

SCRO AND PETER SWANN – ‘A STATEMENT’

Peter Swann, a Fellow of the Fingerprint Society, was the first independent expert engaged by Shirley’s legal team in 1998 to examine the SCRO fingerprint productions. He concluded that the SCRO experts were correct in their identifications. Subsequently his conclusions and those of SCRO were **totally discredited** by a series of independent HMIC, police and other enquiries and by the international fingerprint community.

In the face of **world condemnation** neither the SCRO nor Peter Swann has ever admitted they were wrong as the recent circulation of a 14 page letter, sent to the Lord Advocate by solicitor **David A Russell of Towlers Solicitors Wakefield** on behalf of Peter Swann, dramatically proves.

Because it is an **inaccurate, intemperate, insulting and defamatory document** it is published on this website in good faith to show the unbelievable lengths these experts are prepared to go to discredit Shirley, myself and anyone seen as even remotely aligned to her cause. Despite the debate now having moved on to why the SCRO and Peter Swann got it wrong, their motivation in doing so and why they will not admit their errors the SCRO and Mr Swann insist in fighting long lost battles.

This latest letter is by any standards an incredible document that provides a fascinating insight into just how far SCRO and Peter Swann will go to justify the unjustifiable. Some of its statements are given below, without comment. In their extraordinary boldness they speak for themselves, but not in the way Mr Swann intends. Inter alia the letter states that :

- *‘Mr. Swann is probably the most experienced Fingerprint Consultant operating in Great Britain, and he has an unblemished reputation for honesty and professionalism when providing Expert Testimony.’*
- *‘You (the Lord Advocate) have thereby given an open platform to foreign Fingerprint Experts and, indeed, Internet Experts who repeatedly attack fingerprint standards in the UK in circumstances where they would not be offered employment, even to clean the toilets at SCRO’.*
- *Indeed..... yesterday, yet another Member of the Scottish Parliament crawled out from under his stone to put down the following Question in the Scottish Parliament.’*
- *(Referring to a speech by the Lord Advocate). That was a spineless speech in which you were doing nothing more than pandering to the McKies and currying favour with the media in Scotland.*
- *Consequent upon the false allegations promulgated by Shelley Joffre and her Team, as well as the McKie Campaign, (the Lord Advocate) acquiesced in the suspension from employment of all four SCRO Fingerprint Experts.’*
- *‘In Scotland, of course, the two “victims” are portrayed as Shirley McKie and David Asbury. However, nothing could be further from the truth. The victims are the family and friends of Marion Ross and the four named Experts within SCRO.’*
- *‘One of the McKies’ “tame” MSPs. Michael Russell has openly published allegations of “Perjured Evidence” on the part of the SCRO employees.’.*
- *‘Members of the Scottish Parliament have repeatedly sought to serve the interests of the McKie Campaign and at the same time, have undermined and damaged the Administration of Justice in Scotland and the international reputation of Scottish Fingerprint Experts.*
- *‘As stated, CRFP and the McKies have done everything in their power to prevent any Public Hearing before the Disciplinary Tribunal or Disciplinary Tribunal Chairman, so as to avoid disclosure by Mr. Swann.In the circumstances, the disclosure of Mr. Swann’s Expert Evidence in respect of the McKie fingerprint is now in the public interest.’*

- *'I deeply regret your (the Lord Advocate's) failure to fully support and defend the SCRO Fingerprint Experts. Those Experts have, at all times, acted with the utmost integrity, professionalism and unparalleled competence.'*
- *'You have allowed a number of third rate, publicity seeking MSPs to attack the SCRO employees, both abusing their positions in the Scottish Parliament and through highly defamatory statements published by the media.'*
- *'I am not prepared to accommodate what is clearly some form of alliance between the Crown Office and the McKies.'*

Without dignifying this letter with a detailed response lets examine its central claims:

- **'THAT SHIRLEY AND IAIN MCKIE HAVE TRIED TO GAG MR SWANN':**

Transpose the word **'expose'** for 'gag' and my motive for complaining to the Fingerprint Society and the CRFP is revealed. My common agreement the actions of SCRO and now Mr Swann continue to bring fingerprinting into disrepute. **Now thanks to our campaign they have been exposed and honest experts can see the lengths to which they will go to defend the indefensible.** Mr Swann's existence has been well known since before Shirley's trial in 1999. He was not called for her trial. He has been interviewed on several occasions by Crown Office and police representatives. He has never been called as a witness in any criminal or civil proceedings. His identity has **not** been hidden as is shown in this extract from the statement I gave to the major Police criminal enquiry in 2000.

See: <http://shirleymckie.com/documents/Statement-ExtractreSwan.pdf>

- **'THAT MR SWANN'S EVIDENCE IS CREDIBLE':**

The key issue in this debate is that **it has been proven beyond doubt that the fingerprint identifications of Shirley McKie and Marion Ross were wrong.** Nothing in Mr Swann's letter alters these facts that have been acknowledged by experts worldwide, by the Minister for Justice and Lord Advocate in Scotland, in the Chief Inspector of Constabulary's report by his international experts and in the report of the major Police Enquiry recommending prosecution of the SCRO experts. **The SCRO experts and Mr Swann are wrong that is the simple and inescapable truth.**

See: <http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/FingerprintFacts3.pdf>

- **'THAT THE MCKIES ARE IN A CONSPIRACY WITH THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, LORD ADVOCATE, CROWN OFFICE, MEDIA, CRFP. AND WORLD EXPERTS AGAINST THE SCRO AND MR SWANN**

As the biggest critics of the Scottish justice system and with Shirley presently suing the Scottish Ministers, amongst whom is the Lord Advocate who heads the Crown Office, this is indeed the conspiracy theory to end all conspiracy theories.

The covert circulation of this letter by Peter Swann and senior personnel in Scottish fingerprinting smacks of desperation. They have scored a spectacular own goal.

In saying that the hundreds of experts who have testified to the Shirley McKie and Marion Ross errors are wrong Mr Swann and the SCRO stand alone and accused. To save their own reputations they appear willing to condemn, insult and undermine the work of fellow experts.

SCRO and Peter Swann allege they want the truth to be known. Their wish will be granted next year in the Court of Session when they will be required to 'speak the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.' I look forward to that moment.

I will be happy to respond to bone fide individuals who wish clarification on specific points. I will publish my replies on this website.

Iain A J McKie
21 May 2005