

Doug Beattie

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Role: Independent MLA (former UUP) **Constituency:** Upper Bann **Party:** Independent (quit UUP 31 May 2026) **Last updated:** 13 July 2026

Bio

Detail	Info
Name	Doug Beattie
Constituency	Upper Bann
Party	Independent (formerly UUP)
First elected	2022 (current mandate)
Role	MLA (former UUP leader, 2021–2024)

Key Information

- MLA for Upper Bann
- Former UUP leader (May 2021 – September 2024)
- Decorated British Army veteran — served in Kosovo, East Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan; commissioned as captain in 2005; awarded Military Cross in 2006; left school at 16
- Succeeded by Jon Burrows as UUP leader in August 2025

May 2026: Deselection Crisis

- On 22 May 2026, it emerged Beattie faced deselection by the Upper Bann constituency association, which decided to run two candidates in the next Assembly election (due May 2027). A source close to Beattie said he was being forced out for being "too moderate."
- UUP leader Jon Burrows denied intervening in the deselection process, saying it would be "fair and transparent" and describing Beattie as an "exceptional politician."

31 May 2026: Resignation from UUP

- **Beattie resigned from the UUP with immediate effect**, saying his membership was no longer "tenable."
- Sent a letter to UUP leader Jon Burrows on Sunday with "genuine sadness."
- Claimed Burrows told him he intended to reopen a disciplinary matter regarding historical social media posts — already dealt with four years ago — describing this as a "deliberate and vindictive" attempt to drive him out.
- Said an "insidious campaign of rumour and gossip" had been waged against him.
- Criticised the treatment of councillor Kate Evans (who quit working in his office) and MLA Alan Chambers (told not to seek reselection).
- Said the party no longer reflects a "moderate and progressive outlook."
- **UUP response:** The party said they were preparing to suspend Beattie over "conduct and judgement" concerns, and that Beattie's resignation "overtook that process." The party did not accept his "characterisation of recent events."
- **Expected to stand as independent** in Upper Bann in the 2027 Assembly election.
- BBC analysis (1 June) described it as a "messy split," with Beattie painting "a brutal picture" of his treatment. The analysis questioned what Beattie's departure says about the direction of the UUP under Jon Burrows' leadership.

2 June 2026: UUP association claims Beattie was "aggressive"; Beattie admits lying

||- **Upper Bann UUP association pushes back:** The Upper Bann Ulster Unionist Association claimed Doug Beattie was "aggressive" at a meeting with party officers — their version of events contradicting Beattie's narrative of being the victim of a "vindictive" campaign. The claim appeared designed to counter his resignation letter's characterisation of events. *(Source: BBC News NI)*

||- **Beattie admits lying in social media post:** As the fallout from his resignation continued, Beattie admitted to lying in a social media post. The Belfast Telegraph reported that Beattie "was to be suspended from UUP over abusive language to leader and other issues including failure to remove misogynistic old tweets" — the party's planned suspension being overtaken by his resignation. *(Source: Belfast Telegraph)*

3 June 2026: Burrows responds

||- **Jon Burrows "deeply disappointed" by Beattie's letter:** Burrows told BBC Radio Ulster's Evening Extra he has "a lot of respect" for Beattie but is "deeply disappointed" by his comments and doesn't "recognise his characterisation of me whatsoever." He "completely" rejected claims of an "insidious campaign of rumour and gossip" being directed at Beattie, saying it is his "responsibility to set high ethical standards" as leader. *(Source: The Irish News, Bairbre Holmes/PA)*

||- Burrows refuses to say whether UUP will back DUP petition on MACR: On the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility vote, Burrows refused to say whether his eight-strong MLA team will support the DUP's petition of concern to block raising the age from 10 to 14. Beattie was in favour of raising to 12. Burrows said raising MACR would be "reckless" but would consult his team.
(Source: BBC News NI)

Twitter/X Discussion

🗨️ Source: Nitter search, 26 May 2026

No significant discussion found on Nitter/X for this period.

Reddit Discussion

🗨️ Source: Reddit, 31 May 2026

A thread titled "Doug Beattie resigns from the UUP" on r/northernireland (score: 102) generated active discussion. Top comment sentiment:

- "He seems like a decent enough guy which is why he has been driven out of his party. No space in the middle anymore"
- "It will be the death of the party. They can't outdo the DUP, just as the DUP are realising they can't outdo the TUV."
- "Political Unionism seems like it's very fragile... will the UUP and PUP survive?"

Sources

- BBC Northern Ireland: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn5w1zg0xx9o>
- BBC Analysis: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0x4znm7y6vo>
- Northern Ireland Assembly: <https://www.niassembly.gov.uk/>

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