

# A UnitedPeople Report

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# - JOBPATH State Sanctioned Bullying. A Modern Inquiry In The Making.



Coercion, threats, blackmail, interference with educational studies, denial of travel, suicide attempts, possible personal data abuse and more.

All inflicted upon many of Ireland citizens today, coast to coast.

Second Edition - April 2018.

Dedicated to Thomas (Tommy) Rudd.

A hard working citizen of Ireland who treasured his family, friends and country.

Too many older, established parties are looking away and pretending to be deaf, while continuous abuses today, are happening in their very elected national and local districts.

Same parties and people cry 'foul' about previous abuses but refuse to address abuse being carried out to this day.
...To their own local people also!



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#### HISTORIC BACKGROUND



#### Another nice mess, ran into, not just walked into!

When the IMF/Troika arrived in Ireland after the 'Celtic Tiger' died, it resulted in upheaving the state – more so, very citizens at ground levels, in many ways. It caused blameless Ireland people to pay the debts of others. Innocent citizens were left with Euro billions of bills to cough up for in which they were entirely innocent of blame in many cases.

As part of a 'behind closed door' deal that no one in Ireland ever got a democratic vote on, old political parties – in this case Fianna Fail and the then Green Party, holding government office up to 2011 - signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" with the then "Troika" (three European banking institutions") that inflicted a number of demands, subsequent acts and pain on citizens.

# The Path To JobPath



The Downturn

Economy of Ireland tanks.

Property prices fall.

People stop spending.

The Bank Bailout

Loans pulled in at far larger rate. Less cashflow between institutions.

The Memorandum

IMF Memo' of Understanding
Signed by Fianna Fail & Green
Party. "Job Activation", Troika.

The Fine Detail

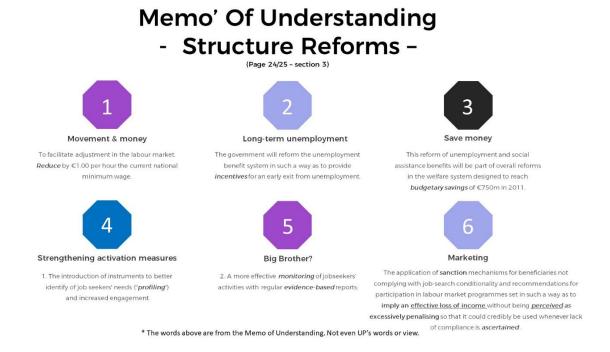
Did anyone get a democratic vote on all of this? Private Institutions installing acts.

One massive part of that Troika deal, would be the creating in "Irish Water" – a racket that in years to come whole books will be dedicated about on its own. In short here, we will say that it was and still is, an attempt to privatise Ireland's water services and also get people yet again to pay for something they are already paying for through money grabbed from Irish motor tax and imposed additional taxes on properties. To date, "Irish Water" is still not accountable to Ireland's National Ombudsman – in part as it is registered as a private company.

Another aspect of the "Memorandum of Understanding" would soon be the invention in Ireland of "Job Activation". The term "Job Activation" at the time of its conception in Ireland (post-Celtic Tiger) came more than a bit of irony as the term itself meant that there were jobs indeed to be activated in a period of time when in fact there was far less work available and businesses were closing down massively across the country.

"Job Activation" in fact, would eventually turnout to be a handy PR terminology used by government parties that in cold reality, meant that unemployed would end up pressganged into a financial racket that would see two private companies (Seetec and Turas Nua) make millions of Euro. By March 2018, the two companies involved amassed over €100 Million Euro from the state (taxpayer money) towards their own private company bank accounts.

"Job Activation" meanwhile in short, would be PR media bounced around by later governments connected to Fine Gael, The Labour Party, Fianna Fail and Independents (the Green Party would go more silent on the topic. Maybe not trying to remind people they were part and parcel of bringing it and much more in?). "Job Activation" in reality would mean "state bullying" allowed.



There were many things hidden in the signed "Memorandum of Understanding" that the people of Ireland was not clear told about or in fact, more accurately not told about at all in any way.

One of these many inclusions would be wording that would allow "Job activation" schemes to come into play – forced upon Ireland society. Included in the deal was also an additional demand that there be "the application of sanction mechanisms for beneficiaries not complying with jobsearch conditionality." A nice bunch of words that was not known about by 99% of Ireland population - but would affect over 15% to 19% of them. How? Via the incoming JobPath setup.



#### Quiet Change of State Ideology.

In 2011, after Fine Gael took government reins with The Labour Party, a report entitled "Supports and Services for Unemployed Jobseekers: Challenges and Opportunities in a Time Of Recession" would emerge. This provided the then parties to quiet take the state in a different major ideology direction. No public vote would be allowed to be held, in seeking permission to do this either.

The state officially would change the way it regarded the nations citizens. Rather than maintain a primary outlook care for the welfare of the citizens as required under the Irish constitution, in the report (via the National Economic & Social Council) the report espoused that citizens should be seen as something which makes the state gain from rather than the state actually being tasked to do an ideology task of fundamental caring. Fine Gael and Labour who jumped on this report, saw it as the way forward. It was in no small measure, a major fundamental

ideology shift as any state changes could possibly go.

The report gave them even more justification to further their own plans (if any of the actual public questioned it. They finding out about them, of course! A rarity itself.) to mine citizens for profit potential and even more, look after big business over the heads of a notion of voters. What began as small shifting of state services to private companies, would snowball also into major state departments closed down and/or (for example) the likes of private hospitals massively taking over health services, rather than parties more fix a (deliberate?) broken HSE service.

Needless to say, the vast public since then and to date, continues to be deliberate kept in the dark about all this and more, i.e. a privatisation agenda also that's incorporated into a TTIP treaty political parties are still trying to sneak in (to avoid protests) that includes the overall agenda.

So it was that if "Job Activation" was to become the agenda of the time, into the future, the then government parties realised that they would not only have to hire one private company to shove it down the throats of a nation, they would have to hire a second one for logistical reasons also.

This in turn gave rise the creation of the 2013 JobPath Tender document quiet released to a select number of private businesses. Thereafter, the hiring of Seetec and Turas Nua began.

This would later suit Fine Gael when they took over the Irish government offices with the Labour Party. Where once ANCO, FÁS and Manpower used to operate with a Fine Gael privatisation agenda of all things government service, Fine Gael along with Labour further quietly transferred department operations so that the UK Seetec company and Turas Nua could quietly slip in to take over for private profit the functions state employees were once paid to do.

Ireland's public was not told about any of this.

#### As you will read between the pages of this document, the public repeatedly is not being told a hell of a lot of things.

By the time some people did manage to find out anything at all, it was too late. Seetec and Turas Nua had infected Ireland to reap financial gains.

A new "social contract" (so said the FG/Lab PR) was forced upon Ireland's unemployed. In local reality, the unemployed were soon told to sign something ...or else! So much for as mutually agreed contracts? If the unemployed refused to sign contracts forced on them (which is lawfully called coercion, an illegal act), they would suffer via a Department of Social Protection.

Some did look into the matter early including Rabble.ie (https://goo.gl/28xWBY) who did its own research over time, into what was going on. A typical example quote from a bullied victim:

"Disgusted at having private information been given to a private company WITHOUT my consent. I hated being forced to sign a contract under a threat of payments being cut off. Disgusted with the Gov for throwing me & my family (wife and four children) to the wolves. Washed their hands of me.

Privatising unemployment and turning the people primarily into a spreadsheet asset had become a further new low for Fine Gael and Labour. They further changed legislation to facilitate it.

We recommend you read the above Rabble.ie article on the matter - as it too further details much and gives additional statements from victims who suffered at the hands of Seetec.

Rabble.ie went on to state:

"JobPath is ran on a "payment by results" model. This sees the third party suppliers get a registration fee each time a Personal Progression Plan is developed and then "job sustainment fees" are paid out for each 13 weeks of 30 hours per week or more employment. Such payments to these companies cost the state €26.8 million in 2016." Quote from The Times (Ireland edition) February, 26, 2017:

"Under JobPath, private recruitment companies are paid a fee once they secure sustainable employment for a long-term unemployed person, defined as someone who has spent a year or longer on the Live Register. Fees are paid once the individual is in employment after three, six, nine and 12 months.

Two private companies were selected for the scheme following a tender process. They were Turas Nua, which is a joint venture between Irish recruitment company FRS Recruitment and the UK-based Working Links; and the British company Seetec.

Varadkar's department has calculated it paid these companies €1.2m in 2015, and estimated figures of €25m in 2016 and €65m in 2017."

Link: https://goo.gl/8Ht1i5

Strangely enough, just 23 days later, during a Seanad debate, the nation was treated to a set of *other* financial numbers – a 2015 big jump. It still begs the question "Who was telling the truth, who was lying – and why?"

2015 - €12 Million a year (€3 Million a month)

2016 - €28,585,871 Million.

2017 - €54,028,959 Million.

The Seanad & finance statements are available here: <a href="https://goo.gl/4g76Vy">https://goo.gl/gJrqjS</a>
Video of the lengthy Seanad debate here: <a href="https://goo.gl/UpMm9i">https://goo.gl/UpMm9i</a>



#### Details.

Both companies were required by the state tender (2013) to force people through a process PR titled "JobPath". The two companies would later utilise 1,000 of their staff through 100 outlets to start chasing unemployed for their own huge profit seeking. The unemployed would be officially called "clients" or "customers" – even if the unemployed wanted to be one or not!

JobPath through Seetec and Turas Nua was to be for four years with an additional two-year runout period (to cater for jobseekers who were referred towards the end of the programme).

#### The PR Pitch.

The PR that was media plastered out subsequently by Leo Varadkar (then Minister for Social Protection) and Fine Gael, mentioned:

"JobPath is another important programme which connects employers with people who are long-term unemployed, helping them with job applications and assisting with training,"

However, the unemployed - the very people core involved - were not consulted. Not direct individually (logistically impossible in honesty) but nor in small numbers through any groups or associations, etc. Fair and democratic so? Open question being avoided by Fine Gael and co.

The unemployed that were additionally on day or night courses, suddenly found themselves receiving letters '*inviting*' them to participate ...or else – and there were also attempts (still going on to this day) to bully them off genuine education opportunities so that the two companies could grab them for their own eventual private profit gain.

There was no national or local level consultation with the unemployed by Leo Varadkar and his then government department as to what the unemployed actually felt was better needed or what state job hunt assistance was required for them to gain any employment or improve their employment positions. Through "Job Activation" – the catch phrase of the day – the unemployed have subsequently been told that they 'need', one 'glove fitting all', with Seetec and Turas Nua soon shoved down their throats.

The unemployed have found themselves suddenly dictated to by the weight of a state pressganging them, through legal means that Fine Gael and Labour uses to make it happen.

To many it seems, unemployed people have now become a lower class of citizen. One to be mass bullied and be non-consulted. It appears that some of our Senators feel the same way.

"Senator Lynn Ruane says society must move away from blaming those in poverty"

Link: https://goo.gl/JjLL62

"Society must move away from blaming individuals living in poverty for their circumstances and the "choices" they make when the reality is those circumstances were not chosen, their choices are often not real and they are essentially coerced into poverty, Ms Ruane said.

From a distance, choices may look simple but they are not, she said. There are many factors affecting them of which poverty, not just financial but also educational and cultural, is the "most coercive."

She wasn't speaking directly about JobPath but towards the larger picture of Fine Gael government overall attitude. Many people because of JobPath, been forced into "Economic Duress", into an existence where they are actually left seriously worse off, been forced into debt and with some, into losing the very roof over their head subsequently.

It still raises the question as to how the unemployed are viewed by Leo Varadkar, Fine Gael, along with Labour, then and now! Via legislation passed, they became rounded up for others to profit from a section of society less respected and often poorly treated by JobPath alone.

The outcome of Seetec/Turas Nua would speak louder than Leo Varadkar's PR - exposing truth!

#### Meanwhile In Another PR Wordplay...

The phrasing created on Social Protection letters telling people (now "clients" or "customers") they were "invited" to attend, would really mean 'Turn up or we will come down on you like a ton of bricks!'

The word "Invited" thanks to Fine Gael and Labour, now has dangerous double-meaning. In essence, it's become more "legislatively enslaved to". Bullying made legal by weight of the state.

Huge bullying and other forms of poor treatment of Ireland residents remains hidden behind the PR attached to "*Job activation*" – but it still exists none the less. State department abuses...

It is the stuff that will make up the content of a future state inquiry or investigation commission.



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## Welcome to JobPath.



#### What is Seetec? (One of the private companies involved)

Seetec is a private business that was founded in the United Kingdom in 1984. On their UK website they PR state they started out as a charity. This can be debated about as they in 1984 were registered as a private limited company (the UK Ofsted 2006 report on them supports this). They are, as of 2018, still a fully-fledged registered *private* company. In services to the public they offer "*training and employment services*". As a private venture like all other private enterprises there is an underscore goal of seeking greater year on year business profits.

Current UK government' company registered address is:

75/77 Main Road, Hockley, Essex. SS5 4RG. Company No. 02291188

Seetec Dublin Headquarters: 2nd Floor, Riverside Development, Mulhuddart Village, Dublin 15.

Ireland Registered company office: 1 Stokes Place, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland.

#### 2.10 Publicity

No publicity regarding this public procurement competition, the award of a contract or the execution of the Service Contract is permitted unless and until the Contracting Authority has given its prior written consent to the relevant communication.

They are hired currently by the UK and Irish governments. How they got to be hired by an Ireland process has been kept very quiet! Section 2 of the 2013 tender document even stated a default secrecy demand. This is justified in some circumstances but also exists as a way for silence to be imposed by the state, regarding the whole thing or individual matters to be hushed.

After some lengthy investigative digging by UnitedPeople, what has been exposed is that those applying to bring JobPath to "clients/customers" was prior required to have a turnover of €20+ million a year. In fact, while UK registered Seetec met this requirement, the Irish Seetec company – which didn't even exist at the time of tender application - couldn't reach his requirement at any stage. As you will discover later, legal ducking and diving would become state tactics and common usage yet again, in order for the state to get it's questionable way.

Regarding what they would offer to those even seeking them out, they would state to be offering a number of services to employers. From upgrading already hired staff to sourcing new staff, their company's PR was and still is aimed in seeking as much business reach as possible. Of course, for those businesses too, there is always a financial price for a private company service.

# **Nurturing the Talent** in your Business

Upskilling your workforce can be a beneficial way of overcoming skills shortages, improving staff retention and staying ahead of the competition.



Seetec's UK website states under "Employer Services" that they offer Apprentice recruitment, development of work skills, helping people into the work place and apprentice levy and management. In Ireland they are co-funded by the Irish government and the EU as part of Ireland's European structural and investment programme 2014-2020. (See note 2 at chapter end)

On their smaller Ireland Seetec website amid much of their PR the company state;

"Our approach is very much employer-led, making sure that we prepare clients to meet employer expectations to help ensure a successful outcome."

Both the UK website and the Ireland one is filled with hyping PR material but they *both* lack exact specifics as to what they do to people, unemployed, on an hour by hour or even a day to day basis. As you shall realise further on, Seetec (and Turas Nua) might have plenty of polished PR and wording to spell it all out across their websites but in reality, the physical manifestation of their PR business actions stands accused of being devoid from the glossy outlook that exists on their internet pages.

Further on, UnitedPeople will list many victim statements given to it directly. A lot of them are a very shocking read and nothing less. However, we state from the outset that our words and additional supplied statements should NOT be taken as the 'be and end of all things' in regard to this matter. We absolutely suggest that the public take to social media and the likes of Google in research, to obtain their own independent opinion on the private business/public service that Seetec and Turas Nua operate. Hear or read independently the actual quality of how they operate.

We do deeply suspect that in quick time, a clear majority will come to our same conclusion - that such companies now need to be investigated, if only due to how they are treating Irish citizens!

Seetec in Ireland is operating in local establishments at Dublin (head office), Athlone, Balbriggan, Ballina, Ballyfermot, Birr, Cabra, Carrick On Shannon, Castklebar, Clondalkin, Drogheda, Dublin - Amiens Street, Dublin - Aungier Street, Dublin - Blanchardstown, Dundalk, Finglas, Galway. Longford, Mullingar, Navan, Swords and Tallaght.

Their business organisation reach upon Irish citizens is far and wide. As you will read later on, within rural communities and specifically, people from them, this sometimes causes more problems than Seetec says it solves. Quick example, starving communities of needed workers.

#### Translated.

Seetec is a private company. The business gains revenue with every person that it manages to get its grips upon. Every person invited/threatened into turning up (or else!) means a further profit potential for the company - one at the end of a spreadsheet and quarter financial statement.

The unemployed in Ireland (and England where Seetec is originally from) has become nothing more than a financial asset. One to be grabbed by Seetec directors seeking every higher profit.

The unemployed of Ireland have become a private company's financial commodity. This is being allowed by now associative governments who are either (a) completely stupid by being unaware of this aspect or more likely (b) all too very aware and are willing to turn a blind eye to this aspect, leaving it unaddressed, as it suits their own party agenda - one including a modicum of favourable PR if they can media spin it right and use numbers within it to political party effect!

The department of Social Protection have stated themselves, on media record, that Seetec "is a "payment by results" scheme and the private companies only get a fee when they find sustainable employment for a jobseeker."

Therein lies a massive part of the current problem!

As you will later read in a number of victim statements, the private companies, Seetec and Turas Nua stand repeatedly accused of forcing people into jobs they seriously cannot afford to take.

Genuine reasons, ones beyond also poor excuses given, are also apparently completely ignored or run roughshod over as JobPath coerces (something they obviously strenuously deny) people into taking jobs. If they don't, threats start to immediately emerge orally, face to face, by

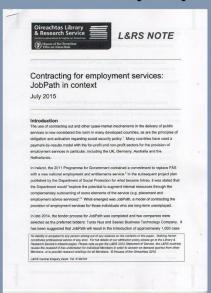
harassing phones calls, and sometimes by letter mail or email – often possibly both the latter two or all! Other more dirty tricks by all state involved will be detailed later.

# They knew what they were doing – but did it anyway!

An Oireachtas press release (14th October 2014) stated the JobPath set-up (more privatisation again – this time Social services?) would engage 178,000 jobseekers to start with. To play with the employment numbers, 1,000 caseworkers provided by two more outside private firms.

To quote Adam O'Braonain, a civil rights activist;

"Contractors will be paid a mixture of referral fees and "job sustainment fees" on a staggered basis so as to ensure the provider's focus on delivering a "tangible result" is maintained. The basic principle is that the contracted organisation gets paid a commission for every job seeker which is referred to them and a further fee for finding that individual a job. This will in essence, convert citizens into company assets, PPS numbers on a screen, each of which with a price tag attached."



## **Seetec History**

The history of Seetec before they were even imported into Ireland, is colourful, to say the least. There are many examples of questions being raised as regards to Seetec's fraud against the UK state and further assessments that Seetec turned out to be "the worst-performing of the eight Work Choice contractors" (https://goo.gl/2equMW) operating in Britain at the time. The history of Seetec will be examined in greater detail within a further section.

# Any job is better than no job?

Opposition to those highlighting Seetec (or Turas Nua) will say that if a person is unemployed, they should take any job that is available to them. UnitedPeople completely agrees that unemployed should take up an offer of employment where it is possible. There are other situations, however, where factors such as a medical card loss, travel costs, food costs, related work/home hazards and more all seriously affect a person's ability to take up a job opportunity.

A list of genuine disqualifying factors, are repeatedly ignored by those enforcing JobPath. UnitedPeople, in communication with hundreds of people for well over a year, has learned of many cases around the country where such factors are aggressively ignored by JobPath. *Why?* 

We have been left with a constant conclusion – one regularly reaffirmed by talking to many JobPath victims - one major factor is that businesses know they won't get paid if they fail to put someone into a job. So, in certain circumstances it appears, in order to earn higher profit gain, people are being strong-armed into positions they time and gain really cannot afford to take.

UnitedPeople has regularly found that some are of poor health and in some cases have very serious medical conditions that have been ignored. In many other cases, people's courses of education have been completely undermined by Seetec as it interferes in order to gain more people/victims for its ability to later profit. Those quarter numbers within any one year, sought by faceless hidden executives, must be not only gained but made happen by one way or another!

In nice PR spin used by Seetec and Turas Nua, unemployed are referred to on majority occasion, as "Clients" – if they wanted to be a "customer" or not... It's all about getting numbers!

When push comes to shove the core private aim of those bulling in JobPath, is to seek out higher yearly profits for those managing and owning the business.

Their PR is regularly spun, which might make out that they care about their "clients" and have no doubt, many genuine good staff in JobPath that do – but private corporate executives sit at top board-table meetings not to discuss an unemployed person's current status and their living conditions. They are there to daily ensure higher "customer" numbers processed so that profit margins for the business year, can be seen to increase. The executives in turn, gaining a bonus.

#### Note:

- 1. Turas Nua was a new business and joint venture between FRS Recruitment (a cooperative recruitment company based in Roscrea) and Working Links (a UK-based well-established provider of employment services to long-term unemployed people). UK based Working Links (another British company parent company, A4e,) was centre of a fraud investigation, May 2012, relating to their welfare contracts.
- 2. The state still refuses to legal define what a "Public service" is. Both Seetec and Turas Nua are being paid via taxpayer collected revenue, they are operating in the public domain. They are working under the Department of Social Protection, as their legal agents, who also provides a public service and is a public service. Both companies are supposedly servicing the public. They are being paid by the state to provide that public service but according them, they are not a "public service".

So what? If they are a deemed to be providing a public service, it means in legal terms they could be also held more to account by Dail, other state department and highcourt legal means. It's no wonder then that the companies involved and a Fine

Gael government are trying not to be legal defined in clarity of law? More accountability? Can't be having any of that?

Remember, Irish Water, another company setup under odd circumstances and awarded public work under more odd circumstances, using public utilities, is not obligated either to the National Ombudsman - as on one hand, its registered as a 'Private Company' with the Companies Registration Office (cro.ie), it too providing a public service but can also ignore the National Ombudsman, thus getting away with more.

So, when is a structure that is providing a public service, being paid by the public, not an actual public service? Elected from the usual old parties are refusing to say in law.

# **Employment service privatised**

By David Connolly

HE recent decision by the Minister for Social Protection. Joan Burton to contract out the new JobPath programme for long term unemployed people to private companies is a serious setback for the workers in the public and community sector who have successfully provided this service for many decades.

The Department of Social Protection has confirmed that two private companies have been selected as prime contractors; Seetec from the UK and a new company called Turas Nua, a joint venture between Farm Relief Services (FRS) and Working Links, also a UK company. For the purposes of the contract the Republic of Ireland has been divided into two lots: roughly

north and south of the line from Dublin to Galway comprised of DSP regions, with Seetec operating in the north and Tus Nua in the south.

The contract, which is worth many millions of euro, will last for six years including a two year rundown. The SIPTU community sector opposed the contracting out of this service on the basis that the expertise and experience of delivering an effective employment service for the long term unemployed was already available in the community based Local Employment Service and the DSP Intreo national service.

The Department claimed that it required an additional one thousand new case workers and that this could not be provided due to the public sector recruitment embargo. The DSP position was en-

dorsed when the CPSU and PSEU lost their appeal to the Civil Service Arbitration Board. The Board

The contract, which is worth many millions of euro, will last for six years including a two year rundown

found "...that the proposal of the DSP to contract in employment services for "JobPath" is in line with provisions contained in Towards 2016 and the related CPS and HRA Agreements".

While the DSP claimed that the new private service would employ an additional one thousand workers. In fact in their submission Seetec stated that they intend to sub-contract the work to local providers and community organisations with Seetec as prime contractor providing on line resources, IT management systems and technical support while the actual delivery will be through the community sector.

The prime contractors will be paid on the basis of results with an initial fee for every unemployed person registered and then job sustainment fees over the first year and a Job Start fee after 52 weeks. The scheme is targeted at the 178,000 people classified as long term jobless-out of work for more than a year.

In Britain, the welfare-to-work

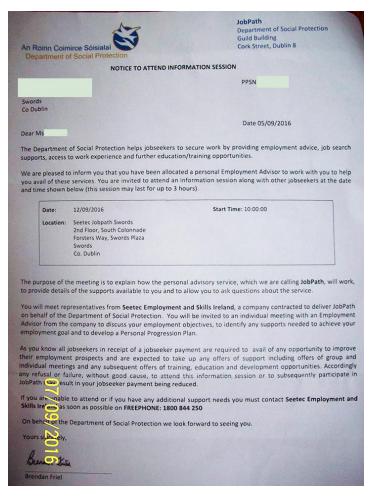
providers can earn between €5000 and €15,000 for getting long term benefit claimants back to work. The privatisation of these services in Britain has proved very expensive and very controversial, with Parliamentary enquiries under-taken into allegations of large scale fraud and exploitation and poor treatment of unemployed people. Based on recent programme outcomes measured in Britain the cost of this programme over the six year period could be in excess of €180 million to the Irish exchequer. Of most concern to the union must be to protect unemployed people from exploitation as these companies seek to maximise profits and to ensure that workers in the community sector companies that are sub-contracted are organised to prevent service disruption, wage reductions and redundancy.

# **Sign On The Dotted Line Please?**

A very regular event UnitedPeople hears about, is the way in which people are told to sign something with Seetec and Turas Nua. As you read the following full report, often when we mention one, the same situation applies to both companies involved.

Seetec's first initial contact with "clients" is when a letter arrives through people's letterbox 'inviting' them to participate in a Seetec operation within their regional area. Further down the same inviting letter however, is the inclusion of words to the effect – if you don't show up, you will be targeted subsequently for financial punishment. Section eight of the state JobPath tender document states: "Participation in JobPath will be mandatory for all Clients referred by the Department." Was this legislative change publicly announced? Hell no! Deliberate no!

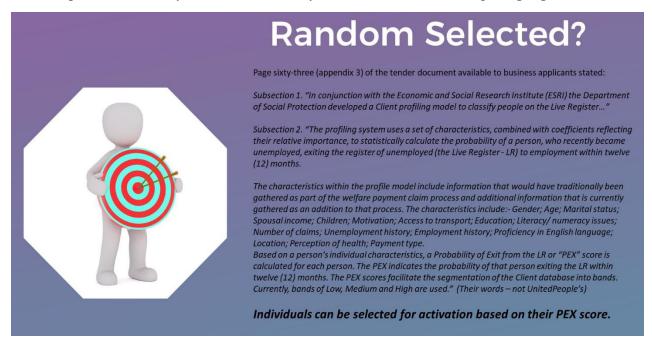
This state threat is made on behalf of a private company. It is allowed to be sent with a blessing of a government department and especially, the parties within it. In Big Brother double-speak now being used today, "*Invite*" now means in Ireland "*You've no choice*".



