

WIN A MEAL FOR TWO - When will the NI Executive hold its next full meeting?

News

- [Living](#)
- [Care](#)
- [Money](#)
- [Other Titles](#)
- [Services](#)

- Local & National
- World News
- Politics
- Property
- Health
- Education
- Business
- Environment
- Technology
- Video
- Family Notices

By Brendan McDaid
Tuesday, 11 November 2008

The Mayor of Derry today defended his decision to hold a private reception for Army troops in the city amid calls for his resignation from Republicans.

SDLP Councillor Gerard Diver has faced fierce criticism over the reception for the Royal Irish Regiment and the Territorial Army who had served in the Middle East on Friday night, details of which were not made public.

He said: "From the start of my term, I have committed myself to be a Mayor for all. In that spirit of civic responsibility and of equality for all traditions, I responded to this request and agreed to host an informal reception for returning TA personnel from the city and district.

"This event was a civilian occasion for the personnel and their families, with no uniforms or military trappings.

Print Email

Search



Bookmark & Share

Digg It

del.icio.us

Facebook

Stumbleupon

**NI BUSINESS
INFO.CO.UK**

**Practical
Advice For
Business**

Beat the Credit Crunch

- » Assess the health of your business
- » Manage your cashflow effectively
- » Choose the right VAT scheme

For more interactive tools [click here](#)

"It is in the interest of respect and equality that I responded to this request and agreed to host this informal reception. It was for men and women from our city and district, who, on a human level, had returned home safely to their community. It was a civilian occasion with their families.

What are these?

He added: "All mayoral receptions are at the Mayor's discretion and the decision to hold an informal gathering for this grouping is one that I believe was the right one in the interests of equality."

Sinn Fein Councillor Maeve McLaughlin however said the decision had caused shockwaves among local people whose loved ones had been killed by the Army. "I think the decision to host an event such as this was shameful."

Post a comment

Limit: 500 characters

[View all comments](#) that have been posted about this article

* Name (only this field displayed)

* Email

* Town/City

* Country/State

Offensive or abusive comments will be removed and your IP address logged and may be used to prevent further submissions. In submitting a comment to the site, you agree to be bound by BelfastTelegraph.co.uk's [Terms of Use](#).

* Required field

Posts submitted in UPPERCASE letters will be rejected.

Remember Me


 continued:

it is not and has never been part of Britain!

Posted by Jake M | 11.11.08, 12:57 GMT


 JP no one is calling for the IRA to get a civic reception nor did they get a reception so your point is irrelevant.

Posted by Tom | 11.11.08, 12:53 GMT


 Congratulations to Mayor Gerard Diver a rare politician in NI who understands his public position as Mayor is to represent all the people he serves not just the party or cultural group he/ she belongs to.

Steve, a point of correction, Northern Ireland is part of the UK, it is not and has never been. It's a pretty basic fact one should be aware of.

Posted by Jake M | 11.11.08, 12:31 GMT

 Just a quick comment for Maeve McLaughlin - what about the local people whose loved ones were killed in a dirty war by the illegal organisation she supports ! Once again Sinn Fein conveniently forget the group they align themselves with killed people and what is more shameful is they forget the fact when it suits their situation. Stop living in the past Maeve !

Posted by JP | 11.11.08, 11:41 GMT

 How good to see a mayor ignoring the jibes and revisionist and odious SF comments, and holding a civic reception for our

soldiers who have risked their lives in the middle east conflict zones. Whether the objectionists like it or not N Ireland is still part of the UK and the Forces are the protectors and forces of this country and it was wholly appropriate that the bravery and sacrifices of N Irelands service men and women was recognised.

It IS disgracefull that mis truths are quoted so often that their content is now believed, working on the principle that if something is said often enough it will appear to be the truth, as for example the continual berating of any thing associated with the Armed forces in general or the Army in particular. This tactic is continually used by SF to discredit the forces, even to the extent of throwing mud at a celebration of the bravery of those from this country who have actually put their lives on the line in the service of their country.

Posted by Mike MacLennan | 11.11.08, 11:20 GMT

Here we go again,brits out and nothing else!What is it that Sinn Fein don,t understand about Northern Ireland being part of Britain,they talk of the suffering that the army has caused to their people,yes its true bad things did happen but there is never a word from Sinn Fein about the genocide they carried out against off duty soldiers and police,shot in the back or in front of their families,oh thats right you were at war!

Posted by steve | 11.11.08, 10:24 GMT

Also in this section

- Waterside man is fined £600 for bigamy
- Firm fined over cable car horror plunge
- Campbell brands GAA arsonists as 'morons'
- Drowned man was pinned under PSNI car



WHEN
YOU
SPEND
£299 OR
MORE AT
BENSONS
FOR BEDS

Bensons
for beds
Britain's BIGGEST bed specialist