

## **‘That was the week that was.’**

As intimated in previous week’s **‘breaking news’** a number of requests have gone out for information under the **Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002**. While it remains to be seen what information is eventually supplied the initial responses from **Strathclyde Police** and **Strathclyde Joint Police Board** have been positive and helpful. The police particularly are obviously geared up for requests and go out of their way to make the legislation clear and ensure that the applicant is submitting the correct mandates, forms and fees. We look forward to reporting as positively on the helpfulness of the material eventually supplied.

**Link:** <http://shirleymckie.com/documents/Freedomofinformation1.pdf>

Still no reply from any of the eight **Scottish Chief Constables** written to last December asking them to contact the Minister for Justice requesting an early resolution to Shirley’s trauma. Sad but predictable.

**Link:** [http://shirleymckie.com/documents/DearChiefConstable15.12.04\\_000.pdf](http://shirleymckie.com/documents/DearChiefConstable15.12.04_000.pdf)

During the coming week Shirley, Iain and Michael Russell meet a **Cross party delegation of MSP’s** who are considering making representations on Shirley’s behalf. It is a matter for some satisfaction that so many MSP’s have managed to bury party politics and move forward together. There is little doubt that the matter could be resolved if the Scottish Executive were to review the facts of her case, recognise the enormous waste of public money and take action to bring Shirley’s trauma to an end. Until then we are grateful for those politicians who are willing to oppose injustice no matter where it is found.

As usual with Shirley’s case **discussions and negotiations** never cease and this week Iain has travelled round the UK liaising with individuals who are offering to hand over important and revealing information. As time goes by it is increasingly clear that the Shirley McKie campaign, by seeking to have individuals and organisations held accountable for what they have and haven’t done, has alienated the small number of dinosaurs in the fingerprint profession. Is it too much to hope that one day they will hold their hands up, admit they were wrong and take remedial action?

For every negative however there are so many more positives and many supporters continue to campaign away behind the scenes. This week we have heard of several initiatives involving letters to the **Scots Law Commission** and the **Prime Minister**. Inevitably the latter communication was re-directed to the Scottish Executive who responded with their usual mantra – *“The matter cannot be commented on because it is sub-judice.”* Since when was avoidable injustice sub-judice?

**Link:** [http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/EXPERTWITNESSLIABILITY\\_013.pdf](http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/EXPERTWITNESSLIABILITY_013.pdf)

Remember the site is constantly being updated with material. We will continue with this policy of openness despite the knowledge that some of our critics are more interested in finding information to boost their long discredited opinions than in joining in the debate on

how their profession can move forward at a time when they have never been so open to challenge.