

30 April 2005

- The week started with a ‘**Sunday Mail**’ exclusive that **David Asbury** was suing SCRO. He was the man convicted of the murder of Marion Ross in 1997 and subsequently freed after three years in jail because the SCRO fingerprint evidence was unreliable. Once again it was underlined that the SCRO had made two identification errors in the one case a fact they have always tried to avoid happy with the fiction that the Shirley ‘botch’ was an isolated error.
<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/SundayMail24.4.05.pdf>
- Last week’s news that Iain was writing to the ‘**Fingerprint Society**’ complaining about their decision to hold its **March 2006 annual conference** in Scotland resulted in a very interesting debate on Kasey Wertheim’s www.clepx.com and on this site. Iain notified the Society that he had been informed the conference organisers/participants would include some of the SCRO experts who are witnesses at the civil hearing in Edinburgh that ends only days before the conference starts. It was felt that holding the conference in Scotland at this time was insensitive to say the least and could be seen as endorsement of SCRO. There has been no acknowledgment from the Society. A number of UK and foreign experts have already decided not to attend.
http://shirleymckie.com/documents/FingerprintSocietyDebate_002.pdf
- The news item from the ‘**Michael Jackson**’ trial in California that the Shirley McKie case had been referred to as the defence challenged fingerprint evidence ended up at the Scottish Parliament in two questions put by South of Scotland MSP Alasdair Morgan. The questions made the serious point that the image of Scotland’s forensic services is being harmed by the SCRO’s failure to admit its mistakes.
<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/ScottishquestionsJackson.pdf>
- The week ended with a critique of the new **Scottish Fingerprint Service** that followed representations to Iain from some Scottish experts who were unhappy at the undue influence they felt SCRO was having on the culture and development of the new service. The offer has been made for experts to comment on the allegations with a view to making some co-ordinated complaint.
<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/TheScottishFingerprintService.pdf>
- Over the years we have heard complaints from experts outwith SCRO that they couldn’t **comment on the SCRO errors** because they hadn’t access to the latent and inked prints. As any experts who follow the international fingerprint debate on www.onin.com and www.clpex.com will tell you the prints have been available for years and this week we provided a further **link** to them. These are some of the internet images used by SCRO in an official presentation at Tulliallan as part of the **HMCI’s enquiry** in 2000.
<http://www.onin.com/fp/problemidents.html>
- As we await the result of MSP cross party discussions in the Scottish Parliament plans are going ahead for the **November conference** in Glasgow. This will allow Shirley’s many supporters to meet her and to debate some of the important issues her case has raised like the mis-use of the sub-judice rule and the compromised constitutional position of the Lord Advocate.
- Thanks as ever for your continued interest and support. 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