BMC 0:00

Policy documents coming out of Scottish Government, starting to mention, well being quite a lot. But my argument is, well, there's not really a translation into hard policy, you know. And so, hoping to get maybe a little kind of better feedback from guys like yourself about, how do you see… does that actually chime with you about, you know, yeah, there's lots of chat about it. There's lots of engagement, but it kind of just hits a bit a barrier, you know, when I get to say government level, you know….

Interviewee 1 0:30

I should just say, now, said that I've only been with IPPR for a couple of months. Okay, I worked with the Scottish Government for seven and a half years in a variety of rules.

Interviewee 1 0:42

Before that, worked for the STUC for 15years, industrial policies, having discussions about subjective Well, being in the Scottish economy for a very long time,

BMC: exactly, you know, as I've been, the more I've done it, the more realized these conversations been going for quite some time, you know. But I suppose the first kind of area I was interested in, the Do you think that the actual term well being or the aims of a kind of well being economy or a well being population. Is it actually threaded in every aspect of policy development? Or do you see, or would you see it as a kind of, not quite lip service, but of a kind of, you know, they're going through a process, but nothing's getting through?

Interviewee 1 1:37

I think it's somewhere probably in between. So

I think rhetorical level that well being is reasonably well embedded in the Scottish Government's policy agenda. As you just said, well being is mentioned in an awful lot of reports. That kind of box is kind of ticked. A lot of references are made to the well being economy, etc. Is there a robust common understanding of what that means and how that actually is embedded in real, practical policy measures. I don't think there is, I think not… some distance from that. Actually, I wonder about ministerial commitment to the agenda and point the other thing they're committing to. So I think they very much enjoy being, for instance, part of the wellbeing economy Alliance…the WeGo. I Think it it's somewhere probably in between. So has that had a tangible impact on policy development in Scottish Government? I mean, I couldn't really say it has, particularly in terms of the distribution of renewable resources. I'm not entirely sure. So that's not considerable that Scottish Government hasn't done things that would be consistent with our well being agenda. But I think that's very much included quite random and I talk so, for instance, the Scottish child payment could absolutely argue is very consistent. You know, a well being agenda putting more money out the pockets families which I wasn't, who did that money, that's that's very good. But you know, is that a product of thinking about well being, and is it just much more kind of mundane, if important issues about the distribution resources across I'm not really sure that it's really seen through a well being lens, and certainly the areas kind of more familiar with the economy and the labour market, I think we talk a lot good game about the wellbeing economy, it's very difficult to identify genuine, tangible changes in policy development and implementation that have been driven by a robust understanding of what is meant by well being economy. So I don't really think the whole kind of missionary round of economic development Scotland has changed that much. I think, you know, if it has been an effect, it's been a kind of negative one. And when it comes to economic development. The Scottish Government came to be quite faddish, you know? So, yeah, well, being economy, that's the role. Get on board with that community wealth building. We'll get on board with that, how all of this actually fits together, and how it performs itself in a coherent whole. I think they are miles off, to be honest.

Interviewee 1 4:20

So, yeah, I mean,

Interviewee 1 4:22

I wouldn't really dispute

Interviewee 1 4:27

the kind of underlying commitment, you know,

Interviewee 1 4:29

not can they say ministers are anti wellbeing. I just think they're a very long way off of having a really careering agenda here based on a kind of common understanding of wellbeing. Beans and seeing it feed through any genuine policy outcomes got

BMC:

you mentioned that you had a bit of a focus on the economy side of things. Do you think there's been a sea change in how the economy is measured. There's lots of studies suggesting that we should stop measuring economy using GDP and use other factors, like, you know, all these other well being factors like life satisfaction and happiness, etc, etc. Has there been any evidence on that front where there's been a shift in measurement.