"Clients/customers" are then 'invited' to turn up on a specified day and time. They are directed to enter a room where others like them, have been also told to turn up. On the chairs they are asked to sit upon, there is often a booklet of short length. This intro' booklet is the first point of information "clients" gain about the private company. Many of those attending have not heard of Seetec before except for the mention in a previous letter demanding their 'invited' presence.

When everyone is present, a representative of Seetec or Turas Nua speaks. On occasion, they are also joined by a person from the Department of Social Protection who sits quietly to one side. They, within the 40 (approx.) minute session, might be called upon to answer questions.

The JobPath representative immediately runs through a fast explanation of why people were called in that day. They are sometimes told that they have been randomly picked (an inaccurate lie as you will see later). The JobPath representative quickly skims over what they are going to do for those told to turn up. At no stage has anyone yet '*invited*', likely agreed to be a customer of the two private companies. Not that it matters to Seetec or Turas Nua anyway. The listening '*invited*' public is told they are now involuntary enrolled. In other words, *pressganged*.



At no stage (to date of this report) has any persons '*invited*' ever been told that JobPath operators are (a) actually private companies and that (b) their own private operating aim, is to profit off further there and then (through gained signatures) – also later, from the people present.

As UnitedPeople has discovered, many a JobPath representative has previously given an impression that they are in fact, staff attached to the Department of Social Protection at same operating level. In legal terms however, as the two private company operatives have been hired by the state, they are a private company "independent contractors" or "agents" hired by the state.

This is important as the legal ramifications of this is more extensive than those operating direct within the Social Protection Department, as a civil servant. It has been claimed that some – not all - JobPath representatives have given an impression that they are Social Protection civil servants – something they are very much far from, technically and legally. They are *not* an *authority employee*. Especially, as they deny themselves, they are operating a public service!

At the end of a possible Powerpoint presentation quickly gone through in under 20/40 minutes approximately, 'invited' are allowed to ask questions within the assembled group – up to a point!

Time and again, numerous people (including many who subsequently contacted UnitedPeople) have tried to ask questions about how JobPath obtained their personal data, under what state regulations (and specific subsection) was this allowed and more? They are *then* told that '*if any one has any queries of such a nature, they will be taken to one side after the open group meeting and spoken to*'. Unemployed citizens have tried to ask questions based on the flew through Powerpoint presentation only to find themselves stopped in their group inquisitive tracks. Was the answers to their questions going to be any different in a one to one chat versus any answers gain in a groups session? If so? *Why*? If not, *why not answer the question in the group session*?

They were not allowed to ask their question(s) further in front of the open group, even if they had no problem with their question(s) being publicly revealed to those also present.

Are representatives of Seetec and even the Department of Social Protections afraid of an informative education that other citizens might gain (via a knowledgeable unemployed person), in regard to certain aspects, persons actual full legal rights (including right to not sign a private contract with a private company) and sharing of additional information about the private businesses operating the JobPath setup? UnitedPeople suspects so – as it also expects Seetec, Turas Nua and the Department of Social Protection to strongly deny this – but they stop people speaking when they ask revealing questions or state other facts related to the JobPath setup!



A number of people that have subsequently contacted UnitedPeople, had previously brought up the fact that the Department of Social Protection and Seetec have possible broken European law in regard to a European Court of Justice 2015 Bara case ruling (the ECJ stated that even where there is a legal basis for data sharing, it is necessary that people know that sharing will take place BEFORE it happens). When they tried to raise this in a group chat, they were quickly tried to be hushed up or ushered out of the room. Heaven forbid that others also present might then learn something not to JobPath liking and they then ask subsequent vital questions themselves, on related aspects?

Those still within the assembled group setting are quickly asked to turn to one of the last pages of the PR booklet they have been presented with. They are requested that they sign the booklet and hand it back up as soon as possible. If they

are not given a booklet to sign, they are presented with a PPP (Personal Progress Plan) with a one to one advisor soon after which they are told they have to sign in compliance.

None of them at any stage are fully told and fully explained to, that by signing a booklet or PPP they are legally signing themselves into a business/agreement, legal binding contract within JobPath. One awarding further legal rights to the private companies involved and weakening their own. JobPath operators don't expose these greater facts *at all*.

For example, they are not told that they have given Seetec further permission to (a) do what they will with their personal data from there on and (b) employers in the future might be contacted by JobPath private companies even if "clients/customers" get a job off their own initiative without JobPath assistance or regardless of their involvement.

JobPath has found a way to give itself signed permission from "clients/customers", to invade privacy further. We shall come back to this privacy issue as a separate topic, later.

As the presentation is usually done quickly the 'invited' people often do not get a real chance to read the booklet (or later PPP) fully. They do not have time to think about its implications — as they are trying to listen to the Seetec representative at the top of the room speaking (often too quickly, it has been commented) at the same time (a deliberate tactic?) — and they don't gain much chance to delve deeper into the scarce information attached to the later section they are being asked to sign. In all, it's been considered by many attending (rightly or wrongly), on reflection, a deliberate rush job from start to finish - a deliberate tactic?

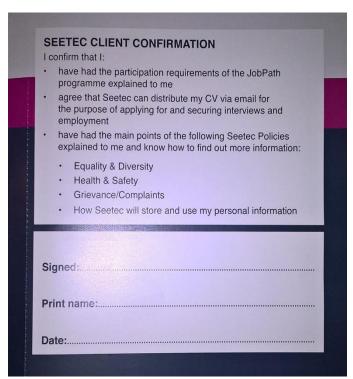
Part of what is missing from the presentation, is the company explaining that "clients" personal information is being sent to UK servers and stored there. They are not told that some of the software they will be asked to access is also UK based. No information is given as regard to data encryption storage of their personal or the process in which Seetec further specifically treats their information and how they will use it further, after contracts have been signed. Naturally enough, there is no mention of how the private business and the Department of Social Protection have possibly broken European law in regard to a Bara judicial ruling or more, either.

From those that have managed to grasp some of the generalised information, a lot have said they left the open group meeting - only afterwards realising to themselves "What the hell just happened in there?" Ever been in a 'brain overload' situation? Many of those 'invited' to experience the JobPath induction, reported to UnitedPeople they had been left feeling that way. They had been given *some* information – a lot of it generalised – but not what could be considered fully accurate and more important chunks were completely (deliberately?) missing!

The section on the page (they are asked to sign) also stating "How Seetec (or Turas Nua) will store and use my personal information" it has been stated to UnitedPeople, doesn't truly represent what little inaccurate or often the case, no information people on the day actually received.

After the group session is over, the name of each person present is called out. They are told to go with another Seetec representative but if one is not available yet, they are to wait until one is

subsequently able to be interacted with. When this second representative becomes available, they are ushered to a computer and then told to digitally sign themselves in.



Here too, they are not being told something important. Even if they decline to sign the leaflet document, by digitally signing themselves into the Seetec's computer system, they are in legal terms, also agreeing to bind themselves in contract with a private company. By signing themselves in and following orders, they have officially agreed to be contract bound to the private company. The 'invitees' are not told this additional legal aspect however. It is not to Seetec's advantage that they are told.

Those 'invited' to attend, by digitally singing themselves to Seetec, are also agreeing to the same conditions (including rights affected) as scarce detailed within the previous booklet they might have been briefly allowed to glance at.

#### I Refuse...

As you will find out later within this report, the Irish government is allowing a private company to act illegally in regard to the way people's personal data is being managed, passed on and in some cases, used. A number of citizens who have become aware of this situation, along with concerns about where their data is being stored (England) have refused to sign any document contracting them with Seetec, regarding this aspect alone.

Seetec up to April 2018, has been deducting/penalising people for refusing to sign contracts with the Seetec business. Seetec and Turas Nua – both forcing people into JobPath - has been reporting non-signers to the Department of Social Protection to (a) see them chastised through financial punishment and (b) as a further way to possibly coerce them into ultimately capitulating, under financial strain, to ultimately signing up to Seetec.

Since the partnership of Seetec and the Department of Social Protection became official, they have subsequently punished citizens with financial reduction for their unwillingness to sign with Seetec into a private business contract. This may sound familiar, as the Irish government has previously acted in the same way regarding "Irish Water" with their private contracts. A case of 'sign on the dotted line into a contract – if you like it or not – or else you will be further targeted by the state!' Blackmail, coercion or extortion being the thug action of the day, month and year!

NOTE: We add "extortion" as also, in the case of Irish Water too, people's personal data has been legally recognised as an "asset" (this was even included in the Irish Water legislation). The definition of "extortion": "the practice of obtaining something, especially money, through force or threats." And is contrary to Irish law under the Public Order Act 1994 Section 17

In regard to the two private companies, what legislation (according to the Department of Social Protection) allowed them to instigate a process that then punishes citizens for refusing to sign into a private contract? To those being bullied into signing, the Department of Social Protection often quotes to questioners they have the right to do so under Section 13 of the Welfare and Pensions (miscellaneous provisions) Act 2013, amended Section 141 of the Social Protection Consolidation Act 2005. This supposedly (they many times have claimed) gave them the right to impose a penalty rate following by a nine-week disqualification period, that could be applied.

They were **WRONG** in doing so – and knowing they are wrong, still repeat the same lie.

Not only were they wrong – they continued to apply on others, unwarranted illegal penalties subsequently after they were informed as to tender rules. Anyone previously that had been punished for refusing to sign their data rights away or disliked being forced into signing a private contract, were made financially suffer with no legal basis to allow a punishment to be inflicted.

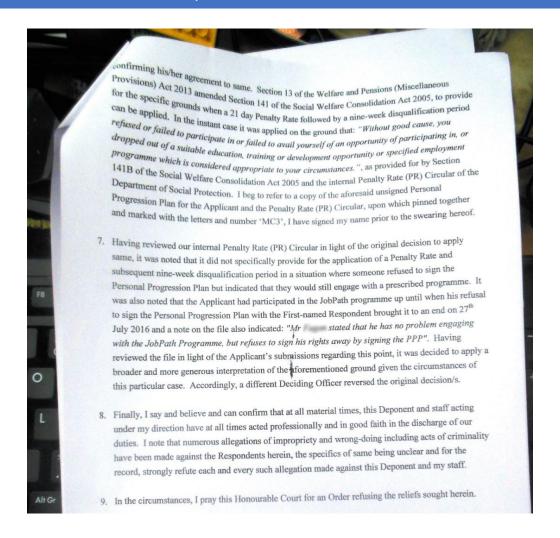
When one victim (Damien Fagan) took the brave step to legal challenge what was going on, it was reluctantly admitted by the state Department of Social Protection that...

#### QUOTE:

"Having reviewed our internal Penalty Rate (PR) Circular in light of the original decision to apply same, it was noted that it did not provide for the application of a Penalty rate and subsequent nine-week disqualification period in a situation where someone refused to sign the Personal Progression Plan (PPP) but indicated that they would still engage with a prescribed programme."

See next attached picture. This is stated in section seven, clearly, in correspondence with Damien Fagan, of Seetec and the Department of Social Protection's wrong - also possibly illegal actions. Turans Nua, not to leave them out, also indulges in the same practise. The letter stating the above was reluctantly presented to Mr Fagan on behalf of the Department of Social Protection and was entered into Dublin highcourt evidence by them as fact.

Had he like a growing number, not questioned what they were attempting to do in specific detail, he too would have been made to further suffer. The outcome was that he was refunded what he was entitled to in the first place. Had he not been determined to defend his legal rights, the state and Seetec would have continued to impose their unlawful punishment. They continue to do so with others to this very day. They, the state, refuse to stop breaking the law. Incredible but true!



An obvious question therefore arises "Why are those signatures so desperately needed?" We have been left to conclude the following:

- (a) For Seetec (and Turas Nua) to further profit more times in a year than just at a course conclusion or a job being obtained for a person going through the Seetec experience.
- (b) Due to the Social Protection Department and Seetec (and Turas Nua) acting retroactively, in trying to obtain further legal rights from people, to do what they have *already* done with their personal data and their willingness (or not) to engage with a Seetec '*invited*'/coerced period of forced lectures and ordered actions.

We shall examine (a) and (b) in more detail.

#### Situation (a).

"For Seetec to further profit more times in a year than just at a course conclusion or a job being obtained for a person going through the Seetec experience."

If all goes according to government and JobPath plan, the private companies gain continuous payments for every person that is put through the JobPath experience.



The details of state payments applicable now to Seetec (and Turas Nua), were outlined during the tendering process. One carried out quietly by a previous Fine Gael and Labour government.

According to that tender process, the eventual successful business applicant would gain a:

10.1 "Registration Fee" on satisfactory completion of a valid Personal Progression Plan (PPP) in respect of each Client. It is a matter for Tenderers to set the Registration Fee they will charge for each Referral Group per annum (see Tenderer bid spreadsheet in Appendix 6). The Registration Fee must not be greater than 15% (fifteen per cent) of the maximum fees that can be charged (the total of the registration fee plus Job Sustainment Fees for fifty-two (52) weeks of sustained employment) for any Client in that Referral Group.

- 10.2 Successful Tenderers will be paid "Job Sustainment Fees" for those Clients whom they assist to secure and remain in full-time employment, including self-employment, for each complete period of thirteen (13), twenty six (26), thirty nine (39) and fifty two (52) weeks. It is a matter for Tenderers to propose the Job Sustainment Fees they will charge during each year for each Referral Group.
- 10.3 Successful Tenderers must submit claims for payment on a monthly basis or at such other intervals as may be decided by the Department...

- In other words, as each person was signed up to a JobPath experience, there could be a payment claim for that they making it through to the end of a 52 week experience.
- "For each employment period of thirteen (13), twenty six (26), thirty nine (39) and fifty two (52) weeks" Four additional payments to be paid out as each person progresses.

#### Additionally,

"10.4 For the purpose of claiming a Job Sustainment Fee, period(s) of employment or self-employment, must commence during the fifty two (52) week engagement period on the programme."

• If the person going through JobPath was to gain employment up to the end of the 52 week period of enrolment the private company would gain a "Job Sustainment Fee"

Additionally, if the "client" was to gain suitable full employment 'off their own bat' with no JobPath involvement, there could be a point of contention with the state not having to pay eith of the private companies a final "Job Sustainment Fee". As UnitedPeople has discovered multiple times, some within the companies are saying "He/she got a job during the 52 week period with us" – but they are omitting more accurately that it was <u>not</u> because of their efforts in any actual realistic way! Victims have been further private company threatened that if they didn't inform Seetec/Turas Nua, two private businesses themselves, of others new work employers names, they would be dragged through the courts or told that their social benefit money would cut. The latter threat is just stupid in most cases as if a person is back fully working, they would be signed off social welfare anyway – but as UnitedPeople has discovered, JobPath operators will try any pressure stunt to ensure they can later profit from the public taxpayer with a false claim.

Initially, the Department of Social Protection likes it if all unemployed would sign away their rights further after receiving their '*invite*' (turn up *or else*!), after attending the introduction group section or the one to one chats with a JobPath advisor.

Those collected signatures when later sent back to the Department of Social Protection as further proof of signed up numbers, means greater private business end profits. **Signatures = money**. The unemployed are a financial asset. During the Public accounts Committee (PAC) digging into the matter in early January to March 2018, state officials had to (again reluctantly) admit on Dail record that indeed these signatures mean instigated payments to the private companies.

The signatures are needed by the two businesses as legal contract confirmation that the "client" has agreed to commence a full 52 week period with JobPath. The Department of Social Protection and the top ministers involved, have been told time and again of the underhand,

sometimes illegal tactics being used in order to gain these signatures – but same ministers turn a 'blind eye' to such pleadings, made from citizens seeking help against pressure bullying.

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**Note:** Keeping in mind certain aspects of the aforementioned "clients" have come to UnitedPeople and regularly complained that they were told not to apply for some job positions through a variety of reasons JobPath employees said, they would not be suitable for. It was reported also to UnitedPeople that some "clients" were advised to either leave out certain details on any CV's they wished to submit to jobs they alone, wished to apply for without any JobPath involvement.

This is a matter UnitedPeople believes requires further examination. For the state or JobPath operators to examine this situation further, might be seen as an admission that there is indeed, something actually open to question. So UnitedPeople estimates that there will be deniability of the issue existing at all or

(b) a Social Protection/JobPath in-house examination of the issue would return a convenient "*The issue has never arose upon further deep introspection*" or something along those lines.

It is not in the best interests of either to admit there might be a tender process loophole open to exploitation and that it was taken advantage of, for the sake of private profit.

Complete independent assessment therefore is called for. Will it happen? Not likely?

The Fine Gael government says that internal review is occurring but this is expected, like others previous, to be another whitewash on some matters and again, avoiding of others.

#### Situation (b).

"Due to the Social Protection department and JobPath operators acting retroactively, in trying to obtain further legal rights from people, to do what they have already done, with their personal data and their willingness (or not) to engage with a Seetec 'invited'/coerced course."

According to legislation state drawn up it is supposedly permissible for state departments to share citizens information between one and the other. If it is actually legal for state departments to also transfer people's personal data *to private companies*, is open to serious question.

Current political parties in previous and current governments have been extremely vague on this issue. We say *deliberately so*. They are being deliberately vague on the issue, deliberately not addressing the issue as it also suits their party agenda or not simply aware of certain aspects of

the legality. In any of the three scenarios, it puts them in bad light with the public – from which they want to hide. Denial of all three is therefore expected.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2015 during the period of Fine Gael and Labour being in government office, the European Court of Justice handed down a clear ruling (https://goo.gl/w7FqRG).

In referring to the ECJ ruling the (Ireland) Office of Data Protection stated:

"In order to satisfy the requirement of fair processing of personal data under Article 10 of Directive 95/46/EC a public sector body must inform the data subjects in advance of the transfer of their personal data to another public sector body for the purposes of the recipient body unless it has already done so. Furthermore, the recipient controller of the data, in order to satisfy the fair processing requirements under Article 11(1) of Directive 95/46/EC, must also inform the data subject in advance as to their identify, the purpose of the processing and any further information necessary for the fair processing of the data."

The full European Court ruling can be found at <a href="https://goo.gl/3A1G7a">https://goo.gl/3A1G7a</a>

In short, people that have data stored about them, were to be notified that such data exists, that such data was wanted to be transferred to another department, when it was wanted, what it would be used for, how it would be processed and how it would be stored – all **PRIOR** to any transfer.

From the  $2^{nd}$  of October 2015 an Irish government would have been aware of the above ruling and then they should have seen to it that they were in compliance with the said judgement – if that government of the day was any good! As it turned out they didn't and weren't!

UnitedPeople has been left to conclude the current elected has not improved much either. Even Ireland's national leader has not yet to date corrected a serious contract error which we can prove has been pointed out to him directly – that he previously acknowledged had existed (more on that later).

Since the 2nd of October 2015, a day after the Bara ruling citizens information has continued as before to be transferred back and forth between state departments, so this procedure remained unchanged. We can now find out that information has gone even further, into private enterprises and semi-state companies like Seetec, Abtran, Irish Water, CACI (through Census contract) and more. Was anyone informed of their data transfer? No. It was and still is not practise to do so.

During the still continuing, personal information data transfer very few – if any – of the nation's citizens are notified as to the upcoming data transfer as the ECJ had ruled, was legally necessary.

It can only be concluded therefore that the state are quietly continuing to break European law because it was convenient to do so - as the law breaking suited their political party agenda.

NOTE: This is similar to what the previous and present governments are still doing today in relation to VRT imposed on Irish vehicles. Those same governments tell the people they must abide by Irish and European edicts – but are willing to ignore them themselves and carry on with double-standard themselves in contradiction.

UnitedPeople has subsequently discovered that the personal data transferred to Seetec in particular, is subsequently being exported out of Ireland and stored on UK servers. Additionally, users in Ireland that are told to log into UK servers though using Irish based computers, are being transferred to those servers where the Seetec course software is being run and I.T. managed from which is in the UK and not Ireland. There is a great, very real legal danger in allowing this.

As servers in Kent, England are being not only used but also being used for the storage of Irish persons' data, this stretches Irish data protection regulations. The transfer of people's data out of the country by digital exportation means that Irish data laws are no longer applicable. In fact, UK data protection laws are only applicable – if this is even the case as we are not talking about UK citizens' data but citizens of Ireland. This all surmounts to a regulation and procedural mess.

# **Absolute Stupidity.**

To make matters even worse, users when they are given their access codes for the Seetec software system, have been told they must use their date of birth as their entry password. This set-up will have been previously arranged for users before they gain access to the I.T. terminals they are then supposed to use and digitally sign into.

To login in to ELVIS you need to use your Seetec username and password.

Don't know what that is? Your username is your learner number with a lowercase L in front (e.g. 1123456) and your password will be your date of birth in this format; DDMMYYYY

In security terms, we cannot stress this strongly enough, to use a person's date of birth as their entry password, is **completely, unquestioningly stupid**. A hacker of experience or training, can

easily crack into any weak system and further cause system chaos or personal data damage from there, onward.

Three of Seetec's known log-in systems have this critical issue; elvis.seetec.co.uk, client.seetec.ie and inwork.seetec.ie – all are too vulnerable by using a person's date of birth as a way to obtain full access. It is simple crazy.

#### Lights Out.

In all of the afore mention and more, the Irish citizen whose data (or personal information) is at the core of possible illegal activity, is not being told what is going on in their name.

Citizens of Ireland – voters – TD's employers - are being kept completely in the dark and bullied in many cases, into signing their personal data rights away *or else* they face illegal financial penalty via JobPath private companies reporting them to Social Protection, for sticking by their legal rights. You couldn't make this stuff up.

It is actually happening under Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and a bunch of elected Independents who too, are ducking any addressing of the on-going abuses.



#### Retroactive.

As we now know, between The European Court of Justice the Bara decision and certain aspects of pre-existing and amended Irish/EU data protection legislation Seetec and the Department of Social Protection are continuing to ignore the exact details in all, grey legal areas to be exploited.

"Clients/Custimers" are asked to sign into a contract with the companies involved as soon as possible. Retroactively, this in theory, they might think, gives the private businesses some possible legal basis for some of the things they do, having then gotten permission as to how to handle personal information has already gained through questionable legal means. The issue of personal data and UK servers being accessed, updated with additional Irish registered citizens data as they continue a Seetec course, is something that needs to be further immediately looked at and legally addressed far more seriously than it is now at present.

Retroactively, with people signing their name to a contract that had already possibly incorrect information on it, the Department of Social Protection and Seetec might be thinking they are therefore covered *too* – when in fact, because some of their details have been *misrepresented* to many already (regarding incorrect legislation quoted in print and orally to "clients") their contracts could be rendered null and void anyhow, with a court of law supporting this!

...The Department of Social Protection and JobPath are not willing to be forthcoming about all this and it is understandable why. Legally right? It is certainly not looking likely. Morally right? *Absolutely not, UnitedPeople contends*.

#### **Randomly Selected. Seriously?**

It has been reported to UnitedPeople many times, from many people, from many locations, that those '*invited*' to attend, were told that they were "*randomly selected*". If they were told this as apparently is the case, the '*invited*' were lied to as a group and individually, right to their faces.

Page sixty-three (appendix 3) of a tender document quietly made available to business applicants stated:

Subsection 1. "In conjunction with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) the Department of Social Protection developed a Client profiling model to classify people on the Live Register..."

Subsection 2. "The profiling system uses a set of characteristics, combined with coefficients reflecting their relative importance, to statistically calculate the probability of a person, who recently became unemployed, exiting the register of unemployed (the Live Register - LR) to employment within twelve (12) months. The characteristics within the profile model include information that would have traditionally been gathered as part of the welfare payment claim process and additional information that is currently gathered as an addition to that process. The characteristics include:-

Gender; Age; Marital status; Spousal income; Children; Motivation; Access to transport; Education; Literacy/numeracy issues; Number of claims; Unemployment history; Employment history; Proficiency in English language; Location; Perception of health; Payment type.

Based on a person's individual characteristics, a Probability of Exit from the LR or "PEX" score is calculated for each person. The PEX indicates the probability of that person exiting the LR within twelve (12) months. The PEX scores facilitate the segmentation of the Client database into bands. Currently, bands of Low, Medium and High are used. Individuals can be selected for activation based on their PEX score.

For any JobPath employee or otherwise, to state people were "*randomly selected*" – and they have said so – is just pure lies being told to citizens of Ireland. The state has secretly being using a quiet profiling system in order to then bully the people they want out to Seetec and Turas Nua.

On page sixty-four (section 3) of the same document, comes the following:

#### **Extending to Long-Term Unemployed**

"Client profiling was rolled out to the Department's Local and Branch Offices between 2012 and 2013. New claimants are now profiled nationwide. However, those who have been on the Live Register for some time have not passed through the PEX profiling system. Work on profiling these jobseekers is currently underway. A profiling model has been developed with the ESRI, using administrative data only (i.e. data already stored within the Department). This model generates a score similar to the PEX score that indicates a person's distance from the Labour Market (LMD). This LMD score, like the PEX score, will be used to segment the Live Register Client database into Low, Medium and High categories."

On page sixty-four (section 4) of the same document, comes the following;

#### Application of Profiling to JobPath.

"It is the intention of the Department to monitor the distribution of Clients across the different groups using the profiling scores so as to ensure that, as far as possible, a reasonable distribution of Clients within each payment group is achieved."

We can only take an educational guess as to why the state wanted to keep this profiling system so quiet. The profiling system is based on the above listed information already in their hands. In other words, the Social Protection department has not only got its hands upon people's very information but also on matters related to their health and more — and is willing to process it all in order to churn out results that would later suit a private company to profit when given it.

This is alarming because (a) the processing of this data – done before the person involved even knows it is being done on them – the processing happening before the person involved was notified and permission gained – is in clear conflict of the European Court of Justice ruling that forthcoming personal data processed, should happen AFTER the person involved, is first told it is to happen and their permission sought before processing the personal data. The primary person involved, firstly been told how their data was to be processed, how it was being handed over, who it was being handed to, how it was to be stored and then what would come later of that data, after first initial usage. Would it be then sold/passed on elsewhere also for private company gain!

None of this has happened of course.

Then we have (b) this unauthorised process data, was quietly further handed over to Seetec and Turas Nua – imported companies to do with as they saw fit – the data stored on foreign servers (taking it out of the reach of Irish legislation remit). Their long-term eye also on increasing profit numbers for corporate executives. For the very citizens involved in this quiet amassed data theft, processed by a secret PEX formulation translates in to greater profit potential for private enterprise.

Citizens data which was being quietly amassed by the state and processed were neither told it was/is happening nor their permission ever sought. They to date, are being deliberately kept in the dark – being told at times, they are being "randomly selected". The same citizens being told such lies, in vast majority, still do not know they have a PEX score hanging over their heads like a noose, ready to be pulled by those seeking to exploit them also for a profit. The PEX score system is being kept quiet. Why lie in saying "Random selected"? Why is state hiding PEX?

The notion that Seetec and Turas Nua "clients" are just randomly selected, is a complete state lie.

NOTE: Currently, people's personal data can be accessed in the Department of Social Protection, by over 5,000 members of staff alone, 140+ departments, across Ireland. The viewing, storage and processing of all that information is being carried out with little or no further information being deliberately shared. The public is left uninformed of what they do not previous know!

#### A Dangerous Legal Turn Around. More You Are Not Being Told.



After the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to the "IMF" by Fianna Fáil and The Green party just fourteen days later, around the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, the two parties instigated the Social Protection Act 2010. This was directly related to the IMF signed agreement. A national agreement that was forced upon a nation without any vote permission sought from the people, through any democratic process.

The signing of the IMF agreement, like the now infamous bank bailout, was rammed down upon citizens in what many consider to be a very undemocratic fashion. Regardless of the

aforementioned, the Social Protection Act 2010 was connected to the IMF agreement through section three of the Memorandum of Understanding – subsection entitled "Structural reforms"

In this act, section seven, staff within the Department of Social Protection silently gained extra powers to force their will upon a nation of unemployed citizens. Specifically, they gained the power to cut off citizens from their very basic Social Protection payments "without good cause".

In other words, the unemployed who previously had a contract signed in their Social Protection office were to adhere to a number of terms and conditions in order that they were able to avail of

state financial assistance. If they were by investigation and *after* questioning, *then* deemed to have broken their contract, financial penalties were to ensue.

Once the Social Protection Act 2010 became law Social Protection staff could immediately cut anyone financially off without warning, without

In order to qualify for a Social Protection payment, unemployed must meet certain conditions, including the requirement to be available for, capable of and genuinely seeking full-time work.

prior giving anyone opportunity to turn up and explain any questioned circumstances or provide any evidence to show that they were still within the terms of the previously signed contract with Social Protection.

It would turn out for many across Ireland that they would still be adhering to the previously signed contract – but still they found themselves cut off. Why? Because now they were – without even being prior told – mandatory expected to sign a further additional contract with a private company. If they did not, they were and still are being cut off immediately from financial assistance that was helping to feed, clothe and keep the roof over their head, and of their children in many cases.

Put another way, Fianna Fáil and the Green Party had introduced – and continued by Fine Gael, Labour, Fianna Fáil and more later, a legal process where a person could be judged completely guilty and subsequently financially punished – before they might be able to (a) be notified of any Social Protection office questions, (b) before they could further defend themselves and (c) before they were able to submit further evidence material to back-up any case laid against them. The unemployed additionally, were not to be able to face an accuser direct, with an independent judicial state official also present, before any penalty was to be imposed.

A person could now be judged "Guilty" before being deemed "Innocent" through the Social Protection Act 2010. A person was initially judged and treated as guilty – and thereafter, they had to try and prove themselves innocent in order just to regain their much needed state assistance.

In reality, a Social Protection office would be told that (a) someone did not turn up or (b) refused to sign a private company contract or (c) a Seetec or Turas Nua employee acted as judge and jury deeming someone in their view to be "uncooperative". After informing the Social Protection office, the person in question would have their assistance cut off quickly in many cases before they were even told any issue had arisen. They were judged by a private company to be

"guilty" – they would then be initially judged also as "guilty" by a Social Protection official (after being informed of the previous decision by Seetec or Turas Nua), who would then enact the financial penalty.

Due to the actions, inactions or at times convenient silence of political parties involved - with the 2010 Act brought in and continued to the present day, a dangerous new legal precedent has been quietly inserted into Irish legislation through clever wording. *Presumed guilty before innocent*.

#### Sanctions.

Page seventy-five, section two "Legal Context" of the original tender document supplied to business applicants for the imposing of "JobPath" on the unemployed states:

"The Social Protection Consolidation Act 2005 (as amended) and associated regulations govern the Department's schemes, including jobseekers' schemes. The legislation establishes the conditions for receipt of jobseeker payments and the rate reductions (penalty rates) applicable in specified circumstances.

Deciding Officers are appointed by the Minister to apply the social insurance and social assistance legal provisions that include the application of sanctions.

Deciding Officers are bound by the legal provisions and are required to make independent judgements on the application of the law. Decisions made by a Deciding Officer may be appealed to the independent Social Protection Appeals Office."

The first paragraph re-confirms the long standard contract conditions to which all the unemployed receiving state benefit payments must abide by.

The second paragraph states that the Minister's underlings (*Deciding Officers*) within the Social Protection Department system, have been given the power of 'judge and jury'.

The third paragraph states that the *Deciding Officers* must abide by the law – but as we shall shortly see – what about the absence of law? Meanwhile, the third paragraph also states decisions can be later appealed. This too, we shall shortly come back to.

• Let us go back to the first part of the third paragraph...

Deciding Officers are bound by the legal provisions and are required to make independent judgements on the application of the law.

As UnitedPeople has discovered, after JobPath's assessment of the guilty - when people have refused to sign a contract with the private company, Seetec (or Turas Nua in similar situations) has passed on their assessment by letter or phone call to a local Department of Social Protection.

If a "Deciding Officer" was actually going to abide by the law - as stated required in the tender document - then legally they <u>CANNOT</u> impose any penalties just because a "client" declines to sign a contract with a private company.

Look again at the document image on page eighteen. We restate one section in it.

"Having reviewed our internal Penalty Rate (PR) Circular in light of the original decision to apply same, it was noted that it did not provide for the application of a Penalty rate and subsequent nine-week disqualification period in a situation where someone refused to sign the Personal Progression Plan (PPP) but indicated that they would still engage with a prescribed programme."

Translated: Social Protection offices and their deciding officers around the country, do <u>NOT</u> have the legal power to cut off anyone's payments, due to any non-signing of a contract with a private company. This was confirmed later, also through a Dail PAC meeting.

...But this is what has happened many times, possibly in nearly every town, in every county, around the country. Illegal actions have happened – and still happening, as TD's do nothing.

...Of course, the deciding officers while not complying with state legislation themselves, do not bother to inform Seetec or Turas Nua "clients" they are acting possibly illegally when deducting or completely cutting off money - or that they never even had the power to do so in these particular situations! The still main concern by the state is just how to force more people around the country into *yet again* more company contracts. <u>Be it legal or not!</u>

Naturally enough, Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and independents currently helping to run (or ruin?) the state, are in no hurry to tell their own local voters and sometimes victims that they are being treated with unwarranted, illegal penalties by state department officials.

From a financial point alone the money amounts lost to a lot of people that have contacted UnitedPeople have been quite considerable. The state under normal legal circumstances, can cut a person off for up to nine weeks in specific legislated circumstances.

Nine weeks of lost benefits has already had a dramatic effect on people. Victims have come to UnitedPeople that have subsequently lost the very roof over their heads due to their payments being cut off – without any warning in some cases. Others have come to UnitedPeople or have had to reach out to the likes of St Vincent De Paul, for financial assistance just to further keep food in themselves and their children.

There is a small percentage of people in Ireland what will claim "They should have signed the JobPath contract. Victims deserve what they get" (or in some cases, eventually did not get!). This claim completely shows a lack of comprehension to 'a bigger picture'.

There is a fundamental moral and legally long established state understanding that no one citizen should be coerced, threatened or blackmailed into signing anything they do not wish to – **especially a contract with a private company!** Today it's the unemployed, other days it is other working people being also signature forced into further tax liabilities, etc, through threats.

However, Fine Gael and Co. are allowing this very immoral practice to occur daily, every week day, right around the country since the ramming in of highly questionable legislative Acts. A growing regular occurrence these days with a number of government imposed schemes.

Let us go back to the financial aspect again. Section seven of the JobPath state tender document, Payment Trigger events" says, "There are five potential payment trigger events as follows:

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Client Registration Fee – on initial completion of Personal Progression Plan (PPP)

Job Sustainment Fee (13 Weeks)

Job Sustainment Fee (26 Weeks)

Job Sustainment Fee (39 Weeks)

Job Sustainment Fee (52 Weeks).
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Seetec and Turas Nua are further able to claim their own state payments, many times over when they gain the signed contract confirmation of "*clients*". Naturally enough, as a private company seeking to profit, not run at a loss, they are desperate therefore to gain those vital signatures.

#### SIGNATURES MEANS MONEY - MORE OF IT!

If a "client" refuses to further sign what he or she fears will lead to their rights being further eroded, their personal data being abused, etc, or just refuses to be bullied into a contract with a private company, the involved company will and does, use all methods possible to see that a "client" is pressurised into signing — even if they do not have the law on their side or a Social Protection department they quickly 'run to' in complaint - and does not have the legal basis to do so either!

The private company could possibly lose an ability to claim payments if it cannot kindly invite (bully) people to sign on a dotted line or commit themselves with a digital signature either, by I.T. use.

• Let's go back to the second part of the third paragraph...

"Decisions made by a Deciding Officer may be appealed to the independent Social Protection Appeals Office."

As many victims of the current JobPath initiative have discovered their benefit payments have <u>already</u> been cut off without warning, without any adequate chance to defend themselves and without any chance to face their accusers in front of a Social Protection deciding officer. They

have just had the financial 'legs' cut from under them as soon as a Seetec or Turas Nua employee picks up a phone, emails or letter informs a local Social Protection Department.

An appeal process is great to have. Here too however, many victims have found they are not able to bring an additional legal representative or someone more versed in proper state procedures. They are just ordered to turn up on a certain date and time – and then be down-faced with the weight of executed state power to invoke what it apparent wants to on lesser mortals!

As we have discovered, be it legal or not...

If your benefits have been cut off and you are living in a more rural area, subsequently becoming totally financially broke - not having enough money to pay a bus to take you to the nearest Social Protection office to start an appeal or attend a continuation of one - then you have a long walk ahead of you. This actual scenario has been reported to UnitedPeople on more than one occasion.

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 definitly 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 reprocutions if i did not then i hung up how is this possible they have already drove us to despair sorry bout the long message buth i was wondering have u heard of this before thanks



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 Michael flatherty, 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 hin , 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...

## 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?

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.

#### 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 compliment 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 of 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 xxxxxxx and am awaiting a reply. I'm a finance manager. I've earned in excess of  $\in$ 85k plus a year. I have bank debts of 51k, I have personal debts of 4K, I owe the chartered accountants  $\in$ 1,500, for a pip course I done but could not pay for. I get  $\in$ 240 in benefits, I pay  $\in$ 110 to my landlord for my room, which he could get  $\in$ 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  $\in 100$  I will be homeless straight away.

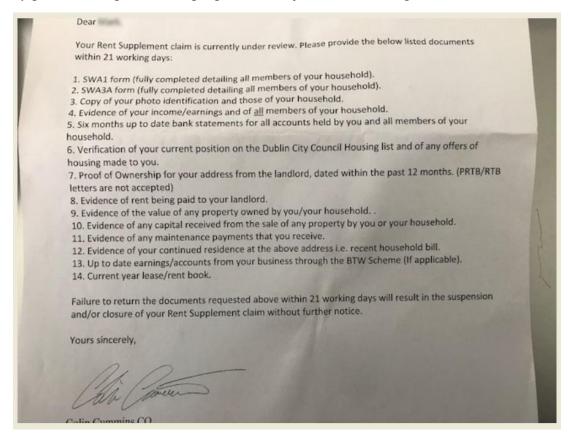
My emotional state of mind now is in tatters, I'm simply struggling to cope with this pressure. I will go see my local TD on Monday clinic, but I don't have any trust in politicians who can stand by and watch people who are in dire straits treated like this.

#### 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 breed 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!

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.

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.

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.

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!

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!

Joan Burton is a disgrace for allowing this, a British company to get us back working!

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.

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 Convergy. 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.

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.

#### 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.

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 mebut 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 assures 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.

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?

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 xxxxxxx 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 xxxxxx 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 if 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.

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.

#### 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!

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 wee. 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

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.

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 Txxxy,

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.    |  |
|                  |  |

## One Step Forward & Two Steps Back.

Some of what you will read here is stated already - but more expanded on.

For many that were '*invited*', those that are PR publicly sold as a step forward for the unemployed, in fact on many an occasion was and still are leaving them far worse off.

2.2 (Page 30) 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.

As can be read in some of the victim statements, there are too many occasions and circumstances where persons bullied into signing a contract forced on them, have been left deeply worse off. The reasons for these are varied.

According to some of the conditions that are being demanded people sign and agree to, they have to do a minimum number of hours with the businesses that are state hired. In some cases, Seetec and Turas Nua representatives have been allegedly stating that 20+ hours per week are required. However, if you re-read the actual tender document released by the state to submitting companies, it states "thirty (30) hours requirement may be averaged over a four (4) week period". In trying to comply with what is reported to be assumed wrong stated to clients, some of those clients have found themselves forced into further financial difficulty – especially those in the more rural areas.

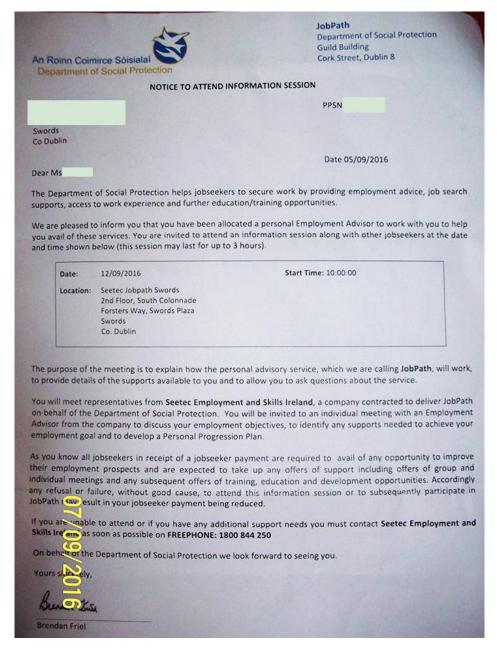
Cost of travel to and from, in some cases the hiring of babysitters or childcare, abandoning of other part-time work, etc is causing not only greater financial strain but raising stress levels also. One case was reported to UnitedPeople, where a lady became so stressed at allegedly being bullied by intimidating staff, she later returned to the rented business property and attempted to slit her wrists as she mentally broke from the company duress she was put through.



#### Modern Legal Pressgang Methods.

In the past there was a legal method introduced by various countries, to make its citizens do what the then government wanted them to do. One of these methods was "*Press-ganging*". In the UK but not exclusive to there, press-gangs were well known for the physical force they used in recruiting men into the Royal Navy and army during the 17th and 18th centuries. It was a state endorsed legal practice which its Parliament had first sanctioned several centuries earlier.

Moving onto the modern day, it appears that Irish governments – always involving Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil or the Irish Labour Party – have legislated for an updated version of the practice.



#### The Seetec 'Invite'.

The Department of Social Protection letters that go out to people, state that the same people are 'invited' to participate and they then become "clients" of Seetec (or Turas Nua).

# REQUEST FOR TENDERS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR THE PROVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ("JOBPATH")

#### 3.3 Operational Principles: Failure to Attend Activation Meetings – Page 77

- Legislation provides that advance written notification (either paper format or electronic format) to Clients is required for all activation meetings.
- Clients who fail to attend an initial (first) activation meeting must be given a verbal warning regarding sanctions and they must be rescheduled for a second activation meeting.
- Cases where Clients fail to attend a second activation meeting must be notified to the Department for consideration of a sanction and rescheduled for a third activation meeting.
- It is the responsibility of the successful Tenderer to confirm to the Department whether or not a Client attends a third activation meeting, as further sanctions may apply to Clients who continue to fail to engage. Note: two non-attendances, without good cause, normally incur a sanction.

In truth, if you are honest and strip away the PR sugar-coating, the '*invite*' is not an invite – it's nothing less than a state mandatory order dressed up in PR wording for people to turn up - and then force them to sign themselves to a private company contract even if they wanted to or not!

If you read above carefully, you will see that they impose a penalty on victims *while* deciding if to official impose one! In other words, you are guilty *before* even found innocent and prior to an official end judgement, penalised in financial reduction or complete cut off! It all stinks!

Also calling the letter an 'invite' is a sick unfunny joke. It's an 'invite' that is really a threat.

#### The Devil Is In The Detail.

Let us say what the '*invite*' really is-, it is a state imposed legislative method to press-gang citizens towards an also profit-making process. One operated by a private company, Seetec and Turas Nua. Two businesses that have taken over state services, leaving more civil servants out.

In the UK Victorian times, there operated gangs of men going around press-ganging young people into service so that others could gain. Today in modern Ireland, the state is now operating its own press-ganging process, all nicely legislated for in legal terms.

Just because it's legal however, does still not make it morally right!

Instead, it is a further sign of moral corruption at the heart of government and at the heart of parties, each willing to be complicit in allowing it to happen. How any person, party or government could treat any citizen in such a low manner exposes their true character for others to see and judge, no matter how much PR sugar-coating they try put on the bullying process! History here too, will be their judge.

\* Note. In 3.3 Operational Principles, mentioned above, it states that clients "must be given a verbal warning".

Here too, there is an issue. Although there are already questions over the legality of data transfer (something the state will obviously deny existing), for a private company to use phone numbers to call someone out of the blue when citizens have not initiated primary contact with them (a form of unsolicited spamming in order to engage with them for obtaining further commerce), the legality of such phone calls being made, is said to breach further data protection laws and the right to a citizen's privacy.

Of course, here too, the Department of Social Protection and the companies involved, are not informing those they wish to bully into being "Clients", about this aspect also. It's clearly not in their favour to do so.

Furthermore, UnitedPeople has gained multiple reports from across Ireland about sanctions being imposed after someone failed to turn up at the initial scheduled meeting they were '*invited*' to. Even if Seetec and Turas Nua were to stick by state bullying guidelines, no sanctions should be imposed until after a second or third absence became apparent. They do not stick to regulations.

Throughout the whole process, the tender document nowhere defines a legal process for a citizen to formally explain their absence or formally appeal an imposed threat of sanctions upon their person. Subsequently, it appears that sanctions have been at times, imposed due to Seetec and the Department of Social Protection, to be all too quickly willing to act as immediate judge and jury.

This is happening before any formal fair process is allowed to occur. This is happening under the impression that persons deemed open to sanctions, are found "guilty" before being seen as default "innocent". The way the state is operating in this fashion, is setting a dangerous precedent. It is also indicative as to the way the state views its citizens generally and how they should be treated thereafter – in this case as "guilty" first and only then found "innocent" if some non-formal process of appeal, is allowed to even occur!

In a normal state court process in Ireland and mostly world-wide, a person is "presumed innocent until found guilty by evidence" – and even then, those under question, are allowed a formal hearing before any sentence is later handed down.

The principle of innocence before guilty appears to have been abandoned informally so that the state can faster, in intimidator fashion force its citizens into submission and to its dictatorial will.

You can dress it all up in Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil or Labour party PR - but this is a terrible way to treat people in any modern society. It is modern advanced, state legalised, pressganging and is categorically a disregard for data protection legislation.

We say again, what is legal, is not necessarily moral but in this circumstance, it definitely should be!

It is at this point, we should further examine the state tender which allowed all this to begin, before we go elsewhere further onto other serious connected matters.

#### The State Tender.

Fine Gael and Labour released on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2013, the tender details in a 138 page document to the world.



# REQUEST FOR TENDERS

by the Department of Social Protection for the

Provision of Employment Services ("JobPath")

#### Section 1.1 of the JobPath tender began:

"The Minister for Social Protection ("Contracting Authority" or "Minister" or "Department") invites responses ("Tenders") to this Request for Tenders ("RFT") from economic operators ("Tenderers") for the provision of employment services ("JobPath") as described in Appendix 1 to this RFT ("Requirements and Specifications"). The services required to be delivered on foot of this RFT as set out in Appendix 1 are hereby defined as ("the Services").

The establishment of a National Employment and Entitlements Service to integrate the provision of income support and employment support services to unemployed jobseekers was a commitment of the Programme for Government, published in March 2011."

In actual fact, as detailed on page three and twenty-four of this report, JobPath and more has come about directly as a consequence because of Fianna Fáil and The Green Party being so willing to jump Ireland into bed with the 2010 IMF.

• Side note: The IMF events of 2010 came about as of a result of the banking collapse so some might claim, prior events also helped lead to the current JobPath situation.

#### 8.1 of the tender document states:

The successful Tenderer shall comply with all applicable laws in the provision of the Services. It shall be a matter for the successful Tenderer to ensure that it is cognisant of all compliance obligations in this respect.

They "...shall comply with all applicable laws...". An interesting statement! As you will read in this report, Seetec, Turas Nua and officials in related government departments, are not exactly operating within the very laws they are connected to.

#### 9.5 of the tender document states:

Upon termination of the contract, for whatever reason, the successful Tenderer shall return immediately to the Contracting Authority or such person(s) as may be identified by the Contracting Authority, all items and documentation received from the Contracting Authority relating to the provision of the Services including data storage equipment, electronic equipment, portable storage devices, equipment, reports (or any part or parts thereof), property, charts, confidential information, any other documents (in whatever medium) held by the successful Tenderer...

"...The successful Tenderer shall return immediately... all items and documentation ...including reports, confidential information, any other documents (in whatever medium) held by the successful Tenderer.."

Question: How do you regain something that is long gone, transported across borders (out of legal jurisdiction also), passed on to possible others (who also do what with it?) and successfully know it has been got back 100% guaranteed? How do you 'catch a horse' after is long bolted?

#### 11.1 of the tender document states:

The successful Tenderer, shall comply with all directions of the Contracting Authority with regard to the use and application of all confidential information that may come into its possession during the term of the Service Contract. The successful Tenderer shall comply with the Confidentiality Agreement.

If the contracting authority is not complying with its own rules, home state and EU laws, how in anyone's name can the public then expect anyone the state contracts with, to behave in better fashion? In double standards, the state demanding it - while breaking regulations themselves!

Section 14 of the tender document clearly states:

The successful Tenderer shall be an independent contractor and not the employee of the Contracting Authority.

As previously mentioned, Seetec and Turas Nua are **PRIVATE** companies operating separately from the state departments in legal status from the very start. As you will discover in this report, UnitedPeople can prove that Social Protection letters have gone out to people, potential "clients" to be "invited", and these letters have been passed off in possible deliberate impression, by private company staff as they within the state departments themselves.

Section 14 of the tender document even then goes on to say:

"The officers, employees or agents of the successful Tenderer shall not hold themselves out to be (and shall not be held out by the successful Tenderer as being) servants or agents of the contracting Authority for any purposes whatsoever."

We know now and can prove that the above regulation is being broken. We can name individuals within the private companies that are doing it. In order for them to do it, it would not be a stretch to say that someone in each town welfare office and city where it is happening (after all, how are they getting the letterheaded paper?), also must know that they are doing it also.

#### This is

- (a) legal misrepresentation by the primary culprits
- (b) possibly aided and abetted by state employees, possibly knowledgeable before and after the fact thus equally criminally culpable and
- (c) a clear breach of the tender document conditions laid out to which the private companies have legal signed themselves to with imposed penalties for such breaches, contained within.

#### Page 129 of the tender document states:

"The successful Tenderer shall not, nor permit any party, to process (including holding, transferring or store) any Personal Data, outside of Ireland. If the successful Tenderer wants to process the Personal Data in a territory or state outside of the European Economic Area ("EEA") then it must do so only in accordance with the law and the Minister must consent to such processing."

There shall be no storing of personal data, outside of Ireland – the exception being with the minister knowing and his permission sought.

- (a) What about the permission of the person whom the data belongs to?
- (b) What about stronger adhering to EU and Irish data protection law?
- (c) What about the Bara ECJ decision?
- (d) Have Seetec and Turas Nua informed the minister every time they have done this, for every person? If so, they knowing this data is being even further exported, are they as guilty as the principle culprits, as they know of a possible offence after it has been committed and they allow it again repeatedly to happen, to this day?
- (e) If the Minister does not know, will he or she be held accountable those responsible?
- (f) If the Minister does not know, why do they not know?
- (g) What further information has been passed on to the Minister, as to the destination of such data, how it is stored, how is it processed, will it be again from this external location, be passed on even further and in all of this, what effective regulations are in place to safeguard the travelling data and how do citizens make a formal inquiry or complaint, or request access to this data as per data protection legislation?

UnitedPeople knows and can show that the personal information in Ireland, is being across border exported. There are many questions above but there is damned all answers coming from consecutive governments. This situation is nothing new via FF, FG & Labour governments.

### The Ongoing Hidden Data Abuse.



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2015, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) handed down a ruling in relation to a data arrangement between two public bodies. Previously, two EU citizens were concerned over their state body carrying out the transfer and subsequent usage of their personal data, all without either their prior knowledge, being informed as to how it would be processed and also without their actual expressed permission for it to be transferred and processed.

Having examined the facts of the case and European legislation relating to this scenario, the ECJ agreed with them that their fundamental rights had been violated. Their state had violated the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC to which many EU countries were signed up to.

In summary, the court ruled that data subjects (citizens) must be informed in advance of transfers of their data between public bodies. The court was very explicit in also stating that the requirement for the transfer of people's personal information (data) to take place accordingly within a very specific legislative basis that does not constitute a breaking of prior legislation, abhorrent to fundamental rights and their subsequent ruling.

