

## [www.shirleymckie.com](http://www.shirleymckie.com) Growth and development

Given that this site is a specialist 'justice' one its growth has been steady if not spectacular.

From our '**Freedom of Information**' requests it seems that it is required reading in some areas of government, the SCRO and the UK fingerprint community. We only wish that our openness was mirrored by these authorities.

A snapshot of one day this week shows that the site is regularly attracting between **700 and 1,000 visits** weekly from all over the world.

	<b>Num</b>	<b>Perc.</b>	<b>Country Name</b>	
▼	78	78.00%	United Kingdom	
▼	13	13.00%	United States	
▼	3	3.00%	Israel	
▼	3	3.00%	Australia	
▼	1	1.00%	China	
▼	1	1.00%	Ireland	
▼	1	1.00%	Canada	

This consistent interest is gratifying given that preparation for February's Court of Session hearing has taken up most of our energies.

It is our intention to keep the site going until all the issues surrounding Shirley's case are tackled and resolved. We suspect and certainly hope that the authorities have some '**master plan**' in place and ready to launch after the civil hearing is completed. Let's hope that it allows for an admission of past mistakes and clear evidence that lessons have been learned.

No matter the outcome it would certainly make a great deal of sense if they took the opportunity offered by the change over to a **non-numeric system** of fingerprint identification to draw a line under the past and ensure that all SCRO experts received the necessary re-training by outside independent trainers. This training could take account of the issues thrown up by Shirley's case and ensure a new start for this beleaguered organisation.

Historically part of the SCRO problem has been their often limited contact with the outside world and a certain arrogance that they know best. To date little evidence can be found of any great change to this culture and we await news that the **Grampian experts** so vilified for having challenged **SCRO** have received the backing from their managers and trade union that they deserve.

While we feel a great deal still remains to be revealed about the **Brandon Mayfield Case** there is little doubt that the SCRO could learn from the FBI's early admission of their errors. This helped reduce the impact on Mr Mayfield, the FBI experts and the fingerprint profession. See **Department of Justice Report**:

<http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/special/s0601/final.pdf>

MSP Alex Neil's latest questions to the Minister for Justice can be viewed at:

<http://www.holyrood.tv/library.asp?title=General%20Question%20Time&section=52>  
(Click on General Question Time 12/01/2006)