



A UnitedPeople Report

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# State Sanctioned Bullying.

## An Inquiry In The Making.



How Seetec, an imported private company is currently targeting Ireland citizens for their own profit! A means to *their* end.

**The result:** coercion, threats, blackmail, interference with educational studies, possible personal data abuse and more, inflicted upon many of Ireland citizens today, coast to coast.

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!

It's another day of ‘old politics’ by the usual culprits.

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## ***HISTORIC BACKGROUND***

### **Another IMF Outcome.**

When the IMF arrived in Ireland it resulted in upheaving the state in many ways. It caused blameless Irish people to pay the debt of others who had railroaded the state into debt and bailouts. Their presence and eventual demands would also amount to more.

One outcome would be in time Seetec and Turas Nua subsequently being allowed to operate in Ireland. They came officially via the “Memorandum Of Understanding” put together by the IMF – signed up to by a previous Fianna Fáil and Green Party government. In the agreement besides opening the door to water recharging, there was an additional demand that there be “*the application of sanction mechanisms for beneficiaries not complying with jobsearch conditionality.*”

This gave old Irish political parties further ability (and excuse) to instigate the hiring of Seetec and Turas Nua. 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 of course! By the time some did manage to find out anything at all, it was too late. Seetec and Turas Nua had infected Ireland to reap their own gains.

A new “*social contract*” 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 coercion), they would suffer!

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 - €26.8 Million.

The Seanad statements are available here: <https://goo.gl/4g76Vy>

Video of the lengthy Seanad debate here: <https://goo.gl/UpMm9i>

## Details.

Both companies were required to force people through a process PR titled “*JobPath*”. The two companies would 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*” – 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 run-out 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.”*

The unemployed however, were not consulted. 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 their educational courses so that the two companies could grab them for their own eventual private profit gain.

There was no national 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.

Basic human rights and any attempt to hold on to personal dignity, be damned! The unemployed found themselves suddenly dictated to by the weight of a state pressing down on them, through legal means that Fine Gael and Labour legislatively exploited, to do so!

To many it seems, unemployed people have now become a lower class of citizen. One to be mass bullied and be non-consulted. 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.

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

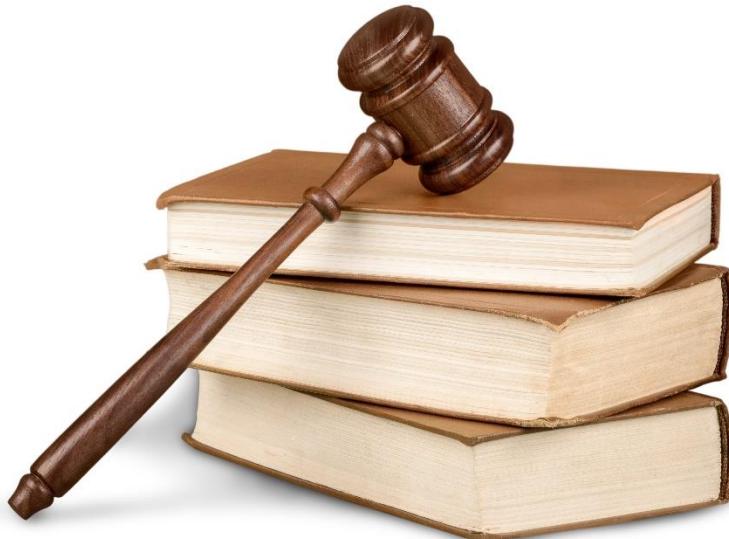
## Meanwhile In Another PR Wordplay...

The phrasing created on Social Protection letters telling people (now “clients”) 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 so “*legislatively enslaved to*”. Bullying made legal by the state...

That bullying and other forms of poor treatment of Ireland residents, remains hidden behind the PR attached to “Job activation” – nut it still exists none the less. No PR changes the actuals acts.

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



## Welcome to Seetec.



### What is Seetec?

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 2017 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.

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 tender document even stated a default secrecy demand. After some lengthy investigative digging by UnitedPeople, what has been exposed is that those applying to bring JobPath to “clients” had to have a turnover of €20+

million a year. As you will discover later, even from the outset of the its set-up, a straight path to truth would meander.

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 an ultimate 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.

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. Some of them are a very shocking reading 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 people take to social media and the likes of Google in research, to obtain their own independent opinion and opinion of others, on the private business, that Seetec and Turas Nua operate. Independently also discover the 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 needs 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.

## **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 departments 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 company, Seetec stand repeatedly accused of forcing people into jobs that at times, they seriously cannot afford to take.

Genuine reasons, ones beyond also poor excuses given, are also apparently completely ignored or run roughshod over as Seetec coerces (something they will 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!

## 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 the private companies it is claimed. 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 Seetec.

*Why?*

We have been left with a constant conclusion – one regularly reaffirmed by talking to many Seetec victims - one major factor is the business knows it also won't get state paid if it fails 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, the 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, Seetec is a private company business – not a vocational charity or NGO. Their core private aim is to seek out higher yearly profits for those managing 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 Seetec 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 bonuses.

Note: Turas Nua was a new business and joint venture between FRS Recruitment (a co-operative 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.

