

Bosses employing disabled workers snub plea by IDS to cap their salaries... and hand themselves £1.5m BONUS

By [Robert Verkaik](#)

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Bosses employing thousands of disabled workers ignored Government pleas to cap their own pay and awarded themselves £1.5 million in bonuses and benefits.

Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith personally asked the board of state-funded Remploy to show restraint in the distribution of a bonus windfall to its top-tier management.

But the directors went ahead with 288 bonuses and then embarked on a redundancy programme which

unions say will target half of its 2,800 disabled workforce.



At risk: The disabled workforce of Remploy is facing redundancy - but the company's directors went ahead with bonuses

The payouts, which are subsidised by the taxpayer, saw directors handed bonuses of up to £15,000 each and include benefits that amount to more than the annual salaries earned by some of the workers.

Last month, Remploy began a controversial voluntary redundancy programme, and on Tuesday unions will consult on strike action in protest at job cuts as the company faces up to falling orders for its

products, which range from electrical goods to furniture.

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GMB national officer Phil Davies said: ‘The factory sites have been starved of work because of an incompetent and overpaid management. The trade unions will not accept this situation and will fight to stop the sell-off of disabled jobs.’



Snub: Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith asked the board to show restraint

The company paid its management team £1.5 million in bonuses and benefits last year. Its accounts show that chief executive Tim Matthews, 59, who once listed drinking champagne among his interests in Who's Who, took home a record total package of £180,000.

He also claimed thousands of pounds more in expenses for hotel stays and meals.

Remploy finance director Nigel Hopkins received a £140,000 package, including a £15,000 bonus.

Further figures show that in the past three years consultants working with Remploy on the redundancy and other ‘modernisation programmes’ have been paid more than £6 million.

Maria Miller, the Minister for Disabled People, said her department had requested that Remploy apply the Government’s bonus cap, but one of the Remploy managers successfully went to court to force the company to uphold his payment.

She said: ‘The department therefore has no power to restrict the payment of these bonuses.’

A Remploy spokesman said that the redundancy programme was voluntary. He added: ‘Performance incentive payments are based on several criteria including company performance and managers’ ability to remain within budget.

‘Remploy was very effective in reducing overheads during 2009-10, the period covered by the bonus.’

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socialism at it's best, ids should tell them if they go ahead with their plans to give themselves bonuses funding will be cut and the program privatised

- scouser, liverpool, 13/2/2011 11:58

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Name the Judge who over-ruled the Minister's directive?

- Dee (retired teacher), Cyprus , 13/2/2011 11:53

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What gets me about all these bonu's paid out to certain workers is that they are paid to do a job efficiently. Yet bonus's seem to be pair whether they are efficient or not. If I was in charge I'd make sure people employed by me were informed the day they

applied for a job that the wage they were to be paid had to be earned, if they failed to earn a certain level of profit for the employer, then they would be paid less. B***er the bonus's. I have friends who are often, through no fault of their own, disabled, and they are treated like slave labour in most places that employ them. They are the ones that make the profit for the company but it's the bosses that pocket the bonus's. It isn't right, no matter how you look at it.

- Harry Eales, Home Rule for Northumberland,
13/2/2011 11:50

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Easy targets.The side of the UK that stinks.

- Dave, Surrey, 13/2/2011 11:46

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"Maria Miller, the Minister for Disabled People, said her department had requested that Remploy apply the Government's bonus cap, but one of the Remploy managers successfully went to court to

force the company to uphold his payment." Since when have bonuses ever been 'guaranteed'? That court ruling should be examined and, if appropriate, appealed. Surely if a company makes a loss NO bonuses should be paid. I expect the argument the senior management use is that they were based on 'personal performance'. If that is the case and the company is making a loss then THEY should be sacked, not their employees.

- Legal Beagle, Reading, UK, 13/2/2011 11:40

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What are the odds that Atos will find all of the disabled employees that are made redundant fit for any job?

- Alan, Gloucester UK, 13/2/2011 11:37

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