

Issue 10
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Protestants Disadvantaged in Northern Ireland Labour Market

TUV Leader Jim Allister has questioned why an Equality Commission report, which claims that over the last 20 years Protestants have been disadvantaged in the labour market, has been buried.

Commenting on the report which was produced in March 2012 Jim Allister stated:

"The report is an official analysis of fair employment monitoring for 20 years from 1991. At a time when the popular perception that has taken root across the world is of Catholics, not Protestants, struggling to find jobs, this report debunks all that propaganda.

"It plainly shows that in both the public and private sectors for the last 20 years that when

a Protestant applies for a job they have a lower success rate than Catholic applicants.

"In the public sector from 1991-2000 whereas 57.4% of the applicants were Protestants only 56.9% of the appointees were Protestants, and in the next 10 years, 2001-10 the situation worsened with a 1.6% deficit between applications and appointments. In the private sector too, Protestants fare worst and, indeed, in the latest year, 2010, there was over a 1% deficit.

"These are disturbing figures, not just in regard to the disadvantage being suffered by Protestants in applying for jobs, but they demonstrate that for years false

propaganda has been peddled as gospel. Interestingly, in the 1990s in the run up to the clamor for more equality legislation, culminating in Section 75 of the 1998 Act, the truth is that Protestants were finding it harder than Catholics to successfully apply for jobs.

"I must also express dismay at how this report has been buried, with no fanfare of publicity from the Equality Commission, such as I suspect would have happened if the trend had been anti-Catholic. It seems in our current political dispensation anti-Protestant bias is so acceptable that it doesn't even merit publication, never mind comment.

£36K Cost to Taxpayers of First Ministers' US Trip

Jim Allister MLA has discovered that Northern Ireland's joint First Ministers recently submitted a bill of £36k to the taxpayer in respect of their St Patrick's day expenses.

Commenting on the extortionate expenditure Jim Allister MLA stated:

"There will doubtless be many people in Northern Ireland who will find it incredible that at time of immense pressure on public finances our First Ministers spent over £8,500 in accommodation for themselves and five members of staff – which included two Special Advisers – during their trip to the US during St Patrick's week. At a cost of £20,000 it certainly doesn't look like they went for the cheapest available flights either.

"To spend a total in excess of £36,000 in tax payer's money

during the trip seems outrageously excessive.

"One cannot help wondering how much the total bill for flying and accommodating the First Ministers around the globe is. They are certainly very reticent about telling us.

In March of last year I tabled a written question asking them to reveal details of travel and subsistence costs incurred by their Department on trips outside Northern Ireland – over a year later they have still to respond."

Mr. Allister's question and the answer received were as follows:

To ask the First Minister and deputy First Minister (i) to provide a breakdown of the costs of the Ministerial visit to the United States during St Patrick's week; (ii) which Ministers made the trip; and

(iii) how many (a) staff; and (b) Special Advisers accompanied the Ministers.

The response was as follows:

"The cost of our visit to the United States is broken down as follows:

- Flights £20,453.90
- Rail costs \$1,015.00
- Accommodation £8,553.60
- Car Hire £4,657.90
- Hospitality £1,480.44

We were accompanied on our visit by five members of staff, two of whom are Special Advisers."



Taxpayer's Fund joint First Ministers' St. Patricks Party

"They'll need all the 'special advice' they can get to chart a way forward, especially as the TUV leader Jim Allister promises to hold the DUP's feet to the fire by pushing forward with his private member's bill banning those with serious criminal convictions from becoming ministerial aides."

Mark Devenport, 7th May 2012

"I spent an hour yesterday trying to find the report but failed, but I know it is there, as Mr Allister kindly sent me the direct link to it. This is world class burying of inconvenient news."

"That such a serious and expensive piece of work which came to such an important conclusion was not the subject of a greater effort to publicise looks very odd. Does anyone seriously believe that had this report shown on-going Catholic disadvantage it would all have been kept so quiet?"

"Had that been the case the equality industry would have gone into turbo mode, and conferences would have been called to discuss the report's findings."

NR Greer responds to Equality Commission report highlighted by Jim Allister, News Letter 30th May 2012

TUV Leader Criticises PSNI Attitude Towards Terror Flags in Rasharkin

The PSNI have refused to remove terrorist flags in Rasharkin despite growing tensions within the North Antrim village.

Commenting on the PSNI's failure to protect local people against intimidation North Antrim MLA Jim Allister stated:

"One expects the powers that be to stand up and protect a community which finds itself under attack.

"I am therefore disappointed that PSNI have declined to remove flags which are clearly associated with Republican terrorism from display in the

village. Not only that but they seem reluctant to admit that a problem even exists.

"I recently received a number of complaints from constituents about the "Starry Plough" and "Sunburst" flags erected in Rasharkin.

"The Starry Plough has been associated with the INLA for many years.

"The "Sunburst" flag has also been associated with Republican terrorism since its inception in the early days of the 20th century. Currently it is the flag of the IRA's youth wing.

