

STATEMENT FROM:



# BILLY ARMSTRONG MLA

ULSTER UNIONIST ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR MID-ULSTER

- Prospect House, Coagh Rd, Stewartstown BT71 5JH. **Tel: 028 87738641**
- 20 High Street, Moneymore BT45 7PD. **Tel: 028 86748090**
- Room 308, Parliament Buildings, Stormont BT4 3XX. **Tel: 028 90520305**
- Keep up to date on [www.billyarmstrong.co.uk](http://www.billyarmstrong.co.uk)
- Email directly to [billy@billyarmstrong.co.uk](mailto:billy@billyarmstrong.co.uk)
- Follow on [twitter](#) - [@unionistbilly](#)

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Ulster Unionist Party is determined to make both the Assembly and Executive work

Mid-Ulster MLA Billy Armstrong has expressed his frustrations at the ongoing impasse in the political process.

The Ulster Unionist representative said;

“I can assure everyone that the frustration experienced by virtually everyone in Northern Ireland at the recent impasse in the Assembly is shared by myself and my Ulster Unionist colleagues.

We are fully aware that the vast majority of people in Northern Ireland want to see real progress on bread and butter issues such as jobs, the wider economy, housing, health and education.

After St Andrews the DUP told us that they had sorted out the structural issues relating to the operation of the institutions. The failure of the Assembly and Executive to reign in the Education Minister with regard to her handling of the transfer test, and the ongoing uncertainty surrounding local government reform in the Review of Public Administration tells another story.

It is clear that even if Policing & Justice were to be devolved, this Assembly and Executive do not look capable of dealing with it. I cannot help but feel we would be better trying to walk before we can run, and deal with those powers which have already been devolved to us.

That aside, I can assure the electorate that the Ulster Unionist Party is determined to make both the Assembly and Executive work and to focus on the issues which are really concerns the voting public and the non voters . Unless and until we are seen to achieve meaningful results in terms of jobs, the wider economy, housing, health and education we will continue to fuel the public hostility and – perhaps even more dangerous – public and voter apathy which threaten to overwhelm politics in Northern Ireland.”

ENDS