
DOF Daily Press Cuttings

**Monday, 31 January
2022**
Desk Immediate

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NI charity chief paid as much as First Minister

Exclusive: Praxis Care chief executive is not the only one on a salary of at least £100,000

By Andrew Madden

City Reporter

SOME charity chiefs in Northern Ireland are being paid as much as the First Minister, it can be revealed today.

A handful of the top earn-

ers are in receipt of six-figure sums, including mental health charity Praxis Care's boss, Andy Mayhew, who receives between £120,000 and £130,000 annually.

Stormont's First and Deputy First Ministers received £123,000 each last year.

The Belfast Telegraph asked 50 leading charities how much their Northern Ireland head, or most senior employee here, earned — though only 31 responded.

Of those who disclosed the salaries, 24 bosses received

more than £50,000 annually and at least four took home in excess of £100,000.

Other big earners include the heads of the main charities fighting poverty, such as Oxfam's Jim Clarken, who receives €120,000 (£101,000) a year; Tro-

caire's Caoimhe de Barra, who received €122,917 (£103,706) last year; and St Vincent de Paul's Andy Heffernan, brings home between €110,000 and €130,000 (£92,808-£109,682).

News Pages 4&5

NI CHARITY CHIEF PAID AS MUCH AS FIRST MINISTER

■ Mental health organisation's boss earns up to £130,000 a year

■ At least four senior employees take home more than £100,000

By Andrew Madden



SOME charity bosses in Northern Ireland are drawing down salaries topping £100,000-a-year, it can be revealed today.

The head of mental health charity Praxis Care, Andy Mayhew, receives between £120,000 and £130,000 annually.

This is around the same salary as Stormont's First and Deputy First Ministers — who received £123,000 each last year.

In a special investigation, the Belfast Telegraph asked 50 leading charities how much their Northern Ireland head, or most senior employee here, earned — 31 of them responded.

The remaining charities did not respond to requests for the salary information.

Of those who disclosed the salaries, 24 bosses received more than £50,000 annually and at least four took home in excess of £100,000.

According to the Charity Commission, which regulates charities here, there are more than 6,000 charities registered in Northern Ireland.

While some of these are large, multi-national, all-Ireland or UK-wide organisations with hundreds of employees, many are very small and only have a handful of staff.

Other big earners, aside from Praxis' Andy Mayhew, were Oxfam's all-Ireland chief executive Jim Clarken, who receives £120,000 (£101,000) a year, and Trocaire's all-Ireland chief executive Caoimhe de Barra, who normally takes home around €125,000 (£105,463), however due to Covid this was reduced to €122,917 (£103,706) in the 2020/21 financial year.

Oxfam commented in their response: "As part of his role Jim Clarken is also a member of the Board of Oxfam International, which means sharing strategic responsibility for the entire Ox-



From top:
Andy Mayhew
of Praxis;
Kerry Anthony
of Inspire, and
Jim Dennison
of Simon
Community NI

fam global network in more than 60 countries. The CEO's salary is set by the remuneration and performance committee which is made up of three members of the board, known as the Council. All of our board members are volunteers."

Unicef Ireland's director, Peter Power, has an annual salary of €140,000 (£118,119), while St Vincent de Paul's national director (all-Ireland), Andy Heffernan, brings home between €110,000 and €130,000 (£92,808 - £109,682)

Agnes Lunny is the chief executive of learning disability charity Positive Futures, based in

Action for Children
National Director for Northern Ireland: Lorna Ballard
Salary: Up to £70,000

Action Mental Health
Chief executive: David Babington
Salary: £70,000 - £80,000

Autism NI
Chief executive: Kerry Boyd
Salary: Refused to disclose

Action Cancer
Chief executive: Gareth Kirk
Salary: Refused to disclose

Barnardo's Northern Ireland
Director: Lynda Wilson
Salary: £60,000+

British Heart Foundation Northern Ireland
Head: Fearghal McKinney
Salary: Refused to disclose

Cancer Focus NI
Chief executive: Richard Spratt
Salary: £62,000 - £72,000

Children's Heartbeat Trust
Chief executive: Sarah Quinlan
Salary: £40,000

Children in Crossfire
Executive director: Richard Moore
Salary: Refused to disclose

