



Wed 4 Oct 2006

Insightful McKie analysis

Once again, in a penetrating and insightful analysis, Lord McCluskey lays bare the poverty of the Scottish Executive's arguments against a judicial enquiry into the Shirley McKie fiasco. (Law & Legal Affairs, 3 October)

The ongoing parliamentary enquiry, despite the best efforts of some of its members, is and always has been a totally unsuitable vehicle to explore the important justice and constitutional issues the case has thrown up.

Hastily conceived to appease the storm of condemnation falling about the Executive's ears following on my daughter's settlement, the inquiry has failed to follow its own remit and has become mired in conflicting evidence and lies. Unwilling to use its powers to place witnesses on oath, vital witnesses were not called and the crucial evidence of those who were was often truncated to satisfy ridiculous time limits placed on the deliberations.

Once again, justice was allowed to play second fiddle to political expediency. As Lord McCluskey says: "The Lord Advocate is traditionally the watchdog for justice; he is the only one we have." Sadly, the Lord Advocate, far from being the "watchdog for justice" now stands accused of being the politicians' poodle.

I, my daughter and one of my sons all spent many years as police officers serving the justice system. What a waste if that precious jewel were to continue to be emasculated by narrow personal and political interest.

The question for each and everyone of us as another election approaches is: Where do we find the politicians with the insight and vision to reverse this damaging process?

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