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Issue 5



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TUV leader Jim Allister MLA has exposed a plan by the Justice Minister David Ford to remove the crown from the symbol of the prison service and to end the naming of the service and its prisons as 'Her Majesty's'.

Commenting on the matter, Mr Allister stated: "The revelation in the Assembly – on foot of my probing – that the Justice Minister anticipates dropping the Crown from the symbol of the Prison Service and ceasing to call prisons 'Her Majesty's Prisons', is an utterly unacceptable sop to IRA/Sinn Fein, which I am happy to have exposed.

"It is clear that as part of an agreed stratagem these decisions will be falsely passed off as 'operational matters' for the Prison Service.

On 19th November, the TUV held their annual Party conference in Cookstown. The conference was addressed by a dozen speakers including party leader; Jim Allister MLA.

Below is an extract from his speech :

"Stormont – that cocoon of DUP/Sinn Fein misrule - may be a cold house for principle, conviction and truth, but it will take more than that to silence this Traditional Unionist Voice. TUV men and women are made of stern stuff and we need to be. Salute courage of all our councillors who fight

ALLISTER EXPOSES PRISON REFORM

They are not operational matters, but are strategic decisions which go to the very heart of the ethos and status of the Prison Service.

"Just as with the RUC in the past, it is now clear that a plan is afoot to change both name and badge of the Prison Service. What a calculated insult to the many brave prison officers who gave their lives in the service at the hands of IRA terrorism. Having lived through the humiliation and destruction of the RUC, I trust the wider unionist community will determine that the same will not be permitted to happen to the prison service.

"When the RUC was so destroyed, the DUP blamed the UUP. Well now, the challenge to today's lead party of unionism is to stop this sell out. They can do so by blocking every facet of the proposed prison reform which needs Assembly and Executive approval till these insulting changes are abandoned. My challenge tonight to the DUP is that they pledge to do so.

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"Also, since the prison reform package is the product of the Hillsborough Agreement, the public is entitled to know if such changes were ever mooted or even acquiesced in? Indeed, before agreeing to a review of the Prison Service at Hillsborough, the DUP could have ring-fenced the title and badge from alteration. But, it seems that was not done.

"I am surprised that it took the probing of this mere backbencher to unearth this plan. Having exposed it, now every unionist should rally to oppose it. I trust they will."

Party Conference 2011: Delivering Accountability

lonely but stoic battles.

Whatever our numbers, as a party we've made our mark. No one needs explanation as to where TUV stands and will continue to stand.

Others may put the baubles of office above principle, but that is not the TUV way.

Thank God our forefathers were men of principle, stability and determination. If, 100 years on, this generation prefers the potage of Provo's in government, then it won't be citizenship, equal or they'll be bequeathing to the next

generations.

TUV has no identity crisis about our unionism. We know what we believe and why. We go forward more determined than ever that we shall be heard; and the more we do the more people are taking notice and see the added value that we bring to unionism.

Being in Stormont, being in politics, for me is about doing the right thing. It's not about power, nor popularity, but about principle. And may it never be otherwise, for me or this party."

Allister Demands Delivery on Derelict Disaster at Dervock

“Jim Allister, head of a tiny party, is a man with the ability to make the DUP jump.”

- Liam Clarke , Belfast
Telegraph 17/11/11

“Jim Allister’s political antennae homed in on how the Justice Minister’s agenda for change may just lead to such adjustments, and the blue torch paper was lit. Mr. Robinson duly exploded yesterday, as Mr. Allister hoped, and furore ensued.”

- Alan Murray, Belfast
Telegraph 16/11/11

“Clearly Justice had the Patton template in mind in terms of how to reform the prison service here. Jim Allister rumbled this in the assembly and forced David Ford to say things he shouldn’t have said, particularly on the whole question of the symbols. Direct hit for Mr. Allister.”

- Eamonn Mallie
15/11/11

TUV leader Jim Allister MLA has written to the Social Development Minister regarding derelict properties that are blighting local towns and villages.

In the letter Mr Allister highlights an abandoned garage in the village of Dervock

“The site at Dervock is an example of a derelict site that has become an absolute

Speech by North Antrim MLA Jim Allister on the need to preserve our libraries.

Libraries are wonderful places. Reference has been made to the fantastic contribution of the Carnegie libraries. They have contributed more to this society than many other much more vaunted institutions.

I also have a particular soft spot for libraries — maybe I should declare an interest — because it was in the library that I first asked my wife to go out with me—but that is enough sentiment.

