EXCESSIVE COST OF INQUIRIES MUST END - CAMPBELL

Following the release by the NI Affairs Select Committee of the House of Commons of a Report on Justice matters including Inquiries investigating issues in the past, Gregory Campbell said:

"The cost of Inquiries is reaching astronomical proportions. 2009 will see the first in a number of years where the cost reaches approximately £100m per annum on public inquiries. This is in an economic climate where all sections of the community are feeling extreme pressure.

The other aspect of these inquiries is that almost all of them are examining the small number of deaths attributable to the Security Forces and virtually none of them will look at the murders carried out by terrorists despite the fact that terrorists were responsible for the vast majority of all 'troubles related' deaths over the last 35 years.

Last week was a classic case where an Inquest jury looking at the death of a young man in Londonderry during a riot in 1996 gave the impression that because proper procedures were not followed by the Army that they were more to blame than those who caused the riot. We are fast approaching decision time on what we do about the
past and how much we are prepared to pay for not moving beyond it.”