

A selection of letters

Dear Iain

I have kept up with your case for the past 3 years. I am a latent print examiner I will pray for your deliverance from this hardship and tribulation.

I do know that the Bible tells us that we go through trials in this life to produce *perseverance*, and perseverance to produce *patience*, and patience to instill in us *hope*:

"And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Romans 5:3-5

"Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

James 1:3-4

"Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. Cease from anger and forsake wrath; do not fret; it leads only to evildoing. **For evildoers will be cut off**, but those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.

Psalm 37:7-9

I hope these words have not been offensive to you.

You will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

BT, USA

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Iain/Shirley

I would like to offer my very best wishes to you both in light of this wonderful and significant development in your continuous struggle for justice. It makes it even more fitting that it should come from within Scotland and I applaud those three individuals for their courage to step forward in what I hope will be the first step towards restoring some integrity to the Scottish Fingerprint Service. I hope their chief will be as supportive, and in doing so, perhaps encourage others to make their own voices heard. I hope that sunlight at the end of the tunnel feels a little warmer for you today.

Kind Regards

HT, Fingerprint Examiner, Canada

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Open Letter to experts who do not speak the truth

I am a latent fingerprint examiner in USA and I am horrified and appalled by this ongoing cover up. I was raised to admit my mistakes and tell the truth, regardless of the outcome. It is time to stand up and take responsibility and face the consequences of your horrific behaviour. I can't even imagine why a particular group of people would think that their lives and reputations are more important than those they are hurting – Shirley, the murdered

woman, the entire latent print community – which will ultimately affect other homicides and other latent print examiners reputations. Your inability to take responsibility has had a ripple effect and I personally could not live with myself if I were perpetuating this charade! So I have this to say to the lying Scottish Authorities: the truth will set you free. Isn't that better than this self induced prison you have placed yourself in? Stand up and take your punishment in this world before you have to face your maker in the next.

BT, USA

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Iain

A little note to say how fantastic it was to read and hear so much in the news last week. Things are obviously moving more quickly now, and I just hope that things will be resolved in a way that makes Shirley and yourself feel that justice has finally prevailed. I am sure the most important thing to you both is confirmation from 'the authorities' that Shirley is completely innocent and has suffered terribly, and suitable compensation is therefore provided. Money will never bring back Shirley's carefree zest for life, nor will it ever match the pain and suffering you have both gone through, but it will hopefully give Shirley a secure future and give you peace of mind that your lovely daughter will have some tranquillity and independence in her life. You will never be the same people as you were before this awful case, but you will both be stronger, and I am sure you have met so many wonderful people along the way who will remain your friends for life.

I know that all I wish for my own daughter is for her to be happy, healthy and treat others as she would wish to be treated herself. You and Shirley have had all of these things taken away from you over the years. Hopefully this is the start of a slow recovery process.

BS, Scotland

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Sincerest congratulations.

Your dedication and resolve over the years has been frankly astonishing. Where mountains had to be moved you moved them, and when ill health got in the way you set that aside too. I hope that finally the warmth of contentedness is filtering through the McKie family which I'm sure has eluded you all for many years.

Sincerest congratulations also to Pat Wertheim, Allan Bayle, and David Grieve, the three international experts who represented Shirley at the original trial. Official confirmation from the Grampian experts that they were correct in their opinion some eight years ago is a welcome revelation, but one wonders why this was necessary to persuade the Scottish Executive?

Do three experts establish doubt, but six establish fact?
Is it the number of experts that matter, or from which establishment they represent?

Whatever the answers are, it's clear it would help unite the fingerprint fraternity if other experts were to follow in the footsteps of "**the Grampian 3**". Not to would be understandable, such is the oppressive nature of certain establishments within the profession, but hopefully success in this case will push things forward in the right direction.

Finally of course my thoughts are with Shirley, whose treatment by the SCRO can be described as nothing short of barbaric. Eight years of such trauma, being a prisoner within ones own mind, has to be experienced to be understood.

I understand.

Give your marvellous father a big hug!

Kind regards,

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Iain

This is great news. I am so pleased for you all. Looking forward to hearing more!

Regards

HC, Scotland

Hi Iain,

Great news.

Interesting comments by the Scottish Experts from Grampian Police about having an independent investigation of the case by experts from outside the UK.

Should I offer my services?

Will speak to you soon.

Best Wishes,

FI, Australia

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Iain,

I am delighted that the Executive may finally see sense. You have won your fight enough times already.

