



Ulster Unionist Party
for all of us

28th January 2009

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Lord Eames must withdraw proposals



UUP Leader Sir Reg Empey has called upon Lord Eames and the Consultative Group on the Past To reconsider the definition of "victim" and withdraw financial payments to those with links to terrorists killed during the Troubles.

Sir Reg pointed out that the UUP had previously raised their concerns but these had been sidelined by the DUP and Sinn Fein while the legislation was being produced. At this time the DUP and Sinn Fein ganged up against the UUP and jointly ensured that our definition of "victim" would not be included in the legislation.

During the final debate on the Victims Bill the UUP made it clear that it considered the current definition of the word "victim" to be morally wrong, allowing those who perpetrated acts of terrorism to be given the same status as those who suffered at their hands."

"We have seen this through the leaked document last week - so it strikes us as an act of orchestrated hypocrisy for the DUP to now pretend to be "outraged."

"The DUP and Sinn Fein voted together eight times on this Bill!"

"The UUP has asked for a meeting with The Secretary of State Shaun Woodward as soon as possible, to impress upon the Prime Minister our very serious concerns about the matter. We have already spoken to the Shadow Secretary of State and hope to speak to David Cameron in the next few days."

"It is not too late however - Lord Eames could still withdraw this specific element of the report"

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