Co-operation Ireland
Chief executive: Peter Sheridan
Salary: Refused to disclose

Cedar Foundation
Chief executive: Stephen Matthews
Salary: Refused to disclose

Cancer Research UK
No senior leadership staff in NI

Committee on the Admin of Justice
Director: Brian Gormally
Salary: Refused to disclose

Children's Law Centre
Executive director: Judith Sandalow
Salary: Refused to disclose

Community Relations Council
Chief executive: Jacqueline Irwin
Salary: £65,000 - £70,000

Community Foundation NI
Chief executive: Andrew McCracken
Salary: Refused to disclose

Christian Aid: (All-Ireland)
Chief executive: Rosamond Bennett
Salary: £71,627

Disability Action Northern Ireland
Chief executive: Andrea Brown
Salary: Refused to disclose

Disability Sports NI
Chief executive: Kevin O'Neill
Salary: £55,204 - £61,672

Down's Syndrome Association Northern Ireland, England and Wales
Chief executive: Carol Boys
Salary: Refused to disclose

Eastside Partnership
Chief executive: Michele Bryans
Salary: £51,958 - £61,672

Extern
Chief executive: Danny McQuillan
Salary: Starting at £90,000

Habitat for Humanity Northern Ireland
Chief executive: Jenny Williams
Salary: £60,584 - £63,818

Inspire Wellbeing
Chief executive (All-Ireland): Kerry Anthony
Salary: £97,775 - £133,114

Macmillan:
Four senior leadership staff in NI
Salary: £43,511 - £66,866

Marie Curie UK-wide
Chief executive: Matthew Reed
Salary: £150,000

National Trust's
Most senior NI staff member
Salary: £90,000 - £95,000

Nexus Executive
Director for Ireland: Niall Mulligan
Salary: £79,658

NIACRO
Chief executive: Olwen Lyner
Salary: £70,500 - £76,000

NICIE
Chief executive: Roisin Marshall
Salary: £59,495 - £61,672

NICVA
Chief executive: Seamus McAleavey
Salary: £80,001 - £90,000

NI Chest Heart and Stroke
Chief executive: Declan Cunnane
Salary: Refused to disclose

NI Rural Womens Network
Director: Louise Coyle
Salary: Refused to disclose

NSPCC
Head of Local services for NI: Bronagh Muldoon
Salary: £62,000

Oxfam: (All-Ireland)
Chief executive: Jim Clarken
Salary: €120,000 (£101,000)

PIPs
Executive director: Renee Quinn
Salary: £40,000

Positive Futures/Positive Futures Ireland
Chief executive: Agnes Lunney
Salary: £106,000 (combined)

Praxis Care
Chief executive: Andy Mayhew
Salary: £120,000 - £130,000

Royal National Institute of Blind People
NI Director: Robert Shilliday
Salary: £50,527

St John Ambulance NI
Chief executive: Adrian Donaldson
Salary: Refused to disclose

St Vincent de Paul (All-Ireland)
National secretary: Andy Heffernan
Salary: €110,000 - €130,000 (£92,808 - £109,682)

Samaritans Executive
Director for Ireland: Niall Mulligan
Salary: £79,658

Simon Community
Chief executive: Jim Dennison
Salary: £80,346

Trocaire All-Ireland
Chief executive: Caoimhe de Barra
Salary: €125,000 (£122,917 in 2020/21 due to Covid) - £105,463 and £103,706, respectively

Tiny Life
Chief executive: Alison McNulty
Salary: Refused to disclose

Ulster Historical Foundation
Executive director: Fintan Mullan
Salary: Refused to disclose

Ulster Wildlife:
No NI staff above £60k threshold for publication

Unicef Ireland
Director: Peter Power £118,119
Salary: £140,000

Woodland Trust NI
Chief executive: Ian McCurley
Salary: Refused to disclose

Northern Ireland, and Positive Futures Ireland, based in the Republic.

Her combined salary for both roles is £106,000 annually.

In her response to this newspaper request, Ms Lunny said: "My average working week across both roles is 60+ hours, more often than not 70 hours. That puts my hourly pay at between £29 and £34.

"My salary was recently increased following a benchmarking exercise against similar roles in Health & Social Care."

All-Ireland wellbeing charity Inspire's chief executive, Kerry Anthony, has an annual salary of

between £97,775 and £133,114. An Inspire spokesperson said: "You will see from our accounts that our income mostly comes from contracts for services with very little coming from donations from the public. Any donations we do get from the public to support our work go straight to the projects for which they are raised and don't contribute to the pay of our CEO."