With a clear prior communication of the existence of the legal basis for the processing and the relevant controls governing the processing the ECJ has just concluded that Articles 10, 11 (the fair processing requirements of Directive 95/45/EC) and Article 13 (includes the exemptions

from the need to provide a fair processing notice) must be interpreted as precluding national measures which allow a public administrative body in a Member State to disclose personal data to another public administrative body for their subsequent processing, without the data subjects being informed of that disclosure and processing.

This judgment imposed that if a fair processing notice did not describe the purpose of the processing and there is no exemption from the fair processing obligation then a data controller should not process personal data for that purpose!

A government should not introduce data sharing legislation and ignore the fairness obligations under the Act (unless there is no applicable exemption from the fairness obligations).

The Court agreed with an Advocate General that the requirement to inform the data subjects about the processing of their personal data is important since it affects the exercise by the data subjects of their right of access to, and right to rectify, the personal data being processed (in Article 12 of Directive 95/46), and their right to object to the processing of those data (in Article 14 of the Directive).

To emphasize: A public administrative body of a Member State to transfer personal data to another public administrative body and their subsequent processing, without the data subjects having been informed of that transfer or processing, should not occur.

The Court rejected the notion that because there might be a law that inner state allowed data disclosure, that there was no need to prior provide a fair processing notice. This they found to be unfair to persons involved and legally unjust. Such actions were not in accordance with already established EU Directives.

In some specific cases, there could be an escape clause under current EU legislation for individual state governments to try taking advantage of. Upon reading of current EU legislation, the Council of Minister's version of Article 21 of the General Data Protection Regulation exists. This allows Member States to try introducing an exemption from the fair processing notice with respect to "important objectives of general public interests of the Union or of a Member State".

As any state might try persuading others that the reason for enacting any legislation is to meet "important objectives of general public interests", then the Article 21 exception proposed by any Member State legislation could try neuter the ECJ Judgment. In order to do this, their legal justification would have to be very important, to the clear extent that it relates to an ongoing national crisis, it attempts to addresses a temporary situation that is *applicable to all* within state borders – not just to a section, a community or category such as race, etc or in the case of Seetec and Turas Nua, persons employment status, to then use to private company profitable advantage.

UnitedPeople recognises the full implications and the attempt of the ECJ to uphold the primary rights of the European citizens, to current legislative safeguards – in both legislative form and the underlying noble idea that people's personal data should be treated as their own personal asset.

It is the contention of UnitedPeople that the state for many years now, has been in legal and moral conflict with the ECJ ruling, made as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2015. Prior to that date, the state had been on a daily basis, already embarking upon unauthorised (by connected citizens who the state held data on) transfer to state departments and beyond.

As we now know, the state even after the ECJ Bara ruling, has embarked even further in actions which possibly morally and legally conflict with the ruling. The Irish state in the hands of Fine Gael and those unscrupulously involved with maintaining to be continuously propping them up, has gone further – to the very point of further giving people's personal information (data) to private companies.

As UnitedPeople will show, these private companies in certain cases, have been imported from beyond Irish borders. Subsequent to their arrival and installation set-up, the private companies have then themselves, further embarked upon exporting back out of the state again, the data to which they were given – which it is contended, they should not have gained in the first place!

# **Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes? (Who Guards The Guardians?)**

Ireland has in fact, currently some of the strongest legislation regarding the management of data, in contrast to other EU states. Current UK data laws are considered to be weaker in their ability to better protect the rights of citizens in relation to ownership of their data, access to it, their right to know how it is managed, secured, stored and transferred about (within and outside of the UK).

We mention the UK in particular. It is being kept deliberate very quiet by both Seetec and perhaps the current Fine Gael fronted government, that people's personal information is to this day, being stored on servers beyond Irish borders. This in turn, means that once it goes beyond the legal limits of an Irish border the state that people's data then rests in is treated in accordance with *that* country's legislation as primary protection. Current UK laws are considered looser in regards to how data that resides within it, can further then – again – be unknowingly treated, assembled/dissected and in many cases, exported out of again, further afield, worldwide.

Immediately, to a sharp citizen, their mind will consider the implications of their personal information being exported, to locations unknown, unknown security used (if any), how it is being processed and any damage that might ensue to them personally, should those servers become attacked or their data copied by unknown others, with a quiet intention to illegally exploit it further for profit or blackmail, etc.

Is the current government aware that people's data is being exported to UK servers? If they are aware, why haven't they (a) informed citizens as they are required to also do from the issuing of the Bara ruling alone or (b) if they are not aware (why?), this exposes very serious shortfalls in the current state legislation and protective procedures, with handling people's information.

If the state denies they officially knew nothing of the current data exportation, did they or some know of it *unofficially* – and if this is the case, why was this situation not reported so that it could then be further resolved?

It is extremely hard to conceive in this day and technical age that the state would totally claim it was and still is in a position where it can say it knew nothing. This would expose complete incompetence regarding lack of formal legal safeguards in place, not also including the lack of validation software which might technically guard against data leakage and further transfer.

If there is incompetence in any way, why have those incapable of protecting people's data not been either further retrained or replaced by those more capable to look after Irish citizens?

Who indeed, guards the guardians?

# Only To Be Expected?

Without doubt, in order for the state or other private companies to escape examination of the current situation and to escape away from even more questions being asked and fear more buried facts being uncovered etc, they will individually or collectively deny that people's data from Ireland, is being sent out of the state. They can try claiming that if they wish to look foolish. Obviously, they will do this to avoid being exposed are culpable in the act or incompetent in not *officially* knowing...

The information technology technical facts speaks for themselves however! Before we get to those additional specific facts, the picture below, to a sharp person, should be of some interest.

What you are looking at (below), is just one quickly captured screengrab of Seetec software currently in operation. The text on the screen appears prior to software usage by "clients" (also threatened citizens) as they "engage" with the private company.

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

This system is the property of Seetec and may be used by authorised users only.
Subject to British and European law, any and all users of this system and all
information on this system may be intercepted, monitored, audited or inspected by
authorised Seetec personnel.

By continuing, you indicate your awareness of and consent to these terms and conditions as well as the terms and conditions of Seetec internet and email police.

Your attention should first be drawn to the wording:

"Subject to **British** and European law, **any and all users** of this system and **all** information on this system..."

This indicates right away that a client using the system, is entering a software programme that exists within the domain of the UK and subsequently legal protections there. To the sharp *and* wise, a question might enter into their mind, as to how, should an Irish citizen that has any legal issue, go about addressing them while they, themselves, still reside within Ireland's borders?

To take on a legal case or even demand that the Data Protection Office act for them against weak UK data protection legislation, in a foreign state, is akin to asking them to near do the impossible. A private individual, certainly one unemployed, being told to go through the JobPath procedure, is most likely financially unable to contest UK legislation through its courts (from Ireland) should they have any concerns. Are Seetec and Fine Gael exploiting this detail?

**POINT ONE:** After that "*Important Notice*", "clients" (computer users) are asked to use the software that then kicks in to operation. As they have technically connected to a UK main server where that software system also operates, any data, information about themselves in any way, is instantly digitally transferred to those servers – out of Ireland.

The "client" however, is told none of this by Seetec (and possibly Turas Nua). The current Fine Gael government is not telling citizens it also forces through JobPath, that their own actions is leading to their keyboard imputed information is making its way across Irish borders and over to the UK. Both are conveniently, totally and continuously silent.

No two guesses "Why?" is needed?

**POINT TWO:** "...information on this system may be intercepted (Why? From where?), monitored (From where? By who? What level?), audited (How? By who?) or inspected by authorised Seetec personnel."

Just as Seetec and the government, is *not* telling "*clients*" an awful lot of vital information, each is additionally not telling, as to the training or qualifications of the people browsing through their personal data – and in the case of the above, where too, they actually are originated also! The legal implications of this are important in regard to any untrained or those unwilling to act professionally, when even further thinking of trying to hold them to account for any dissolute actions or poor training.

**POINT THREE:** "By continuing, you indicate your awareness of and consent to these terms and condition as well as the terms and conditions of Seetec internet and email policy."

- (a) Just by using and entering the system, you are awarding Seetec legal rights that they have not explained to you. The state is not explaining those rights either, as to what they are and how they will directly affect you. Those rights are UK rights too so as you are in Ireland, are they even applicable? If they are how are you supposed to see that they are enacted or use those domestic rights from an Irish shore?
- **(b)** What are the terms and conditions? Have you been told any of this at all?
- (c) What is Seetec internet? Is it Ireland or UK based? Where are the details?
- (d) What is their email policy? Is it Ireland or UK based? Where are the details?
- (e) By using anything Seetec I.T. related, signing in (using your unsecure given, crackable user name and password) you are in the eyes of a judge, automatically consenting to enter into a business contract with the private company, by your willingness to interact. Your "digital signature" awards them legal rights including access and usability of your data, loses you further possible rights and more... Just what have you (deliberately made) unaware, signed yourself up to? What are the legal and security implications of it all? They have assigned you a user name and password. This means they already have access to your data and more that you will later enter.
- (f) What if a 'client' doesn't agree to signing to the I.T. system? Non-compliance?

Of course, Seetec (and Turas Nua) along with the government are also not telling you, the "client" (coerced?), anything in relation to these matters. Here again, both are all too conveniently silent!

No two guesses "Why?", is again needed?

The continuing silence on a lot of the matters above also is in conflict with the 2015 ECJ court Bara ruling, where the state alone, is supposed to be keeping people far better informed. The state of course, is not telling you this either. This should come as no surprise to you at this stage!

# Let's get Technical.

The government might try claiming that the software on the network computers is entirely Irish based. As we now know, it is in fact, also coming from the UK and more important to note, data is going there too!

UnitedPeople has been informed that some of these network servers are likely to be Kent based, in England. The I.P. ("Internet Protocol" – a form of *very* specific physical location) address of

some of what "*Clients*" are asked (demanded) to open up and access, is additionally UK based. There are however, masked in some cases, behind Irish looking internet domains.

Take for example, the simple web domain: <u>www.seetec.ie</u> – Upon further domain inspection, you find out that the Irish domain is just a front. You are passed digitally via internet, further on to a primary network server that is operating in the UK.

All this has serious legal implications alone. The Irish Data Protection Act or other related legislation, is only effective as to the borders it operates within, which is Ireland - and to who within those borders, can be directly accountable under such laws. Once people's data has been exported beyond Irish borders, it is extremely hard, if not completely impossible, to hold anyone or any business to account. The Irish state is not going to embark upon a probable, additional costly, task to which it knows there is very little chance of succeeding in any way.

The Data Protection Office states on its website (<a href="https://goo.gl/b7VjuK">https://goo.gl/b7VjuK</a>) many things including the following:

"...the general rule is that – from 1 April 2002 – personal data cannot be transferred to third countries unless the country ensures an adequate level of data protection.

...The "adequacy" test relates to all of the circumstances surrounding a proposed transfer of personal data, including the nature of the data, the purposes for the transfer, the laws in force in that country, and the security measures in place."

The Data Protection Office - in general - considers the UK as "adequate" place for people's data to be exported to. That is great – in general – but as we have witnessed in the news, many UK (and world) companies have been hacked. Some of those that were hacked operating in the I.T. field itself and having additional higher technical specialists on staff and money/resources to try stop attacks. Even the UK's own state departments have become vulnerable including recently the UK NHS was hacked. As we have found in the recent past, members of Seetec reportedly did not even have the legal skills to teach some of the courses they were actually then, subjecting (bullying?) others to do!

# We mention all this because;

- (a) Has Seetec (and others?) bothered to tell Fine Gael and Co that they are indeed exporting people's personal data?
- (b) Has Seetec told the government what data has been and still is, being exported?
- (c) Has Seetec told where it exactly data being exported to?
- (d) Has Seetec told the government how this data is being stored?
- (e) Has Seetec told the government how this data is being further examined?
- (f) Has Seetec told the government how and if the data is being securely encrypted?
- (g) Has Seetec told the government, within the UK, who has further access to this data and what are they doing with it, including if they are further exporting it elsewhere?

The answers are "We do not know" ... Nor likely are we to either, in any foreseeable future!

If the government knows any of the above – they are not telling the public – and under the 2015 Bara ruling, they are supposed to be doing this at least for the Departments within any government – before we even get to talk and examine further outside private companies also!

To the people that Seetec (and others) has now their data on! If the government does not know the answers to the previous questions – "Why the hell not?" – and why also have they not bothered to inform the entire nation fully, what in their name, has been & continues to go on?

"The silence is deafening – and telling!"

## JobPath...

Puts a price on their head, Undermines their rights, Sets them up for bullying, Hound them by law!

Push against those that seek to underhand take advantage.

Just because anything might be legal, ...Doesn't make it morally right also!

The people need to stand UP as a united people and say to elected "Do the right thing ...Or else!"



# I.T. Technical Information.

If you were to look into the background of **Seetec.ie** domain, you discover the following...

Primary server: ns.link-connect.net.uk.

Hostmaster\*: admin.link-connect.net.uk.

IP Address: - 193.82.153.213 - 193.122.31.166

\* Hostmaster: A person responsible for managing domain name records within the Domain Name System or any individual computer (typically a server).

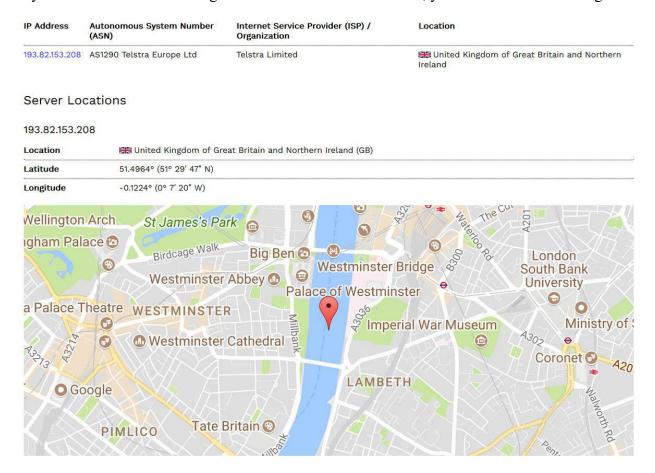
| Root Server Glue IP mapping               | Name Server I             | mappin <mark>g</mark> |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|
|   | ns.link-connect.net.uk.   | 82.144.239.30         |
| Root Server Glue IP                       | ns01.link-connect.net.uk. | 82.144.228.34         |
|   | ns02.link-connect.net.uk. | 82.144.228.3          |
| 32.144.239.30 [ns.link-connect.net.uk.]   | -                         |                       |
| 82.144,228.34 [ns01.link-connect.net.uk.] | -                         |                       |
| 82.144.228.3 [ns02.link-connect.net.uk.]  |                           |                       |

| Server                               | Name Servers  |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| a.ns.ie. [77.72.72.44]               | ns.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns01.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns02.link-connect.net.uk. |  |
| b.ns.ie. [77.72.72.34]               | ns.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns01.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns02.link-connect.net.uk. |  |
| c.ns.ie. [194.146.106.98]            | ns.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns02.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns01.link-connect.net.uk. |  |
| d.ns.ie. [77.72.229.245]             | ns.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns02.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns01.link-connect.net.uk. |  |
| e.ns.ie. [199.19.2.1]                | ns01.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns02.link-connect.net.uk. |  |
| f.ns.ie. [199.19.3. <mark>1</mark> ] | ns02.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns01.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns.link-connect.net.uk. |  |
| g.ns.ie. [192.111.39.100]            | ns01.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns02.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns.link-connect.net.uk. |  |
| h.ns.ie. [192.93.0.4]                | ns02.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns.link-connect.net.uk.<br>ns01.link-connect.net.uk. |  |

If you were look into the background of elvis.seetec.co.uk domain, you discover the following...

If you were look into the background of inwork.seetec.ie domain, you discover the following...

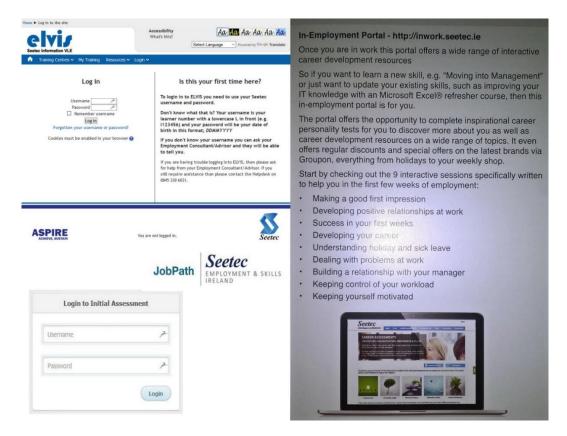
If you were look into the background of client.seetec.ie domain, you discover the following...



The fact that the main server is UK (foreign) based and out of the legal remit of the Irish Data Protection Office, should be alarming in itself. The implications of people's data being held on these servers – and it needs to be, even to some degree, if they are to have the ability to log on using their details including date of birth, should be of concern to wise users and government, alike.

Both the "elvis.co.uk" (*co.uk* – an obvious giveaway) and "inwork" (.ie domain registered just users then transferred to UK domain, unknown to them) are UK based. The former is more clear – the latter is deceiving, unintentional or not. The "client.seetec.ie" domain transfers you over to a UK based domain also. While transferring over to another domain is not illegal or wrong in usage, the fact that one then has to log-in there and to access Ireland personal data, this is the concern.

That personal data is being digitally exported out of the legal remit of Ireland and onto UK servers where Irish data protection law would have far less ability to be enforced or penalties imposed should any improprieties occur. Again, "clients" are not told anything of this, in any quantity.



In 2011, the then new Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton, given the role to also deal with high unemployment numbers, was told to get those numbers down. Using any trick in an old government book of stunts, the new minister took the decision that the best way to massage numbers, was also an old way. Then emerged JobBridge and Gateway - two of the most degenerating back to work schemes thought possible. After those stunts started, then came JobsPath. Basically, it was a case of job seekers for profit to the lowest bidder.

An Oireachtas press release (14th October 2014) stated the JobPath 'racket' (the privatisation again of Social Protection services) would engage 178,000 jobseekers to start with. To play with the employment numbers, 1,000 caseworkers provided by two more outside private firms.

To quote Adam O'Braonain, a civil rights activist;

"Contractors will be paid a mixture of referral fees and "job sustainment fees" on a staggered basis so as to ensure the provider's focus on delivering a "tangible result" is maintained. The basic principle is that the contracted organisation gets paid a commission for every job seeker which is referred to them and a further fee for finding that individual a job. This will in essence, convert citizens into company assets, PPS numbers on a screen, each of which with a price tag attached."

# More Questions...

Page seventeen of the tender document states the following.

#### 1. Turnover

The annual turnover of the Prime Contractor in each of the last three (3) audited financial years, must be equal to or in excess of €20 million (ex-VAT) per annum. Tenderers must include evidence of certified turnover of the Prime Contractor for the previous three (3) financial years in their Tender and complete the following table:

#### [Insert table in Tender document]

| [Insert Prime Contractor Name] |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Turnover<br>Amount             |  |
| €                              |  |
| €                              |  |
| €                              |  |
|                                |  |

Translated: The companies applying to dish out the JobPath programme, had to supply audited financial details, consisting of three years previous business. In each of those years, the turn over for each year for the applying companies, had to have been at a minimum of  $\[ \in \] 20,000,000.$ 

- (a) The contract would be eventually awarded in 2016. Seetec registered in Ireland in late 2015 as a company, less than a year previous. How could they have supplied details of three years of operations within Ireland, along with the same minimum financial turn over?
- (b) Same question as above, for Turas Nua!
- (c) If Seetec was conveniently using UK financial records for the past three years, to get around the Irish set conditions, was the minister over the Department of Social Protection turning a blind eye to possible 2013/2014 UK Seetec fraud, in the previous history of the company? (sample news link: <a href="https://goo.gl/Ca6RaX">https://goo.gl/Ca6RaX</a> <a href="https://goo.gl/nmjKoM">https://goo.gl/nmjKoM</a>)

The likelihood is that no answers will be forth coming. Even the tender process was buried in convenient default state secrecy... Section 2.10 of the tender document entitled "Publicity":

"No publicity regarding this public procurement competition, the award of a contract or the execution of the Service Contract is permitted unless and until the Contracting Authority has given its prior written consent to the relevant communication."

# The Seetec Address.

In trying to legally challenge Seetec as to their state allowed nefarious activities, litigants have tried to pass on documents to the company. Subsequently, the company has claimed that they have not received material that they say they should have got. This excuse it appears, has been used to stall or stop proceedings in previous recent history.

The Seetec Dublin Headquarters address is: 2nd Floor, Riverside Development, Mulhuddart Village, Dublin 15.

Seetec shares this address on their smaller Irish website, in a background section. What they more fail to highlight is another address: 1 Stokes Place, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2.

The second address is also on state records as a registered office for the company. More interesting is that the building and even Eircode in which it exists, houses 361 other business registered addresses. Some quiet building! When you Google street-view the address, well... We will leave that for you to discover. An obscure, deliberately unobtrusive building in Dublin's city centre.

# Seetec Employment and Skills Ireland Designated Activity Company

# Summary

Seetec Employment and Skills Ireland Designated Activity Company was set up on Tuesday the 28th of October 2014. Their current address is Dublin 2, and the company status is Normal. The company's current directors Peter Albert Cooper, Colm Reilly, John Baumback and Alison Jane Bunney have been the director of 3 other Irish companies between them; 1 of which is now closed. Seetec Employment and Skills Ireland Designated Activity Company has 1 shareholder. This Irish company shares its Eircode with at least 361 other companies.

In order that any document cannot be claimed by Seetec as lost or not received, UnitedPeople strongly suggests that if citizens have to send any material to the company they send such items to the primary address and a copy to the secondary address. We also strong suggest that the items be sent by registered post and ask that they must be signed for upon delivery.

Why is the building at 1 Stokes Place, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, needed? Possibly the same reason as the other 360 businesses using it. Also for tax or liability reasons? For the reduction, to the point of little or no assets officially there to claim, should anyone win a court case against the company? There are certainly more questions to be asked about the location, the use of it, etc.

Once again, the usual political parties are in no hurry to ask these questions. It is suspected by many that they really do not want to find out accurate answers. Plausible deniability?

## The Brexit Situation.



With the UK exiting the EU officially in the future, this will bring important changes regarding the personal rights in relation to data protection, Ireland's ability to further protect people's data given that UK law is already weaker in this regard and any ability to challenge anyone that might be abusing the possession of data or its further exportation elsewhere across borders.

UnitedPeople has shown that people's data is being exported quietly to the UK. So how people's rights will be further undermined regarding their data, their legal asset, is something that the usual political parties are not willing to address or even inform their voters that it is happening!

## The Excluded

Once Seetec or Turas Nua have got their claws into "clients" as described in the stated tender document a number of things happen.

- Firstly, all payments except for FIS (Family Income Supplement) are affected. Stopped in many cases.
- People unemployed are not allowed in many cases, to take up positions on Community Employment (CE) programmes, Job Initiative (JI) positions, Tús – Community Work Placements, the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) or Gateway Initiatives.

There is a lot of anger from staff working in the above, trying hard to fill such open positions which could provide vital training and confidence to many unemployed people in Ireland. They are being hampered in their attempts to operate such initiatives thanks to the bullying in of the JobPath process down on people. JobPath has 'cut the legs' from underneath these well-known and used schemes. Many of them are locally seriously struggling now.

# The Real Jobs Number Question.

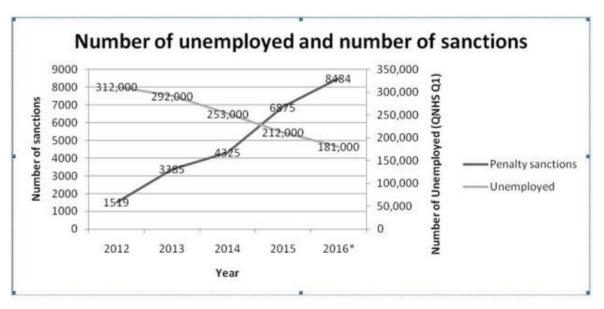
In the UK, Seetec has found itself under investigation regarding people being processed through it and possible fraud. Here in Ireland there is certainly a number of similar questions that has arisen along similar lines.

A number of people have approached UnitedPeople and stated that they feel they were being taken advantage of in the following circumstances.

- They might have been signed up to Seetec (if they liked it or not) on a Monday.
- They had previously attended an interview for a job, prior to that Monday.
- Wednesday (or another later day) they find out they have gained a job.

• Friday comes along. Seetec (or Turas Nua) supposedly put in a financial claim to the state that another one of their "clients" has gained employment while with them. They stand accused of possibly gaining money without having anything to do with the job a person has actually gained? They are possibly falsely PR massaging their own success rate?

# The Sanction Numbers.



In 2016 over 8,000 people were sanctioned (benefits lowered or cut off). Many of these, we can say a majority, might have had nothing to do with Seetec or Turas Nua.

Taking into account that there is over 700 towns in Ireland – then only take the top 70 that has a population of over 5,000 (just to begin with) – we might example estimate that at least five people in each town has been sanctioned by Turas Nua or Seetec for not signing a contract or another reason. The numbers in financial terms, break down as follows:

5 people x 70 towns = 350 people

350 people cut off basic benefit of €180, in one week = €63,000

 $€63,000 \times 9$  weeks sanction = €567,000 withheld by the state, from unemployed.

Even if a minimum of  $\epsilon$ 40 was deducted instead of the full  $\epsilon$ 180, the final number is  $\epsilon$ 126,000.

...and that is just the top 70 towns of over 700+, for any national round of 9 weeks sanction.

As readers of this report will now know, people have been wrongly cut off in the past and still are to date, regarding their money. Those doing it in many cases, know they are doing wrong.

The Department of Social Protection knows they do not have the regulations to cut people off in some circumstances (e.g. refusal to sign private company contracts) but they still do it regardless!

Seetec and Turas Nua know they do not have the regulations to cut people off in some circumstances – but they also are still making it happen. They have claimed at times they were "...only following orders". From whom? Will that person be accountable for regulation breaking?

