

KB: What should happen next with the work capability assessment?

BYRNE: So the WCA is basically broken and it needs to be rebuilt, but crucially, what we've got to do is actually incorporate a much better assessment of what people actually need in order to get into work and to thrive, so I'm afraid it's that big, a redesign and a rebuild is going to be needed.

KB: Would you get rid of it?

BYRNE: Well, I think that you've got to include some kind of assessment, because you've got to find a way of making sure that eligibility is sorted, but crucially, you've got to make sure that people have got a good assessment of what they actually need to help them prosper and thrive and that means redesigning the way that it works at the moment, because at the moment, it's purely about rationing.

KB: Do you think it was right to outsource the assessment?

BYRNE: It could be, but the way that it was done was a disaster.

KB: But you guys did it, yeah.

BYRNE: Well, I was actually one of the, when I was shadow secretary of state for DWP I said that we should sack Atos...so I don't think there is anything in principle wrong with the way it was, with the idea of outsourcing something like that but the way that the government did it and ran the contract I'm afraid was a big disaster.

KB: Okay, a very quick word then on the Independent Living Fund. What's Labour's view on that? Any view at all?

BYRNE: I'm afraid I've got to talk to these chaps and then I've got to get home because my kids are on their own.

KB: Okay, so no view on the Independent Living Fund?

BYRNE: I've got to talk to these folks first.