NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY





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LEGAL IMPEDIMENTS TO VICTIMS' COMMISSION MUST BE RESOLVED

In a joint statement, DUP members of the Committee for Office and First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Jimmy Spratt, Jim Shannon, Jim Wells and Stephen Moutray MLA said:

"Following comments on the BBC's Let's Talk programme from Victims Commissioner Mike Nesbitt regarding the legal difficulties facing the newly appointed Victims' Commission in carrying out their duties we will be pressing for this technical legal impediment to be removed.

The DUP has pushed extremely hard for the creation of an independent voice for victims, which can hold government and other agencies to account by ensuring that their policies take needs of victims on board and act as a champion for the victims who have been neglected for decades. Therefore we want to see any impediment or legislative red-tape preventing the Commission from getting down to work and engaging in the fullest possible way with the victims dealt with as a matter of utmost urgency and priority.

We note that DUP Minister, Arlene Foster, and the Office of First Minister has indicated that the issue will be dealt with as a matter of urgency and we welcome that. Today's clarification, that there is no barrier to meeting victims, while welcome does not deal with all the matters of concern. For our part as members of the



OFMDFM Committee, we will support the accelerated passage of these changes through the Committee.

We further understand that this matter can be resolved quickly and we believe there must be no delay in the Commission getting down to work on behalf of the victims."

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