



The Law Society of Scotland

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OUR REF:
> LS/74/10/agk/eb
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DATE:
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Dear Mr McKie,

Scottish Criminal Records Office: Credibility of Fingerprint Expert Witnesses

Thank you for your letter of 29th. November 2004 in connection with the above.

I am sorry that my previous letter did not re-assure you of the fact that the Society regards concerns about the reliability of fingerprint evidence as a serious issue. Please let me be clear that it does and provide you with some further information about training which the Society is providing in this regard.

As you may be aware, the Society organises training for its members and has a designated department, Update, which provides seminars and training sessions in the different areas of law and practice. Throughout the year there is ongoing consideration of what training should be delivered to ensure that developments in the law are brought to the attention of the profession. I have been in discussion with Update about the training we provide in relation to the proof of fingerprint evidence. There is a criminal law conference scheduled for May 2005 which will incorporate a session on fingerprint testimony and a forensic conference planned for September 2005 which will look specifically at the question of the identification of evidence.

Details of these courses will be sent out to all practising solicitors in Scotland. This will allow the Society to highlight issues in regard to admissibility of fingerprint evidence to enable solicitors to challenge evidence where appropriate in the correct forum.

Through the provision of training such as this, the Society works to ensure that members of the Scottish solicitors profession are kept informed of current developments in all areas of the law.

I hope this information clarifies the seriousness with which the Society treats these issues.

Yours sincerely,

Anne G. Keenan

Anne G. Keenan,
Deputy Director.

