

- Main event of the week was the publication of **Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary Report into the SCRO**. This report followed a detailed inspection in November of last year that reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of the 2000 report condemning SCRO.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/justice/scropi04-00.asp>

- The media response was a **Sunday Herald** headline, ‘*Scottish print bureau “still cannot be trusted”*’. Based on an interview with a leading independent expert **Allan Bayle** the article alleged that with respect to the preparation of court productions SCRO had not moved on as claimed in the HMCI report. The article included comments by **MSP Alex Neil** challenging the impartiality of the report and **QC Ian Hamilton** who was critical of the SCRO following their ‘**unsafe identification**’ in a case he was defending. The article received some intriguing responses and these are being followed up at present.

<http://www.sundayherald.com/48494>

- **Iain McKie** has since published detailed observations on this site challenging the **HMCI’s report** in a number of areas and throwing doubt on its objectivity. The suspicion remains that this latest in a series of HMIC reports is aimed at ensuring that when the civil hearing takes place next year the authorities can claim all is well at the SCRO and all past mistakes have been remedied.

http://shirleymckie.com/documents/TheSCROReport_001.pdf

- It is hoped to publish details on the **November conference, ‘Justice for All?’** by the end of May. As indicated the programme will include debate on the **misuse of sub-judice** by the Scottish prosecution establishment and discussion on how far the constitutional position of the **Lord Advocate** is compromised by his being a **Scottish Minister**.
- **Iain** is off to **Liverpool University** next week to address a mixed audience interested Miscarriages of Justice, Social theory, Legal Education, Criminal Justice and Health at the **Socio-Legal Studies Association** Annual Conference.

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/slsa/conferences.htm>

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/law/slsa2005.htm>

- We still await the **Freedom of Information** material requested from various sources. The delays would appear to indicate either a wealth of material or some difficult political decisions are being made about release. **Watch this space!!** As we have observed before the Freedom of Information Act will be judged by the amount of information withheld or hidden.
- **A peaceful Easter weekend to all our readers.**

26 March 2005