traditional unionist voice

Manifesto 2009

www.jimallister.org

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European Parliamentary Election 4th June 2009

1 Allister

Foreword

by Party President

In this our first manifesto we have set out our vision, not just in the context of the EU, but also addressing the concerns of the Unionist people in the era of terrorist-inclusive government for Northern Ireland.

I believe that our blend of common sense, sound judgement and plain speaking contrasts favourably with the spin and verbal contortion of those who say one thing and then do another. As a consequence many of our citizens have lost confidence in politicians. I don't blame them, because we have been ill-served in Ulster by those who put the trappings of office before principle and promise.

On this vital issue TUV is different. Our involvement in politics is driven by conviction, not by private or financial gain. You know where you stand with us.

All elections are important, this one particularly so. It is not only your opportunity to return our hard-working MEP to Brussels; you can also show that you reject terrorists in government. It may be your last chance to halt the Belfast/St Andrews Agreement conveyer belt to an all Ireland Republic. If the DUP and their partner in government, Sinn Fein, succeed in their joint desire to snuff out Traditional Unionist opposition, then it will be full steam ahead.

Voting TUV is your insurance against intensified concessions to IRA/Sinn Fein. We are your brakes. You have nothing to lose in voting TUV but the chains which binds Ulster to the obscenity of unrepentant terrorists ruling over us, and much to gain by re-asserting the values of Traditional Unionism.

I thoroughly recommend this manifesto and our candidate to you. Both are sound and both deserve your support.

William Ross

Does Europe matter?

Whatever the wisdom of the UK belonging to the EU - and on that, TUV is clear, we believe the United Kingdom would be better off out, but such is a decision for the entire nation, not for the region of Northern Ireland - the fact is that it affects our everyday lives to an increasing and huge degree. 70 per cent of our laws originate in Brussels, either in the form of directly applicable Regulations or via Directives, which must be implemented locally. Our agriculture, fisheries, environmental laws, business regulations and increasingly our social and employment policies, are all shaped in Brussels.

So, indisputably, **Northern Ireland needs the very best representation it can get at the heart of Europe**. Experience, commitment and skill combine to make Jim Allister the obvious first choice.

Getting the job done

TUV fights this election not on empty promises, nor on the basis of an erratic and transient interest in Europe, but on the proven record of Jim Allister.

Jim Allister has raised representation of Northern Ireland in Europe to a new level. His predecessor, Ian Paisley, only attended sporadically and spoke a mere 24 times in 5 years (1999-2004). He asked only 2 oral and 2 written questions in 5 years. Contrast Jim Allister's record:

1999 - 2004	Speeches	Oral Questions	Written Questions
Paisley	24	2	2
Nicholson	51	2	24
Hume	11	1	2

2004 - 2009 as at 1/5/09	Speeches	Oral Questions	Written Questions
Allister	228	46	214
Nicholson	86	3	42
De Brun	71	0	41

As he promised in 2004, he truly has been Leading for Ulster.

Sadly, the DUP's neglect of Ulster in Europe continues. Edwin Poots MLA is supposed to represent Northern Ireland on the important **Committee of the Regions** in Brussels. In the two years from October 2006 he attended only once! **Nigel Dodds MP** is supposed to represent Northern Ireland on the **Council of Europe** in Strasbourg. Since 2006 he has attended only once!

Is this the abysmal level of non-representation Northern Ireland wants to go back to in the European Parliament? If not, vote Allister 1 – the man interested enough to do the job, and do it well.

Keeping two seats Unionist

Keeping two of Northern Ireland's seats in Europe in Unionist hands is a top priority. With the two sitting Unionist MEPs defending their seats, it is unfortunate the DUP has seen fit to split the vote. The second unionist seat is far from secure (Jim Nicholson was only 3,500 votes ahead of the SDLP on the first count in 2004), but can be held by full use of Unionist transfers. Thus, we ask for your number 1 vote and then suggest you vote for the other Unionist candidates, in order of your preference, to maximise the unionist vote. But don't be taken in by the self-serving scaremongering of some. **Vote according to your conscience and preference.**

Opposing Sinn Fein 24/7

TUV recognises IRA/Sinn Fein for what it was and still is, and treats it accordingly. Our actions match our words. In Strasbourg Jim Allister has used every opportunity to expose Sinn Fein's terrorist affinity, not just with ETA and FARC, but closer to home with relentless pursuit of issues such as the Northern Bank robbery, the Robert McCartney and Paul Quinn murders, the Columbia Three and much more. There is nothing cosy about TUV's relationship with Sinn Fein.

