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Issue 4



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Jim Allister and Anne Travers launch the Private Members Bill at Stormont

Jim Allister has unveiled a Private Members Bill which would ban people convicted of an offence carrying a sentence of five years or more from holding the post of Special Adviser to a Minister at Stormont. It would further remove anyone convicted of such an offence already in the role.

The TUV leader was accompanied at the launch of his consultation on the Bill by Ann Travers. Miss Travers's 22 year old sister Mary was murdered by Mary McArdle. McArdle is currently a Special Adviser to the Culture Minister.

Commenting at the launch of the consultation the TUV

Allister Highlights Protestant Under-representation at Universities

Jim Allister MLA has highlighted the under-representation of Protestants at Northern Ireland's universities.

Mr. Allister obtained the data by way of a series of written questions to the Employment and Learning Minister. The North Antrim MLA said:

"It is alarming to notice the very pronounced difference between the number of students coming from Protestant and Roman Catholic backgrounds attending both of our universities.

"Of particular concern is the breakdown of students at the

Bill to Ban Terrorists from Special Adviser Posts

leader said:

"No event in recent years has done more to illustrate the depravity at the heart of Northern Ireland politics than the appointment of a convicted killer to the post of Special Adviser. Quite understandably there was a public outcry following the appointment – thanks in no small part to the courageous and outspoken stand of Miss Travers.

"However, Stormont has been marked by a desire to brush the matter under the carpet.

"I attempted to secure a debate in the Assembly expressing dismay and disgust at the appointment but no space was found for the issue.

"It is evident from an interview the First Minister gave that the review of the appointment of Special Advisers carried out by the Finance Minister will do nothing to remove McArdle.

"Hence the need for this Bill.

"Today I am calling upon all who believe in basic human decency, Unionist and Nationalist, to support my proposals. The Bill presents Stormont with an opportunity to right a great wrong. It will remove someone convicted of the most grievous of offences from an extravagantly well paid job and prevent the situation from ever arising again.

"I would appeal to people across Northern Ireland to respond to the consultation on the Bill. Every response which is received in support of these proposals – be it from an organisation or individual – will show support for the Travers family who have suffered so much as a result of Sinn Fein/IRA's heartless appointment."

You can obtain a copy of the consultation document from the TUV website at www.tuv.org.uk

The consultation deadline is November 30th.

Jordanstown and Magee campuses of the University of Ulster. At Jordanstown there are just 3,850 Protestant students compared with 6,640 Roman Catholics while at Magee Protestants make up less than 1/5 of the student population.

"The situation at the University of Ulster is compounded by the fact that there is a total imbalance in terms of the number of students coming from the Irish Republic. While at Queen's there is essentially equilibrium between the number of students coming from the Republic and GB, at University of Ulster the

number of students from the Republic is five times greater than the UK Mainland. It is essential that something is done to address this situation.

"It seems to me there has been a lamentable failure by the University of Ulster in their recruitment from controlled schools and, thus, I am looking to them to address this. I will be writing to the Vice-Chancellor.

"I would particularly like to see more Protestant boys from working class areas are encouraged to progress to third level education at one of our local universities.

"Why would you need your salary when you have the proceeds of the Northern Bank at your disposal?"

**Fine Gael chief whip
Paul Kehoe
(16/10/11)**

"Jim Allister does perform an important function in the Assembly – challenging the cosy political consensus, asking annoying questions."

**Fionola Meredith,
Hearts and Minds
(10/10/11)**

"I can sit beside Jim Allister and disagree with him all day. At least he knows where his point of view comes from. But some of these people, their point of view is being handed to them on a sheet of paper, and actually – when you talk to them – they don't even agree with the thing they read out."

**Steven Agnew
Green Party Leader
(29/10/11)**

Invest NI's appalling record in North Antrim

North Antrim MLA Jim Allister has expressed deep disappointment at figures released to him in an Assembly answer on the extent of the effort by Invest NI to attract jobs to North Antrim.

Mr Allister had sought details on the number of jobs created in each constituency on foot of Invest NI's efforts over the last 5 years and the number of foreign investors they had brought to visit each constituency.

The figures reveal the shocking reality that for 4 years, from 2006-2010, not a single

foreign investor was introduced to North Antrim, though over the same period 805 visits had been arranged to other parts of Northern Ireland. It was only in 2010/11 that for the first time in 5 years that Invest NI brought a foreign investor to visit North Antrim, when 2 visits took place out of a total of 181 across Northern Ireland.