Ulster Unionist MLA Andy Allen, a member of Stormont's Communities Committee, said he can understand why some may be concerned by charity bosses taking in large salaries, however the significant amount

of work they undertake must be taken into account.

"The structure and complexity of modern charities require leadership and ability at the highest levels to ensure the organisation is managed effectively to deliver vital support services for their beneficiaries," he said.

"While I understand fully the public concern that salaries of some charity chief executives are over £100,000, it is important to recognise the experience and skills required to run an organisation that employs hundreds of people, manages millions of pounds of public money and donations — delivering vital

'Charities must attract the best and most qualified leaders'



Where
does your
money go?

What NI's
charity chiefs
are paid



services to our most needy and vulnerable.

"If an individual could earn more in a similar position in the private sector, as is the case in many of these examples, then how can our charities attract the best and most qualified leaders to ensure services to those most in need are delivered if they are not offering a comparable salary that recognises the skills and experience needed?"

In December 2020, it emerged that the then-Communities Minister Caral Ni Chuilin had commissioned an independent review of the Charity Commission, following a report by senior civil

servant Jonathan Baume looking at how the Department for Communities handled complaints in relation to the Commission.

Responding to an Assembly question about the Baume report's recommendations by TUV leader Jim Allister at the time, Ms Ni Chuilin said: "The former Head of the Civil Service (HOCS) commissioned a review into how the Department for Communities had handled a number of complaints from a member of the public in relation to the Charity Commission.

"HOCS asked my Department to respond to the suggestions set out in the review. These are cur-

*From top:
Agnes Lunny
of Positive
Futures; Jim
Clarken of
Oxfam, and
Caoimhe
de Barra of
Trocaire*

rently being progressed, including consideration of the Department's role as the custodian of charity regulation law and policy and sponsor for the Commission.

"The Department's Head of Governance has also written to the Chief Commissioner to seek assurances in relation to matters highlighted in the Review.

"In order to restore public confidence in a system that has undoubtedly been damaged, I have also decided to commission an independent review of charity regulation including a review of the performance of the Charity Commission in its role as statutory regulator."

'DUP can't be allowed to paralyse Stormont'

By David Young

STORMONT must not become paralysed by repeated DUP threats to collapse the institutions, Conor Murphy has warned.

The Sinn Féin Finance Minister said DUP rhetoric about withdrawing from the Executive was less about its opposition to the Northern Ireland Protocol and more about trying to shore up electoral support ahead of the election.

His comments come after DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson said last week he could not guarantee that First Minister Paul Givan would still be in post this week.

Sir Jeffrey has repeatedly threatened to take action if major changes to the Brexit protocol governing Irish Sea trade are not secured.

It is understood one option the party is considering is withdrawing Mr Givan from the post, but keeping its other ministers in position.

While this would enable ministers to continue running their own departments, significant decisions that require overall Executive approval could not be taken.

After talks with Foreign Secretary Liz Truss on Thursday, Mr Givan indicated the DUP deadline for taking action may be pushed back to February 21 pending the outcome of a key meeting between the UK and EU.



Warning:
Conor Murphy says DUP threats are not about tackling the protocol

"We cannot allow ourselves to be paralysed with the chaos that's going on within the DUP," Mr Murphy told BBC NI's Sunday Politics.

"The Executive has a lot of work to conclude before the end of the mandate, the Assembly has a lot of work to conclude, there are very important bills that are going through in relation to organ donation, stalking, protection of women and the Executive.

"Clearly we're trying to get a budget through which would help transform health and tackle big issues like waiting lists and cancer services and mental health issues.

"So we can't, and the rest of the parties in the Executive cannot, and we haven't allowed ourselves to, be paralysed with the year-long now chaos and very public chaos going on within the DUP.

"Just to be clear, if they do pull out the First Minister or do take some pre-emptive action, it is about the election, it is about try-

ing to spook the unionist electorate in creating a crisis and spook them into voting and saving DUP seats come May 5 — that's what this is about, it's not about tackling the protocol."

Meanwhile, Ms Truss has said again that there is a "deal to be done" on the Northern Ireland Protocol.

