

**Mrs Anne Keenan,
Depute Director,
The Law Society of Scotland,
26 Drumsheugh Gardens,
Edinburgh, EH3 7YR**

**27 Donnini Court,
South Beach Road,
AYR KA7 1JP**

5 November 2003

Dear Mrs Keenan,

Scottish Criminal Records Office: Credibility of Fingerprint Expert Witnesses

Thank you for your letter of 20 October 2003 re your concerns about ongoing litigation.

The current position is that my daughter has sued the Scottish Criminal Records Office experts for the damage caused to her health and career. We currently await a Court of Session decision on whether the case can go to proof.

To rule out any action by the Law Society because of this civil action is I believe to misunderstand what I am saying.

Even if you leave my daughter's case out of the equation the fact that David Asbury's conviction for murder has been quashed because of 'unreliable fingerprint evidence produced by the SCRO' proves that the Lord Advocate and Judiciary have concerns about the accuracy of their work.

In addition in my letter of 15 October I referred to another mistake in SCRO's work found by an English fingerprint consultant earlier this year. His work has been verified by two experts from Northern Ireland.

If you feel it is essential to include my daughter's case in your deliberations then the HMCI's report into her case clearly states that the SCRO was wrong in identifying her print. This is not a matter of opinion but of fact. The civil litigation is not going to prove SCRO right. It will only ascertain their liability for my daughter's losses.

For the Law Society to fail to take immediate action would I believe be short sighted as it is clear that the SCRO experts continue to make mistakes and threaten every person seeking justice in our courts where fingerprints are concerned.

It might be of interest to your members that I have given a number of presentations on my daughter's case to experts and forensic scientists in the UK and America. I would only be too happy to repeat this for the Society.

Yours sincerely,

Iain A J McKie