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**Allister opposes Marie Stopes Clinic**

The following opinion piece by Jim Allister MLA was published by the Daily Mirror:

"If, as Marie Stopes claim, their centre will operate within the law there is no need for it. Official Department of Health figures show that the average number of lawful terminations in Northern Ireland is 43 per year.

Thus in those rare circumstances where the continuation of the pregnancy could result in a threat to the wellbeing of the mother abortion is available, free of charge, under the NHS. Marie Stopes claims that they will be offering the same service but will expect people to pay for it.

The question is – why would someone pay for a service which they would receive for free?

There are other questions which Marie Stopes has to address. Will they be publishing the figures detailing the number of terminations which they carry

out? Will they be subject to external monitoring or will people be expected to accept the word of this unashamedly pro-abortion group that it is operating within the confines of the law? Will they adhere to the policy change which is to be brought in shortly by the Health Minister requiring that the reason for any termination is recorded?

Many people will, I suspect, share my belief that this move is not about opening a sexual health clinic but rather about introducing abortion on demand by the back door.

The position of Dawn Purvis is a matter of public record. She has long campaigned for the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland.

Similarly, Marie Stopes provides abortion services in Great Britain where abortion on demand is available. Back in 2010 they went so far as to produce a TV advert promoting their services which

was screened on Channel 4 – in spite of widespread opposition and disgust.

Of course Marie Stopes and Ms Purvis argue that they are only "pro-choice". The reality is that the unborn child has no choice in the matter.

In response to a question tabled by Cross-Bench peer Lord Alton of Liverpool it was recently revealed that an in-crescible 6.4 million unborn children have been aborted in England and Wales between 1968 and 2011. Just 0.376% of those abortions were carried out to save the life of the mother.

There is no appetite for the Abortion Act – which Marie Stopes happily operates - to be introduced in Northern Ireland and even if there was, the most avid pro-abortionist would have to admit that Ronald Reagan was probably telling the truth when he said: "I've noticed everyone who is for abortion has already been born."

**Were Poots and Atwood asleep at the wheel?**

Two new revelations in the Marie Stopes controversy leave both Ministers Poots and Atwood with questions to answer.

First, it has emerged that Minister Poots knew as long ago as January 2012 that Marie Stopes International (MSI) was in contact with RQIA about a proposed facility in Belfast. What did he do? It's now clear monitoring regulation is inadequate to control this clinic, so, why were 9 months allowed to tick by with nothing put in place? This inaction suggests serious dereliction of duty in planning how to deal with a project designed to challenge our law

on abortion.

Secondly, it now appears a change of use planning application by MSI sailed through in the spring on the fast-track streamlined system, without a single Councillor in Belfast raising any issue. The streamlined procedure is for non-contentious applications; opening a 'medical' facility to perform abortions in a city centre office block is hardly non-contentious!

Jim Allister MLA has therefore tabled the following questions to the two ministers:-

PRIORITY WR Q

"To ask DHSSPS what steps were taken since the minister became aware in January 2012 of the intention to open a Marie Stopes Abortion Clinic to ensure adequate regulation was put in place and why was an unregulated context allowed to continue."

PRIORITY Wr Q

"To ask DOE why was the change of use application to facilitate the Marie Stopes Abortion Clinic deemed non-contentious and processed by way of the streamlined procedure, with minimal opportunity for consultation."

*What is undeniable is the impact MLA Jim Allister is having. He is like a hawk to the chagrin of OFMDFM. Don't we need more Allisters?*

- EamonnMallie

*"Jim Allister was first out of the blocks to attack the (Marie Stopes) clinic"*

- Irish Times

*"Imagine what the parties could do if they showed the same level of commitment and integrity."*

-Alex Kane

## **Rates Crippling Ballymena Businesses**

Local TUV MLA Jim Allister has established through Assembly Questions that since September 2011 the number of vacant business premises in the Ballymena borough has risen from 445 to 490.

Commenting Jim Allister stated:

"This 10% rise in just one year, from an already high base, is shocking and indicative of an economy in continuing decline. To find almost 500 businesses premises in this once thriving hive of commercial activity lying

empty speaks to both a deep recession and a failure by government to re-energise the economy. I believe high rates are a big contributor to this sorry state of affairs.

"Across the three council districts of North Antrim, Ballymena, Ballymoney and Moyle, the number of vacant business premises has risen from 746 to 786, with Ballymena by far the worst. In Ballymoney it is pretty much as we were with a rise from 192 to 194 and in Moyle there has been a marginal

improvement, with a fall in vacant premises from 109 to 104.

"These are 786 businesses that used to offer employment and today lie shuttered. While Stormont boasts of its rates relief policies, the harsh reality on our high streets is of an unequal struggle between rising overheads and falling profits. Painting up empty shop windows may make things look better, but it is an inadequate response by government to a deepening crisis."

