

The Scottish Parliament

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE

Mr Allan J Bayle
Independent Fingerprint Consultant
77 Great North Way
Hendon
London
NW4 1 PT

Room 5.22
Parliamentary Headquarters
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

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Dear Mr Bayle

THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT - SUBMISSION OF PUBLIC PETITION - PE544

As you are aware, at its meeting on 8 October 2002 the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee considered the petition that you submitted on 20 September 2002.

The Committee acknowledged the petition's obvious link to the Shirley McKie case and noted the Parliament's decision in May 2002 not to debate a related motion on the basis that the content of the speeches could be considered to breach the sub judice rule, given that civil action concerning the case was before the courts. The Committee agreed to seek further legal advice in relation to the Parliament's sub judice rule.

The Committee also agreed that it would be appropriate to seek the Executive's initial comments on the more general issues raised by the petition. On receipt of this response and further legal advice, the Committee will then take a decision as to whether there is any merit in further detailed consideration of the petition taking place and reach a view as to whether such action should be deferred until the civil litigation is concluded.

I will write to you again once further legal advice has been sought and a response from the Executive has been received and considered by the Committee.

A copy of the Official Report of the meeting will be available on the Scottish Parliament website (www.scottish.parliament.uk) from Thursday 17 October 2002.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Franck David
Public Petitions **Team**

Telephone: 01 31 348 5197 Fax: 01 31 348 5088
E-mail: franck.david@scottish.parliament.uk