

The Lothian and Border's 13

And then there were 13!!

As Alison Hannah's letter in yesterday's Herald revealed:

'I did not sign the letter and I certainly did not agree with its contents. The letter was sent without my consent or approval.'

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/HeraldHannahletter16.11.05.pdf>

While this fact makes absolutely no difference to Shirley's case I felt it important to respond and to clarify the issue.

The Herald letters – 17.11.05

The McKie case

I THANK Alison Hannah (November 16) for drawing my attention to the fact that she did not sign the letter written in January 2000 to the minister for justice by experts from Lothian and Borders Police. This letter referred to the Scottish Criminal Records Office's "misidentification" of my daughter's fingerprint by SCRO as, "At best . . . a display of gross incompetence by not one but several experts within that bureau. At worst it bears all the hallmarks of a conspiracy unparalleled in the history of fingerprints."

It was an extremely important letter and showed the level of concern among Scottish experts almost six years ago. The fact that while the other 13 experts have stuck to their convictions Ms Hannah does not now wish to be associated with them may say more than she intends.

While I wish she had contacted me earlier I nonetheless apologise if my letter caused any distress. My inquiries now reveal that while she initially agreed to be a signatory she did, in fact, officially retract her agreement to the letter after it had been sent.

I repeat my offer to show Ms Hannah, her colleagues and any of your readers the overwhelming evidence proving that experts from SCRO made at least eight "mistakes" in the Marion Ross case, consigning an innocent man to life imprisonment and Shirley McKie to a life of hell.

As Ms Hannah accuses me of distorting the truth I am happy to acknowledge that she is a qualified fingerprint expert and is registered with the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners, a professional regulatory body whose central function is to prepare and manage a register of forensic practitioners.

Iain A J McKie, 27 Donnini Court, South Beach Road, Ayr.

Unfortunately the letter's editor left out some rather important information.

Alison Hannah has worked at SCRO for a number of years.

I would have thought that in the interests of truth and clarity this would have been revealed in her letter.

From people who have contacted me it seems clear that the only reason she did not sign the letter was because she has been unavailable at the time. She had previously viewed the prints on the Web agreed that it was a mis-identification and was contacted prior to the release of the letter and made aware of its content. At no time (before posting) did she disagree with the content or request that her name be removed from the list of signatories.

As always I will be happy to correct any errors in this statement.

It seems to me that a note of desperation is creeping into the SCRO protestations of innocence as next year's hearing approaches and there is a realisation that more than the 4 experts witnesses within that organisation have some explaining to do.