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Slow Learning First Minister



It comes as no surprise to TUV supporters that Stormont is unworkable, but the reality is suddenly dawning on the DUP.

Commenting, TUV Party Leader Jim Allister states:

“For years hasn’t Peter Robinson boasted that at St Andrews he and his party fixed the Belfast Agreement. Now, it seems not. Is the reality that TUV has long proclaimed slowly dawning on the First Minister?”

“But it is not a sticking plaster approach which Stormont needs, but root and branch change, whereby mandatory coalition and its crippling mutual vetoes are ditched.

“It is inevitable that one day the present unworkable Stormont will implode. The system of mandatory coalition is bound to fail.

“Only the glue of parties’ love for a semblance of power holds it together. But, ultimately this unnatural system of government will collapse. Voluntary coalition and an Opposition are the only

route to durable devolution.

“The financial stalemate and resulting pain for those Stormont misgoverns saps the public’s will for it to survive. The evident and colossal failure of this Stormont makes the case for a workable alternative stronger with every day of failure which passes.”

Jim Allister concluded:

“It is indeed time that Mr Robinson pulled the plug and put his chronically failing government out of its misery.”

Congratulations Scotland! Democratic Reform Required

TUV congratulated the people of Scotland for reaffirming their place within the United Kingdom.

Jim Allister MLA stated:

“I greatly welcome the result in Scotland and, unlike the union-agnostic Mr Ford, I recognise that it was a victory for the union and one that one very much appreciates and supports. It was good to see the canny, wise Scots refuse the invitation to break up the United Kingdom, and I believe that the case of those who sought to break it up may well now wane in consequence.

“The Prime Minister said that, after the referendum, there is a need for constitutional reform. He is

probably right, but he would be totally wrong in so far as this House is concerned were he to say that this House, which cannot handle the powers that it has, needs more powers. This House does not need more powers. This House has structures that, in the words of the First Minister, are unfit for purpose, and therefore it is unable to handle even the powers that it has.

“What this House needs is parity of democratic rights with the rest of the United Kingdom. There are components of Scotland and Wales’s settlements that we take for granted. The very right to have an opposition is taken for granted in Edinburgh and Cardiff; indeed, it is taken for granted across the democratic world. Yet here, even that basic democratic right is denied in these institutions.

On top of that, the people of Scotland and Wales have the basic democratic right to change their government; to vote a party that they are disillusioned with out of government. Of course, because of the import of an unworkable mandatory coalition, we do not even have that right here. If the Prime Minister is talking about constitutional reform, he should start at the point where one infuses the democratic imperatives into the structures that we have in this House.

“Let me be very clear: the enemies of Stormont are those who refuse to contemplate the democratisation of Stormont. That is who they are.”

Unionists Need To Face Up To Reality—Stormont Cannot Deliver

"Yet Allister's one man opposition in Stormont has won him respect – even in unlikely quarters – and it would be no surprise to see him poll strongly. He's the one to watch."

Suzanne Breen
Journalist, Sunday Life

"Jim Allister's 75,806 first preference votes, in particular, is a direct message to Sinn Fein and the DUP that Stormont is not working."

Liam Clarke
Belfast Telegraph
29th May 2014

"The biggest challenge to the UUP is not the DUP, it is the TUV."

Alex Kane
Political Commentator
28th May 2014

Commenting on the current financial crisis facing Northern Ireland, Jim Allister MLA calls for unionists to wake up to the reality facing them:

"The current crisis over Stormont's budget illustrates that the Belfast Agreement is based on a flawed premise and can never deliver good government for the people of Northern Ireland.

"The failure of the Executive to agree on welfare reform leaves us looking over a financial precipice with Ministers across the political spectrum warning of dire consequence for essential services, particularly when it comes to the Health Service.

"Sinn Fein claim that they are

taking a stand against Tory cuts but the reality is that because changes have not been made to the welfare system cuts are having to be made elsewhere. So their claim is nonsense. The simple reality is that a government which cannot keep the street lights on and cannot guarantee the safety of its people due to cuts to frontline services has failed.

"As long as Northern Ireland is lumbered with the unworkable system of mandatory coalition with its inbuilt mutual vetoes which Sinn Fein have used to block everything from welfare reform to the Ulster Aviation Society open day nothing will change and we will lurch from one crisis to the next – which of course is in the interests of Republicans in the long term as they do not want Northern

Ireland to even exist!"