Commenting Jim Allister said,

"These are astounding figures and a huge indictment of Invest NI. How can it be that with our willing and skilled workforce Invest NI only thought it worth its while to

arrange 2 visits in 5 years, while the constituency of the First Minister, Peter Robinson, had 47. Indeed of the total visits over 5 years, two thirds went to Belfast. Even when Ian Paisley was First Minister North Antrim didn't have a single potential foreign investor come to see what we had to offer. Why has North Antrim been let down in this way, while over the same period we haemorrhaged jobs, particularly in Ballymoney?"

Allister takes fight on boundary changes to the Commission

TUV Leader and local MLA, Jim Allister, attended a public hearing, hosted by the Boundary Commission, in Ballymena regarding the proposed boundary changes.

Mr Allister made oral representations against the proposition that the existing North Antrim should be redrawn to exclude Ballymena, but include Coleraine, while Ballymena, along with Larne and Carrickfergus, should form the new seat of Mid Antrim.

Mr Allister began by

challenging the admission of the Commission that they looked at the constituency map of Northern Ireland by starting from a south west perspective, a north west perspective and a Belfast perspective, but never considered starting from a north east perspective, which would have established that the existing North Antrim matched exactly the electoral quota being sought in each constituency. Instead, having worked round the Province from every other direction they were left to apply a

mathematical formula which truncated North Antrim in a most absurd and incongruous way.

Speaking afterwards, Jim Allister said, "I think it was important to explain in person why what is proposed is utterly crazy. I was disappointed by the absence of other politicians, but, nonetheless, the folly of what is proposed was firmly put on the record. Hopefully, the Commission will look afresh at what they've proposed and recognise that North Antrim should stay as presently configured."

Allister welcomes Lignite victory

Jim Allister has welcomed the concession by the Planning Service to accede to the demand to withdraw policy 'MIN1'.

Speaking after making representations to the Public Hearing in Ballymoney Town Hall (4th Oct), when it dealt with the lignite issue in the PAC's consideration of the draft Northern Area Plan, the TUV Leader explained:

'MIN 1' was the policy in the draft plan designed to prohibit development within the Lignite Resource Area, which

stretches from Ballymoney to Stranocum. Whereas, lately there had been an offer by the DOE Minister to supersede it for 2 years by giving preference to PPS 21, Mr Allister argued at the hearing that this was not enough and that the policy, which the department did not try to justify, should be withdrawn entirely. The representative of Ballymoney Council agreed. After an adjournment to allow the departmental representative to take instructions the resumed hearing was told the Department agreed and 'MIN 1' was formerly withdrawn.

Commenting, Jim Allister said,

"This is a significant victory for the campaigners on the lignite issue. 'MIN 1' would have been a dire blight on development throughout the affected area, which has been sterilised too long already. I commend the Department for the common sense decision to withdraw it. Now, unless actual prejudice to the lignite resource can be demonstrated, the same rules as apply everywhere else under PPS 21 should see opportunities for rural development in this area."

GAA Clubs Receive Twice the Funding Provided to Football

North Antrim MLA Jim Allister has expressed shock after he uncovered that clubs affiliated to the Irish Football Association and IRFU receive a fraction of the government funding allocated to GAA clubs.

The TUV leader said:

“I am appalled to learn by way of an Assembly question that GAA clubs in Northern Ireland have received more than double the exchequer funding allocated to their footballing counterparts over the last five years.

“GAA clubs have received almost £18 million of tax payer’s money while clubs affiliated with the Irish Football Association have received under £8.5 million over the same period. Clubs affiliated to the Irish Rugby Football Union received a mere £708,187 over the last five years.

“Even when Lottery funding is taken into account the gap is still huge.

“What makes these figures all the more shocking is that for much of that time the DUP controlled the Department of

Culture, Arts and Leisure.

“It’s about time that those sports which are participated in and enjoyed by all sections of our community received their fair share of funding. It is simply unacceptable that the GAA – an organisation which continues to glorify terrorism by the names it gives to its grounds and competitions – should receive such two thirds of Exchequer funding allocated to clubs across the GAA, IRFU and IFA.”



Allister launches bid to remove Mary McArdle from Special Advisor Post

How Much Collusion from those who sit in Government?

North Antrim MLA Jim Allister made the following comments during a discussion on the Pat Finucane case in the Assembly:

“The murder of Pat Finucane was indisputably wrong, as was every murder. However, the point needs to be made, which some would like to forget, that the Finucane family had the offer of a judicial inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005, which they rejected. Many other families never had such an offer. Some families – the Nelson family

and the Wright family – had such offers, which they accepted and had their inquiries. If the Finucane family had not been so insatiable in their demands, they would also have had their judicial inquiry by now. Something about the matter is self-inflicted in that regard.

