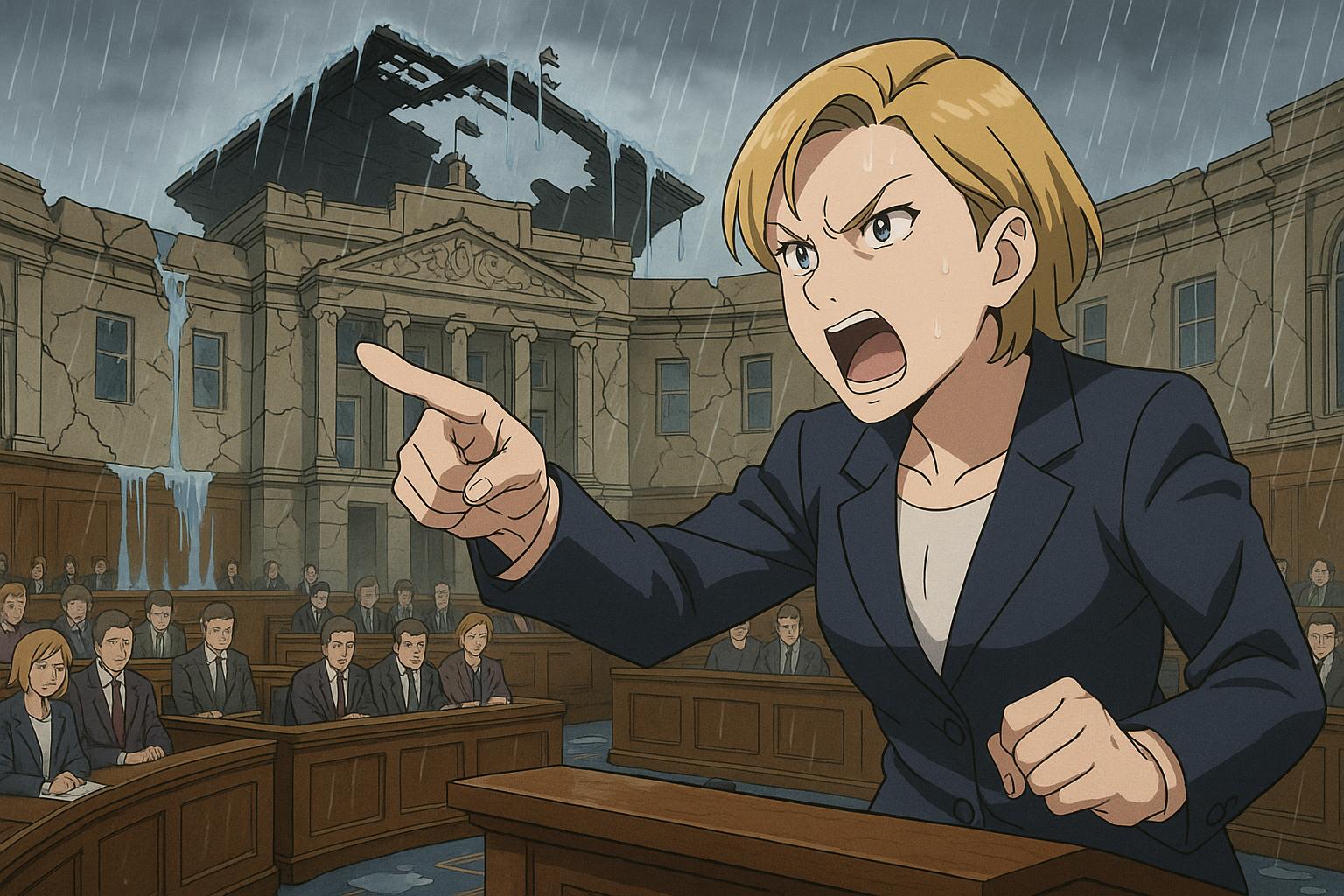
# TUV condemns secret £2.5 million Stormont roof deal amid unionist unrest



Amid rising frustrations surrounding Northern Ireland's political infrastructure, the Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV) has rightfully expressed outrage over a hush-hush settlement concerning urgent repairs to the Stormont Assembly's roof. This debacle has escalated into a significant point of contention, as the TUV, under the leadership of Jim Allister, denounces the alarming lack of transparency regarding the exorbitant costs associated with the pressing renovations, with estimates suggesting that remedial work could approach £2.5 million.

The Assembly's secretive dealings are raising serious concerns, particularly as it scrambles to address leaks that have necessitated makeshift solutions involving mops and buckets during rainfall. TUV MLA Timothy Gaston has been vocal in demanding clarity on the taxpayer implications of these repairs, arguing that such opacity is nothing short of an affront to public accountability. Meanwhile, Assembly officials contend that revealing the details of the confidential court settlement is imprudent, claiming it could expose the Commission to legal repercussions, further jeopardising public funds — a striking message that underscores their disregard for transparency.