Hi Jeff my name is 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

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

Hi Jeff I've been reading your exposes on seetec/jobpath. I've been forced to engage with them since June this year. So far they have mostly left me alone....I'm generally called in about every 3 wks tp jobsearch, but I realise they cud start turning the screw soon. My situation is that I was caring for my wheelchair bound mum fir years, and she passed away last yr, forcing me to then sign on. My health is not the best, but I'm reluctant2 apply for disability, as am unsure if I would qualify, as I've heard of cases where even the profoundly disabled cant get it (my own mother was refused it despite being wheelchair bound after a stroke). Anyway, I was forced to sign the PPP with seetec, against my better judgement I had no choice. Is there anything I can do now about it? Btw, I was placed in a very awkward position wks ago, where a male seetec employee decided2 ask me on a date, (this incident didn't take place in their office I bumped into him.in

near their offices). I was mortified and said I have a partner. But I feel very vulnerable as this guy cut have my benefits cut at a whim if he so wished. What can I do?

# The Personal Progression Plan

As you are being turned into a "Client" or "Customer" (like it or not) you are given a "Personal Progression Plan".
Also known as a "PPP"

This plan in JobPath's view will be imaginative, progressive, a wonderful new way to get you back to work - and it will be their view of how they think you should do so.

# TWO QUICK POINTS.

1. This is a legal contract. No 'buts'. The Department of Social Protection has admitted this in Dublin Highcourt as of late 2017, Damien Fagan case.

Private companies at more local town and city locations are still lying in many cases as they state that it is just an "agreement" between the client/customer and the advisor.

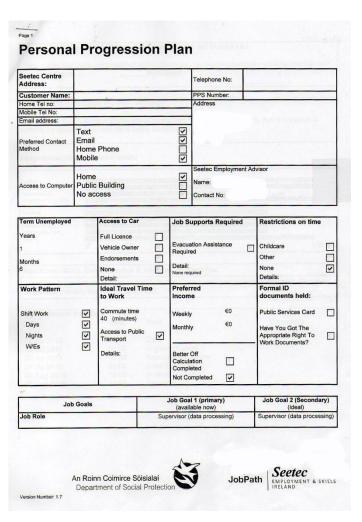
An agreement however is something that is negotiated by two parties – not

dedicated to by one party upon another. The 'other' having little or no say into its input.

2. The Personal Progress Plan contains within it, enforceable terms and conditions that victims are told to sign to and that if they don't stick by them, they then face a threat of the sanctions even hanging above their head. As this PPP contains terms and conditions, guess what? In business law, this is formal court recognised at Irish and international court level as a contract.

The Department of Social Protection has openly and on highcourt record during the Damien Fagan case that the **PPP IS INDEED A CONTRACT**.

State officials under cross examination during a Dail Public Accounts Committee, have admitted on record that a **PPP IS INDEED A CONTRACT** – so if anyone is told its is just an 'agreement', they are openly being lied to their very face.



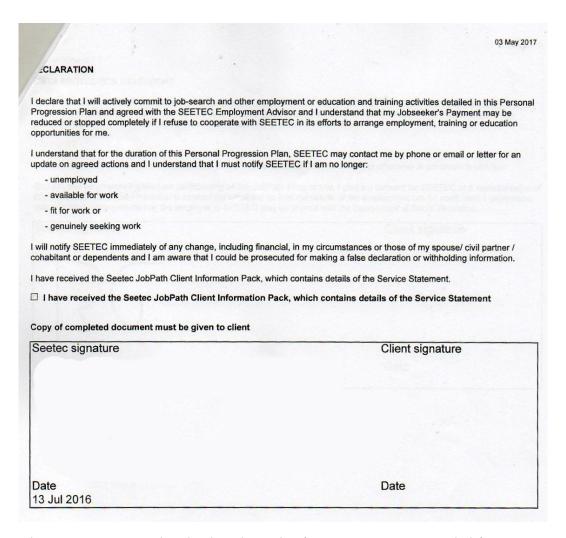
JobPath operators (including later Intreo – see "Update Chapter" on this) will give you their plan and ask you to sign it on two particular pages. What the private companies WON'T do, is to inform you of the full implications of signing the form and how it all FULLY affects you.

Over the next few pages we will. Please read on...

On the next page for example, you will see one section they ask you to sign. However, if you read the text and think about what they are putting in front of you then you should be wary.

The first part of text in it says:

"I declare that I will actively commit to job-search and other employment or education and training activities detailed in this Personal Progression Plan and agree with Seetec Employment Advisor and I understand that my Jobseekers payment may be reduced or stopped completely if I refuse to cooperate with Seetec in its efforts to arrange employment, training or education opportunities for me."



*Note: There are various updated JobPath similar forms – now just reworded for same outcome.* 

Already you should be concentrating on the exact wording. For example:

"...I will actively commit to job-search..."

If you have previously been in a local Jobs Club (there used to be many of them around the country) where you gained advice, CV help, job positions made aware to you, knowledge from people years experienced and much trained, etc... Well, if you sign something like the PPP page, you are agreeing to abandon that Jobs Club (or similar) completely and go with a private company setup who's staff in majority, have been quickly trained, are of far less experience in helping others – and in some cases not even certified trained themselves in what they are supposed to be assisting others in!

Your right of choice also is being taken away from you regarding what way you wish to continue looking for work that best suits you – and you are agreeing to this choice being further denied to you. You will be likely asked to stop attending any Jobs Club and just stick with JobPath's version. If you don't, the threat of benefit sanction will be thrown at you! Nice eh?

There's more...

"...and other employment or education and training activities detailed in this Personal Progression Plan...

So, by signing you are agreeing that you will take whatever job they put in front of you – a job however low paid it might be that puts you into "Economic Duress" and is not actually what you want to be doing or for what you have long trained for – having cert's or diplomas in, etc.

# Again, if you don't agree to this craziness, threat of benefit sanctions will be thrown at you.

Training? Wish to improve your employment chances by upgrading that college diploma you have and go for a Masters qualification? Good luck getting JobPath to agree letting you do that. You likely have more chance of winning the lotto. At most, they might give you a 30 day limit.

One person UnitedPeople was informed about, wanted to finish her nurse training but the private company bullying her wouldn't allow it. They wanted her instead within their rented property, sitting down and just applying for other jobs including cleaning work. **Not an uncommon thing.** 

JobPath *might* allow you to take a few days off for a quick course – even one for a month – but anything after that which could seriously improve your qualifications (Diploma or Masters etc) with a third level full time course? Good luck getting them to agree! They need you to be getting a job – ANY job – so that they can then – and only then - profit multiple times through "Job Sustainment Fees" they get the longer you could be in any menial job.

If you don't agree to sign to this, the threat of benefit sanctions will be thrown at you!

"...I understand that my Jobseekers payment may be reduced or stopped completely if I refuse to cooperate with Seetec in its efforts to arrange employment, training or education opportunities for me"

# Read the above slowly!

#### Think about it!

By signing, you are agreeing that you can be punished with sanctions. *Hang on!!!* If you don't sign it – how can they then *ALREADY* be threatening you with sanctions? You have *NOT* agreed yet to them (Seetec or Turas Nua) being allowed to do it!

We suspect that Seetec (or Turas Nua?) does not want you to think about the above. Hell no!

JobPath operators try claim that the Dept' of Social Protection are the ones bringing in the previous threat of sanctions (they are just remarkably spoken and used on a daily basis by JobPath operators to bully) and in many cases brought to UnitedPeople there was the statement from some staff within JobPath that 'they are only following orders". Does this sound like something you might have heard from an end of World War Two, crimes against humanity trial?

\* We are **NOT** comparing JobPath or anyone else in any way to the Nazi regime in any way shape or form. To say we are, would be deliberate misconstruing our words. The point is that people's rights are being abused yet again in modern society. Some evils have not gone away with supposed progress – just better hidden and quiet imposed.

We are saying that even using the excuse 'We are only following orders' in Irish and European law when further crimes might have been even committed, doesn't make the person following any orders, any less legally culpable.

...Back to main point however... If the Department of Social Protection even had the right to sanction you previously – fair enough! That would be under the previous condition agreements you have signed with them, to gain your benefits.

HOWEVER, by signing <u>this</u> document page, you are <u>thereafter</u> awarding JobPath the rights to punish you. So, if you have not signed it yet, how can they, one of two private companies (not the Dept' of SP) already be attempting to threaten you? They are private companies and they are asking you to sign that they gain the legal right to punish you. Is this really in your best interest?

JobPath operators will contact the Dept' of S.P. claiming you are "uncooperative" by not signing this agreement/contract, a transfer/weakening of your personal rights to a private company – and ask that by rules you have already agreed to – that does NOT include a private business or state department being legal able to punish you, that in their view you should be punished for not agreeing! This is just crazy stuff! The people that brought this madness in should be accountable.

...And again, if you don't agree to them being allowed to further punish you, by not signing? The threat of benefit sanction will be thrown at you – by JobPath operators – whom you have not awarded that legal right to yet!

Anyone think something stinks here? Both in legal terms and just as important, morally? We certainly do.

If the previous doesn't alarm you – you next bit of page form text **MUST!** Further down the page is the following wording:

"I will notify Seetec immediately of any chance, including financial, in my circumstances or those of my spouse/civil partner/cohabitant or dependents and I am aware that I could be prosecuted for the making of a false declaration or withholding information."

Again...

Read the above slowly!

Think about it!

(a) "I will notify Seetec immediately of any chance, including financial, in my circumstances or those of my spouse/civil partner/cohabitant or dependents..."

A private company wants to know everything about **not just you** but your wife, kids, partner, person sharing a home or flat with you. What the hell for? This is a private company – not an East wing version of the once STASI – but they are demanding that they gain such privacy invasion rights – **and the government is actually allowing them to do this?** ...And if you don't agree to their right to know everything? **SANCTION!** 

Now remember, all this gained intelligence will be put into a data file somewhere and be also exported! ... And they want you to agree to all this or... Sanction!

(b) "...And I am aware that I could be prosecuted for the making of a false declaration or withholding information"

So a private company – by you signing – is going to be allowed drag you into a court room for not telling them everything? A private company! Who the hell do they think they are? They are NOT the Department of Social Protection. Even the legal tender document that gave them the state contract states this quite clearly.

Is Seetec being also backdoor lined up as a replacement for your local Social Welfare office? The permissions and data they are looking from you already indicates this?

However, Seetec expects you to agree to all the above. Allow your rights to be diminished, allow you to be multiple punished for not agreeing – and if you don't sign this page? *SANCTION*.

# Let's go to the next page they expect you to sign...

|  | 03 May 2017   |
|--|---|
| sion Number: 1.7   | Olon  |
| ATA PROTECTION STATEMENT   |   |
|  | and / or agents may process all information and personal data provided on) Act 2005 and / or for the administration and control of schemes ment of Social Protection.   |
| ONSENT   |   |
| understand that the information and personal data provide  | ded by me will not be disclosed otherwise in accordance with law.   |
| hould I find amployment while I am participating on the I  | lobPath Programme I give my consent for SEETEC or a representative of   |
| ne Department of Social Protection to contact my employ<br>nat any information provided by the employer to SEETEC  | lobPath Programme, I give my consent for SEETEC or a representative of er so that the details of my employment can be confirmed. I understand may be shared with the Department of Social Protection.  Client signature |
| ne Department of Social Protection to contact my employ<br>nat any information provided by the employer to SEETEC  | er so that the details of my employment can be confirmed. I understand may be shared with the Department of Social Protection.  |
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| ne Department of Social Protection to contact my employ  | er so that the details of my employment can be confirmed. I understand may be shared with the Department of Social Protection.  |

# The PPP page states:

"The Department of Social Protection and / or its servants and / or agents may process all information and personal data provided...

Seetec here being the "agents" we can legal assume, is asking that you award them the **legal** right to your data – which they *already* have anyway before you have even signed – and then thereafter they can do with it whatever they like (and not tell you).

- "...For the administration and control of schemes administered by on behalf of the Minister or the Department of Social protection."
  - (a) What/where administration? Have you been told before you sign?
  - (b) What/where schemes? Is Seetec running (or lined up) other state schemes now too? Again, have they, a private company, taken over from a government department the running of such? If they have, what's the job implication for previous state employed

civil servants who previous did this? Should their unions be alarmed too?

- (c) If the state already had a previous right to control such schemes, why are they or Seetec now asking people to sign agreeing that those rights be transferred?
- (d) "Process" ??? By who? How? What exactly for? Where? Will it too be further shared?

You will not be told much of the above, if anything at all! You will however be expected to sign the page - just accept what a private company is demanding.

...If you don't? SANCTION!

## Next...

- "I understand that the information and personal data provide by me will not be disclosed otherwise in accordance with the law."
- (a) Not disclosed? We know already the state is giving your data away. That 'horse' has already 'bolted'. Hell! Since 2015 ECJ BARA ruling, the state is ignoring that law alone.
- (b) "... With the law." What law? Irish data law? UK data law where your information also is stored? What's the implications/change of implications due to outside country transfer?

# Regardless...

If you don't agree to sign to all this, the threat of benefit sanction will be thrown at you!

#### Next...

- "...To contact my employer so that details of my employment may be confirmed. I understand that any information provided by my employer to Seetec may be shared with the Department of Social Protection."
- (a) They want to contact your employer seeing conformation that you are employed by them. Fair enough! Your employer need only answer "Yes" or "No" then? Perfect...
- (b) ...But hang on... "any information provided by my employer..." Why would your employer provide such further information if he/she had not been even asked?
  - ...And if they were asked for more information why?

Does your employer have the right to try and further protect your personal life and work privacy from a private company?

Does a private company now have the legal right to gain even more information not just from you but from someone else too that they have not signed any agreements with?

Is Seetec (or Turas Nua) gaining more legal rights over other private companies, compelling them to give them everything?

Is Seetec (or Turas Nua) now sharing all this (legal obtained?) information data server stored on you, back again to another state department – so that it then can be even then further bounced all over other state department and even accessed from Europe?

To the above you will be told little or in truth, absolute **NOTHING**.

(c) Now remember, all this gained intelligence will be put into a data file somewhere and be also <u>UK exported</u>! ...And they want you to agree to all this or? Sanction!

## Closure.

Within two pages alone of the Personal Progress Plan there is some very serious questions to be asked over many issues. How is a private company allowed to do this and how is the state standing by it all in silence? How is our national and local elected staying total silent about all this also – their parties in some cases, being total involved in bringing it all about!

In the meanwhile, if you refuse to sign on the dotted line

- (a) Will Seetec and others still do whatever you have not signed your agreement to?
- (b) ... And you will be accused of being "uncooperative" or something else etc...

How dare you question and look for any exact detailed answers! The nerve of you!

....Now sign the two pages and prepare to be further dictated to, undermined, further legal threatened etc... All with state permission or knowledge (but deliberately saying nothing).

Welcome to the JobPath course you, your wife, your children (eventually), your neighbours etc, will be expected to swallow also. ...And if they don't either?

**SANCTION!!!** 

# **Orwellian Times**



The world in general has reached the modern-day version of Orwellian speak.

"Rendition" has become another name for "illegal kidnapping without proper legal due process"

There are lots of more examples, regular used, that are regarded as doublespeak, saying one thing but further meaning another.

- "Downsizing" instead of firing people
- "Reducing costs" as opposed to cutting peoples' salaries
- "Preowned" as opposed to *used*.
- "Detainee" for a prisoner of war
- "Pre-emptive strike" instead of unprovoked attack
- "Enhanced interrogation" in place of torture
- "Person of interest" instead of a suspect in a crime
- "Capital punishment" instead of the death penalty
- "Take down" in military language instead of saying killing someone
- "Not quite clean" instead of *plain dirty*
- "Put to sleep" instead of euthanise
- "Ethnic cleansing" instead of genocide
- "Substance abuse problem" as opposed to *drug addiction*
- "Ill advised" in place of highly thought against or a very bad idea

Then we also come to consecutive Irish governments, Jobpath, Seetec and Turas Nua:

- "Voluntary", instead of forced
- "Invited", instead of made to go
- "Opportunity", instead of *compulsory*
- "Help", instead of possible hindrance
- "Client", instead of possible coerced victim
- "Job activation", instead of press-gang process
- "Uncooperative", instead of *not willing to be bullied*
- "Social Protection", instead of no protection but harm you more
- "Non-engaging", instead of will not sign the private company contract

#### ...And so on



The state PR word play continues. A dose of it was just previously handed out care of Regina Doherty, herself being head of the Department of Social Protection, when she spoke about the 'new national identity card' in all but name.

Doublespeak has become the way that a lot of questionable elected and their followers are sticking to, in order to PR their way into the hearts and minds of Irish voters.

The use of the doublespeak language has become essential to the now common PR spinning of many a Fine Gael, Labour or Fianna Fáil agenda. An agenda, one not often stated to voters prior to asking them for their votes.

Another way of describing what this wordplay going on, is an unfettered sneaky government process, to backdoor bring about the watering down of labour and human rights. Every decent union in Ireland should be rising in anger at what is going on. The good ones will. The bad ones will remain yet again silent and possibly complicit. Other public groups should be joining them.

# **Sound Familiar?**

This is not the first major attempt to ram self-adopted, political party agenda down the throats of a nation or a section of it. Far from it!

- There is the property tax sign that, admit to being liable *or else*...
- There is the water recharges. Fill in the forms. Further admit to being liable for a recharge (and for something you are paying for already) *or else...*
- There is the 2016 Census fill in the forms and surrender your personal details to CACI, a private military intelligence company (a company accused of war crimes in Abu Ghraib prison for torturing prisoners of war) *or else* face a €40,000 penalty
- Now there is the "*invited*" to participate JobPath programme. Sign up with a private company and their contract that further leaves your rights watered down ... or else...

Welcome to the mentality of modern Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil, Labour and the Green Party who all participated in helping to bring this all about. They can and they will PR spin it that it was either all for the common good, they were only following orders, it was the fault of someone else or something else just as imaginative.

However, if you accurately do your research you will find exactly who was responsible for initiating the JobPath. Who has continued it! Who, then and now continues to allow it and its disgraceful methods of operation to continue! Start with the IMF agreement & go from there.

# **Corporate Profiteering**

As far as private business is now concerned, the unemployed are themselves a market commodity in which great profits can be earned according to each head. It is better for the likes of Seetec and Turas Nua if there are more unemployed in a country, not less. That way their profit earning potential is larger. Seetec and Turas Nua however are not the only ones to targeting the unemployed as something on an accounts book. There are other companies across Europe doing the same thing including Atos, A4E, Ingeus, G4S, Serco, Avanta, Interseve and Pertemps.

Such is the way the 'racket' is deliberately government designed, Seetec and Turas Nua are actually paid for successfully obtaining population numbers – that then have to go do their JobPath programme, for which there too they get paid for carrying out. Who is paying for all this? You, the taxpayer – over and over …and over. Up to six times in fact, per person – and again, Fine Gael and Co are not willing to tell you any of this.

The old political parties of Ireland, the once big three, are now continuously dreaming up more creative ways to PR spin you, the public, into being forced to do something, admit something (further liability) which will ultimately then cost you even more money. If you do not agree, they will hound you. They will deny you approvals to work (example: taxi driver card). They will deny you to be able sell your home. They will deny you to access other services. Deny, deny, then tax, charge, levy!

Meanwhile, they are also increasing the ways that they can create higher corporate profits. Special tax deals for an elite, more tax dodging deals for others, turning a blind eye to much more – and even those that get caught such as those in the Ansbacher affair, well they will not even see the inside of a court room for their millions or billions they screwed the state and tax payer over. ...But as the case was just recently, if you did not pay your €160 TV license, then you would see the inside of a jail cell. Go figure!

The unemployed meanwhile, like many things in Ireland that the usual parties try to get their hands on and squeeze, are being turned into someone else's private profit. Corporate profit, not yours!

The old parties have devised an economic private profit system that requires many citizens in Ireland to further suffer through poverty and welfare dependency in order to support vested capitalist interests. Do not think for one minute they are stopping there. They have decided to go even further by treating people now and in the future, possibly your children too, as a source of further potential cheap labour. Even worse while they do, they are putting many in even larger debt. How? Read on...

# The Cheap Labour Racket.

Seetec and Turas Nua get paid up to six times per head. One of these payments is when they find you a job. Any job! UnitedPeople has been contacted by many people. A good many of them highly qualified in specialised fields. From microbiologists to I.T. individuals, from decades of experienced carpenters, electricians and more, they have come to UnitedPeople – and we hear a lot of the same thing from them...

The only way they can survive, feed their children, keep a roof over their heads and afford just the basics of life including paying standard bills is to have a minimum financial amount coming in per week. Some of this they gain in benefits till they are able to find employment that can replace the state assistance.

Both Seetec and Turas Nua have approached such people and having bullied them through their "*invite*" to do the "JobPath" obligation, they have been told by one of the companies that they must accept a certain job offer, regardless if it is way below their financial threshold that they need to minimum survive and clear off further debts mounting.

In other words, we have citizens working part-time (some because they can not gain full-time employment) who earn a small wage. On top of this they gain some state benefit. In some cases, this is either the Jobseekers Allowance or FIS (Family Income Supplement). Between one and the other, they might come out with a weekly total number of  $\in$ 450 to live off.

Along comes Seetec or Turas Nua, care of the Department of Social Protection. They demand that the person takes a job stacking shelves for €300 a week. Initially, some might claim that a job is a job and any job gained, is a step up – but in many of the cases reported to UnitedPeople, the jobs that citizens have been bullied into have left them far worse off.

One person that was indeed told to take a €300 a week job, was out by €180 euro per week. This not only put their own ability to survive at risk, it also put them into further financial debt. They were unable to afford their rent (and their Rent Allowance Scheme and Jobseekers Allowance was cut off as they were rammed into "JobPath"), their debts already outstanding further mounted (increased no chance to pay off) and they then could not afford to pay for car tax/petrol/insurance, etc, that was even taking them to their part-time work previously!

...The only winners of the person being placed in a minimum wage job was the private company (as they got money for placing the person), the Department of Social Protection (they got to save £180 a week) and the other private business getting cheap labour.

From the many things that UnitedPeople has discovered, the bullying, the lies, the law breaking, the stealing of personal data and its export – and much more, we are left to conclude the whole JobPath programme is profoundly defective in conception and in implementation.

The crass thinking behind this dictatorial racket is extremely illiberal. With legal legislation quietly passed by Fine Gael and Co, the state now owns the labour of the individual along with much more. The implementation is just as illiberal (compelling people into giving up their labour with the threat of devastating financial sanctions). The JobPath process is clearly Orwellian.

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.

I've got no social welfare since September turas nua got it stopped cos I was unable to take a job that was over 20 miles from my house even though they knew from day 1 I had no transport I'm living off nothing at minute can't pay bills nothing

# **Update Chapter – April 2018**

# JOBPATH NUMBER CRAZINESS.

SINCE JOBPATH STARTED 151,000+ PEOPLE HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE SETUP. UP TO NOVEMBER 2017 THE COST TO THE TAXPAYER HAS BEEN €85,000,000 EURO. AT BEST, THEIR SUCCESS RATE IS 18% OUT OF 100%. ALL NUMBERS QUOTED COME DIRECT FROM THEMSELVES - NOT OPPOSITION.

18% OF 151,000 PEOPLE = 27,180 PEOPLE. €85,000,000 DIVIDED 27,180 PEOPLE = €3,127

SO IT HAS COST THE TAXPAYER €3,127 FOR EVERY JOB CLAIMED FOUND BY THOSE OPERATING THE JOBPATH SETUP. SOME CLAIMS ARE FALSE!

THE CE/LES SCHEMES THAT ARE BLOCKED ONCE YOU ARE PRESSGANGED INTO JOBPATH, ON RECORD HAVE A FAR HIGHER (60% TO 85%) ACTUAL SUCCESS RATE – AND COST THE TAXPAYER FAR LESS. FINE GAEL HOWEVER, IS NOT PUBLISHING THIS GREATER INFORMATION AS THEY STRIVE TO SEE TWO PRIVATE COMPANIES RISE IN BIG PROFIT TO THE €100 MILLION MARK.

WWW.UNITEDPEOPLE.IE

When UnitedPeople embarked on what's turned out to be a two-year investigation of the JobPath racket (still ongoing), quite honestly, we didn't expect to uncover as much as we did. The more we dug, the deeper the antics, the law breaking, the double standards, the Dail lies spoke, the lies spoke beyond it, the TD's mass avoiding mentioning still on-going abuses, the media blanking the abuses and ourselves investigating, the attacks upon ourselves and now it turns out, our families, for daring to question and hold to account a rotten government scheme that is up to no good. We are still digging and finding out more and more that is seriously unsettling and illegal.

On a daily basis, the party is contacted by more and more citizens who have been turned into victims, suffering JobPath abuse. Fine Gael and others would have you believe that all these tales are just the ranting of a disgruntled lazy bunch - that those speaking of abuses are just venting or have in fact invented everything or vastly exaggerated. Nothing could be further from the truth.

If there were a few people coming just to UnitedPeople and complaining, there might be a chance of an element of that – but the party has been approached now two years on, by hundreds of victims right across the country. From very young teens to adults of sixty-six years of age. It is no exaggeration to say that they are not making the stuff up. As you will soon read, it is fact the Department of Social Protection/Seetec actually making stuff up – and its been proved in court.

If it was all made up by the victims as they were individually located in their own villages, towns and cities, besides very rural areas, how could they have invented so similar matching abuses!

Fine Gael, Leo Varadkar and Regina Doherty – besides more – would have you believe that there is only a token amount that *might* have been *slightly* mistreated in a *small* way. Indeed, as they have spoken in the Dail on a number of occasions, they consistently give this impression. Heaven forbid they tell the full truth to the Irish nation and disclose what's really going on! Then as they speak time and again of past institution abuses, they wonder how such things came about, in part also because of a deliberate imposed silence and devious lies told. It sounds too familiar.

## Fraud.

To start with, two years on, we are still getting reports of the two companies involved, desperately trying every tactic possible to find from people where they are now working. As covered already in another chapter but we mention again, Seetec and Turas Nua put in claims to the state saying that a person "Joe Smith" (example) got a job "while he was within JobPath". They don't more accurate state "JobPath got him employed" as they are supposed to if they are to make claims for payments. They deliberate give an impression to the Department of Social Protection that they were often involved in finding someone a job through clever word play when in fact the person went and got a job themselves with absolutely NO help in any way, shape or form via JobPath.

However, JobPath private companies being determined to extract money from the Irish state (taxpayer), the private companies demand from now working people that employment details be given over to the JobPath private companies. They seek as much detail as possible surrounding a person's new job so that the private companies can then add this information on their submission paperwork to the Department of Social Protection, in order to (falsely) profit gain more.

