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9, November, 2001.

CONFIDENTIAL

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Dear Chief Constable,

Alan McNamara

Thank you for your letter of 29, August, 2001 re the above.

While I could understand your not wishing to comment under normal circumstances I am sure you will agree that the present position in your Fingerprint Unit is far from normal.

The unit head Mr Ritchie has only recently openly admitted that two mistakes by experts in his unit have been uncovered and you will be aware that a third error is being investigated by a independent expert.

This together with the worldwide condemnation of Mr McNamara's conviction based on doubts about the competency of experts within your scenes of crime and fingerprint units must damage their credibility beyond repair.

For you to stand back without commenting and allow a possible miscarriage of justice appears to me cynical and unjust.

I trust that you have brought the above facts to the attention of the appeal judge and the justice authorities so that these matters can be taken into consideration before any appeal decision is reached.

If any of the above information is incorrect I would appreciate being briefed on the facts.

Yours sincerely,

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Iain A J McKie