Interviewee 1 5:25

I mean, this is now a very long standing debate, you know. I mean, I'm kinda, I'm kinda a group of one or a lot of this things, a lot my friends, kinda, particularly from stuc days, are kinda really active in the well being agenda. They've really taken a stance against GDP. I kind of think a lot is based on a kind of misunderstanding. I don't think governments have ever been wholly driven by GDP. I don't think that's the case. I mean, you look at me back in the resourcing service towards the 2000 and 71st SNP administration, they can they don't have a really kind of laser focus on boosting the growth rate Scotland, but it was all tempered by the colder three golden rules, kind of solidarity, cohesion, but making it absolutely explicit that it was never it's not really all the growth, but that growth has to be fairly distributed across the People and by area in Scotland, and there's no point achieving that growth otherwise. I mean, there's been numerous initials over the last 20 years looking at better ways to measure the economy. I think all these have at some value. But again, I think it's based on this assumption that governments have only ever been interested in GDP, and you get the Scottish Government. I mean, the world office with chief economic advisor and looking at Range of metrics. And these metrics are fed back to ministers. It's never really just about gdp because, apart from anything else we measured, GDP in Scotland's very difficult. A lot of that GP, because we get high rates of foreign ownership, is leaving our shores immediately. I think you know, there's absolutely equally as interested in labour market outcomes. You're also very interested in employment rate, youth unemployment, how that employment rates, but the gender etc. And I think the whole national performance framework for Scotland, again, was kind of built up to kind of measure just National Performance very differently in the economic aspect of apple cider agent measures beyond GDP, every kind of you know, another thing is mostly things that we do worry about that are not GDP. Can you be very technically correlating the GDP? Actually, the GDP is going down. Tends to be pretty bad for most of the other things we would tend to suggest is more of kind of social

Interviewee 1 7:43

orientated, internals, you know. So you mentioned your talk. When

Interviewee 1 7:48

you come there, you've done loads of work through the business and the performance frameworks, and certainly we're speaking to them. I am a wee bit skeptical about the whole agenda. I think I worry that there's a danger we put a lot more focus in kind of measuring stuff and kind of doing stuff and improving the economy for the people of Scotland, you know. And a low GDP emitter, it was never intended to be a measure of well being. I don't think it's you know best. It's been used as a proxy for that.

Interviewee 1 8:21

And I think it's, you know,

Interviewee 1 8:24

people who are really interested in this, we can only perform, so they've always looked at the edge of things anyway.

Interviewee 1 8:30

So, yeah,

Interviewee 1 8:31

I don't know. I mean, it's an absolutely legitimate debate, but I kind of worry about it, you know, it's almost as if the kind of sections are left. Think we've won a real battle with changing kind of measurements, you know? Yeah, you risk missing. So, you know, GDP is not the whole story, but does tell you something pretty important. Labor market stats tell you something very important and much more tangible. If GDP goes down, the county of less people in employment. We know that employment, being employment, is really bad for people who will be so we can look at kind of measures that, ostensibly, one of my pals always used to give an example of. We should measure how many girls go to school on their bikes every day, because that tells you loads of good stuff. True. It does you go and see that number going up, if you ever chose that as your main target, all you see is money going to making sure those are going to investment be taken from elsewhere. You know, become very quickly a really bad measure. I'm thinking it's just a really difficult area. There's been loads. I mean, you're way back 2007 kind of Stiglitz. And who's the French government at the time? Yeah, hiking. There they use the Cameron government. Forget Cameron put a lot of work in

2010

BMC:

That's right, he announced the whole Office of National Statistics, you know, we're going to start measuring different ways, you know, using different metrics, I know. So you mentioned the community Wales building thing as well. Do you think that's an important aspect in Scotland? And also, you mentioned the, you know, the kind of foreign, foreign ownership to, you know, how do you, how do you improve the underlying economy? Do you think that that's that's a barrier to a moving things on in Scotland,

Interviewee 1 10:33

a so I think at very minimal, we should discuss ownership much more than we used to nowadays. Don't really bother about it.

There's been so I mean, the classic example at moment would be the renewable sector. So the kind imperative is getting projects up and running. And although really bothered about whether these are foreign investment or indigenous investment, you can understand, given the imperatives around the climate change, where we just want projects up and running. But you know, if you're thinking about national economic welfare in the longer term, frankly, it's just much better if these companies are indigenous. You know, because the money they make will stay in the country. They might choose to invest elsewhere, but by and large, it will stay in the country, and that things are significant impact in one of our biggest sectors, of risky sectors, almost exclusively foreign owned exporting sectors, some profits from one of your biggest industries, of Kinder flow shareholders abroad. Great place to be. There's no

Interviewee 1 11:38

understanding. A bit over

Interviewee 1 11:43

the longer term, these foreign firms have invested heavily in that sector. If they hadn't come in the sector, we replace it now. So

Interviewee 1 11:48

it's not a clean experiment.