# --- JobPath ---

Not all thieves come into your property.

Sometimes they force you to come to them!

RIGHT NOW a Fine Gael state is openly stealing money to the tune of millions of Euro, from people that the Dept' of Social Protection admitted in Dublin highcourt, they do NOT have the legal power to take from - yet they are still doing it!

Leo Varadkar and Regina Doherty know they are breaking state laws. They have been informed of related JobPath state abuses.

Yet they still REFUSE to do anything.

They both with those that prop them up, allow it all to continue.

Your legal rights, money and your personal data are being exploited and weakened. How long are you going to allow them to do this quietly to you and our children?

www.unitedpeople.ie

Does the Department of Social Protection know unofficially or suspect that this is going on? Most likely. They, 100%, would have to be complete stupid not to know – and we are most definite not saying anyone in the Department of Social Protection is stupid – far from it in fact.

So, is some officials quietly turning a 'blind eye' to what is going on? Are some afraid to further expose wrongly paid out large amount? Are some afraid to speak out because of what further might be uncovered and the extent of it? The silence from the Department of Social Protection is deafening. UnitedPeople however, continues to be contacted by people who do find their own places of work but have been chased or pressured by Seetec and Turas Nua into saying or fill in a form, that it was one of the companies within JobPath, who were the ones who got them work.

Fraud that Fine Gael won't admit exists and then won't do anything about to stop it, continues.

## The Intreo PPP.

The Personal Progress Plan that is a contract in definition and by quiet admittance, continues to be bullied upon people across Ireland, in all counties.

The introduction some time back of the Intreo PPP borders on similar areas as the JobPath PPP. In fact, Intreo so far refuses to specific clarify if a PPP they mention is actually theirs or a PPP that is drawn up by one of the two JobPath private companies.

It has been claimed that Intreo is just acting as a state front, for the providing of the PPP, as many citizens have kopped on that legally is a contract. Some of these citizens also don't wish to be contractual tied or limited in the way that they try to find work – completely understandable – but a number of citizens are given the impression that the Intreo PPP is

An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí Department of Social Protect Floor 2 Urlár 2 Intreo Teach Chloch na hAbhann Riverstone House 24-27 Henry Street 24-27 Sráid Anrai Luimneach. Limerick. **2**: (061) 217984 You have been on Penalty Rate for a period of not less than 21 days and have continued, withou pood cause, to refuse or fail to engage in Activation Meetings, suitable apportunities or a specified employment programme. Failure to sign a Personal Progression Plan with Turas Nua constitutes a refusal or failure to agree to participate pursuant to Section 141 B (3) Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005. Michele Mr Donnal Mile M Done

100% drawn up by Intreo - but Intreo refuses solidly clarify that this is the actual case. Odd?

As the Department of Social Protection has kopped on that citizens have *more* kopped on, to what is going on and their legal right to decline a private contract with a private company, is the state using Intreo as a means to hoodwink them? Is Intreo just being used as another front?

Another alarming aspect of the Intro PPP and the paperwork that is supposed to be signed, is the ramifications of signing the Intro documents they provide. To be blunt, Intro ask that people sign a form stating (we paraphrase) that they agree by their imposed signature, to later agree to a PPP, - for which they have not even the terms and conditions yet of!

Citizen are being state pressured to sign a piece of paper, saying they will abide by something that has not even ben crawn up yet. How both crazy and rights undermining is this – and all this

#### **Our Promise to You**

- We will do all we can to process claims as quickly and as efficiently as possible.
- We will pay income support payment(s) as provided for in legislation in an efficient and timely manner.
- We will work to identify suitable employment, work experience or training/education/personal development opportunities for you.
- We will work with you to help you prepare your Personal Progression Plan to assist you to take the right steps to employment.
- We will monitor and review progress against this plan with you.
- We will meet with you by appointment and give you fair notice of all such appointments.
- We will treat you with dignity and respect and honour the confidentiality of our relationship with you.

For and on behalf of the Department of Social Protection.

#### Your Promise to Us

- I will work to secure employment at the earliest possible opportunity.
- I will work with the Department to agree my Personal Progression Plan.
- I will attend meetings to which I am invited by the Department.
- I will follow up all suggestions and take up any work placement, work experience and/or training/personal development places notified to me by the Department.
- I will inform the Department immediately if I find work, or if I am no longer available for work.
- I will treat the staff of the Department with dignity and respect and honour the confidentiality of my relationship with the Department.
- I will provide the Department with all information requested to assess any claim for income support.
- I will abide by the Declaration in my Jobseeker's Allowance or Benefit Application Form.

I understand that failure to adhere to my promises above may result in the reduction or withdrawal of any income support payments which would otherwise be due to me and that I could be prosecuted for making a false declaration or withholding information in relation to my claim.

is being carried out by the state! A state that by constitution content and intent, is supposed to be working for individual people, upholding their rights – not trying to openly roughshod, run right over them.

Here too, in handed out Intreo documentation, is the state threat that if citizens don't abide by giving pre-emptive permission to something they have not even seen yet, they will also face financial penalties for not submitting to the state.

Yet another aspect of the Intreo PPP contract/agreement is the absurdity of it in another respect. Citizens are asked to sign also that they shall work with the Department (a possible front) to agree any Personal Progress Plan. In reality, the contract/agreement that is demanded be first initial signed contains "Our Promise to You" and Your Promise to Us". In other words, Intreo is already telling citizens what Intreo's input will be and what Intreo has already dictated what citizens thoughts and ideas will be, put on paper already and then be demanded to sign! Where is the citizen, even here, allowed to have any input to an actual 'agreement' to be formulated? This is not an agreed contract or agreement containing specific input formulated and then inserted from both sides of a negotiating table – this is the state absolutely dictating both sides.

Truly fair, honest, democratic and morally right? If you have to make excuses for it? No.

Here again, we see citizens fundamental rights further eroded quietly, slowly bit by bit. Like other state antics, citizens are not supposed to kop these important undermining aspects also.

# **Data Sharing – Not Caring!**

Facebook along with a company called "Cambridge Analytica" (London based) has found itself in trouble over obtaining people's data under questionable means, transferring it for own gain, processing it to exploit people for own gain (for votes or sell an item) and for others or also using it as a for pure profit item.

Another aspect of the Facebook sharing data scandal was that a Facebook application was not only taking personal information belonging to the principle person but also personal items that belonged to the persons Facebook connected friends In other words, the application was deep gathering personal information from people it has not got permission from or was informing that it was gathering from them.

Countries around the world upon hearing about all this quickly and continuously sounded outrage that such things were going on. Ireland political parties were no different. They all jumped on the outrage band wagon equally expressing that such things

# **Facebook:** we'll tackle dark ads in referendun

Aaron Rogan Senior Ireland Reporter

Aaron Rogan Senior Ireland Reporter
Facebook will have a referendum task
force and introduce measures to tackle
"dark ads" being aimed at Irish voters
before next month's vote on the Eighth
Amendment.
The company has been under global
scrutiny about the use of its site to push
propaganda and target users with
highly specialised adverts based on the
harvesting of personal data.
Ithas also been criticised for enabling
so-called dark advertising in political
campaigns, which is visible only to the
davert's publisher and the intended target group.

campaigns, which is visible only to the advert's publisher and the intended target group.

Politicians and transparency campaigners have expressed fears that Irish voters are being exposed to disinformation through dark ads in the lead-up to the abortion referendum on May 25.

An artificial intelligence system along with a new company-wide specialist team will be introduced by Facebook to root out foreign influence on the referendum.

Joel Kaplan, its vice-president of global public policy, made the surprise announcement at the Oireachtas communications committee. A new tool will allow people to see all the ads that have been bought by any page or group. This will increase transparency around the use of microtargeting of voters and the extent of foreign organisations seeking to influence the referendum.

"We made the decision only in recent days to accelerate and include Ireland

in the pilot programme," Mr Kaplan

in the pilot programme," Mr Kaplan said yesterday.

The new feature will be unable to prevent foreign actors and groups not registered under election laws from buying ads so they would still be able to influence the referendum through the tech and publishing company. It will also not limit buying adverts to authorised groups that would be required to confirm their identity and location.

Mr Kaplan apologised for the company's role in the Cambridge Analytica scandal and outlined some of the steps taken to prevent further abuses during elections. Facebook has faced questions from the Irish data protection commissioner over the past month after it was found that Cambridge Analytica may have harvested the data Analytica may have harvested the data

commissioner over the past month after it was found that Cambridge Analytica may have harvested the data of 87 million people through an app on the social network.

Mr Kaplan said that the transparency tool would be in place on April 25, making Ireland the second country after Canada to be included before it is launched globally in June. This feature will give people greater transparency on the ads that they see on Eacebook, which is particularly important in the context of the forthcoming referendum on the Eighth Amendment, he added.

Responding to criticism from some committee members about the delay in installing these measures, the Facebook executive said: "We are working hard to build out these transparency Continued on page 2, col 3

shouldn't be allowed to happen – while the same government continues to do something similar.

Have a look again at the details of the form on the next page.

At the bottom, the form that will need your signature, to be legal enforceable (a contract), says that JobPath private companies are to be all information including "...ANY change including financial, in my circumstances or those of my spouse/civil partner/cohabitant or dependents..."

If someone is being financially paid via a social welfare department or similar, they are paid an amount in respect of that which they are assessed entitled to – assessed according to gathered information that includes possible financial contributions coming from those under the same living accommodation roof. It is entirely appropriate that questions regarding possible other course of income should be asked. There can be little debate about that. It's all about fairness.

#### CLARATION

I declare that I will actively commit to job-search and other employment or education and training activities detailed in this Personal Progression Plan and agreed with the SEETEC Employment Advisor and I understand that my Jobseeker's Payment may be reduced or stopped completely if I refuse to cooperate with SEETEC in its efforts to arrange employment, training or education opportunities for me.

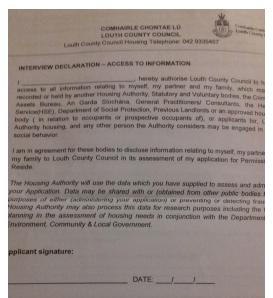
I understand that for the duration of this Personal Progression Plan, SEETEC may contact me by phone or email or letter for an update on agreed actions and I understand that I must notify SEETEC if I am no longer:

- unemployed
- available for work
- fit for work or
- genuinely seeking work

I will notify SEETEC immediately of any change, including financial, in my circumstances or those of my spouse/ civil partner / cohabitant or dependents and I am aware that I could be prosecuted for making a false declaration or withholding information.

However, for a private company and the state to go digging for **ANY** information that is non-relevant and steps outside data protection laws at Irish and EU level, is wholly inappropriate and unlawful. This is what two private companies are continuing to do and state departments are getting in on the act. The state and private companies are demanding – with issuing of threats if there is non-compliance – that **ALL** personal information must be given to them.

It is one thing to give **ALL** personal information to them – some of it being handed over could be justified but the state and private companies are demand they have access and be given **ALL** data of all persons connected to the principle person involved – just like Facebook grabbing data on the principle person and all those connected to them too – for which government are giving out about. Anyone spot the double standards?



From a legal point of view – and if anyone is supposed to operate from that point alone, it should be every government and those it hires or employs – a person is only supposed to give away information about themselves and at times co-dependants (including children) in limited circumstances according to true relevancy. No one person, body, business has the right to give away or take another person's complete right to privacy. You and I can no more take your adult neighbours right to privacy by completely giving away every part of their personal information, than you or I can about someone five kilometres away or five meters away. Your husband, your wife, your partner, etc, each have their own legal right to maintain their own personal privacy.

However, government forms alone, are stating a demand you not only give **ALL** your personal information, but you must give **ALL** theirs in entirety also – or at least award others the right to another person's data. How is this justified or even better – how is this even completely legal?

Just like the Facebook application that has been quietly and immorally grabbing third party data besides your own (if you have a Facebook account), third party persons are now up for grabs too.

However, while governments and opposition political parties give out about others illicit grabbing person information on people, in double standards, they say nothing about governments or their various departments and setup, doing it also. It's hypocritical. In Ireland, it's bad politics.

Elected from all mainstream parties again deliberate say nothing, hoping citizens won't kop-on.

# **Dirty Tactics.**

In the course of investigating JobPath we have come across some serious dirty tactics being carried out by the Department of Social Protection and the current two private companies involved with JobPath.



While some of it borders on legality, real impracticability, a waste of time, resources and personnel, other dirty tricks pulled could be considered to have crossed the legal line.

It's not uncommon now to see or read on line the Department of Social Protection renamed by victims across Ireland as the Department of Social Persecution.

We are under no illusions. Some of those that verbally have a go at the Department of Social Protection, have a gripe that many might consider unjustified. Human nature as it is, it's to be expected that malicious or unnecessary outrageous ranting or venting takes place against a department that's supposed to be aiding all, not hindering/harassing at any opportunity.

There are people that will just 'try it on'. That said, UnitedPeople continues to be regular contacted by many people who are genuinely seeking work, are checking out many directions to find employment (not being hampered by being limited to one – JobPath) and are most certainly not in the business of complaining for any possession of having a 'chip on their shoulder'. Despite what the internet trolls and frankly stupid, including elected, would have some others believe, there are in a majority, sincere good others out there wishing to go down all paths to seek employment. Many of them have come to UnitedPeople when they have then found their rights legal infringed, been very unfair abused, put down treated like dirt or illegal stolen from.

In the course of trying to defend themselves against unwarranted and in some cases downright unprofessional actions by the Department of Social Protection/Persecution, some have even found themselves further attack or tried to be sly undermined for even challenging a previous slap of unfairness from the same department.

Shortly we will refer in more detail to the Damien Fagan case – a massive example of state illegality – but in brief here, Mr Fagan stood up with UnitedPeople's help at times needed, to expose illegal actions beyond an Irish highcourt that a government department was taken to. In return, not only was he further attacked and tried to be further undermined and lied to – they state decided also to go after his two brothers and Jeff Rudd (UnitedPeople founder and lead JobPath investigator) in many ways including possible home-breaking, surveillance, home and mobile phone bugging and more.

# One Man - Two Daughters.

Other people trying to raise questions over openly dodgy antics of the state department have suddenly found their payments completely stopped. When they ask why so? Some have been told that it was an error and it 'will be rectified shorty' but they are kept long waiting for weeks or in some cases, months.

Others without any notification warning of any description, have the collection location of their payments suddenly shifted within a day. For example, one man that came to UnitedPeople went to collect his benefits on a Tuesday as normal. His local post office told him there was no money there for him and was not able to tell him what happened that caused no payment to be available. The man had two young pre-school children (his wife was part-time working) to mind as he then had to take them with him, in the bad winter of December 2017 when there was one storm after another, and travel out of his rural area to the nearest town's dole office.

In the dole office he was told that his point of collection was transferred to yet another far away post office location, in another parish. There was **NO** practical reason for doing this. It was technically time consuming for staff of the state department to make this change (when they could have been doing something better with time and resources), they gave the man no warning or official reason why there had suddenly done it and they refused to revert the payment location.

You should know that the week before he found his benefits transferred, he questioned a JobPath operative peacefully and non-aggressively, regarding a private company bullying attempt to get him to sign a contract (or "agreement" as some are still spinning it) he still has full legal right to decline and he was then awaiting further answers from JobPath bosses regarding the bullying.

While he was waiting, in order to try and get him to fully capitulate to a private company demands — "sign or else..." — the Department of Social Protection was contacted by the JobPath company, took the side of the company immediately and having found the man immediately "guilty" of doing something wrong (what's happened to "Innocent" before being found "Guilty" — where was there any investigation?), the state department decided to punish the man and thus harass the man's life by doing something that was time consuming, had no justification and was downright impracticable. By moving him money — without any warning — the state had just attempted to make the life of the man harder. There was no realistic gain for the Department of Social Protection. It was simple done to pile stress or pressure upon an individual.

As it was, the man therefore had to take his two young children back out into storm rain, from the local dole office (it took an hour to just get there between waiting for a bus and then travel) to another location in a town, wait around for another bus, to take them and his daughters to another location to chase his money that was legally his to begin with. A Tuesday one hour stop to collect state assistance had been turned into a four and a half hour trek around a county. It was all created with no practical reason behind it but to add mental pressure on the man.

The above is not our opinion. When he arrived eventually at a dole office which was able to tell him what was going on, the officer behind a glass screen told him looked up the man's records on screen, told him that it stated the man had declined to sign a PPP – and because of that, the dole office had decided to move his payments without warning. The officer confirmed to the man that this was done directly as a form of punishment for not complying (with a private company).

It was a simple state department intimidation and pressure tactic imposed so that a private company could get a signature – and through that, gain more private profit for themselves.

A parent was given an unnecessary costly (in Euro's) run around with his children (in a storm). The man's time had been further wasted, time and resources of the state department had been wasted, the state would never be gaining anything beneficial of any description by the immoral intimidation tactics applied – and the only winner might be the private company in more profit.

The above situation reported to UnitedPeople, *is far from the only one*. UnitedPeople has been told of the above sudden unjustified switched payment locations, many times from people right across Ireland. In many cases, payments have also been completely stopped. So much even for the three-stage official penalty process as state outlined in the 2013, JobPath tender document!

We cannot begin to tell you how many times we have heard similar tactics, as above outlined, that has been inflicted upon people that didn't even gain a chance to put 'their side' before they were just state sentenced as "Guilty" and punishment rendered – before they even found out by having to further do more traveling (just to find out) to hear that they were being punished.

Is such bully tactics state social "**Protection**" or is it state social **Prosecution and Persecution**? UnitedPeople and a growing number across Ireland have their own opinion.

# Giving Away People Like Cattle, For Profit.

In order to get the attendance numbers up for the two private companies involved in JobPath, local offices of the Department of Social Protection have been giving the companies the details of unemployed people not just long term unemployed as they are supposed to – but also of people that have *just* become unemployed.

In the Dail and outside it, Leo Varadkar and Regina Doherty of the Fine Gael party, have both espoused that the aim of JobPath was to aid the long term unemployed. This has been their party continuous sales pitch to other TD's and to any public that become aware of the JobPath setup.

In reality, many people that have come to UnitedPeople and also went on record with their statements, have confirmed what we had been told by many others previously. People in Ireland that have become unemployed from their very first day of registering this status with their local welfare office, have had their personal information passed onto the two private companies also.

In one particular case (of many) that was brought to UnitedPeople's attention, a middle-aged woman registered herself on a Thursday afternoon with her local welfare office. The following morning before 10am she received a phone call from the JobPath operators informing her that she had been inducted into the programme and that she must turn up the following Monday.

It took the private company involved less than 24 hours to grab her – with state department help.

UnitedPeople has on record many cases of similar actions being facilitated by the Department of Social Protection. Adults have been bullied into JobPath within days, weeks or one/two months. Many had not been unemployed before so had no history of someone that might be accused of just 'sitting on the dole', unwilling to find work. None of this makes a blind bit of difference however to Department of Social Protection officials. They just hand unemployed names over — in many cases right away — to two private companies as soon as they can do so.

**REMEMBER:** Signatures for the private companies means immediate money to be claimed by themselves, off the state. They are 'quids in' and the Department of Social Protection helps.

# Calling On Mr Greg Doran.

Some individuals within the Department of Social Protection will go to any lengths to try bully or intimidate in people into many forms of capitulation at times. There is no level some will not stoop to (as you will also read in the next section regarding fake highcourt evidence) in order to pressgang people into caving to their dictatorial demands.

The events surrounding "Greg Doran" is a classic example. Mr Doran aware of his full legal rights, declined to sign a PPP that was shoved in front of him.

When this was politely informed to a state department official, the result was that Mr Doran's benefits was cut off - illegally. We can easy say they were cut off illegally as the department had to reluctantly admit that they did so while stating they acted (illegally) using the wrong Dail legislation. Mr Doran's payments were subsequently reinstated for one week – before they were again cut off, supposedly now with the right legislation regarding "Just Cause".



**Greg Doran** 

However, as readers and the wise will know, no such legislation actually exists that gives a state department (or private company) the legal right to reduce or cut off people's money.

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• Side Note: A Social Welfare Act 2005, doesn't cover this matter adequately at all. It just confirms the previous condition for qualifying for benefits as have applied for previous years – with no further expansion to "Just Cause" categories.

The *later* Amended Social Welfare Act 2010 (amazingly fast slammed through the Dail in 14 days, just after the "Memorandum of Understanding" was prior signed) does award the state right to reduce or cut off people completely with "*Just Cause*". As the Damien Fagan (see later chapter on this very topic) case would expose many things, one of them would be however, that "*Just Cause*" does **NOT** include declining to sign a PPP.

The Department of Social Protection had to reluctantly admit this also on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2018 to a Dail Public Accounts Committee as its members dug into details of the ongoing legal case surrounding Damien Fagan. Why did "*Just Cause*" not apply in regard to signing a PPP? If only because in Irish and EU business law, citizens have the right **NOT** to be forced into signing a private contract with a private company. Should the state try enacting this situation by further legislation, that legislation would be illegal and not only challengeable in Irish highcourts but at European level also. That said, it has **NOT** stopped a Department of Social Protection from trying to do it illegally – *and they have!* 

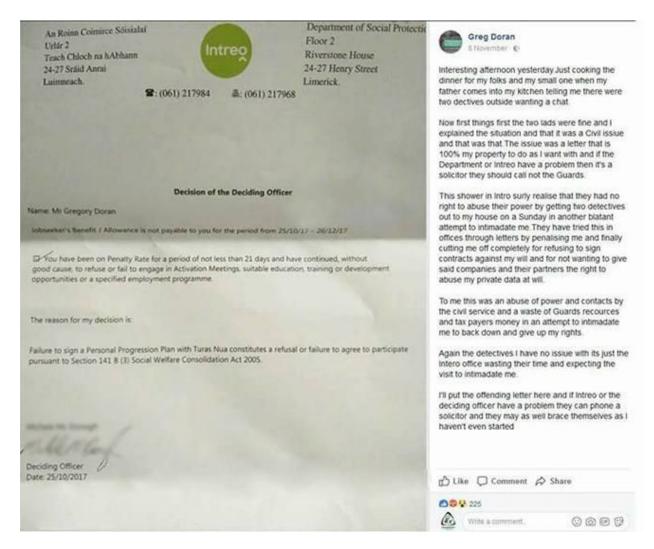
Maybe you can also gather from this why the Department of Social Protection is desperate trying to duck having the PPP private companies terms and conditions – that they say must be legal signed to in order to be enforceable – not be called a "contract" but just an "agreement". The Department of Social Protection is - again - trying to slip between the legal cracks of Irish/EU legislation in order to exploit a situation for a win. ...Or we should say, so that two private companies can more gain in more huge profits.

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Understanding the current legal situation in Irish Law and EU law, you should be able to gather that in fact, under no legislation there exists a legal right for people to be cut down or off, for having kept their legal right to decline a PPP. The later excuse for a second cut off applied to Mr Doran is therefor **ALSO ILLEGAL**. The Department of Social Protection is *still* law breaking.

The matter regarding Mr Greg Doran gets better or worse depending on what side you are on.

Mr Doran using Postal and Communications legislation, recorded part of a conversation between himself and someone that was trying to bully him into signing as PPP. As the person was not happy that they were exposed trying to bully him when a copy of the recording got out into the public domain, Mr Doran was visited by two Garda on a Sunday afternoon (while eating dinner) in order to put state pressure on Mr Doran. These Garda it turns out, were possibly from a fraud section attached to the Department of Social Protection. The use of their time, Garda car and themselves had nothing to do with chasing fraud or anything related to what they were employed for – it was yet again more pressure tactics by the Department of Social Protection. Nothing new.



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• Side Note: You will read in the Damien Fagan case shortly about recordings made by the man. You should also be aware of recordings made by a local councillor in Ireland regarding a business cartel he was trying to expose. In doing so, he also recorded conversations like the Damien Fagan case, that were accepted as legal useable and became evidence for a Competition and Consumer Protection Commission to act on.

This is important to note as under the right circumstances – where the person doing the recording is in part an instigator or principle part of the recording – such recordings are allowed stand in legal terms and not always deemed illegal to be recorded or used.

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It also be noted about Mr Doran, as with others in similar situation with the Department of Social Protection, that he was at the time in place pursuit on a security course. Like others, he too was hampered by state as he also tried to improve any chance of real employment prospects.

# Media Coverage - The Good And The Bad.

The Good. JobPath Racket Part Exposed.

On the 29th January 2018 in Ireland, The Examiner newspaper ran with an article entitled "Just 18% get work out of JobPath scheme".

# Link: https://goo.gl/e9wVcx

To be honest, this came as no shock to a few that for a long time in UnitedPeople, knew this was the case. Party members had been long saying that this was the

### Just 18% get work out of JobPath scheme

Monday, January 29, 2018



Fewer than one in five people who were enrolled on the State's highly criticised back-to-work scheme, JobPath, secured full-time employment, despite the scheme costing €84m.

According to Government documents, seen by the Irish Examiner, just 18% or 6,111 out of 39,603 people selected for the scheme in the year July 2015 to June 2016 secured full-time employment. This means the cost per successful appointment was €13,772.

Leading members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), the Dáil's spending watchdog, have expressed "extreme concern" at the lack of success in the scheme.

situation since UnitedPeople, two years previous, began its investigation of the setup.

Using limited numbers that the Department of Social Protection was willing to disclose – the two companies consistently refused to divulge anything – it was conservatively estimated that out of this maximum 18% success rate from 100%, it would be worked out that for the jobs the JobPath scheme *did claim* to find people, each position cost the state/taxpayer €13,772 as the two private companies involved would put in their individual claims per job they say they found.

Two years later, after UnitedPeople had begun its investigations, only when a Dail Public Accounts Committee (PAC) did finally also bring up the topic (this report author, through others had prior contacted members of the committee and thus shared information), asking what was the official rate of JobPath success. The shocking low percentage answer started to open their eyes and minds to what was going on. It was just one aspect of a far larger picture that UnitedPeople had dug up in its two-year investigation of the whole JobPath setup.

The PAC committee found out by directed prodding that other schemes

- (a) continue to be subsequent seriously deprived of civilian numbers due to JobPath,
- (b) that these schemes thus deprived, is killing local businesses in rural areas, due to they also not being able to gain the civilian numbers they require and
- (c) most interestingly of all, other state schemes have a far higher rate of job finding success (60% to 75%) than JobPath and continue to cost less at the same time.

