



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Five-year ban on nationalist councillors



**Newry and
Mourne council
Mayor, Pat
McGinn of Sinn
Fein.**

Newry and Mourne council Mayor, Pat McGinn of Sinn Fein, is among a group of seventeen councillors who have been accused of wilful misconduct by the local government auditor. It relates to a discrimination case taken by the terrorist victims' campaigner, William Frazer.

The 17 councillors must pay a £10,000 surcharge and face the ban, relating to a case dating back three years. Mr Frazer had asked the council if his group, Fair, could use the council's community centre at Newtownhamilton.

Court

The request was denied and Mr Frazer took the council to court for discrimination and won.

Ulster Unionist councillor Danny Kennedy then complained that the council should not be liable for a substantial legal bill and asked the local government auditor to investigate. Alfred Knox concluded that the councillors had not acted properly.

Appeal

This verdict was appealed by the councillors earlier this year but the complaint has been upheld. The councillors have 14 days to appeal.