unfortunate meeting today with them. I live in Gweedore and I don't drive. I've been unemployed since Christmas (I worked in SLM Gweedore).

I received a letter to attend Dungloe People First. I called to explain I don't drive, my father who usually can help is elderly and I don't wish to ask him and my husband works full time in Xxxxx XXXXXXXXX. It was suggested my husband take a day off work so I could attend. I ended up asking my dad as we were not going to lose a day of Xxxx's pay. My mum also had to come too to make sure my dad was ok. They had to sit and wait.

I was told any failure to comply would lead to a docking of money from my jobseekers. Firstly, I think it's very unfair the way people unemployed are now treated as a commodity here. We aren't. I studied and gained two diplomas in IT. I taught the ECDL course in Letterkenny and I gave up the position to be a full time carer for my grandmother who has passed since. Now I'm being forced attend courses on CVs and I'm perfectly capable.

I was feeling bad attending today to start with and in the class the lady accused me of being on my phone and I certainly wasn't and chastised me in front of the group. She apologised promptly when she realised I wasn't but I was mortified and at least on 5 occasions as a group we were reminded that failure to comply means docking. It was an awful experience and I left in tears. Firstly, because I can work. I'm happy to but I feel I deserve the opportunity to choose a job. There is little available in Gweedore but it gives no one the right to belittle or humiliate. Bad as it was for me. I feel worse for the lady who arrived with her child in tow as she had no sitter and had to take the child to creche.

That whole system to me doesn't work. You cannot force or threaten people also of low employment in the area. The system is horrible. Today I feel like I want to leave here but I have a daughter 17 in PSGD. I feel sad and degraded and I also had this experience before I worked in SLM. I know you cannot change this but please note that surely people's circumstances must be taken into account. Peoples skills taken into account and the attitude that because you are unemployed you can used as a commodity, has to change. It's awful. I now have appointments in Dungloe every 2 weeks and I have to figure out how to attend. Do online research. Go to 2 job interviews and complete a number of other stipulations. God knows how I can attend 2 job interviews in 2 weeks and the other stuff and sort a lift two and from Dunloe. I hope you may be able to take note of this. Thank you for taking the time to read.

Roisin.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android.

No one helped me and this was 6 months ago. I signed off all payments as I was sickened.

Since then the social welfare Dungloe helped me get a small weekly payment but a fraction of what I am entitled to. I've been refused heating allowance no Xmas bonus and so on. But I know my situation isn't the worst but I would love to see the JobPath model taken down and that horrible attitude to think its ok to treat people like commodities destroyed so if there is anything i can do please ask. Local TD's here don't care. Thomas Pringle is the only man, fair play to him, to talk about this. Thank you for taking time read this.

Roisin.

=====

Hi Jeff,

Here's my JobPath experience.  
Macroom office, Co Cork.

2 years ago, I am driving to my first or second personal meeting with Turas Nua. It's more than half an hour drive and I am making sure to leave in plenty of time, you never know, I might get stuck behind a slow tractor or meet with delays on the road. They the put the fear of God in you for making a wrong move, fear of complete financial destitution. So, I know, most people like myself are on edge and nervous to attend these meetings.

About 10 min from my destination there is a message on my phone. I stop the car, read the message. It says I've missed my appointment. I did not turn up, it states. Now I am in panic mode, doubting myself and hoping I have the appointment letter with me to check. No time to look for it, I start speeding towards town, tear into the parking place, gravel spraying, and run into the building, pretty distraught and nerves shaking.

Before I get to the door of the office, a woman, my personal assistant, bursts out of the office, starts yelling at me: I missed my appointment, she has no time now, she is busy. She screams that I have to leave the building immediately and CHASES me out. Abusive in the extreme. She is younger than most of my children and I wonder what kind of parents can have raised such a monster.

My eldest daughter is a career guidance officer in the University of Galway, she would never behave towards her clients with such unbelievable disrespect, anger and abuse and besides I am sure she would be fired on the spot if she did.

Now, I am in the lobby, shaking, nerves shattered. I am 60 years of age and have never been abused like this in my entire life. I believe in respect, particularly towards your elders. I check my appointment letter, the appointment is set for 2pm, it is now 5 to 2. I check the lobby for a clock, thinking I could take a photo for evidence I was there in time. I find a book to sign in, with the time.

Before I leave the woman comes out again, says she made a mistake. I can come in and start the whole farce of answering stupid questionnaires, that are an insult to your intelligence anyway, etc. etc. I am shaking, my nerves are shattered. Just how they want you to feel.

2 years later, I am nearly 62 now.

Thinking I have wised up to the proceedings, at the first group meeting (of my second round with them) I voice record the talk on my phone for my own protection. A client starts talking about all the abuse she suffered at their hands some time back. The staff tries to shut her up. They become very flustered and authoritative. Actually, it was my plan to have my say in public, like this lady does, but she lays into them and I only have to say #metoo and agree.

By now the staff is grouping and angry and trying to keep some control. At the end of her rant I turn to the "audience" and publicly advise everyone to record all their future interactions with Turas Nuas personnel for their own protection, seeing the abuse and intimidation that is going on, at a regular basis.

Now all hell breaks loose. Staff is shouting "NO RECORDING, DATA PROTECTION" over and over again. They forbid anyone from recording the proceedings and again try to make me leave the building immediately if I don't stop recording. So I turn off the voice recorder.

Then it's time for my personal meeting. Two furious members of staff Hoover over me threateningly still saying I can't record, I proceed to take notes which isn't appreciated either. No need for that, they say. At the end of that meeting I am quite violently told to sign HERE, HERE and HERE, and hurry up. I say that I will take my time to read what I am signing surely. But I know I have to sign anyway. I should have written "under duress" under my signature, but the pressure was too great to think straight.

