

Evidence free policy for the sake of outsourced service...

Published: January 13, 2026, 2:01 pm

As the [Guardian](#) [has](#) reported:

Thousands of jobseekers have been referred to a mandatory work scheme that has done nothing for their employment chances, has made them more likely to claim [benefits](#) in the long run, and may have had adverse consequences on their physical and mental health, government research has found.

Published late on Tuesday evening, the Department for Work and Pensions' own assessment of its mandatory work activity (MWA) programme was filed at the House of Commons library just three hours after the employment minister, [Chris Grayling](#), announced that he would be pumping in millions of pounds of extra funding to expand the scheme so it could take up to 70,000 referrals a year.

That's evidence free policy making again, therefore.

But the scheme is no doubt great for the outsourced service suppliers, and no doubt that's the whole motivation for its continuation.