

PERSONAL

**Mr William Rae QPM
Chief Constable
Strathclyde Police
Police Headquarters
173 Pitt Street
GLASGOW G2 4JS**

**27 Donnini Court
South Beach Road
AYR KA7 1JP**

21 April 2004.

Shirley McKie V Strathclyde Police

Thank you for your letter of 14 April.

I appreciate its personal nature and your obvious efforts to fully explain your position. I would also like to acknowledge your kindness and concern while acting on behalf of ACPO(S).

Unfortunately the hope you gave us then has long since died as you have allowed what I believe to be your genuine feelings of injustice to be silenced by your lawyers and advisers and pressure from the Scottish Executive.

By common agreement for nearly 8 years a police officer who has done nothing wrong and chooses truth and honesty before lies and deceit has been systematically abused by Strathclyde Police in particular and the Scottish prosecution system in general.

Perhaps one extract from your letter will help you understand how you are helping deepen Shirley's sense of injustice.

You state, 'As you know, Strathclyde Joint Police Board has already met Shirley's costs, amounting to over £130,000, in defending the criminal charge and this was a proper and appropriate step for the Board to take.'

What you fail to highlight is that Strathclyde Police fought tooth and nail to stop Shirley receiving any financial assistance.

In the attached letter dated 27 March 1998 Deputy Chief Constable James Richardson states,

'I refer to your application of 12 March 1998 on the subject of payment of legal expenses in connection with criminal proceedings which have been brought against you. I have to advise you that I am not prepared to approve your application for legal assistance. My reason for refusing your application is that you were not acting in good faith in the intended execution of your duty'

Not satisfied with abusing her emotionally, psychologically and physically Strathclyde Police acting as judge and jury tried to deny Shirley even basic legal rights. They also sought to deny her everything but a minimum ill health pension.

Not for the first or the last time when an independent group heard her case the police rulings were not upheld.

I also must also take issue with your determination to protect the public purse by extracting £13,000 from Shirley. Are you forgetting the £100,000's of public money mis-spent persecuting Shirley and attempting to resolve the whole SCRO debacle?

I see little use however in rehearsing the well documented examples of abuse against Shirley and highlighting the total injustice of her situation. The truth is for various reasons no-one at Strathclyde Police, SCRO, Crown Office or in the Scottish Executive appears to be listening.

I believe it would be totally appropriate to arrange a meeting between us and for you to apologise on behalf of your force. Do you really believe that the reputation of Strathclyde Police would suffer if its leader was to have the honesty and the courage to stand up, acknowledge injustice and commend Shirley for her honesty and integrity?

In closing I would appeal to you as an honourable man to reconsider your decisions not to waive your claim for legal expenses or to recommend it is postponed until the result of the ongoing action against the Scottish Ministers and SCRO is known.

Perhaps the final irony in all of this is that the only person to be punished to date is Shirley – do you consider that a just reward for speaking the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

Yours sincerely,

Iain A J McKie

Encl: