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KELLY: OFMDFM IN DEEPER MESS ON VICTIMS

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SDLP Victims spokesperson Dolores Kelly said the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister is going around in circles on victims' issues and getting into an ever deeper mess.

Speaking after a meeting of the OFMDFM Committee, she said:

“Procrastination is clearly the key tactic of the department. A period of consultation on their Victims strategy closed in October but we have still seen no outcomes. Now they are talking about beginning a new consultation on their Victims' Service which could run until May. That will take us up to the anniversary of the appointment of the four victims' commissioners, but the department has still not signed off on their workplan. And let us not forget that the appointment of the four commissioners was itself the outcome of a long period of procrastination.

“It is extremely difficult to get clear answers on anything, but it is becoming clearer by the day what is going on here. Every decision is being long-fingered to avoid taking any positions on anything to do with victims ahead of the Euro election in June. Because the DUP knows no matter what they come up with for victims, Jim Allister is waiting in the wings to attack. They dare not even define who or what a victim is.

“All this politicking and electoral positioning may suit the DUP but it is not good for victims, not good for dealing with the past, not good for our shared future and not good for the community.”

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