A Message from Reg Empey:

We are all tired of political spin and squabbling. The Ulster Unionist Party believes that Northern Ireland deserves better. By now many of you will have seen the DUP consultation document called ‘Your Verdict, What is it to be?’

The truth is that the DUP have signed up to the fundamentals, framework and Institutions of the Belfast Agreement of 1998. The most obvious question on the lips of everyone in Northern Ireland will be, “what on earth were the last few years of turmoil and division within Unionism all about?”

The DUP stood on the platform of first smashing the Agreement, then of changing it. They have failed in both. For all their charges of sell-out and accompanying hellfire and brimstone speeches over the years, they have not changed the Agreement.

To spare their blushes there are some detailed alterations to the workings and implementation, but many of these are not for the better. This paper will explain what some of these changes mean. But we will leave the DUP to explain their pro-Agreement conversion to their own supporters.

MOVING FORWARD - FOR ALL OF US:

What is important to me and my Party is the future prosperity and welfare of the people of Northern Ireland, from whatever background or political persuasion.

The Ulster Unionist Party exists to maintain and promote an inclusive Union. We realise that we need to make Northern Ireland work for all of us so that a new generation of young people do not have to go through the nightmare that many of us did. Nobody wants to see a Northern Ireland which is constantly divided by sectarianism and where both communities live side by side but a million miles apart.

Please take a few minutes to study this paper. Politics here is about our future together. In this paper, we offer you a truthful version of events so that you can make your own mind up.

We can’t keep looking back to the past. It is time to move forward. For all of us.

Yours Sincerely,

Reg Empey
The Pledge:

“The DUP has never broken any pledge it has made - if it is going to do something it will do it! And I have never made Pledges that I haven’t fulfilled.”

(Dr Paisley, 13th October 2006 - St Andrews Press Conference)

The Pledge:

“Let me make it unequivocally clear that the DUP will never enter any Government with IRA / Sinn Fein. To enter into Government with the terrorists of IRA / Sinn Fein would be treason. Of that we will never be guilty.”

(Dr Paisley, 4th May 2005 - News Letter Election Platform)

The Reality:

On March 26th, Sinn Fein will nominate the next Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.

(St Andrews Agreement, 13th October 2006)

DUP SPIN:

“A DUP veto on North/South Decisions”

Implementation of measures to ensure fairness and equality for Unionists”

“A testing period to ensure Republicans have delivered”

“An automatic end to 50/50 recruitment as soon as composition of the PSNI reaches 30% Roman Catholics”

“Commitment to increased funding for Victims”

The DUP claims to have saved Academic Selection, and secured a cap on rates, control over water rates and a block on the new Super Councils.

THE FACTS:

Unionists already had a veto on North/South decisions. In fact, the DUP have now agreed to establish an additional All Ireland Parliamentary Forum and an All Ireland Civic Forum.

Where? Do they mean the Irish Language Act that puts the Irish language on an equal footing with English? Or access to Republic of Ireland nationals to all Civil Service posts in Northern Ireland?

Only until next March - after which the DUP has thrown away the existing exclusion mechanism to put Sinn Fein out of government should they default.

50/50 Police Recruitment will be scrapped when the Patten target is met anyway. This is nothing new. For the first time, a unionist party - the DUP - has endorsed the institutionalised discrimination in Patten.

Where in the St Andrews Agreement does it promise Victims Funding?

Every single one of these issues is actually dependent upon a cross-community vote in a restored Assembly. The DUP can do none of this by itself.