In this election there is much cynical propaganda about keeping Sinn Fein from topping the poll – something that in 2004 Jim Allister has already proved he can do. **If the DUP truly cared about thwarting Sinn Fein, they would not have advanced them to the heart and very top of government, nor split the vote in this election.**

The sad truth is that the DUP would rather see Jim Allister out of Europe than Barbara de Brun, because then they could stop looking over their shoulder at TUV and get back round the cabinet table with IRA/Sinn Fein in comfort.

You can't prop up Sinn Fein in government 9 to 5 in Stormont, and then go out, with credibility, at night to tell voters you are the Party to stop the Shinners. For 24/7 opposition to Sinn Fein and a principled stand both at home and abroad, vote Jim Allister number one.

The key European issues

Defending British sovereignity, rejecting Lisbon

The major constitutional debate which is raging in the EU is important for us all. The lines are sharply drawn between those determined to build a centralised super-state and those committed to the defence of national sovereignty.

Jim Allister has fought tenaciously against the increasing centralisation of Europe, opposing both the EU Constitution and its twin, the Lisbon Treaty. Believing passionately in the primacy of the rights of member states, he has been to the forefront among MEPs in opposing the haemorrhaging of national powers to Brussels. His on-line legal guide to the Lisbon Treaty (http://www.jimallister.org/uploads/_253.pdf) has been much praised and used.

The Lisbon Treaty moves us irreversibly further down the road to a federal Europe, proclaiming the primacy of EU law and gaining for the EU single legal personality in international law. It converts from "the European Community" to **"The Union"**, a combination of citizens, rather than member states, thereby advancing European citizenship. This in consequence bestows on the EU the apparatus of statehood: its own President, de facto Foreign Minister, Foreign Service, embryonic European Army and its own binding Charter of Fundamental Rights. It greatly expands centralised control through diminishing further national vetoes, by making a new tranche of powers (including justice and home affairs) exercisable by qualified majority, so that a dissenting member state can have policies it rejects foisted upon it. This is not democracy- this is dictatorship.

With the British Government having broken its pledge to allow a referendum on the EU Constitution, this election is your opportunity to have your say. You can reject the Lisbon Treaty best by voting number one for its most strident Ulster MEP critic, Jim Allister. Some others say they oppose Lisbon, but strangely 3 of the DUP's MPs failed to vote for a referendum in the House of Commons on 5th March 2008.

The economic crisis – making the right choices

The impact of the global economic downturn in Northern Ireland is undeniably severe. Profligate banks and governmental mismanagement, inducing a reckless monetary culture, has wreaked havoc across Europe. The foolish response of some in demanding greater subjugation to Brussels, is the counsel of folly. The **Working Time Directive** is a timely reminder of how EU diktat would curb our essential economic freedoms. Families are struggling to make ends meet, many can't cope, and what does the EU want to do? Insist that British workers should be banned from working overtime, by prohibiting more than 48 hours work per week! It is such madness which Jim Allister has constantly opposed in the European Parliament. Indeed he was the only Northern Ireland MEP to bother to speak in the Working Time Directive debate.

The dwindling economy of the Irish Republic is an object lesson in the failure of the Eurozone to provide protection in a time of storm. **With the Eurozone's habitual high prices, higher levels of unemployment and lower growth, Northern Ireland would definitely be better off out of it.**

The economic crisis is a reminder that for a region like Northern Ireland the best refuge is provided by the larger UK economy, outside the Eurozone. Closer alignment with the dwindling economy of the Republic would be an unmitigated disaster. **Thus now is a time to row back from, rather than deeper into, an all-island economy**. Already we've gone too far down that road. Yet, foolishly, under Belfast Agreement devolution, we are wasting millions on pointless cross-border bodies – whose every financial demand has been meekly rubber-stamped by the two DUP Ministers whom we've had at DFP since devolution returned in May 07.

