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Conor Murphy practiced religious discrimination as DRD Minister

Jim Allister MLA has uncovered further evidence of religious discrimination at the heart of government.

The TUV leader explained:

“Following on from the findings of religious discrimination by the Industrial Tribunal in Lennon-v-DRD I tabled a series of Assembly questions to find out how Protestant applicants had fared in ministerial appointments under other Sinn Fein Ministers.

“The answer when it came



from Cullan’s DCAL was that, as in DRD under Murphy, a Roman Catholic applicant was more than twice as likely as a Protestant applicant to be appointed since the Sinn Fein Minister came to office in May 2011.

“Now the Minister of Agriculture has been forced to reveal that the same pattern exists within her department and as Sinn Fein have been in control of the Department since May 2007 it covers a longer period.

“Since Sinn Fein assumed office in DARD figures demonstrate that Catholic applicants had twice the success rate of Protestant applicants in securing a ministerial appointment

“It is no coincidence that yet another Sinn Fein led department has been found out to be operating an anti-Protestant bias in its

ministerial appointments. This points to design, not accident; coming on top of the damning indictment of Murphy, and my exposure of what has been going on in DCAL under Sinn Fein, shows up as a systemic trait of Sinn Fein rule.

“It also exposes the hypocrisy of Sinn Fein’s pretense of treating all citizens equally. With three ministers now found out as practitioners of anti-Protestant bias the meaning of “ourselves alone” is clear for all to see.

“This issue cannot continue to be brushed under the carpet. If similar discrimination was found to be taking place against the Roman Catholic population Sinn Fein would be shouting from the rooftops yet in the brave new Northern Ireland it seems discrimination against Protestants is acceptable.”

TUV Responds to "Equal Marriage" Consultation

In our detailed response to the Government’s consultation TUV makes the basic point that marriage is intrinsically the union of a man and a woman. This has been recognised throughout history and across all cultures. Marriage benefits society in many ways – not least because it includes the possibility of procreation.

“Even if one believes that a government has a right to enact legislation changing something which has been in existence from the beginning of time, one cannot argue that the current government has an electoral mandate to do it as neither the Conservative nor the Liberal Democrat

manifestos contained a commitment on the issue.

“TUV is opposed to granting those in existing civil partnerships the right to convert their civil partnerships to marriages. It is noteworthy that when the civil partnership legislation was being debated back in 2004 Jackie Smith stated: “The whole point, however, is that civil partnership is not civil marriage, for a variety of reasons, such as the traditions and history—religious and otherwise—that accompany marriage. It is not marriage” (House of Commons, 9th November 2004).

“Yet now, as many predicted, civil partnership is being used as a stepping stone to full “marriage”.

“We believe that HMG’s attempts to draw a distinction between what the consultation describes as religious and civil marriages is bogus as there is no such distinction in law. In fact, the Government’s own consultation document concedes as much. Therefore the supposed protection provided to churches is highly suspect and may well be open to challenge.

You can read our full response at www.tuv.org.uk.

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"The TUV leader has been punching above his weight virtually since the first week he entered the Assembly - forensically examining ministers on the floor of the Assembly and making sharp points at Question Time, Allister has proved to be a thorn in the side and has shone a light in some dark areas .

- Noel McAdam
Telegraph 6/7/12

"The stand out performer of the year - he (Jim Allister) is the effective opposition".

-Paul Gosling
The Independent

"The person who would get my vote would be Jim Allister because he's a lone voice. He is performing the job of a backbencher and what's the role of a backbencher? To hold the executive to account and he appears to be the only one that is consistently doing it."

- Seamus Close
Seven Days 8/7/12

Allister speaks out on Agri Crime in North Antrim

North Antrim MLA Jim Allister has called on the PSNI to meet the challenges posed by a recent upsurge in agri crime within the constituency.

Responding to recent incidents Jim Allister stated:-

"The upsurge in agri crime in North Antrim over the past month, particularly two large scale sheep rustling incidents, speaks to a gear change of organised crime and poses a very direct challenge to the PSNI. The success of the police response will impact

greatly on public confidence in the PSNI's ability to quell such lucrative crime. The folly of closing rural police stations will not be lost on many, as patently it hasn't been on the criminals.

"The sheer audacity of these crimes suggests that these gangs are confident they will not be caught. They must be proved wrong and that is the prime challenge now to the PSNI. These gangsters must be brought to book.

