

## **'5' DAYS TO GO**

**After 9 years the moment is almost upon us and Shirley and our family approach Tuesday's hearing in the Court of Session with very mixed feelings.**

**Satisfaction** that at last those we believe to have contributed to Shirley's nightmare will have to raise their right hand and swear to speak, *'the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.'*

**Disappointment** that no-one in the **Scottish Executive** had the courage, integrity or honesty to take action to prevent **Shirley** from undergoing yet more trauma. Once again our leaders are using her to sort out a mess of their own making. For years they have procrastinated and failed to act in the face of overwhelming evidence that something was very far wrong within the **SCRO and the Scottish Justice System**.

Even with unprecedented support from the media, fingerprint experts worldwide and the Scottish public our leaders fumbled around caught in the headlights of public opinion unwilling or unable to take decisive action that would bring the debacle to an end. Freedom of Information documents revealed just how they dithered as civil servants creatively flooded them with ever more ingenious ways of avoiding responsibility.

Statistics from <http://www.shirleymckie.com> reveal the greatly increased interest in the case as the hearing approaches. Yesterday we reached a new daily high of nearly **300 visitors**. It is clear that interest in the hearing is not confined to fingerprint experts

We continue to be amazed at the public knowledge of the case within and without Scotland. It is also clear that many among this increasing audience across the world believe that Shirley's case has revealed serious flaws in the previously much respected **Scottish Justice System** and see it as out of touch and in need to urgent restoration.

The sad fact is that the **Scottish Executive** is spurning the opportunity to learn by its mistakes and help create a **Scottish Forensic Service** second to none. For this to happen however old ideas and cultures require to be challenged and system change enforced. That the introduction of a **non-numeric system** of fingerprint identification provides the perfect vehicle for this appears to be lost on those with the power to effect change.

Meanwhile back in the real world witnesses from across the globe fly into Scotland to present their evidence. We have complete faith in them and the **Scottish Courts** to reveal the truth.

Using the words of **Robert Burns** one of Shirley's supporters neatly sums it up

*'...facts are chiels that winna ding' –*

**The truth will out!!**