

**September 2011**  
**Issue 3**



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Speaker William Hay (DUP) has banned Jim Allister from speaking in the Assembly

Jim Allister was banned from speaking at the Assembly amid an escalating row after teasing the DUP over Martin McGuinness's bid to become Irish president.

Assembly speaker Willie Hay, who was elected as a DUP MLA has been in a running battle with the sole TUV MLA and moved to silence his former party colleague as he asked a question of the First Minister.

When called to ask a question, Mr Allister said: "I was tempted to ask the First Minister was it something he said or did in the United States that caused his partner, the Deputy First Minister, to look for alternative employment?" Mr Allister was called to order by the speaker.

Jim Allister has spoken out against the Rev Latimer who earlier this month described Martin McGuinness as a 'great leader' at the Sinn Fein Party conference.

Commenting on the statement Jim Allister stated:

"Predictably, Rev Latimer's warm up act for the IRA/Sinn Fein conference turned out to be an episode of abject obeisance towards IRA leader McGuinness. In describing McGuinness as a 'great leader' he trampled on the

### Speaker goes Haywire

Mr Hay said: "The member needs to learn a lesson that in this house there are protocols, standing orders and conventions in this house that relate to him as to any other member in this house."

After exchanges continued between Mr Hay and Mr Allister, the speaker added: "I am now going to say to the member directly, the member will not be called in this house for some time, for any debate." Mr Allister could be heard saying "this house is a disgrace", as the speaker repeatedly asked him to remain silent.

Commenting on the gagging order Jim Allister stated:

"In the Stormont Assembly you can be a convicted terrorist, a bomber, a killer, and have unhindered speaking rights, but dare to challenge the cosy political consensus and it seems you will be denied even the right to speak.

"I was astounded that having been called to speak I was denied the right to ask my question because I introduced

my remarks with some levity,

I seek no favours, but I do expect fair play. And, on the subject of speaking rights in debates I expect Standing Order 17 (5) to be observed when it requires that, "The Speaker shall determine the order of speaking and the number of speakers in any debate having due regard to the balance of opinion on the matter..." It was the ignoring of this requirement last week, in the debate on the absence of a Programme for Government, when only members of Executive parties were called, which sparked my legitimate Point of Order. It has not been adequately answered and I stand over the point made as illustrative of the farce whereby a debate can be held on a Programme for Government with all opposition voices excluded. Such conduct says more about Stormont than it does about me. How any Assembly treats its minority is a measure of its worth. On today's politburo performance, Stormont has a long way to travel."

### Allister comments on Latimer's eulogy of IRA/Sinn Fein leader

graves and memories of all the victims of his IRA. McGuinness may have been a great leader of the murdering IRA, but such is not something to salute but loath.

"This latter day Lundy may see McGuinness as 'one of the great leaders of modern times'. I see him as one of the most unrepentant terrorist godfathers of modern times."

"I must also say that criticism from those like Gregory Campbell who forged the template - by ushering IRA/Sinn Fein into

government is hypocritical."



Rev Latimer jokes with Bogside Butcher; Martin McGuinness

**“Privately some MLAs will admit that Allister has been punching above his weight.”**

**- McAdam,  
Belfast Telegraph  
(29/09/11)**

**“The ban that was effectively imposed on the Traditional Unionist Voice leader Jim Allister yesterday does not help the credibility of the Northern Ireland Assembly.”**

**- Irish News  
Editorial  
(27/09/11)**

**“Jim Allister has been impressive in highlighting the contradiction's and the sclerotic nature of the coalition “**

**- McDonald, Belfast  
Telegraph (02/09/11)**

## **Allister Renews Campaign on Special Advisers as Sinn Fein Duck and Dive**

Just two days into the new Assembly term and TUV leader Jim Allister renewed his campaign for openness when it comes to Special Advisers. Commenting the North Antrim MLA said:

“I had tabled a number of searching questions relating to how the current batch of Special Advisers were appointed before the recess. They obviously caused the Ministers considerable difficulty because not one of them was addressed!

“To all Sinn Fein/IRA Ministers I tabled the following question:

(i) how many candidates were

considered for the post of Ministerial Special Adviser; (ii) what account was taken of any potential imbalance in religious background or gender in the pool from which the Minister selected the Special Adviser; (iii) how wide was the trawl for candidates and how did the Minister ensure it was “broadly based” as required by the Code of Practice on the Appointment of Special Advisers; and (iv) to publish the job description and person specification drawn up before the Special Adviser was appointed.

“A series of “answers” came

back from the Ministers which failed to address any of the specific points in the question. The only exception was the Office of the Co-First Ministers which hasn't answered the question at all – this in spite of the fact that Standing Orders require Ministers to respond to Written Questions within 10 days!