# Employment service privatised

■ By David Connolly

**T**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

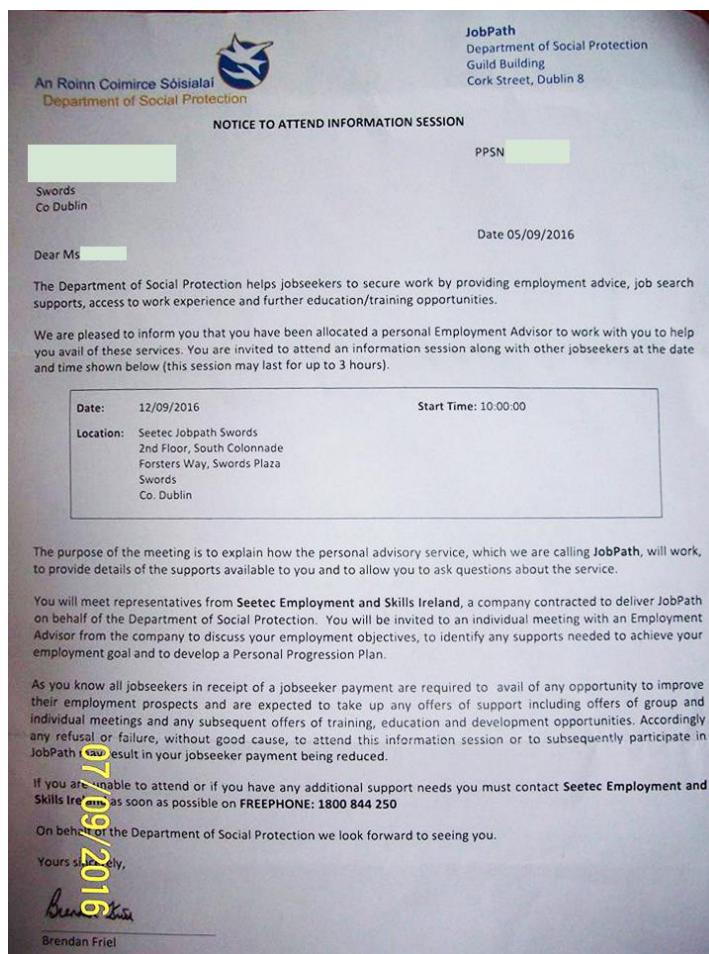
providers can earn between €5000 and €15,000 for getting long term benefit claimants back to work. The privatisation of these services in Britain has proved very expensive and very controversial, with Parliamentary enquiries undertaken into allegations of large scale fraud and exploitation and poor treatment 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*”. Nice eh?



“Clients” 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 then speaks. On occasion, they are also joined by a person from the Departments of Social Protection who sits quietly to one side. They within the 40 (approx.) minute session might be called upon to answer “clients” questions.

The Seetec 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 (a lie). Lucky them!

The Seetec representative quickly skims over what Seetec is going to do for their “clients”. At no stage yet has anyone ‘invited’ even likely agreed to be a customer of Seetec. Not that it matters to Seetec anyway. The listening ‘invited’ public is told they are to be involuntary signed up.

...As of yet, permission has not been gained from those attending.

At NO stage (to date of this report) has the persons ‘invited’ been told that Seetec is (a) actually a private company and (b) one operating with an aim to profit off the back of the people present.

As UnitedPeople has discovered, many a Seetec representative gives the impression that they are in fact staff attached to the Department of Social Protection. In legal terms however, as Seetec has been hired by the state, they are a private company “*independent contractor*” 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 - Seetec reps 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*.

At the end of a possible Powerpoint presentation quickly gone through in under 15 minutes approximately, “clients” are allowed to ask questions within the assembled group – up to a point!

Time and again, numerous people (including some who subsequently contacted UnitedPeople) have tried to ask questions about how Seetec 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.

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 and sharing of additional information? UnitedPeople suspects so – as it also expects Seetec and the Department of Social Protection to strongly deny this.



A number of people that have subsequently contacted UnitedPeople, had previously brought up the fact that the Department of Social Protection and Seetec have possibly 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 the group, 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 Seetec's liking and ask subsequent important 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.

None of them at any stage are told that by signing the booklet, they have in fact, also legally signing themselves into a business contract with Seetec. One awarding rights.

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 Seetec (remember, a private company itself) even if "*clients*" get a job off their own initiative with Seetec assistance or regardless of their involvement.

Seetec has found a way to give itself signed permission from "*clients*", to invade privacy further...

As the presentation is usually done quickly the '*invited*' "*clients*" often do not get a real chance to read the booklet fully, 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 – and they don't gain the 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.

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 Seetec 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 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.

**SEETEC CLIENT CONFIRMATION**

I confirm that I:

- have had the participation requirements of the JobPath programme explained to me
- agree that Seetec can distribute my CV via email for the purpose of applying for and securing interviews and employment
- have had the main points of the following Seetec Policies explained to me and know how to find out more information:
  - Equality & Diversity
  - Health & Safety
  - Grievance/Complaints
  - How Seetec will store and use my personal information

Signed:.....

Print name:.....

Date:.....

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 Seetec. 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 signing 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 September 2017, has been deducting/penalising people for refusing to sign contracts with the Seetec business. Seetec 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 Seetec, what legislation (according to the Department of Social Protection) allowed them to punish citizens, for refusing to sign into a private contract? To those being bullied into signing, the Department of Social Protection would quote that 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.

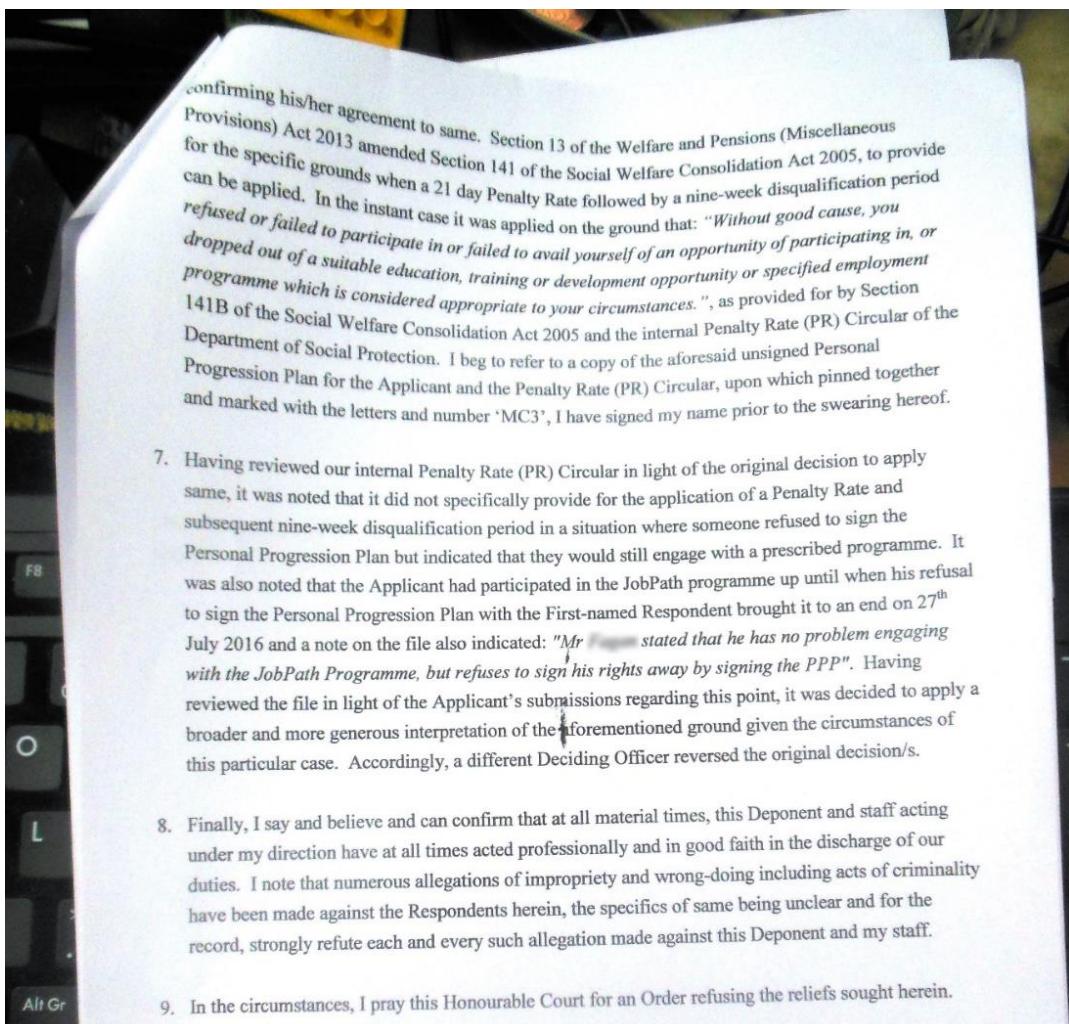
Not only were they wrong – they continued to apply on others, unwarranted illegal penalties subsequently after they were informed as to tender rules. Anyone previously that had been punished for refusing to sign their data rights away or disliked being forced into signing a private contract, were made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