During my first round with them I asked how many people in my age group they have found jobs for... One lady, 61, in Cork city, they proudly proclaimed (we are in a rural place). Recently, 2 years later, I asked the same question. The answer was: One lady 61, in Cork city. They found her a cleaning job (same lady). So in 2 years' time or more they have found one person in my age group a job, and that is in the city. None here in this area. Fantastic results at the price of 150.000.000 Euro of taxpayer's money.

The underlying question of how society's structure is undermined (by government legislation), resulting in poverty, lack of opportunity and freedom is completely ignored.

Sorry a bit long, but this is my experience.  
Welcome to use my experience anyway you want.

Regards and Good Luck,  
Madelon Geluk,  
Dunmanway,  
Co Cork

=====

Hello my name is XXXXXXX XXXXX, Newmarket on Fergus, Co Clare.

I done JobPath in Turas Nua. Once they tried to get me back a second time till I more or less told Regina Doherty if I end up committing suicide I'll blame her on note, so they paused me as the way I was treated was horrible.

They tried few months later, Again I kicked up more so now with employability Clare, which is great service for people with mental health and other disabilities. I complained the first time about the receptionist who stopped me from approaching a person I was to see, as it was closing time - and she told me not to, as the woman I was to see, was with someone else so I was in limbo.

I was sat at computer looking for jobs, complained to office manager who informed me that the receptionist done nothing wrong and can deal with two people at same time. She said it was private conversation for the office manager and sensitive - which is bull as I could hear every conversation in Turas Nua offices.

So, between me kicking up cloaks and daggers I'm barred from it. Also, after getting a copy of all data from Dept' of S.P. I was sent mine and another person's personal progression plan. One which looked forged. It had persons PPS number and telephone number and address etc. I sent them back to Dept' of S.P.but saved pictures of the personal progression plans as proof.

Something else to add. If you leave bad comments on their google maps pages, Turas Nua, they'll send you a solicitor's letter to stop you if they find out who it is. They'll say their client's business is based on reputation, as it works with employers, and comments that are bad are potentially damaging to the business.

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Sam Glynn,

They (Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection) don't investigate, I made a complaint to them **two years ago** and heard nothing back. I'm back in Seetec now again at a huge financial loss to myself. They only reimburse bus travel and fuel. I'm not on bus route nor own a car - so I have to pay €30 a day to get in and out and they still insist I come in twice a week to use a computer that has so many security measures set up I can't edit my cv if required. I can't open company pages online to do research before applying. It's a joke and they don't care, I got very depressed after the first time, they too made me feel worthless. They should stop using them by end of 2018.

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# **JOBPATH/SEETEC/PEOPLE1ST – BREAKING THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.**



**Note: “People1st” are a front for the private company “Seetec”.**

I am on the JobPath program which is contracted to Seetec Employment and Skills Ireland. People1st run JobPath in Donegal. This is my second time on JobPath. I have no issue with the assigned employment adviser that I had the first time I attended JobPath nor do I have any issue with my current assigned employment adviser. I am happy to receive whatever help I can get in helping me find employment. What I do have an issue with is the way senior staff members deal with their clients while on JobPath!

To explain, I have to go back to the beginning of when I first was referred to JobPath. I first started JobPath in August 2016. I had previously written a public blog about my experience of being on JobPath. On November 2016, I was called into a room in the People1st building in Letterkenny by a senior member of staff who told me his name was Ted Hati\* and there, also was a receptionist present who wrote down everything that was said. I was told by Ted Hati\* that they were aware of a blog about JobPath and that they knew I was the person who had posted on it. Ted Hati\* said that there was a photo taken from inside of the People1st building, that it was posted on the blog and that there was another client in the photo, that this was a private building and that I did not have permission to take photos. It was also said that I was in breach of data protection and that the blog had to be taken down or they would take it further.

In February 2017 I was called once again into a room, accompanied by another senior member of staff from People1st. There was also some woman in her 50's who I never seen before or seen since, present - and I assumed it was someone from Seetec. I was told that the previous blog and photo had been taken down but that they were aware of another blog (my current one) and that it had to come down. If it wasn't taken down, they would again deal with the matter legally!

Then one Friday in May 2017 I was called into the office by senior staff member Ted Hati\*. My employment adviser at that time, was also present during this meeting. A few weeks before that I had applied to a job as an employment adviser in the People1st building and had sent my CV to the

job ad on a job website when I was doing my job searching. He said he was surprised that I had applied for the job and that he was taken aback when he seen my name on the CV.

He said that he only looked at my CV for five seconds before he had thrown it to the side.

He then continued to run down my CV and belittle me in front of my employment adviser who was sitting beside me and who looked very uncomfortable on what was being said to me. Ted Hati\* keep saying said he had only looked at my CV for five seconds and asked me did I not learn anything at the gateway CV course? He then said he would show me a successful CV and preceded to open a metal filing cabinet, took out a CV and said this is one that was successful. He did cover up the name and personal details of the persons CV but showed me the rest of it.

My employment adviser did ask me why I didn't tell her that I had applied for the job, as if she knew I was interested in it, she would have helped me in replying to it. I told her that I had it written down on the job searching sheet she had given me. I took the sheet out of my pocket and showed her where I had written it down as well as the other jobs I had applied for. I said to her that she would have seen it on the sheet at the following meeting.

After all that was said, Ted Hati\* then started on about the blog again. He said that the blog had to be removed and that he would check on Sunday night that it was removed. If the blog was not taken down by the Monday, he would report me to the Department of Social Protection as supposed non-engagement.

I would like to point out that I have always engaged with the JobPath program while on it. I have always attended my meetings with my employment adviser and attended my job searching every week, as well as applying for jobs.