Interviewee 1 11:51

I think being in a place where not just one year biggest interest but an industry that has to stay here, the provenance is everything that's all for ruins. That's not a great outcome for anybody. So I think ownership should be on up for debate much more than it is at the moment. I think if we had approached development in the renewable sector in a very different way, 20 years ago, around formed the National State for me to kind of lead on, I think we've been a better place in Well, now,

Interviewee 1 12:23

how all that looks to community wealth building. So

Interviewee 1 12:25

again, I mean, I know a lot of people involved in the community wealth building agenda are really good people trying to do good things. I can't help but being a wee bit skeptical about some of this. Because, I mean, I've had, for instance, when I was in government, there was this place in well being group established they can oversee community wealth building. In the second week of that group, I had five Council along, so they give the but, you know, get the slide back on. Here's community wealth building in the area. So asking questions as well, well and good. But in terms, can you tell us what you're now spending money on that you weren't spending money on before, and what you've stopped spending money on this part of your community wealth? And you couldn't answer the question. So basically, we're saying, when it comes to distribution, you do resources, but basically just doing what we're doing before we're back in a bullshit agenda.

Interviewee 1 13:20

So you could argue that we acknowledge

Interviewee 1 13:22

and importance, and I said it's incremental, etc, but I'm very, very skeptical.

Interviewee 1 13:28

I think, I mean, the I do, I mean, I probably, I guess, was about a leading question, because I'm, if it was, Don't me, I would be, I would, I would. I would have all nationalized, all that kind of energy infrastructure. It's like

Interviewee 1 13:44

I would, I would take a completely

Interviewee 1 13:48

hard line, the hard line on it a the the thing with the the using the community wealth building and other national performance framework things as well. Seems to be that the local authorities are being tasked with delivering stuff, but then doing it is one of my other interviewees called post hoc rationalization, or actually basically saying to themselves, Oh shit, we better actually do something on the on the MPF, on this at the end of the policy development, you know, I was wondering whether that's from, from your experience, whether that's a kind of, what's, what's happened as well. It's not in at the start. They can, I, you know, the the NPF, and all in all its areas of focus on national outcomes, actually think what, how do we apply this now, you know, kind of like after the event,

Interviewee 1 14:45

yeah, I mean, I think you see a lot of that.

Interviewee 1 14:47

I think you see a lot of that kind of clear posthoc rationalization. But you also see a kind of ongoing so from the early policy development stages in the Scottish Government will be maybe, you know, in a submission to minister saying we're going to design and implement policy X, there'll be a wee box on the bottom, and this ticks the box, and a couple of national performance outcomes, but actually, that's the blood doing it, because they'll try to reach those outcomes. It's just that the policy, and we can pretend that this thing is going to cover these areas, you know, but it's not really what's driving the policy. So I think it's not just post talk. It's kind of the whole way through. People are saying, What can we tie this to? That makes it sound as if it's consistent become Scottish Government objectives, even if it isn't really the whole

Interviewee 1 15:35

community wealth building

Interviewee 1 15:37

agendas. I personally don't think, I think the local economic agenda like that is possible when you've got a local government framework they have in Scotland and where local democratic participation is so woefully low, then how do you go and ever have through those structures genuine local economic development? I just don't see how it can be possible. But you can even tax locally, it will be on the council tax,

Interviewee 1 16:07

I would tend to agree. And I said, I said, because all this, this, this research, for me, is meant to be really objective, but I'm finding it incredibly difficult to remain so

Interviewee 1 16:23

try my best.

Interviewee 1 16:26

So was there? Do you think in the current, in the current, I guess, political and economic status quo? Do you think the subject of well being and all its associated labels is actually deliverable. Do you think improvement in economy and improvement in people's lives is actually a deliverable thing given given the, I suppose, a kind of dual nature of Scotland at the moment, where we've got, you know, we've got devolution and we've got a Westminster Government, kind of vying with each other all the time, and also combined with the kind of the political process of kind of like needing to do short term delivery by politicians, rather than, say, an arm's length institution, like they've done in Wales, for example, where they've got a Is it the futures generations Commission, or something, you know, to try and actually separate it out from from politicians who are there just for the short term, I think,