When one victim took the brave step to challenge what was going on, it was reluctantly discovered by the state 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 a victim of Seetec and the Department of Social Protection’s wrong - also possibly illegal actions. The letter stating the above was sent to a victim on behalf of the Department of Social Protection. Had he like very many, not actual 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 PR punishment. They continue to do so with others to this very day. They are also not telling similar objectors they cannot be punished.



An obvious question therefore arises “*Why are those signatures so desperately needed?*”

We have been left to conclude the following:

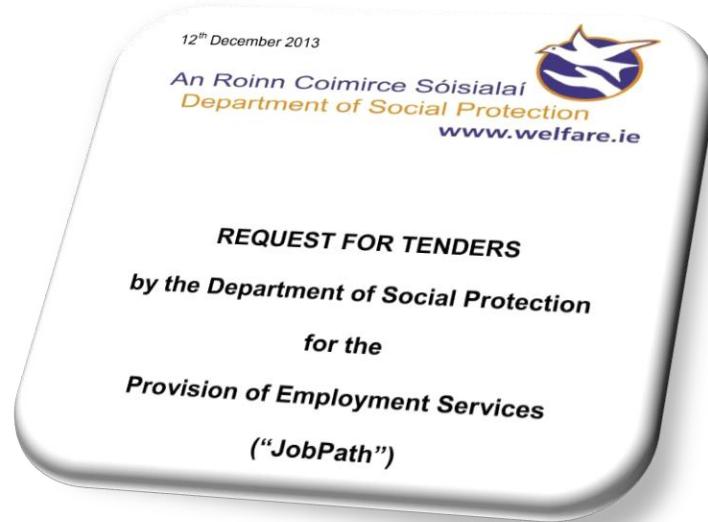
- (a) For Seetec to further profit more times in a year than just at a course conclusion or a job being obtained for a person going through the Seetec experience.
- (b) Due to the Social Protection department and Seetec acting retroactively, in trying to obtain further legal rights from people, to do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

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 Seetec plan, the private company gain continuous payments for every person that is put through the Seetec 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 Seetec 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 Seetec 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 Seetec involvement, there could be a point of contention with the state not having to pay Seetec 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 *not* because of their efforts in any actual realistic way!

Initially, the Department of Social Protection would like all unemployed to sign up upon receiving their ‘invite’ (turn up *or else!*) – but one might estimate that Seetec more definitely

needs those that do turn up, to confirm they have done so – by confirmation through their actual signature.

Those needed signatures when shown to the state as further proof of signed up numbers, means greater private business end profits. **Signatures = money.** The unemployed are a financial asset.

Those signatures are needed as confirmation, to be passed on to the state, for the claiming of payments. The signatures however are also needed as legal confirmation that the “client” has agreed to commence a full 52 week period with Seetec.

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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 Seetec 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 Seetec involvement.

Seetec could rightly argue in some cases, there is good reason to ‘dumb-down’ a person’s CV, in order to gain any employment whatsoever. Unemployed citizens have been doing this themselves, in order to desperately gain any employment – however, we still have to be conscious of the fact Seetec, down to the way a successful tender process was laid out by the state, leaves the private company open to question regarding how they operate in many ways.

This is a matter UnitedPeople believes requires further examination. For the state or Seetec to examine this situation further, might be seen as an admission that there is indeed, something open to question. So UnitedPeople estimate that (a) there will be deniability of the issue existing at all or (b) a Social Protection/Seetec 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?

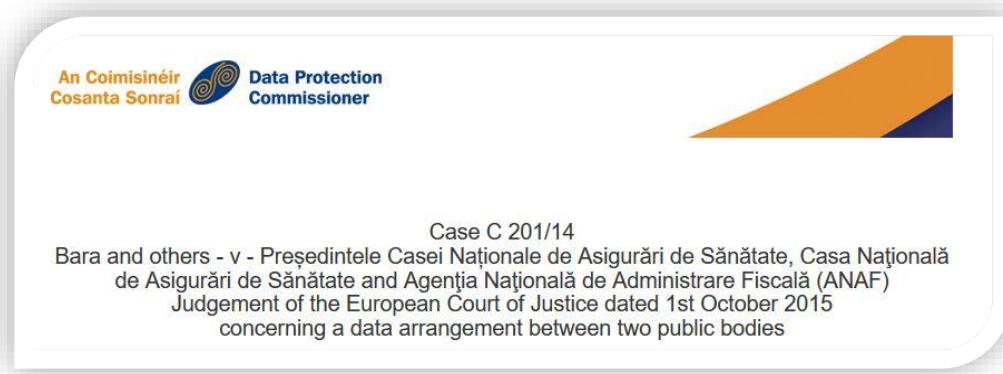
### Situation (b).