"However, in responding to me Chief Superintendent Nobel ignored these facts and instead claimed "These flags cannot be said to be exclusively associated with any proscribed organisation".

"This assertion would be laughable were the issues involved not so serious. Everyone knows the clear links with terrorism which these flags have in the public consciousness. They are being used to intimidate the minority community in Rasharkin and should be removed forthwith."

Business Funding to North Antrim derisory

TUV Leader and local MLA Jim Allister has questioned why start-up businesses in North Antrim have attracted only a negligible £43,000 of support funding, out of a total distribution across Northern Ireland of £7.5million, from Invest NI's Access to Finance Strategy.

Mr Allister explained,

"Invest NI presently has two equity funds to support start-up businesses: Since 2009 the Northern Ireland Spin Out (NISPO) initiatives support start-up and early stage businesses in Northern Ireland. The support includes a £5 million venture capital fund, the Invest Growth Fund, which focuses on seed and

early stage businesses with high growth potential and a £3 million proof of concept fund, the Invest Growth Proof of Concept Fund, which is funded by Invest NI to provide funding to very early, non-university projects. The second fund, available since last year, is Co-Fund NI which is available to qualifying businesses where co-investment is required alongside business angel investment and other private investment.

"Having previously expressed concern about whether North Antrim was getting equal treatment from Invest NI, after establishing there had only been 2 visits to the constituency in 5 years by

foreign companies looking to invest in Northern Ireland, I recently asked the DETI Minister to set out the take up, on a constituency basis, of the Access to Finance Strategy. The results contained in the Assembly answer dismay me.

"It will be noted that start-up businesses in North Antrim have attracted only £43,000 of support out of the £7.5 million distributed (substantially less than 1 per cent), with nothing at all from the Co-Fund. The Belfast-centric nature of the drawdown is illustrated by the fact that well over half the funds have gone there, with East Belfast the most favoured.

Welcome for Senior Doctor's timely warning on Causeway

North Antrim MLA Jim Allister has welcomed the intervention of a senior doctor who claimed the removal of A&E services at the Causeway hospital would pose a significant health risk.

Commenting on the remarks Jim Allister MLA stated:

"The recent warning by Dr Owen Finnegan, is a timely wake up call to Minister Poots. I hope he's listening.

"Dr Finnegan is absolutely right. The Minister can't strip

out acute services from Coleraine without creating chaos across the Trust area, simply because neither Antrim - already in turmoil - or Altnagevlin could cope. I endorse entirely his view that the only safe way of delivering healthcare is to continue to have acute services in Coleraine. The Poots/Compton plan is madness and will leave vast swathes of North Antrim and East Londonderry without accessible acute hospital services.

"I also welcome and support the Unison petition, being presented to Stormont, as another vital contribution to the rising campaign to save the Causeway as an essential acute hospital.

"The people of Ballymoney and Coleraine are not second class citizens and must not be left with a second rate service by the DUP Health minister. What we have in Coleraine we need and must hold."

Antrim Hospital Reports

Antrim Area Hospital has been criticised in two separate reports which both claimed that the hospital was 'failing to meet the fundamental human needs of patients'.

Commenting on the latest reports into the state of affairs at Antrim Hospital, TUV Leader and North antrim MLA Jim Allister said:-

"The Hinds and Rutter reports into Antrim Hospital make sobering reading. Behind all the departmental and Trust spin of 'all is well', these

reports expose the blunt reality. The finding of a failure to meet the "fundamental human needs" of patients is a damning indictment of the management of the Northern Trust and the insight into the battered morale of the hard pressed staff adds a further dimension of concern.

"The consequences of closing the Magherafelt and Whiteabbey A & E departments are now producing impossible burdens, which would be compounded if the Poots policy of removing

acute services from the Causeway hospital is not reversed. There is no way that all the A & E demands of the huge Northern Trust area can be shoehorned into Antrim. It's time for the DUP Minister to relieve the pressure by conceding that the Causeway will not be downgraded.

"The Minister also needs to tell us what action he intends on foot of the Hinds and Rutter reports and will this include forced managerial changes in the upper echelons of the Northern Trust."



**Equality Commission
bury report on
Protestant inequality**

IRA - Sinn Fein's "reconciliation" ploy

Earlier this month the SF/IRA leadership claimed that they wanted to commence a process of 'reconciliation' with the Unionist community.

TUV leader Jim Allister has warned that the latest move is designed to advance SF/IRA's ultimate aim of Irish unification:

"The media hype over IRA/Sinn Fein's 'engagement' with unionism has largely avoided the obvious question: what is the ultimate goal of what they dress up as 'reconciliation'?"

"To IRA/Sinn Fein

'reconciliation' is but a euphemism for Irish unification – the same goal as they pursued with the armalite. As always, there are fools and knaves to help them on with it.

"However, politically what this new phase of the Sinn Fein agenda underscores is that the present arrangements at Stormont are for republicanism but a staging post, a means to the same old end. Patently, they regard joint rule with the DUP, not as a settlement, but a mere useful

stepping stone; nor do they seek 'reconciliation' within Northern Ireland, but only on an all-Ireland basis.