Unrestricted free movement of labour within the EU and procurement requirements in regard to major public works contracts, leading to a large influx of foreign workers, have stirred instances of resentment from local workers in the UK. The compulsion to subject our labour market and laws to the supremacy of EU law is part of the price being paid for EU membership. Procurement policy which prohibits preference for local contractors and workers is stoking up more and more resentment of the EU and its inflexible dogma.

Keeping the British pound

TUV vigorously opposes the UK joining the Euro. Such would entail further **irreversible loss of sovereignty and surrender of essential fiscal and monetary management powers to the EU**, including giving up to the European Central Bank the right to set and change our interest rates. The next step in this monetary harmonisation would be demands for European taxation.

Business, not bureaucracy

Europe served as the testing ground for the two great economic philosophies of the past century and witnessed the dramatic collapse of one of them: Communism, which left Eastern Europe economically crippled. Yet, **it is to this failed Marxist dogma that Sinn Fein is aligned**, both ideologically and in the European Parliament, where it sits as part of the communist block, chasing every moonbeam of state control, regulation and business repression, all to be paid for by ever higher taxation.

In contrast, we believe in the principles of economic freedom, where initiative, new technology and innovation-driven prosperity can flourish. Jim Allister's voting record in Europe is unashamedly pro-business and anti-restraint. **A low taxation economy, with optimum business freedom, will maximise growth.** This is the economic culture which we must grow in the UK. Yet, sadly, the dead hand of excessive EU regulation holds us back.

It is estimated that in the last decade the cost on British business of applying EU regulation is a staggering £107 billion. Given the huge pressure from the global credit crunch, Jim Allister has called in the European Parliament for a **"regulation holiday"** for business. The immense cost and burden on business of EU regulation is more than we can bear. With small business being the backbone of our economy, TUV is pledged to continue to fight hard to ease the load of Brussels bureaucracy on business.

What the EU costs you - £4,110,000,000.00 per annum!

The net annual cost to the UK of EU membership rocketed by almost 20% in 2007/08 to a staggering **£4,110 million.** In 2007/08 the UK contributed £13,763 million to the EU, received back £5,693 million in grants and £3,960 million in the British rebate, leaving a huge net loss of **£4,110 million – a cost of over £80 million per week to the British taxpayer!**

When the cost to British business of complying with EU regulation is added to this - estimated at £107 billion over the last decade - then the price of EU membership is crippling.

As the EU has expanded, the burden on the UK of being a paymaster of Europe is becoming unbearable. The drain on our national resources is phenomenal, particularly when you realise we've been a huge net contributor every year since we joined in 1973. Hence, one of the practical reasons why Jim Allister is a leading Euro-sceptic and severe critic of EU waste.

Fighting for funding

With less than a third of one per cent of the EU's population, Northern Ireland's issues could be easily swamped. It takes dogged persistence and determined representation to keep our interests to the fore.

As a consequence of Enlargement, **the axis of funding in Europe has moved distinctly eastwards**. Apart from CAP funding, the other major segment of EU funding comes from the Cohesion Fund. Northern Ireland does not qualify for the greater bulk (82%) of Cohesion Funding, which goes towards major infrastructural projects in the poorer regions. Because of our perceived prosperity, we are restricted to some employment and training funds and a small pot of inter-regional funding, plus PEACE funding. Thus putting it to the best use is imperative. Likewise, ensuring it is genuinely additional to national funding is essential. We regret that to date the Stormont Assembly has not adequately scrutinised the additionality of EU funds.

Thus, as the EU expands and funding diminishes, delivering for Northern Ireland in Europe requires skill and tenacity. Jim Allister has consistently demonstrated both. He has helped numerous groups secure funding, particularly in the community, Orange, women's and victim's sectors.

Jim Allister was key in securing the "Halls Scheme", run by the RDC, from which many Orange Halls benefited in regard to essential repairs and improvements.