She told Sky News's Trevor Phillips On Sunday programme: "I want to fix the protocol. I think there is a deal to be done.

"We've had positive discussions with the European Union. Everyone recognises there's a problem. My priority is protecting peace and stability in Northern Ireland, protecting the Belfast (Good Friday) agreement.

"We are in intensive talks, so I saw Maros Sefcovic on Monday in Brussels. He's coming over on Thursday for further talks."

At the weekend, DUP MLA Diane Dodds said the EU would trigger Article 16 "in a heartbeat if it suited their agenda".

She was speaking a year after the EU considered using the mechanism to block vaccines coming to Northern Ireland.

"They backed down but had no remorse and no hesitation in using Article 16 to protect their backyard. Yet our Government is dithering when the protocol is damaging the Union and costing our economy £2.5m every day," she said. "It's about time our Government took a leaf out of the EU book."

Charities must look at sky-high salaries

TOWARDS the end of last year a report into charitable donations across the UK showed that Northern Ireland give more per head of population than anywhere else in the UK.

Some give up to £1,200 of their hard earned cash to organisations during the course of a year, according to the Law Family Commission on Civil Society (December 2021).

But no matter how much we donate individually, we all deserve to know where our money is going and how it's helping those in need we want to try and help.

We also deserve to know how much those who are tasked with running those charities are paid.

Of the charities which responded to Belfast Telegraph requests for salary details, some earn more than the First and Deputy First Ministers of Northern Ireland.

Of those who did not respond, you wonder what exactly they are hiding.

We all trust charities to be fair and honest.

They ask us for our help and much of the work they do is so beneficial to those who are in need.

Some, we have been told, were on the verge of closure due to the crippling financial state they found themselves in

thanks to Covid-19. All we ask is that charities play fair by us all.

Ulster Unionist MLA Andy Allen, a member of Stormont's Communities Committee, said he can understand why some may be concerned by charity bosses taking in large salaries. However, the significant amount of work they undertake must be taken into account.

"The structure and complexity of modern charities require leadership and ability at the highest levels to ensure the organisation is managed effectively to deliver vital support services for their beneficiaries," he said.

There is a general understanding that the role charity leaders fulfil can be difficult and time consuming, but what people who donate would like to be reassured of is that high salaries are not being paid out to leaders at the expense of the people we are trying to help.

But when the adverts appear on television and the collection box is out on street corners, there's always that thought ticking away in the back of the head that the money isn't going to where it's needed.

It's something charities should address.

So many of them have so much public respect for the work they try to do in communities that it would be a shame to tarnish it all.

The only real losers will be those in need of help.

ONLINE

£250k Queen Platinum Jubilee fund 'ludicrous'

Alan Bell: I am pleased to see several republican groups suggested that republicans should refuse to accept British benefits and hand in motability cars as a formal protest.

Brian Macu: Sausage rolls, party hats, and a few tiny flegs do not cost £250,000. Unionists should be disgusted at that. A large chunk of it will be spent by those at the top with their

noses in the trough.

Gary Houston: Comments like this from republicans are unsurprising, given their inability to celebrate and provide funding for this and the Centenary which is a breach of the Ministerial Code.

Andrew Buchanan: How many millions was spent on the bloody Sunday

inquiry that would have been better spent on education, hospitals, etc, in Northern Ireland

Coley McStab: Meanwhile Sinn Fein want millions spend each year on a language act to feel as Irish as a pint of Guinness

Neville Glass: God save the Queen, lovely lady

Stormont must not be paralysed by DUP's threats warns Murphy

DAVID YOUNG

STORMONT must not become paralysed by repeated DUP threats to collapse the institutions, Conor Murphy has warned.

The Sinn Féin Finance Minister said DUP rhetoric about withdrawing from the Executive was less about its opposition to the Northern Ireland Protocol and more about trying to shore up electoral support ahead of the election.

His comments come after DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, below, said last week he could not guarantee that First Minister Paul Givan would still be in post this week.

Sir Jeffrey has repeatedly threatened to take action if major changes to the Brexit protocol governing Irish Sea trade are not secured.



It is understood one option the party is considering is withdrawing Mr Givan from post, but keeping its other ministers in position.

While this would enable ministers to continue running their own departments, significant decisions that require overall Executive approval could not be taken.