Interviewee 1 17:39

significantly enhancing economic, social and environmental well being with people of Scotland is absolutely vulnerable. And I think it's personally despair and people suggest otherwise. I think those decisions that can be taken very significant, but of course, not basically over the kind of longer term. You know, I think there's we can pretend very significant changes are possible with a very short term, much more challenging. But a thing is absolutely casement I've been struck the last few weeks, actually, speaking of Scottish Government Cabinet Secretaries who are really talking up the relationship, the Labor government, the UK level, people we can work with really constructive relations developing. And I just think from functioning of democracy angle, and that's really encouraging. That's really good. Our

Interviewee 1 18:29

report we are looking to publish at the moment is

Interviewee 1 18:33

developing a renewable sector in the devolved administrations across the UK, and that's your way to emphasizing the need to work consistently and constructively across different administrations. And I see the kind of grown willingness to do that, I think, which is good. But yeah, I mean, I think there's always choices

Interviewee 1 18:54

and political decisions, you know,

Interviewee 1 18:58

and we absolutely, I mean, I think the

Interviewee 1 19:03

labor, the new labor government, are being much too cautious regarding the public finances. I can understand politically, where they're coming from, but I would talk over the parliamentary term that changes, you know, I think in Scotland there's absolutely different choices we can make, you know, between very cautious when it comes to taxation, we've not reformed council tax significantly. We've not thought that introducing new taxes doing anything could particularly radical at all, and we have more tax bills than the Scottish government likes to, let alone. I think in terms of social welfare, there's really easy things we could do. We could remove the two child cap at UK level. We could reckon it's benefit levels to wages which would have a huge impact. From an action mechanism by which, if the economy starts growing again, then everybody sees their living standards improve. Loads of decisions across the boards we could make that improves things. I think in terms of industrial development, it's much more complicated. I think designing and implementing industrial strategy that should be going to generate significant numbers of good quality jobs across the country is a much more challenging task. But again, I think there's much more you can do in that space. You can try and try much harder, and then there will be failures in there. It's inevitable, but there's much more you can do.

Interviewee 1 20:25

So yeah,

Interviewee 1 20:28

I don't discount the difficulty of any of this stuff, but absolutely we can do to improve wellbeing.

Interviewee 1 20:36

I was over at the I was at the Scottish Parliament Building last night for an event for Scottish screen. So for my, my my sector, and Angus Robertson had done a very good speech on, you know, try to grow the film and television industry in Scotland. And having, you know, having everything based here, from writers all the way through the delivery of, you know, the kind of final product they want to build it up to a 1 billion pound industry by 2030 so they're talking, they seem to be making a lot of good noises on that front. But again, I would go back to the question of how, how they develop this and how they measure it as well. Because, I mean, from on the ground, you see things happening where people come and do a production in Scotland, but they'll ask, ask someone like me to bill it, because it's a company in London that's doing it, and they need the Scottish postcode, you know. So there's also a lot of kind of people who fly in, like a traveling circus, and then, therefore that gets measured as getting put into the Scottish economy, in the Scottish Film and Television sector. But it doesn't, because it's a kind of cookie cutter template thing of, okay, well, it's that size, so therefore it must be, it must be that that amount of turnover does, in your experience with other areas of economy, do you see that kind of measurement happening as well, where they're gonna as I kind of as a template of a of a measurement, and it's applied in my, in my opinion, incorrectly, when it comes to measuring things, or is it, is it? Is it just? Is it just in my neck of the woods, where things are, things are used as a cookie cutter measure.

Interviewee 1 22:27

Really, there's layers to that question. It's actually quite complicated.

Interviewee 1 22:35

So I think in terms of So, I think

Interviewee 1 22:37

most of the officials in Scottish Government and enterprise agencies, etc, do think about these things, and they do understand the difference between an investment where all the jobs and supply chain are based in Scotland and one where a lot of it's quite transitory. I mean, I think they get that, but I think what statistics ministers choose to use when talking about Scottish level, the pick and choose always be best case scenario. So one always gets views every year they talk about Scotland being the top fundamental investment. This is a survey of the number of projects, not the scale of project, right? So it doesn't tell me anything. It's just a number of roles. So, I mean, you could exaggerate, make a point. You could 400 projects employ one person showing up better than one project employees 250 people. That's unfair, but the way it's presented is misleading. You know, I

