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Issue 34



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Brexit—The Rebirth of the United Kingdom



CLlr Timothy Gaston and Jim Allister MLA with Dan Hannan MEP

June 23rd 2016—remember the date as it will go down as an historic day in the history of our great nation.

TUV played an important part in Northern Ireland, and Party Leader Jim Allister MLA has been a powerful advocate of Euroscepticism.

Jim Allister had this to say: "23rd June 2016 will go down as one of the high points in our nation's momentous history. The people, the ordinary people, of this great nation took

back control, breaking the destructive shackles of the EU and setting our nation on the path to liberty and prosperity.

"The net cost of EU membership to the UK is over £1m every hour. It is vital that this ends and that means leaving the Single Market. This is £20 billion which would be far better spent on our own people, our own farmers, rather than the inefficient farmers of Italy and Greece.

"Though one of the biggest

economies in the world and above all a trading nation, we could not even make a trade deal with another country, because only Brussels could do that. This has hugely inhibited our growth but with Brexit we can put that right.

"It is utter nonsense to be told that we couldn't live without Brussels subsidies. It is our own money that we are getting back, but only some of it because we are net contributors. Outside the EU we will have that £20 billion per year to spend on our own people.

"Liberated, we now have the opportunity for the rebirth of our nation.

Concluding, Jim Allister said:

"I congratulate all who made this victory possible by withstanding the scaremongering of the Europhiles and voting Leave. I am particularly proud of North Antrim, which led the way in Northern Ireland with the highest leave vote in the Province."

TUV Welcomes Call for Transparency of Party Funding

Commenting on a report from Transparency International UK on "how big money undermines trust in politics" Jim Allister said:

"It is telling that a report looking at political funding across the UK focuses so much on Northern Ireland. There is no reason why our Province cannot be brought into line with the arrangements in the rest of

the United Kingdom. As the report notes the current setup results in to a situation where "opacity poses a corruption risk and should be removed at the earliest possible opportunity."

"TUV has long advocated such a change. Openness about funding will increase public confidence in government and is

particularly important in a small place like Northern Ireland.

"The whole Red Sky saga raised serious questions about the relationship between wealthy business and the political class which have never been properly addressed and never can be unless there is a great deal more transparency."

56 Offences for Fuel Laundering—Only 1 Conviction

"@JimAllister gets to the parts of the investigation no one seems to have the control and insight for. Some probing questions on #BrysonGate."

Mick Fealty
Political Commentator
Slugger O'Toole

"Fair play @JimAllister asking Jennifer McCann 'Is the member a fit person to be making this motion (rape) given Mairia Cahill's disclosure.'"

Máiría Cahill
Victims of Abuse
Campaigner

"@JimAllister asks @M_McGuinness_SF about Exec lacking credibility on paramilitaries when SF denies existence of IRA."

Mark Devenport
BBC NI Political
Correspondent

It has been revealed that there has been only 1 conviction for fuel laundering, even though 56 offences have been committed. TUV Party Leader Jim Allister MLA comments:

"It is well known that fuel laundering is a major source of income for paramilitary organisations with the issue being highlighted in the recent report produced by the Panel on Paramilitaries. It has long been the suspicion of many that because of this nexus between proscribed organisations and the problem of fuel laundering there has been a tendency on the part of the authorities to be unduly lenient or worse still turn a blind eye to the problem.

"It is no coincidence that south Armagh is synonymous with the scourge of fuel laundering. South Armagh

used to be called "bandit country" but it could be called "blind -eye country" because it is inconceivable that, with the industrial scale of fuel smuggling and laundering that has been going on in south Armagh, it is beyond the authorities to bring to justice those who have been perpetrating this criminality for years.

"If a farmer, in his single farm payment claim, gets something wrong about a field boundary, the satellites will catch him out. But you can run riot with fuel laundering and no one sees, no one hears and no one is brought to meaningful justice. How many times have we heard of seizures and of nobody being there?"

"But it is even worse than that. On the few occasions when people do appear before the courts they are getting away with a slap on the wrist!

"Statistics which I have obtained from the Justice Minister on fuel laundering cases since 2011 show this to be clearly the case.

"There have been 56 convictions of offences since 2011 but only one has resulted in a custodial sentence."

Jim Allister concluded:

"We need stern, severe sentencing guidelines and a willingness to deal through deterrent sentences with those brought before the courts.

