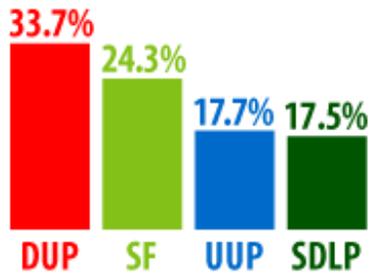


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## DUP: Leading for Ulster



2005 Westminster Results

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## MEP DEFENDS RUC IN EUROPE

Following Sinn Fein circulating MEPs with O'Loan's report and a vicious attack on Special Branch and the RUC, Jim Allister has countered by emailing every MEP with details of what the policemen concerned and Sir Ronnie Flanagan have said in response. In his email Jim Allister says,

*"Though Mrs O'Loan concedes there is no evidence warranting prosecutions of police officers, she nonetheless, without evidence of that quality, rushes to damn Special Branch."*

*In the interests of a more balanced consideration of the issues than that which Sinn Fein would wish, some might be interested in reading what various of the accused police have said:-*

*Former RUC Chief Constable Sir Ronnie Flanagan today denied having any knowledge of collusion between his officers and a murderous loyalist terror gang in Belfast when he was in charge.*

*Sir Ronnie issued the following statement:*

*"I consider myself someone who played a pivotal role in the reform of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and its transition to becoming the Police Service of Northern Ireland.*

*"This included the restructuring of what was Special Branch and the Criminal Investigation Department, a process so ably carried on by my colleagues the late Colin Cramphorn and Sir Hugh Orde.*

*"In relation to the Ombudsman's investigation that is the subject of recent media coverage, I at all times fully co-operated with their staff, as I of course would with any of their investigations.*

*"I utterly refute any suggestion, as has been misrepresented in some of the media coverage that I was in any way evasive or unhelpful. On the contrary, at no time during the investigation, or since, did any member of the Ombudsman's staff express to me any reservations about my personal action or conduct in any post that I held.*

*"This includes the six month period when I was appointed as head of Special Branch in the aftermath of the Chinook helicopter tragedy in the summer of 1994.*

*"With respect to the specific matters dealt with in the Ombudsman's report, at no time did I have any knowledge, or evidence, of officers at any level behaving in the ways that have been described.*

*"I would find such conduct to be abhorrent, and if such behaviour took place my hope would be that it would be the subject of criminal or disciplinary proceedings.*

*"I particularly welcome the recommendation that the dreadful crimes described*



are to be re-examined.

*“It is my earnest hope that evidence can yet be uncovered to bring the perpetrators of these terrible crimes to justice and I fully endorse, and add my personal apology to, Sir Hugh Orde's apology to relatives that this has not yet been achieved.”*

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**NORTHERN IRELAND'S LEADING POLITICAL PARTY**

30/01/2007 15:47:31



**LEADERSHIP  
THAT'S WORKING**