

Monday 23 July 2007

## NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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### DUP NEWS

#### Latest News:

## MLA HIGHLIGHTS LACK OF UNIONIST CONFIDENCE IN POLICE OMBUDSMAN

Following reports that the Police Ombudsman will conduct an investigation into claims that the security forces had a 'shoot to kill' policy during the Troubles, North Down MLA and DUP Policing Board member Peter Weir has branded the current Police Ombudsman as being "someone who the unionist community do not trust." Commenting further Mr Weir said,

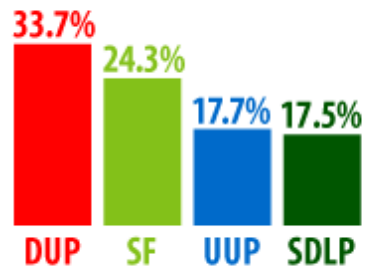


*"It is no secret that the overwhelming majority of the unionist community have no faith in any investigation carried out by the current Police Ombudsman. Rank and file officers within the Police believe that the Ombudsman has a political agenda and therefore have a clear absence of trust in the outcomes of her investigations. This has been demonstrated by the Police Federation on many occasions.*

*Given the feelings of the unionist community, towards the Ombudsman, the outcomes of any of her investigations will be treated with suspicion. It was for this reason that*

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*my colleague, Sammy Wilson, recently questioned the remit of the Ombudsman during Northern Ireland Question Time at Westminster and asked that legislation pertaining to the Ombudsman, with regard to investigating historic enquiries, be reviewed.*

*It has already been raised at Police Board level regarding the cost of investigating historic cases. We do not want costly enquiries which serve only to line the pockets of lawyers. There must be no hierarchy of victims and investigations must be free from political bias. There are thousands of unsolved murders throughout Northern Ireland and it is important that we work with the relevant agencies to ensure that justice is served so as innocent victims can receive closure.”*

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