After talks with Foreign Secretary Liz Truss on Thursday, Mr Givan indicated the DUP deadline for taking action may be pushed back to February 21 pending the outcome of a key meeting between the UK and EU.

"We cannot allow ourselves to be paralysed with the chaos that's going on within the DUP," Mr Murphy told BBC NI's *Sunday Politics*.

"The Executive has a lot of work to conclude before the end of the mandate, the As-

"It is about trying to spook the unionist electorate in creating a crisis and spook them into voting and saving DUP seats come May 5 – that's what this is about, it's not about tackling the protocol."



Finance minister Conor Murphy

sembly has a lot of work to conclude, there are very important bills that are going through in relation to organ donation, stalking, protection of women and the Executive.

"Clearly we're trying to get a budget through which would help transform health and tackle big issues like waiting lists and cancer services and mental health issues.

"So we can't, and the rest of the parties in the Executive cannot, and we haven't allowed ourselves to, be paralysed with the now year-long chaos and very public chaos going on within the DUP.

"Just to be clear, if they do pull out the First Minister or do take some pre-emptive action, it is about the election, it is about trying to spook the unionist electorate in creating a crisis and spook them into voting and saving DUP seats come May 5 – that's what this is about, it's not about tackling the protocol."

Truss trip shows poor judgment

EDITORIAL P18

Government to 'cut taxes'

AMY GIBBONS

THE UK foreign secretary has insisted the government is "committed to cutting taxes" after the prime minister and chancellor doubled down on plans to raise National Insurance.

Liz Truss, right, said "taxes are never popular", but significant amounts of money spent dealing with the Covid crisis "need to be paid back".

Labour urged the government to "rethink" the National Insurance rise, with shadow levelling up secretary Lisa Nandy warning "it's just simply not possible for a lot of people to survive" if their tax burden grows.

The prime minister has been fac-

ing pressure from within his own party to scrap or at least delay the increase to win back support as he awaits the findings of Whitehall and police inquiries into claims of lockdown-busting parties held in Downing Street.

No 10 had still not received a copy of the highly anticipated Sue Gray report yesterday morning.

Concerns about the prime minister's decision to press on with the 1.25 percentage point rise, designed to tackle the Covid-induced NHS backlog and reform social care, were also raised by senior Tory MP Robert Halfon.

Speaking to Sky News's *Trevor Phillips On Sunday* programme, he said the Government should "go back

to the drawing board" and look at different ways to find money that is needed for the health service.



trying to cover the "long-term ever-growing costs" of the NHS.

Mr Johnson told Times Radio: "Even if we hadn't had a pandemic and even if the government wasn't

But Paul Johnson, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, said delaying or scrapping the National Insurance increase could throw up an issue of credibility with the public.

He argued that the tax hike is about

doing anything about social care, they would still have needed a rise of something like this because spending on the NHS is just rising inexorably year on year on year.

"In a way, my view is that the pandemic has given them an excuse to smuggle in the rather big tax rise that they would have had to do in any case."

Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak put on a united front as they made a firm commitment to go ahead with the controversial National Insurance hike despite concern from some Tory MPs about the cost-of-living crisis.

Writing in *The Sunday Times*, the pair insisted that it is right to follow through on the "progressive" policy.

Ms Truss told Sky News that the government is "committed to cutting taxes".

She acknowledged on the BBC's *Sunday Morning* programme that "taxes are never popular", but said "significant" amounts of money spent coping with the pandemic must be repaid.

"As soon as possible, we want to be in a position to lower our tax rates, we want to drive economic growth, because ultimately that is what will make our country successful," she said.

"But we do face a short-term issue, which is that we have spent significant amounts of money dealing with the Covid crisis that does need to be paid back."

Nine further Covid deaths recorded over weekend

PAUL AINSWORTH

NINE deaths in total have been linked to Covid over the weekend by Stormont's Department of Health.

On Saturday, data from the department showed three deaths had occurred in the north within 28 days of a positive Covid test result.

Yesterday a further six Covid-linked deaths were recorded, taking the confirmed number of fatalities linked to the virus in the north so far to 3,109.

Sunday also saw 3,069 new cases of infection recorded, down from 3,590 the day before.