*“Due to the Social Protection department and Seetec 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 drawn up by the state 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 very serious questioning!

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.



Case C 201/14  
Bara and others - v - Președintele Casei Naționale de Asigurări de Sănătate, Casa Națională de Asigurări de Sănătate și Agenția Națională de Administrare Fiscală (ANAF)  
Judgement of the European Court of Justice dated 1st October 2015  
concerning a data arrangement between two public bodies

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 identity, 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 <https://goo.gl/3A1G7a>

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<sup>nd</sup> 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 were notified as to an upcoming data transfer etc as the ECJ had ruled, was legally necessary.

It can only be concluded therefore that the state was 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, is subsequently being exported out of Ireland and saved 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.

## 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. l123456) 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 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 log-in systems have this critical issue; elvis.seetec.co.uk, client.seetec.ie and inwork.seetec.ie – all are too vulnerable with date of birth only, as a way to obtain access.

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.

In all of this, the Irish citizen whose data at the core of possible illegal activity, is not being told.

They are being kept completely in the dark and bullied in too many cases into signing their personal data rights away *or else* they face financial penalty via Seetec reporting them to Social Protection.

## July 2017 - An Post blankly refuses to state how it got people's personal details, citing: "not in the interest of the public".

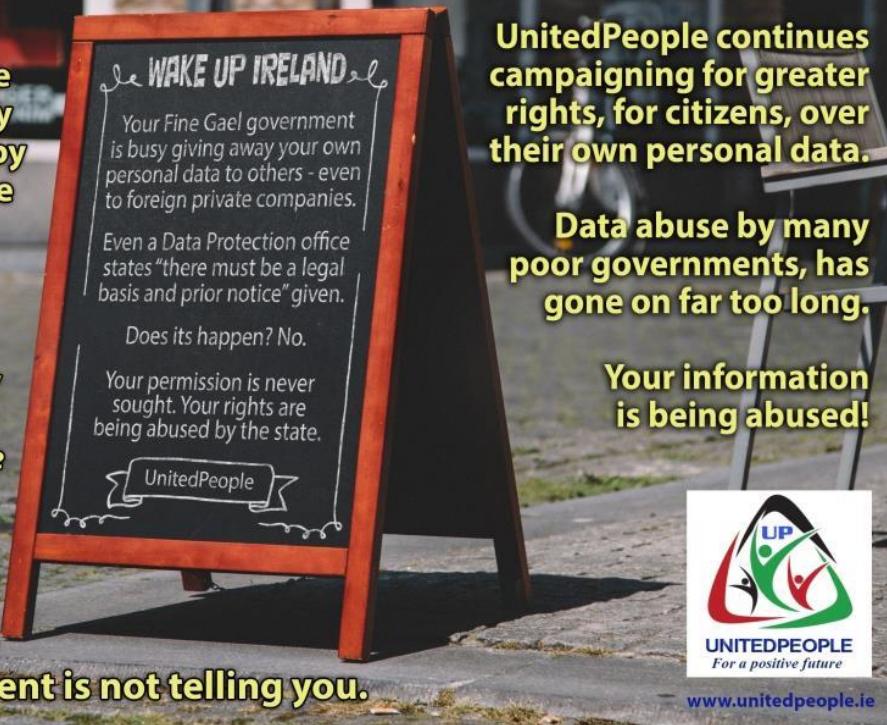
See: <https://goo.gl/Wy3RpD>

**Fine Gael and those propping them up, are breaking the law. They are ignoring a ruling by the ECJ 2015 Bara case judgement.**

**"Even where there is a legal basis for data sharing, it is necessary that people know that sharing will take place before it happens."**

**It doesn't!**

**There is much your Fine Gael government is not telling you.**



### 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” are asked to sign into a contract with Seetec as soon as possible. *Retroactively*, this in theory, they might think, gives Seetec 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 Seetec 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 Seetec 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 been 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 on people’s very basic information but also on matters related to their health and more** – and is willing to process this data in order to churn out results that would later suit a private company, when handed over!

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 usage.

*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”? What 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, across Ireland. The viewing, storage and processing of all that information is being carried out with little or no further information being deliberately shared.

### 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

*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.*

cut anyone financially off without warning, without 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 Seetec’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 **CANNOT** 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, did NOT have the legal power to cut off anyone’s payments, due to any non-signing of a contract with a private company.***

***...But this is what has happened many times, possibly in nearly every town, in every county, around the country.***

**...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 mone - nor that they never even had the power to do so in these particular situations! The main concern again by the state was just (again) to force more people around the country into *yet again* more company contracts. Be it legal or not!**

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 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 Seetec 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!**

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:*

- 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).*

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 already 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.

## Victim Statements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I'm still annoyed about this.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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From: M S.

Subject: Seetec

I'm currently on Seetec programme, being told to attend every week now, being forced to go to minimum wage jobs. I was a finance manager was earning over 90k. These jobs are all minimum wage, which results in a take home €343 per week. I currently receive €237 per week. If I'm forced to take one of these mind numbing jobs I will after travel and lunch costs of €60 Euro minimum. I will also have to pay for my monthly prescription of €128 as I have just qualified for a medical card. I will be worse off than I am now, in a position that is an entry level and of no interest to me. Whilst I spend over 50 hrs in work and travel. It has a severe impact on my seeking a job with a living wage. Is there anything I can do? It's affecting my mental health. I

also have a €51k personal debt, which I couldn't even possibly begin to pay on the minimum wage.

Thank you.

