

## **The tragic self-destruction of those that care for us**

In the last week of March the news briefly highlighted two kindred and tragic stories from our frontline welfare services. They both involved the suicide of women in the face of intolerable work pressures. Both women were well-respected and valued by colleagues and family. One was a school headteacher dreading a downgraded OFSTED report for bureaucratically technical failings. The other was a hospital doctor who buckled and then destroyed herself in the face of scapegoating and bullying by her powerful and prestigious NHS Trust – events now acknowledged by that Trust.

Such reports are not just dismal threnodies for unfortunate individuals; they are stark indicators of how much we are misconceiving and mismanaging in our welfare services.

I have much earlier personal experience of the damage our askew systems were generating. In 2016, at the age of seventy, I was scapegoated and forced out of my small NHS general practice following my many years of campaigning against our unviable reforms.

Evidently, unlike these two tragically trapped and humiliated women, I exited into reluctant coerced retirement rather than quasi-volitional death. But my 2016 story, written then with fresh clarity immediately after those dramatic events, has become ever-more relevant. It is a miniature portrait of how apparently laudable policies can and do become so perversely destructive.

For this reason I attach my 2016 article: *Death by Documentation: The penalty for corporate non-compliance*. I hope it is of interest and use for you. You are welcome to quote from it, or publish it entire as a link in any related digital publication.

I am also very willing to discuss my experiences and subsequent understandings.

Thank you for your attention.

**Attachment**

Article 74: *Death by Documentation: The penalty for corporate non-compliance*

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