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Issue 26



**Inside this issue:**

TUV Meets Secretary of State on OTR Issue	<b>2</b>
PSNI in 'Brits Out' Parade—Questions Unanswered	<b>2</b>
Reform Public Accounts Committee	<b>3</b>
PUP not fit to take on Sinn Fein	<b>3</b>
Pro-Tricolour Anna Lo	<b>3</b>
Allister takes a stand for the Union Flag	<b>4</b>
Shocking Fall in Hospital Beds Under DUP Watch	<b>4</b>

## Robinson Got None of his Demands on OTR Review



Commenting on the 'on the run' whitewash, Jim Allister MLA stated:

"On 26<sup>th</sup> February Peter Robinson told us:

**"I want a full judicial inquiry into all of these matters so 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 – if indeed it is only 187 people because I wouldn't believe anything I hear any longer. I want to know who they are, what crimes they were believed to have committed because don't forget justice isn't**

On the back of the BBC Spotlight programme on the Downey case, Jim Allister commented:

"The BBC Spotlight programme underscores the extent to which the criminal justice system has been corrupted by the immoral demands of "the peace process".

"The failure to pursue Downey, despite his fingerprint link to the Johnston & Eames murders, is not just a failure of policing, but a blatant

**just about whether the police at that moment in time have sufficient evidence to make a prosecution stick because as time goes on forensics may change, new evidence may come in where a prosecution could take place so it is absolutely vital that nobody is allowed to think they can get away with it. That's why I want all the letters rescinded."**

"Letters exchanged between a senior NIO official and the Lord Chief Justice reveal that the review announced by the Prime Minister and trumpeted by the DUP will do none of what Mr Robinson demanded.

"Not only will the 187 names not be released but Lady Justice Hallett won't even consider every Individual case. She will, rather, "look at a sample of cases from across the scheme".

### Arrest Downey Now!

perversion of justice by the dirty politics of the process. It is no coincidence that Downey was gifted his letter just two days after the DUP and Sinn Fein joined in government: such payoff to the IRA was part of the consummation of the deal. The Johnston and Eames families and their quest for justice, like other innocent victims, were callously cast to the side. Establishing Sinn Fein/DUP rule was the overriding priority.

"The fingerprint evidence still exists. So, I am now calling for an immediate European Arrest

"The letters make it clear that Lady Hallett will "not need to re-investigate every case or make a fresh decision about whether a recipient of a letter should or should not have been pursued for arrest and prosecution."

"Furthermore, it is evident that there is a strong desire to protect the "peace process" and keep its machinations as hidden as possible because "while the reviewer is free to consider the circumstances that led to the establishment of the scheme, a full examination of the political decisions and agreements making up the Northern Ireland peace process is not required!"

"The letters confirm what TUV have argued all along – that the review will deliver nothing of what Mr Robinson demanded. The DUP have meekly rolled over and accepted a whitewash."

Warrant to secure the arrest and extradition of Downey. If these OTR letters are really not worth the paper they are written on, as Mr Robinson has foolishly claimed, then, let's see Downey pursued on the basis of the forensic evidence which exists. This is a litmus test of whether the perversion of justice, which underpins the establishment of Sinn Fein/DUP rule, has been in any way tempered by the exposure of the machinations of the Downey case."

## TUV Meets Secretary of State on OTR Issue

*"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 judgment unlike many of his colleagues"*

Eamonn Mallie  
Political Commentator  
2nd March 2014

A delegation from Traditional Unionist Voice (party leader Jim Allister, party vice-chair Richard Cairns and press officer Samuel Morrison) met the Secretary of State on the OTR scandal.

Commenting after the meeting TUV Leader Jim Allister said:

"We came to the meeting with a series of questions about the On the Run issue and left with precious few of them answered. It is evident that the Northern Ireland Office, like the DUP, intends to hide behind the judge led review in order to avoid giving answers before the election.

"It was clear, however, that Peter Robinson did not get what he demanded as prerequisites to prevent his

resignation.

"The Secretary of State was unable to say that the names of those who received the letters and the crimes which they were suspected of being involved in will be published. Indeed, she flagged up human rights considerations which could – and as time will prove will – prevent the names being published.

"She also made it clear that she had no intention of contacting those who have received letters in order to rescind them – another matter over which the First Minister said he would resign.

"The Secretary of State also hid behind the judge led review when I challenged her to publish the Government papers disclosed to court in the Downey case, in particular the

802 pages identified at page 3 of the Downey judgement as 'two files of disclosed materials in relation to the relevant negotiations in the NI peace process', which as material disclosed by the Crown in a criminal trial can now be published by HMG.