"This is a scandal and the more it goes on the more one is confirmed in the view that it is part of the pernicious arrangement that attends to the peace

Adams Allegations Demand Police Probe

Commenting on the allegations contained with the BBC Spotlight investigation into the murder of Dennis Donaldson, Jim Allister MLA said:

"IRA murders have so frequently punctuated the so-called peace process that many of them slip from public memory. While the IRA murders of Robert McCartney, Paul Quinn and Kevin McGuigan may have been deemed newsworthy for a few days or even a few weeks ultimately the political process carried on regardless.

"But every so often the people of Northern Ireland are reminded of the ugly truth behind the facade of the "peace process".

"Last night's edition of Spotlight brought the murder of Denis Donaldson back into the headlines and reminded us of the inextricable link between Sinn Fein and the IRA.

"In light of the serious allegations made in the programme it is incumbent upon the Garda to interview Gerry Adams about the murder of Mr Donaldson.

"There is also an onus on the BBC to hand over all material which they possess relevant to the investigation. The pursuit of justice in a murder investigation should trump all other concerns."

Concluding, Jim Allister reminded those hearing these revelations that there

has been ample amount of evidence that Sinn Fein are not fit for democratic office:

"Less than a year ago we were reminded that the IRA Army Council continues to operate and that it is regarded as overseeing the whole Republican movement, including Sinn Fein.

"These latest allegations should cause all Unionists to search their consciences about the morality of maintaining Sinn Fein/IRA in government.

"It is time to stand up to the vested interests that have tried to keep the murky reality of Sinn Fein out of the public limelight, because it might embarrass those who govern with them."

DUP Minister Ditched 'Due Diligence' in NAMA Nomination

Jim Allister MLA continues to probe the NAMA controversy:

"The unorthodox and questionable manner in which the former Finance Minister, Sammy Wilson, handled the nomination of his friend, Frank Cushnahan, and others, for service on the NI NAMA Advisory Committee is confirmed in an Assembly Answer from the current Finance Minister.

"I had asked about the due

diligence process followed in making these nominations. It is clear from the Answer there was no due diligence exercised.

"There was no case made out for these nominations, or routine checks as to suitability. Instead, it seems, the DUP minister prioritised the promotion of his friend above everything, including due process. Little wonder it ended in tears.

"Following the Republic's Audit Committee report and

suggestions that political influence was at play from Northern Ireland in respect of NAMA's affairs and the confirmation in this Answer of no due diligence, it is clear much remains to be investigated over NAMA.

"I will, therefore, again raise these issues at this afternoon's Finance Committee, though the obvious non-aggression pact between Sinn Fein and the DUP may see these parties unite to block any further inquiry."



Alderman Stewart McDonald with Michael O'Neill and Steven Davis

PSNI Rural Crime Unit a Necessity

TUV Mid and East Antrim representative, Cllr Timothy Gaston, has taken the PSNI to task for their removal of the rural crime unit:

"I am deeply shocked and worried that the PSNI Chief Constable has confirmed that there is no Rural Crime Unit operating in Northern Ireland.

"With much fanfare, the previous Justice Minister established this unit to

tackle the scourge of rural crime -this was welcome and provided an identifiable PSNI presence dedicated to tackling this type of crime.

"If we take the Ballymena area as an example we have had rural police stations closed in Cullybackey, Broughshane, Portglenone and Kells which has led to a lack of visible policing other than a part time Ballymena station. I would imagine this is a familiar story across the

Province."

Cllr Timothy Gaston went on further to stress the necessity of such a unit:

"A Rural Crime Unit is a necessity, not an expendable option, for tackling rural crime. The new Justice Minister along with the PSNI need to address this issue.

"This is a matter of great concern to the public and it must be addressed."



The Annual TUV Party Conference returns to the Royal Hotel in Cookstown. See back page for details.

HRH Marlene's Abuse of Power

Jim Allister MLA had this to say on use of Royal Prerogative Powers:

"I am astounded by the audacity of the First Ministers in purporting to use 'prerogative powers' to arbitrarily amend legislation to give themselves power to make a civil service appointment which circumvents the application of 'the merit principle' so that they can have a hand-picked spin doctor to add to the legions of press officers already in place.

