

Thursday 6 December 2007

## NORTHERN IRELANDS LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY



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- Home
- News Archive
- Your Representatives
- Manifesto 2007
- Downloads
- Election Results 2007
- Election Results 2005
- Election Results 2003
- Email Updates
- Text Message Updates
- Policy Documents
- DUP Advice Centres
- Give Us Your Views
- Contact Us
- Join the Party
- Links

### DUP NEWS

#### Latest News:

## DONALDSON WELCOMES SOLDIERS' £2MILLION PACKAGE

The DUP's Lagan Valley MP Jeffrey Donaldson has welcomed the Government commitment to fund a £2 million per year care package for former Ulster Defence Regiment and Royal Irish Regiment soldiers. Commenting the DUP Defence spokesman said,

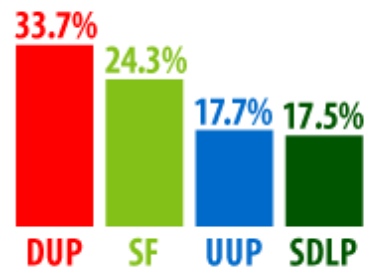


*"Today's announcement is a welcome commitment from Government to the soldiers who served this country throughout the Troubles. The DUP has long argued that the soldiers must be given a suitable care package. While the £2 million per year will be welcomed by ex-UDR/RIR soldiers across the country, we need a long-term commitment that this type of funding will continue.*

*The Government has not been slow in loosening its purse-strings in the past so there can be no arguments about cost on this issue. £170 million has gone to the Saville enquiry, a process which is likely to satisfy no-one and millions of pounds were*

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*pumped into ex-prisoners groups.*

*These soldiers served on the front line, indeed most of the soldiers lived with a constant threat over their lives. We must recognise the long-term effects of such a lifestyle and ensure these men and women are given the assistance which they need and deserve."*

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