"When pressed about suggestions that HM Government had provided compensation to OTRs the Secretary of State denied that this had taken place.

"TUV also used the meeting to press the Secretary of State on the future of Praxis at Hillsborough Castle. We made it very clear to her that we believed the charity should be allowed to stay and that the NIO's handling of the issue to date has been disastrous."

## PSNI Explanation of Participation in Brits Out Parade leaves Unanswered Questions

Following the PSNI's participation in the New York St. Patrick's day parade, where they walked behind a banner saying 'England get out of Ireland', Jim Allister said:

"I know from contacts to my office that many people found the PSNI participation in an event which peddled this racist and xenophobic message deeply offensive.

This is hardly surprising given that the "Brits Out" mantra was championed by the IRA which murdered so many gallant officers in Northern Ireland.

"Indeed many Unionists will see the banners as an attack on their right to live in Northern Ireland as they more than suggest that the island of Ireland is only for those who see themselves as Irish – an ironic sentiment

given that those displaying the banners live in a country where the native American population was driven from their land by, among others, Irish American immigrants.

"I have today received a reply from Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Alistair Finley which does nothing to allay my concerns.

"I have again written to the police asking if the PSNI was aware, and, if not, why not, of the official guidelines governing participation in this parade, before accepting the invitation. If they did not have knowledge, they certainly had the means of knowledge, and as much opportunity as I had to be acquainted with the said guidelines. The PSNI had a due diligence obligation to

fully investigate, before accepting the invitation. So, did the PSNI know of these guidelines before participating?"

Concluding, Jim Allister said:

"Temporary Deputy Chief Constable Finley informs me that the decision to take part in the parade was taken following consultation with the NIO, the Department of Justice, the Policing Board and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"Why was the PSNI consulting a department of a foreign government on whether it should accept an invitation.

"Is the PSNI now open to participate in an Orange parade?"

## Call to reform Public Accounts Committee

Commenting on his attempt to bring accountability to Stormont, Jim Allister said:

“At this week’s meeting of the Procedures Committee in Stormont I proposed that Standing Orders be amended to provide that the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee must be held by an MLA from outside any of the parties included in the executive. At the moment Sinn Fein chair it and there isn’t even a single member on it from

outside the Executive parties.

“Across the world it is established practice that PACs, because of their key scrutiny role in regard to government action, are chaired by someone from the Opposition. Of course, the perverse system in Stormont does not even allow an Opposition and the PAC chair comes from one of the main parties of government. As one small step towards normality,

“The immediate response of Sinn Fein was outright rejection – old habits of non-tolerance of opposition die hard! Some other parties suggested they would wish to take the proposal back to their own groups and thus the matter stands adjourned to a future meeting.

“It will be interesting to see the response, particularly from those who profess a belief in normalising Stormont.”



Robinson’s demands not met: NO rescinding of letters; NO public inquiry; NO names being published

## Hutchinson Interview Show PUP Not Fit to Take On Sinn Fein

Commenting on the Billy Hutchinson’s assertion that his participation in UVF murder prevented a united Ireland, Jim Allister MLA stated:

“Billy Hutchinson’s comments in the News Letter and on the Nolan Show – where instead of repairing the damage he added to it – showed that he and his party are in no position to take the battle to Sinn Fein.

“His language about a “hierarchy of victims”, the

“conflict” and “war” was identical to the language of Sinn Fein/IRA.

“Today he claimed “remorse” for what he did, but refused to even say sorry for the murders he committed. More than that, while he rowed back from his suggestion that the people he murdered were in some way linked to the IRA there was no apology to their families for his comments in last week’s News Letter. Instead Mr Hutchinson merely talked about the need for a

“process” to deal with the past. More Sinn Fein type speak.

“Anyone who thought that the PUP might be a credible force to take the political battle to Republicans will now, if they hadn’t before given their previous support for a designated days policy when it came to the flying of the Union Flag, have cause to stop and think. Are Republicans best faced down by those who adopt the Provo lingo?”



Jim Allister MLA marked the European Day for Victims of Terrorism at Stormont.

## Not just anti-Union flag but Pro-Tricolour Lo!

Alliance Party MLA and European Candidate, Anna Lo, let the cat out of the bag when she professed her desire to see a united Ireland. TUV leader Jim Allister responded:

“Anna Lo’s public support for a united Ireland shatters the myth that Alliance are agnostic on the Union.