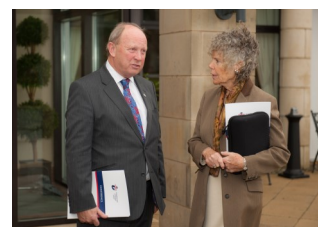
"This, in my view, is a brazen abuse of power.

"The First Ministers in purporting to use prerogative powers to decree amendment to legislation are flagrantly breaching due process. They have purported to amend the 1999 Order to add a power for themselves to make the subject appointment.

"S 23(3) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 bestows the Royal prerogative powers in respect of the NI

Civil Service on the First Ministers, but to then purport to use those powers to amend legislation to gift themselves a power of appointment not anticipated in that legislation, seems to me to be an abuse of power and process.

"How many spin doctors does Stormont need? They already have 161. How ironic that the latest appointee is the very person who hitherto would have railed against and exposed the contrived process by which he was appointed."



Jim Allister MLA and Kate Hoey MP delighted at the outcome of the UK decision to leave the EU

Ministers Asleep at the Wheel

TUV Party Leader, Jim Allister, has hit out at the costly debacle over the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme:

“It is becoming increasingly clear that during the debacle over the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme then DETI ministers were asleep at the wheel, having failed to put in place any mechanisms to retain ministerial oversight of a scheme which will cost the taxpayers millions of pounds into the future. This is very clear from the answer to this Question which I recently posed to the Economy minister:-

Q: To ask the Minister for the Economy to outline the mechanisms in place for Ministerial oversight of the

Renewable Heat Incentive scheme since its introduction.

“The answer effectively concedes there were no ministerial oversight mechanisms in place, as it predictably tries to pass the buck to officials:

A: Ministerial responsibilities for the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme since its introduction have included approving the policy and business case and securing Assembly approval to the necessary legislation. Responsibility for the detailed design and ongoing oversight of the scheme rests with Departmental officials and Ofgem as the scheme administrator.

“The minister is the head of the department and, therefore, carries responsibility for its failings. Yet, here, as so often, ministers are trying to palm off responsibility to officials that they failed to properly oversee.

“This was a multi-million pound scheme which ran out of control while ministers dozed at the wheel. There was no adequate cost controls in place in respect of the scheme, no cap was put in place, as in GB, and re-approval of the Scheme was not sought from the Department of Finance in April 2015.

In his concluding remarks Jim Allister contrasts what the outcry would have been if it had been a

Direct Rule Minister making such a decision:

“These were clear ministerial responsibilities and failings. If this had happened under Direct Rule there would have been a mighty outcry from the DUP and others, but this was a disaster made in Stormont under DUP ministers who now try to blame everyone else. I trust the current PAC investigations will relentlessly pursue these issues.

“TUV will continue to scrutinise the Executive, and hold them to account for any financial mismanagement. This is public money being wasted, and that means less money for the NHS or Schools.”

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Sinn Fein Rip-Off Tax Payers

TUV Party Leader Jim Allister, through his forensic questioning of the Ministers, uncovered yet another scandal that will leave tax payers reeling:

“In answer to an Assembly Question from me it has been revealed that the Sinn Fein Finance Minister – presumably in common with other Sinn Fein ministers – while provided with an official car gets to employ his own Sinn Fein driver at the taxpayers expense of £34,000 per annum.

“There is a pool of civil service drivers, but Sinn

Fein refuses to use them, so, instead, they get the taxpayer to fund the employment of their own place-men. This is but another example of the political and financial abuse at Stormont.

“At £34,000 per annum this is above the average industrial wage which Sinn Fein claims to pay its workers. So, where does the surplus go? Into Sinn Fein’s coffers, it seems.

Jim Allister went on to say in summary:

“This disgraceful situation should never have been

allowed to arise. Sinn Fein should have been told there are cars and drivers available and if you don’t take them, you can make your own arrangements.

“But instead, previous DUP Finance ministers consented to this Sinn Fein enriching arrangement.

“I am pursuing this matter through further Questions and seeking publication of the rates and terms and conditions which apply to these Sinn Fein drivers.”

Dates for your diary

Ballymoney Table Quiz

Friday 4th November, Ballymoney Independent Orange Hall, 7.30pm, £5 per person

Annual Party Conference

Saturday 26th November, The Royal Hotel in Cookstown, 10.30am—4pm