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Hello,

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

The whole tone of the appointment completely changed, using bullying tactics, was told I had to apply for the minimum wage jobs, as I was not being 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 or cut off my Jobseeker's Allowance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

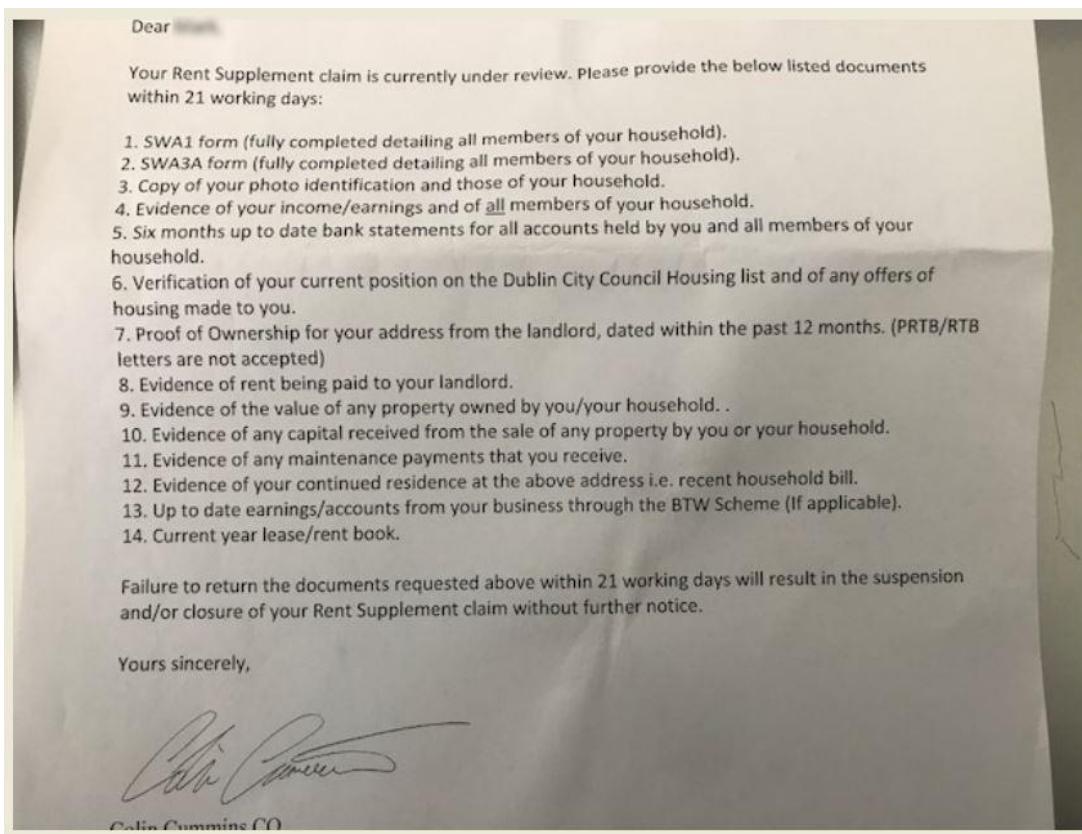
My emotional state of mind now is in tatters, I'm simply struggling to cope with this pressure. I will go see my local TD on Monday clinic, but I don't have any trust in politicians who can stand by and watch people who are in dire straits treated like this.

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!

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Hi there,

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

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

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

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

Regards

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

It's basically taking advantage of vulnerable people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They are doing stuff in the background. They have Seetec jobs shown on their website, but that's just a front. 17 jobs the last time I checked, they don't show all the jobs otherwise people would ask questions as to why they can't apply for them. Click a job and it says '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 says '*if you are unable to attend you must contact us as soon as possible in advance*'. This fools both clients and government. It fools the government because it's so blatant that people don't really have to attend if they don't want to and it fools the clients because we are being used as scapegoats to make them look like they are enforcing some kind of affirmative

action, so to speak, but we are like a minority group now anyway, especially the way we are being discriminated against.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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I 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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The job is telephone sales for BT. It's called 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.

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

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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.

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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.

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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 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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **START.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## THE SOLUTION

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

**END.**

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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?

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Dear Sir or Madam,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regards,

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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?

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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

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Subject: Seetec Harassment

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

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

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

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

I began to suspect that they were getting some sort of commission for clients getting off welfare, and upon the smallest bit of research my suspicions have been confirmed. It is yet another

shameful turn in Irish politics to allow this to happen, and proof, if we needed it, that the politicians who have engineered this move are morally bankrupt with no interest in developing a proper vision that would advance the needs of the Irish people and our culture.

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Subject: Shameful

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

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

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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?

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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.

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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".

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Hello,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Social Protection and requested a holiday form so my money would be kept for me on my return and hopefully disabling Seetec from messing about with my payment.

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

I did laugh when I saw the 'incompetent' new adviser had given me my first appointment for bank holiday Monday 7th August. I wrote and pointed this out and now I have a new appointment for when I'm away at my sister's even though I told them in my phone call of this matter. (Social Protection told me I can have two weeks off together once I let them know.)

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

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

Seetec, it's not fit for purpose.

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

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

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

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

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

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Hi, I was called today for the 4th time to the Seetec office in Sligo. A girl who I initially met 3 weeks ago seemed nice enough today she was very different. Arrogant and patronising. I have to travel into Sligo from 24km away they don't care, I wanted to claim travel costs today as I only receive 12euros since December before that I would receive 60Euros a 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 retail 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

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Just to tell you what happened to my friend with Seetec. She is now dead two months. She was in Seetec and got diagnosed with cancer. She had to go to Galway from Leitrim for treatment. Anyhow she missed appointments but always sent letter in relation dates of her treatment etc.. They ended up cutting her off and she had no dole for two weeks until we got it sorted. We got her on long term illness money after that. But aren't they so cruel! They said whoever was dealing with her didn't see the letters she sent in and told dole she was missing appointments with them

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

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

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

Hello Txxxxy,

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

Using a state, legal made process. to intimidate people without a care as to individual people and their circumstances, sadly has become the normal approach from yet again, a bullying political party. They are not on their own however in guilt. Fianna Fáil and Independents, still propping

Fine Gael up while this is being done, are now equally guilty. They are also allowing this situation to continue but are deliberate saying nothing and doing nothing as of yet, to resolve the massive situation growing in number of incidents, day by day, all across the country.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

UnitedPeople.

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# 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.

## REQUEST FOR TENDERS by the Department of Social Protection for the Provision of Employment Services ("JobPath")

**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 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 30 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.