Farming - **see separate Agriculture Manifesto**

Defending our fishermen

The Common Fisheries Policy has abjectly failed. It is supposed to deliver both sustainable stocks and economic prosperity for the sector. It has done neither. Rather, our industry has spiraled into decline under its stewardship, reduced often to 3 days fishing per week. It is hard to imagine a more unsuitable management tool in a mixed fishery than quotas, which is the prime control instrument of the CFP.

Top down, over-regulation and multi-layered micro-management from Brussels, has been disastrous. It is hard to find a sector where stakeholders feel more disconnected and alienated, or where there is a greater sense of inequity.

In 2009 we stand at a critical juncture. Review and reform of the CFP is being embarked upon, with a new Green Paper from the Commission out for consultation. It is vital

that Northern Ireland's interests are vigorously pursued. There is an opportunity to somewhat ameliorate the folly of surrendering control over our fishing industry to Brussels, by shaping the change to best suit our needs. With his experience on the Fisheries Committee and knowledge of the industry, Jim Allister is best placed to protect our vital interests.

We believe root and branch change is required, but equally a change of mindset is essential. **Fishermen are not the enemies of sustainability**. On the contrary, they have the greatest vested interest in maintaining sustainable fisheries. Thus, they must be engaged, not excluded, in sustainable management. Reward for complete record-keeping, with catch allocations, not landing allocations and the capacity to pool, swap and trade allocations between vessels, would all contribute to locally administered management capable of providing the results on sustainability and economic reward, which the CFP has lamentably failed to deliver.

The new Cod Recovery Plan, agreed by the Council of Ministers in December 2008, is hopelessly flawed. In particular, the 25% cut in days at sea is wholly arbitrary, being neither based on science nor negotiated with the industry. It severely threatens the viability of an already stretched sector. It requires renegotiation, particularly if the cuts in days at sea prevents allocated Quotas from being caught. Jim Allister is pledged to continue this fight.

Peace funding – a wasted opportunity

Over the years Northern Ireland has had £1 billion of Peace funding from Europe. Yet, it has not left £1 billion worth of tangible legacy. Hence, the essence of Jim Allister's persistent criticism of how much of this money has been wasted. Instead of directing it to deliver lasting economic benefit, much has been squandered on froth. The prioritising of Peace III away from economic targets and towards the abuse-laden opportunities of ill-defined "reconciliation" goals, is leading to further squander, as with £10 million to ex-prisoner cabals. No one has been more critical of the waste and direction of much of the Peace funding than Jim Allister, who has constantly sought to ensure its use on deserving causes.

Equally, Jim Allister has campaigned with vigour, and success, against the imbalance in the community distribution in Peace funding. When he became an MEP he made redressing the shortfall in funding to the Protestant community a top priority, and was instrumental in radically increasing the application rate from the majority population. As imbalance to the detriment of Unionists still persists, this is unfinished business for Jim Allister. Upon re-election he is determined to continue pursuit of this important issue.

Taking a stand on the moral issues

Increasingly the EU has been trying to foist its social and rights agendas on every region, often at the expense of traditional family values. Jim Allister has been emphatic in the defence of such standards and in resisting their erosion. He is the only Northern Ireland MEP to have spoken up on these issues in debates.

The present attempt to push through a so called Equal Treatment Directive, which could further impede faith based groups and freedom of expression, is something Jim Allister has already opposed in the Parliament. He is pledged to continue this fight.

As an international Parliament, worldwide issues are often discussed in Strasbourg. Jim Allister has persistently raised human rights abuses and particularly persecution of Christians, in countries as diverse as the Congo, Vietnam, China, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Pakistan and many more. In the next Parliament he is committed to continuing pursuit of this special interest.

Local Issues

The continuance of IRA murder

TUV, believing that the present IRA/Sinn Fein stance is merely tactical, does not accept, as others have naively done, that the republican leopard has changed its spots.

In her Easter eulogy to the IRA's genocidal murderers, de Brun, described them as ***"decent, selfless and honourable"***. So much for "new" Sinn Fein!

