

11 June 2005

- A comparatively quiet week after the frenzied activity of the past few months. Much of our work is done and the focus is now on important decisions to be made by the Scottish Executive. The Minister for Justice Cathy Jamieson has still to respond to the cross party group of MSP's who met her last month asking her to intervene and bring this 8 year saga to an end.
- As readers will see from the **Lord Advocate** Colin Boyd's latest response to parliamentary questions asked by **MSP Alasdair Morgan** he is seeking to distance himself from the circulation of the '**Peter Swann letter**'. As readers will remember this letter was highly critical of the Lord Advocate and the Crown Office. In his parliamentary answers Mr Boyd clearly states that the letter was not released or circulated by him. As the week ended however Iain received confidential information that while the initial circulation had indeed been made by David Russell, Mr Swann's solicitor, senior executives within the **SCRO/Scottish Fingerprint Service** had ensured that it was copied to all Scottish fingerprint units outside of Glasgow. We await confirmation of this information and then Iain intends to ask for the Lord Advocate's views on the circulation of such a personally critical letter by public officials without his authorisation.
<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/ThePeterSwannletter8.6.05.pdf>
http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/CuriouserandCuriouser_000.pdf
- Iain's correspondence with the **Law Society for England** in respect of the tone and content of the 'Peter Swann Letter' continues and the full correspondence will be published on this website once it is completed. As stated previously the complaints are not centred on any legitimate defences put forward on behalf of Mr Swann and the SCRO but focus on the way their case was presented without regard to the truth or common decency.
http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/SCROANDPETERSWANN4_001.pdf
- **The Freedom of Information** saga continues. Correspondence with the **Strathclyde Joint Police Board** started on **11 January** this year and now **FIVE MONTHS LATER** we still await the result of Iain's appeal against their decision not to allow access to the secret internal report that cleared the SCRO experts of any wrongdoing on the grounds there is **no overriding public interest**. Given that the Act specifies release of information within 30 days and allowing for some acceptable delay because of administrative problems it seems as if the principles behind the Freedom of Information Act are being ignored at best and openly flouted at worst.
<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/FreedomofInformationUpdate.pdf>
- Iain still hopes to follow up the article in the **CAC News** on **Robert Stacey's** report that followed the enquiry into the **FBI's** erroneous **Brandon Mayfield** identification. He feels that to a great extent the actions of the FBI and independent experts in the US mirrored the behaviour of the SCRO and the British independent experts. It has to be said however that their respective response when faced with the reality of their 'mistakes' was completely different and the British experts have a lot to learn about openness and accountability.
<http://www.cacnews.org/pdfs/2ndq05.pdf> (pages 5/6)
- As ever "thank you" to those supporters who have been in touch with Shirley and Iain. The messages of support are extremely important to Shirley and her family.
<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
<http://www.shirleymckie.com/friendsletters.htm>