

What's behind the Treasury idea that GP's should prescr...

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I have [posted this thread](#) to Twitter:

According to the Guardian 'GPs could write prescriptions for money off energy bills for the most vulnerable under a plan drawn up by the Treasury'. Let's just think about that for a moment. A thread....

To provide a caveat, the Treasury has not said Team Truss has adopted this plan as yet, but it's been put out as an idea for a reason, and it must exist, so what's wrong with this proposal?

I ask what's wrong, by the way, because struggle as I might I can find nothing good to say about this idea.

The first and most obvious problem with this plan is that GPs are already overwhelmed with work. Trying to get a face-to-face appointment is already hard in many areas. How is that going to be helped by turning GPs into debt counsellors?

Second, GPs have no training of any sort in this issue. Why on earth should they suddenly become experts in appraising household budgets in a ten-minute appointment (at best) and so be able to determine the right amount that a person needs in support?

Third, how much will they, in any case, be able to prescribe? Too little and this is a joke. Too much and it is obviously open to abuse.

Fourth, how is this process to be integrated into the benefits system? GPs operate on condition of medical confidentiality. How are they to transfer data to say to whom they have supplied help, and how much?

Oh, and fifth, will team Truss insist that the first part of any payment due be used to pay any fines due for missing GP appointments?

Come to that, sixth, what will the prescription fee be, and who is going to cash it, and how? If the prescription is for a maximum of £100 then the current standard prescription fee is going to be a big slug to pay.

Let's be blunt, very obviously none of this has been thought through for practicality. So, it's instead fair to say that this is not being put into circulation as a serious proposal. There must, therefore, be another motive or motives for suggesting this. And of course there are.

The first motive for this is to trivialise the issue: the pretence is that something might be done, but that the matter is not that significant, meaning it can be dealt with as a tack-on task to be undertaken by already busy people.

Underpinning this motive is contempt, both for those who will not be able to pay their bills because no proper support system is considered necessary for them and for GPs, who we can only presume are thought by the Treasury to be doing nothing very useful.

The second motive is to undermine the NHS. The obvious aim is to make people turn on their GPs and claim that they were denied support when they asked for it by a GP and as such it is all the fault of GPs that we will have a cost of living crisis this winter.

When the whole purpose of the Tories is to divide people against each other as a way of distracting attention from the destruction they are deliberately promoting this must be considered, in their book, a classic policy proposal.

Nothing comes closer to the Tory goal of creating dissent than detracting division between people and the NHS that is a necessary pre-condition, so far not achieved, for privatising it.

The third motive is simply to blame 'lazy, well-paid GPs' for refusing to help. You can just see the Mail headline saying that.

That GPs literally have no more training to help on this issue than they have with sorting out a patient's plumbing is beside the point: the refusal of the GPs to do something they cannot possibly do will be their fault, and not that of politician's stupid enough to dream this up.

And the fourth motive? That will be to provide the excuse that because it will become nigh on impossible for people to get appointments to claim this money if the scheme were rolled out there could not have been actual demand for help because so little will be prescribed.

In other words, the government will say "we put aside £2 billion to help but less than £50 million was used so there was obviously no real problem to deal with, and we actually did all that could have been expected of us." Don't blame us, in other words.

I'm sure there might be other as sinister motives beside these, but you get my drift. This is a deeply cynical ploy by politicians intent on causing harm, stress, and division in society whilst claiming, wholly untruthfully, that they are seeking to help.

So terribly Tory, in other words. And so typical of the playbook of those pursuing the pathway to fascism, where chaos, disorder and division are essential.

Please read this 'plan' for what it is in that case. This is the act of a political party intent on abuse, which has already won by getting headlines for this absurd idea. They are truly evil.