“I have therefore asked the Sinn Fein/IRA Ministers to address the question put to them back in June properly and have raised OFMdfM's failure to reply at all with the Speaker.”

## **Allister comments on FNMS and Crossnacreevy report**

Jim Allister, who while MEP campaigned vigorously on the Farm Nutrient Management Scheme (FNMS) and raised multiple questions about the contrived valuation of 'the Crossnacreevy lands', has welcomed the reported findings of the Public Accounts Committee which are highly critical of the behaviour of both DARD and DFP.

Jim Allister stated; "The Crossnacreevy saga - when land patently worth less than £5m was misrepresented as worth £200m - was a disgraceful accounting dodge. Though it was known the land

was in the greenbelt, and thus not eligible for development, it was valued at prime development rates to produce the ludicrous valuation for these 80 acres of £200m. In fact it was worth under £5m. How and who perfected this wheeze has never been fully explained. It happened on Peter Robinson's watch at DFP, who, of all people, knew the value of land in Castlereagh and the blight on value if it was in the greenbelt.

"This was an accounting failure of huge proportions, but I expect the vested interests at play will ensure

those responsible will escape responsibility. But, at least, the PAC report should expose some of the machinations at play.

"As for the reported findings on the FNMS and its maladministration, these too are welcome. The Nitrates Directive was an EU folly which typically tried to apply a 'one size fits all' solution, but, of course, in our case, because we didn't have a nitrates problem, it resulted in unnecessarily inflicted costs on both farmers and the taxpayers.”

## **30m on Consultants for A5!**

TUV Leader Jim Allister has expressed amazement that £38m has already been spent, mostly on consultants, on the A5 project.

Mr Allister had tabled this Question to DRD: To ask the Minister for Regional Development how much has been spent to date on consultants for the A5 project.

This is the answer received: My Department, Roads Service has advised that at the end of August 2011, approximately

£38 million has been spent on development of the A5 project. This total includes £29.8 million on the cost of professional services provided by project consultants and £2.8 million on the cost of contractors' design advice.

Commenting Jim Allister said, "For such an ill-conceived project to have already swallowed up £38m of taxpayers' money is scandalous. Think how much road maintenance and how many essential modest schemes this could have

funded, but instead it was wasted on a grandiose scheme which is first and foremost a political project, rather than a roads project.

"This is a scheme which never went through the normal assessment processes, but instead was leapfrogged to the top of the queue. Now, it seems it is already a bottomless pit for the squander of public money. It is time the Minister called a halt on expenditure till a reasoned decision is made on the future of the project."

## Allister Calls on Minister to Intervene in Moyle Council

TUV leader and North Antrim MLA Jim Allister has called for the Department of the Environment Minister Alex Attwood MLA to intervene in Moyle District Council.

The call comes after Mr Allister received details of an invitation sent by the Council Chairman to representatives of Gaza City Council. Mr Allister has also discovered that the invitation was sent without prior approval of Moyle Council and that the Chairman failed to seek advice from the Council Chief Executive.

Commenting on the invitation Mr Allister said:

"Gaza is controlled by Hamas. Hamas internationally is an illegal organisation. The Chairman of Moyle Council not only failed to seek advice from the Chief-Executive but he did not gain approval from Council colleagues with regard to his invitation to Hamas representatives.

"It is apparent that the Moyle Council Chairman is operating outside his remit and by his actions has mired the local

Council in a matter of international politics."

"Local Councils were established to debate issues of local concern and thereby improve the immediate local community not to undertake overt political projects at an international level, nor to waste ratepayers' money on such. The Council Chairman has overstretched himself and his solo-run is in breach of the spirit of Local Government and probably the legislation that guides it."



**William Ross conducts the official opening of Jim Allister's new office in Ballymena**

## Allister Slams Vile Attack at Rasharkin

TUV leader Jim Allister MLA has called on the PSNI and the Parades Commission to investigate an alleged act of intimidation by a member of the group protesting against the Ballymacconnelly Sons of Conquerors Flute Band parade held in Rasharkin earlier this month.

Commenting on the revelations Jim Allister stated:

"I have received a disturbing complaint regarding the protest held against the Ballymacconnelly band parade. I understand that the complaint has also been

registered with the PSNI.

I understand that a protestor shouted abusive and sectarian comments at a band member relating to his father who was murdered by the IRA. The complainant was subjected to a sickening and vile attack relating to this murder and clearly, the one who undertook this abusive taunt was fully aware of its significance. Naturally, it has caused the young man, and his family, great distress.

