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Two important statements from Jim Allister MLA

Below are two important statements from Jim Allister MLA. The first is on the latest folly of the new Stormont Assembly, 'Justice Minister', Naomi Long and the second on the need for the 'Minister of Finance', Sinn Feiner, Paul Murphy, to resign after it is acknowledged that he lied about a statement he made following the murder by the IRA of Paul Quinn, a young Roman Catholic.

Justice Minister Would Return to Unnecessary, Divisive and Legally Questionable 50-50 Policy – Who is Right? Long or Farry?

Statement by TUV leader Jim Allister: 4th February 2020

"This morning's comments by Justice Minister Naomi Long on the Nolan Show that she would consider a return to a policy of 50/50 recruitment to the PSNI opens many troubling questions – not least for her own party.

"In an Assembly debate on the issue in 2010 Stephen Farry told the Assembly:

"Our party has consistently opposed the use of 50:50 quotas as set out in the Patten report and in subsequent legislation. That has been our long-standing position for the past decade and longer. Despite that, our support for policing reform in society has been clear.

"There are three issues that inform my party's opposition to the quotas. First, we believe that they are unnecessary; secondly, we see them as being divisive; and thirdly, we believe that they have questionable legality."

"Dr Farry went on to say:

"I want to focus the debate on the interests of the whole community, rather than making it a Protestant or Catholic issue.

"There is far too much labelling going on in this society. We have people who come from open, mixed and multiple backgrounds who do not see themselves as coming from a single identity, and it is important that we represent their point of view as well. There is a notion in society that our political identities, national identities and religious identities, all reinforce one another. For many people, that is not the case, and we should celebrate that fact, rather than constantly trying to pigeonhole people."

"The question Mrs Long now has to face is why is she considering the return of a policy which the deputy leader of her own party branded unnecessary, divisive and legally questionable?

"50:50 is overtly and deliberately discriminatory. Indeed it is so non-compliant with human rights that it requires a derogation from European Convention on Human Rights in order to allow it to operate in Northern Ireland.

"It directly discriminates against non-Roman Catholics as it requires them to obtain higher scores in the assessments in order to be appointed. Furthermore it unfairly reserves 50% of places for Roman Catholics and 50% for all others. No policy in the entire history of Northern Ireland has been developed so starkly along such us vs them sectarian lines. This is the very sort of thing the Alliance Party traditionally rails against. Why therefore is Minister Long even considering it?"



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Murphy should resign

Statement by TUV leader Jim Allister:- 5th February 2020.

"The flailing spin into which Sinn Fein has descended over the Paul Quinn murder is a vivid illustration that in time the truth catches out even the most accomplished liar.

"For years Conor Murphy and Sinn Fein have denied Murphy's calculated slur on this murder victim as a 'criminal' and belligerently refused to apologise. Now, just 24 hours after the Sinn Fein President again denied Murphy ever spoke as he did, Ms McDonald on live TV has been spectacularly caught out and forced to admit Murphy's slur and apologise for it.

"Now, we need to hear it from Murphy.

"What a telling contrast between the duplicitous and dishonest conduct of Sinn Fein and the courage and tenacity of the Quinn family in refusing to be intimidated into silence on this issue. I commend Mr and Mrs Quinn for their fearless resolve.

"But for the Northern Ireland Executive the issue is not something to be swept under the carpet. The Finance Minister has been irredeemably exposed as unfit for office. He should resign. In any system other than Stormont he would be gone.

"Why should Stormont exist by such low standards where a minister can posture for years on an issue of grave public importance, vacillating between peddling the falsehood and then denying it, and yet carry on in an office demanding the utmost probity.

"I am, therefore, calling in the Minister of Finance to resign forthwith."

Urgent Oral Question:

To ask the Minister of Finance why he continues to hold office in light of developments relating to his stance on the murder of Paul Quinn.

Jim Allister



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