

12 September 2005

- Last week's debate on 'Expert difference of opinion' has been continued on Kasey Wertheim's www.clpex.com website. Experts from as far apart as the USA and the Netherlands have contributed. Concern has been expressed at the knock-on effect the failure to resolve the SCRO issues is having. The impact on training new experts has been highlighted and it is suspected that the heads of SCRO and the Scottish Fingerprint System will make efforts to align training systems to SCRO's flawed 'fingerprinting is an art and not a science' thinking.

As I state in the debate one of my main reasons for highlighting the plight of the **Grampian experts** was to try and ensure that they did not suffer the same fate as the 14 experts from **Lothian and Border's Police** who were so badly treated for speaking out in 2000. It is a matter of fact that various Scottish and UK experts have been warned against revealing the truth. There is a strategy created at the very top of the SCRO, the Scottish Fingerprint Service and the Police aimed at re-writing history to make sure that those guilty of covering up the Shirley McKie/Marion Ross errors are not punished. Fortunately this will not succeed and the best advice they can be given, as the Marion Ross mis-identification ticks away like a time bomb, is to admit mistakes, take action against any who have offended and institute remedial action to ensure that the **Scottish Fingerprint Service** fulfils its enormous potential.

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

<http://www.clpex.com/> (Detail Chat Board)

- Seeking information is not the straightforward process promised when the **Freedom of Information** system was launched. As the frustration has grown awaiting responses from **Strathclyde Police** and the **Scottish Executive** it has been tempting to write the whole system off as a sham. However Iain did manage to have the report that followed the so called independent enquiry into SCRO released under the **Freedom of Information Act**. This was extremely useful as it clearly shows that the enquiry was so limited in its scope that its conclusion that there was no wrongdoing by the SCRO experts was a foregone conclusion and can have little credibility.

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

- Some interesting conjecture this week on the statistical probability of SCRO's errors. A number of interesting statistical questions have been posed:
 - *What are the odds against 4 (or more) honest experts independently twice wrongly identifying 16 points of similarity while analysing crime scene marks and inked prints from the same case?*

And given that certain SCRO experts are claiming to be able to match over 40 points:

- *What are the odds against 4 (or more) honest experts independently twice wrongly identifying 40 points of similarity while analysing crime scene marks and inked prints from the same case?*

I throw these questions open to readers skilled in statistics and add another question. Where the identifications are known to be wrong and the odds are as great as they seem could this be taken as pointing to deliberate deceit or **criminality** as opposed to **genuine error**?

- 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