

The Rt. Hon. David Blunkett MP,  
Home Secretary,  
50, Queen Anne's Gate,  
LONDON SQ1H 9AT

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

9, November, 2001.

Your Ref: Nazneen Choudhury

Dear Home Secretary,

I refer to the letter dated 17, October, 2001, from Nazneen Choudhury.

I was aware of most of the points raised but appreciate the courteous and informative reply.

Unfortunately I was given these very same assurances for a year after my daughter had been cleared in the High Court in Glasgow. Frankly they turned out to be not worth the paper they were written on.

I am reassured however that you have written to Mr Wallace, the Scottish Justice Minister for comment on the Scottish Fingerprint System.

Despite these check and balances the Greater Manchester Fingerprint Unit has recently admitted to two errors in fingerprint identification apparently discovered after the Panorama programme.

I am also aware there is an enquiry going on into another alleged error in the same Force.

This along with the McNamara injustice is less than reassuring evidence that the checks and balances you outline are working effectively.

The Fingerprint Evidence Project did not take the Scottish Experience into account and I have no doubt it was heavily influenced by the culture of arrogance, complacency and ignorance that existed about fingerprints at the time they were working.

The Judges summing up in the McNamara case is a shocking example of his ignorance about fingerprinting as a science and a profession.

I hope you will appreciate my insistence in these matters but innocent people have had their life ruined because of proven mistakes in the Scottish and English fingerprinting systems.

**In the wake of the Panorama programme, the McKie and McNamara cases and the three Manchester cases referred to above, would you please cause an urgent review of fingerprint practices and procedures nationwide to ensure that the serious shortcomings revealed are remedied as soon as possible.**

Yours sincerely,

Iain A J McKie