

www.shirleymckie.com – “That was the week that was.”

- For the third week in a row Scotland's Sunday newspapers carried an article on the Shirley McKie case. In '**PRINTS SCANDAL MAY HELP JACKO**' the News of the World reported how the star's defence team had cited Shirley's case in seeking to discredit fingerprint evidence. This is not the first time the case has been raised internationally however and it is reasonable to expect that until SCRO gives up and speaks the truth they will continue to give the profession's critics ammunition to use against the vast majority of efficient experts.

http://shirleymckie.com/documents/Jacko-NEWSOFTHEWORLD-3.4_000.pdf

- The Jackson article ended with 'ex-cop Iain' saying, "***I've great respect for fingerprinting but we do need an international standard.***" This triggered an interesting debate on the question of world standards on www.clpex.com a major American fingerprint site that has done a great deal to make the science accessible to experts and laypeople. Although sympathetic to the case for standards discussion seemed to show that organisations like SCRO, who were unwilling to admit their mistakes and learn from the world fingerprint community, make agreeing such standards a difficult if not impossible task. An Australian expert summed things up, "***The siege mentality of SCRO is an example of stubborn arrogance and a lot of ignorance about the principles of science and repeatability.***" The problem is that SCRO is still being welcomed into international forums to spread this '**arrogance and ignorance**'.

<http://www.clpex.com/> (Detail chat board – 'International Standards.')

- As reported last week '**Freedom of Information**' material is starting to arrive. While initial responses looked promising a recent response from **Strathclyde Joint Police Board** makes it clear that they are unwilling to release the contents of an important unpublished internal report they commissioned clearing SCRO. While the refusal does not surprise us it is disappointing given the claim that this legislation was going to lead to greater openness and accountability. Another intriguing fact is that not one copy e-mail has been received – in an e-mail age how likely is that? Watch this space!!
- This week we reported on the growing popularity of www.shirleymckie.com Monitoring reveals that the numbers of substantive hits on the site is increasing month on month and that Shirley's story has been used as the basis for a number of essays and theses. She was particularly pleased to receive an e-mail from an Australian teacher who uses the **Panorama's 'Finger of Suspicion'** as a teaching aid in the Forensic Science Unit.

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

<http://shirleymckie.com/friendsletters.htm>

- We are still working on the programme for the **November conference, 'Justice for All?'** Details will be produced as soon as possible.
- Shirley's legal team is gearing itself up for next year's **5 weeks in the Court of Session** in Edinburgh. Witness lists are being compiled and statements taken. As already reported the lawyers have not been allowed to interview any experts or their supervisors within SCRO but you can be rest assured that they will all have to appear as witnesses.
- Thanks as ever for your continued interest and support and if you wish any friends or colleagues to receive this weekly update please send their e-mail address to justiceforshirley@btinternet.com

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