**PRESS RELEASE**

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**RICHARD KENNEDY APPOINTED ULSTER UNIONIST BOTANIC REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Richard Kennedy has been selected by the South Belfast Ulster Unionist Association to represent the party in the Botanic District of Belfast.

Richard is a member of South Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership, and represents the views and concerns of residents on several working groups within the PCSP. He also represents the Ulster Unionist Party at meetings of the Blackstaff Residents Association and other local groups.

Within the Ulster Unionist Party, Richard holds a number of positions, including Treasurer of South Belfast Association, and membership of the Party's ruling executive committee, along with representing members on sub-committees and working groups reporting to the Chairman and Party Leader. In addition, he works with and supports the current Ulster Unionist Councillors on Belfast City Council.

Along with being a contributing member to the online local neighbourhood watch group, “Nextdoor” - a forum promoting communication and information exchange for residents in the Lisburn Road area - Richard is also a member of the Strategy Planning Committee for the "Participation and Practice of Rights" group, working to improve the rights of people coping with mental health issues in Northern Ireland.

Speaking on his new appointment, Mr. Kennedy said: "I welcome the trust my fellow party members have placed in me, and I look forward to representing the Ulster Unionist Party in Botanic, a developing and diverse district within our capital city. My focus will be to do all that I can to help reverse the dereliction of inner south Belfast, particularly in the Donegall Pass, Donegall Road and Sandy Row areas, which has been allowed to decline unchecked for too long."

Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon MBE, Chairman of South Belfast Ulster Unionist Association stated "Richard is a very capable person, and I have no doubt that he will diligently represent the party in the Botanic district. The Ulster Unionists won a seat in this area in 2014, and so it is only right following the disappointing defection of our previous councillor, that we appoint a new champion to carry the torch for Ulster Unionism."

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**ENDS**

All enquiries to:

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