" Unfortunately it sometimes seems to me that the focus of the police is misplaced. Recently in the Braid area a farmer succeeded in interrupting thieves in his neighbour's yard, by discharging his shotgun into the air, yet, he has now had his firearms removed and required to undergo police interview. Society and the police must be demonstrably on the side of the victim and not the law breaker."

Dismay at Withdrawal of School Bus Service

Local TUV MLA, Jim Allister, has reacted strongly to the NEELB decision to withdraw the current school transport provision to two rural primary schools, Kells & Connor and Carnaghts. The shock decision was communicated during the summer break and has caused anger among affected parents. These are the only two schools in the whole Board area to see removal of their school transport next term.

Mr Allister has challenged the basis of the decision in a letter to the Chief Executive of NEELB and has further questioned why consideration

was not even given to amalgamating the service to the two schools.

In a statement Jim Allister explained:

"I am dismayed at the precipitative decision to withdraw the bus service, the lack of consultation relating thereto and the timing and manner in which the decision was conveyed to parents.

This is a vital service for many families in the rural hinterland serviced by these schools. It is a service which cannot be replaced by the offering of a token payment per day to

entitled parents. The service is integral to the functioning of the schools and thus its withdrawal is a direct blow to their operational success.

I want to know why and how such a decision was made. What business case was produced - or was it merely an expedient and opportunistic response to the retirement of the current driver - what consultation was held with the schools and the parents, and why it was conveyed by scrappy undated letters on unheaded paper during the summer break. I look forward to receiving a response from the NEELB."

TUV Comments on Closure of First Trust Branch in Ballycastle

TUV leader Jim Allister MLA has claimed that a decision by the First Trust Bank to close their Ballycastle branch will have a detrimental impact on the local community.

The bank has confirmed that the Ballycastle branch will close on 9 November 2012 when customer accounts will be moved to its Coleraine branch.

Commenting the North Antrim MLA explained:

"Ballycastle is a rural town

that draws in people from neighbouring villages. The bank played a central role within the town by enabling local people to avail of financial services.

"Unfortunately residents of Ballycastle will now need to drive at least 16 miles to Coleraine or Ballymoney to reach a First Trust branch."

Moyle Councillor Sharon McKillop further stated:

"As a local representative I understand how important it is

to local people to benefit from local services. I am therefore deeply disappointed to learn that the First Trust bank will close the Ballycastle branch later this year.

"Ballycastle is a small town with a rural population in the surrounding area who will be greatly inconvenienced by having to travel to Ballymoney or Coleraine to complete banking transactions.

"The decision to close the Ballycastle branch is a blow to the whole community."

Kennedy crying poverty on water infrastructure, but millions to Squander on A5



Commenting on Minister Kennedy's recent call for extra spend on water and sewerage infrastructure, TUV Leader Jim Allister said,

"I don't dispute that our water and sewerage infrastructure needs substantial upgrading

and expenditure, but I do find it strange why then Minister Kennedy prioritised his capital spend on the unnecessary and political project that is the A5. He is committing over £300m to this extravagant project, at the behest of Sinn Fein, while elsewhere our water and sewerage infrastructure can't cope and in multiple areas residents go through the torment and destruction of flooding.

"Sadly, putting politics before real need is contributing to the

misery so many are suffering after recent heavy rainfall. Even the £5 million per annum spent by the Executive on their spin doctors can't change this immutable reality."

Minister Kennedy has now confirmed that £330 million will be spend on upgrading the A5 despite opposition from local farmers, environmentalists and the urgent need to prioritise investment on water infrastructure.



Jim Allister MLA uncovers endemic discrimination by SF Ministers

Robinson's Bluster on North - South Bodies Exposed in Assembly

Since his election to the Northern Ireland Assembly Jim Allister MLA has acted to expose the waste of millions on North-South bodies that could otherwise be deployed to frontline services.

During recent Assembly questions Mr. Allister has now discovered that the Executive will continue to sponsor North-South bodies despite a previous DUP pledge to cut expenditure.