“Her comments also expose her economic illiteracy given that Northern Ireland is dependent on being part of the UK to obtain the

generous block grant. How exactly do Alliance believe that we would be “better off economically” as part of the bankrupt Republic of Ireland?

“Ms Lo says she believes that for a “corner of Ireland to be part of the United Kingdom ... is very artificial”, showing no recognition of the fact that this is only the case because the majority of the people who live here wish to be part of the UK. But then, of course, she makes it clear that she is

“anti-colonial”!

Concluding, Jim Allister said:

“The removal of the Union Flag from Belfast City Hall showed something of Alliance’s true colours. Now Anna Lo has backed Irish unity – revealing that the Tricolour are more her colours.

“You know where you stand with TUV. Can the same be said for other parties such as Alliance? I think not.”



Jim Allister MLA ensured that a Euro-Sceptic Voice was heard in relation to the UKs place within the EU.

## Allister takes a stand for the Union Flag

During the debate on the Local Government Bill, Jim Allister MLA seized the opportunity to take a stand for the Union Flag:

“We have had an anxiety from some, which is a bit reminiscent of the on-the-runs saga, to point to the Ulster Unionists and say, “It all happened on your watch: it is your problem” etc. In one sense, that is fair enough, but the lead party of unionism today is the Democratic Unionist Party. It, above all, is required to deliver a solution to the crisis created by the tearing down of the flag from Belfast City Hall.

“I suggest that this, the Local Government Bill, is one of the last opportunities to do anything about it.

“It is a bit like the definition of a victim: once it is through, it is, essentially, too late to do anything about it. Therefore, I say to the lead party of unionism that it has to pick up the challenge and consider the fact that it will not be enough to leave here tonight saying, “We tried, but the perversion of the petition of concern defeated us. We now have a Bill, and we will just have to live with it.” That is not how it has to be. If it really goes to the core of what the primary unionist party in the Province would wish to defend, that party has the option, as others have exercised in respect of other Bills, of stalling this Bill until the issue is addressed. If it is not

addressed in this Bill, it will not be addressed.

“That is the challenge and the opportunity. I think that the DUP needs to consider whether or not it feels strongly enough about this issue to make sure that the Local Government Bill that eventually passes in the House addresses it. Taking that stand is in your gift. I respectfully say to you that you should think about exercising that, because if the Bill goes through as is, we are not going to see the change, the reversal, the restoration or the fulfilment of the promise that the flag would fly again on City Hall.

“If we are as exercised as we say we are about the

tearing down of the flag and wish to see the flag flown on political buildings, such as council chambers, in every part of the United Kingdom, it will be too late once this Bill passes, having fought and lost a battle. So there is an opportunity and a challenge to weigh up and decide. Is the lead party of unionism prepared to take a stand of that strength on this issue? That is how many people in the community who hoped, and believed the promises, that the flag etc would be restored will judge the issue. I do not see any other opportunities to do that but through applying the leverage and the pressure that this Bill presents the opportunity of doing.”

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## Shocking Fall in Hospital beds on DUP Watch

TUV Leader Jim Allister MLA uncovered through Assembly questions the extent of the decrease in hospital beds throughout Northern Ireland. Commenting Jim Allister said:

“As several A & E departments struggle with overload, a key component of the problem is that the absence of admission beds is causing logjam in A & Es.

“This is something which the Minister seeks to dodge, but it is a policy which he has carried on and continues to implement. You can’t cull

hundreds of hospital beds and then be surprised when A & Es are choked with trolley waits. Take Belfast Trust: in just 5 years the numbers of available beds have been slashed by nearly 20% from 2700 to 2200.

“Across Northern Ireland the number of hospital beds has fallen by over 16% since 2009.

“In the Northern Trust the fall is almost 19% while in the Southern it is over 20%.

Concluding, Jim Allister said:

“The Health Minister is skilled in passing the buck on these issues but figures do not lie. He has presided over a department which has cut the most basic of medical facilities from our hospitals.

“The Executive has failed to deliver in what most people would regard as one of their top priorities – maintaining the health service.

“TUV believes the Health Service is a top priority, and under Poots it has gone from crisis to crisis.”

## Dates for your diary

### Membership Conference

Thursday 3rd April, 8pm,  
Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast

### Ballymena ‘Big Breakfast’

Saturday 5th April, 9.30am-12pm—Ahoghill Community Centre, £5

### East Antrim Musical Evening

Saturday 5th April, 7.45pm,  
Victoria Orange Hall, Larne, £5