"Of course, they reason that if unionists can come to terms with being ruled over by an IRA Commander they, in time, will come to terms with the Dublin rule of an all Ireland. The ease with which the DUP ushered them into government and cosies up to them in Stormont – no talk now of 'a battle a day' – no doubt gives them the confidence to get their next push for unity under way."



**Antrim Area Hospital
criticised in two reports as
fears for Causeway grow**

Corporation Tax powers for Stormont - No Thanks

TUV Leader Jim Allister MLA has claimed that the transfer of tax powers to Stormont would be disastrous to the Northern Ireland economy.

Commenting on the transfer of tax powers to Stormont Jim Allister stated:-

"This month business leaders clamored at Stormont for the transfer of powers over corporation tax, it is clear they neither know nor care what it would cost. The vested

interest of big business rests solely in reducing their tax bill, but what will be the corresponding hemorrhage from the block grant which every one in Northern Ireland will bear through a cut in public services? This unanswered question is the elephant in the room that today's gathering is seeking to ignore.

"Politicians too are gathered to cheer on the corporation tax

lobby, but they too haven't faced up to the cost; for them it's a mix between the vanity of getting more powers and clutching at any idea to be seen to be doing something. When I look at how they have mismanaged the powers they already have, in my book the last thing anyone should be contemplating is giving the dysfunctional Stormont Executive any tax-raising powers, be it over corporation tax or anything else."



**SF/IRA-DUP campaign for
corporation tax to
dysfunctional Stormont**

Call for Inquiry into Body Part Retention

TUV leader Jim Allister has tabled a series of written questions to Justice Minister David Ford about the retention of body parts by the police.

Commenting on the matter Mr Allister said:

“I have asked the Justice Minister what form of inquiry he intends to establish to deal with the issues arising from the retention of body parts by the police.

“This is an extremely serious issue and one which will doubtless have caused considerable distress to the families affected. Their suffering is magnified by the fact that the issue was kept

secret for so long and it is now vital that it is dealt with in a fashion which can maximise public confidence.

“I look forward to a speedy response from the Minister.”

Mr Allister has tabled the following written questions:

- To ask the Minister of Justice what form of inquiry does the Minister intend to establish to deal with the multiple issues arising from the current 'body parts' controversy.
- To ask the Minister of Justice in respect of the current 'body parts' issue a) was all tissue retained for prospective police investigative purposes, as opposed to retention for medical research purposes; and b) did such retention lead to any success in terms of police investigations.
- To ask the Minister of Justice in respect of the current 'body parts' controversy why has there been excessive delay since 2005 in auditing the
- To ask the Minister

parts held and in informing affected relatives.

- To ask the Minister of Justice to clarify what has become of body parts acquired in Northern Ireland before the implementation of the Human Tissue Act 2004.
- To ask the Minister of Justice if any body parts continue to be held in Northern Ireland pursuant to Section 9 of the Human Tissue Act 2004.

Ballymena Office

38 Henry Street
BT42 3AH
T: 028 25640250

Ballymoney & Moyle Office

1 Charles Street
BT53 6DX
T: 028 27238393

Stormont Office

Parliament Buildings
BT4 3XX
T: 028 90521461

E: info@jimallister.org

www.jimallister.org

www.tuv.org.uk

Executive Bows to TUV Pressure on Gift for HM the Queen



The Northern Ireland Executive finally agreed to forward a gift from the people of Northern Ireland to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in celebration of her Diamond Jubilee.

However the Executive only took the decision to offer HM a gift after TUV leader Jim Allister raised the matter repeatedly in both Assembly questions and in the Assembly chamber.

In a statement Jim Allister MLA remarked:

“It is only right that the Executive has decided, belatedly, to present a gift to Her Majesty the Queen to mark the occasion of Her Diamond Jubilee. It is important to remember that this happened only after repeated attempts by myself to obtain movement on the issue.

“On 20th January I tabled a priority written question asking the First Ministers what plans they had to mark Her Majesty’s Diamond Jubilee by way of a gift on behalf of her subjects in this part of the United Kingdom.

On the 17th of this month I issued a statement highlighting the fact that it was one of a number of questions which the First Ministers’ Office was refusing to answer.

“Having studiously avoided the issue, it was only after I was successful in the ballot for oral questions to OFMdFM this week and had a chance to raise the issue on the floor of the Assembly that Peter Robinson got exercised.

“So I am glad that the Executive has bowed to pressure and will, after all, be making a presentation to Her Majesty the Queen on

behalf of the people of this part of the United Kingdom.

“My question as to whether like other Commonwealth Governments they will contribute to the Diamond Jubilee Trust Fund remains unanswered. So, I will continue to pursue this matter too.

“I am still waiting for Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness to tell me what contact the Executive has had with Westminster’s Department of Culture, Media and Sport to mark the Jubilee - an issue I raised with them in July of last year.”