



The Law Society of Scotland

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LS/74/10/agk/eb
YOUR REF:
DATE:
25 November, 2004

Dear Mr McKie,

Scottish Criminal Records Office: Credibility of Fingerprint Expert Witnesses

Thank you for your letter of 4th November 2004 in connection with the above and referring to previous correspondence last year.

As indicated in my letter of 5th December 2003, I placed a copy of your letter before the Society's Criminal Law Committee when it met on 11 December 2003. The Committee discussed at length the issues raised in your letter and in particular your concerns about the reliability of fingerprint evidence led in the Scottish courts. The Committee was of the view that members of the legal profession are aware of the evidential objections in connection with fingerprint testimony, which have emerged in recent cases, including that involving your daughter. If any solicitor has any concerns about the reliability of the evidence led during individual trials, then it would be a matter which he or she could raise in the appropriate forum and seek to have tested in court.

After the meeting, it was remitted to me to write to you, to convey these comments. It is regrettable that I omitted to do so on this occasion and only became aware of this omission on receipt of your recent letter. I therefore apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Yours sincerely,

Anne G. Keenan

Anne G. Keenan,
Deputy Director.

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