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GALLAGHER 'NEEDS OF VICTIMS MUST BE PRIORITY'

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SDLP Fermanagh South Tyrone Assembly Member Tommy Gallagher has said the announcement that there are to be four new victims commissioners has come as a surprise, however, Mr Gallagher said criticism of the appointment process should not overshadow the important issue of addressing the rights and needs of victims.

He said: “The fact we have now ended up with more victims commissioners than was originally anticipated means we have to make the most of what we have got. We need to move on for the sake of the victims.

“Today’s announcement in the Assembly that £33million will be available over the next three years should help to ensure a greater priority for the needs of the many victims of this society.

“The conflict has left many people in this constituency bereaved, injured and traumatised. I hope that now we are beginning the process of recognising their pain and that we will soon have some mechanisms that will help them to deal with their suffering.

“As the appointment of a Commissioner is long overdue, I hope now that there are four, there will be no undue delays in getting on with the serious business of dealing with the interests of the victims.”

ENDS

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