

**Chief Constable Michael Baxter,  
Cumbria Police HQ  
Carleton Hall  
Penrith  
Cumbria CA10 2AU**

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

**17 May 2003.**

Dear Chief Constable.

Thank you for your comprehensive reply to my letter of 7 April.

I note what you say and am encouraged that you are obviously aware of serious problems to be addressed and that steps are being taken to focus on some of these issues.

While I acknowledge you have no brief to interfere with past cases in Scotland or England it appears that you agree that there are lessons to be learned.

I reiterate my strongly held belief that until fingerprinting is taken away from Police control and taken under the wing of the Forensic Science Services errors will continue to be made. The police culture and philosophy rightly supporting 'the fight against crime' will continue to threaten the scientific objectivity of forensic experts.

As offered I remain willing to take part in any private or public discussions on these matters and to contribute what I can to an important ongoing debate.

Yours sincerely,

**Iain A J McKie**