Ms Ruane’s contribution was interesting. She told us that we should not politicise the issue of libraries. Coming from the Minister who probably did more to politicise a Department than any Minister we have ever

Statement by TUV Ballymena Councillor Roy Gillespie:

“Some time ago I was contacted by an elderly resident who was upset because of the prolonged use of fireworks in the Ballymoney / Grove Road area on Sunday 30th October. She was particularly distressed as she regards Sunday as the Sabbath and a day when the normal day to day affairs of the week are left aside.

“After I made them aware of

eyesore and there is the further added dimension of possible contamination and danger from the old fuel tanks on site. What gives this Dervock example added poignancy is that the village is preparing to celebrate the centenary of the success of its Olympian, Kennedy Kane McArthur. It is very discouraging and frustrating for public spirited villagers, who

Allister Speaks up for Libraries

had the misfortune to have in this country, that was pretty rich.

My real concern for the libraries that will suffer a reduction in hours is that, ultimately, that should not be a means of bringing about their closure. There comes a point of viability at which, if you squeeze a library and its facilities to below a level that is survivable, you make the continuance of that library questionable. I fear that there could be a stratagem to ease, by a thousand cuts as it were, the eventual demise of some libraries.

We all have to be particularly vigilant to ensure that the resource that we should value in our communities — be it in my local village of Kells or elsewhere — is defended.

Gillespie Concerned at Illegal Use of Fireworks

the issue Jim Allister’s office contacted the Justice Department. Minister Ford has confirmed that his Department did not issue any firework licenses for Sunday 30th October in the area and that the account provided to me points to the use of illegal fireworks.

“Minister Ford states that this can be a difficult offence for the police to address. However, I believe that one obvious practical change which could be made would be to

want to spruce up their village for this notable centenary, to find this eyesore on one of the main routes into and out of the village.

Thus, any help which the department can give in forcing action from the owner, or otherwise assisting, would be greatly appreciated.”

“What we have, we hold” is a phrase that comes to mind. That is and was the resolve of many of the marvelous campaigners who secured such attainment in the library campaign against the closure of the 10 libraries that were earmarked to go. I salute them in that regard.

The Minister is prepared to squander money on far less deserving causes. The libraries have suffered enough from reductions; they need the protection that the essential funding gives them.

Libraries are worth keeping and are worth fighting for. Of course, the Minister’s IRA thought that it was right in 1993 to bomb the Linen Hall Library. I trust that she will take the opportunity today to condemn that wanton act.

provide local police stations with a list of people in their area who have obtained firework licenses. When I became aware of this issue I contacted Ballymena PSNI but it would appear from their response that local stations are not provided with this information. This is, I believe, a situation which needs to be rectified and something I will be asking our local MLA Jim Allister to raise with the Justice Minister.”

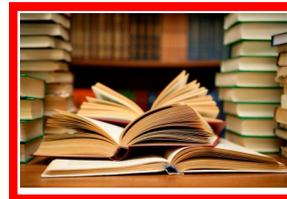
Enterprise Minister has no idea how many alleged jobs actually exist!

Commenting on exchanges in the Assembly during Questions to the DETI Minister, TUV Leader Jim Allister expressed amazement that an Executive which likes to trumpet that Invest NI has ‘promoted’ 25,000 jobs since 2011, cannot say how many of those jobs actually came into existence and still exist.

“How is it that we have a DETI minister who does not know how many jobs Invest NI – whose Chief Executive she rewarded with approval of a £35,000 performance bonus – has really created. She has been in office for years – did she never think to ask? How can you judge the latest promise of another 25,000 jobs

without knowing how the makers of that promise actually delivered in the last Programme for Government?

“One reality we do know is that under this government unemployment has spiraled from 26,000 in 2007 to 61,000 today!”



Jim Allister has defended libraries against the impending cuts

Yet More Evidence of Growing Lawlessness in Prisons

TUV Party Leader Jim Allister MLA has uncovered shocking statistics in relation to security alerts in Northern Ireland’s 3 prisons.

Commenting on the matter Mr Allister stated:

In response to an Assembly Question I have established that there have been a total of 4,411 security alerts over the last five years in Northern Ireland’s prisons. Although some of the alerts fall into a number of different categories so there may be an element of double counting in relation to some incidents the total is

staggering.

When one looks at the breakdown of the figures some startling facts emerge. In Maghaberry there were 38 cell wrecks in 2010 – almost double the total for the previous four years. There have also been a steady and alarming rise in the need for control and restraint incidents in the prison. There were 44 incidents in 2006 but this rose to 75 in 2009 and 138 in 2010.

