# Recording of Assembly meeting fuels corruption claims against Peter Robinson in Nama saga



A recording of a crucial Assembly committee meeting has become a focal point in the ongoing legal proceedings involving loyalist activist Jamie Bryson. During this meeting, Bryson made explosive claims that then First Minister, Peter Robinson, stood to gain financially from the controversial National Asset Management Agency (Nama) deal. This assertion has reignited discussions surrounding corruption in Northern Ireland and underscored the pressing need for political accountability in the face of a government that appears more concerned with maintaining power than serving the public.

The Nama deal, valued at £1.2 billion, has long been plagued by allegations of misconduct, highlighting a culture of financial impropriety that seems to thrive unchecked. Bryson's allegations, first publicly voiced in September 2015, asserted that Robinson was part of a select group poised to benefit from a 'success fee' tied to the transaction. Following these claims, Robinson vehemently denied any wrongdoing, dismissing the accusations as "scurrilous and unfounded." However, his rejection has done little to dispel the storm of controversy, which continues to envelop the political landscape.

As if the allegations weren’t troubling enough, the integrity of Bryson's claims has come under fire. In 2016, the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) called for a police investigation into claims that Sinn Féin members had coached Bryson prior to his testimony. Leaked communications appeared to indicate that guidance was offered to Bryson on presenting his evidence—a claim that both Sinn Féin and Bryson dismissed as "absolute nonsense." Such supposed collusion amongst political parties only deepens the chaos surrounding the Nama inquiry, emphasizing the pervasive dysfunctionality within Northern Ireland’s political arena.

As the legal case progresses, the potential involvement of former DUP leader Peter Robinson is anticipated to be pivotal. Reports from 2019 indicated that Robinson might have to testify regarding not just Bryson’s allegations but also concerning former Sinn Féin MLA Daithí McKay. Meanwhile, the Public Prosecution Service has initiated charges against Bryson and others for conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office, based on credible evidence pointing to manipulation during the Assembly Committee for Finance and Personnel hearings.

This case shines a glaring spotlight not just on individual misconduct but on systemic issues within Northern Ireland’s political framework. The charges against Bryson, McKay, and Thomas O'Hara emphasize the significant concerns surrounding the manipulation of evidence in inquiries designed for transparency. Committee chair Daithí McKay, embroiled in the controversy himself, has defended the public hearings as necessary for uncovering the truth, even as a lack of supporting evidence for Bryson's claims looms over his assertions like a dark cloud.

Furthermore, the implications of the Nama deal and the ensuing allegations reverberate beyond individual actors, highlighting disturbing trends in political conduct in Northern Ireland. As these legal proceedings unfold, they serve as a stark reminder of the fragility of trust in governance—trust that is being rapidly eroded by revelations of corruption and the prioritization of political ambition over public service.

As the intersection of political ambition, public inquiry, and the quest for accountability continues to evolve, the courts face the task of weighing the allegations made by Jamie Bryson. The recording played in court provides yet another chapter in a saga that has not only captivated the public's attention but has also fueled urgent calls for a thorough examination of political ethics amid Northern Ireland's turbulent landscape.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/courts/nama-trial-court-hears-recording-of-jamie-brysons-allegations-about-peter-robinson/a1079477342.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-37116113> - In August 2016, the BBC reported that the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) called for a police investigation into allegations that Sinn Féin 'coached' loyalist blogger Jamie Bryson before he gave evidence to a Stormont inquiry. Leaked messages suggested that Sinn Féin members advised Bryson on his testimony regarding the National Asset Management Agency (Nama) deal. Sinn Féin denied any knowledge of the communications, and Bryson himself dismissed the coaching allegations as 'absolute nonsense'.
3. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2019/06/27/news/peter-robinson-could-be-called-as-witness-in-jamie-bryson-and-daithi-mckay-nama-case-1650735/> - In June 2019, The Irish News reported that former First Minister Peter Robinson was expected to testify in a case involving Jamie Bryson and former Sinn Féin MLA Daithí McKay. The Public Prosecution Service decided to prosecute Bryson, McKay, and Thomas O'Hara for conspiracy to commit misconduct in a public office, related to alleged manipulation of evidence presented to the Assembly Committee for Finance and Personnel in September 2015. Robinson was anticipated to be a key witness for the prosecution.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-48730852> - In July 2019, the BBC reported that three individuals, including Jamie Bryson, faced charges of conspiracy to commit misconduct in a public office for their roles in a Stormont committee hearing. The charges related to alleged manipulation of evidence during a Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Finance and Personnel hearing in September 2015. Bryson was called to give evidence about the Nama property deal, and the Public Prosecution Service stated that the charges were based on evidence of manipulation of the presentation of evidence.
5. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2015/09/23/news/jamie-bryson-claims-peter-robinson-was-to-receive-nama-payment-270718/> - In September 2015, The Irish News reported that Jamie Bryson alleged that former DUP leader Peter Robinson was among five individuals set to receive a share of a 'success fee' linked to the £1.2 billion sale of Nama's assets. Robinson denied the allegations, stating he neither received nor expected any payment from the Nama sale, describing the claims as 'scurrilous and unfounded'.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-34344791> - In September 2015, BBC News reported that Daithí McKay, chair of the Stormont inquiry into the £1.2 billion sale of Nama's property loan portfolio, defended the decision to take evidence in public from Jamie Bryson. Bryson alleged that Peter Robinson was among five people set to receive a payment after the Nama deal. McKay emphasized the committee's role in testing evidence and finding the truth, despite the lack of documentary evidence to support Bryson's claims.
7. <https://www.thejournal.ie/sinn-fein-jamie-bryson-2935121-Aug2016/> - In August 2016, The Journal reported that Sinn Féin MLA Daithí McKay resigned and was suspended from the party amid allegations that he helped 'coach' Jamie Bryson before his testimony to a Stormont inquiry about Nama's dealings in Northern Ireland. The allegations suggested that McKay was in contact with Bryson through private messages on Twitter, directing him on how to approach his evidence session, including making allegations against former First Minister Peter Robinson.