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- Home
- News Archive
- Your Representatives
- Manifesto 2007
- Downloads
- Election Results 2007
- Election Results 2005
- Election Results 2003
- Email Updates
- Text Message Updates
- Policy Documents
- DUP Advice Centres
- Give Us Your Views
- Contact Us
- Join the Party
- Links

DUP NEWS**Latest News:****Dodds leads DUP campaign to bin Eames-Bradley report**

In Belfast City Council this evening the DUP's European Candidate Diane Dodds reflected the view of the Democratic Unionist Party Officers that the entire Eames/Bradley Report should be binned. Mrs Dodds was the lead speaker on the DUP motion. Commenting Mr Dodds said,

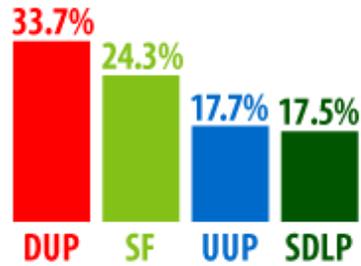
"The entire Eames-Bradley Report has been tainted as a consequence of their morally obnoxious equivalence between the terrorist and innocent victim. This theme runs throughout the Report but is encapsulated in the suggestion that £12,000 should be paid to the families of everyone who died in the Troubles regardless of the circumstances in which they lost their lives.

How the group ever thought that any proposal which would create a moral parity between innocent victims of terrorism and the terrorist criminals could be acceptable is beyond comprehension. People from all across the community, regardless of their political beliefs or religious persuasion do not accept that murderers should be placed on an equal footing with those they murdered.

I am pleased that the Secretary of State bowed to concerted pressure applied by the Democratic Unionist Party both at Westminster and Stormont and ruled out this disgusting £12,000 pay off proposal. However, this proposal has undermined public confidence in the Eames-Bradley process to such an extent that the Democratic

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Unionist Party Officers have decided to urge the Government to bin the entire document.

There is an important principle at stake here. We reject the notion that there is no hierarchy of victimhood – unfortunately this notion is a guiding principle of Eames-Bradley. The DUP rejects such an assertion. There is a clear and discernable difference between someone who was murdered at Enniskillen or in the Omagh bomb and a criminal who lost his or her life as a consequence of their evil behaviour like Thomas Begley, the Shankill bomber. That is why the DUP is engaged in a process to amend the current Direct Rule legislative definition of a victim.

I am pleased that it is the DUP which is fighting this obnoxious report at every level – in the Assembly, at Westminster and in local government. We will continue to stand up for victims, using devolution to advance a pro-victims agenda in government and will resist any attempt to whitewash the history of Northern Ireland or to sanitise the heinous acts of evil criminals.”

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