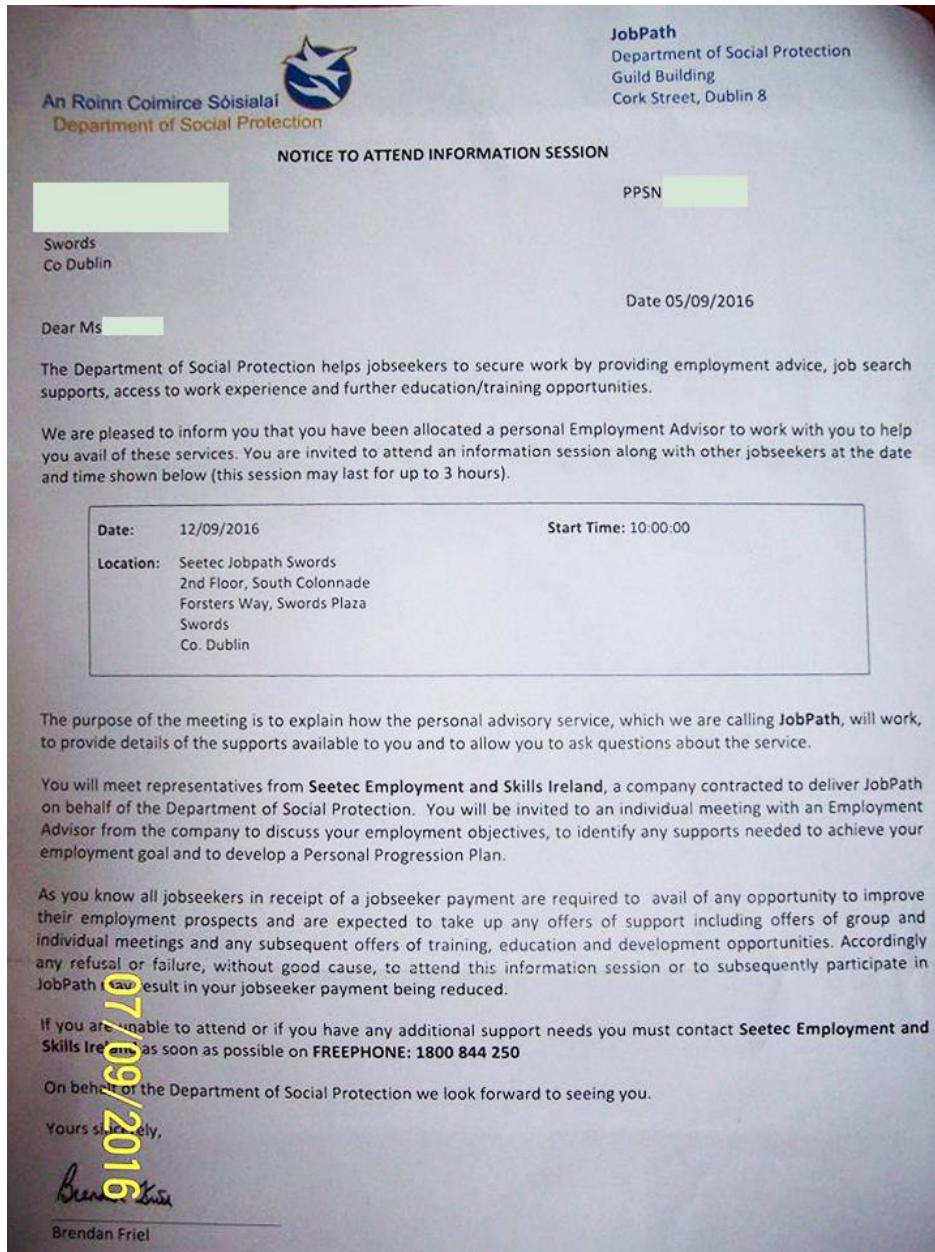
Cost of travel to and from, in some cases the hiring of babysitters or childcare, abandoning of other part-time work, etc is causing not only greater financial strain but raising stress levels also. One case was reported to UnitedPeople, where a lady became so stressed at allegedly being bullied by intimidating 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, press-ganging 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.



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 I to this RFT (“Requirements and Specifications”). The services required to be delivered on foot of this RFT as set out in Appendix I 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 it 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?**

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?

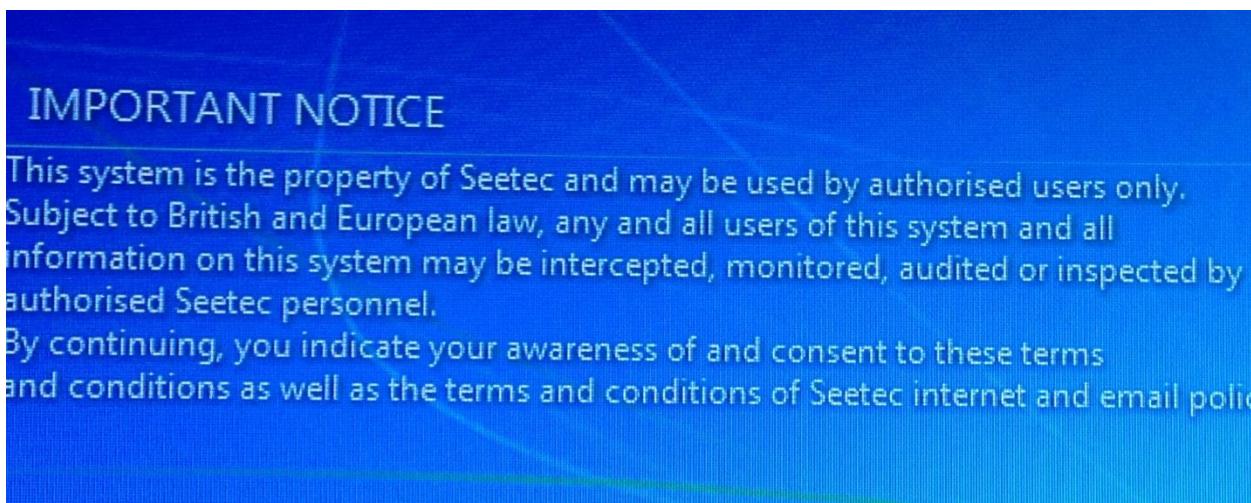
*Who indeed, guards the guardians?*

## 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 as 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.



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: [www.seetec.ie](http://www.seetec.ie) – 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 (<https://goo.gl/b7VjuK>) 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!”**

## 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 mapping	
Root Server Glue IP	ns.link-connect.net.uk.	82.144.239.30
	ns01.link-connect.net.uk.	82.144.228.34
	ns02.link-connect.net.uk.	82.144.228.3
82.144.239.30 [ns.link-connect.net.uk.]	-	
82.144.228.34 [ns01.link-connect.net.uk.]	-	
82.144.228.3 [ns02.link-connect.net.uk.]	-	

