

29 May 2005

Now the dust is settling over a hectic two weeks the time has come to reflect on the **SCRO and Peter Swann ‘debate’**.

- Not one shred of new **evidence** has been adduced that is not well known to the Lord Advocate, Police and other authorities. The **facts** of the case remain as previously stated and they will be tested in the Court of Session Edinburgh in February of next year.
http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/SCROANDPETERSWANN4_001.pdf
- The **allegations, untruths, innuendo and defamatory remarks** contained in the various letters produced by Mr Swann’s representative have been brought to the attention of the Law Society for England, the Council for the Registration of Forensic Practitioners (CRFP), Lord Advocate, Minister for Justice and Shirley’s legal team. The complaints are not centred on any legitimate defences put forward on behalf of Mr Swann and the SCRO, that is their inalienable right, but focus on the way their case was presented without regard to the truth or common decency.
- Shirley is extremely grateful for the **messages of support** she has received in the face of this week’s onslaught. The only court that concerns her is the **Court of Session** next year. It is there that the truth will be ascertained and all witnesses will have to swear to tell the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth.
- Iain is looking forward to addressing Scotland’s lawyers and representatives of the legal community at this years’ **Scottish Law Convention** at the Radisson hotel in Glasgow on Wednesday 15 June 2005. There is little doubt that lawyers and judges in our civil and criminal courts have an important part to play in raising forensic standards. In the past treating forensic evidence as infallible has arguably led to complacency in some areas and challenge in our courts has always been muted. There are signs of this changing as the lessons of the Shirley McKie and David Asbury cases are learned. There is certainly a case in Scotland for removing control over fingerprinting and forensic science from the Police and placing it in a centralised body.
<http://www.firmmagazine.com/awards/convention/>
- There have been no developments on the **Freedom of Information** front. Strathclyde Police continue to be in contact however with promises of an early delivery of material. The **Strathclyde Joint Police Board** still refuse access to the secret internal report that cleared the SCRO experts of any wrongdoing on the grounds there is **no overriding public interest**. We still await a decision on the appeal.
<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/FreedomofInformationUpdate.pdf>
- A **Cross party meeting** between representatives from all parties within the Scottish Parliament and the **Minister for Justice Cathy Jamieson** has taken place this week with a view to bringing this 8 year saga to an end before further trauma is caused and more public money wasted. A number of voices are being raised supporting some form of independent enquiry into every aspect of Shirley’s case. Perhaps this is the only way the air will ever be cleared.
- A particularly big thank you this week for those supporters who have been in touch with Shirley and Iain. Meanwhile the legal team are busy preparing for next year’s civil hearing sifting through the mass of evidence gathered over the years and making final decisions on witnesses to be called.
- Your contributions 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