



## JACKO COURT IS TOLD OF TROON WPC CASE

**I thought it was an April; Fool wind-up says Shirley McKie**

**FORMER Troon detective Shirley McKie who was wrongly accused of perjury has emerged as a secret weapon for Michael Jackson's defence team.**

In one of the most high profile trials of recent history, the pop star's defence lawyer Robert Sanger referred to the "botched" murder investigation involving Ms McKie to refute key fingerprint evidence presented by the prosecution.

Ms McKie, a former Strathclyde constable, was wrongly accused of perjury when fingerprint experts insisted one of her prints had been found at a murder scene in 1999.

Since then, she has been cleared of any wrongdoing, although the Scottish Criminal Records Office, Strathclyde Police and the Scottish Executive have refused to apologise or provide compensation for their mistake.

Now, Mr Sanger has referred to the Scottish case as he battled to discredit damaging fingerprint evidence found on Jackson's collection of porn magazines.

Prosecution lawyers in the trial claim dabs found at his Neverland ranch belonged to 15-year-old Gavin Arvizo.

Raising the issue of so-called false positives, he referred to: "A botched 1999 murder investigation in Scotland."

When Ms McKie, 42, first heard of the reference, she thought she was the victim of a prank.

Speaking from her home at Wood Place, she told the Times: "When I first heard about it, I thought it must be an April Fool's joke. I still very much think of myself as a wee lassie from Ayrshire. But now my case has featured in one of the biggest trials that I have known.

"It is totally bizarre to me. Yet again, it is more evidence of how shocking the justice system and fingerprints system is. The authorities responsible for the accusations against me should be embarrassed by it."

### By FARIHA KARIM

Ms McKie has been out of work for the last eight years because, she claims, the case has made her so ill.

She continued: "If the justice system and the Scottish Executive had dealt with this in a reasonable manner, and apologised and compensated me in some sort of way, the case would never have been mentioned in the Jackson trial.

"But they have refused to admit their responsibility, and it has made me ill and more and more depressed as it drags on."

Ms McKie still faces a five-week sitting at the High Court in Edinburgh next year when she plans to take on the Scottish Executive.

Her father, Iain McKie, 65, who has campaigned tirelessly on her behalf, said: "This is fascinating. Shirley's case has had huge implications all over the world."

"Wacko Jacko", as he is unflatteringly referred to, is facing 10 charges of indecent assault against children in Santa Barbara, California.