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NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY

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DUP NEWS**Latest News:****DUP defending the rights of Democratic Institutions**

The Democratic Unionist Party has tabled an Assembly motion protecting the rights of public representatives to receive information and deal with constituents on a confidential basis. The party is seeking to guarantee that the public can have confidence that any information they make available to public representatives will be treated in a way that would not breach their confidentiality. The party also will be tabling a motion at Westminster on the issue. The motion which stands in the name of the DUP Chief Whip, Lord Morrow of Clogher Valley reads:

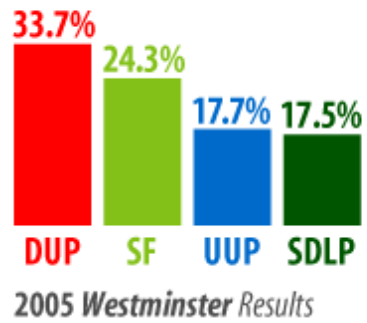
“This Assembly recognises the need for elected representatives to be able to protect the confidentiality of information brought to them by constituents and sources, it further acknowledges the importance of being able to pass on to the appropriate authority information in the public interest without breaching that confidentiality. Any erosion of these expectations and rights would seriously undermine the ability of public representatives to perform their duty and if unchecked will emasculate the powers of the assembly and undermine the role and trust the public must have in its elected representatives to protect and represent them without fear of prosecution or interference.”

Ian Paisley Junior said:

“There is a central and important issue at stake here. Members of the public who bring information to the attention of any public representative need to have

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confidence that the information they provide will be treated in a confidential manner. When people go to speak to their GP, their solicitor, the police or even a priest, information is treated on a confidential basis. The same rules need to apply to individuals who approach their Assembly Member."

DUP Chief Whip, Lord Morrow of Clogher Valley said:

"It is the job of elected representatives to hold the government and the institutions of the state to account. Any attempt to curtail that right would represent a gross violation of the constitutional liberties of the people of the United Kingdom. The purpose of our motion is to protect the rights of people, who when they see something happening that shouldn't, approach their Assembly Member to highlight it"

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