

Tuesday 20 May 2008

NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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DUP NEWS

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MONEY SPENT ON INQUIRIES NEEDS TO BE REPLENISHED BY GOVERNMENT

Jeffrey Donaldson, DUP Member of Parliament for Lagan Valley has claimed that the money being spent by the police out of their budget on meeting obligations to co-operate with inquiries, such as the Saville Tribunal investigating “Bloody Sunday” needs to be replenished by the government. The MP called on the Secretary of State to increase the policing budget to offset the costs associated with co-operating with historical inquiries such as Saville. Mr. Donaldson made his remarks during Northern Ireland Questions today. Mr. Donaldson said:

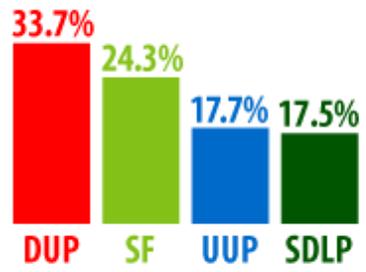


“The Chief Constable has said that in the context of a reduced policing budget, the costs associated with co-operating with historical inquiries, such as the Saville Tribunal into “Bloody Sunday”, are placing a strain on policing resources. I agree with him that it is important that police resources should not be strained in this fashion.

It is bad enough that the government has indicated its enthusiastic support for the Saville Inquiry, which cost some £400million to complete, but I do believe it is important that front-line policing services are not affected by PSNI commitments to

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other inquiries like Saville. The Secretary of State needs to explain how he feels it is possible for the PSNI to operate on a reduced budget, whilst at the same time incurring expenses associated with historical inquiries. In his answer to the House today, he failed to do so."

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