DNS Traversal - performed using e.root-servers.net.	
Server	Name Servers
a.ns.ie. [77.72.72.44]	ns.link-connect.net.uk. ns01.link-connect.net.uk. ns02.link-connect.net.uk.
b.ns.ie. [77.72.72.34]	ns.link-connect.net.uk. ns01.link-connect.net.uk. ns02.link-connect.net.uk.
c.ns.ie. [194.146.106.98]	ns.link-connect.net.uk. ns02.link-connect.net.uk. ns01.link-connect.net.uk.
d.ns.ie. [77.72.229.245]	ns.link-connect.net.uk. ns02.link-connect.net.uk. ns01.link-connect.net.uk.
e.ns.ie. [199.19.2.1]	ns01.link-connect.net.uk. ns.link-connect.net.uk. ns02.link-connect.net.uk.
f.ns.ie. [199.19.3.1]	ns02.link-connect.net.uk. ns01.link-connect.net.uk. ns.link-connect.net.uk.
g.ns.ie. [192.111.39.100]	ns01.link-connect.net.uk. ns02.link-connect.net.uk. ns.link-connect.net.uk.
h.ns.ie. [192.93.0.4]	ns02.link-connect.net.uk. ns.link-connect.net.uk. 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...

IP Address	Autonomous System Number (ASN)	Internet Service Provider (ISP) / Organization	Location
193.82.153.208	AS1290 Telstra Europe Ltd	Telstra Limited	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

#### Server Locations

193.82.153.208

Location	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (GB)
Latitude	51.4964° (51° 29' 47" N)
Longitude	-0.1224° (0° 7' 20" W)



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-Employment Portal - <http://inwork.seetec.ie>**

Once you are in work this portal offers a wide range of interactive career development resources

So if you want to learn a new skill, e.g. "Moving into Management" or just want to update your existing skills, such as improving your IT knowledge with an Microsoft Excel® refresher course, then this in-employment portal is for you.

The portal offers the opportunity to complete inspirational career personality tests for you to discover more about you as well as career development resources on a wide range of topics. It even offers regular discounts and special offers on the latest brands via Groupon, everything from holidays to your weekly shop.

Start by checking out the 9 interactive sessions specifically written to help you in the first few weeks of employment:

- Making a good first impression
- Developing positive relationships at work
- Success in your first weeks
- Developing your career
- Understanding holiday and sick leave
- Dealing with problems at work
- Building a relationship with your manager
- Keeping control of your workload
- Keeping yourself motivated

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]	
Financial Year	Turnover Amount
1	€
2	€
3	€

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 €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: <https://goo.gl/Ca6RaX> - <https://goo.gl/nmjKoM>)

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.

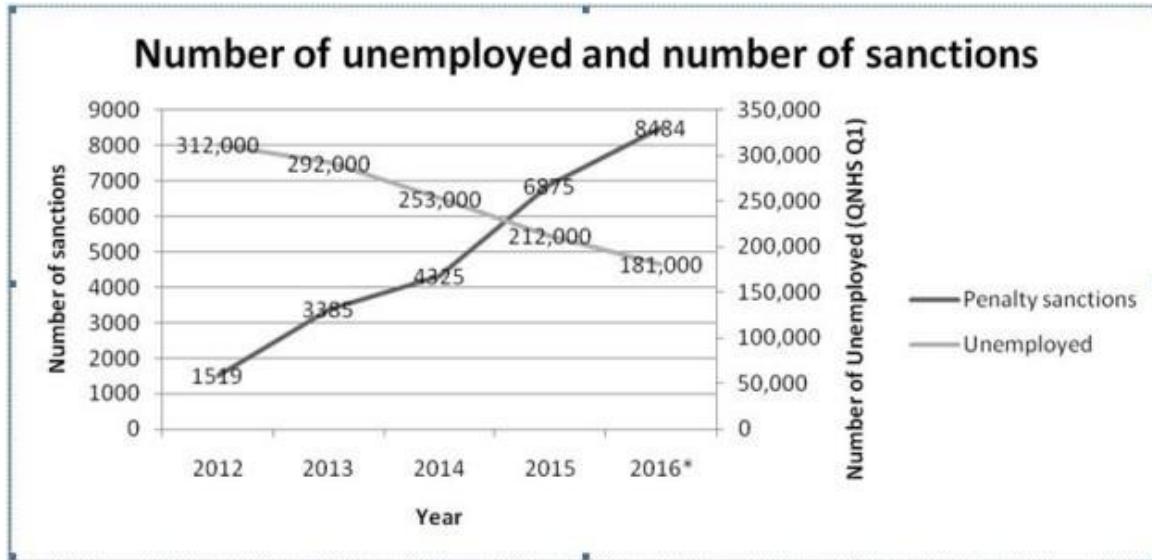
In the UK, Seetec has found itself under investigation regarding people being processed through it and possible fraud. Here in Ireland there is certainly a number of similar questions that has arisen along similar lines.

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** x 9 weeks sanction = **€567,000** withheld by the state, from unemployed.

Even if a minimum of **€40** was deducted instead of the full €180, the final number is **€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?

## The Personal Progression Plan

Page 1

<b>Personal Progression Plan</b>			
Seetec Centre Address:	Telephone No:		
Customer Name:	PPS Number:		
Home Tel no:	Address		
Mobile Tel No:			
Email address:			
Preferred Contact Method	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mobile		
Access to Computer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Public Building <input type="checkbox"/> No access	Seetec Employment Advisor <input type="checkbox"/> Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Contact No:	
Term Unemployed	Access to Car	Job Supports Required	Restrictions on time
Years 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Licence <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Endorsements <input type="checkbox"/> None Detail: None required	<input type="checkbox"/> Evacuation Assistance Required Detail: None required	<input type="checkbox"/> Childcare <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> None Details: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Months 6			
Work Pattern	Ideal Travel Time to Work	Preferred Income	Formal ID documents held:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shift Work <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Days <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nights <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W/E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commute time 40 (minutes) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to Public Transport Details: None required	Weekly €0 Monthly €0  Better Off Calculation Completed Not Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services Card  Have You Got The Appropriate Right To Work Documents?
Job Goals	Job Goal 1 (primary) (available now)		Job Goal 2 (Secondary) (ideal)
Job Role	Supervisor (data processing)		Supervisor (data processing)

An Roinn Coimíche Sóisialai  
Department of Social Protection

Version Number: 1.7



JobPath | **Seetec**  
EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS  
IRELAND

As you are being turned into a “Client” you are given a “Personal Progression Plan”.

