

“That was the week that was.”

Letters of support continue to land on our desk and the desks of Cathy Jamieson the Justice Minister, the Police and SCRO. These ‘acts of faith’ are extremely important in maintaining a high profile for Shirley’s case. The system succeeds through calculated delay grinding the individual down psychologically and emotionally in the knowledge that eventually he or she will become isolated as supporters fade away in the struggle to live their own lives. Be assured these often anonymous supporters are central to Shirley’s struggle.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/Rentonletters.pdf>

http://shirleymckie.com/documents/Dejavu_003.pdf

<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/Tenincontrovertiblefacts.pdf>

Last Friday’s visit to the **Court of Session in Edinburgh** to hear Shirley’s QC Andrew Smith argue for access to vital witnesses provided yet further evidence of the system working to protect its own. Despite some sympathy for her case Lord Nimmo Smith ruled against Shirley. His judgement was well reasoned and accorded with the case law argued before him but such decisions seem to lack the humanity that long established democratic societies should demand. Surely the individual involved in a struggle with the state should be afforded some flexibility to fight their case. Time after time those who claim injustice speak of the way the law is used to batter them into submission. The remedy offered by appeal is often, given the snails pace of the legal process and the extraordinary cost, no remedy at all.

<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/DavidandGoliath.pdf>

We are hoping that issues like the failure of the courts to deliver justice within a reasonable timescale, the misuse of subjudice and the constitutional position of the Lord Advocate will be on the agenda of **November’s conference**. Although planning is in its early stages a number of speakers have expressed interest. This one day conference will allow Shirley to thank her supporters and will provide a platform for those supporters and experts from a variety of specialisms to comment on the major issues her case has highlighted.

The coming week holds the expectation of the first ‘**Freedom of Information**’ material arriving. To date the co-operation of the authorities has been remarkable but the crunch will come when we see what information they release. In some ways we have an advantage over those sending out speculative requests because we are aware of many of the ‘secret’ and other documents held. It will be fascinating to compare lists!!

An interesting request from **Brazil** this week from an historical magazine doing a special on Fingerprints and comment from a journalist from the **USA** re identity cards, *“I can’t get my head around the fact that here is a Western government seeking to implement a misguided social policy supported by highly questionable technology. Sound more like something that should have taken place in the Soviet Union 30 years ago.”*

The internet has certainly opened the world up to Scotland’s system of justice – warts and all.