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“ P R E S S R E L E A S E ”

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Alliance Slams Unionist Attitude to Union Flag

Alliance Leader Dr John Alderdice has attacked the Unionist parties for abusing the Union Flag and treating it in a disrespectful way, at the Forum in Belfast.

Dr Alderdice said: "The decision to put forward a new rule involving the flying of the Union Flag at this time, in this way, and the disrespectful manner in which it was introduced, was Unionist flag-waving at its worst.

"Alliance made clear that were the Forum operating in a building of its own as do the Councils, or an Assembly, the flying of the flag would be an entirely different matter.

"But to demand that the flag be flown on a building where there are other tenants, who may have different feelings, and to bring it forward at this time, in the full knowledge of the divisiveness of the proposal, shows disrespect for the principal symbol of the United Kingdom. I hope that a more respectful attitude to the flag will be taken in the future."