Statement by TUV leader Jim Allister:

"On 10th October last year Peter Robinson responded to my probing about the terms of

reference of the St Andrews review of North/South Bodies not including the possibility of reducing the number of bodies by claiming:

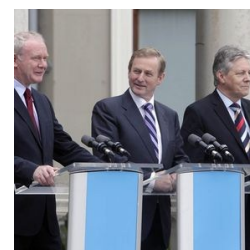
"The Member knows very well that the terms of reference were in three parts, the first of which related to efficiencies. Of course, under that part, proposals for a reduction in the number of bodies can be considered."

"Now in response to probing by myself (and indeed a DUP MLA) we have had it confirmed by co-equal First Minister McGuinness that there will be no reduction in the number of

North/South Bodies.

"At this time of austerity when many ordinary people are feeling the squeeze financially there will be few who will welcome the news that we will continue to squander millions every year on bodies which provide nothing of tangible benefit.

"We simply cannot continue to waste over £2 million a year to the Food Safety Promotion Board – a body based in Co Cork and which doesn't employ a single person in Northern Ireland – and other similar useless bodies".



No Austerity cuts to North-South bodies despite FM pledge

Victims' Commission Should Resign

Jim Allister has joined with a number of victims in criticising the appointment of Eibhin Glenholmes to a new victims forum.

Ms. Glenholmes is a victim-maker rather than a victim but will now advise on how best to deal with victims issues.

In a Statement TUV leader Jim Allister MLA called on the Victims Commission to resign over the appointment:

"The appointment of Eibhin Glenholmes - who was wanted

in Great Britain on nine warrants covering offenses including murder and attempted murder – to the Victims' Forum is monstrous.

"It amounts to a calculated insult to the innocent victims and underscores the contempt with which they are treated.

"Glenholmes is clearly associated with the victim makers and remains unrepentant about their actions. Indeed, in a recent interview when asked if the IRA's terrorist campaign was wrong she replied,

"Absolutely not".

"How can those who suffered because of the bombs and bullets of the IRA have confidence in a body which contains such a person?

"The Victims Commission has lost all credibility with innocent victims following this appointment and should resign immediately.

"Glenholmes also needs to come clean on her own past."



Once wanted for murder—but now pretends to be a victim

The Symbolism of the blood-stained hand of McGuinness



TUV leader Jim Allister MLA has exposed the political agenda that overshadowed the Queen's Jubilee visit to Northern Ireland.

Commenting on the symbolism of Martin McGuinness blood-stained hand shake the TUV Leader stated:-

"As the political elite and the media overdose on McGuinness handshake mania, I want to speak up for those who see through this cynical Sinn Fein stunt and its duplicity.

"Having milked it for weeks,

IRA Commander McGuinness now pretends it symbolises him offering his hand to every Unionist. If its symbolism he wants, then the hand that he proffers is one stained with the innocent blood of all his IRA murdered, including Lord Mountbatten – a murder for which he has yet to apologise or even say it was wrong.

"Her Majesty, whom Sinn Fein have ensured will not even enter Parliament Buildings, ought not to have been put in the position of

having her most welcome Jubilee visit hijacked by the politics of 'the peace process' so that McGuinness can make political capital, while at the same timing only meeting her on his terms in the context of a joint venture including the Republic's President – which in itself deliberately diminishes the Jubilee status of The Queen's visit.

"I greatly welcome Her Majesty's visit but I regret the politics which is being played with it."

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Mystery Surround Diamond Jubilee Tickets

A great number of people were left bitterly disappointed after they failed to secure tickets for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations at the Stormont Estate in June. With tickets snapped up online within minutes questions were soon raised about the distribution process.

Jim Allister MLA has therefore sought clarification as to how tickets were distributed.

In a statement Jim Allister MLA explained:

"In light of the controversy and widespread disappointment arising from the apparent paucity of Jubilee Garden party tickets available for public

distribution, I am calling for total transparency by the NIO as to how the tickets were distributed.

"There are reports of some politicians and parties having access to hundreds of tickets. In my case I was allocated a total of 5 tickets as an MLA and my party got none. I call on other parties to publicly reveal how many they obtained and how. The distribution of tickets for this event should not be an occasion for patronage by politicians.

"My office sought clarification from the NIO, but we are still waiting for any response as to how and to whom tickets were released.

TUV Annual BBQ



The TUV Annual BBQ will be held on Saturday 18th August from 4pm in Antrim.

All members and supporters are welcome to attend and support this social event.

Tickets cost £5 and are available by contacting the Party Secretary on 028 25640250.