#### **Writing a blog about being on JobPath does not count as “non-engagement”.**

The following week when I was in the People1st building to do my job searching, after five minutes I was told by Ted Hati\* to close everything down on the computer that I was on. I was once again made go into a room by Ted Hati\*. There too was another senior member of staff present. Ted Hati\* informed me that he had checked on the Monday morning - and that the blog was still up that he had told me to remove. As the blog was still up, they had reported me as a “non-engagement” and that the Department of Social Protection would be in contact with me to discuss how I was interacting with the programme.

He said to me that if I removed the blog I could engage with the programme but while the blog remains up I would not be engaging with the JobPath programme. He told me that the Department of Social Protection would decide the terms of non-engagement and whether to apply a penalty rate but that was their decision. He told me they more than likely will start applying a penalty rate to me. Ted Hati\* said to me “We know it’s your blog” and added that he had given me an opportunity to take it down on Sunday night. He also said that there was a lot of fake news on the blog.

I was then told off, that I was not allowed to enter the People1st building while I was a “non-engagement”. I was told that once I had a word with the Department of Social Protection and they were happy that I was willing to engage - and to take down the blog, that I would be asked to report back to People1st. Until that happened, I was not to come into the People1st building.

Ted Hati\* then told me I was to sign out of the People1st building and only to return to the premises when the blog was taken down. While I was at reception signing out, he was already standing at the

door with the door fully open until I had left the premises.

After all this had happened and I had left the People1st building, I immediately went my local social welfare office and informed them of what had just occurred. They told me to write out a statement which I did, and I signed it. They photocopied the statement I had written and handed me back the one I wrote. I never heard a thing back from either social welfare or People1st after that.

Every single day after being told by Ted Hati\* from People1st that I was going to have a penalty rate applied to my social welfare, I was waiting on a letter to come in the post to tell me my social welfare was being cut. I was left not knowing if it would be cut or not until I went to the post office every week to collect it.

The Department of Social Protection would not have been able to class me as a “non-engagement” as I had in fact, fully engaged with the JobPath programme as legally required under the Social Welfare Act 2005/2010. Writing a blog about being on JobPath does not count as non-engagement and nowhere in those acts are state censorship rules present. People1st was clearly inventing law.

...But that is how Seetec work. They try and scare, then use bullying tactics when they don't get their own way. They thought I was going to panic about getting my social welfare cut and that I would delete the blog. However, when I didn't, they said they had reported me to Department of Social Protection as a “non-engagement”. Again, making up their own legal legislation on the spot.

On June 2018 I got a letter out informing me I had to attend a group session in the People1st building in Letterkenny for JobPath. On the day of the group session, after it was over, I was waiting in reception to be called so I could be told when my first appointment would be with a new employment adviser (you get a different employment adviser to the one you had, if you are put on JobPath for a second time). Ted Hati\* was present - and told me he wanted a quick word with me.

He told me that the blog was still activate. He had said that I already posted on the blog and that I was in breach of data protection. He informed me “that won't be happening” as he had told me the last time. He kept saying I was in breach of data protection and was telling me how new GDPR rules had come in this year.

- Let me be clear at this point. I was **not** sharing anyone's personal data in any way. No names, addresses, etc. I was only describing *my experience of JobPath* setup in real-time operation.

He said to me that I would be on their programme and that I would be met in a private room. I was to be isolated, that I would not have access to the rest of the People1st building or other clients. His reason for this was that, he said, I had previously taken a photo of the inside of the centre with another client in the picture without his permission - and that was not happening this time. I would be put into a private room with my employment adviser at all times. I was to be ostracised.

He told me they would be watching the blog and social media. If I made a comment about him or his staff - or questioned their professional integrity in any way, that I was going to court - that they would take out a private civil prosecution against me and that they would win!

He said to me “*I hope you have the money to pay for it*”.

Ted Hati\* told me “You have been warned!” and that If I made any comment about any of the JobPath staff or People1st staff in any public media that the public can access through social media,

they would go after me with a civil prosecution. He said to me that I had obviously not found work since I was last on JobPath. Well obviously, they never got me work the last time I was on JobPath. I wouldn't be back with them if I had, would I?

As I am yet again pressganged into it for a second time, I still haven't gained work through their methods of operation (in my case, bullying, being treated like dirt, tried to be silenced, ostracised...).

Ted Hati\* said to me *"Do I make myself clear!"*

I would also like to point out that the toilets in the People1st building are in the part of the building I was told I wouldn't have any access to.

It never was mentioned to me by either Ted Hati\* or any other member staff that I would have access to the toilet if I needed to use it while on the People1st premises.

When I first started JobPath in 2016 all of my meetings with my employment adviser were conducted in an open room with no privacy whatsoever as I have already mentioned a number of times on my blog, which I have been very critical of.

However, in January 2017 they had a notice on all of the employment advisers' desks saying private rooms were available upon request which was a result of I mentioning it on my blog. On my second time on JobPath I was going to ask, whoever my employment adviser was at my first meeting with them, could I have the meeting where we discuss personal matters, in a private room. I never got to make this choice when I was back on JobPath in 2018. That choice was made for me by Ted Hati\* in People1st which is discrimination.

On my second time on JobPath I declined to sign the Personal Progress Plan (PPP) which is my legal right. I said *"I am declining to sign the personal progression plan but I am absolutely fully willing to engage otherwise as legally required, taking into account conditions are not discriminatory against myself"*.

The Department of Social Protection has stated on record in the Dublin High Court on 19th October 2017 that not signing a Personal Progress Plan (PPP) does not constitute non-engagement. This was later re-confirmed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March and 8<sup>th</sup> of May in the Dail during TD committee meetings.

