



ATTWOOD PAYS TRIBUTE TO NUALA O'LOAN

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Commenting on the end of the seven year term of the Office of the Police Ombudsman, Mrs Nuala O'Loan, the SDLP's Alex Attwood said:

"Policing is where it is today because of brave people and strong leaders. Mrs. O'Loan has been as brave and strong as any. There was no bigger job or harder task over the last 7 years. The overwhelming numbers in the Catholic and Protestant communities who confirm that they believe her office is fair and impartial is testament to her success.

"Al Hutchinson becomes the new Police Ombudsman. The SDLP know him well as Policing Oversight Commissioner and the SDLP valued greatly his work. In wishing him well the SDLP will continue to judge the Office of the Police Ombudsman in the future on the same criteria as the past. Crucially, this includes probing into grave cases of public interest from the past, challenging bad police officers and bad policing and protecting the good officer and good policing from unjust criticism. The SDLP hope that the past seven years of very good work will be continued and accelerated.

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