

# The Herald

Letters – 24 November 2005

## The McKie case

IAIN McKie (November 23) has displayed an unfailing courtesy and patience in responding to Alison Hannah's complaints about consultation on fingerprints. If she has an axe to grind, it is with her own colleagues, not Mr McKie. This being so, can we expect an apology from her for casting aspersions on Mr McKie's integrity and honesty?

It will be interesting to hear whether Ms Hannah takes up Mr McKie's offer of high-quality prints. In view of the belated timing and spoiling nature of her complaints, which one suspects would win her a bucket of brownie points from superiors, readers would be well-advised not to hold their breath for Mr McKie's "checkmate" offer to be taken up.

*Dr J R Calder, 52 Ulster Crescent, Edinburgh.*

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/HeraldLetter22.11.05.pdf>

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## Personal Letters to [www.shirleymckie.com](http://www.shirleymckie.com)

**Dear Mr McKie,**

I write this as a former Ayrshire resident living in .....who has followed this case for a number of years. I am an ordinary member of the public with no connections to the case other than that my .....lives in Kilmarnock close to the home of Marion Ross. The manner in which this entire case has been dealt with, is one which shames Strathclyde Police and the manner in which they have dealt with a family who have given them years of service.

The anger I feel as a disassociated member of the public must be nothing to which the McKie family must feel. I have watched with interest as more and more statements come forward which back up Shirley and cast even more discredit upon Strathclyde Police and the fingerprint 'experts'. I can't say anything more than you have my total support. It's crucial that justice is obtained for all those parties affected by this horrible crime and the blatant errors and cover-ups since.

I hope that the McKie family can stay strong. I have no idea how you have coped with all of this so far and hope that February 2006 marks the start of justice for Shirley. I will be watching with my fingers crossed and hope that all your prayers can be answered.

**With my love and support,**

**CG Scotland**

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**Iain**

Caught up with your update and it was good to know that one of the main topics in the Herald last week was Shirley's case. It is a pity that the paper only printed your letters in support, I am sure a lot of other concerned readers would have contributed.

Your email led me to the article in the Sunday Herald which I do not buy (The Sunday Times is my read) and I was astonished at the views of the head of the Scottish Fingerprint Service that fingerprint forensic examination wasn't an exact science. Can you imagine a 'Scottish Expert' being cross examined in a criminal case.

**Defence Agent:** So the fingerprints you found on the article are my client's?

**Fingerprint Expert:** In my professional opinion they are

**DA:** You are saying that these are my client's prints.

**FE:** In my professional opinion they are

**DA:** So it's only an opinion, if some other expert offered a different professional opinion you could be wrong?

**FE:** Yeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeees?

End of trial, acquittal

Some experts we have?

**Sincerely,**

**MB Ex Police Officer, Scotland**