The first time I was on JobPath in 2016 after I had signed the Personal Progress Plan, I got a letter out about a week later from the Department of Social Protection informing me I didn't have to sign on again until September 2017. I thought this time I would have got my money cut or reduced for not signing the PPP but I didn't. Instead I got the same later out from the Department of Social Protection that I got in 2016 telling me I did not have to sign on again until July 2019. I contacted the local Intro office and asked them why I had got the letter. **The woman I spoke with, told me I got it because I had signed the Personal Progress Plan.** I told her I didn't sign it. I told her clearly that I had declined to sign it and that I had a copy of the PPP to prove I never signed it. She asked me why I didn't sign it and I told her because it was signing a contract with a private company, all she said was I would need to speak to People1st about it. Nothing arose more on the issue of my forged signing.

Mr. John McKeon Secretary General Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection Joint Committee on Employment Affairs and Social Protection Joint Committee debate 2018:

*"We ask all jobseekers to sign the personal progression plan as a means of ensuring that it is an agreed document. The customer signature is also an important control feature in determining whether registration fees are due to be paid under the JobPath contracts"*

*"We would prefer them to sign it. If they do not, we push them for a very good reason and strongly encourage them to sign."*

*"It is important that they both sign up to. Second, particularly in the case of JobPath, we pay a registration fee."*

*"I want to see evidence that the person has registered with the service. That evidence, to me, is the signing of a personal progression plan."*

*"Where people prove they are engaged in the process and are not against activation, we do not insist in every case on their signing of a personal progression plan but encourage them very strongly to do so."*

I had also gone to my local Department of Social Protection office to inquire about when they were told I had finished JobPath in 2017. I was told that they had on their computer system I had finished in August 2017 - but I never done the full 52 weeks on JobPath as on May 2017. I was told that as this blog was still online, that I had been reported to social welfare as a "non-engagement", that I was to sign out of the People1st building and that I was not allowed to enter until the Department of Social Protection had been in contact with me.

When I asked the woman why they had on their system I had finished in August 2017 - when in fact I never even done the full 52 weeks and only done 37 weeks - I was again told "You'll have to speak to People1st about that".

\* **UnitedPeople Note:** This is a very common issue. Between local social welfare offices and JobPath local setups, the bouncing back and forth, each saying the other is responsible, is a regular complaint. Clearly in legislation alone, it needs to be made further clearer who is responsible for what and there is none of this 'bouncing' repeatedly back and forth allowed.

At times – too many, it is it being deliberate done to intimidate, frustrate and try ramp up further mental pressure on victims. No doubt social welfare top heads will deny this but, on the ground, right across the Irish state it is happening weekly – even daily.

I then asked a senior member of staff in People1st why was the Department of Social Protection told I had finished in August 2017? I was told that my 12 months were up in August 2017 so therefore my report was generated in August - but that there was nothing on there to say that I completed it in August. I was told that People1st did not tell the Department of Social Protection that I was there until August 2017 and that it was put on my exit report. When I asked why the exit report was not done in May, I was told that it was not the end of my programme and that my time was not up on the programme!

I was told, because of what happened last time, if I wished to have to have a communication about that then I have to put it through their official complaint's procedure. I was told that an exit report can only be completed when the 12 months are up.

So, for example, if I started work today then in 12 months' time it would ask them for an exit report and they would say that I had moved into employment on whatever day after I had started on the programme and that they would put in that information. I was told that it was the system that won't let them update it until the 12 months are up on whatever the start date was as it's an automatic system and because of that, they could not update my exit report before then.

After all that happened on June 2018, I sought legal advice.

I asked why didn't People1st/Seetec put me in a private consultation room the first time I was on JobPath, after I had allegedly posted a photo on a blog or be denied access to the rest of the building?

I was told, as I had signed the Personal Progress Plan (PPP), I had entered into a contract with People1st/Seetec and I had signed the contract conditions, However, already from the very start of my second time on JobPath they are determining the new contract conditions from the very start.

One contract does not run into the other. I have two separate legal contracts. If it was one year rolling into the other and they suddenly changed the terms of my conditions, then I would have them for breach of contract. However, because they have started a new contract with separate new conditions, they can argue that these are the conditions that have been applied from the outset of this particular contract.

That is why it was easier for People1s/Seetec to tell me to leave the first time round. As this is my second time on JobPath, it is a new contract and they are protecting themselves from the get-go but are still discriminating against me.

In regard to being full time kept in a private isolated room, that was not my decision. I was informed the more I am kept in a private room that was not my choice and the more this happened, the stronger my legal case for discrimination against Seetec/People1st.

It has happened six times since July 2018. The legal adviser I spoke with, also told me the following:

The photo that Ted Hati\* referred about being posted online and in breach of data protection, the legal statute of limitations had run out for that even if I had been guilty - and that time had expired.

For obvious company intimidation reason, Ted Hati\* was not going to tell me that. It was needed by himself and People1st as an additional bullying tactic to try get their way, to silence citizens.

In regard to any blog, I have to repeat; the 2005 & 2010 amended Social Welfare Act, there is nothing there in legislation to stop anyone from writing about their experience of JobPath. There is nothing in there also that says I must stop writing. There is nothing in there also that says writing a blog is a form of non-engagement.

1. They would have to prove to me in private legal or any constitutional legislation, that a private company, namely Seetec/People1st, that they have the legal right to deny anyone having freedom of thought and expressed opinion.
2. It has still yet to be proven to me that a private company or a non-security, state body have the actual legal right to stop a person from further expressing that opinion.

3. Where is it stated in any contract/agreement anywhere, that they have the legal right to stop me doing what I am doing, expressing myself as within the laws of the state?