“Many people love to talk about collusion in the context only of the British Government authorities. However, collusion has more than one side. I could well ask: how much collusion was there

from some who now sit in government in the House in the murder of soldiers, policemen and civilians such as Pasty Gillespie, Frank Hegarty and Joanne Mathers, a census worker? Those are unanswered questions about which I hear no calls for inquiries and no apologies, yet they go to the very core of probity in government right here in Northern Ireland, never mind Westminster. When we reflect on collusion, perhaps this place should begin by putting its own house in order.”



Allister challenges the University of Ulster on religious imbalance

Stormont declines to debate halting MLA pay rise

An attempt by Jim Allister MLA to halt a proposed pay rise for MLAs has been thwarted.

Jim Allister had requested that the Assembly debate the issue. However his request was subsequently rejected.

Commenting Jim Allister stated:

“I am sure that ordinary members of the public have been surprised by the indications that MLAs are set to receive a pay increase – in spite of the fact that months after an election we have no Programme for Government,

no government legislation and debate only motions on such weighty matters as ‘weed control’.

“How, therefore, a pay increase could be warranted is beyond my comprehension.

“On the 21st October I attempted to table a motion, aimed at suspending any consideration of a pay rise. However, I was informed by the Business Office that the motion would not be accepted because, while the Assembly Commission approved the appointments of those who

are carrying out the pay review, they have no power to suspend it! This is incredible and goes back to legislation the last Assembly passed in order to put MLAs in the position of denying ownership of any proposed pay increase.

“Thus we have a convenient situation where MLAs will claim that they had no control over receiving the pay rise! The Assembly should be master of its own affairs in this regard, but, instead, I find it can’t, or won’t, even debate the issue. What a farce!”



Allister welcomes lignite victory in North Antrim

On the Run From the Republic



McGuinness has ran back to Latimer’s warm embrace

Responding to the Irish Republic’s presidential election TUV leader Jim Allister said:

“Martin McGuinness is no stranger to being on the run in the Republic but it’s now more of a case of being on the run from the Republic.

“Having been soundly beaten in the election he can

now file away his character references from Peter Robinson and Ian Paisley which were repeatedly produced when his IRA connections were quite rightly placed under the microscope by the Southern media and run back to the comforting embrace of Rev Latimer.

“The outrageous thing is that while the electorate of the Irish Republic had the good sense to resoundingly reject McGuinness, the DUP will reinstate him as co-equal First Minister.

“If he isn’t good enough for the Republic why should we accept him up here?”

Allister questions £75,000 for IRA getaway driver

TUV Leader Jim Allister tabled the following question, arising from the awarding of £75,000 to an IRA getaway driver.

“To ask Minister for Finance and Personnel, in light of the judgement in McKeever-v-MOD, if he will urgently review the civil law to bring it into line with the law governing criminal injury compensation so that a plaintiff with a relevant conviction will be prohibited from obtaining full compensation.”

The Question is tabled under Standing Order 20A, which permits such a facility, if the

Speaker agrees the matter is urgent and relates to a matter of public importance.

Commenting Jim Allister said, “I trust the Speaker will see the urgency of this matter in light of the high level of public unease about the enrichment of a convicted terrorist by £75,000 through a civil court award. The point I am drawing attention to is that under criminal injury compensation law he would have been prohibited from obtaining an award and, therefore, I am asking the minister with responsibility for law reform to examine the case for bringing the civil law into line.”



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Nothing That is Morally Wrong Can Be Politically Right!

Allister Dismayed by Vacant Business Units in North Antrim

TUV Leader and North Antrim MLA Jim Allister has expressed dismay at the number of vacant business premises across North Antrim.

In reply to a recent Assembly Question to a Stormont Minister, Mr Allister established that there currently are 445 vacant business premises in Ballymena district, 192 in Ballymoney and 109 in Moyle, a total of 745.

Mr Allister said: “We all knew the recession was biting deep but when you see the cold figures that there are 750 business premises that once prospered, now empty, it underscores the depth of what we’re facing. With every business that closes the heartbeat of our town centres weakens. It also increases the

burden on local ratepayers as the local tax take falls, yet services must be paid for.

“Taken with last week’s revelation that in five years Invest NI only bothered to bring two potential foreign investors to visit North Antrim, then it confirms to me how badly those in authority have taken their eye off the ball. A constituency which has 750 idle business premises is an area deserving priority attention, not neglect. We need a strategy for recovery in North Antrim and we need our fair share of investment, yet Invest NI is handing back £17.5m it says it couldn’t spend.

“The DUP/Sinn Fein regime at Stormont is failing this area and these figures are testimony to that sad reality.”

**Annual Conference
19th November 2011
Royal Hotel
Cookstown
10.30am**



**TUV Trip
London
24th- 26th November 2011**

