

**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**

29 November 2004

Dear Mrs Keenan,

Scottish Criminal Records Office: Credibility of Fingerprint Expert Witnesses

Thank you for your letter and apology of 25 November 2004.

While grateful that your Criminal Law Committee has discussed issues related to the credibility of experts within the SCRO I am not re-assured.

My hope was that the Law Society might see value in being proactive rather than adopting the complacent and reactive stance of,

'The Committee was of the view that members of the legal profession are aware of the evidential objections in connection with fingerprint testimony If any solicitor has any concerns about the reliability of the evidencehe or she could raise in the appropriate forum and seek to have tested in court.'

Surely in issues where miscarriages of justice are threatened the Society has a duty to offer guidance and advice and not stand by hoping that all individual solicitors are aware of the issues and will take the necessary action.

My previous offer of addressing the Society on the issues arising from my daughter's case remains.

Yours sincerely,

Iain A J McKie