

**Mr C J Coombes,
Director of Identification.
Metropolitan Police,
SO3 Directorate of Identification.
New Scotland Yard,
10, The Broadway,
LONDON. SW1H 0BG**

**8, Glendoune Road,
Clarkston.
GLASGOW.**

24, March, 2000.

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr Coombes,

Shirley McKie V the Scottish Criminal Records Office

Thank you for your letter received today and I appreciate your explanation of rationale and procedures.

Although I have a different understanding of the facts I do not feel that further discussion at this stage is useful. While there may have been no 'formal' contact from SCRO there was certainly 'informal' contact with your agency and many others at home and abroad.

I am of course delighted that Mr Bayle is not to be disciplined although I cannot see how his actions were in any way 'inappropriate'.

I believe evidence exists that SCRO could be guilty of, at best, unbelievable incompetence or, at worst, a conspiracy and perjury. I hope the ongoing Inquiry will establish the truth, identify their mistakes and remedy them.

As you might be aware fingerprint experts from throughout the world have publicly and privately supported Shirley's position because they could see the whole of fingerprinting as a science being tainted.

My aim in mounting this campaign has been to protect my daughter and to isolate SCRO.

This 'whistleblowing' is I believe in the best interests of justice in this country.

Had the situation been allowed to go unchallenged by UK experts I believe the credibility of our experts would have suffered.

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Mr Bayle and the 14 civilians from Lothian and Borders Police are to be commended for helping ensure this does not happen.

I feel my daughter's case identifies some glaring deficiencies in the way fingerprint agencies relate and operate in this country. It is time the problems were openly faced and remedial action taken by organisations like your own.

Instead of seeking to silence the 'whistleblowers' it is time to listen to them. I still believe that the Metropolitan Police Service has the credibility, power and experience to take a lead in providing solutions to these matters rather than appearing, however unknowingly, to be party to a cover-up.

Thank you for your response and please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish any further information.

I would appreciate it if you would bring my comments to Sir John Steven's and Mr Bayle's attention.

Yours sincerely,

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Iain A J McKie