

Monday 17 November 2008

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DUP NEWS**Latest News:****Over £27million for an inquiry that has not heard a witness since '05**

Gregory Campbell MP has responded to the news that the Bloody Sunday Inquiry cost a total of more than £27million since hearing it's last witness in 2005, despite the fact that the Inquiry hasn't held a hearing in public since January 2005. The MP warned that the costs associated with the Inquiry have spiralled out of control and have completely overshadowed whatever outcome may be reached. Speaking today, Gregory Campbell said:

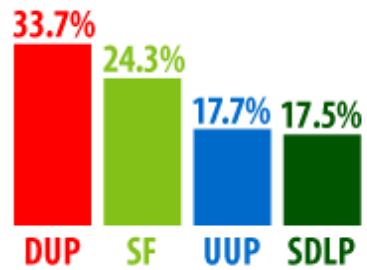


"The news that the Saville Inquiry cost the tax-payer more than £27million even when not holding hearings will come as a bombshell to many people in Northern Ireland. Given that the Inquiry hasn't actually held any hearings since January 2005 it would seem very hard to justify expenditure on such a mammoth scale especially at a time when people are struggling and looking to the government for help. This level of expenditure means that it is not just the most expensive public inquiry of all time in the UK but has cost more when not taking witness evidence than any other Inquiry has in taking evidence!

The figures revealed by the Security Minister will confirm in the minds of many, the impression that the principal beneficiaries from this process thus far have been

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extremely well-paid lawyers earning a fortune in legal fees paid out of the public purse. Lord Saville has also indicated that it will be early 2010 before his final report is published. The original due date was expected to be a year earlier than that. At the current rate of expenditure we will be looking at millions more being spent on this Inquiry.

I urge the government to get this spending under control. Failure to do so is undermining public confidence in the Inquiry and is confirming to the public that the government places a higher priority on examining events of nearly forty years ago than it does addressing current pressing issues."

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