Being told by Ted Hati\* that I cannot negatively write about JobPath/People1st /Seetec or just about the work of his staff – not the staff itself by name or any other identifiable indicator, People1st would have to show me where this is legally the case where I am able to be censored, whether I have agreed or not agreed to any form or censorship!

They would have to show me in any private business or state legislation where a private company can deny anyone freedom of expression!

They would have to prove to me in legal legislation where they, a private company namely People1st/Seetec, have the right to tell me to stop expressing lawful opinion on a public blog.

By being told I can't post on a public blog or any public platform I am being denied freedom of expression, freedom of thought and opinion. Being denied these rights, I'm being denied basic constitutional rights under Article 40.6.1.i Irish Constitution – but not that alone!

- The European Convention on human rights, Article 9, protects freedom of thought and Article 10 protects freedom of expression.
- Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act, 1997 for Coercion. 9. - (1) A person who, with a view to compel another to abstain from doing or to do any act which that other has a lawful right to do or to abstain from doing, wrongfully and without lawful authority—
- Equal Status Act 20003.—(1) For the purposes of this Act, discrimination shall be taken to occur where— (a) on any of the grounds specified in subsection (2) (in this Act referred to as “the discriminatory grounds”) which exists at present or previously existed but no longer exists or may exist in the future, or which is imputed to the person concerned, a person is treated less favourably than another person is, has been or would be treated.

The above is law as it applies not just to me but to every citizen in Ireland and those also within the EU. All this and more, People1st (Seetec) don't appear to give a damn about!

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- For legal reasons, the name “Ted Hati” was been used. This is a pseudo name used, to respect the privacy of the individual involved.

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Hi Jeff,

After speaking to you regards the JobPath Programme I have provided my version of events that have transpired between the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, the private company Turas Nua and myself.

The background to this complaint stems back from when I finished college in May 2018 under the Back to Education Allowance. After completing my exams, I was required to sign on and switch my payment from BTEA to Jobseekers Allowance. I subsequently collected two Jobseekers Allowance payments when a letter arrived in the post inviting me to participate on the JobPath process for the second time.

In the two interim weeks I was already made on offer of some casual employment whereby the hours would be initially part time but if more hours are available, I could take them due to the nature of the work offered. I accepted this offer of employment as per terms of receipt of Jobseekers Allowance. I had informed the DEASP of this employment offer and set up on the casual system X and O docket yet was completely dismayed to see this letter.

I went down to my DEASP INTREO office to query this surely it was some sort of a mistake! I thought this was only for the long term unemployed? I had only completed college a couple of weeks prior. I was informed by an activation member there that even though I was casually employed I had to still go down to Turas Nua and even though I was only recently finished college, I was required to go down.

The first and second meetings I was due to attend with Turas Nua clashed with days of legitimate employment. I informed the DEASP and Turas Nua themselves of this. After that there was a gap of approx 4 – 5 weeks whereby I heard nothing back from the DEASP or Turas Nua. I assume this was because I was waiting on paperwork to be filled in for the DEASP so my claim was temporarily suspended. When I received the necessary paperwork back I handed it into the DEASP and I received a cheque in the post supplementing me for the days I was not working.

Shortly after this another letter came through the post once again inviting me to JobPath and again clashed with a day I was rostered in for employment. I rang the number at the bottom of the letter which I presume puts me through to an office in Tipperary where the main office of Turas Nua is located and I spoke a person there outlining my unavailability to attend due to working commitments on that particular date.

This happened a further number of times as Turas Nua were sending me letters constantly clashing with dates I was rostered in for employment which both greatly irritated and frustrated me. I believed I was doing the right thing from my own perspective, taking more hours that were subsequently being made available to me - yet this private company requires me to show up to their premises??? At all times I was endeavouring to inform Turas Nua that I couldn't attend due to work commitments and it got to a stage whereby I even offered to book a day's holidays, so I could go down to Turas Nua - but I had to give a few weeks' notice to my employer of my intention to take a day's holiday.

It was with this complete and total frustration that I went to the DEASP website and downloaded the JobPath request for tenders document to read through and study the methodology behind the JobPath process. I found on page 30 of the JobPath tender document I quote the following;

*“2.2 For the purposes of JobPath, full-time employment and self-employment is defined as employment of **at least thirty (30) hours work per week** and which disqualifies the Client concerned from any entitlement to a jobseeker related income support payment from the State (“Employment”). For the avoidance of doubt Family Income Supplement (FIS) is not considered a jobseeker related income support payment for the purpose of this section. Back to Work Enterprise Allowance and Part Time Job Incentive payments are, however, considered jobseeker related income support payments. **For the purpose of this section the thirty (30) hours requirement may be averaged over a four (4) week period.** However, during this period the employee must not be entitled to any jobseeker-related income support payment from the State. [N]”*

Page 30/31

It was with this information which is widely in the public domain available on the DEASP website that I challenged the Department on why exactly in my particular set of circumstances was I being sent down to Turas Nua despite me for all intents and purposes being outside the scope of the Jobpath process.

I spoke to a member of the activation department once more on this issue how I feel like I’m being placed between a rock and a hard place whereby I must satisfy my own working requirements to the DEASP and a private company. When I explained this to the activation department member and that I have viewed the tender document and the 30-hour requirement was being met by myself already, the interaction became less favourable between us.

It seemed and felt that I was being coerced to say I did not want to go down to JobPath which is something **I never once said.**

I tried to explain I’m having difficulties attending hence the 30 plus hour weeks work I was doing at the time and sometimes work can be offered to me at short notice. I was then questioned on this and rudely asked that if I had a Doctor’s appointment, would I rather go to work or to that?

At the end of the interaction I told the person well look I never said I wasn’t going to engage with the process. Two days later I attended the Turas Nua Office. This was agreed over the phone between an advisor on the number present on the letter. When I arrived at the Turas Nua office and signed the fire log sheet. I spoke to a person at the reception about my allocated time appointment. The person behind the desk informed me there was no such appointment for me on their system there despite the fact it was agreed over the phone! I was scheduled in for that time.

