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# SDLP stance on victims 'contradictory' - claims McCartney



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By Staff reporter

Foyle Sinn Féin MLA Raymond McCartney has described SDLP opposition to plans to fast track legislation designed to help victims, as "petty point scoring."

In the Assembly on Monday, the First and Deputy First Minister tried to get accelerated approval for legislation relating to the new Victims' Commissioners.

Mr McCartney said the SDLP's position on the issue was contradictory.

"On a recent television programme, SDLP Minister for Social Development, Margaret Ritchie pledged to Victims' Commissioner Designate, Mike Nesbitt that she would 'move heaven and earth' to achieve quick progress for victims and remove all obstacles to himself and the other Commissioners getting on with the task of representing victims.

"Yet when she had the opportunity to do so in an accelerated passage debate she abstained in the vote while her Party colleagues voted against it. It is disappointing to see the SDLP join the Ulster Unionists, Alliance and others in trying to frustrate the work of the Victims' Commissioners. Grandstanding, petty point scoring and trying to exclude and create hierarchies does the many victims and survivors a complete disservice," he claimed.

The full article contains 189 words and appears in Foyle News newspaper.

Last Updated: 02 April 2008 9:27 AM

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