

2 July 2005

- **What a week that was !! As one of the most momentous periods in our campaign comes to an end we are finally seeing a light at the end of a very long tunnel with real hope that Shirley's 8 year trauma is coming to an end.**
- The week started with the **sensational revelation** that 3 experts from **Grampian Police** fingerprint bureau **Gary Dempster, John Dingwall and John McGregor**, had published a report concluding that, '***We are satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the mark disclosed on the crime scene photograph was not made by the left thumb of Shirley McKie.***' They went on to express concern at the way the new Scottish Fingerprint Service was being developed. '***We believe that integrity and openness are absolutely paramount to the future of fingerprint evidence in Scotland.***' The report ended with a recommendation that there should be an independent investigation into the whole case by experts from outside the UK
- At a packed **media conference** held in the **Scottish Parliament** in Edinburgh on Tuesday, Shirley and Iain flanked by long term supporters Michael Russell and MSP's Alasdair Morgan and Fergus Ewing spoke about the impact of the report - the first comment by Scots experts since the '**Lothian and Border's 14**' were so disgracefully treated in 2000 after asking for an enquiry. They praised the experts for their honesty and integrity and expressed the hope that their Police bosses would not seek to discipline the experts but would commend them for their actions. Television, radio and newspaper coverage was extensive and Iain was interviewed on '**BBC Newsnight Scotland**'
<http://www.shirleymckie.com/> (breaking news – 29/30 June 2005)
- **Thursday** brought the **remarkable news** that the **Scottish Executive** had instructed its lawyers to enter into negotiations with Shirley's legal team led by **QC Andrew Smith** with a view to reaching a settlement. In what was clearly a **political initiative** from the very top of Scottish government it was also revealed that it has been admitted that the fingerprint, first identified by the SCRO experts, is not Shirley's and that this will be formally entered into next years civil case court papers.
<http://www.shirleymckie.com/> (breaking news – 1 July 2005)
- After a hectic few days there appears to be a consensus that it is necessary to get Shirley's civil claim out of the way to allow her to develop her life and a career and to open the way for real change within the **Scottish Fingerprint Service**. Many political questions remain to be answered and these will be taken up by the appropriate MSP's.
- **Shirley and Iain** have publicly thanked the **Scottish Executive** for their positive action but remain cautious until the settlement is negotiated and a reality. They are not naive enough to believe that sources within the SCRO and elsewhere will not do everything in their power to complicate the issue and stop the true extent of their disgraceful behaviour ever being revealed.
- Meanwhile Iain is looking forward to addressing the **Canadian Identification Society Educational Conference** in **Calgary** later this month and renewing some friendships established with experts over the past years.
- This month there is a special "**thank you**" to those supporters who have stood shoulder to shoulder with Shirley for so long and for their messages of support this week.
<http://www.shirleymckie.com/friendsletters.htm>
- Your contributions and comments are always welcome. If you wish any friends or colleagues to receive this weekly update please pass this update onto them or send their e-mail address to: justiceforshirley@btinternet.com