“There has also been an alarming rise in the number of inmate on inmate assaults in Hydebank with a total of 64 in

2010 compared with 42 in 2006 and 39 in 2007.

“The figures also reveal an alarming number of drug incidents in Magilligan with over 700 drug related incidents there over the last five years. It is evident that there is a serious problem of lawlessness inside our prisons and under Minister Ford’s watch this has grown considerably worse.

These statistics reinforce my belief that David Ford needs to come to the Assembly and explain just what is going on inside our prisons.”



Jim Allister exposed Prison Reforms

Allister presses Agriculture Minister in Assembly Questions

During oral questions to the Agriculture Minister, TUV MLA Jim Allister, pressed the Minister on two issues, tackling tuberculosis and the disadvantage faced by UK egg producers from other member states.

Mr Allister bluntly asked, “When will the Minister put pragmatism before dogma and sentiment and support a badger cull so that we can assist in stopping the transmission of TB from one farm to another?”

The answer, as before, was disappointing with it being clear that this Minister will not badgers to help eliminate TB. “Sadly”, commented Mr Allister,

“the minister still seems more committed to protecting the badger than protecting farmers and herds from the ravages of this disease. Hence, the rural community continues to pay the price for her dogma.”

On egg production, Mr Allister joined in expressing deep concern about the inequity resulting from UK farmers complying with EU requirements on cages, while several other countries have remained non-compliant.

“Our farmers dutifully, and at considerable expense, complied while some other egg-producing countries defaulted, now producing a most unfair

competitive disadvantage to our producers. So far the EU Commission or Council of Ministers have not taken adequate action to address this inequity.”

The response was less than reassuring, nonetheless it is imperative that Europe addresses this issue robustly, indeed, just as robustly as they have addressed perceived deficiencies in our SFP regime, resulting in heavy fines. How much will the defaulting countries now be fined on the cage issue? We wait to see.”



TUV host Party Conference

TUV's Repeated Warnings on A5 Funding Proved Correct

Repeated warnings by Jim Allister MLA over Irish government funding for the A5 upgrade scheme have been proven correct.

Following the Irish governments decision to withdraw funding Jim Allister stated:

“News that the Irish Government has withdrawn funding for the A5 project vindicates the stand which I and my party have taken on the issue from very early on in the process.

“On 25th November last year

I stated: “With the Republic now in financial meltdown the prospect of it defaulting on its financial commitment to the A5 is greater than ever. The Dublin government can't afford this road and we certainly can't afford to build it for them.”

“On 13th January this year I said: “The folly of the approach is compounded by the fact that he is relying on £274 million coming from the Dublin Government when there will be a change of regime in Dublin and one of the most likely participants in the next government there, the Labour

Party, has already indicated its opposition to making this payment.”

“On 14th February I warned that it was “a project for which there is no guarantee of funding and TUV again raised the issue in its response to the Budget back in February of this year.”

““I am not opposed at all to necessary improvements to the A5, and recognise parts of the route require considerable upgrade, but I have always been of the opinion that a sustainable case has not been made out for the 'motorway-style' proposal along the full route.”

“I am calling on Roads Minister Danny Kennedy to scale back the A5 project immediately and put the money which that frees upto other deserving projects like the A2, the A26 and the overpass at the end of the West link to connect to the M2.”

“The money spread over several projects will create as many, and perhaps more, jobs in the hard-pressed construction sector than devoting it all to the A5. Moreover, the overall economic and infrastructural benefit for Northern Ireland will be greater.”



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TUV Enter The House of Commons

This years TUV trip was to London where members of the Party were able to gain access to the UK Parliament.

TUV have previously visited the European Parliament and it is hoped to add another destination to next years calendar.

While in London the TUV team took the opportunity to visit Harrods, Windsor Castle, Hyde Park Winter Wonderland, the Theatre, Covent Garden and St Paul's Cathedral.

The trip offered members of the Party an opportunity to view the UK capital but was also an excellent opportunity for members to develop and build friendships.

The TUV has often been referred to as a family and the trip certainly helped cement that reputation.

The trip was organized under the auspices of the TUV finance committee which is chaired by our Party Treasurer Kenny Loughrin.

The Finance Committee will be deciding on next years destination in February and any Party members with suggestions should contact their branch finance representative in advance of our February meeting.



TUV enter Westminster Hall

Dinner in Covent Garden



With our Police Escort

Covent Garden