This plan in Seetec’s view will be imaginative, their view of how you should progress.

...If you don’t stick by it, you have a threat of the sanctions even hanging above your head.

Seetec will give you the plan and ask you to sign it on two particular pages. What the private company WON’T do, is to inform you of the full implications of signing the form.

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.”*

03 May 2017

DECLARATION

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.

I have received the Seetec JobPath Client Information Pack, which contains details of the Service Statement.

I have received the Seetec JobPath Client Information Pack, which contains details of the Service Statement

Copy of completed document must be given to client

Seetec signature	Client signature
Date 13 Jul 2016	Date

An Roinn Coimíre Sóisialáí  
Department of Social Protection



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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 now if you sign this page, you are agreeing to abandon that Jobs Club completely and go with a private company who's staff in majority, have been quickly trained, of far less experience in helping others – and in some cases not even trained themselves, in what they are supposed to be assisting others in!

Your right of choice also is being taken away from you to choose what way you wish to continue looking for work – 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 Seetec's version.

**If you don't, the threat of benefit sanction will be thrown at you!**

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 - jobs however low paid and not what you want to be doing.

**If you don't, the threat of benefit sanction 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 Seetec to agree to letting you do that. You likely have more chance of winning the lotto.

One person UnitedPeople was informed about, wanted to finish her nurses training but the private company wouldn't let her. They wanted her instead within their rented property, sitting down and just applying for other jobs including cleaning work.

Seetec 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 qualification (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 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 sanction 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) being allowed to do it!

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

Seetec might try claim that the Dept' of Social Protection are the ones bring in the previous threat of sanctions – and in many cases brought to UnitedPeople there was the statement from some staff of Seetec that '*they are only following orders*'. Does this sound like something you might have heard previously from a World War Two crimes against humanity trial?

\* We are **NOT** comparing Seetec 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.

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 culpable.

...Back to main point however... If the Dept' 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 **this** document page, you are **thereafter** awarding **SEETEC** the rights to punish you. So if you have not signed it yet, how can they (not the Dept' of SP) already be threatening you? This is a private company and they are asking you to sign that they gain the legal right to punish you. Is this in your best interest? **Seriously?**

Seetec will get on to the Dept' of SP claiming you are being “uncooperative” by not signing this agreement, a transfer/weakening of your personal right to a private company – and ask that by rules you have already agreed to – that does NOT include a private business being able to punish you, that in their view you *should* be punished for not agreeing! This is just crazy stuff!

**...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 Seetec – whom you have not awarded that legal right to yet!**

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

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.**

**Lets go to the next page they expect you to sign...**

sion Number: 1.7

03 May 2017

**DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT**

The Department of Social Protection and / or its servants and / or agents may process all information and personal data provided by me for the purposes of the Social Welfare (Consolidation) Act 2005 and / or for the administration and control of schemes administered by or on behalf of the Minister or the Department of Social Protection.

**CONSENT**

I understand that the information and personal data provided by me will not be disclosed otherwise in accordance with law.

Should I find employment while I am participating on the JobPath Programme, I give my consent for SEETEC or a representative of the Department of Social Protection to contact my employer so that the details of my employment can be confirmed. I understand that any information provided by the employer to SEETEC may be shared with the Department of Social Protection.

Seetec signature

Client signature

Date

13 Jul 2016

Date

An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection



**JobPath** | **Seetec**  
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IRELAND

Version Number: 1.7

The previous 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 UK exported! ...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 os 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...

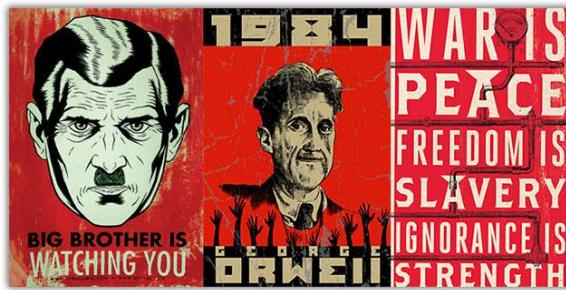
How dare you question and look for any exact detailed answers! *The nerve of you!*

....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

## Minister says Public Services Card is 'not compulsory but is mandatory for services'

Social Protection Minister Regina Doherty says the card is mandatory for her department's services.

Aug 25th 2017, 1:06 PM 32,132 Views 202 Comments f Share 1070 t Tweet e Email 2

THE MINISTER FOR Social Protection Regina Doherty has said that the Public Services Card (PSC) is not compulsory but is mandatory to claim social welfare.

The minister was speaking as a number of stories have emerged of people losing out on public services because they do not have a card.

There is no legal requirement for Irish citizens to hold the card and the government has denied that it is making the card compulsory.



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 PoWs) *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 €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.

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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.

## 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.



**UNITEDPEOPLE**  
*For a positive future*

## 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.**



JOIN TODAY.  
HELP MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE.

**CALL 083 431 5065**

OR EMAIL: [ADMIN@UNITEDPEOPLE.IE](mailto:ADMIN@UNITEDPEOPLE.IE)

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](http://www.unitedpeople.ie) - email: [admin@unitedpeople.ie](mailto: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 (l) (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 are 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 is 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

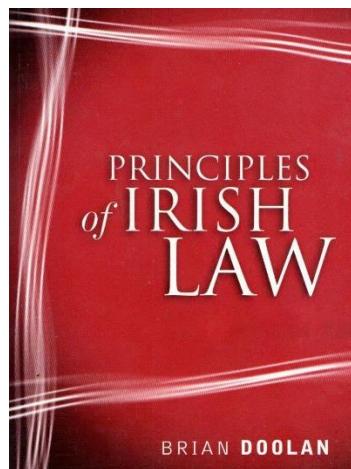
This is when a contract for a purpose which offends the common good, is void. Such contracts are declared void when it offends the constitution. Contracts can be illegal by statute when they conflict with already set precedent statute law. A contract which infringes the provisions of a statute, is illegal. 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.

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## 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 set-up 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 been 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 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 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!

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*For a positive future*

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END.