

**Mr Chris Coombes,
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10, February, 2000

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Dear Mr Coombes,

Shirley McKie: Scottish Criminal Records Office Mis-Identification

As you are aware there is an Internet site (<http://scafo.org.experts/case1.html>) containing background to the above case and a comments Board.

You will also be aware that one of your fingerprint experts Allan Bayle posted a comment on this board. He stated that having examined fingerprint material relevant to the case he was of the opinion that SCRO was wrong in identifying the mark as belonging to my daughter Shirley McKie.

This opinion was extremely important to Shirley's quest for justice given that there is evidence that SCRO has apparently embarked on a campaign of 'cover-up' and mis-information throughout the UK and abroad.

I am now informed that Mr Bayle, having acted with honesty and integrity, has been or is being disciplined. I believe that you have also issued an apology to SCRO.

If this is true your action quite frankly appals and disgusts my family our supporters and myself.

I am astounded at your apparent arrogance in seeking to punish the one individual in your organisation who had the integrity and honesty to speak out when he saw a clear injustice being perpetrated.

Mr Bayle followed the public lead of many of the world's most respected fingerprint 'experts' and the private support of hundreds more. He has gained the admiration of his colleagues world-wide who I believe will see your apparent attempts at suppression of the truth as a far greater danger to the integrity of fingerprinting and its standing as a profession than Mr Bayle's openness.

Page 2

I hope you are aware that Mr Bayle has been joined by 14 civilian 'experts' from Lothian and Borders Police (See copy letter attached) who have alleged **'gross incompetence' or 'a conspiracy of a nature unparalleled in the history fingerprints.'**

If you have behaved as alleged you have joined that apparent conspiracy.

Should these Scottish 'experts' be disciplined as well? Should we all be disciplined for failing to blindly toe the 'party line'?

What have you and the organisation you represent got to hide that you so fear free speech?

Who benefits from your blind loyalty? Is it the public you are supposed to serve or the incestuous relationship that appears to have developed between some of the public fingerprint utilities as a means of self-preservation?

I have no doubt that part of your defence will be one that has echoed down the years as the final refuge of the bureaucrat in suppressing free speech. 'Mr Bayle should have gone through official channels when making his complaints.'

If you had spent as long as I have trying to use these 'official channels' you would understand the futility. If you had read the transcript of Shirley's trial and followed the open debate which followed you would be aware, as Mr Bayle obviously is, that Shirley McKie is clearly innocent and SCRO as clearly 'guilty'

Can you honestly say that you would have behaved any differently had he gone through the correct channels?

In my view SCRO has been quietly trying to suppress the revelation of their incompetence for a year. Sadly it appears as if your organisation has been only too willing to fall in line.

What action have you or your organisation taken to establish the truth or otherwise of Mr Bayle's findings?

What is more important, your precious 'loyalty' to each other or my daughters life and freedom? I hope you never have to stand by and see someone you love dearly harassed, humiliated and brought to the edge of suicide.

What has 'New Scotland Yard' got to fear from Allan Bayle's honesty? Why are you afraid to openly ascertain the truth? Why are you so quick to condemn? Are there so many 'experts' making so many mistakes that you all fear the floodgates opening?

Page 3

Mr Coombes, there are those within fingerprinting who are digging a hole for the profession. As this sorry saga drags on action like yours only serves to deepen that hole.

You can be assured that I will be mustering all the resources at my disposal in support of Mr Bayle.

I will do everything in my power to expose the campaign of cover-up and suppression of the truth which organisations like your own appear to be engaged in with respect to my daughter's case.

I have spoken to my daughter's Member of the Scottish Parliament, Mr Michael Russell, concerning your action and have asked him to raise the matter at the highest level.

If you wish to ascertain the truth I would only be too pleased to provide you with all the information at my disposal.

I would appreciate an early reply to the questions posed in this letter and an acknowledgement that you have copied it to all relevant decision-makers within your organisation.

If you feel I am misinformed please enlighten me.

Yours sincerely,

.....
Iain A J McKie

Encl.

Copies: Mr Michael Russell MSP