## **Call for fair play for North Antrim**

In an Assembly debate on the economy local TUV MLA Jim Allister questioned why North Antrim was not getting its fair share of Invest NI's loan and growth funds, citing only £43,000 received in the constituency from the Agency's spin out funds, and why in 5 years North Antrim has only been the object of 2 visits arranged by Invest NI for potential foreign investors.

In a speech addressing the international context of economic downturn, Mr Allister picked out the European Central Bank for particular mention and criticism.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said,

"In my constituency of North Antrim, we have some great gems of industry. Long may they be with us, and may we be spared from the globalisation attraction of some of them to elsewhere. However, for small and medium-sized businesses, two things concern me. A couple of months ago, I asked the Minister for figures on the amount of money from start-up funds that was going to my constituency. Out of the £7.5 million from Invest NI's access to finance strategy, a derisory, negligible £43,000 of the Northern Ireland spin-out funds had gone to North Antrim, and nothing at all at that stage had gone there from Co-Fund NI.

I heard another Member question whether there is equality of access to funds across Northern Ireland. It can be said that you have to apply, but Invest NI has a bounden duty to encourage, nurture, mentor and make sure that applications are brought along.

Is that happening equitably?

I ask that in the context of the fact that I discovered not so long ago that, in the past five years, there had been but two, if I recall correctly, visits to north Antrim by foreign companies brought by Invest NI, looking to invest in the area. Just two in five years!

## **Causeway Hospital to be Downgraded by DUP Minister?**

TUV Leader Jim Allister has accused the health minister of moving to rundown the Causeway Hospital to the point that it is a 'mere satellite outpost of Altnagevlin'.

Mr Alister hit out at Edwin Poots saying:

"In the course of a statement regarding the hospital Mr Poots said:

'I am clear that there is merit in examining the benefits of strengthened networks between the Northern and Western Trusts or by possibly

transferring responsibility to the Western Trust, if that were to work better.'

"Interestingly, DUP colleagues followed up by peddling the idea: Mr McQuillan MLA asked the minister to 'outline the benefits of transferring the responsibilities of the Causeway Hospital from the Northern Trust to the Western Trust?' and George Robinson made a similar point. Yet, a few months ago such politicians were marching to 'Save our Hospital'!

"It is, therefore, clear to me

that this is the direction in which the Minister wishes to move and that the scene is being set to downgrade the Causeway in this fashion.

I put it to the Minister if he was listening to the stakeholders, as expressed at several public meetings, he would be underwriting, not undermining the Causeway. The gameplan to rundown acute services at the Causeway was very clear from Mr Poots' declaration that "There will be a gravity pull towards Altnagevlin Hospital

## Executive Complacent on Economy

TUV Leader Jim Allister has accused the Enterprise Minister of complacency following her claim that the NI production sector was outperforming the UK.

“The only thing more alarming than this months data from the Indexes of Services and Production is the response of the Enterprise Minister.

“Unemployment has risen to 70,000 with 8.1% of the population now out of work.

“In the last 12 months the number of people claiming

unemployment benefit in Northern Ireland has risen by 4.8% while during the same period the figure fell by 1.4% across the UK as a whole.

“A staggering 21.1% of people aged 18 to 24 are unemployed, up 3% in the last 12 months.

“Yet the Enterprise Minister claims that despite the poor performance, the Northern Ireland production sector is performing better than the UK! “How exactly does Minister Foster think this statement

stands up?

I can believe that we are probably leading the way in terms of press photographer profits but that is a 'particularly small niche!

“The arrogant complacency is jaw-dropping. How can we begin to fix the economy if there is not even an acknowledgement that there is a problem?

“It’s time to stop the spin and face up to reality.”



Arlene Foster displays complacency over NI economy.

## Smithwick Shines A Light Into Provo Secrets

Commenting on the ‘live intelligence’ evidence from the Smithwick Tribunal last month, TUV Leader Jim Allister has claimed that it throws light on several key issues, including the IRA murder of Lord and Lady Gibson.

“Hitherto the murder of one of our most senior judges had been put down by some to a leak from a travel firm or a shipping company. Now we know there is intelligence, which ACC Harris described as “accurate and reliable”, which directly links this double murder to information supplied from within the Garda to the Provos.

“This is a devastating piece of evidence in terms of the Dublin Government’s complicity, through its police, in IRA murder. If Judge Corey had been in possession of such compelling evidence then it’s inconceivable he would not have recommended a public inquiry into the Gibson murders. It doesn’t get much more serious than collusion to set up a senior judge of one state by terrorists aided in another.