However, he said he would try get somebody with me as soon as he could. Eventually I met a personal advisor and I requested I speak to him privately. I informed them that I viewed the JobPath Tenders document and full-time work is defined of 30 hours work a week which was being met by myself already. She told me ok, “I will just get you signed off” and that’s when I told her also that I’m politely declining to sign a PPP Personal Progression Plan for a number of reasons that I didn’t want to tie up the personal advisor’s time with. I said that I will engage with the process if I am required to. The Personal Advisor said she would be referring me back to the Department of

Employment Affairs and Social Protection. After this, I left the Turas Nua office. I went straight down to the DEASP office and left in a handwritten letter which described exactly the events that transpired in the Turas Nua office.

For a number of months after this I heard absolutely nothing from the DEASP or Turas Nua until I had a query which required me to attend the INTREO office and speak to a case officer about a course I wished to pursue in the New Year.

I assumed I was dealing with INTREO again as the Personal Advisor said she was referring me back to the DEASP. When speaking to a case officer there it became apparent according to the INTREO system, that I am still a JobPath customer despite the fact, the Personal Advisor said she would be referring me back to the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

This clearly and evidentially has not occurred, and I would love to know the reason why and if it has future implications for me availing of certain services from the DEASP!

End.

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Like many others before this statement, the identity of the writer is reserved due to they wishing to retain a right to privacy. They are, however, willing to speak to any elected representation or other form of state official, to address issues still left unaddressed.



Dogie Rigg.  
Wexford.

Hi Jeff.

I went into my first experience with Turas Nua in Enniscorthy, Co Wexford last year with an open mind hoping they would help me on the right track. What I experienced was nothing less than a complete and utter shambles!

I stated that I wanted to pursue a career in Personal Training whilst also having applied to the local fire service for a part-time position as a fireman. Because I had signed the PPP they wouldn't let me do anything I wanted and more or less every meeting I had, I filled out the exact same questionnaire and was forced to apply for any min' wage job there was at the time, which I did.

They said If I took up the PT course I'd lose all jobseekers allowance so I took it up with social welfare dept who just said I'm signed up to Turas Nua and nothing they can do. Despite repeatedly saying I'd be a benefit to the community, they insisted on me applying for min wage factory work.

When my year with them was up, thanks to my mother's financial assistance I signed up for my PT course. I had to go through sheer hell to get my place after fighting with Turas Nua and Social welfare who were contacting my course tutor to say I was on JobPath which had finished!

I went as far as a local TD to try get assistance with funding, but they didn't want to know.

Eventually started my course last Feb' and got letters from social threatening to cut me off if I didn't look for work. ...I was on a full-time course! Managed to get through my 6-month course and passed - only for a few weeks later, to get a second letter telling me to go back for another year with Turas Nua. My heart sank. I am trying my best to use my PT certs but live in a really challenging part of the country I can't afford rents/rates for my own premises but am still trying other ways to get on my feet. So I started back with Turas Nua and made it crystal clear I wanted to pursue my PT career.

The PA I got first time around didn't give a monkeys' and just had me filling out same questionnaire and apply for same min' wage jobs. Now the second PA I have, is wrecking my head altogether! Meetings every week where I'm being made apply for factory shift min wage work. I was sent on a manual handling course last week. Utter waste of time.

Constantly being sent emails asking what I'm doing etc. About 8 times I got messages on my phone saying I hadn't attended a meeting which wasn't even scheduled!

Any kind of arguments you have with them - they just say you'll lose benefits. I do not want to be on jobseekers let me make that very clear but I have absolutely no option at the moment. In a nutshell my mother basically paid for me to do a course where I've ended up being hounded by them for a second time to get any min wage job. I'm now signed up for another year.

The stress of it all made me ill last month where I lost over a stone and became extremely depressed. I had read all about the disaster of JobPath and often challenged the PAs with figures and stats etc, basically stating what a waste of time the whole thing is and I never got a response! It's almost as if they know exactly what they're doing by the bullying methods.

None of the PAs are skilled in any way whatsoever. Look at same min wage jobs on computer, fill in exact same questions 10 times, keep getting told no funding, no funding, no funding.

I understand my case is not as serious as others but honestly Jeff, you have to see it for yourself to believe it. How in god's name anyone can call it a success is beyond me! Not once did I receive any travel expenses - not once!

I saw many a person lose the head in the offices and poor vulnerable old people being shoved on a computer.

When you speak your mind, you're threatened with being cut, hence most people keeping quiet and going through motions.

I know two people who've had nervous breakdowns because of it.

One mother I know, was in tears in the office as she'd no one to mind her kids while they bully her into coming to pointless shitty meetings.

My next app is next week and I'm telling them straight I'm not complying anymore as it's making me ill. I've had enough Jeff they treat you like your 5 years of age. If it's not abolished in the next year mark my words, watch the suicide rate increase.

Over a €140+ million wasted on JobPath instead of actually creating decent employment for people. Lies, lies, lies, lies, and more lies. Sorry if I'm not a great help Jeff but wholeheartedly appreciate all your efforts. The bloody FAS schemes at least helped a lot of people JobPath has and is ruining people's lives! Thanks again Jeff. You're a gentleman.

## IN CLOSING...

The state has not only introduced a setup that is abusing citizens in every city, town, village and further rural communities, it fundamentally is using the law (when also not bending and quietly breaking it) to take advantage and undermine even basic citizens human rights.

