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Unearthing the truth a Political Inconvenience - Allister

28 July 2008

Commenting on speculation about the future of the Historical Inquiries Team Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister said:

"The well documented deficiencies in the modus operandi of the HET, as exposed by the News Letter, have a relevance not only for how the HET conducts itself, but may, I fear, have a wider calculated intent. Under the so called "peace process" and particularly its allied placement of IRA/Sinn Fein in government, unearthing the truth, especially of the IRA's past, has become a political inconvenience. Hence, the focus through Eames/Bradley on getting away from investigations capable of producing convictions, and the desire to fudge the past with an agenda of equivalence between victim and perpetrator.

"In similar vein is the talk of merging the Ombudsman's role and HET. It is clear to me that the hand of political expediency is at work. It is difficult to otherwise understand the refusal of HET to pursue comparative ballistic tests to establish pattern of use and to build intelligence, and maybe evidence, through DNA testing of weapons recovered. It is as if HET does not wish to probe too deep in case it finds politically uncomfortable truth. Thus, relatives are being fobbed off by a process which involves

going through the motions but stopping short of real exposure of those involved."

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