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Issue 25



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DUP 'On The Run' - Robinson's Bluff Called



The revelation of the 'on the run' letters as disclosed by the Downey Trial exposed the deceit at the heart of government. During the Assembly debate TUV Leader, Jim Allister MLA, said:

"On Wednesday, the First Minister said:

"I want a full judicial inquiry into all of these matters so that we can see who knew, when they knew and what they knew. Those are vital questions to be asked and answered. I want to know who the 187 people are that received these letters ... I want to know who they are, what crimes they were believed to have committed."

"He ended by saying:

Commenting, Jim Allister MLA said:

"The secret negotiations with the Provos, which gifted their OTRs the comfort of effective immunity, undermined and blunted the HET's work. While victims craved justice their government was conspiring with the victim-makers to ensure it wouldn't be obtained. That is the obscenity of the OTR deal.

"I want all of the letters rescinded."

"When he said that, I supported him because, at that point, he was threatening to do the right thing if he did not get it.

"He established two resigning matters.

"He established that there had to be a public judicial inquiry, and there had to be a rescinding of the letters. What did he get in his climbdown? He got none of that. He got an administrative investigation.

"A public inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005 is something in which witnesses can be compelled to give evidence under oath, in which they can be cross-examined and in which those who have interests, like the victims, will be represented.

"Where those who have interests, like the victims, will be represented and will

be entitled to cross-examine. There is none of that in the behind-closed-doors, secret review. It will not, it seems, even be in public. There will be nobody capable of being compelled to attend and no one required to give evidence under oath. It is a farce and a whitewash.

"As for the demand that the letters be rescinded, I think that Mrs Foster was on the run herself after saying on 'The Nolan Show' that the rescinding of the letters was a resigning issue. Now we find that all the Secretary of State had to do was repeat what is in the letters. Read paragraph 123 of the Downey judgement. It is already there.

"If those letters are not worth the paper that they are written on Downey could be convicted. If the First Minister is right, Downey should still be prosecuted."

OTR Impact on HET Investigations

"I suspect there were many HET cases blighted in this way, one of which would be the murder of Lexie Cummings, a part-time UDR man in 1982.

"The HET report states, "A review into Lexie's murder was carried out by the "On the Run" (OTR) review team, in 2003, following William McMonagle's inclusion on a list of OTRs supplied by Sinn Fein to HM Government..... Following this review the DPP

rescinded the direction of December 13, 1982, to prosecute William McMonagle and directed no prosecution against him."

"So, here is a case where the OTR had actually been charged with murder, on the strength of good forensic evidence, yet when the OTR review takes place he was given a comfort letter saying he was no longer wanted!"

Consultation on Future of Care Homes a Farce

"Could you imagine the muscles Jim Allister would flex had he the backup of either the DUP or Sinn Fein? Punching well above his weight?"

Eamonn Mallie
Political Commentator
4th February 2014

"The DUP can spin all it wants but anybody with an iota of intelligence knows the OTR scheme hasn't been binned."

Suzanne Breen
Political Journalist
2nd March 2014

"Thinking journalists and Jim Allister QC who had clearly read the Downey judgement unlike many of his colleagues"

Eamonn Mallie
Political Commentator
2nd March 2014

TUV were represented at one of the consultation sessions on the future of residential care home provision. Commenting, Jim Allister MLA said:

"I attended one of the Health and Social Care Board's consultation sessions along with my TUV colleagues and representatives from Unions, care home staff and relatives of residents.

"The proposed criteria put forward by the HSC Board was quite simply a farce – it was entirely contrived to give only one sadly predictable outcome, that residential care homes would have to be closed.

"The criteria are predicated on the assumption that private facilities are better, and we all know that

statutory residential homes such as Pinewood, The Roddens and Rosedale, to name but a few, are superb facilities.

"The criteria also set out that residential care homes will be judged on their admissions, but there has and continues to be a ban on new admissions! How absurd and insulting is it that this can be given any weight in the criteria. Of course there will be a trend for private care homes if no new admissions are granted to statutory homes.

Jim Allister continued:

"Ever since this process became public last April TUV have set out a fair way to move forward: end the ban on permanent admissions and give the residential care homes a level playing field to compete with the private sector. Only then will a comparison of services,

cost, admissions etc be valuable.

