

25 September 2005

- Earlier this year when the **Minister for Justice** met a cross party group of MSP's in the Scottish Parliament and shortly after announced that the **Scottish Executive** was willing to enter into settlement negotiations with Shirley the news was widely welcomed by Shirley's supporters and in the media as proof that at last reason and compassion had won the day.
http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/TheEndGame_000.pdf
- The optimism of a few weeks ago that a fair and equitable settlement could be negotiated with the **Scottish Executive** received a knock this week. A meeting with the Executive legal team shocked even Shirley's lawyers as the opposition appeared ill prepared for the meeting and unwilling to negotiate. The meeting was aborted. Shirley and Iain put it down to either **breathhtaking cynicism** or **stunning incompetence**. While it is hoped that the latter explanation holds good preparations for the 5 week **Court of Session** hearing in **February 2006** are in full swing with a growing list of witnesses being cited to appear.
- For weeks now since the **three Grampian experts** contradicted their **SCRO** colleagues there has been a deafening silence from the head of SCRO **John McLean** and **Ewan Innes** boss of the **Scottish Fingerprint service**. We are still intrigued how they are going to resolve the present chaos. How can the courts have any faith in identifications emanating from this organisation when they are split from top to bottom as to what constitutes an identification? Going on past experiences covert activity will be aimed at covering up the truth, rewriting history, silencing the Grampian experts and ensuring that interests of a small cabal within **SCRO** take precedence over those of other individual Scottish experts and the fingerprinting profession.
<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/ExpertDifferenceofOpinion.pdf>
- As we have previously reported obtaining information under the **Freedom of Information Act** is not the straightforward process promised. **Strathclyde Police** and the **Scottish Executive** continue to resist delivering important information and this week Iain will bring his frustrations to the notice of the **Freedom of Information Ombudsman** in an effort to force a decision from these authorities.
<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/SecretSCROReportReleased.pdf>
- 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
- 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 a postscript and as a way of putting things into perspective we end with a passage from **Alan Whicker's** latest book '**Whicker's War**' in which he recounts his exploits recording the 2nd World War in photography and film.

'In field hospitals the medics faced an impossible job. I remember a gravely injured young officer waiting all day on a stretcher and, as a doctor hurried by, he asked quietly if his injuries could be treated. The doctor saw there was no hope for him and said gently, "I'm afraid we're not quite ready for you yet". The young officer nodded, "I understand", he said and closed his eyes. In wartime, brilliant fragments of courage and nobility such as this can pass unnoticed. So rest in peace young brother-officer.'
(**Whicker's War** - http://www.books.co.uk/whickers_war/0007205074.html)