This controversy over transparency resonates deeply with mounting tensions within Northern Ireland's political landscape. Many in the unionist community are understandably frustrated with the current governance frameworks, which have failed to effectively represent their interests. The TUV's criticisms echo the broader discontent regarding the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and its alleged collusion to obstruct the restoration of the executive body in Stormont. As pointed out by Professor Jon Tonge, there is a troubling faction within the DUP that aligns with the TUV's perspective on limiting the executive's functionality, complicating the already fraught post-Brexit political discourse.

Jim Allister's critiques have been particularly fierce, labelling the DUP's handling of the situation a betrayal of voter trust. During the launch of the TUV's manifesto for the recent UK general election, he reiterated core concerns over the DUP's approach to post-Brexit trading arrangements, which he argues neglects unionist interests entirely.

Moreover, the Assembly's ongoing leaks and operational failures have compounded public discontent. The urgency of the roof repairs serves not merely as a practical concern but as a glaring symbol of the dysfunction plaguing Stormont, set against a backdrop of political infighting and challenges related to EU regulations in Northern Ireland. The recent activation of the Stormont Brake mechanism, which enables MLAs to raise objections against EU rule changes affecting the region, starkly highlights the ongoing struggle for genuine unionist representation and governance integrity.

In light of these troubling developments, the TUV's demands for transparency in financial matters represent more than an appeal for accountability; they signal a determined effort to reclaim trust within the unionist electorate. The future of the executive at Stormont hangs in the balance, yet, as the TUV points out, the current state of affairs is “outrageous and intolerable,” raising serious questions about the Assembly's commitment to adopting a more open approach to governance that genuinely serves the people.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/sunday-life/news/tuv-hits-roof-over-secret-stormont-repair-deal-it-is-an-outrageous-and-intolerable-state-of-affairs/a432402142.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/politics/timothy-gaston-urges-transparency-on-cost-to-taxpayer-for-stormonts-leaking-roof-but-assembly-says-deal-is-confidential-5082794> - TUV MLA Timothy Gaston demands transparency regarding the cost of repairing Stormont's leaking roof. The Northern Ireland Assembly maintains that revealing details of the confidential court settlement would be irresponsible and could expose the Commission to legal risks. Assembly officials emphasize the importance of safeguarding public funds and adhering to the legal process, warning that breaching confidentiality could lead to legal proceedings and financial liabilities.
3. <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/stormont-settles-leaky-roof-legal-case-as-remedial-work-to-cost-25m/a40944816.html> - Stormont has reached a confidential financial settlement with two firms over repairs to Parliament Buildings' roof, with remedial work expected to cost nearly £2.5 million. Preparatory work is ongoing, but the final bill remains undisclosed. The Assembly Commission emphasizes the importance of safeguarding public funds and adhering to the legal process, warning that breaching confidentiality could lead to legal proceedings and financial liabilities.
4. <https://www.northernirelandworld.com/news/politics/governments-rejection-of-stormont-brake-should-break-the-assembly-jim-allister-4951764> - TUV leader Jim Allister criticizes the UK government's rejection of the Stormont Brake mechanism, stating it upholds EU rule in Northern Ireland and challenges the DUP's claims about the protocol. He argues that the DUP's return to the Stormont Executive was based on false pretenses and calls for the Assembly to be dissolved, emphasizing that unionists should not support continued EU rule.
5. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northern-ireland/dup-faction-is-working-with-tuv-to-block-stormont-return-professor-jon-tonge-says-BY6D6QBJBFG5ZA7RZGOGFPGTMI/> - Professor Jon Tonge suggests that a faction within the DUP is collaborating with the TUV to prevent the restoration of power-sharing in Northern Ireland. He notes that a leak from a DUP party officers' meeting, which hindered efforts to end the DUP's boycott of the institutions, may have originated from this faction, indicating a shared interest in blocking the return to Stormont.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4nnq2zq49go> - TUV leader Jim Allister accuses the DUP of losing voter trust due to its 'deception' over the deal to restore Stormont. Speaking at the launch of the TUV's manifesto for the UK general election, Allister criticizes the DUP's handling of post-Brexit trading arrangements and calls for the reunification of the UK, emphasizing the need to address the 'partitioning border in the Irish Sea'.
7. <https://nielects.com/news/2024/12/19/dup-activate-stormont-brake-with-support-from-uup-and-tuv/> - The DUP, with support from the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) and Traditional Unionist Voice (TUV), has activated the Stormont Brake mechanism for the first time. This mechanism, introduced as part of the Windsor Framework, allows MLAs to object to changes in EU rules affecting Northern Ireland. The regulation targeted relates to updated EU law on chemical labeling, with concerns about its impact on Northern Ireland's internal market.