

7 May 2005

- The ongoing debate about the **Fingerprint Society's** decision to hold its March 2006 conference at the Scottish Police College at Tulliallan was dominated this week by correspondence between **Mike Wiener**, a respected FBI expert writing in a personal capacity, and **David Grieve** a long time supporter of Shirley and an equally respected expert with an international reputation. They gave insight into how the Society's decision is viewed and just what responsibility the Society has to express views on the wider implications of the SCRO's failure to admit its errors. Mr Grieve sees appeasement writ large with SCRO involvement in arranging the course tantamount to an endorsement of that organisation only a few days after the end of Shirley's civil hearing in Edinburgh in Feb/March 2006. Mr Wiener, while supportive of Shirley, abhors personal criticism and sees his colleague's response as over reactive and abusive. The fact remains that Iain's letters to the Fingerprint Society have not been acknowledged and a number of UK and foreign experts have already decided not to attend the conference.
http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/FingerprintSocietyDebate_007.pdf
- **MSP Fergus Ewing** waits patiently for a reply to his early April letters to Scotland's **Lord Advocate** and **Solicitor General** seeking the release of information and documents that the authorities have so far refused to release to Shirley's legal team. Mr Ewing stated, *'In my view, hers is the most clear case of unremedied injustice at the hands of the State since the Scottish Parliament was reconvened, and the failure to provide that remedy is a stain on the system of justice, and all of those who preside over it.'* We know from sad experience that it is virtually impossible to embarrass the system so perhaps this appeal for justice will have some effect.
<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/FergusEwing14.4.05.pdf>
- Iain has accepted an invite a keynote speaker at this years **Scottish Law Convention** at the Radisson hotel in Glasgow on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 of June 2005. The Convention is being organised by the legal magazine '**The Firm**' that has a reputation for challenging complacency within the legal system. He will speak on Shirley's case and challenge the audience to examine how the sub-judice rule is being abused by the Scottish Executive. He will also offer the view that the Lord Advocate's position has become compromised as he unsuccessfully balances the twin roles of a Scottish Minister and defender in Shirley's civil claim with his responsibilities as the leader of the Scottish prosecution system.
<http://www.firmmagazine.com/members/news.php?id=243>
- From the response to last week's critique of the **Scottish Fingerprint Service** it is clear that there are a lot of concerned experts about but that they believe that acting as 'whistleblowers' might effectively end their careers. This is a sad state of affairs but not the first time it has been encountered. From the time the '**Lothian and Borders 14**' spoke out threat and intimidation has been used on various experts to silence them. That this has not been confined to the UK is confirmed by David Grieve's letter in the Fingerprint Society debate.
http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/FingerprintSocietyDebate_007.pdf
<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/TheScottishFingerprintService.pdf>
- A reminder that the Internet images showing the two SCRO identification errors are online on **Ed German's** onin.com site.
<http://www.onin.com/fp/problemidents.html>
- 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