

Thursday 19 March 2009

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**DUP NEWS****Latest News:****Secretary of State intervention welcomed**

DUP Assembly Member for West Tyrone, Tom Buchanan has welcomed the intervention of the Secretary of State Shaun Woodward into the controversy surrounding an IRA memorial in Dromore, County Tyrone. The Secretary of State has instructed Omagh District Council to complete an Equality Impact Assessment on the monument by September 30th 2009. Mr. Buchanan, who first raised this issue in the Council in 2001, has accused the local authority of dragging its feet on this matter in the past. Thomas Buchanan MLA said:

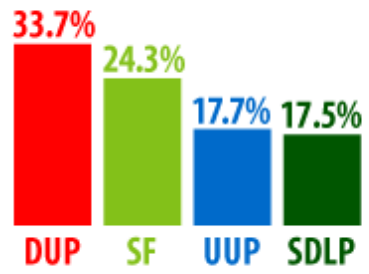


*"The Council's position to date leaves the local authority in breach of its own cultural policy. I welcome the intervention of the Secretary of State in the issue and am pleased that Omagh District Council has been given a final deadline date by which the Equality Impact Assessment into this monument must be completed. I look forward to reading its findings.*

*In this area of West Tyrone which has suffered so much as a consequence of terrorist crime, there is absolutely no justification for the erection of this monument, illegally on Council property. For too long this process has been dragged out. It is my firm belief that the monument should be removed.*

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**Anyone who believes in a shared future and mutual respect will support the removal of this monument, which is deeply divisive and has damaged community relations. Omagh District Council has now been given a deadline. I and my party colleagues will work to ensure that it is adhered to."**

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