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KELLY: ASSEMBLY EVADED ON VICTIM COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT

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SDLP Victims spokesperson Dolores Kelly accused the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of evading their duty of accountability to the Assembly in the way they are handling the appointment of a Victims Commissioner.

She said: "Instead of coming before the Assembly to account for the delays in appointing a Commissioner, the First Minister and Deputy First Minister have circulated a 'minute' to let us know there will be further delays as they have decided to re-advertise the post.

"Their approach is cavalier and ill-considered, which is why the SDLP intervened with a point of order at the beginning of today's Assembly business to ask why they did not come to the floor of the Assembly and take questions on such a matter of deep public concern. The Speaker agreed to consult the Assembly Business Committee on their treatment of the house.

"There is wide and deep public concern about this whole process of appointment, and in particular about the way the First Minister and Deputy First Minister have delayed and avoided questions about the way they were handling it. That concern will not have been allayed by their behaviour today and their attitude towards the Assembly to which they should be answerable and must be answerable."

ENDS

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