It has been easy to stay involved in your good work. I think it is always a bit easier when you are on the right side.

All the best to you & yours

LJ, Scotland

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Hi Iain

I saw the article on the front page of the Herald on Friday about Shirley. I hope things are finally going her way now, and wish her (and you) all the best.

With best wishes

AH, Scotland

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Hi Iain,

Heard the news yesterday while in Lisbon and left a message for Shirley. We're overjoyed...and look forward to cracking open the champagne when the news is set in stone.

Thanks for the words of appreciation. I am only too happy to have contributed. You both deserve medals.

Have a good day reflecting on such great progress.

Cheers,

MB, Scotland

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Iain and Shirley,

It has been a great week, and we are all thinking about you both. We all hope that it will be settled shortly.

The K gang.

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**To: John McGregor, John Dingwall, Gary Dempster,
Subject: congratulations**

Congratulations to the three of you.

I'm proud of you for showing the bravery and conviction and for doing something that I could never have done.

I hope that you all get the recognition that you deserve.

T M, Scotland

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As a currently suspended Police Officer I must thank you for highlighting your plight as I have taken some comfort in that we are not alone

Best wishes

PL, Scotland

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Dear Shirley,

It has been some time since I offered you my sincere support in your totally merited fight for justice and to clear your name from the unjust accusations you have faced with fortitude.

The latest news regarding the Scottish Executive's proposals is indeed most welcome. It has been a long time in coming and is undoubtedly as a result of the recent acknowledgement by the 3 fingerprint experts who broke their silence, the continued fight you have put together with the immense help of your father and the support you have continually received from experts in fingerprint evidence throughout the world and from so many well-wishers.

As I previously mentioned, it is disgusting that the authorities concerned saw fit to charge you in the first place. The attitude of the SCRO and I must not forget Strathclyde Police, who started the whole nightmare you have experienced is abominable. I sincerely trust that the Scottish Executive will get their act together and ensure that you are appropriately compensated and issue a public statement offering their unconditional apologies!

In turn, the SCRO must also admit publicly that they were wrong and willingly admit that you are the innocent victim of their less than satisfactory 'system' for want of a better terminology.

This then leaves Strathclyde Police to make a full and sincere apology for their gross errors and false prosecutions. I do hope they will if they ever want the public to be reassured as to their integrity. It also seems to me that certain officers who gave evidence in court against you, must now be the subject of a full investigation. Perjury on their part comes to mind. I am not a vindictive person but this whole disastrous sequence of events lies squarely on their shoulders.

Oh that Strathclyde Police could live up to their motto!

Finally, may I offer you once more my very best wishes for a totally satisfactory conclusion to the whole affair for you. It is totally unforgivable that you have suffered so sadly in your plight and I wish you a full recovery of health and eventually a new start to your life. You fully deserve to have a life free from such incredulous vindictiveness.

You are an amazing woman who has earned the full support and sympathy of a vast number of the general public. Please remember how highly people think of you and I hope it will encourage you to achieve total vindication.

With every best wish,

K, Scotland

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Iain

I normally have 5/6 hours of sleep every night, wake up before 6am, turn on my personal radio and listen in bed to Today on Radio 4 at 6 o'clock (I like John Humphries). I turn over to Radio Scotland just before 7am and listen until 7.30. It was a delight and a joy when I heard that the Scottish Executive had at last conceded that Shirley had been wronged and were looking at the possibility of settling matters out of court. Of course I then heard the interview with your good self.

I have a daughter who has year's service in Police and I only hope that I would have the same courage to support her as you have shown with Shirley over these passing years.

Good on you ma man.

MR, Scotland

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Was delighted to read the news in the Herald, and heard Iain on the radio this morning. Great News. But don't trust the lawyers the civil servants or the politicians though is my advice.

Thank God I am not in any of these categories!!

RF MSP, Scotland

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Dear Shirley and Iain,

The news breaking this week is the best I have heard for ages. WHAT a relief to you all for endless labours and sheer grit and determination. How sad that the Scottish Executive only gave way when some furtive 'leak' came to light when they could have themselves broke this news ages ago. How hard it is to trust politicians and many in high office.

Thank you for sending me regular news releases although my old apple mac must lack some software because I could never open your attachments. But you were never forgotten. Now we all wait to see how big and brave they will be in facing up to their responsibility towards Shirley personally.

The great Robert Louis Stephenson once said "O what a tangled web we weave when first we practise to deceive."

