

A selection of comments from fingerprint experts who have signed the statement to the Minister for Justice.

- **‘In a perverse way, we owe a debt to the intractable position of SCRO. Their decision to remain apart from the rest of the fingerprint community has done more to unite that community than anything I have encountered in my career.’**
- **‘If the SCRO demands to be 'hoist on its own petard,' let them. Let them enjoy the fame and celebrity currently enjoyed by all members of the Flat Earth Society and the various apostles of crop circles, alien autopsies in New Mexico and those who profess to communicate with the dead.’**
- **‘I was present at the Fingerprint Society meeting in Liverpool when the attending SCRO supervisor rose in defence of this lunacy. That it continues and is apparently countenanced is nothing short of appalling.’**
- **‘It seems increasingly unlikely that the SCRO will change their position, which is truly incredible. The only other option..... is that the remainder of the Fingerprint Identification community must disassociate ourselves from these blatant cowards with dispatch and certainty.’**
- **‘There are three possible conclusions to any examination, that is, I know whose fingerprint it is, I know whose fingerprint it isn’t or I simply do not know. Experts may vary in knowing and not knowing, but experts cannot disagree on whose fingerprint it is. Physicians may disagree on a diagnosis when considering symptoms but one will be right and one will be wrong. Both will agree whether the patient is alive or dead.’**

- **‘Denying that errors occurred in the face of overwhelming conflicting opinions is not a statement of confidence in the four examiners, but arrogance.’**
- **‘The SCRO have done nothing to further the science of fingerprints and they have caused much confusion with their smokescreen of these identifications.’**
- **‘Should the SCRO remain in the ascendancy, leading SCRO officials will certainly be invited to lecture on alchemy, phrenology and this case by the Iowa Division of the International Association for Identification.’**
- **‘The SCRO's latest moves to reinstate the examiners involved in the Shirley McKie case, taking no further action and to make the conclusion that fingerprint identification is only a matter of opinion and it is perfectly acceptable for different experts to express different opinions - is a travesty.’**
- **‘For the SCRO to try and justify their errant fingerprint “experts” actions with the explanation that fingerprint identification is simply a matter of opinion is to make a mockery of the whole realm of forensic science.’**
- **‘I felt powerless to help Shirley. The way I have described the feeling..... is that we are oppressed by one side and shunned by the other, we have no allies in this fight. Silence seems the only policy.’**
- **‘I can only shake my head in wonder and disbelief.’**

- **We collectively feel that there has been a complete travesty of justice against Shirley Mckie. We also wonder how big a hole the SCRO is prepared to dig for itself by carrying on this debacle. Any credibility that the SCRO has ever had has been completely destroyed. Unfortunately this wrong identification and the subsequent report vindicating themselves has serious implications for the worldwide fingerprint community.**