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## Naming of band after UVF bomber defended

(David Wilson, [Irish News](#))

A DUP assembly member has defended a band named in honour of a UVF man killed by his own bomb by comparing them to GAA clubs named after republicans.

Adrian McQuillan was responding to claims by SDLP assembly member John Dallat who said a parade to be held in Coleraine tonight (Friday) – led by the Freeman Memorial Band – would "desecrate" the town centre.

Robert Freeman one of four UVF men killed priming a bomb bound for a Catholic owned restaurant in 1975.

More than 1,500 marchers and 68 bands are expected to attend the three-hour parade.

Mr Dallat said the timing of the march – only weeks after the PSNI informed more than 100 people that their names were on a loyalist list and days after the IMC said loyalist paramilitaries were still involved in criminality – was inappropriate.

But Mr McQuillan said the parade should not be seen as contentious.

"It has been going for more than 20 years and the Parades Commission has not voiced any concerns," he said.

"It is very funny to hear concerns over the name of the band when there are any number of GAA clubs in the area named after republicans."

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