We have long cautioned vigilance and repudiate the notion that if you are nice to the IRA they will be nice to you. This is the road to ruin.

The return in recent months of IRA murder to our streets, while horrifying, is not surprising. Because, when you reward terrorism with the highest office in the land and three convicted terrorists as Ministers, then the message is shamefully clear: republican violence pays. As you sow, so you reap.

Likewise, the destruction of the RUC and reduction of the PSNI to a mere civic policing service, with no Special Branch - all at the behest of IRA/Sinn Fein - has left us ill-equipped to face down renewed IRA terrorism. Significantly IRA/Sinn Fein - those we are told now support law and order - were the first to denounce any measures capable of effectively countering terrorism. Yet, another reason why policing and justice should not be devolved to a government in which Sinn Fein holds sway.

The mistakes of the past must not be repeated. Thus, TUV is clear that there can be no pandering to terrorism. IRA resurgence must be nipped in the bud. Whatever policing and military steps are necessary must be taken.

Terrorist inclusive government – your verdict

This election is your first opportunity to pass your verdict on the terrorist inclusive government at Stormont and its actual delivery, as opposed to the lavish promises made.

Our view is clear. Sinn Fein is not fit for government. We believe terrorists should be in jail, not government.

The present arrangements are a reward for terrorism. Hence the absurd mechanism of mandatory coalition, whereby IRA/Sinn Fein is guaranteed a place in government for as long as it takes them to achieve their all Ireland Republic. Because of mandatory coalition, Northern Ireland is the only region in the EU where the voter is prohibited by law from voting a Party out of office. This undemoncratic absurdity must be ended. To us mandatory coalition is, and will remain, out of the question.

The prohibition under Belfast Agreement devolution on having an Opposition at Stormont compounds the democratic deficit. The fact that McGuinness, the personification of the IRA's wicked terrorist campaign, is Joint First Minister adds insult to the grave injury done to democracy and justice in Northern Ireland.

In order to sustain terrorist-inclusive government a blind eye has been turned to monstrous events, including

- the IRA/Sinn Fein benefit from the ill-gotten gains of the Northern Bank robbery;
- the IRA murder of Robert McCartney;
- the South Armagh IRA murder of Paul Quinn;
- the continuing use of IRA semtex and weapons in terrorist attacks;
- the continuance of the IRA's evil Army Council

The chaos brought to our prized education system under devolution, by the destructive hand of Catriona Ruane, epitomises much of the failure of Stormont to deliver on the heady promises made.

All other candidates support terrorist-inclusive government. Only Jim Allister stands opposed. So a first preference vote for anyone else endorses McGuinness as Joint First Minister and the blind eye approach to all the above issues.

NO TERRORISTS IN GOVERNMENT

Irrespective of the precise mechanism devised to form an administration in Northern Ireland, **Traditional Unionist Voice** believes that, both in deference to the innocent victims of the past and as a protection for the future, for all time there should be statutory testimony to there being no reward for terrorism. Thus, we propose that it should be provided in primary legislation that **no one with a terrorist conviction can ever hold ministerial office**. If terrorist groupings do in time transform into exclusively democratic parties, then this would be a decreasing imposition, but, nonetheless a timely reminder of the political price to be paid for terrorism, or reversion thereto. And, it would show fitting respect for the victims of terrorism.

Terrorism should never pay. Indeed, it should carry a lifelong disincentive. Hence, the logic and necessity of a statutory provision which puts government office beyond the reach of anyone – 'loyalist' or republican – with a terrorist conviction. Why should the victim survivors of terrorism pay a life-long price, but the perpetrators be able to gain the highest office in the land? This perversion of justice and democracy must be reversed. We believe that which is morally wrong can never be politically right! So, TUV believes that by law we should have **no terrorists in government**, whereas the purpose of mandatory coalition is to guarantee terrorists in government.

The alternatives

As part of the UK, any form of devolution must be compatible with British practice and precedent - instead of the absurd and undemocratic model of mandatory coalition, which was created to ensure IRA/Sinn Fein is always in government.

