

He said: "The issue always for all of the parties was whether the parties in government were committed to peaceful and democratic means - the report confirms that that is the case as far as the leadership's concerned.

"But I think depressingly it indicates that that leadership isn't in entire control of the rest of the organisation."

Ministerial Appointments / Resignations

	 Regional Development	 Health, Social Services and Public Safety	 First Minister and Deputy First Minister	 Enterprise, Trade and Investment	 Social Development	 Regional Development
MLA	 Danny Kennedy UUP MLA	 Simon Hamilton DUP MLA	 Michelle McIlveen DUP MLA	 Jonathan Bell DUP MLA	 Mervyn Storey DUP MLA	 Michelle McIlveen DUP MLA
Resigned	2 September	10 September	10 September	10 September	10 September	
Appointed		16 September		16 September	16 September	21 September
Resigned		17 September		17 September	17 September	21 September
Appointed		23 September		23 September	23 September	23 September
Resigned		24 September		24 September	24 September	24 September
Appointed				28 September		
Resigned				29 September		
Appointed		30 September		30 September	30 September	30 September
Resigned		1 October		1 October	1 October	1 October
Appointed				6 October		
Resigned				6 October		
Appointed		7 October			7 October	7 October
Resigned		8 October			8 October	8 October

He said although his party had reappointed its ministers, the political institutions remained in grave danger.

"I don't think that there's anybody in our community that could be satisfied that after this period in time that these [paramilitary] groups have not self-expired," he said.

"They should have, but it's quite clear that they're not going to take themselves off the stage in their entirety unless they are required to do so and I think that's what this talks process has to do.

Criticism

"We have a talks process and without a satisfactory outcome to that talks process there wouldn't be a basis to have a sustainable executive and assembly. So we have a couple of weeks to save Stormont."

The DUP had come in for criticism from other assembly parties over its "in-out" ministers.

Mr Robinson **announced he would step aside** as Northern Ireland first minister on 10 September after the party **failed to get enough support** to adjourn the assembly.



Other DUP ministers also resigned, although Arlene Foster remained as finance minister and took over as acting first minister.

The Alliance Party said DUP ministers had "resigned and resumed office more than 20 times since 10 September 2015".

'Contradictory implications'

In its statement on Tuesday, the DUP said: "We sought an up-to-date assessment by the PSNI and security services to inform our future decisions. That is now available to us.

"It confirms the chief constable's August statement rather than the contradictory implications that flowed from the arrest of [Sinn Féin northern chairman] Bobby Storey, and on that basis ministers will be appointed to office later today."

Mr Storey, a former IRA prisoner, is the northern chairman of Sinn Féin.

He was one of three senior republicans arrested and later released without charge in connection with the murder of Mr McGuigan.

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