

Saturday Media: 29.4.06

The Scotsman: 'A tough call'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=641032006>

The Scotsman: 'Quick fingerprint fix'

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/letters.cfm?id=640282006>



Last Updated: Friday, 28 April 2006, 21:09 GMT 22:09 UK

Spring brings votes and harsh words

By John Knox

BBC Scotland political reporter

Much of the political fission this week was created in the committee rooms.

The justice committee began its inquiry into the Shirley McKie affair, or more properly, the future of the Scottish Fingerprint Service.

The head of the service, Ewan Innes, revealed the astonishing fact that more than a third of the staff still believe Ms McKie's fingerprint was correctly identified.

This is despite the fact that the official line is that there was "an honest mistake". Ms McKie was cleared in court and recently given £750,000 in compensation.

Arie Zeelenberg, an international fingerprint expert from Holland, who has seen the print for himself, told the committee it was "pretty easy" to establish it was not Ms McKie's.

"I think what happened was that there are five similar points on the print but if you look in detail, they are not exactly the same and there was a conviction leap," he said.

He then went on to suggest there was a cover-up.

Another expert, Bruce Grant from the Metropolitan Police, said he had never known such a dispute over a fingerprint in his 35 years service. It was all very disturbing.

Such evidence does not augur well for the 25-point reform plan outlined for the fingerprint service by



The justice committee began its inquiry into the Shirley McKie affair

deputy chief constable David Mulhern.