The abuses that have gone on, never mind the extraordinary lies and financial wastage, has been carried out with state silence. Be it a government department or private businesses they have hired as their agents, the fact these abuses are being committed care of our exploited laws or current existing laws (criminal, tort and business) flagrantly being ignored, is 100% disgraceful by any measure of decency that's supposed to be equal given to Irish citizens.

Be it JobPath, another state setup or a state department, each has been exposed as being often abusive, fraudulent, operating beyond the law (by their own highcourt admission), rough pressganging and more. Rogue civil servants and hired private business have run amok.

Staff, often with little, poor or no further training, have been state awarded a modicum of power, taken it and run with it - to the point where they behaved as abusive dictators. No ifs – no buts. The victim's statements speak for themselves. They have been treated like low trash.

We repeat again. UnitedPeople is at best, currently known to be in existence at most, by 2% to 5% of the population of Ireland. We have **NO** doubt if more of the other 95% knew we were investigating not just this whole racket but the underlying actions of many that have bent and broke rules in government departments also, we would be flooded with thousands – not hundreds – more victim statements. Our three-year effort has barely scratched a surface.

As it is, I have been dealing with this issue seven days a week, from early mornings into many late nights, trying to answer hundreds that have directly contacted myself over a wide range of abuses they have been subjected to. In truth, I am still attempting to reply to all.

Leo Varadkar and Regina Doherty in the week before Christmas 2018, was saying that people should send their concerns to *“the provider and if he or she is not satisfied with the response, he or she can complain to the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, which will investigate it.”* Let me say out straight, many have done so and the little response they got - if lucky – has been a brush off, a deaf ear and bugged all action in defence of their human rights.

Much has been reported to them and they have repeatedly done little or nothing. They are not alone, however. We know that many other TDs and more local elected have had issues raised with them. Those victims came to us when they too were found to be given an all too common brush-off, a complete deaf ear or when a few words were spoken in support – then nothing done. Elected representatives at all levels have let their employers, the public, down.

In closing, be it in JobPath, outside of it or within state departments, citizens continue to be targeted aggressively, treated like dirt, lied to, bullied, given a deliberate run-around, etc. Citizens' rights have become increasingly abused. It's time to say, ***“Enough is enough!”***

As more abuses emerge, elected forget a state is also judged by the way it treats its people!

Jeff Rudd.  
Leader. UnitedPeople.

# Index of Sample Issues Raised

Page		Page	
7	Coercion.	12	Medical issue ignored
7	Stress reading	12	Poor staff training
7	Financial threats	12	Minimum wages
7	JobPath before part-time work	13	Poor staff training
7	JobPath before education	13	Depression
7	Staff lack of knowledge	13	Poor staff training
7	Lack of privacy	14	Medical issue
7	No reading time allowed	14	2013 tender contract broke
7	Poor staff training	14	Poor staff training
8	Imposed stress	14	Economic duress
8	“client” treatment	15	Widow threatening
8	Minimum wages	15	Economic duress
8	Economic duress	15	Pressganged
9	No identification	15	Poor I.T.
9	Forced minimum wages	15	Cherry picking
9	Intimidation	15	Denied job ability
9	Staff refusing to answer	16	Double standards
9	Aggressive staff	16	Private data issue
9	Economic duress	16	Lies
9	Homeless situation	16	Minimum wages
9	Mental stress outcome	17	No funding given
10	Pressure	17	3 week invite
10	Economic duress	17	Use of vouchers
10	Personal data grabbing	17	Poor staff training
10	Stress	17	Poor I.T.
11	2013 tender contract broke	17	Poor staff training
11	Economic duress	17	Stress
11	Pressure	18	Education denied
12	Personal data issue	18	Threats
12	Pressure		

18	Private data issue	24	No privacy
18	Pressganged	24	Belittled
18	Depression	25	Education issue
19	Threats	25	Depression
19	Personal email password demand	25	Threats
20	Bullying	25	Private data demanded
20	3 week invite/threat	25	'Product list'
20	JobPath lies	25	Medical condition ignored
21	Ignored previous training	25	Threats
21	Poor staff training	26	Child issues
21	Belittled	26	Insurance issues
21	Threats	26	Poor staff training
22	Staff hostility	26	Staff turnover
22	Threats	26	Children issues ignored
22	Evidence statement ignored	27	Poor staff training
23	Demanding employer info	27	Sanctions
23	Harassing an employer	27	Elderly lady distressed
23	Not told 100% what they are signing	27	Degraded
23	Bullying	27	Frustrated
23	Bullying	27	Funding/no funding
23	Lying	27	Blocking work
23	Falsifying dates	27	Private data issue
24	Pressganged	27	3 week invite
24	Threats	27	Poor staff attitude
24	Medical condition ignored	28	Economic duress
24	Medical certs ignored	28	Terrible treatment
24	Hospital certs ignored	28	Signing off
24	Bullied	28	Stress
24	Private data issue	28	Bullying

28	Signed off due to bullying	34	Rural/traveling issue
28	Economic duress	34	Impactable forced jobs
28	Below minimum wage	34	Expect kids to walk miles on own
28	Cancer patient harassed	34	Economic duress
28	Cut off on medical appoint' dates	34	Bullying
29	Misrepresentation	34	Told to quit job
29	Forgery of signature	34	Harassed
29	Wrong dates	34	Panic attacks
29	Lying - when did attend	34	Treated like a criminal
29	Medical issue	35	Prosecuted for not attending
29	Harassed employer	35	62-year-old pressured
29	Pressganged	36	Avoiding answering questions
29	Medical issues	36	Third year pressganged
29	Belittled	36	Medical issue
29	Poor staff attitude	37	Pressganged
31	Lack of options	37	Poor staff training/unqualified
31	Economic duress	37	Character attack
31	Wrong dates on signing book	37	Bullying
31	Private data demanded	37	Threats
31	Duress/bullying applied	37	False records
32	Homeless	37	On drugs due to harassment
32	Cut off due to homeless	38	Told to skip work
32	Lack of information given	38	Told to find alternative job
32	False promises to get signature	38	No notification
32	Depression/suicide issue	38	Complete mess over dates
32	Private data issue	39	Misrepresentation
33	Bullying	39	Staff not follow through
33	Forced labour	39	Bounced around
33	False I.T. information given	39	No one willing to take responsibility

