

As a core participant at the Fingerprint Inquiry I have until now shunned the opportunity to comment on Inquiry matters and feel that I must take care not to compromise myself or the Inquiry. I believe, however, that its findings will in the final analysis reveal the truth of what has happened over the past 13 years and I would do nothing to damage that aspiration.

Yesterday's treatment of Pat Wertheim at the Inquiry when he was falsely accused of conspiring with myself and the IAI against Martin Leadbetter and Peter Swann and then of perjury in relation to his evidence at Shirley's trial in 1999 must however must be commented on.

See extracts at:

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/Microsoft Word Pat extract 24 9 09.pdf>

I am utterly ashamed that someone who year after year has travelled to our shores in the cause of justice should be treated in such a disgusting fashion. As a Scot I personally apologise for the abuse and false accusations he has suffered and can assure him that I will do everything in my power to reveal them for the lies they are.

For three days Pat gave impeccable testimony that at times was a master class in the science of fingerprinting and evidence giving. He was able to show conclusively that prints 'Y7' and 'Q12' were erroneously identified and show up the poverty of the opposing evidence.

See full transcripts at:

<http://www.thefingerprintinquiryScotland.org.uk/inquiry/1261.221.html>

Not being able to challenge him on grounds of his expertise they desperately attacked his honesty and integrity. The truth is of course that those who vilify Pat could not lace his boots. Like all bullies they are frightened cowards who fear the truth above all else. Having

being allowed to hide away for years they are, through testimony like Pat's, being flushed out and at last being forced to face the consequences of their actions.

While I feel I cannot say more at this juncture I would like to assure Pat that the many issues arising from yesterday are being vigorously pursued. For now my wish is to personally apologise to Pat and thank him for the dignified personal stand he has made over the past decade.