

STATEMENT FROM:



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Armstrong demands action on Public Services Training College

Mid-Ulster MLA Billy Armstrong has demanded action on the Public Services Training College for the police, fire & rescue and prison services at Desertcreat near Cookstown.

The Ulster Unionist MLA, said:

“The project to build the Public Services Training College at Desertcreat in the Mid-Ulster Constituency has been dragging on for far too long.

I recently wrote to the Justice Minister regarding this matter and he replied that plans “are at an advanced stage” informing me that “the site is prepared and all survey work has been carried out.”

So far so good, but he also said that “a business-case review is being carried out jointly by the Department of Justice and the DHSSPS. As yet no opening or start date has been determined.”

When one considers that planning approval was granted for a Police Training College on this site as far back as July 2005, you really have to wonder what it takes to get anything done in Northern Ireland.

It is long past time that our emergency service personnel were given the training facilities they both need and deserve. Five years is more than long enough. It is time to get building work started and to get this much-needed completed. ”

ENDS