Interviewee 1 23:43

so when it comes to kind of your sector, I mean, again, I mean, when I was at SDC, I keep as a secretary for the Scottish Federation, entertainment union. So, I mean, there's a number of things about your So, yeah, there's that. How do you kind of ensure so? I mean, trying to build up that sector is probably a very strong case for the kind of investments that you're talking about. It might be quite transact, but over time, you've talked more in that print supply chain based in Scotland, whether or not it's a plan for doing that on road, but it doesn't necessarily been every project is a bad thing. If people are being flown out in Scotland, you know, over time, they're able to ensure more of that remains in Scotland. I'm not really close to the moment. I mean, other aspects, the arts and culture sector used to be really annoying me. So the national companies ministers would always be looking for deficiencies, because the numbers that come up year on year, sorry, from that kind of service, then the numbers have to go up year on year, because there's you can't generate productivity improvements. So a National Ballet Company to be a kind of manufacturing firm,

Interviewee 1 24:59

absolutely going. Things,

Interviewee 1 25:02

absolutely, just reading this book is called Wide computers get cheaper in healthcare. Buzzing

Interviewee 1 25:11

healthcare people.

Interviewee 1 25:12

It's a people driven service. So unless you're going to substitute people for machines, getting that service over time, will become progressively more expensive. That's why manufacturer products and products become progressively cheaper, because people are substitute for machines and try to pretend that your National Ballet, national fee or National Opera can be delivered more cheaply for just buying deficiencies. It's just ridiculous. It's just unserious. What really gets me is the people pretend that's possible, or treated as the serious people, you know, because they had so I kind of think the whole debate round about arts and culture and how it supported and what it really means in the economic terms is just hugely underdeveloped. It's not really just interrogated as closely as it should be. I mean, it's probably time for a good parliamentary inquiry. And economics, it's interesting

Interviewee 1 26:10

because interrogating, it was yourself that put that little that little tweet, wasn't it with a with a paper about the certain areas that you can't really touch. Yeah, absolutely fantastic. I love that. I absolutely loved it. I thought, of course, can I just soon as I read that, cut the couple of sentences, I went, of course, because I was thinking, AI is going to take over, you know, loads of aspects of our industry. But what it will do, it'll take away the labor intensive, high volume actions. So people who do maybe rendering a graphics for television film, that'll probably get trimmed down, but they won't write AI won't write stories. It won't. It won't go out and shoot a scene, you know, it won't. It won't impact on actors. It'll impact on as you see it through, through the 1980s you know. And you know, my dad was a, my dad was a steel worker. Made me co cutting machines and stuff. He lost his job because they could then computerize these skills, and on the, on the on the lathes, a kind of high volume skilled so I think that's, you know, certainly for arts and culture, I think will be, yeah,

Interviewee 1 27:35

machines can replace people. Those products become cheaper over time in those industries where they complement or enhance human activities. So healthcare is a classic example. Healthcare has changed radically. As you know, there's much more technology, but it doesn't replace people, so those services become progressive and more expensive. And that's okay, you know, because as a society overall, becoming wealthier and staying choices to pay for things. But it's just people confront the rally and the like to pretend that there are clever things we can do out there that's going to radically reduce the cost of providing health care or arts and culture, and

Interviewee 1 28:18

that aim, I won't keep me too much long as I realize that's too hot. I've just, I've got just get two more questions, actually, one of one Bob, sorry. Both revolve around the kind of stakeholder engagement, and I guess, from your organization's point of you is, how, how do you feel that you can influence government policy? And secondly to that, do you think there's, there's serious stakeholder engagement within Scotland, just in a general level? I can't need to speak just about, about subjective well being is just whether there's a, whether there's a, there's a route any government with, you know, proper, serious stakeholder engagement and serious kind of like, you know, you know, taking things on board and translating any policy from stakeholders.

Interviewee 1 29:18

No, I think the Scottish Government does take stakeholder engagement quite seriously. I think the bigger problem in Scotland is that Scotland is massively under resourced to get the most from that engagement. So when I was at SDC, I would pick up the phone at the Danish one of the two Danish trade union confederations, and I would speak to their economics department. It was just me, sduc, and they, like three or four economists, couple of statisticians. The other two Junior Confederation had the same you look across all of civic Scotland, and again, I'm mainly interested in the kind of broadly defined economic stakeholders, but don't employ a single economist, right? So it's not all about economists, but you know, in terms of analytical capacity, we have one Google Pacific, Scotland, that's no very good. So a lot of stakeholders are good at the campaign side. They're not very good at the policy development side. And if you really want to influence Scottish Government, ultimately you have to be taken forward credible policy ideas. They don't have to be fully formed, but they have to, you

