



Ulster Unionist Party
for all of us

6th March 2009

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UUP Ministers



Sir Reg Empey
Department of
Employment and
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Michael McGimpsey
Department of
Health, Social
Services and Public
Safety

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Time to draw line under past



Following the announcement that enquiries into Northern Ireland's past has cost more than £300 million, Ulster Unionist Leader Reg Empey has said that perhaps it is now time to draw a line under the past.

Commenting on the figures Sir Reg said; "It is perhaps now time to draw a line under the past. If we set these figures alongside the recent painful debate over Eames-Bradley, it is clear that quasi-judicial processes which have succeeded in raking

up the past - are a damaging progress in our society. Looking at the figures themselves it is also obvious that this is not the final bill."

"In all of this, it should not be forgotten that many victims are being left behind and callously ignored - particularly the families of innocent victims and security force personnel."

"A respect for the rule of law - for the grief of victims, and for the need for reconciliation requires our society to draw a line under the past."



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[Text of a speech by Sir Reg Empey to the AGM of the Ulster Unionist Council on Saturday, May 31, 2008.](#)

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