

Was Boris Johnson right to call the Treasury a 'pro-d...

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Boris Johnson apparently described the Treasury as a 'pro-death squad' during the course of the Covid period according to notes made by Sir Patrick Vallance, then chief scientific adviser to the government. There is, apparently, no reason to doubt the credibility of his record.

There is good evidence that the austerity measures that this country has suffered since 2010, largely to appease successive Chancellors of the Exchequer and their Treasury mandarins, has delivered an enormous toll in terms of premature deaths. Whether it has been denial of healthcare, or social care, or the failure to provide appropriate housing, or inadequate benefits meaning that the elderly, in particular, have been unable to keep themselves warm, or the opposition to lockdowns during Covid, the untoward impact of the Treasury on the people of this country has been quite staggering. My old friend, Prem (Lord) Sikka has suggested that the toll runs to many hundreds of thousands in a tweet yesterday, and I have little reason to disagree with him.

In that case, is Boris Johnson's description of the Treasury appropriate?

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