

'Curiouser and Curiouser!!'

Following last week's posting on, *'The Peter Swann' letter – who circulated it?* some interesting responses have been noted.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/ThePeterSwannletter8.6.05.pdf>

This week replying to MSP Alasdair Morgan's parliamentary questions about the circulation of the **'Peter Swann' letter** the Lord Advocate stated.

'The letter referred to was not copied to anyone outwith the Scottish Executive. I understand that the author of the letter was responsible for its public release and circulation.'

'The Scottish Executive did not publicly release the letter referred to. I understand that the author of the letter is responsible for its release. There is therefore no basis for an inquiry into this matter.'

He also appeared to deny that a copy of the letter was sent to SCRO.

Independently David Russell Mr Swann's solicitor has been in touch to claim total responsibility for the circulation saying.

'I note that you are seeking to establish the involvement of the Lord Advocate and others in the circulation of what you term to be the Peter Swann letter. At the risk of spoiling yet another Conspiracy Theory, I am pleased to assist. In this connection, I attach letter dated 28 May to the Lord Advocate, Colin Boyd QC. You are, of course, at liberty to post that communication on shirleymckie.com or to forward it to The Law Society, as you see fit.'

The attached letter does indeed absolve the Lord Advocate for any responsibility in the circulation.

These responses of course beg the question that I posed last week.

'While I can understand Mr Russell circulating the 'Peter Swann' letter it would be interesting to know if others were involved in the circulation of a letter addressed to the Lord Advocate that is highly critical of the Lord Advocate and contains untruths, inaccuracy, unsubstantiated innuendo and defamatory comments. Was the Lord Advocate's permission obtained for its circulation by other than Mr Russell? If not what was the motivation?'

From some fascinating confidential responses to my request for information on the circulation of the 'Peter Swann' letter it appears as if the initial circulation was indeed made by Peter Swann's solicitor as he has freely admitted. Interestingly however circulation within Scotland to the individual fingerprint units based outside of Glasgow and to other agencies appears to have been made by senior executives within the SCRO/Scottish Fingerprint Service.

If this is true it raises all sorts of questions about the circulation by public officials of letters written to the Lord Advocate or any other member of the Scottish Executive containing highly critical and defamatory documents about a range of private and public individuals and agencies.

Once the accuracy of this information has been thoroughly checked it will be passed to the relevant authorities for their information and comment.