

Overpayment of Income Support Benefits Review – Submission from Anonymous 4

Social are an absolute joke, due to my many health issues especially my [REDACTED], I was offered to help in [REDACTED] salon, just to make teas/coffees and I loved talking to the elderly ladies as they never judged me. It helped me so much.

I called social to inquire before I worked, the gentleman told me I could work up to 8 hrs without it affecting my benefits. You think you can believe what you're told, but oh no I was given the wrong information. So I worked 4 hrs every Friday and never went above 8 hours. Well they contacted me to ask about this little job I was doing, and then called in for a meeting, I was told "a lot of people think you can work on benefits", which you can but never tell you they take 74% of what you earn. And it's not a lot. I used to take £40.00 home so with 74% taken off I was barely taking anything home.

So I now have to pay back all that money until 2024. And I was also told nobody would have told me what I was told, so I said your calling me a liar then, and they said no we are not, but you have a lot of money to pay us back. End of basically. You cannot fight with them as they are always right and we are liars. Furious was and still is an understatement of how I feel. So I had to give up the little job and the old people who helped my confidence so much. So I hit rock bottom again and just gave up and didn't leave my flat for months, as all my confidence had gone and my mental health deteriorated badly, but they don't care less. Thank you