Concluding, Jim Allister said:

"It's time Unionists faced up to the reality that while Stormont with its £50,000 a week hospitality bill and fleet of ministerial cars may be delivering for the political class it isn't and can't deliver the good government which Northern Ireland both needs and deserves. Indeed, Sinn Fein is not in government to deliver good government, but to fulfil its mantra that Northern Ireland is a failed political entity. When will that penny finally drop with the DUP and others who keep them in government, while all the time they destroy Northern Ireland from within?"

£3m of Health Funding Spent on Interpreters

TUV leader Jim Allister has established through an Assembly Question that £8000 every day of health service funds is going on paying interpreters, giving an annual cost of almost £3 million.

The TUV leader has also established that 5% of pupils in Northern Ireland schools do not have English as their first language, with the percentage topping 10% in South Belfast and 9.5% in Fermanagh & South Tyrone.

Commenting Jim Allister said:-

"In a climate of spates of racist criminal attacks – which must be met with the full rigour of the law – it is difficult sometimes to draw attention to issues of which the public need to be aware.

These figures graphically illustrate the impact of the EU's open door immigration policy within this part of the UK. In the debate about immigration we seldom hear of the ancillary costs in education and health, but, plainly, they are huge, even in the incidentals of providing interpreters in our hospitals.

"The face of several constituencies is changing dramatically, with South Belfast, Fermanagh & South Tyrone and Upper Bann having in or about 10% of schoolchildren not having English as their first language.

"The geographical correlation between health spend on interpreters and high levels of immigrant children in our schools is obvious with the Southern

Health Trust spending £1.3m per annum on interpreters."

Concluding, North Antrim MLA Jim Allister commented:

"Migration has been a feature of life for centuries, but hitherto nation states have exercised control through operating the immigration policy suited to their needs. But not anymore, because now the EU controls our immigration policy and operates a completely open door policy across Europe. Hence, the disproportionate upsurge in westward migration and the resulting pressures on our health, welfare and education budgets. It is only outside the EU that the UK can reassert control over its immigration policy."

Allister Comments on Anniversary of IRA Tactical 'Ceasefire'

As the public and media are commenting on the anniversary of the IRA 'ceasefire', TUV took the opportunity to highlight the real story behind Sinn Fein / IRA tactical use of politics.

Jim Allister stated:

"The 1994 IRA ceasefire was the carefully choreographed outworking of secret and nefarious negotiations between murderers and the government of those they murdered. The ceasefire

itself was not the result of the IRA repudiating their bloodthirsty campaign, but a tactical move whereby they purchased political gain with the blood of their innocent victims. It was so tactical it was readily abandoned to bomb Canary Wharf as a means of speeding government concessions.

"The unpalatable truth is that the IRA bombed its way to the negotiating table and ultimately were rewarded through the Belfast

Agreement with a guaranteed seat in the government of the Province they remain committed to destroy."

Jim Allister continued:

"Sinn Fein/IRA continue to be placated through the outworking of the St Andrew's Agreement by the DUP.

"Such, is the sordid genesis of the failing Stormont arrangements."



Sinn Fein Education Minister wasted £17m on the Failed Education and Skills Authority.

No Money for HET, but £4000 per week for Wining and Dining

A key area of TUV success has been the constant unearthing of wasteful practice within government. Ranging from thousands of pounds spent on mints to keep our MLAs sweet—to the squander of millions on North-South Bodies.

Particularly when facing budgetary cuts—wasteful practice should be the first thing to go.

Responding to suggestions that budget cuts may see the HET axed, TUV leader

Jim Allister said:-

"This further downgrade of the value of innocent victims in our society comes in a week that I received an Assembly Answer which revealed that last year, 2013/14, the PSNI spend £218,800 on hospitality. Of course, £218,800 wouldn't fund the HET, but it points to a less than rigorous approach to austerity in some quarters if over £4000 a week can be spent on wining and dining.

"Moreover, I must ask how much is to be spent on the dedicated investigation into the pursuit of criminal charges out of Bloody Sunday and by how much is this historically-linked expenditure to be cut, or, is it only the innocent victims of terrorists who are to feel the draught?"

Concluding, Allister stated:

"Stormont needs to prioritise its spending or the people of Northern Ireland would be better off without it."



TUV uncovered that £3m per year is spent on interpreters in the Health Service

Madness to Devolve Corporation Tax

The devolution of Corporation Tax has been much vaunted by all the executive parties as some kind of magic wand. TUV has long said that Stormont is not fit to have any tax variance powers and that any lowering of Corporation Tax would leave a significant gap in the current budget.

