

5 September 2005

- As autumn approaches Shirley remains optimistic but with few certainties in her life. Even as negotiations commence to see if a settlement can be agreed with the Scottish Executive her legal team continues to prepare for the 5 week civil hearing in the **Court of Session** next February.
- Little has been revealed of how the **Scottish Fingerprint Service** intends to resolve the present impasse within its ranks on the **Shirley McKie** and **Marion Ross** ‘indents’. While many experts outside of SCRO have already condemned their errors there is little sign of a willingness to admit mistakes. How much longer can a national fingerprint service continue to deliver evidence to the criminal courts when it is split from top to bottom?

Last week’s update on ‘**Expert difference of opinion**’ highlights the dilemma faced. The SCRO defence of ‘difference of opinion’ has already undermined Scotland’s international reputation and also threatens the science itself yet for years they have been allowed to perpetrate this fiction. Surely it is time to stand up for the vast majority of Scottish experts who see through the fiction but feel powerless to challenge it apprehensive that the treatment meted out to the ‘Lothian and Borders 14’ could happen to them and while doubt still hangs over the fate of the Grampian experts.

<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/ExpertDifferenceofOpinion.pdf>

- Experts continue to express concern at the refusal of the **Fingerprint Society** to reconsider holding its **2006 annual conference** at the Scottish Police College at **Tulliallan** next March just as Shirley’s civil case is drawing to a close. One of the main movers in this decision to hold the conference in Scotland has been **Robert McKenzie** a senior expert at SCRO, a member of the Fingerprint Society executive committee and a central witness in the forthcoming civil case. For years Mr McKenzie has been to the fore in trying to convince the fingerprint world that the Shirley McKie and Marion Ross identifications are valid and now we find him promoting SCRO’s cause through the Fingerprint Society annual conference.

As we have said before by all means bring the conference to Scotland but for the Fingerprint Society to do so just as Shirley’s civil case is ending and while so many doubts hang over the SCRO could at best end up as an embarrassment and at worst be seen as the promotion of a cause condemned across the fingerprint world.

We hope that even at this late date commonsense will prevail and the conference can be postponed until the full truth is known.

http://shirleymckie.com/documents/FingerprintSocietyDebate_002.pdf

- As the first anniversary of www.shirleymckie.com approaches we are preparing a ‘**That was the year that was**’ compendium of the highs and lows of an extremely eventful period in Shirley’s fight for justice.
- As the more observant among you will have noticed there have been no updates on the proposed **winter conference**. With things at such an uncertain stage it is thought wise to put our plans on the back burner and perhaps consider an event after all legal actions are ended.
- Thanks as ever for the messages of support and visitors can look forward to regular site updates and remember 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