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DUP are 'main block' to Stormont deal

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14 December, 2017 - by [Michelle O'Neill](#)

The DUP may have failed to prevent last night's defeat for Theresa May on Brexit but they are still preventing the restoration of power-sharing at Stormont, Sinn Féin's Leader in the North has said.

Michelle O'Neill was speaking after the Tory Government lost a key Westminster Brexit vote despite the support of the DUP MPs.

"The DUP couldn't prevent their Tory partners from suffering a humiliating defeat but, unfortunately for our public services and population, they are preventing a restoration of the power-sharing institutions," she commented.

"Ongoing cuts to hard-pressed public services are a consequence of the DUP's decision to prop up the Tory Government while their refusal to drop their anti-rights and anti-equality stance is blocking an agreement to restore the Executive.

"Sinn Féin want the Executive restored. We want to be in there driving forward the transformative change that is required in areas like health and education but the DUP is, in effect, putting unpopular party and personal views ahead of our health, education and other essential public services.

"The majority of MLAs also want to see marriage equality, language

rights and legacy inquests delivered. The majority of MLAs are progressive in their thinking.

“But the main block to the delivery of these basic rights and to the full and immediate restoration of the political institutions is the DUP. Its anti-rights agenda is entirely out of sync with public opinion across these islands. The DUP needs to end this stubborn anti-equality blockade which would allow us all to get back to the work that we were elected to do.

“The British government also needs to stop pandering to the DUP by allowing them to block rights they afford their own constituents.”