

PEACOCKS: USING WORKFARE INSTEAD OF PAYING STAFF

“If companies can keep getting staff and not paying them, how are people like me ever meant to find paid work?”



Peacocks' Sutton store has 10 workfare placements at one time. This person's story shows job applications are ignored when free labour is on offer instead.

“Our local branch of Peacocks hadn't long reopened. I put my CV into the store for consideration. Instead, the Job Centre sent me on a work placement at Peacocks for 32 hours a week. Barring the two managers and one supervisor no one else in the store worked anywhere close to those hours. I found out the manager never looked at CVs that had been handed into the store.

“Instead of offering paid work to people, they seem to be able to staff their stores with a constant flow of work placements. Meanwhile, despite having applied to the store for a job as soon as it opened, I ended up working longer hours than staff for no pay.”

It is unacceptable that paid jobs are being replaced with unpaid labour. People should be paid at least a living wage for the job they are asked to do. Poverty levels are already very high in many areas. **Why should people be forced to work for no pay?**

- **Workfare does NOT get people into jobs.** A recent government report found that workfare has “zero effect” on helping people find work. **Workfare is about driving down wages and subsidising the private sector.**
- **Workfare affects ALL of us.** Workfare placements replace REAL vacancies, taking away genuine paid jobs.
- Under workfare schemes unemployed people have to work for nothing or they **face benefit sanctions which can mean destitution.**

There is a growing movement of opposition to workfare schemes, and in response a number of companies have quit the programme.

What you can do:

- **Boycott Peacocks** until they agree to pay staff properly.
- **Speak to the manager** of this branch and say you don't agree with their company using unpaid labour.
- **Expose Peacocks** on Twitter and Facebook until they stop using workfare. Or send them an email via their website.

More information and get your rights:

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