

**Mr I Latimer
Chief Constable
Northern Constabulary
Headquarters
Old Perth Road
INVERNESS IV2 3SY**

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

25 May 2004.

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Dear Mr Latimer,

I refer to recent correspondence in 'The Herald' and to replies you sent to members of the public who wrote to you on my daughter's behalf.

In these letters you state:

'...it is in the best interests of everyone that public confidence in the integrity and professionalism of the Scottish Police Service is demonstrated in a transparent and open manner. This is perhaps not best achieved by regular correspondence within the columns of newspapers such as The Herald who would appear to have a less than objective editorial position. Whilst, if appropriate, I will take the opportunity to rebut and refute ill-informed and unsubstantiated allegations, I am constrained by the ongoing civil litigation.'

Please do not feel constrained Mr Latimer.

Once again I feel insulted by your statements. In your 'Herald' letter you appeared to insinuate that perhaps Shirley was 'guilty' after all. Now you insinuate that my letter to the 'Herald' might contain 'ill-informed and unsubstantiated allegations.'

In the spirit of your plea for transparency and openness I would appreciate confirmation by return that such interpretations are wrong, that you accept Shirley was rightfully unanimously found 'not guilty' and that my comments in the 'Herald' were not 'ill-informed and unsubstantiated.'

Perhaps you would also like to read over the attached 'Statement of Facts' that I have distributed and point out any 'ill-informed and unsubstantiated allegations'.

If I do not hear from you within 7 days I will assume that the insinuations made in your letters were in fact allegations and take action as appropriate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish any further information to help you make a decision in these matters. If I have made any 'ill-informed and unsubstantiated allegations' please be assured I will apologise as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

**Iain A J McKie
Encls:**