Had anyone asked UnitedPeople, read its website posted material or reports or even listened to UnitedPeople at any stage including public held meetings free to attend, they could have found out such facts and more eye-opening, verifiable, accurate details still out there - much earlier!

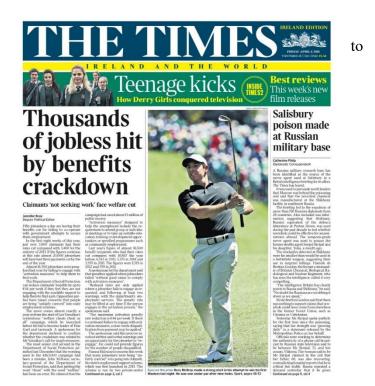
*The Bad – Half The Story.* 

On Friday April 6<sup>th</sup> 2018, The Times (Ireland edition) made a valiant attempt cover some matters related to the JobPath setup. This first lines set the tome for the rest of the article...

"Fifty jobseekers a day are having their benefits cut for failing to co-operate with the government attempts to secure them employment."

The article went on to mention the Department of Social Protection usual stated view. It being that it was reducing benefits as they felt unemployed were not "engaging" with others in order to find a job.

The two statements were and still are if spouted, inaccurate and closer to blatant



state lying. The Department of Social Protection is very fond of the word "engage" (or similar) as are the two private companies involved in the JobPath setup. As a daily increasing number are more learning, "engaging" does **NOT** include the signing or declining of a PPP.

However, the Department of Social Protection along with Seetec and Turas Nua, use the term to justify illegally cutting people down in their benefits or completely off. They KNOW this action is illegal – and yet they still persist in it to this day. Fine Gael, Fianna Fail, Labour and more know it is illegal. They know it is still going on. They know there should be people and a whole state department held to account for this continuing illegality – but they all do nothing except remain silent about that they know. Why? Would it be that they don't wish to expose something so rotten that they had a serious hand in setting up in the first place? Many suspect so!

The article mentioned a number of times "engaging". It also mentioned that JobPath group or individual meetings had to be attended. What the article didn't mention – elected again being deliberate vague speaking on the matter – was that "engaging" was going on massively by those that previously didn't sign a PPP – <u>but were also included</u> in big numbers of those supposedly acting badly and painted as such by Fine Gael. There was also no mention at all that unemployed were attempting to hold on to their basic legal right not to be forced into a private contract that they had the right not to be trapped into. Defending that right they were painted as non-engaging. They were thrown in with unemployed supposedly happy to live off the dole.

In other words, the article could be read that those not "engaging" were all not trying hard enough to look for job or that they were not attending meetings as demanded by welfare offices.

# Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Department of Social Protection for the article did not differentiate between (a) those that do attend ALL meetings and do EVERYTHING asked of them – but defend their right to be non-trapped into a private contract and (b) those that do NOT attend all meetings or apply for work where available. The Department of Social Protection lumped them all together for the article and in sanction numbers, as being in the 'same boat' – making them out by accident or deliberate desire, as to be something all to be tarnished as a drain, lazy and seen/treated in a poor light.

At best (or as usual) it was a Fine Gael fronted state again attempting to besmirch unemployed as a lower class of society that should be looked down upon with hatred or derision – or at worst, a group of people in Ireland that should be whole (wrongly) starved of even the basic means of survival in modern Ireland.

The article also mentioned a year previous attempt by Fine Gael elected, to spin (by effect) the unemployed was a drain on the state financial system – but that the same party neglected to report (a) more honest



Mr Varadkar stated "anti-fraud and control measures" saved the taxpayer over €500 million in 2016.

However: 2013= Fraud €61m - Error €66m 2014= Fraud €52m - Error €72m 2015= Fraud €48m - Error €67m

More is lost each year through office error than fraud & how did he come up with crazy €500 Million claim? Media national lie or more FG yarns? He & FG are apparently good at both.

numbers related to unemployed and (b) that the amount of money lost annually by the Department of Social Protection previous was more than was lost through benefit fraud.

In other words, while Leo Varadkar was supposedly using the issue of welfare fraud (with massive inaccurate numbers) to get himself ahead in a Fine Gael leadership contest, he was deliberately completely leaving out the bigger lost of revenue within the very same department. The former was

2016 - €41 Million (Not Leo's 500m)

That's the REAL number.

\* Direct from Dept of Social Welfare \*

More Facts: Between 2007 and 2011,
50% of all overpayments were due to error while only 38% of overpayments were due to fraud.

to be hated and those supposedly involved, hated or be treated as just 'dirt' while the latter – the bigger financial problem was not mentioned at all. It was edited out of the whole finance issue. Censored, redacted, just not mentioned at all as if the larger problem didn't exist. The distraction tactics that are often found in 'old politics' from old political parties, emerged one more.

"Look over here – don't look over there!"

As only to be expected, the internet trolls across boards.ie/politics.ie/journal.ie (comment sections) or fans of Fine Gael short-sighted thinking, soon came out across Irish social media including Facebook and Twitter - and again used the latest dose of Fine Gael media spinning and half version of matters, as wholly justifiable, legitimate reason to again besmirch unemployed.

If you were unemployed, you were there to be slated and hated. It didn't matter if you were actually doing everything in your power to stay in other job clubs, in other more successful schemes, if you were trying to improve your employment prospects through further education. Fine Gael had *again* painted an inaccurate, non-compete picture and others 'ran' with it.

# The Cold Calling Phone Calls.

In the last year (2017 to 2018) UnitedPeople is steadily gaining a weekly increasing amount of people contacting the party over phone cold calling by Seetec and Turas Nua. People are being called totally out of the blue and ordered to turn up – in some cases, the very next day – to a JobPath introductory session. Across the phone they are threatened by the private companies that if they are found not to have attended, their benefits will be taken from them.

People in many cases with such short notice, have had already plans made or preparations set. From hospital to doctor appointments, from arranged interviews to going to a location for seeing someone about applying for a position, to



having arranged to care or visit a member of the family that is sick, dying or is being actually buried – on the same day as they are short noticed ordered to attend a JobPath starting session via a single phone call to them out of the blue.

In many cases as you can quite well imagine, some that are already nervous, under serious stress, shock or even grieving, being told by hired state agents that they must do as they are told, abandon all plans at short notice, "turn up or else there will be hell to pay" ramps up further mental pressure on citizens. In many cases, at a time that they really don't further need.

**Note:** In the 2013 JobPath tender document, one of the conditions laid out in it for Seetec and Turas Nua to abide by, is that they <u>CANNOT</u> have made available to them, people's personal contact information <u>until</u> they gain the signature of the person they wish to have sign a PPP (which then and only then awards them a legal right to further contact that person). <u>ONLY</u> then can they access further information supplied by the Department of Social protection. They each have broken the tender rules in a major way - regularly - and the Department of Social Protection are again willing to turn another blind eye to all this also. In all this blindness, how well do you think any department review will later go!

In 65%+ of the cases we have been informed about, those called have been told by JobPath staff that previous letters have been sent out to notify them of the upcoming sessions they are ordered to attend by either of the two private companies. Of that 65%+, we factored in that many might have indeed had been sent out such correspondence – but many people, from standard manual workers to highly trained professionals, have stated that at no time had they prior received any form of written notification. They all cannot be lying or it's one massive conspiracy by the public? They just gain a phone call complete out of the blue and told to turn up at extreme short notice ... or else... (The threats emerge).

From the very start of being told people are being treated like this, one immediate aspect jumped to UnitedPeople's attention. Here we have private companies cold calling people by phone total out of the blue, demanding that those called come and use their company services. In other words, people that at no time had prior indicated they wished to enter into a business relationship with a private company were technically being spammed by electronic means by a private business. Under Irish and EU data protection laws this is actually illegal.

We checked this with the Data Protection Office. They stated:

"Unsolicited communication is essentially something that was not sought or requested" and "Under SI 336 of 2011 marketing calls to mobile phones are prohibited unless (i) the caller has been notified by the subscriber or user that he or she consents to the receipt of such calls on his or her mobile telephone, or (ii) the subscriber or user has consented generally to receiving marketing calls and that such consent to receive marketing calls is recorded in the NDD in respect of his or her mobile telephone number. In relation to email and mobile phone text based direct marketing, it is an offence to send such communications to you without your clear consent in advance."

It's bad enough gaining phone calls completely out of the blue - but then to be threatened or attempted to be blackmailed across the phone by a private company, again, is another matter!

We are very much aware that those backing JobPath will state that some calls cannot also be classed as "marketing calls". It is again the advocates of JobPath trying to slip low quality private company tactics between the cracks of legal legislation at Irish and European level so they can continue to make these type of rotten calls or not be further held to legal accountability.

These calls however are (a) still complete cold calls made out of the blue by (b) private businesses (c) for the eventual purpose so that they might also personally massive financial profit, (d) without prior authorisation whatsoever given by those receiving the calls.

Human basic rights be damned!

If anyone says all this is completely justified, they might excuse it - if any laws did fully cover it - but UnitedPeople (and others) also deem it completely underhand, immoral, the sort of gutter tactics you would expect from the lowest of the low and not from something one should expect from a state setup that is supposed to be caring for people, not scurrilously more bullying them.

Once again Ireland citizens gain a clear indication as to how elected representatives think those already down in their luck in unemployment, should be further treated disgracefully. Any excuses they come up with to even try justifying such immoral, never mind possible illegal actions, exposes their attitude as how they see unemployed and how they should be low treated!

# The Crazy State Contradictions (that also sees many out of pocket).

Please read the following below.

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)

30 | Page

...And on the next page...

week period. However, during this period the employee must not be entitled to any jobseeker-related income support payment from the State. [N]

Now, please re-read part of it again here:

"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."

Skip a few lines and then read...

"For the purpose of this section the thirty (30) hours requirement may be averaged over a four-week period. However, during this period the employee must be not entitled to any jobseeker-related income support payment system from the state."

Spot the massive contradiction?

In one top section of a paragraph "Full time employment" is 30 hours a week – but in the bottom section of the very same, just for JobPath, it gets to legally re-classify "Full time employment" as 30 hours over a four-week period. In other words,  $30 \div 4 = 7.5$  hours a week.

JobPath is allowed claim that "Full time employment" is now 7.5 hours a week.

Where there was one full time job, can now be three unofficial part-time jobs – each 7.5 hours a week – but these three part-time jobs can now be called "Full-time jobs".

Don't take our word for it. Reread the above JobPath tender regulation text again if need be. This was all in the JobPath tender document of 2013, released by the state on pages 30/31.

Notice also that for working what really is part-time hours, you are then totally cut off from gaining other forms of support except for Family Income Supplement (FIS), for which many also are outside the guidelines for that to additional qualify.

If giving conflicting regulations even within one section was not bad enough, then we have a further legal clash with the Department of Revenue. The Revenue department only recognises "Full-time employment" as work that is 30 hours or more — and "part-time" as less than 30 hours.

So here, the JobPath regulations that conflicts with itself, also conflicts with another state department and state law. Then there is the question – which legal situation takes precedent? In a court of law or in a clash of legal regulations, when drawing up job contracts and other work related legal situations, which one comes out on top as being the most valid?

It's been long time accepted that full-time employments have been judged to be over a 30 hour week. Should any legal cases arise, previously this was at least a 'given' to rely on by all.

Now, the government has totally confused the whole matter and won't address the issue.

Even worse, they refuse to clarify which takes precedence and why "Full-time" work is bizarrely now 30 hours a month rather than a week. Again, their silence is deafening. *What's new!* 

# **Undercutting People's Wages?**

Over the last year a further new alarming aspect of JobPath has been brought to the attention of UnitedPeople. Information passed on to it under strict conditions of confidentiality by a number of informants has helped UnitedPeople gain a new possible insight to a further issue in JobPath. This matter is currently under investigation by UnitedPeople, seeking conformation. At this point we cannot say solidly that it is widely happening but with a number of reports gained, we just cannot dismiss the whole matter lightly. As we are dealing with a company willing to supply fake evidence and its legal people or staff lie to the highcourts of Ireland, we must investigate.

People have come forward from all sides of Ireland and informed UnitedPeople that staff belonging to Seetec are regular going out seeking job positions which they can then take back to their local office locations and pass these job opportunities to unemployed. *There is absolutely nothing wrong in this.* It is what they in part hired to do by the state, as a tender contract remit.

However, some of these same job hunters (going out, calling in pairs occasionally) are also *reportedly* approaching employers and giving them a further 'sales pitch'. The agents of Seetec offer to supply workers for available job positions at lower wage rates – where previously the potential employer had been willing and in some cases, advertised, to give a higher wage to standard responding applicants.



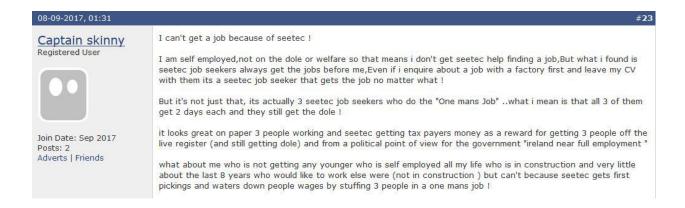
In other words (speaking to a potential employer); 'if you are willing to take our Seetec unemployed, they shall be informed that there is a job here waiting to be applied for – you get cheaper labour than you were actually willing to pay - and if those on our books refuse to apply for your positions, as a way to force them to take a now minimum wage job, we will impose a threat of having their benefits cut off them. Employer wins. Seetec wins. Victims lose money.

If true, Seetec gains at least three benefits from all this.

- 1) Favourable PR "We're creating jobs" that can be used in national and local media by themselves and local/national elected so that they can further justify the whole scheme be further continued (so that it may also then continue other many questionable acts including breaking the law).
- 2) Keeping Fine Gael 'sweet' in further PR propaganda "Look, our operating of JobPath is creating real jobs and making a difference" so they are further in no hurry to honestly dig deeper regarding ongoing law breaking, assaults, suicide attempts, bullying/coercion, etc. After all, why shoot themselves in the foot when something they are allowing to continue running, is giving them favourable results which they can spin to their hearts content also for upcoming local or national elections!

This indeed might go to explain somewhat, they are still – with other elected from Fianna Fail and Labour etc, unwilling to expose ongoing massive law breaking and abuses, many reports which UnitedPeople has on file through victim statements given to the party – and we deeply suspect, what we have gained is 'only the tip of an iceberg above water'.

3) The company thus gaining more job finding 'successes' and claim off the state in time for their bonus payments, means the company profits even massively more. By selling cheaper labour – forcing people to take up jobs that in many cases actually puts them into Economic Duress (an illegal act itself), the company gains more massive profits care of the taxpayer/state.



Be in NO doubt, Seetec will strongly deny this is actually happening – but then if they can lie massively to people in introduction group sessions, lie during one-on-one sessions – lie in highcourt, inventing 100% fake evidence (Damien Fagan case) and then hand it up as supposedly real to a presiding judge, it's not a stretch of any mind, to say they can lie yet again?

This one issue certainly should alarm many workers unions right across the state, who, if they are any way decent, will demand immediate answers and call for an independent state investigation on this one ongoing aspect alone. Expect complete denials of the above happening from Fine Gael and others. It's in each of their best interest not to see this aspect also nationally uncovered.



# The Damien Fagan Highcourt Case.



Well into a year of investigating the JobPath scheme, UnitedPeople was contacted by Damien Fagan. He was a Dublin man that was in the process of defending his own basic legal rights against JobPath abuse.

Mr Fagan been tried to be taken advantage of by the Department of Social Protection and Seetec.

Like many before him, the state department had tried to violate his rights after he opted to make use of his legal right to decline a Personal Progress Plan (PPP). He was told to agree to the PPP and told to sign it so that he was contractual obligated to its terms and conditions - standard mode of operation for the two private companies, Seetec and Turas Nua. They both regular try to blackmail people into the JobPath setup – "Sign or we will see to it that your benefits are reduced or cut". Common threat tactics regular applied by the two companies on Ireland citizens.

The staff of Seetec in this situation got aggressive with the Mr Fagan on he declining to sign as is still his and everyone else's legal right under Irish and European business law. A member of staff assaulted Mr Fagan by throwing him up against an office wall and grabbed him by the throat in viciousness. The incident was recorded and UnitedPeople has a copy of this recording.

<u>Side note</u>: JobPath continues to illegal affect people's money by illegal stealing it - money that is supposed to keep citizens "out of poverty" (TD Regina Doherty's own words, public explaining the use of welfare benefits). Having had their money illegal affected, they victims are left to live off aid passed on by charitable others, if available.

Mr Fagan however, was not one to take such illegal actions lying down. He peacefully decided to take the proper legal route in order to seek justice. While attempting to do so, he contacted UnitedPeople for assistance, having heard the party was the leading forefront for a long time in digging into the whole JobPath issue. From there on, UnitedPeople has worked with Mr Fagan.



Over a lengthy period of time centered around 2017, legal

positions were formulated. Legal paperwork went back and forth to gain justice and seek clarification on points of law. Throughout all the time and efforts made, the Department of Social Protection and Seetec maintained that they were fully within their legal rights to be doing what they were doing.

However, when they had to finally start making courtroom appearances and state matters under oath, greater truth emerged that ran counter to what they had claimed previously – and which they still claim at local levels, knowing they have stated totally different in a Dublin highcourt.



Garda were contacted regarding the assault (21st July 2016) of Mr Fagan on a leased Seetec property. The result of this was that the case was dropped due to an incredible inexcusable reason "…not enough evidence for prosecution".

Mr Fagan says this is incredible inexcusable – and we concur – if only because of the existence of the recording of the actual assault that took place. Mr Fagan has the original copy of the digital recording, UnitedPeople has a copy and a copy of it was handed to highcourt in Dublin, during Mr Fagan's later case against the Department of Social Protection and Seetec.

It was discovered later that in fact; local Garda had not provided a copy of the recording to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The question must certainly be asked "Why?"

When Mr Fagan was eventually forced to physical go ask at his local Navan Garda station and try find out why no action had still not been taken against the person that assaulted him on Seetec leased property, he was told to "Go away" from the Garda station. As he exited, the door was reportedly slammed in his face as he peaceful asked for justice to be sought for him.

<u>Note</u>: He had to go ask in his local Garda station as after informing them, they were not returning to him over a grown lengthy period of time, to inform him what was going on.

Again, Mr Fagan not willing to let to see a violent assaulted get off or a company that hired one, escape its responsibilities to the public (Seetec and Turas Nua have "Legal Duty of Care" to those that avail of their services or enter their properties), the assault victim reported the matter to The Garda Siochána Ombudsman Commission (GSOC).

As Mr Fagan formally did this, he politely requested that another Garda from the same station not be tasked with investigating his fellow office – as this might be perceived to contain a bias towards their fellow working office, regular sitting across from them or might be a good friend. In the interest of not only to avoid bias but also not have another local Garda officer not put in an personal awkward position, Mr Fagan made the request that local "Garda not be investigating Garda but that an independent investigator from GSOC inspect the whole matter.

The actual result was that a Superintendent (reportedly in Trim, 20 minutes' drive away from Navan) was tasked by GSOC to look into the matter. He in turn contacted a local Sargent to investigate his fellow officer. Exactly what was asked not to happen.

Not surprisingly, the eventually GSOC investigation result was "Nothing was done wrong" despite crucial recorded evidence of a violent assault having taken place, not been passed along.

In order to find this out Mr Fagan had to make three more appeals for information and justice.

To date - April 2018 – the assaulter continues to escape being held to account and justice has not been seen to be served. With such questionable antics, assaulters still sadly escape prosecution!

#### **Everyone Please Rise.**

Damien Fagan's legal case only really got going in the Dublin highcourt, in the second half of 2017. Having filed for the case to begin on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, 2017, there was a period of legal debate, swapping of case related papers, etc before all would come face to face within a court.

In short, due to the way he was overall treated and in specifics, he sought justice to be ordered served, Mr Fagan sought was is formally known as a "Judicial Review", of the whole matter. After more to and fro legal formalities took place within the courtroom, Mr Fagan was denied his request for the Judicial review (whole investigation, issues and decisions reversed).

The reason that was used to deny this? Shortly before the actual highcourt case began, the Department of Social Protection contacted Mr Fagan and informed him that the money they had illegal withheld from him (as they continue to do with many others today), was now suddenly available to him! The judge then later stated that as he had got his money back, there was no legal case in that regard, to be answered.

Let put it another way. If a criminal deprives you of your money – gets told he's being hauled into court – but before he gets there, repays what they stole – they are allowed get away with the crime of illegal stealing! Exactly what happened by a state department upon Mr Fagan.

As the judge ruled that the request for a judicial review was denied due to the stated reason, as far as the judge was concerned, the case was dismissed forthwith.

#### However...

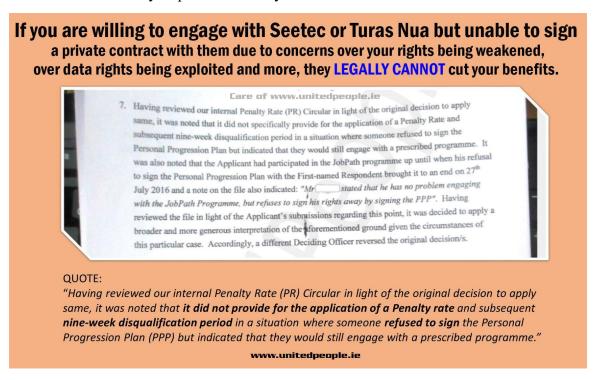
The case that Mr Fagan involved a number of legal matters. Mr Fagan in taking his case with UnitedPeople assistance, sought legal clarifications and justice regarding other specific issues.

The judge (who actually broke court regulation rules themselves, by not sticking to court procedures) in their final closing, completely skipped over an amount of other serious raised matters — leaving them unanswered/unaddressed. Did the judge forget about the other raised issues or just decided to ignore them? We shall likely never know. Unlike the public, if they are called to account in a public domain, judges get special treatment and get 'judged' behind closed doors. In fact, it's even a possible crime soon, to report what a judge might be even accused of!

As the judge conveniently/inconveniently oddly skipped over a number of legal matters where legal redress was being sought, the matter at the time of writing (April 2018) is now being taken to the Irish Supreme Court. If it fails to answer legal questions, the matters goes to the EU Court.

#### **Contents Of The Court Case.**

Mr Fagan lost in one aspect of the case – and we shall return to that verdict and its subsequent affect upon others – but while the case was going on, other shocking matters and evidence emerged. We shall be mentioning all of them here in case readers might have skipped a chapter or two elsewhere. It's very important that they are also all covered within the one section.



1. One of the first shocking things to emerge after much legal digging by Mr Fagan, assisted by UnitedPeople, was a (reluctant) official, court supplied, legal admittance in a state sworn statement, that they DO NOT HAVE THE LEGAL LEGISLATION THAT LAWFULLY ALLOWS A CUT DOWN OR STOP OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS IF THEY DECLINE TO SIGN A PPP – BUT ARE STILL WILLING TO OTHERWISE ENGAGE IN JOBPATH.

This VERY IMPORTANT legal admission confirmed what Mr Damien Fagan and UnitedPeople had long discovered was the actual accurate truth. People previously were having their money illegally taken off them, right across the country, to the possible tune of millions of Euro.

Even after this highcourt statement was read into record, the Department of Social Protection continues to act illegally – knowing they are breaking the law – and taking money off victims that they know are still legally entitled to it. You couldn't make this up. It's a fact.

This illegal act is being further facilitated by Seetec and Turas Nua – they knowing the act is illegal – by their reporting of people who decline a PPP. They continue to report them so that this illegal act can again take place through further coercive tactics of financial blackmail. In other words 'Sign the damn contract or we will see to it your left financially broke'. Law or no law!

A Department of Social Protection becoming again, a Department of Social Persecution.

Back-up: If the above legal case continues not to be enough for any local welfare department that is attempting to apply pressure tactics so a private company can further profit some a person's signature, you have the back-up of the statement made by Mr John Conlon, Assistant Secretary to the Department of Social Protection. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2018 in the Dail, Committee Room Two, he stated on public record that 'there is no grounds for citizens to be deducted or cut off' from their benefits - should they decline to sign a PPP.

<u>2.</u> During the highcourt case evidence was introduced from the other side. The Department of Social Protection and Seetec offered to the presiding judge evidence about a meeting that occurred between a Seetec senior representative.

During this meeting things were apparently said by Mr Damien Fagan to the Seetec representative that subsequently in court statement submission, painted Mr Fagan in a very poor light – Mr Fagan speaking and acting very unprofessional (abusive, aggressively and grabbing stuff out of people's hand etc, while being unwilling to participate in the JobPath programme.

There was only one problem with this meeting. The events described **NEVER HAPPENED**. The then Navan manager made it completely up from start to finish – 'lock, stock and barrel'.

It was only by further investigative digging and questioning of times, dates, location and more, that Mr Fagan was able to later prove in the highcourt room, that what had been submitted as solid evidence, was in fact entire fiction from opposition. Further more, Mr Fagan was able later to present to the highcourt an (another reluctant) admission from the Seetec manager that no such meeting events took place and that he, the manager, had also made up the events as described.

You really could not make up – unless you were with Seetec of course!

Entire fiction was tried illegally to be passed as evidence to Mr Damien Fagan's character. The judge's mind was tried to be falsely tainted toward the state and the private company. It was only through the meticulous nature of Mr Fagan who kept exact records (recorded and written) that he was able to prove Seetec's submission as entirely false.

They had lied in court and further broke the law.

This however, was not the first time they had done this for this particular case. Prior to the above false evidence being submitted, they told the highcourt that Mr Fagan as a meeting brought with him a serious amount of recording/I.T. equipment.

Again, Mr Fagan was able to produce counter evidence to have this false allegation thrown out. Mr Fagan presented a photo from the meeting he was supposed to have packed with gear, that showed that all the items actually amounted to one laptop sitting on a desk – and that was it.

Why did Mr Fagan even bring one laptop to a meeting? Mr Fagan suffers from dyslexia. Some of the software on the laptop assists him in communicating and understanding others. Not that it mattered to his highcourt room opposition! They sought baseless advantage from his condition.