Interviewee 1 30:31

know, and I don't think we're very good at

Interviewee 1 30:33

that. I mean, I spoke last week to all my very senior Scottish Government Special Advisor. She was really bemoaning the lack of quality and sitting Scotland. And every year she would keep the thumb through the submissions and advancing the program for government. She just the same people say the same things. We did do it five years ago. Why we're going to do this year or so? It'd be fair to make a reason for keep putting the same thing five years in a row. But the broader point is well made. I think, you know, we're just not so although government tends to get a kicker kicking for not being very good at engaging with different communities and truth in that market experiences, the door is pretty much open, but people don't make the most of that open door. And if you really go back, I mean, I was at a debate last night in Glasgow UD, about 10 years since Sunday, five years since revolution. If you go back to the kind of foundation, the Scottish Parliament was a real aspiration at Civic Scotland. We played a really strong role around at the parliament. It's not really happened. You know, a lot of Sunday schools also take a lot of money from the Scottish Government, the good old area that doesn't affect the government. I'm not so sure. I think you can point to, certainly, some kind of sub sectors are pretty much tried on Scottish Government agenda, which is not a great place to be.

Interviewee 1 32:06

A purpose to how do we

Interviewee 1 32:12

need your mechanism so

Interviewee 1 32:15

Frances, but I applied for the job earlier this year. I started at the start of July, they did them a first week to the three members in the recruitment panel, went to work in number 10, which was a bit of disconcerting. The UK level. Get very close to labor, good relationship to all the parties, but particularly close to labor. So now labor in government, then that's really clear, traveling to research, and there's constant engagement with ministers, SPADs and researchers Scottish level. Really good working relationship with Scottish Government. I've only been post a short time. We're ready. Meetings with a number of Cabinet Secretaries, special advisors, very interested in what we're doing. So we are, I mean, we're a wee bit highest at most time you post, and we're looking at what our research agenda is going to be moving forward, but we're going to be picking areas that we think are important, but there are opportunities to influence government of both Scottish and UK, where you've owned us a lot of mechanisms for doing that. So I mean very kind of Think Tank. We're not a campaigning organization, so not be seeking to influence by embarrassing, more persuasion and kind of quality evidence. We might be critical from time to time, but you know, we're not someone who's going to be screaming other people's thing, and we've got a really good talk in these terms. We do have a kind of good recognized brand within people series has been a serious research organization, and what tends to be, can people can take issue with it that tends to be pretty high quality. We spend the rest of the small and get through a paper that's going to publish in a couple of weeks, but just through a really rigorous quality assurance process within IPPR, yeah, so I mean really by the quality of our working on our spoke to influence company.

Interviewee 1 34:02

Who would you? Who would you say were the gonna top couple of kind of stakeholders outside of kind of, you know, actual government organizations that would maybe, you would maybe see, could be influence in well being, or, you know, you know, I'd be at the wellbeing economy, or be it actually down at the individual level, you know, either poverty campaign or employment campaigners or Yeah. So,

Interviewee 1 34:28

I mean, I would always say any kind of nation state, the two main stakeholders are trade unions and employer organizations, because they are the ones that hold a degree of power, influence, kind of can get things done. And of course, most other European nations, they found ways of, kind of bringing government and unions and employers together in a much more constructive way, kind of social partnership. They usually can, you call it. There's no tradition, really in the UK. And whereas, I've already said, our unions tend to be significant the resource compared to their European counterparts, with employer organizations, doubly so actually, I mean, unions tend to get picked on for lack of representation. Or employer organizations, you've got somebody who claim to speak for business and get tiny memberships, really can seriously claim to speak they never get challenged on it the way that unions do. Yeah, institute directors in Scotland, 700 members. Who are they? And you can see that the quality of the policy work, which is just direly to see the same things all the time, less tax, less regulation under any detail so I think there's much more that came down in Scotland, UK, to do build up those form different ways of working with those two sectors that could lead to much better outcomes beyond that. I mean, you've got those who are extensively well being and well being economy as their primary purpose had been very successful. Absolutely no,

Interviewee 1 36:14

absolutely good friends here.

Interviewee 1 36:18

I don't even, I don't even tell the professor who have been interviewing. I just, I just, you know, because I can't, I would need to then go through the whole ethics committee at South clay University.

