

# Tackling poverty, reforming welfare

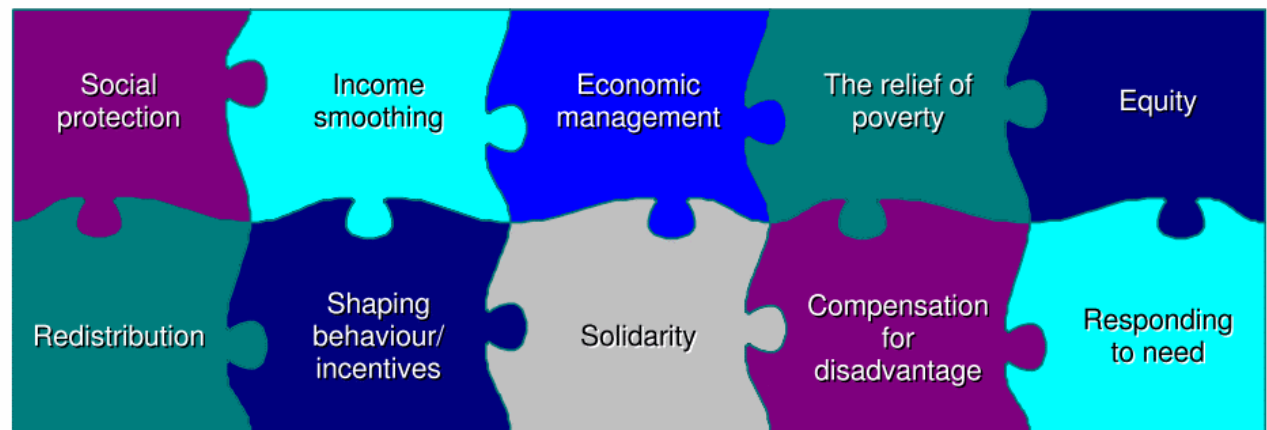
*Paul Spicker*

*The Robert Gordon  
University*



# The aims of social security provision

- "Work for those who can"
- "Support for those who can't"



# Welfare reform



## Individual responsibility

"The individual's right to support in exchange for clear personal responsibility for improving their own circumstances"

## Personalisation

Individual entitlement

The Gregg report:  
individual support

*"work ready" group*

*"progression to work" group*

## Conditionality

The Freud review: "intensive intervention"

Penalisation/ sanctions

Compulsory entry to programmes

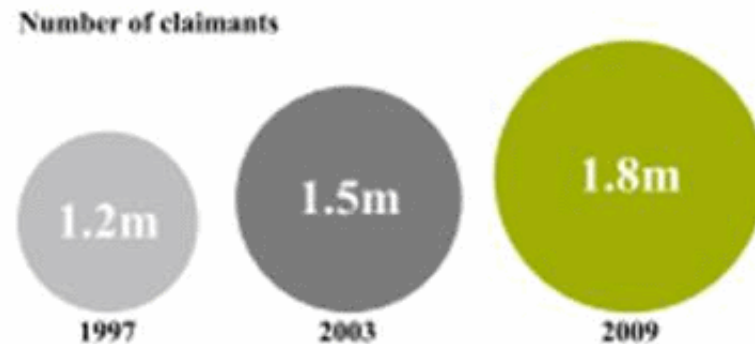
"Work for your benefit"

# The coalition government's story

- 'Out of work' benefits are out of control
- Benefits trap people in poverty
- Dependency is a lifestyle choice



*Figure 3.1: The numbers of working-age Disability Living Allowance claimants have increased by over 40% since 1997, from 1.2 million to 1.8 million*



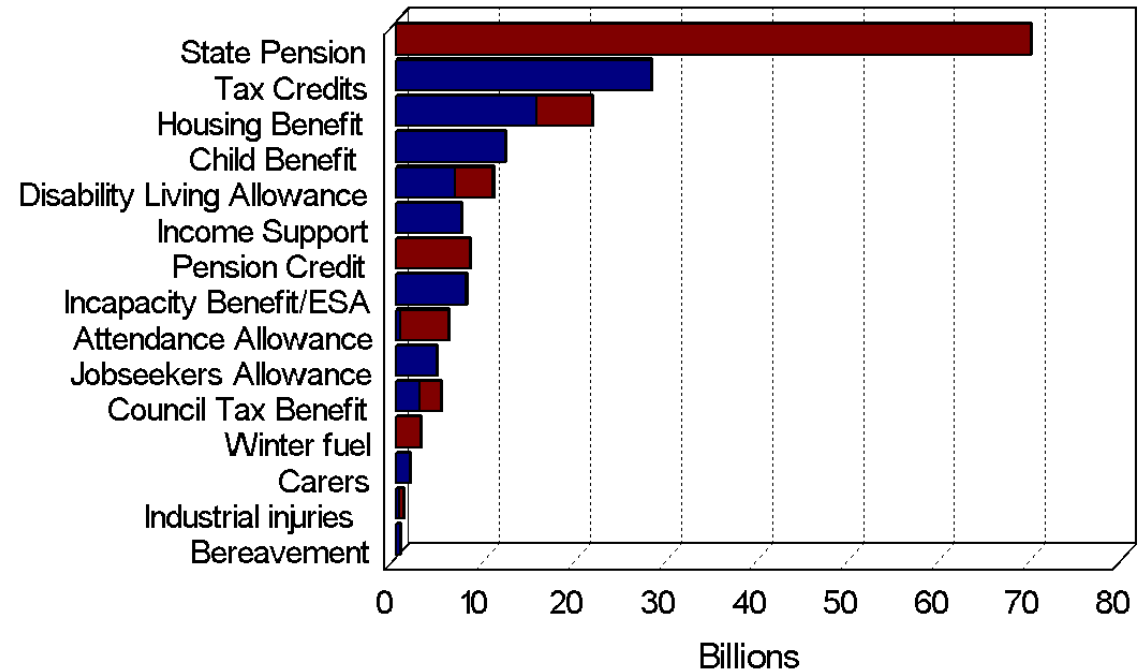
Source: DWP Tabulation Tool and Quarterly Statistical Releases