"Those present also heard the 'bombshell' from an HSC Board representative who expressly said that it was the Minister who directed that the ban on admissions continue during the consultation period. I have written to John Compton, Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board, to ascertain the accuracy of this disclosure.

Concluding, Jim Allister said:

"Halt the consultation, end the ban on admissions and allow the homes to compete.

"Minister Poots can blame the Trusts all he wants, but the buck stops with him."

Flags Must Go but Terror-Shrines Can Stay

Comment by Jim Allister
MLA:

"The nigh hysterical chorus demanding the removing of flags from the Giro d'Italia route sets a recent reply from the DRD minister in an interesting context.

"I asked Minister Kennedy what progress has been made in securing the removal of terrorist commemorations from his Department's property, including that of its arm's-length bodies. This was his reply:

I can assure Members neither I nor my Department approves of, or support the unauthorised use of Departmental property for illegally erected roadside memorials.

Memorials erected without lawful authority have much in common with other unauthorised activities, such as kerb and lamp post painting, and have the potential to create tension within local communities as well as posing a risk to those tasked with their removal.

As was the practice under my predecessors Mr Conor Murphy MP, Mr Gregory Campbell MP and Mr Peter Robinson MLA, my officials do not remove terrorist commemorations on departmental controlled or associated property unless road safety is being compromised, or there are clear indications that action to remove them would have widespread local support. Unauthorised memorials on the property of the Department's arms-length

bodies are matters for the Boards of those organisations.

"So, we now know it is official government policy in Northern Ireland that shrines to terrorists at the sides of public roads and elsewhere on public property can and will stay – indeed, according to Minister Kennedy, this too was the policy of Peter Robinson and Gregory Campbell when they were DRD ministers – but, flags and posters must go!

"I hold no brief for the continued flying of tattered flags, nor have I any time for paramilitary murals, but when government gives immunity to terrorist shrines, then, they have lost all moral authority to pontificate on these issues."

Allister Hails Wrightbus Hong Kong Order

Wrightbus, a globally renowned bus manufacturer based in North Antrim, has secured yet another lucrative contract—this time from Hong Kong.

TUV Leader and North Antrim MLA, Jim Allister, welcomed the news:

“This announcement is not only good news for Wrightbus but great news for Ballymena and North Antrim. I extend my congratulations to

Wrightbus and their skilled employees who have established a world-renowned business.

“The success enjoyed by Wrightbus is not by accident, rather it can be attributed to the forward-looking management and staff who have given their all to the company.

“This provides proof, if it were needed, of the skilled workforce present in the North Antrim area.

Concluding Jim Allister said:

“Wrightbus is a bright shining light in the prevailing economic gloom. The company has proved once again that it is a world leader when it comes to building buses.

“I extend my congratulations and thanks to them for all that they have done to put Northern Ireland on the map and wish them well on future endeavours.”



Jim Allister MLA unveiling the TUV Causeway Coast and Glens Council Candidates

No funding for North Antrim from Social Investment Fund

Commenting on the much delayed allocation of the Social Investment Fund, TUV Leader Jim Allister MLA said:

“That a £80 million fund announced in March 2011 should lie unspent with the Office of the Joint First Ministers for almost 3 years before the allocation of any of the money is announced is bad enough but to wait that long and discover that not a penny of the initial batch of money is coming to North Antrim is scandalous.

“We have a situation where

Reacting to the news that Republicans are organising a party in Donegal to welcome John Downey home Jim Allister MLA said:

“It is bad enough that the innocent victims of the Hyde Park bombing were betrayed by their government to prop up the grubby “peace process” in Northern Ireland but now Sinn Fein/IRA are rubbing their noses in it by organising a party to celebrate Downey’s return from London.

there is £14,500,000 going to Belfast but just £0.4 million going to a single project in the Northern Zone in Coleraine.

“The systemic failure in the administration of the fund and get them out to worthwhile projects illustrates the dysfunctional pattern within OFMdfM – grandstanding announcements, followed by stagnation and inaction.

Concluding, Jim Allister said:

“People in North Antrim will

Downey ‘Celebration’ Party Cancelled

“This ghoulish celebration will sicken people across Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. It is a telling reminder of the nature of Sinn Fein and their total insensitivity to victims and their unfitness for government.

“The revelations over the last few days remind us all of the poisonous foundation on which Stormont is based.”