Jim Allister MLA on this subject said:

"The very talk of £200m cuts has put Stormont into a tailspin. Think what

top-slicing £400-£750m off the block grant would do, in order to pay for the bauble of corporation tax.

"Stormont can't handle the powers it has. It would be madness to give it any more. Nor would devolving corporation tax really transform our economy because most of our small/medium employers – the backbone of our economy – would not benefit."

Continuing, Jim Allister said:

"The financial crisis at Stormont is far too serious and its dysfunctionality far too endemic to be thinking of massaging the egos of its failing ministers by gifting them fiscal powers.

"Stormont has failed every test in providing good governance, and it cannot be trusted to have any more powers.

"Preserve us all from tax-raising powers for this failed Stormont."



Poots Given the Boot by Robinson. Poots stated it was known Robinson would be stepping down.

Tourism Ireland Not Delivering for Northern Ireland

Responding to comments by the outgoing head of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board TUV Castlereagh East councillor Andrew Girvin said:

“TUV has long argued that Northern Ireland is getting a poor deal from Tourism Ireland. In January last year, for example, Jim Allister pointedly asked the tourism Minister if she believed Northern Ireland’s tourism promotion and interests are best served by being a subservient part of Tourism Ireland and argued that we would be better standing on our own feet.

“The comments of the outgoing head of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Alan Clarke, are therefore no surprise to TUV.

“Marketing Northern Ireland as a standalone destination, particularly when it comes to people coming over for short breaks from Great Britain, makes sense. Visitors from the rest of the UK are, apart from anything else, spared the hassle of having to change their currency before coming over.”

Continuing, Cllr Girvin said:

“Having to market the island of Ireland as a single destination simply doesn’t add up and it is obvious that taxpayers in Northern Ireland are being ridiculous short-changed when one considers that we put up 1/3 of the money to run Tourism Ireland and yet

Northern Ireland is only getting around 10 – 11% of the holidaymakers.

“Northern Ireland has a fantastic tourism product to sell if it wasn’t encumbered by the shackles of Tourism Ireland – a politically contrived body. The success of our golfers has also presented us with a unique marketing opportunity.”

Concluding, Cllr Girvin backed Northern Ireland to succeed:

“I remain convinced that Tourism Ireland isn’t up to the job of delivering for the Northern Ireland tourist industry and needs to go along with all the other useless North-South

bodies.

“It is about time that Northern Ireland had the opportunity to sell itself, instead of contributing to the promotion of the Republic of Ireland at the expense of our own tourist destinations.

“As ever, TUV will fight tooth and nail to highlight waste and bad practice within government, whether at local or national level. I want to see Northern Ireland prosper and to do so we need to reassess where taxpayers money is going and what Northern Ireland gets back.

“TUV can be trusted to put Northern Ireland first.”

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OFMDFM Runs Up £2.6m Credit Card Bill

19 months after asking OFMDFM how much their staff had expended on procurement credit cards, TUV leader Jim Allister has finally got an answer to his Assembly Question.

He has unearthed that 12 staff in OFMDFM operate such cards and that since 2007 a staggering £2.6m has been racked up on them. It seems they have been mainly used for ‘travel and accommodation expenses’!

Commenting Jim Allister said:

“The fact that it took the

Joint First Ministers 19 months to get over the embarrassment of revealing this information is significant in itself. And well might they be embarrassed in these times of severe austerity.

“A key concern in this regard is what level of accountability and oversight operates in respect of this expenditure. I am calling on OFMDFM to publish a full inventory of all these purchases. Occasional and emergency spend while travelling on credit cards might be understandable, but running up a bill of

over £2.6m does raise serious questions as to the application of procurement checks and balances. It is now up to OFMDFM to provide full transparency on this issue.”

Concluding, Jim Allister said:

“This is yet another example of the disregard showing to transparency and accountability. It is the taxpayer that is paying this substantial credit card bill and it is the taxpayer that needs assured that it has been accrued for proper purposes.”

Dates for your diary

Ballymena Big Breakfast

Saturday 11th October, Ahoghill Community Centre, 9.30am-12.30pm

TUV Dinner

Friday 21st November, Royal Hotel, Cookstown, 7.30pm

TUV Party Conference

Saturday 29th November, Ross Park Hotel, Kells, 10.30am—4pm

Strangford TUV Dinner

Friday 20th March, McKee’s Farm Shop Restaurant, Newtownards, 8pm