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LET'S WAGE MOTHER OF ALL BATTLES AGAINST ABSENT FATHERS

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THE Child Support Agency, despite the £4billion spent on attempting to get it right, including the inevitable £100million on "consultants", failed. Miserably.

There is a backlog of 239,000 cases.

It costs 70p to collect every pound. More than £2billion owed to the CSA has been written off.

Now it's been re-branded as the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission with new powers that could include - note the "could" - curfews and passport withdrawals.

That'll make absentee fathers shake in their shoes.

Because, let's not forget, the biggest failure here is from those parents, mostly dads, who will not provide for their kids.

At the last count there were a quarter of a million.

Threatening that eventually, maybe, perhaps, they'll get their passport taken away is hardly going to terrify that lot into paying.

What we need is something a lot tougher.

They get a month to start coughing up. After that they get their assets sold, from their houses to their cars.

Take the shirts off their backs because they've taken the bread out their kids' mouths. Don't allow them to marry, far less remarry, until they can prove they are supporting all the kids from previous relationships. And, for the harder cases, I'd lob in compulsory sterilisation.