

Say it costs £100,000 a year to keep someone in a mental home. What do you think is going to be more beneficial to a patient's mood - keeping them locked up in extreme boredom for a long time OR letting them stay at home and spend the money for themselves? 'But Simon, what if the patients spend the money on magic beans?' Good point, which is why the nurses are allowed to monitor what the money gets spent on. Pizzas and CDs? Completely fine. Maybe the patients could save up money to buy sports cars. But spending the money to take fairies to discos after being tricked by a shyster? Not allowed. But then everyone would want to be mentally ill? Yes, that's good. End the stigma, it really is a win-win situation. If my win-win argument isn't accepted and the country shouldn't strive to be crazy, that's fine too. In that situation where it seems everyone is nuts, you could test if people are mentally ill before giving them the money. Now that I think of it, people DO get tested for mental illness before being hospitalised, of course they do.

You could argue that people would drive themselves insane to get the money, perhaps by taking excessive amounts of drugs or by hanging around me. Well, it's actually very easy to test for drugs, so that's not a problem. If they are tested positive, they get told to go home and sleep their madness off. Similarly, it's fairly easy to find out if someone keeps hanging around me. You can't do a blood test to find that out, but people would start talking, eliminating the need for one. No on second thoughts, you can detect stress levels in blood tests, so that is even more proof that someone has been hanging around me so he can be sectioned. Don't think my idea is a solid one, now? And even if you STILL made an argument where it would be inappropriate giving insane people that much money, you could buy them gifts that cost that much. The patients wouldn't have as much freedom sure, but they'd most definitely be more than happy.

Sadly my idea doesn't work at all well for prisoners. It apparently costs £56,987 to keep the average English prisoner locked up for a year. Whilst the money would make felons happy, giving them that much money isn't much of a punishment, is it? You could make an argument that happy felons are less likely to reoffend, but that sounds optimistic to me. As the saying goes 'Never trust a felon with someone else's money.' Maybe if that much was spent on mood boosting dark chocolates, that could have a beneficial effect. Not as effective as imprisoning them, but if for whatever reason prisons were shut down because prisoners suddenly became trusted, hell try giving them chocolate, why not? They not as mood boosting as illegal drugs which will be disappointing for prisoners, but it will at least be something. Bananas can boost people's moods too, but of course giving prisoners chocolate and bananas and hoping for the best will surely all end in tears, in my opinion, anyway.

Here's an idea: You can say to a prisoner 'If you don't offend ever again, I will give you exactly £56,986 every year.' Just like you test if people really are crazy before giving them the money, you do tests on criminals, too. Here's a thought: Lie detectors! But ones good enough to actually be used in court, they just need more research, that's all. Not only would that remove the need for prisons, the tax payer would spend £1 less on every felon every year! Spend it wisely. The nightmare scenario is when dozens if not hundreds of dangerous criminals use their collected millions of pounds to create a booming illegal empire. Wow a world where criminals are more powerful than the police, you don't want that to happen. You really don't want that to happen when combined with every mentally ill person in the country just

being allowed to do whatever they want. I'm just saying be careful and use your brain and fingers crossed, the world won't go to Hell.

Lastly, I would like to apologise for this monologue's title 'Mental Health Revolution'. It creates images of crazy people burning down hospitals and breaking free. It's not the kind of thing to joke about or encourage, but at very least it is a film I would watch. And not because it's what I genuinely want to see in real life actually, but because of all the action and the colourful characters that are fictional. A better name would be 'Mental Health Utopia'. Still not a perfect name as paranoid schizophrenics on shopping sprees could seriously damage the commercial industry, at least in theory. Another theory is that such spending will actually give such industries a boost! Who knows? On one hand, the schizos could scare people away, on the other they could outweigh normal people. In a perfect world, nutters and what I call 'normies' will live together as one. And on that uncertain and even demented note... bye!