

Timeline

January 1997. Shirley McKie denies leaving her fingerprint at murder scene.

February to May 1997. Goes off sick. Depressed and suffering panic attacks. Bullied and shunned by colleagues.

July 1997. Professor Colin Espie reports that Shirley's is, '*psychologically normal; and telling the truth.*' Police ignore report.

March 1998. Shirley arrested in a "dawn raid" Watched doing the toilet, showering and dressing, 'strip searched' and locked up in Glasgow. Charged with perjury. Refused legal assistance by Police to fight case.

May, 1999. Shirley unanimously cleared of charges of Perjury. Trial Judge Lord Johnston states. "*Shirley McKie.....personally I would like to extend to you my respect for the obvious courage and dignity which you have shown throughout this nightmareI very much hope you can put it behind you. I wish you all the best.*"

July 1999. Lord Advocate refuses to order enquiry into SCRO

December 1999. Shirley discharged from Police on medical grounds. Successfully fights Police decision not to give her full pension.

January 2000. 14 Lothian and Borders Experts write to the Justice Minister: '*At best the apparent 'misidentification' is a display of gross incompetence by not one but several experts within the bureau. At worst it bears all the hallmarks of a conspiracy of a nature unparalleled in the history of fingerprints.*'

June 2000. Minister for Justice Jim Wallace Apologises to Shirley and confirms that the print was not hers.

June 2000. Police Report recommends prosecution of SCRO experts. Lord Advocate refuses to take action.

2001 – present. The 'Scotch Botch' is condemned throughout the fingerprint world.

May 2002. Statement by 171 experts from across the world state that the SCRO is wrong. Hundreds of other experts condemn SCRO via the internet.

August 2002. David Asbury Conviction Quashed: '*The fingerprint evidence was unreliable*'

Sept. 2002. Petition to the Scottish Parliament seeks an enquiry into Openness and Accountability within SCRO. No action taken.

Sept. 2002. Discovered that in 1997 5 SCRO experts disagreed with identification. This information was hidden.

February 2003. Shirley loses action against Strathclyde Police after legal debate. She cannot prove malice.

December 2003. Scottish Ministers criticised by Lord Wheatley in a detailed judgement that allows Shirley to take case against the SCRO to the Civil court.

February 2004. Scottish Ministers lodge an appeal against the Wheatley judgement at the last possible minute.

April 2004. Strathclyde Police, demands £23,000 in legal costs from Shirley.

June 2004. Anonymous donor pays legal fees for Shirley.

Shirley, at the age of 42, continues to suffer severe psychological and emotional trauma. She is depressed, suffers panic attacks, is on medication and sees a counsellor. She is unable to work and without a career while Police Officers involved in her trauma have been promoted and the SCRO experts and supervisors continue working within SCRO.

Shirley remains the only person punished in this whole affair.