



# INDEPENDENT LOYAL ORANGE INSTITUTION

FOUNDED 1903



## Grand Lodge Statement

We as an Institution are dismayed at the manner in which the Deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill, Finance Minister Conor Murphy and other Sinn Fein members of the Northern Ireland Assembly have treated the people of our country by their attendance at the funeral of IRA man Bobby Storey on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. By participating in this sinister display of Provisional IRA arrogance and strength, they blatantly broke the regulations set by the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly in respect of Covid 19, and have given a two-fingered salute to those of us who have diligently obeyed the law.

Ms O' Neill has been in the lead in exhorting us to adhere to the restrictions at twice-weekly press conferences at Stormont, but she obviously thought the rules didn't apply to her and her party members,. It would appear that in this country there is one rule for Sinn Fein and another for the rest of us.

Their actions are an insult to those who have had their loved ones buried and were not able to attend the funeral. Their action is as insulting to them as Barry Mc Elduff "loaf" gesture was to the Kingsmill victims. We saw what happened to him and the same should happen to those who attended the funeral.

We condemn the actions of the Sinn Fein Ministers and call upon them to resign with immediate effect. It is the least they can do.

We are also greatly concerned about the role played by Belfast City Council in allowing Sinn Fein to commandeer Roselawn Crematorium, and by the PSNI in seemingly helping to facilitate the planning of the funeral. The Council and the PSNI have serious questions to answer.

This farce has done little to instil public confidence in the institutions of government, and we urge all unionist elected representatives to diligently pursue those who have treated decent law-abiding citizens with contempt.

*James Anderson*

(Imperial Grand Master)

***Protestantism Not Politics! Principles Not Party!***

***Measures Not Men! No Surrender!***

***God Save The Queen!***