I anticipate that by engaging in such threatening and abusive behaviour the culprit was in

breach of the criminal law. I trust, therefore, that the matter will be investigated with vigor by the PSNI.

I have also called on the Parades Commissions to explain what subsequent action they intend to take.

I have further asked if the Commission will ensure that this complaint is included in their report on the band parade.

I await the response of both the PSNI and the Parades Commission in respect of this case."



**Jim Allister faces wrath of the DUP speaker after making a joke about Martin McGuinness**

## No Public Confidence in Sinn Fein to Fix Education

The Education Minister has announced plans to audit local schools to ascertain which schools are 'viable'. In his statement to the Assembly he appeared to suggest that some schools had been failing pupils under the leadership of the two previous Sinn Fein Education Ministers.

Responding to the Statement Jim Allister commented:

"John O'Dowd's statement in the Assembly today will have

inspired no confidence within the community. It is important to remember that Sinn Fein/IRA have been the only party to hold the Education portfolio this century. If they were capable of improving the quality of our schools surely they would have already done so!

"It is important to remember that throughout Sinn Fein's time in holding the education brief there has been a very

noticeable imbalance in the number of Controlled schools which have closed when compared to the Maintained sector.

"Parents across the Province will judge Sinn Fein on their record – one which has brought uncertainty and tremendous anxiety to numerous families when it comes to post-primary transfer."



**Jim Allister calls for a vote of no confidence in Justice Minister over maladministration of gratuity scheme**

## TUV tables No Confidence motion in Ford

On the first day back at Stormont, TUV Leader Jim Allister, in response to the debacle over the Police Reserve Gratuity Scheme, which saw many deserving former officers refused payment, tabled a 'No Confidence' motion in Justice Minister David Ford over his handling of the issue and, in particular, his inflexibility over the application date.

Commenting the North Antrim MLA said, "One of the scandals of the summer was the disgraceful rejection of several

applications for payments under the gratuity scheme from reservists who knew nothing about the arrangements because of the woeful inadequacy of the Department of Justice's advertising campaign, compounded by the intransigence of the minister in refusing to face up to the mess he had created. Minister Ford then added to the shambles by overseeing the dispatch of letters which compromised recipient's security by revealing, through the envelope window, that they

were former police officers.

"All in all this was a woeful episode of bad government which the Assembly, if it is worth anything, must now address. Hence, today I have tabled this motion:-

That this Assembly, being dismayed by the failure of many deserving police reservists to benefit from the recent Gratuity scheme, expresses no confidence in the Justice Minister over his handling of this issue; and calls on the Department of Justice to reopen the

application process.

"Of course, whether it is ever debated depends on the DUP/Sinn Fein controlled Business Committee and on past performance they are likely to bury the issue, because embarrassment to the regime must be avoided at all costs. I will, therefore, watch with interest their response, but I suspect it will mirror what they did with my motion on the appointment of Mary McArdle - they ran away, because it was too difficult to handle."



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**Nothing That is Morally  
Wrong Can Be  
Politically Right!**

## Ross Opens New Constituency Office

TUV leader Jim Allister MLA has officially opened his new constituency office in Ballymena. The official opening was conducted by TUV Party President and former MP Mr William Ross on Wednesday evening.

Members of both the Ballymena and Ballymoney TUV branches together with Party Officers gathered outside as Mr Ross cut the ribbon and declared the office open. Addressing the crowd Mr Ross referred to Jim Allister's hard work and stated that the TUV leader would provide a dedicated constituency service. Mr Ross Stated:

"In 2009 the Taxpayer's Alliance voted Jim Allister the best UK MEP in respect of his work rate; no-one can doubt

Jim's dedication or hard work. He is passionate about serving his constituents and Northern Ireland. The opening of this office will ensure that he is well equipped to deliver a first-class service to the people of North Antrim.

When elected to the Assembly critics and media pundits argued that the TUV would be irrelevant ... how wrong they were! Jim has astounded the critics and has provided a strong and effective voice for the people of North Antrim. Furthermore he has signaled the only democratic way forward by providing a voice of opposition.

Opposition is vital in any democracy and the people of Northern Ireland deserve the

same democratic right as exists for the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales."

Jim Allister's constituency office is located at 38 Henry Street, Harryville Ballymena, BT42 3AH, opposite the Harryville car park where constituents can access free parking.

The office is open from Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm and from 9am to 1pm on Friday. Constituents can also contact the office by telephone: (028) 25640250 or by email: [info@jimallister.org](mailto:info@jimallister.org).

The office can help with a range of issues and the office team will assure constituents of a warm welcome.

