

9 July 2005

- **Iain sends his apologies for his late update on progress in the settlement negotiations and other issues.**
- **Negotiations** start this week when Shirley meets her legal team. It is anticipated that with goodwill on both sides some decisions could be made by early autumn. Iain has written to the **Minister for Justice** expressing his appreciation that the Executive has responded positively but underlining his caution until final decisions are made. He also points out that serious issues within the **Scottish Fingerprint Service** remain to be resolved.
<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/CathyJamiesonMSP5.7.05.pdf>

- News has reached us that some form of internal enquiry is being held within **Grampian Police** into the report submitted by **Gary Dempster, John Dingwall and John McGregor**. After what happened to the ‘**Lothian and Border’s 14**’ in 2000 Iain and Shirley remain concerned that there will be efforts to discredit them. Given that the head of the Scottish Fingerprint Service circulated ‘**the Swann Letter**’ on behalf of SCRO this concern could be well founded. Iain has written to the **Chief Constable** for Grampian **Colin McKerracher** asking that the three experts be **commended** for their integrity and honesty and has passed a copy of that letter to local **MSP Stewart Stevenson** who is quoted in the **Aberdeen Press and Journal** as saying:

"The officers are to be commended. I think anyone who may be inclined to criticise the actions of these officers should return to the substantive issue - that Shirley McKie was found innocent at court. These officers are very clearly acting on the side of justice."

<http://shirleymckie.com/documents/GrampianCC3.7.05.pdf>

- The recommendation by the Grampian experts that an **independent enquiry** be held involving personnel from outside of the UK has caused some interest and comment. It is far from clear what the terms of reference would be and who it would report to. One way forward might be to re-open the **Petition** first made to the **Scottish Parliament** on 18 September 2002 by **Allan Bayle, Pat Wertheim, David Grieve and Arie Zeelenberg**. These experts stated:

'We believe that the best way to resolve the matters we raise is to commission a fingerprint expert of world renown to examine them and therefore respectfully suggest that the relevant committee of the Scottish Parliament seeks the assistance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to obtain the services of one of the world's foremost fingerprint experts, Staff Sergeant David Ashbaugh, in this regard.'

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

While the erroneous identifications are now internationally recognised as such much remains to be learned about how and why they were made and never admitted.

- There is great concern at the complete failure of **Strathclyde Police** and the **Joint Police Board** to respond to requests under the much vaunted **Freedom of Information Act**. Iain is in the process of complaining to the ombudsman in this respect.
- This month's remarkable flood of e-mails, letters and telephone calls wishing Shirley well has been very welcome and she sends a special “**thank you**” to those experts across the world who have stood shoulder to shoulder with her for so long.
http://shirleymckie.com/documents/Letters2.7.05_002.pdf
- Your contributions and comments 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