We are **not** opposed to shared government. We **are** opposed to terrorists in government and to a system which guarantees their permanent rule over us. In the rest of the UK the route to shared government is through voluntary coalition, and so it should be here. After an election those who can agree form a coalition (if necessary by a 60% qualified majority to guarantee cross-community involvement) and those who can't are the Opposition, capable of offering an alternative government at the next election. So the people can change their government. That's democracy. Mandatory coalition is the very opposite.

We make it plain that the TUV would not be entering government with Sinn Fein under any system. The only argument against voluntary coalition is the contemptible assertion "oh, but you must have a system which guarantees inclusion of Sinn Fein, because if you don't, we'll go back to the bad old days".

Who would take us there? Clearly, the IRA under whatever flag of convenience suits the moment. We are constantly told that the republican movement – despite recent murders - has given up violence for good, has decommissioned, is wholly committed to the democratic process? If that is wrong, then we are being blackmailed, as well as conned. If Sinn Fein are only democrats so long as they have power, then they are not democrats at all and the sooner we face up to that uncomfortable fact the better.

If - which we don't accept - Northern Ireland can't have devolution without Sinn Fein, then why should Unionists want such rigged devolution, which puts at the heart of government those still dedicated to Ulster's destruction?

But, if acceptable devolution isn't attainable, then what is wrong with enhanced local government? You don't need 108 MLAs, 11 Departments, 14 Ministers and all the vast expense that goes with it to administer the affairs of just 1.7 million people. Streamlined local government combined with a single elected authority to corporately administer education, health and roads could easily provide efficient and sufficient government.

INNOCENT VICTIMS – RIGHTING THE WRONGS

Despite all the hype from some about a caring interest in victims, the reality is that innocent victims of terrorism are one of the most politically exploited and neglected sectors in the new Northern Ireland. Having their innocent victims still hurting while the IRA sits in government, is an inconvenient embarrassment for those who ushered Sinn Fein into the top office in the land, where Martin McGuinness – the personification of the IRA's wicked campaign – has joint oversight of victims' issues. But the comfort of office eases the embarrassment.

At the heart of the inequity meted upon innocent victims is the atrocious definition of "victim" which remains in The Victims and Survivors Order (NI) 2006. By equating victims with those who made them victims, we have this obscenity of the perpetrator having the same standing and rights as his innocent prey. Until this definition is changed there will be no justice for victims.

The DUP's disingenuous pretence that they will yet, after 2 years of "control", right this wrong of Direct Rule, by having the definition changed in Stormont, only adds to the slight upon victims, because the DUP well knows that they have surrendered an absolute veto to nationalism over such change. **Devolution which can't even deliver a just definition of "victim" is devolution in hock to the forces of terrorism.**

Since his election to the European Parliament in 2004 Jim Allister has fought tenaciously on behalf of innocent victims and succeeded, for the first time ever, in getting direct Brussels funds, from a specific anti-terrorism fund, for two of the largest victim groups in Northern Ireland. He has relentlessly opposed the abuse and waste of PEACE funding, not least in the recent handouts of £10 million, under PEACE III, to ex-prisoners' groups – money which could not have been paid without the approval of the First Minister's office, because OFMDFM is the accounting department. Yet, shamefully OFMDFM rubber-stamped this Provo funding.

Jim Allister is pledged to continue the fight both for justice and adequate funding for the victims sector, with a proper statutory definition of 'victim' being the key requirement.

Eames/Bradley rejected

The monstrous proposal of Eames/Bradley for a £12,000 reward for murder was a manifestation of the wicked statutory definition of victim. Traditional Unionist Voice has no apology to make for prominently protesting against this immoral proposition, helping innocent victims groups force Westminster into a u-turn.

Sadly, over the years, a politically-driven peace and reconciliation industry – as an integral part of "the peace process" - has largely cornered control of victims' issues, often perverting the cause of the innocent and elevating the terrorist. Built on a false ideology, it is structurally biased against Unionism and has demeaned the quest for justice to "story-telling", where the innocent victim's story would have the same moral and truth value as that of the former terrorist.

