

Appendix 2: Selected coverage of inaccurate claims:

Each of the inaccurate claims lead to widespread and inaccurate reporting in the media. Much of this coverage was unjustly stigmatising and unpleasant towards benefit claimants.

Below are examples from print and web media only of the coverage for each of the three inaccurate claims in turn. We believe that while media has the responsibility to report accurately, those who provide stories also have the responsibility to give accurate information – as well as to correct inaccurate information when it comes to light.

1 Nearly 900,000 people drop claims for incapacity benefit

Initial Press Association Story:

Nearly 900,000 drop benefit claims, 30/03/13

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/nearly-900-000-drop-benefit-claims-225950176.html#TkS3SMV>

Other National Coverage:

Nearly 900,000 drop benefit claims MSN 31/03/13

<http://news.uk.msn.com/uk/nearly-900000-drop-benefit-claims>

A third of incapacity claims dropped, Sunday Times 31/03/13

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/Society/article1238781.ece [paywall]

900k drop claims as benefit reforms bite, Daily Express 1/04/13

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/388416/900k-drop-claims-as-benefit-reforms-bite>

900,000 choose to come off sickness benefit ahead of tests, Daily Telegraph 30/04/13

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9963012/900000-choose-to-come-off-sickness-benefit-ahead-of-tests.html>

Just one in eight on sickness benefit is truly too ill to work: Almost a million drop benefits claim to avoid new test Daily Mail 1/04/13

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2302122/Just-sickness-benefit-truly-ill-work-Almost-million-drop-benefits-claim-avoid-new-test.html>

Tories in turmoil over benefit cuts: Austerity programme shambles as Iain Duncan Smith 'admits defeat'... but Work Minister takes on malingerers Sunday Mail 30/03/2012

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2301703/Tories-turmoil-benefit-cuts-Austerity-programme-shambles-Iain-Duncan-Smith-admits-defeat--Work-Minister-takes-malingerers.html>

2 The Benefit Cap has caused 8,000 people to decide to enter work

Initial Story from Daily Mail

1 in 4 facing a cut to their benefits has found work, Daily Mail 12/04/2013

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2308159/16-000-fewer-households-affected-benefits-cap-500-half-jobs-rest-moved-cheaper-houses.html#ixzz2SbzTWmB>

Other National Coverage

Benefits cap rolled out in four London boroughs, Independent 15/04/2013

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/benefits-cap-rolled-out-in-four-london-boroughs-8572756.html>

Minister claims benefit cap is boosting employment Inside Housing 15/04/2013

<http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/tenancies/minister-claims-benefit-cap-is-boosting-employment/6526522.article>

Iain Duncan Smith: Benefit cap to hit fewer households than expected BBC Website 12/04/2013

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22121323>

Benefit cap 'will encourage people to work' BBC Website 15/04/2013

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-22148764>

Benefit cap will hit 40,000 households, says DWP PublicFinance 15/04/2013

<http://www.publicfinance.co.uk/news/2013/04/benefit-cap-will-hit-40000-households-says-dwp/>

Benefits cap trial begins in London, Guardian 15/04/2013

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/apr/15/benefits-cap-trial-london>

Benefits cap 'an incentive to work', MSN / PA press.net 13/04/2013

<http://money.uk.msn.com/benefits-cap-an-incentive-to-work>

Cameron hails 'big day for welfare reform' as jobless are told they cannot receive more in benefits than working families, Daily Mail 15/04/2013 (online version amended 23/04/2013)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2309275/Benefits-cap-trial-David-Cameron-hails-big-day-welfare-reform.html>

Benefits cap: Minister tells couples not to split up to get around welfare changes, Daily Telegraph 11/05/2013

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/9994323/Benefits-cap-Minister-tells-couples-not-to-split-up-to-get-around-welfare-changes.html>

3 DLA “Closing-down sale”

Initial Story:

I will go after bogus disabled... some of them DO get better! Ex-TV host who is our new Work Minister on the UK's THREE MILLION claiming disability benefit Daily Mail 30/04/2013

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2301735/I-bogus-disabled--DO-better-Ex-TV-host-new-Work-Minister-UKs-THREE-MILLION-claiming-disability-benefit.html>

Initial Story Containing misleading data:

Last-minute rush to avoid tough new test for disability benefit as Iain Duncan Smith praises reform of 'ridiculous' system Daily Mail 8/04/2013

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2305556/Last-minute-rush-avoid-tough-new-test-disability-benefit.html>

Other Coverage

Disabled benefit claimants flooding welfare system to 'get ahead' of test, warns Iain Duncan Smith Daily Telegraph 08/04/2013

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/9978231/Disabled-benefit-claimants-flooding-welfare-system-to-get-ahead-of-test-warns-Iain-Duncan-Smith.html>

Iain Duncan Smith defends disability benefit reforms The Scotsman 8/04/2013

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/iain-duncan-smith-defends-disability-benefit-reforms-1-2882442>

IDS: Reforms of disability benefit 'common sense' ITV Website 08/04/2013

<http://www.itv.com/news/update/2013-04-08/ids-current-disability-benefit-system-ridiculous/>

Duncan Smith defiant as disabled benefit changes bite Channel 4 News website 8/04/2013

<http://www.channel4.com/news/duncan-smith-defiant-as-disabled-benefit-changes-bite>

Three disabled claimants launch legal action against new mobility tests Guardian 8/04/2013

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/apr/08/disabled-claimants-legal-action-mobility-tests>

Disability Benefits: New System Rolled Out Sky News Website 8/04/2013

<http://news.sky.com/story/1075119/disability-benefits-new-system-rolled-out>

Iain Duncan Smith Defends 'Common Sense' Disability Benefits Reforms As They Come Into Force Huffington Post 8/04/2013

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/04/08/iain-duncan-smith-defends_n_3034952.html

Iain Duncan Smith: People Are 'Rushing To Claim DLA Disability Benefits To Avoid New PIP Health Checks' Huffington Post 8/04/2013

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2013/04/08/iain-duncan-smith-dla-pip-petition- n_3035836.html

Disabled reforms are 'common sense' says Iain Duncan Smith Evening Standard 8/04/2013

www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/disabled-reforms-are-common-sense-says-iain-duncan-smith-8563848.html

Iain Duncan Smith: Benefit changes mean people will no longer be given ridiculous lifetime awards Metro 8/04/2013

<http://metro.co.uk/2013/04/08/iain-duncan-smith-benefit-changes-mean-people-will-no-longer-be-given-ridiculous-lifetime-awards-3587068/>