

29 August 2005

‘Sound of Silence.’

Silence is a statement that is open to gross misinterpretation.
Craig Bruce

What then are we to ascribe the present silence echoing from **Grampian Police, SCRO** and the **Scottish Fingerprint Service** to? We well remember the resounding official silence that followed the 2000 challenge to SCRO by 14 **experts from Lothian and Borders Police**. Under cover of that silence the system exacted its revenge, careers were effectively ended and SCRO was allowed to perpetrate its fictions.

In their report of 25 June this year 3 experts from **Grampian Police** fingerprint bureau **Gary Dempster, John Dingwall and John McGregor**, concluded 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.

http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/Aberdeenreportsigned_001.pdf

In effect these experts were not saying anything controversial but merely following the conclusions of all major enquiries from **Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary’s** 2000 report onwards that the fingerprint was not Shirley McKie’s.

Over **two months later** we wait for the experts to be commended for their actions by their Chief Constable **Colin McKerracher** and for the heads of SCRO, ex Strathclyde ACC **John McLean** and the Scottish Fingerprint Service **Ewan Innes** (both non-experts) to acknowledge their intervention, admit that the SCRO experts were wrong and take action to restore credibility to their organisations.

How will they respond? With honesty and openness and agree with all the major enquiries to date and the Grampian experts that the print is not Shirley McKie’s or will they seek to silence the experts and continue the **SCRO fiction** that fingerprinting is not a science but a mix of art and opinion where experts can legitimately reach different conclusions on the same prints.

If they do the latter we can legitimately ask, ‘What’s in it for them?’ and ‘Why should the allegedly independent non-expert heads of Scotland’s major fingerprint organisations in the face of irrefutable evidence continue to pin their colours to the discredited mast of SCRO?’

How much longer can they continue to support the unsupportable?

Of course there still remains the question of **Marion Ross’s fingerprint** also wrongly identified by the SCRO. This is a time bomb ticking away. It is only a matter of time until its explosion shatters the silence.

<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/GrampianCC3.7.05.pdf>

http://shirleymckie.com/documents/Aberdeenreportsigned_001.pdf

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