We reject this philosophy. **Hence, we reject the central tenets of Eames/Bradley and its template to move away from pursuit of justice to "information gathering", where the State authorities would be compelled to co-operate, but terrorists would respond only as and how it suited them. Given the "republican code of honour", in which Martin McGuinness took refuge at the "Bloody Sunday Inquiry", the chance of getting the truth is nil. Yet, outrageously, as an incentive, amnesty would be offered for information and after 5 years all criminal investigations would close. The IRA could not have written it better!** Nor, could they have ever imagined that a DUP First Minister would join in appointing the sister of an IRA "volunteer", who met his just deserts, as a "Victims Commissioner". But, sadly, such is what happens when Sinn Fein has to be kept happy as the price of the DUP clinging to office.

Policing and Justice

Quite apart from the key arguments on the desirability, or otherwise, of devolving policing and justice to Stormont, who in their right mind could conclude that the Assembly and Executive has so proved itself as to be deserving of even more powers. **An Executive which at any point, as for 6 months in 2008, can become a "can't meet, won't meet Executive", which can't sort out education and which in-fights over almost everything, is not an Executive fit to handle the key issues of policing and justice.**

Although, through our persistent exposure of the issues, we shamed the DUP into getting the removal of some judicial powers from OFMDFM, the facts remain that if policing and justice were devolved, McGuinness gets to jointly appoint the Attorney General and in time members of the Judicial Appointments Commission, which in turn appoints the judges and he gets to be consulted on who should be appointed as the "independent" members of the Policing Board.

Moreover, policing and justice, upon its devolution, becomes a cross-border issue, falling under the ambit of the North-South Ministerial Council where Unionists are in a permanent minority. This too brings such business before the Executive, **where three convicted terrorists and an unknown number of members of the IRA Army Council sit round the cabinet table.**

The last time the DUP went to the electorate it was on competing promises that policing and justice would not be devolved for political lifetimes. Now, if they can defeat Jim Allister, it is imminent. Initially to some mutually acceptable second choice of Minister but from 2012, courtesy of the DUP/Sinn Fein deal of November 2008, it could pass to Sinn Fein, or jointly to McGuinness in OFMDFM. The nightmare scenario of Gerry Kelly as Justice Minister, far from being lifetimes away, may just be round the corner. Why? Because, the price of getting Sinn Fein back to the Executive table in November 2008 was that the DUP rolled over and agreed to the devolution of policing and justice.

TUV continues to be unalterably opposed to the devolution of policing and justice to an Assembly and Executive in which IRA/Sinn Fein, which gleefully murdered policemen and judges, holds sway. You can make your voice heard clearest on this issue by voting 1 Allister. He is your best insurance against runaway concessions to Sinn Fein.

4th June – your opportunity to reject the Maze Shrine

It is proposed that scarce EU resources should be wasted on a so called "Conflict Resolution Centre" – official speak for the **Maze Shrine**. One of the most shocking aspects of this sop to IRA/Sinn Fein is that Ian Paisley, when First Minister, agreed to its inclusion in the EU Task Force report and Peter Robinson declined to withdraw support when he took over. Indeed, Hans Gert Pottering, President of the European Parliament, reported that on his visit to Belfast in November 2008 OFMDFM lobbied him in support of the project.

Jim Allister has long opposed the Maze Shrine, believing it should have been scuppered by the DUP DOE Minister delisting the ugly buildings and proceeding to immediate demolition. Unfortunately, the DUP refused to act.

In this election Jim Allister seeks a mandate to continue to oppose the Maze Shrine and this shameful waste of EU funds.

Children before dogma

Few things matter more for the future of Northern Ireland than the education of our children. Yet, it is this very matter which has been plunged into utter chaos by Sinn Fein's power under devolution.

No one should be surprised that Sinn Fein, with its Marxist, anti-stability agenda, should wish to destroy our highly successful education system. The surprise is that they were gifted the opportunity by the DUP. In consequence, we have seen academic selection, not saved as an integral part of our education system, as promised, but expelled outside the confines of regular and prepared primary/secondary school progression to the wilderness of unregulated mayhem for parents and pupils. And we are supposed to be grateful?

