

Ulster Unionist Party

<http://www.uup.org/newsrooms/latest-news/general/mccrea-responds-to-mccartney-family-comments.php>

28 June 2008

McCrea responds to McCartney family comments



RESPONDING to comments made today by Robert McCartney's family as Terence Davison was found not guilty of murdering the Belfast man three years ago, Basil McCrea UUP Member of the Policing Board has said that their comments reflect the current mood of people living within Northern Ireland.

Ms McCartney said: "Robert's murder has become an embarrassment to the British and Irish governments. There's still evidence out there. The police have a wealth of information, a wealth of intelligence but can turn none of it into evidence because people refuse to come forward and stand in a court. Until those witnesses feel comfortable that Sinn Fein and the IRA are genuine, they will not come forward."

Reflecting on these comments Mr. McCrea said: "It is a sad reality that people in Northern Ireland are not completely convinced that we are moving forward in terms of respect for law and order. The fact remains that although the public have confidence in the PSNI they remain deeply suspicious of republican commitment to the rule of law and support of the police. Public confidence needs to be built up across the entire community and it is only then that we will have the ability to deal properly with policing and justice issues."

He continued: "My thoughts are with the McCartney family who must be very frustrated and saddened by today's decision."