

The End Game?

News link: <http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/42337.html>
<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/hi/news/5040677.html>
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4642371.stm>

The Scottish Executive's announcement that they have instructed their legal team to enter into negotiation with Shirley's legal team with a view to settling her civil compensation claim out of court is welcome.

Just as welcome is the statement that the Executive now accept that the mark identified by the SCRO is not Shirley's fingerprint and that the court pleadings for next year's civil hearing will be changed to reflect that fact.

We very much hope that the 8 year trauma caused by Scottish experts will be ended by the intervention of Scottish experts from Grampian, who acting with integrity and honesty, stood up to be counted for Shirley and for the Scottish Fingerprint Service.

Shirley's long battle has exposed many problems within the Service and elsewhere in the UK and settlement in her case will allow them finally to be addressed.

The question of an independent enquiry into the service by experts outside of the UK remains on the table and appears to be a reasonable way forward.

It is important that any action taken against the Grampian officers who challenged the Scottish Fingerprint Service this week is carefully monitored. We still remember the disgraceful treatment meted out to the 'Lothian and Border's 14' after their request for an enquiry in 2000.

Experience teaches us that we must remain vigilant until settlement is confirmed and Shirley's legal team continues to prepare its case for next year's civil hearing.

This website will continue to report developments in Shirley's case and act as a forum for those who want the Scottish Fingerprint Service to be the world leader it claims it wants to be.

Sincere thanks are due to the many experts and supporters across the world who have stood shoulder to shoulder with Shirley over the years. We hope that in the not too distant future we can all celebrate this unity and sense of a common purpose that has given Shirley a chance to move on in her life.

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