TUV strongly supports academic selection where that suits the abilities of children who wish to avail of it. We further believe that parents are entitled to have their children prepared accordingly in primary school, but for those children who don't take that route there must be equal consideration and secondary education funded adequately to optimise their talents. There must be no funding hierarchy whereby secondary schools are disadvantaged.

Northern Ireland must value all its children, but to do so we must equally facilitate the academic potential of some - rather than thwart it - and the different talents of others. Choice, not prescription, is our guide.

The Sinn Fein/DUP backed Education and Skills Authority (ESA) will, we believe, be disastrous for education. It will centralise control in the hands of the so called "progressivists" who have driven the anti-transfer agenda and curriculum.

Health matters

Northern Ireland has extremely skilled and committed doctors, nurses and allied health professionals who have always tried their very best to help our people. However, we have frequently seen poor decisions from the Department of Health frustrate their efforts. This situation has not improved under devolution; our health service is falling behind the rest of the UK, with even many of our statutory residential homes being forced into closure.

Many of our hospitals have been closed and as a result bed numbers have fallen. Again, this past winter, we saw operations cancelled due to lack of beds: yet the local Minister sanctioned the closure of another hospital, Tyrone County. We recognise that on occasions changing times will require a change in the configuration of services. However, we are committed to ensuring **that no hospital should close until there are the extra beds available in other hospitals equal to the numbers of beds to close**. There must be no further reduction in total bed numbers.

Some of the most modern treatments are only available in Northern Ireland after an unacceptable wait, such as new drugs for the most severe forms of arthritis. This actually results in a greater cost to the NHS. We are committed to ensuring that new treatments are available to patients in the same time frame as they are in the rest of the UK.

Northern Ireland is a small region within the UK and sometimes patients need to go to the mainland for treatment. Our senior doctors should be allowed to direct this without having to seek the permission of health bureaucrats.

The complete failure of the devolved Minister's plans to recruit additional NHS dentists must be addressed. McGimpsey's pay proposals were completely unrealistic and on this issue additional expenditure will be necessary.

Currently the EU is preparing a Patients' Directive. The effect for patients and the medical profession could be considerable, meaning a proper impact assessment is vital before the UK commits to this. Designed to ease access to care abroad, it is vital the Directive gets the balance right between freedom of movement versus patient safety and accountability. We believe national autonomy on regulatory aspects must be protected and we must avoid harmonisation of standards resulting in care of the lowest common denominator variety. We do not want lower standards as the cost of EU standardisation. We must also guard against increased pressure on local services, to the detriment of the indigenous NHS patient, in areas where Northern Ireland has particular specialisations. Moreover, the issue of follow-up care, resulting from foreign treatment must be adequately addressed. Jim Allister has already been involved in discussions on all these issues.

Points to ponder
- before you vote

- How many members of the IRA's Army Council sit round the Stormont cabinet table - sadly, the DUP neither knows nor cares! Do you?
- What did O'Neill, Faulkner and Trimble do that the DUP did not end up doing itself - the only difference being, they got to do it!
- Who among Unionist politicians has put principle before position?
- Why are Sinn Fein and the DUP united in their determination to see Jim Allister defeated?
- Despite its promises, immediately the last election was over the DUP took IRA/Sinn Fein into government. What sops will flow this time, if only they could defeat Jim Allister?
- Jim Allister's opposition to the DUP/Sinn Fein government has constantly kept the DUP looking over its shoulder.
- Jim Allister is your **insurance policy** against runaway concessions to IRA/Sinn Fein - voting **1 Allister** puts the brakes on Sinn Fein advances e.g. policing and justice, the Maze Shrine.....

The 2007 experience:
Election over
- ⇨ Broken Pledges
- ⇨ IRA/Sinn Fein in government
- ⇨ Army Council stays

The 2009 risk:
Election over
- ⇨ Business as usual
- ⇨ More consessions to Sinn Fein
- ⇨ Policing & justice, Maze Shrine....

Allister out - Concessions in | Allister in - Concessions out

www.jimallister.org *www.tuv.org.uk*

Insure against the risk

ON 4TH JUNE **VOTE**

1 Allister
traditional unionist voice

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