

18 June 2005

- Over the years many **hundreds of letter** have been written in connection with the **Shirley McKie and Marion Ross mis-identifications** by SCRO. Usually the authorities' replies are more revealing for what they don't answer. In response to Iain's recent complaint re the circulation of the '**Peter Swann letter**' because of '*its intemperate language, its defamatory nature and the ludicrous allegations it contains.*' the Lord Advocate replied.:

'I can confirm that neither the Lord Advocate, nor any representative of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, were responsible for the circulation of the letter..... As I understand the position, the author of the letter, David A Russell, was responsible for its public release and circulation.'

However, as Iain has now informed the Lord Advocate, this letter that was openly critical of the Lord Advocate and Crown Office among many others was circulated by a **senior figure in the Scottish Fingerprint Service** apparently in an effort to undermine Shirley's case and bolster the SCRO's flagging fortunes. We await Mr Boyd's response with interest.

- In responding to another letter from Iain requesting '*complete disclosure of the reasons behind your decision not to prosecute the SCRO experts or their supervisors*', Mr Boyd replied:

'At the conclusion of the investigation, their (Tayside Police) report was considered by Crown Counsel together with the evidence of two independent fingerprint experts commissioned by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary. Crown Counsel, who are entirely independent, instructed that there should be no proceedings against the officers concerned.'

Of course we know that the **police recommended prosecution** so are no nearer finding out why the police recommendation was not followed.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/ThePeterSwannletter8.6.05.pdf>

http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/CuriouserandCuriouser_000.pdf

- The response to this week's website comment on '**Whistleblowers**' has been slow. We are aware although a number of Scottish experts are uncomfortable over the undue influence SCRO is having over the development of the new Scottish Fingerprint Service they are afraid to speak out because they fear treatment like that meted out to the '**Lothian and Border's 14**' in 2000.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/Whistleblowing1.pdf>

- 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.

- Iain's correspondence with the **Law Society for England** in respect of the tone and content of the 'Peter Swann Letter' continues but it is looking more and more as if the matter will have to be referred to the **Legal Services Ombudsman**.

http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/SCROANDPETERSWANN4_001.pdf

- The frustrations with the **Freedom of Information** requests continue with **Strathclyde Joint Police Board** and **Strathclyde Police** still failing to respond to long standing requests. After a **FIVE MONTH** delay 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>

- As ever "thank you" to those supporters who have been in touch with Shirley and Iain. 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>