Interviewee 1 36:32

Have these organizations really been bringing forward serious policy proposals? I mean, I would go further, and I think some of their agendas would be actively damaging to well being econ. I was in a meeting couple of years ago when I was in the government. I was doing a bit of work for about four day, working weeks in Scottish Government's proposal here on pilots, which one of our series

Interviewee 1 36:57

was in a meeting, there's a lot I was online. Was

Interviewee 1 36:59

kept hosted by a NGO account member who but the chap from the wellbeing economy, we all Scotland, and he was basically saying that benefits were assigned a failure and wages to be sufficient to ensure that household had enough disposable income as utterly

Interviewee 1 37:21

bonkers and dangerous

Interviewee 1 37:25

if you've got a single mum. You know, with four kids working at McDonald's, that wage is never going to be enough. Even a McDonald's radically improved this wages point, if you double this wages, the wage wouldn't be enough. So you're always going to need a welfare state. Welfare state exists to ensure that households have enough income single workers, if they're living on their own, yeah, their wages, you would hope, would be sufficient to cover their needs. That's not true in a household who might have dependent, disabled children, dependent grandparents, whatever state and state support them. And when you have got progressive organizations undermining the legitimacy, the benefits, that supports the incomes of those kind of people, that's a really bad place to be, you know. Now they're not doing that. There's no balance intensity. Or the problem is they just haven't thought. They're not taking policy seriously enough. It's like a campaigning agenda, you know. So just a kind of misunderstanding, you know, after the kind of living wage campaigns, which are really good campaigns I supported, but the book never about abolishing the welfare state, just about raising wages, there's a fundamental misunderstanding, see, and it kind of just shows that elements of the well being economy sector just don't take policy seriously enough, you know, it's just a wee bit I don't like saving. It's just a wee bit touchy feely, you know, serious enough, and they need to get their game heads on when it comes to that stuff, because it's too important not to take seriously.

Interviewee 1 38:57

I think that actually does kind of ring a bell with me, because I the certainly on the on the research side, on on the well being, of being reading about it for the past year, I think, you know, diving deep, any studies from all over the world, and no one ever, no one ever actually gives any concrete Well, here we go, Guys, here's what I found. Here's the mechanisms are happening. This is what you do. It always ends. And I usually a bit touchy feely, a bit kind of, you know, until we can improve the either policy outcomes or people's lives at individual level, then this will continue. Yeah, yeah. But, yeah. But how do we, how do we improve this? How do we actually get it in a government policy and government actions and it delivered, and then measure it? You know, I mean, go, oh, there you go. You know, that's working, or that's not working, but it's again, there's a, there's a there's a wishy washyness to all that

Interviewee 1 39:58

drives me bonkers.

Interviewee 1 40:00

Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

Interviewee 1 40:03

Scotland at the moment. And what needs to happen for Well, being a government, they give poor people more money. You need to fix public services. When my partner's a primary school teacher in Glasgow, you know? And it's just unbelievable she has to contend with a daily basis, you know that school needs more resource. There's no reform that's going to sort that school out. It needs more resources, as simple as that, it needs more people and it needs more money, you know? I mean, that's the basics of a well being economy, you know. And until you sort that stuff out, and save me all your fancy ideas, that's the that's the stuff that will really improve people's lives, and that's going to happen that involves us, all, people tax in the longer term, exactly funded by taxing rich people and businesses more. We're

Interviewee 1 40:52

all going to have to contribute more.

Interviewee 1 40:54

That's the kind of discussion. I just wish that we're having a realistic one point would have been refunded. I completely

Interviewee 1 41:02

on the resources front, about the they just need more resources. There's a whole argument that you see people bringing forward, particularly about the NHS, for some reason that or we can't just fly money at it, because it needs to be, it needs to be done properly. And yes, of course it does, you know? I mean, yes, that's, you know, that's just basic common sense and but if you I don't know, I think the people that say that I've never been in the position of having restricted resources, should we say, you know, like they've always had enough of always, they've always had an abundance of something. It's not until you've actually got very little to work with, even down at an individual level, do you actually see? Well, you know the limits on what you can do with that and the something, the despair, absolutely fine. But listen, thanks so much. I'll send it across to you, you know, just so you know what I'm going to be saying. So I'll do that. I'll send you the snippets. Okay, okay, thanks. you. Thank you.

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