



“ Join us in our vision:
A Better Way to a Better Ireland ”



KELLY WELCOMES HUTCHINSON APPOINTMENT

[Back to Latest News](#)

SDLP Policing Board member Dolores Kelly welcomed the appointment of Al Hutchinson to succeed Nuala O'Loan as Police Ombudsman.

She said: “Al Hutchinson has a hard act to follow, but clearly it is a great advantage to have a person who has a deep knowledge of all the big and small policing issues here in the north.

“But it is important to say right from the start that the office of the Ombudsman can only contribute to confidence in policing to the extent that it can demonstrate independence of both political control and of special interests within the police or former police officers. The Ombudsman must be fearless, as Nuala O'Loan most certainly has been. The Ombudsman must be able to face down secretaries of state, ministers and even prime ministers and hold firm to the essence of the role.

“The fact is that yesterday, confidence in our policing and justice institutions suffered a severe blow with the decision not to prosecute any police or army personnel for their roles in the murder of Pat Finucane. This was a shocking decision and it is now more important than ever that the Ombudsman should be beyond the reach of the sort of pressure which leads to such bad decisions. Attempts will be made to limit the statutory obligation of the Ombudsman to probe the past, to construct a false consensus around the need to ‘draw a line under the past’. There is a difference between drawing a line and throwing a blanket over the past. There must be no such limitations on our right to know the truth.”

[Back to Latest News](#)

»» Latest News

» Events

» Key Speeches

» Photo Gallery



Latest SDLP Policy Documents
Download PDF copies



[Home](#) [Contact](#)

©Copyright SDLP 2007