

The Swann Letter

During debate on the contents of the letter sent to the Lord Advocate in Scotland on behalf of fingerprint expert Peter Swann his solicitor David Russell falsely alleged that the version of the letter published on this site was 'inaccurate'. It was clear that the allegations were made to allow him to escape responsibility for some of the more excessive remarks made in the letter. He has not responded to repeated requests to identify the inaccuracies.

Because this letter is important in revealing the lengths Mr Swann and his representative are prepared to go in covering up their part in the SCRO debacle I am publishing the letter as originally entered on this site along with Mr Russell's 'authorised' version.

This gives the reader a chance to see that aside from layout changes and minor typographical differences that occurred in scanning the letter into word and a PDF file there are no material differences in the letter. It is interesting to note that the insulting and defamatory statements shown below that have been extracted from the letter are word for word correct.

There is little doubt that the Swann letter does raise a number of important issues for experts and those involved in the administration of justice. Unfortunately they are devalued in a letter full of inaccuracies, innuendo and defamatory comment that totally takes away from a very important debate.

I welcome comment on the letter and any questions you might have.

Internet Version:

http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/SwannLetter28.4.05_001.pdf

Russell Version:

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

Iain McKie
15 May 2005

Letter Extracts:

- *'Mr. Swann is probably the most experienced Fingerprint Consultant operating in Great Britain, and he has an unblemished reputation for honesty and professionalism when providing Expert Testimony.'*
- *'You (the Lord Advocate) have thereby given an open platform to foreign Fingerprint Experts and, indeed, Internet Experts who repeatedly attack fingerprint standards in the UK in circumstances where they would not be offered employment, even to clean the toilets at SCRO'.*

- *Indeed..... yesterday, yet another Member of the Scottish Parliament crawled out from under his stone to put down the following Question in the Scottish Parliament.'*
- *(Referring to a speech by the Lord Advocate). That was a spineless speech in which you were doing nothing more than pandering to the McKies and currying favour with the media in Scotland.*
- *Consequent upon the false allegations promulgated by Shelley Joffre and her Team, as well as the McKie Campaign, (the Lord Advocate) acquiesced in the suspension from employment of all four SCRO Fingerprint Experts.'*
- *'In Scotland, of course, the two "victims" are portrayed as Shirley McKie and David Asbury. However, nothing could be further from the truth. The victims are the family and friends of Marion Ross and the four named Experts within SCRO.'*
- *'One of the McKies' "tame" MSPs. Michael Russell has openly published allegations of "Perjured Evidence" on the part of the SCRO employees.'*
- *'Members of the Scottish Parliament have repeatedly sought to serve the interests of the McKie Campaign and at the same time, have undermined and damaged the Administration of Justice in Scotland and the international reputation of Scottish Fingerprint Experts.*
- *'As stated, CRFP and the McKies have done everything in their power to prevent any Public Hearing before the Disciplinary Tribunal or Disciplinary Tribunal Chairman, so as to avoid disclosure by Mr. Swann.In the circumstances, the disclosure of Mr. Swann's Expert Evidence in respect of the McKie fingerprint is now in the public interest.'*
- *'I deeply regret your (the Lord Advocate's) failure to fully support and defend the SCRO Fingerprint Experts. Those Experts have, at all times, acted with the utmost integrity, professionalism and unparalleled competence.*
- *You have allowed a number of third rate, publicity seeking MSPs to attack the SCRO employees, both abusing their positions in the Scottish Parliament and through highly defamatory statements published by the media.'*
- *'I am not prepared to accommodate what is clearly some form of alliance between the Crown Office and the McKies.'*