Judicial Review update

Despite months of promises there is still no official word on the judicial review.

My understanding is that the commitment to it is still strong and that all the administrative procedures to establish it have been completed. A parliamentary announcement should be made by the Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill within two weeks.

This will be one of the first real tests of just how determined the new Scottish Government is to effect real change in Scotland.

This is the first time that it will have been asked to challenge the legal establishment and show that the expressed intention to move Scotland forward is more than empty rhetoric.

Controversy surrounds what the remit will be.

- Will it give in to pressure from the Lord Advocate and allow the Crown Office to escape scrutiny? Will the reasons why Colin Boyd gave the SCRO experts immunity from prosecution be probed?

- Will the possibility of criminal actions by police/experts be examined?

- Will it allow for a real analysis of the political failings that allowed the case to drag on for ten long years?

- Will it enquire why Strathclyde Police refuse to re-open the Marion Ross murder enquiry when the fingerprint evidence against David Asbury has been so comprehensively disproved?

- Will it probe the Lockerbie connection?

To date I have reserved judgement on the new administration's integrity and honesty preferring to believe that undertakings given by Alex Salmond and others were given in good faith.

As time passes however it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain this stance and unless we have a broad ranging enquiry with the power to examine every aspect of the case under oath I will have no option but to re-consider my decision to support it and give evidence.