39	Passing blame	44	Stonewalled
40	Harassing employer	44	Turn council position down
40	Part-time work harassment	44	Minimum wage labour
40	Full-time work harassment	45	Appeal 8 months
40	Pressganged	45	Signed off dole due to bullying
40	Signed off dole	45	Told to attend when signed off
40	€50 voucher bribe for job info	45	Not allowed find work on own
40	Harassment	45	62-year-old threatened
41	Forced to sign PPP	45	Scare tactics
41	Bullying	46	JobPath prisoner release
41	Told to lie	46	College 2 <sup>nd</sup> year denied
41	Told to apply for no chance jobs	46	Minimum age – now accountant
41	No sign PPP – cut-off for Christmas	47	4 week pressganged
41	Ignored the law – acted illegal	47	Hindering work search
42	Signed to course not qualified for	48	57-year-old job risk via bullying
42	Bullied to stand register	48	Denied look for work on own
42	Harassing employee & employer	49	Told to sign
42	Harassing	49	No opportunity to read forms
42	Forced same repeat courses	49	Harassed/bullied
43	Depression ignored	49	Lie about contract
43	Appeal ignored	49	Limiting opportunities
44	Threatened to sign PPP	50	52-year-old cut off over PPP
44	JobPath stopping other upskilling	50	Knowingly broke law
44	Bouncing people repeatedly around	50	Homeless risk via JobPath
44	Ignoring official documents	50	Pressure tactics/coercion
44	Lies	51	Threats due to declined signing
44	Run down the clock	52	One week pressganged
44	Stress	52	More call-centre forced labour
44	Self-harm	52	Intimidation

52	Character attacking	56	Open lied about PPP
52	Pushed into depression tables taking	56	Medical depression issue
52	Referred – well no, we lied	56	3 weeks staff training
52	Threats	56	Self-harm/trapped in JobPath
52	Minimum wage job	56	Wrong jobs/qualifications issue
52	Treated like criminal/dirt	56	Doc’ letter just to get a break
53	Economic duress	56	Degrading
53	Part time nurses on JobPath	56	Staff signed PPP due to shaking
53	Forged PPP signature	56	Forced to sign PPP again
53	Their mistake, ‘client’ punished	56	Signing off due to bullying
53	Medical issue pressure	56	Forced labour
54	Tracked down boss and harassed	56	Work distance issues
54	Upskilling denied	56	Harassed through phone/email
54	Bullied to mental breaking point	56	Financial intimidation
54	Poor organised	57	Treated like dirt
54	Poor staff training	57	No privacy
55	TUS staff loses work care of JobPath	57	“Crap jobs” bullied into
55	Coercion	57	Medical issue ignored
55	Scraps from JobPath	57	Insurance issue ignored
55	Tus staff witness the wreck	57	Told to give up job
55	Driven to breakdown/suicide	57	Bullied over childcare
55	Lost job due to JobPath bullying	57	Transport issue ignored
55	Medical issue ignored	57	Doctors letters ignored
55	Tried to force false statement	57	Lose work pay to attend or else!
55	Cut off for NOT telling lie	58	“Treated like a commodity”
55	Physical abuse	58	Family forced to sit outside
55	Shouted at	58	Wrongly accused
55	Reduced to tears	58	Reduced to tears
55	The law open ignored	58	“Belittle” & “Humiliate”

58	Child care issues	63	Left waiting
58	Mother left sad and degraded	63	Inventing law
58	Circumstances ignored	63	Scare/bully tactics
58	Skills ignored	63	Using GDPR to take advantage
58	Unemployed treated as commodity	63	Ostracised/discrimination
58	Signed off due to JobPath tactics	63	More legal threats
59	Refused heating allowance, etc	63	“You have been warned”
59	Fear tactics	65	Pressganged
59	More staff yelling at citizens	65	No access to toilets
59	Chased out	65	No privacy
59	60 years old and shaking	65	Forged signature on PPP
60	62 year old hears other abuse	65	Forging issue quiet dropped
60	Even note taking not appreciated	66	More citizen ‘bouncing’
60	One job in two years for age group	66	Department not informed
61	TD informed of suicide possibility	66	Inventing later addon rules
61	Mental health issues	67	Each PPP is a separate entity
61	Sent another’s PPP	67	Discrimination
61	Leave bad comments, get legal threatened by solicitor letter.	67	No law in S.W. Act to censor
61	Economic duress	68	Rights denied
61	Poor I.T. setup	69	Second time around
61	Left depressed and worthless	69	Two weeks - then pressganged
62	The first blog issue	70	The 30-hour rule
62	Private company censoring citizens	71	JobPath staff fail in their duty
63	CV thrown to one side	72	Restricted activity
63	Shown someone else’s data	72	Minimum wage jobs
63	Making up their own law as they need	72	Contacting my external tutor
63	Taking advantage of “non-engagement”	72	Two weeks – pressganged again
63	Expressing opinion is “non-engagement”	73	More minimum wages jobs
63	Barred due to expressing opinion	73	Useless courses

73	Stress		
73	Lost weight		
73	Depressed		
73	Lack of staff skills		
73	Witnessing others treated bad		
73	Speak up – you’re threatened		
73	Nervous breakdowns		
73	Mother in tears while bullied		
73	Treated like child		



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