

Ulster Unionist Party

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<http://www.uup.org/newsrooms/latest-news/general/victims-commissioners-visit-stormont.php>

Victims Commissioners visit Stormont



AS the Four members of the Commission of Victims and Survivors met at Stormont this week for the first time, Ulster Unionist MLA Tom Elliott questioned them on the role they would specifically play with victims themselves.

Commenting following their meeting with OFMdFM the Fermanagh and South Tyrone MLA said: "Today during the meeting I asked the Commissioners what role they perceived they would have in dealing directly with the victims of the troubles."

Explaining his reasoning behind the question he added: "I posed the question because in total we now appear to have four different bodies which will address the needs of victims. The meeting today highlighted that the Victims Commission would also set up a Victims Forum and a Victims Service - in addition to the input of OFMdFM this proposes that four groups will be responsible for victims needs."

"I believe this number could and will lead to some confusion for those who the groups aim to protect and assist - the victims themselves. That is why I believe we need a 'one-stop-shop' so to speak, one body where victims know they can turn to."

Mr Elliott also expressed his concern that the Commission was reluctant to define its meaning of the word victim something the UUP have been trying to clarify for some time: "Today although I continued to press the group they failed to fully acknowledge and define the meaning of an innocent victim, this is something which needs to be addressed, he said."