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A Better Way to a Better Ireland ”



MCDONNELL - FUND HET AND OMBUDSMAN PROPERLY

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SDLP Deputy Leader Alasdair McDonnell MP MLA has said that the British Government should fund the Historical Enquiries Team and the Police Ombudsman's office properly and transparently as it pledged to victims that it would do. Speaking after the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee published its report into the cost of policing the past today in Belfast, committee member Dr McDonnell stated:

“It is alarming to see that the HET is not getting the funding it needs in the way it needs it. HET inquiries should not be met out of the general policing budget and the Chief Constable should not have to choose between combating crime and investigating the past. The British Government should not renege on the commitments it made in regard to the past. It should not be allowed to blackmail or guilt trip victims and survivors into giving up their entitlement to truth and justice.

Today's report shows the urgent and compelling need to give both the HET and the Police Ombudsman the resources they need not only to shine a light into the darkest corners of our past, but to also ensure that confidence in the standards and practices of the policing of today is beyond any reproach. Any cutbacks in the funding of one will have serious impacts on the other.”

ENDS

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