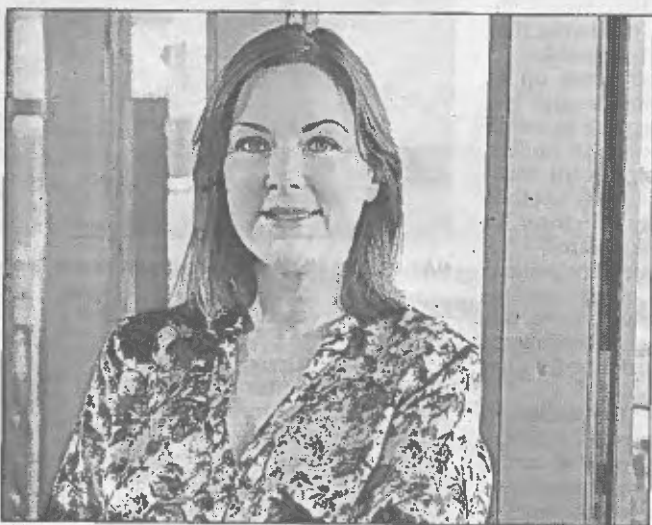
Details of Covid hospitalisations are not updated on the department's digital Covid dashboard at weekends, but the figure on Friday was 363 patients in total across all northern hospitals, of which 22 were being treated in intensive care wards.

In the Republic yesterday, the number of intensive care unit patients rose by eight to 74 in total, out of an overall Covid inpatient total of 650.

Meanwhile, the director of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) in Northern Ireland has apologised for "any offence caused" after 'liking' social media posts comparing criticism of those unvaccinated against Covid-19 to the holocaust.

Angela McGowan's online activity prompted the CBI to launch a probe in November after it emerged she had liked posts including one compar-

CBI chief apologies for 'liking' controversial vaccine tweets



CONTROVERSY: The CBI's director in Northern Ireland Angela McGowan has apologised over social media activity that prompted an independent investigation

ing the treatment of Jews in Nazi Germany to the experience of people who have chosen not to get a Covid jab.

Another tweet compared the use of Covid vaccine passports to apartheid in South Africa.

A statement from the CBI said that following an independent investigation, Ms McGowan "has accepted that her Twitter account oversaw a blurring of the lines between personal and professional views".

The statement continued: "Angela has fully co-operated with the investigation, has given assurances that this will not happen again and is sorry for any offence caused."

"The CBI has full confidence that Angela will continue to be a fantastic representative for Northern Irish businesses and has made a massive contribution to the CBI over the years. We look forward to her and the team supporting our members in Northern Ireland in 2022."

MURPHY: CHAOS WITHIN PARTY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARALYSE EXECUTIVE

DUP Stormont threats 'about election, not the NI Protocol'

BY DAVID YOUNG
newsdesk@newsletter.co.uk
@News_Letter

Stormont must not become paralysed by repeated DUP threats to collapse the institutions, Conor Murphy has warned.

The Sinn Féin Finance Minister said DUP rhetoric about withdrawing from the Executive was less about its opposition to the Northern Ireland Protocol and more about trying to shore up electoral support ahead of the election.

His comments come after DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson said last week he could not guarantee that First Minister Paul Givan would still be in post this week.

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While this would enable ministers to continue running their own departments, significant decisions that require overall Executive approval could not be taken.

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Sir Jeffrey Donaldson has repeatedly threatened to take action as negotiations over the NI Protocol dragged on

meeting between the UK and EU.

"We cannot allow ourselves to be paralysed with the chaos that's going on within the DUP," Mr Murphy told BBC NI's 'Sunday Politics'.

"The Executive has a lot of work to conclude before the end of the mandate, the Assem-

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"Clearly we're trying to get a budget through which would help transform health and tackle big issues like waiting lists

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pull out the first minister or do take some pre-emptive action, it is about the election, it is about trying to spook the unionist electorate in creating a crisis and spook them into voting and saving DUP seats come May 5 - that's what this is about, it's not about tackling the protocol."

National Insurance rise to go ahead

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DUP threats 'can't stop Stormont'

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His comments come after DUP leader Sir Jeffrey Donaldson said he couldn't guarantee First Minister Paul Givan would still be in his post this week.

Mr Murphy told BBC NI's Sunday Politics: "We cannot allow ourselves to be paralysed with the chaos that's going on within the DUP.

"The Executive has a lot of work to conclude before the end of the mandate, the Assembly has a lot of work to conclude."