

Funding the Future

Article URL

Published: January 12, 2026, 6:53 pm

There are [2,520,000 unemployed people in the UK](#) at present, assuming the data is correct.

Not all of these people claim benefits as a result. A majority do. Those who succeed in claiming have to be dedicated to finding work: it's not easy to evidence but these people (more than 1.5 million of them) succeed in proving their intent despite that.

So these people are involuntarily unemployed, there is no other reasonable interpretation.

But the only possible explanation of Tory policy is that they do not accept that claim. It seems most really think that there is no such thing as involuntary unemployment. That accords exactly with their chosen economic theory. If, that says, there is a real market - without control - then everyone will be priced into work. Blow that they may not be able to live on that wage; we now know that being able to live on your income is not their concern. They think it is the duty to work, not the duty of society to ensure people can live with dignity.

The Tory belief that there is work for all thrown off benefits can only be explained by this economic assumption.

The assumption is obviously wrong: there is very obviously involuntary unemployment, and it is very obvious that sub-subsistence wages are paid. But this evidence is ignored by Tories when creating their benefits policy.

I sincerely doubt that the giant social experiment the Tories have launched can survive for long; people will suffer too much for it to survive. But the fact that it has even begun shows how far removed from reality this government, those who support it and the economists who have legitimised it really are.

And that is deeply worrying.