

**Chief Constable Colin McKerracher QPM. LLB.,
Grampian Police Headquarters,
Queen Street,
ABERDEEN AB10 1ZA**

**27 Donnini Court,
South Beach Road,
AYR KA 7 1JP
01292 880279**

2 July 2005.

Dear Chief Constable,

The Shirley McKie Case

On Monday of this week I received a report from **Gary Dempster, John Dingwall and John McGregor**, fingerprint experts in your force, informing me that the conclusion of an independent enquiry they had carried out was that the fingerprint identified by the Scottish Criminal Records Office in 1997 as Shirley's was in fact not hers.

This is the first time since 2000 that Scottish experts have spoken out following international condemnation of the SCRO and in the face of attempts to stifle comment by the police and fingerprint authorities in Scotland.

You will be well aware of the publicity that followed their revelations and of the subsequent decision by the Scottish Executive to instruct their lawyers to enter into settlement negotiations with Shirley and to formally admit that the fingerprint identified by the SCRO was not Shirley's.

I received a great many letters and phone calls from home and abroad congratulating the three experts on their public spirited action. While many of the correspondents feared that the 'authorities' would take discipline action against them one message summed the whole thing up for me.

'Congratulations to the three of you.

I'm proud of you for showing the bravery and conviction and for doing something that I could never have done.

I hope that you all get the recognition that you deserve.'

The actions of the three experts were indeed in the best traditions of the Scottish Police Service and of the Scottish Fingerprint Service and I request that you formally commend them for their courageous and public spirited action.

Please also pass on the sincere thanks of Shirley, myself and our family to these three gentlemen and ensure that they receive a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Iain A J McKie

Copy: The Minister for Justice
Stewart Stevenson, MSP