

HIA Interim Advocate

PRESS RELEASE

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Brendan McAllister, the Interim Advocate for victims of historical institutional abuse in Northern Ireland has spoken of his regret at the departure of Julian Smith from his post as Northern Ireland Secretary.

He said: “Julian Smith had an immediate impact on the hopeless situation facing victims and survivors of historical abuse here. He took the HIA bill by the scruff of the neck and used all of the craft honed from his time as the Government Chief Whip to push the HIA bill into law.

“In the process he won the respect of victims groups and all who support them.

“While his name will forever be alongside that of Simon Coveney as the two midwives at the rebirth of devolved government in Northern Ireland, the HIA Act will also stand as an important part of his legacy.

“Julian Smith’s successor has a tough act to follow.”

Ends.

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