God bless you. May the final act soon be over.

GS.

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Dear Iain,

From my daily HERALD report on my computer, I am delighted that, at last, something positive is being done to clear Shirley's name. I agree with you, Iain, that the opposition's proposals leave no doubt that they were in the wrong, yet unable to admit their errors, nor give an apology to Shirley. This is not the way to instil confidence in our police force, Mind

you, there are "the good guys and bad guys" in all walks of life, and this shameful exhibition of injustice, does not mar my faith in the police. They have a rotten job, in this day and age, to cope with the dreadful amount of crime. With clever lawyers, crooks get away with anything, which must be soul destroying for the police.

J.. joins me in wishing you and Shirley well with the proceedings, whatever steps you decide to take. Hope you are well.

Take care,

JJ, New Zealand

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Dear Iain,

I tip my hat to the courage and integrity of these three gentlemen. Finally it appears that the strangle hold of organisational power has been broken and the light of informed comment is now streaming through. Let's hope the effect is like a hole in the dam wall and it flows right through the whole British fingerprint community.

Regards from Australia.

HL

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Dear Iain,

When something is as black and white as the fingerprint "error" in Shirley's case, it is ludicrous that things should continue for years as if some question continues about whether she was really wronged.

Thank goodness the fingerprint professionals at Grampian Police have the guts to point out the emperor's invisible clothing. Unless their superiors are equally as upright, John McGregor, John Dingwall and Gary Dempster will probably have to face some negative consequences for their statements. I applaud their willingness to speak the obvious and undeniable truth.

Best wishes in Shirley's struggle for justice.

BA, US

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Iain

Saw a report on the Television last night and an article in the Herald (on-line) this morning, then discovered Shirley's website. It is appalling that she is still suffering after all these years from 'evidence' that was assuredly wrong and no one is prepared to even say sorry. As a former police officer, I am appalled that justice is not being seen to be done.

There is no doubt by the evidence of the website that Shirley is receiving support from all over the world, not only from experts but also from lay people as well. There is a lot on the website which I will have to go through and I have made it my home page just now

Sincerely

LR, Scotland

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Dear Shirley,

I think about you a lot, in fact I was out the other night there and discussing your case with a group of Guide leaders. Little did I know that you would be back in the headlines soon. Keep your chin up Shirley, I've supported you from the beginning.

Maggie, Scotland
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My faith in true Scots who understand basic concepts of right and wrong has been restored. I have now added three names to the list of people I would be proud to shake their hands. I only hope there are more.

GL USA
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I have just read the amazing story about Shirley and the SCRO in Scotland and I can only wonder what is the reason for the 'cover-up'. It seems so obvious from the material presented to the court that Shirley was not guilty of perjury and that a 'mistake' had been made. An apology should have followed immediately afterwards so why is there so much animosity being displayed by the SCRO?

I can only think that there is a sinister background to the SCRO's behaviour and from what I have read I would look at any connections that exist between those involved and the local Masons.

I wish you both all success with your fight for justice.

Thank you

BP, Germany
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Hi,

I have just read the article on Shirley McKie on the BBC news web-site. I had forgotten about this case, having first been made aware of it some years ago, and had assumed that it must have been resolved by now. I am appalled that it has not been, and grateful that I have been made aware of this fact.

I am a private citizen with no relevant expertise or connections, and do not live in Scotland (so have no MSP to write to). But I would like to offer my wholehearted support for your campaign. I hope that the BBC's publicity will bring you many more such offers.

I wish you the very best of luck.

DA, England
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Hi,

I've followed this case with a great deal of interest and this new turn seems to continue the case against the establishment. Can I take this opportunity to wish Shirley ever success with her ongoing battle.

Kind regards,

WJ, Scotland
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Dear Iain and Shirley

I am so sorry to hear that Shirley is still being subjected to these farcical examinations but that is just what they are what they are seen to be by all of us. She is a lovely sensitive female and all we can do is offer encouragement through tears. You are changing so much for everyone. The politicians involved in this will have to answer surely for not doing the right thing now.

I know Shirley will do her best to rise above what has happened
Thinking of you both

Regards

RG, Scotland

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Dear Sir,

I must apologize for only now being aware of your website.

I am not really an e-mail person but we have mutual goals'

Also I have come up against brick walls ,inc. Cathy Jamieson ,Crown Office ,Police, the investigatory power tribunal etc.

All the best to you and your daughter.

Kind regards,

LB England

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