“The revelations that what in the present tense ACC Harris described as “Sinn Fein/PIRA members” being alarmed at what Smithwick is unearthing

are a telling insight into the continuing alignment of Sinn Fein and the IRA – which, clearly, hasn’t gone away, else the ACC would not be talking about ‘Sinn Fein/PIRA members’. It is clear from ACC Harris’ evidence that the interchangeability between two extant sides of the same coin continues.”



Smithwick Tribunal hears evidence on murder of Lord Gibson

## Sinn Fein Exposed over Welfare Reform

TUV Leader Jim Allister has labelled Sinn Fein’s belated attempt to delay the Welfare Reform Bill as “a cynical stunt” by a party desperate to deceive its supporters into believing it is fighting Tory policies.

Commenting Jim Allister stated:

“The Welfare Reform Bill would not even be up for its 2nd stage debate last month if Sinn Fein had not nodded it through the Executive.

“Of course, the truth is that Sinn Fein were content to see others vote it through, rather than carry the can for the huge block grant cuts which would result from its rejection. Sinn Fein’s supposed stance against ‘Tory cuts’ is a phoney war, conducted merely for the optics.

“They could have totally blocked the Bill in the Executive, but meekly assented to its passage.

“Their stance once more

exposes the barrenness of their economic approach: they demand ever more state benefits, but never face up to the reality that it is the British connection which funds them. They talk foolishly about fiscal powers for Stormont, without ever thinking about the reality that our local tax take does not match our spending.

Sinn Fein are the economic buffoons of Stormont!”



SF Exposed as Welfare Reform progresses

## DUP U-turn on Education and Skills Authority

TUV Leader Jim Allister led opposition to the ESA in the Assembly.

Speaking during the debate on the reading of the draft Bill Jim Allister argued:

"The draft bill differs little from what Caitríona Ruane advocated during the years of stand-off and stalemate. Politically, her adversary, Mervyn Storey now looks a little bit silly. (Well, very silly actually.) Presumably Peter Robinson has backed down on ESA in return for DUP advances elsewhere — maybe over the chair of the Maze development".

The chronology is interesting. I will pause there to reflect that, sadly, there is probably

a lot of truth in that: the so-called heads of agreement, who took this decision way above Mr Storey's pay grade to the Office of the First Minister, decided that, after all the sham fights, shadow boxing and loud protestations, ESA was the right way to go.

That is a bit embarrassing for Mr Storey, of course, because he is on record as having said many interesting things. In fact, he told the House that the ESA Bill was dead, although some Members have not realised that it has had a funeral and seem to think that there will somehow be a resurrection if we lay hands on it. We need to put

that idea to bed once again. Poor Mr Storey did not realise that, just a short ride down the road, in Stormont Castle, it would indeed be resurrected and that he would be the one sent in to sell it, to eat his words and to pretend that that which hitherto was hideous and unacceptable was now wholesome and wonderful. That is the uncomfortable position that the Member for North Antrim occupies tonight. He told the 'Belfast Telegraph' that, as far as the DUP was concerned, ESA "is in the bin". Well, through resurrection, retrieval from the bin, or however you describe it, it has had a remarkable comeback.

"ESA's significance is that if the argument over academic selection is a political football match, Sinn Féin now clearly owns the ball, the pitch and the fixture list. In the party's drive for influence over education, it has left little to chance. ESA will implement educational policy made by John O'Dowd. Its 20-strong board will oversee that implementation."

No wonder Sinn Féin Members are so happy. After such a long time struggling and fighting to get ESA back on stream, here it is, large as life before us again."

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## North Antrim UUP Secretary joins TUV

Steven Phillips, well known community activist from Dervock and till recently secretary of North Antrim Ulster Unionist Party, has resigned from the UUP and joined TUV.

Commenting on his decision Steven Phillips said, "It is clear to me that the UUP has lost its way. I no longer can discern with clarity what it stands for, particularly under Mike Nesbitt's leadership. With TUV, on the other hand, there is no such doubt. Jim Allister, even as a single voice in Stormont, has made his mark because he knows what he believes in and sticks to his guns.

"The core unionist values that I believe in I find now are evident only in TUV. The DUP is so interested in keeping Sinn Fein happy it will do anything for power and abandon any principle

that stands in the way. UUP is rudderless. In North Antrim I see TUV gaining support every day, particularly as the Stormont regime continues to disappoint and fail."

Welcoming Steven Phillips to TUV, the Party Leader Jim Allister said, "It's always good to get the support and help of committed unionists like Steven. I believe his move is a reflection of a growing disillusionment with the expediency politics of others and realisation that in TUV we stand up for what is right. Across Northern Ireland we've seen an increase in membership in recent months. In Ballymoney branch alone we've just welcomed in several new members, a number of them with previous UUP connections."

## Conference 2012

**The TUV Annual Party Conference will be held in the Royal Hotel, Cookstown on 17th November from 10.30am.**

