

**Rt Hon Sir David Steel KBE MSP  
Presiding Officer,  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP**

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

27 May 2002.

Dear Sir David,

I write as Shirley McKie's father.

I refer to your recent ruling not to allow a parliamentary debate on the Scottish Criminal Records Office.

Shirley, myself and our family are deeply distressed at your decision.

Could you please confirm:

The legal basis on which you made that ruling?

If you intend to review your ruling?

If you will consider a debate should your ruling be re-considered or overturned?

Given your involvement in its conception and birth I have little doubt you value our Parliament as a final refuge for those seeking justice in our country.

Despite my experiences at the hands of the police, the prosecution system and the Scottish Executive over the last five years I remain a believer in the Scottish Parliament as an institution where the citizen has a voice and justice is to be found.

I hope by your actions you will be able to confirm that my faith is not misplaced.

Yours sincerely,

**Iain A J McKie.**