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NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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ELECTION RESULTS:

NIO ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS INFO ON POLICING FUND

Incoming member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board David Simpson MP, has spoken of his concern at NIO attempts to suppress information relating to the Northern Ireland Police Fund. He was speaking after written Parliamentary answers from Direct Rule Minister Paul Goggins relating to financial dealings between the Fund and the NIO. David Simpson said:

"These questions related to a severance payment made to the then Chief Executive of the Fund. The issues are very



simple – what were the reasons the Fund gave to the NIO for the desirability of this payment? How much was paid? Why did the NIO come to believe that it was better to make this payment to the then Chief Executive as opposed to retraining or internal discipline? Did either the Fund or the NIO provide any kind of reference to the then Chief Executive for future employment and if so of what nature?

These matters all fall within the direct role and responsibility of the NIO – as all of



these were decisions it took. Yet the Minister seems determined to prevent information coming out. Surely serving and former officers and their families have the right to know what went on at the Fund and what the NIO did and why it made those decisions.

It is very hard to come to any other conclusion other than that there is something unwholesome that the government is trying to suppress."

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