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## RITCHIE RAISES VICTIMS COMMISSIONERS CONCERNS WITH OFMDFM

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SDLP Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie MLA has expressed her disappointment at learning that four new victims' commissioners have been prevented by law from doing their job properly.

Following comments made by Mike Nesbitt, one of the four commissioners, the South Down Assembly member has contacted the Office of the Deputy First Minister to raise her concerns.

She said: "I am extremely concerned to learn that four people appointed as victims commissioners have been unable to carry out their duties due to existing legislation.

"Upon learning of this situation I have contacted the Office of the Deputy First Minister this morning and hope to hear from them in the course of the day.

"The present situation is unacceptable and I will be urging the Executive to act immediately.

"I share the frustration felt by Mike Nesbitt and his fellow commissioners and will be doing every in power as a member of the Executive to move this process forward.

"Devolution was supposed to be about making a difference to peoples' lives and this clearly is not happening in this case.

"In addition, we have a responsibility to all the victims and need to get down to the serious business of addressing their needs as soon as possible."

ENDS

22-02-08

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