Jim Allister concluded:

rightly ask why their area has failed to secure any of the funding. Perhaps this situation will be rectified in the lead up to the election but thus far North Antrim is clearly losing out.

“Indeed I would question if the balance between the two communities, promised by the First Minister, is present in this allocation. It seems to me that the unionist community has been sold short.”

“I am glad to see that the public highlighting of this ‘party’ by TUV and others has resulted in its cancellation.

“This shows that where there is a public spotlight on such offensive events that it can make a difference. Victims should not be re-traumatised.

“TUV has worked with victims to put an end to such trauma, and will continue to do so.”



Jim Allister MLA presenting the trustees of Buckna Orange Hall with a Ulster Covenant Centenary Artwork



Jim Allister MLA inspecting the Dairy Herd at Greenmount Agricultural College

Ombudsman Tells Sinn Fein Department to Apologise to Jim Allister

It is not often that Sinn Fein apologise their discriminative behaviour, but the Northern Ireland Ombudsman has stated that Jim Allister MLA is owed one. Jim Allister explains:

“It has long been my political opinion and belief that Sinn Fein, given its IRA terrorist antecedents and stance, is unfit for government. My anti-Sinn Fein stance is a recognised part of my political reason d’être and central to my mandate. In consequence of this political opinion I decline to meet Sinn Fein ministers and do not write to them. When I have business to transact with a department headed by a Sinn Fein minister I write to the Permanent Secretary. This has been my

consistent practice since 2007, first as an MEP and latterly as an MLA.

“I lodged an official complaint with the Northern Ireland Ombudsman after the Department of Education took 57 working days to reply to one letter from myself and 23 working days to reply to another.

“In both of the replies I eventually received the Minister said that there was a delay in responding to my correspondence because it was not addressed to the Minister.

“I complained to Mr Frawley on the basis that it is not for the Minister to dictate to whom I write and I am more than

happy to receive responses from the person to whom my letters are addressed. However, if the Minister insists on replying then he cannot discriminate on the basis of my political opinion, which causes me to decline to write to him in the first place.

“The letters in question related to constituency matters.

“Mr Frawley stated that failure to respond to my correspondence constitutes maladministration. Further that as member of the public, and as an elected representative, I was entitled to expect a reasonable level of service from the Department.

“Mr Frawley continued to state: ‘It is clear that in the instances highlighted in this report, the Department failed to meet its stated service standards.’

“Mr Frawley recommends that the Department provide a written apology, something which the Department is arrogantly refusing to do.

“I welcome the Ombudsman’s report and the fact that he has recommended an apology to me, which, of course, would also be an apology to my constituents whom he sought to disadvantage. His findings completely vindicate my position and expose the vindictive arrogance of the Sinn Fein Minister.”

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£40k pa Pension Contribution to NIW CEO Challenged

As NI Water recruits a new Chief Executive, TUV leader Jim Allister is asking the DRD minister why, in view of the modern governmental approach to pension contributions, the £150,000 pa job has been advertised offering a whopping 26.9% employer contribution to a pension pot and a mere 3.5% employee contribution?

At a time when employee pension contributions have been increasing across the public sector and employer contributions reducing, Mr Allister is demanding to know why the new chief executive will benefit from

a public purse contribution of £40,000 to his/her pension pot, while contributing only £5,000 themselves.

Commenting Jim Allister said:

“I find it amazing that at a time when low paid public servants are being asked to contribute more to their pensions that this £150,000 post can be advertised with an annual pension contribution handshake from the public purse of £40,000 pa, and the beneficiary is asked to contribute a mere 3.5% of salary.

“Why is government not practising what it preaches on public pensions? Why is the CEO of NIW to get almost twice the average public sector wage paid into his/her pension pot each year by the hard pressed taxpayer?

Concluding Jim Allister said:

“It is clear, to any right thinking person at least, that this level of contribution should not be happening.”

Dates for your diary

South Antrim ‘Big Breakfast’

Saturday 8th March, 9.30am-12noon at Burnside Orange Hall, Antrim

Donaghadee Public Meeting

Friday 21st March, 7.30pm at Donaghadee Community Centre

Ballymena TUV Annual Dinner:

Friday 28th March, 7.30pm at Big House, Glarryford

Ballymena ‘Big Breakfast’

Saturday 5th April, 9.30am-12pm—Contact for venue