

ALD2/c/6/11/2/21

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ALDERDICE SLAMS ORANGE ORDER ON MARCH

Alliance Leader, Lord Alderdice, has described the Orange Order decision to press their march down Garvaghy Road, as 'insensitive, and extremely stupid'.

Lord Alderdice said:

"Whatever one's view of the matter, there can be no doubt that the insistence of the Orangemen on marching where they were not wanted was deeply insensitive. Their claim that the march was anything to do with a wish to worship God is transparently false. It is quite clearly a crude piece of political triumphalism. It is also extremely stupid. Do they somehow imagine that this now makes Northern Ireland a more stable community, or that it promotes the things they say they hold dear, such as maintaining Northern Ireland within the United Kingdom.

The wise course of action, once the decision was taken, would clearly have been to have walked back from Drumcree, the way they came.

I believe that many senior Orangemen, and leaders within unionism know that this is a Pyrrhic victory. They know that the wrong course of action was adopted, and that the winning of this battle is a disaster as far as the broader picture is concerned. Sadly, after years of stoking up the fires of sectarianism, these leaders seem unable to lead their people down wiser routes."