# Spending on social security



## Social security spending

2010-11



Sources: DWP, HMRC

*Two thirds of DWP spending is for older people  
Many benefits are for people in work  
JSA, ESA and IB together account for less than 10%  
91% of very long-term working age claimants are disabled*

# Changing benefits



## Universal Credit

Incentives to work  
Responding to personal circumstances

## The Work Programme

Focus on work  
Payment by results

## Benefits and disability

Medical reassessments  
"Work related activity"  
The reform of DLA

## Benefit cuts

Upratings  
Housing Benefit  
*end of 5 bedroom rate*  
*capped LHA*  
*single room rate*

# Welfare reform in Scotland



## Administrative organisation

The coordinating tier

*Ingeus Deloitte*

*Working Links*

Remote and rural areas

## Incapacity

Disability, incapacity or early retirement?

Medical reassessment

The problem of older males

# The Scottish Government



- Antipoverty framework

*Removing barriers to work*

*Increasing "resilience"*

- Employability

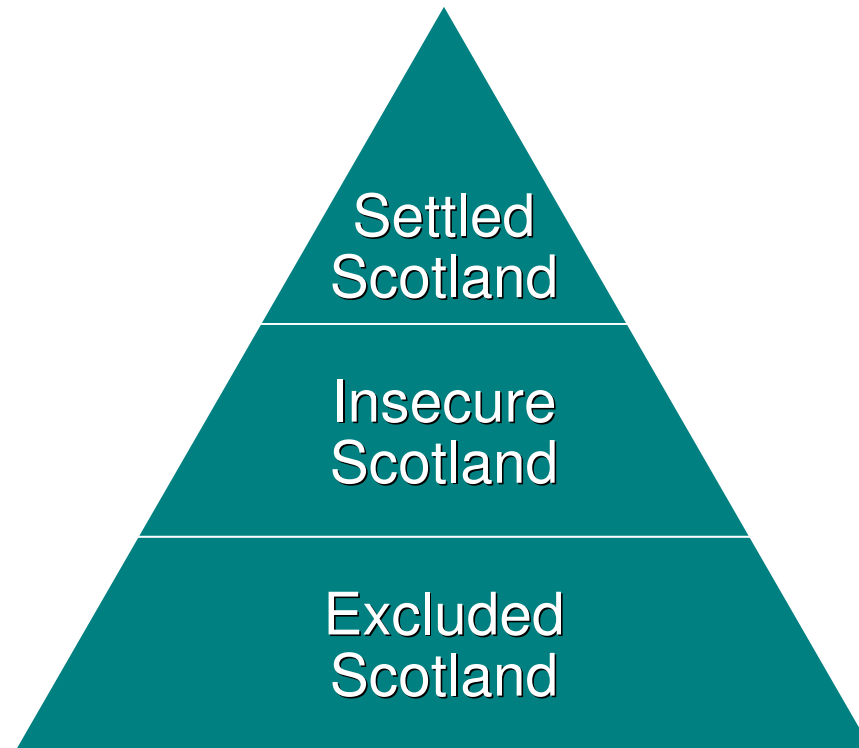
*"Delivery of sustained, holistic, personalised support which is client rather than provider focused"*

*"The promotion and adoption of ... service provision which effectively connects with individuals"*

- Welfare Reform Scrutiny Group

# Three Scotlands

*Scottish Council  
Foundation*



*The problem of insecurity*

*The need for a secure income*

*The problem of incentives*

*The problem of personalisation*

# Lone parents



- The "cycle of deprivation"  
*Prevention*
- The position of dependent children
- Work before everything  
*activation*  
*incentives*
- The reform of maintenance

# The direction of policy



The government wants	They should want
simplicity	managed complexity
personalisation	stable incomes
commercialisation	cost-effective services
more emphasis on work	social protection
individual responsibility	support for the labour market