

Fresh evidence in fingerprint storm

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FRESH evidence is to be made public today which it is claimed could have prevented the six-year ordeal of a ex-policewoman wrongly accused of perjury.

Supporters of Shirley McKie, who was accused of leaving her fingerprints at a murder scene, claim they will show how vital evidence was presented to police before her perjury trial but ignored.

Ms McKie was accused of perjury after what was claimed to be her thumbprint was found in a room of a murder scene in 1997.

She stood trial but was acquitted after expert American fingerprint witnesses gave evidence that the print was not hers.

The case led to an overhaul of the fingerprinting system but the Scottish Criminal Records Office refuses to admit it got it wrong.

Now campaigners to clear Ms McKie's name claim leading criminal psychologist Professor Colin Espie gave the police information in 1997 which would have cleared her then.