<u>3.</u> During the case, there was an important statement from the opposition saying that the PPP was indeed a legal contract. They spoke clearly on record to the judge using the "contract" word. A Personal Progression Plan is a contract. It contains terms and conditions that 'supposedly' agreed to by both sides and in order for it to be legal and enforceable, it must be signed to.

Under standard Irish and European law, this too is called a "contract". Look it up!

Seetec and to some extent, Turas Nua, are trying to PR spin that it is not a contract – it's just "an agreement" between the 'customer' (if they want to be one or not) and an advisor (who dictates upon on 'customers' what will eventually be in the contract). If it was just a friendly agreement, a handshake would be enough? No. The Department of Social Protection, Seetec, Turas Nua, Obair, and Intreo need it to be legal signed. Why? As it's a contract as it is defined by detail.

4. The eventual judges closing verdict statement did indeed deny the judicial review sought by Mr Fagan. As mentioned previously, there was others very important matters within the case that were left unaddressed. Buried within the denial of a judicial review however, was a legalise style statement that Mr Fagan's legal right's had been indeed infringed by the state and Seetec, for they trying to force him (and any others) into a contract that he had a full right to decline.

A tiny few others across Irish social media didn't actually bother to look at the actual full facts and immediately said Mr Fagan had lost his whole case – when so far (and it's continuing). He actually had not. He already got a decision from the judge concerning rights to contract decline.

Not only that, but that his (and others) very basic legal rights had been infringed. Some loss?

As the judge didn't address some still outstanding matters, Mr Fagan currently continues his legal case to seek legal answers and clearer definitions within Irish (and possible EU) law.

One of the issues that needs to also looked at, that is being also cases raised, is what is the legal Irish definition of a "public service". This is an important legal distinction that the Irish state has yet to define and commit to in legislation.

Seetec and Turas Nua claim they are not a public service as such.

- They might be hired by the state.
- They might be using state staff on their property.
- They might be using state resources including office equipment and property.
- They might be using people brought to them via a state department.
- They might be in legal terms a hired 'agent' of the state.
- They might be paid massive state/taxpayer money on a very regular basis.
- They might be servicing the people of the state.

...But they claim they are not also providing a public service as such!

This, from a legal point of view, is very important. If you are a state service, you are also more accountable to the people of the state and its laws. It's no wonder than that some in the state or private companies are trying to dance between the legal lines of current poor defined legislation?

These matters and more were not addressed by the final decision of the judge presiding over the Damien Fagan case. It is with the above and more in mind that the case now advances (as of April 2018) to Ireland's Supreme Court for better legal clarity and greater justice for all citizens.

<u>One other issue</u>. As the judge let the Department of Social Protection and Seetec escape being held to account for infringing Mr Fagan's rights by using the reason that he had been paid just prior to the case being highcourt started, the judge has subsequently left a door open for the same trick to be tried on many others. How many citizens would be willing to take a powerful state department and private company all the way to a highcourt? Very few and they know it. Once they even got there, they would then pull out this quick payment trick and be able to again get away with their disgraceful antics. All involved in JobPath know however that through financial blackmail or financial attrition on a citizen's ability to survive with no money coming in (illegal cut off), a majority would cave to their threats and sign a document that they were coerced into.

#### On We Go.

As long as JobPath and the methods it disgracefully uses exists, we shall continue to raise issues about it. To do anything less would be morally wrong as many are suffering because of JobPath.

We have successful highlighted JobPath for over many years now, to media home and wide. We have approached politely and professionally, many people on the matter including Td's from all sides. We continue to do so. A number of them have subsequently taken up the cause we pursue.

Dail questions, Dail committee room questions, public questions & media questions are growing.

UnitedPeople continues to provide support and at times, needed evidence, for Mr Fagan's case to continue. We shall leave you, the reader, to judge the conduct of those involved. The current situation cannot continue in its present guise or format. It is abhorrent to decent common morality and in legal terms, unconstitutional at national level and law breaking at local level.

We repeat what we have stated many times before.

"This issue (one piece of a larger picture) is not about chasing as right or left-wing agenda. It is about continuing to protect the basic rights of all citizens who love Ireland and reside there."



#### JOBPATH - Facts And Fake Evidence

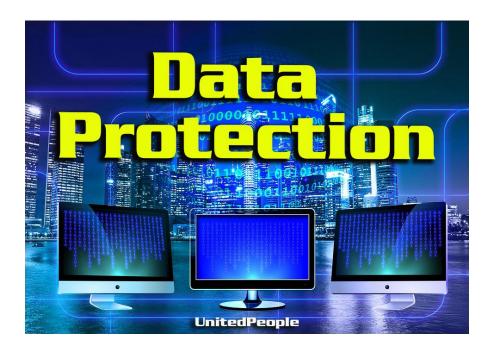
- 1. In the legal case of Damien Fagan (THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2017 332 JR FAGAN -V- SEETEC EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS IRELAND & ORS), it was admitted by top barristers representing and subsequently presenting the view of the Department of Social Protection that a Personal Progress Plan (PPP) was indeed a form of legal contract. They stated this to the judge during the course of the legal case taken against them and Seetec. Seetec, it should be noted, did NOT at any stage oppose this legal stance given by the Department of Social Protection.
- 2. The Department of Social Protection in highcourt, on sworn affidavit, stated that they do not have the legal power to deduct or cut down public benefits if citizens decline to sign a PPP (or other form of contract) but they confirm they are still willing to fully "engage" in all other matters as requested by the Department of Social Protection. This statement was made to a judge and presented up in writing to the court by the Department of Social Protection. This position was not challenged by Seetec Ireland, at any point either.
- 3. In the above legal case, the judge stated in court that the rights of Mr Fagan was infringed and that the state via the Department of Social Protection, had acted "egregiously" in trying to force a citizen of Ireland into signing something they had the lawful right to decline that being the forced PPP upon them. Along with the admission by the Department of Social Protection that they were acting outside Irish law in stopping a citizen's payment for declining to sign a PPP, the citizen, Damien Fagan, gained back money that was unlawfully taken from him in the first place by the state.
- 4. In the above legal case, those opposing Damien Fagan presented to the judge COMPLETE FAKE invented evidence. They created a fictious meeting that never happened. They invented what was said by both sides at this fictious meeting, to the advantage of Seetec and disadvantage of Mr Fagan. All their fake evidence presented to the judge and highcourt was exposed as complete lies. Even the representative that supplied a fake story, later made his own admission it was completely false.
  To date, no one has been held to account for the production of fake evidence given to the court. Why?
- 5. Mr John Conlon, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Social Protection in the Dail, committee room three, on the 8th of March 2018, stated on public record that there is no grounds for citizens to be deducted or cut off of their benefits should they decline to sign a PPP (or other form of contract) within the JobPath setup. This is the current legal position stated by the top representatives of the Department of Social Protection.

UNITEDPEOPLE

31 Beaulieu View, Termonfeckin Road, Drogheda, Co Louth, Ireland.

# An Alternative Way

A proposed better option.



When it comes to citizens personal information, it is as valuable to a single individual as any other item they possess. For the state to just give it away, which they are presently, - without (a) informing you they are doing it and (b) seeking your consent, is a total abuse of your personal rights.

UnitedPeople would seek the creation of far stronger legislation that would protect your personal data from being transferred away without your express authorisation and you further being informed of all the facts surrounding that transfer, prior to your consent being given.

Add to that, if the full facts are not told to you at that early stage, those participating in possible PR spinning only facts convenient to their attempt to obtain consent, would be individually, business or departmental, collectively liable for criminal prosecution, in the eyes of the law.

Your personal data is who you are. You should have far greater legal rights in order to be able to protect yourself. It is not only a question of moral right now!

The current continuing data abuses, quietly continuing under Fine Gael and those who prop them up, must end. You are being abused by the state. They are not telling you they are doing it. This needs to change and they need to be held legally accountable.



# FEEL LIKE GIVING AWAY YOUR PERSONAL DATA?

Your personal information is as valuable to you as any item you also possess. it is your asset.

For a government to give away your personal data without (a) informing you they doing it (b) explaining exactly how they are processing it, (c) stating where it is, under what exact conditions and (d) not seeking your consent, is a total abuse of your rights - including a right to maintaining personal security.



UnitedPeople would create far stronger legislation to protect your personal data - your asset - from being transferred without your express authorisation. After your permission gained without acts of state coercion applied in any form, you would have to be informed of all relevant facts. surrounding that transfer. Your right to consent or not, greater protected also.

Add to that, those participating in PR spinning only facts convenient to their attempt to obtain consent, would be individually or collectively, business or departmental, liable for criminal prosecution. In the present era of "Big Data", your personal data rights has never been more important as an issue which needs vital, urgent improvement.

Your personal data is who you are. You should have far greater legal rights in order to be able to protect yourself. It's not only a question of moral right now! Current quiet, ongoing data abuses continuing under Fine Gael and those standing by them, must end. You are being abused by the state - but the state is not telling you they are doing it. This needs to change. Those responsible should be held legal accountable. UnitedPeople would protect you.

www.unitedpeople.ie - email: admin@unitedpeople.ie

# The Law

"The law is the law."

It either applies to all equally or if not, it is being abused with double-standards, regardless of who the culprit is, high or low.

# Legal Definitions.

#### Blackmail.

Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act, 1994. Section 17.

- (1) It shall be an offence for any person who, with a view to gain for himself or another or with intent to cause loss to another, makes any unwarranted demand with menaces.
- (2) For the purposes of this section—
- (a) a demand with menaces shall be unwarranted unless the person making it does so in the belief—
  - (i) that he has reasonable grounds for making the demand, and
  - (ii) that the use of the menaces is a proper means of reinforcing the demand;
- (b) the nature of the act or omission demanded shall be immaterial and it shall also be immaterial whether or not the menaces relate to action to be taken by the person making the demand.

#### Coercion.

Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act, 1997. Section 9.

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—

- (a) uses violence to or intimidates that other person or a member of the family of the other, or
- (b) injures or damages the property of that other, or
- (c) persistently follows that other about from place to place, or
- (d) watches or besets the premises or other place where that other resides, works or carries on business, or happens to be, or the approach to such premises or place, or
- (e) follows that other with one or more other persons in a disorderly manner in or through any public place,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) For the purpose of this section attending at or near the premises or place where a person resides, works, carries on business or happens to be, or the approach to such premises or place, in order merely to obtain or communicate information, shall not be deemed a watching or besetting within the meaning of subsection (1) (d).

# Criminal Liability.

Where there is more than one person involved in a possible crime, all may possess an equal amount of guilt or varying degrees of guilt, each chargeable with in time, a result penalty.

- (a) Principle Offender.
  - This is the *principle* person what commits the initial act along with their *reason* for doing it.
- (b) Aider and abettor.
  - Under common law, this is the person who provides the principle (person, body or state) with rendered aid, assistance or encouragement at the time of the act being committed.
- (c) Accessories.
  - Any person that aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of an indictable offence shall be tried and punished as a principal offender. Criminal Law Act 1997.

### Formation Of A Contract.

A contract is an agreement giving rise to obligations enforced or recognised by law. A contract exists where legal capable persons have reached agreement by entirely lawful means or where the law considers that they have reached legal agreement. A valid contract attaches rights and obligations to each party involved.

For a contract to be valid, there is three factors.

- (a) An agreement a pre-existing existence of an offer. Terms MUST be unconditional, clear and certain not misrepresented or blatantly lied about.
- (b) Intention to be contractually bound, "an invitation to treat", "communication of an offer" & "acceptance" (non-under coercion or other pressurising factors from others)
- (c) Consideration. A transfer of money, asset or genuine service in kind. Some right, interest, profit or benefit accruing to the one party of a contract, or some forbearance, detriment, loss or responsibility given, suffered or undertaken by the other. Under common law, there can be no binding contract without consideration.

#### **Invalid Contracts.**

A contract containing essential factors may be deemed invalid where it contains some element which invalidates it. It may be deemed invalid due to internal factors or the lack of them when some statutory formality has been neglected.

### (a) Mistake.

- 1. A contract may be void when the parties contract under a fundamental mistake of *fact*. This rule applies to a mistake of fact that it destroys the basis of the agreement. This is an operative mistake.
- 2. Where the parties labour under the same misunderstanding, a contract may be void. This is a common mistake.
- 3. Where the parties negotiate at cross-purposes. This is a mutual mistake.
- 4. Where one party is mistaken and the other party knows this. This is a unilateral mistake.
- 5. Where a party is bound by contract which is signed, whether read or not, or whether it was understood or not. A party that signs a document under a fundamental mistake as to its nature, may be able to void it. This is a mistake as to the nature of a document.
- 6. A party cannot be excused from performing a duty by saying that they did not know the law. Where there is something in addition to a mistake of law, such as behaviour by the party who demanded the other party's conduct which shows that of the two, that party is basic responsible for the mistake, there may be a remedy. This is a mistake of law.

# (b) Misrepresentation.

This is a false statement of material fact made by one party which induces another to contract. That statement must be effective as a misrepresentation as it was relied upon by the party complaining.

### (c) Innocent Misrepresentation.

This is where a party makes a misrepresentation believing it to be true, that party commits innocent misrepresentation.

# (d) Fraudulent Misrepresentation.

An untrue statement made knowingly, or without belief in its truth, or made carelessly without regard to whether it is true or not, amounts to fraudulent misrepresentation.

# (e) Duress And Undue Influence.

A contract can be declared null and void if it has been made under any duress, which is defined under many forms including the imprisonment of said victim or a serious threat to property in all its formats including physical and monetary.

### (f) Unconscionable Bargain.

This is when one party in a position to do so, sets out to exploit a weakness of another. The burden of justifying such a contract or bargain, is with the party seeking to uphold it.

# (g) Illegal contracts

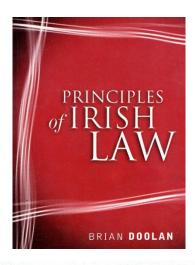
This is when a contract for a purpose which offends the common good, is void. Such contracts are declared void when it offends the constitution. Contracts can be illegal by statute when they conflict with already set precedent statute law. A contract which infringes the provisions of a statute, is illegal. The law is very clear on this. It is interesting to note the courts will not enforce a contract which involves the performance of an illegal act in a foreign country (Stanhope Hospitals Trust Ltd 1936).

Other legislation sections which might apply are where contracts can be deemed invalid based on contracts in the restraint of trade and competition law.

#### Theft.

#### Vicarious Liability.

The state is vicariously liable for the tortious acts of its employees committed in the course of their employment. Precedent set: Byrne v Ireland (1972)



#### ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT

#### Assault

According to the *Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997*, a person commits an assault who, without lawful excuse, intentionally and recklessly, directly or indirectly, applies force to, or causes an impact on the body of another, or causes another to believe on reasonable grounds that he or she is likely immediately to be subjected to any such force or impact, without the consent of the other. Force includes the application of heat, light, electric current, noise or any other form of energy and the application of matter in solid, liquid or gaseous form (see page 165 for assault as a tort).

#### Serious Assaults

The Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997 creates two serious assault offences. A person who intentionally or recklessly causes serious harm to another, which means injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or causes serious disfigurement, or substantial loss or impairment of the mobility of the body as a whole or of the function of any particular bodily member or organ, commits an offence.

And a person who assaults another, causing him or her harm, which includes harm to body or mind and pain and unconsciousness, is guilty of an offence.

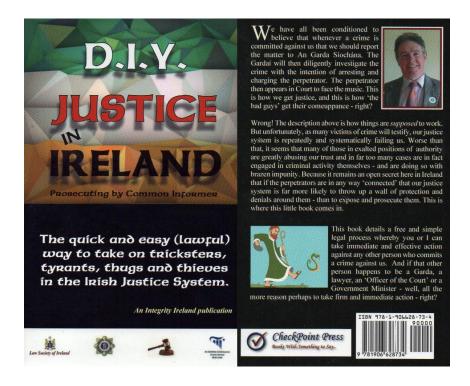
# Every person in the state should know these laws. Being harassed or including repeat contacted, non-permission drugged by person or company?

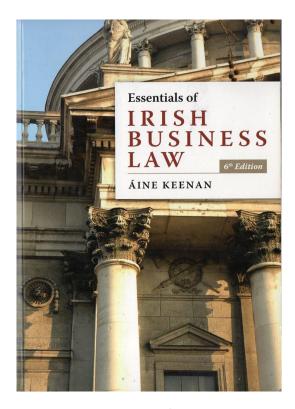
#### Harassment

According to the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act 1997, it is an offence for a person, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, by any means including the use of the telephone, to harass another by persistently following, watching, pestering, besetting or communicating with him or her. Harass means to act intentionally or recklessly towards the other person in such a way as to seriously interfere with his or her peace and privacy, or which causes alarm, distress or harm, and that a reasonable person would realise that these acts had the same effect.

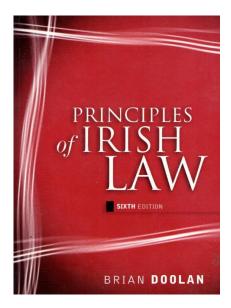
UnitedPeople.ie

UnitedPeople recommends three law books. All easy to understand. One is apparently no longer printed although copies can be found of it. The others are still available widely and also still used for regular reference.





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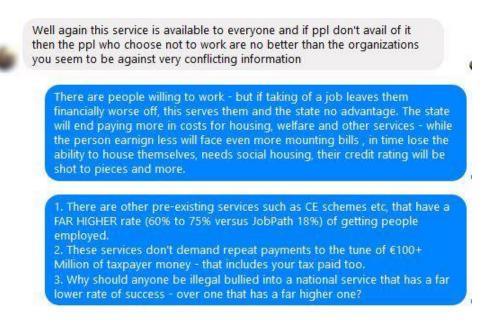


UnitedPeople believes that these books or others like them, should be completely part of secondary education. Taught before young minds leave school and possibly a family home.

The more citizens are prepared and informed in advance, the less they are to be taken advantage of, lied to by elected and non-elected, and more open to see a larger picture of deception.

Knowledge is indeed power.

Let's give it to the people in an honest proper way, with clarity and transparency.



# In Conclusion...



UnitedPeople completely welcomes any fair and considerate state initiated operations or courses, that lawfully and morally invites people to come along in attendance, to genuinely improve their employment opportunities.

With the introduction of "JobPath", there continues to be a form of systematic state abuse being allowed to continue – against people individually and toward a category of social class, that being the unemployed of Ireland. These abuses sadly, are continuing to this day by others who know they are doing wrong, by they knowingly ignoring illegal activity, certain knowing political parties will not be holding them to account any time soon. This is an absolute disgraceful state of affairs.

We recognise that there is a very small population percentage that might look as 'sitting on Social Protection' gaining financial benefits, as just as a way of life to be maintained. To those, state plans should be better drawn up, to deal with that situation – but here too, we ask that individual legal rights be upheld and just as important, the state should progress in better moral action than is currently occurring. Political parties should also remember not to 'tar all' with the same brush!

UnitedPeople is attempting to make more aware of what is going on right now in Ireland, quietly under people's very noses. The people are being deliberately kept in the dark. We are attempting to raise awareness and seek change and justice, not from a left, centre or right wing political perspective. We do so in order to see that *all* people within Ireland's borders, are treated with respect, dignity, their rights (including data) are better protected and that they are not be state press-ganged.

In the past, there has been a number of state initiated inquiries (the Government has spent at least €250 million in the last 10 years on more than 40 separate tribunals, independent inquiries and investigations) into people and their organisations. Many of them have been originally been setup to carry out a task that is welcomed by general society. The eventual result of all these inquiries has been very few held accountable to appear in a court of law. Instead, they have been given massive payoffs, perks and huge pensions for life in many cases. It is not good enough anymore!

What is happening in Ireland **RIGHT NOW** is abusive acts by individual people, departments and private enterprise companies. This, UnitedPeople has no doubt, will be the stuff that will make up the content of a further future state inquiry, tribunal or commission of investigation!

As the present acts of illegality and abuse continue, all political parties knowledgeable about what is going on, but unwilling to act, to defend and change this terrible situation, are now equally guilty 'after the fact'.

This report will be sent to all elected TD's and possibly, all elected councillors around Ireland. They therefore being informed of the report facts (regardless of their additional opinion), knowing this current situation is still ongoing, they cannot 'stick their head in the sand' and claim "I know nothing" and be unwilling to do anything. All elected allowing the present day situation to continue - but are deliberate saying nothing and doing nothing as of yet to resolve matters – should hang their heads in shame. Imagine allowing their national and local citizens to be treated so!

Today, a present government is allowing modern abuses to happen right under its nose and is unwilling to nationally address the still ongoing situation. It exhibits double-standards, standing up in the Dail, the Seanad and to Irish media seeking positive PR for themselves when stating how such previous actions by institutions were then terrible and the state previously should have done more!

Yet today, as more and more evidence emerges of modern abuses being carried out today, the same parties, while PR raging about previous acts committed in the past, are at same time turning a blind eye to modern acts being committed against the Irish people. Many we can also assume are also their political party supporters.

Their reluctance to act for the people they report themselves to also represent (especially at voting periods), knowing these abuses continue against some of them, is irreprehensible and exposes a true low moral characteristic.

# The Law.

The laws of Ireland have been broken we conclude. It is also our contention that international law has also been broken. In both cases, this has occurred by the same parties and government which is telling its public with double-standards, 'obey the laws of Ireland & European Union'.

Data laws have been broken or in some grey areas, where there is unclarity (deliberately left that way so that advantage can be taken?) people at local and national level have sought to exploit (a) public unawareness or (b) acted in a manner that leads others to believe that they are deliberate misrepresenting information that should be told more accurately and truthfully.

Citizens personal data has already been state recognised and quietly classified as a legal asset by the Irish state, when they introduced legislation to create the company known as "Irish Water". They just did not bother to tell the population of Ireland that they were doing this.

That "asset" in their possession – sometimes deliberately not saying how they got it in the first place. To do so, might be an admission of criminal guilt - was something they have again transferred in an underhand attempt to bully a portion of their voters, to private companies so they could then also massive profit. Here too, besides inner department to inner department (breaking European law regarding the Bara ECJ ruling), other data protection legislation has been abused and possibly completely disregarded. The average citizen was/still is not being told all this has being happening for over two years.

The state has also turned citizens themselves into "assets" to be exploited. They have become numbers on a private company spreadsheet so that the businesses are able to repeat gains periodically. They do this by them themselves claiming off the state. They do it by personal data they really should not have got in the first place — or at any stage via any decent government.

Private firms such as Seetec and Turas Nua are aiding and abetting Fine Gael and those that back them in their actions, as the principle party still pursues a quiet privatisation agenda regarding state services. By deliberate quiet 'backdoor' legislative actions, a TTIP/CETA agenda of privatising many state sectors bit by inner bit, Fine Gael and its enablers are further putting Ireland one government service out to quieter tender. It is more underhand, divide and conquer tactics by a sneakily legislative backdoor. When the laws do not exist for them to do this, they write or re-write the laws needed - while also taking further advantage of the grey legislative gaps they are deliberately unwilling to improve. Improved legislation is something the dubious does not wish to see happening.

If we are truthful, even to ourselves but just as importantly, to others, we will admit the following. Fine Gael, Fianna Fáil, Labour and possibly more including Seetec and Turas Nua, will try to PR their way out of what has happened – what still is happening to this very day. They will without doubt (a) completely deny the facts in this report (b) espouse that while it might hold some merit, some of the facts you can check yourself (to find they are actually true and verifiable), is wrong, (c) will say they might do something – stall – then in time do nothing or (d) stay completely silent. They then hoping the raised matters here within, will fall away from public attention.



# If We Are Truly Honest...

For some elected and their steadfast supporters, it will be hard to be total honest even with themselves. Put away a party political view you might have for just a few minutes. Look at the evidence and law as a jury would be asked to – *impartially*.

What does your head tell you and not a possible, political party, favouring heart?

The best justice comes from those that are truthful even to themselves, that that are willing to be honest

and just – then decide from that point onward if abuses have taken place. If they have, our legislation must apply and be seen to apply - beyond guilty parties attempts to PR spin or deny their way away from facts and acts of illegality.

The rest of us on the side-lines, seeing what we are seeing, hearing what we will further hear, can bury our heads in the proverbial sand – but that does not take away from established law, victims of what has been allowed to occur and from facts that we know to be true.

The matter as a whole, is not just about "unemployed" but far more about how any one government and certainly, individual political parties, see the population of a nation - and then subsequently, how they treat them! What they say and how they act, being at total opposites!

Regardless of class, race, social standing or any other defining factor, there is a basic understanding in supposed civilised democratic society that all citizens are equally entitled to the *same* basic human rights. The right not to be harmed, the right not to be bullied, the right not to be forced sign contracts into something they do not want, the right to maintain their dignity, the roof over their head, the right to a basic income so they will not further starve and more...

If the state or its inner political parties, start on a path of denying Irish civilians, these basic rights through enshrined immoral legislation, the nation as a whole has (a) allowed discrimination via a convenient quiet backdoor and (b) underhandedly categorised sections of its society as a lesser value on one hand - but on the other, also an "asset" to be exploited by others for private greed. The bullies win - the private companies win – the citizen loses big time!

This is a sick, dangerous path for any political party or state to take. Repeated previous history has shown how this all ends – and it is never in positive, peaceful and progressive terms.

Elected at all levels if they are of any decent morality, will speak up. Those that hereon will remain silent, are the betrayers of a nation and its people. They do not deserve to be elected. We know political parties have been approached about this ongoing situation, parties in government, parties backing them and parties of opposition. All of them so far, except for UnitedPeople appear to be unwilling to tackle this growing crises in Ireland. Maybe they do not see serious vote gain in it? What is going on is immoral, illegal in some cases and completely unconstitutional in others.

If that is the case, it should not be about vote gain anyway. It is about just doing right by their employers, their paymasters, which is their electorate. That is you. It will be your offspring too, some day.

The citizen individually and collectively, should by primary default, be the one first protected as best possible. In Ireland's present case, big business gets priority. The state is only as strong as the people that make it up. By protecting the people, government greater protect their country.

Ireland through "job activation" – thug-style state bullying - is right now creating the steps, victims and evidence material for yet another tribunal or inquiry in the future, to take place.

Those that are today involved or too quietly sit on the side-lines allowing it all to happen, should again remember...

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

- Edmund Burke

...And besides a voting public, history will be also their judge!

Jeff Rudd.

UnitedPeople Founder.



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