

12 May 2006

- **My apologies for so few updates over the past months but since Shirley's settlement things have become even more hectic as the government cover-up has continued.**
- Proof of this was seen in the refusal by the **Justice Minister Cathy Jamieson** to allow a judicial enquiry. Widely criticised by many people across Scotland, including many legal luminaries, the decision came as little surprise to those aware of just what the **Scottish Executive** and **Crown Office** have to hide. The subsequent gagging order put on the major police enquiry report submitted by Deputy Chief Constable **James MacKay** and the two fingerprint reports prepared by expert **John McLeod** only served to underline the desperation of the Executive to keep the truth from coming out.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/TuesdayMedia7.3.06.pdf>

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=609422006>

- While welcome, the eventual establishment of a **Parliamentary Enquiry** by the Justice 1 Committee in the Scottish Parliament does not diminish the need for a Judicial Enquiry but will perhaps lead to some further clarity and recommendations for stabilising a **Scottish Fingerprint Service** riven by dispute.
- Last month an '**Action Plan for Excellence**' developed by the interim Chief Executive of the Scottish Police Services Authority **David Mulhern** and his three man team of fingerprint experts – **Arie Zeelenberg** Senior Fingerprints Advisor to the Dutch National Police, **Danny Greathouse**, Department of Homeland Security in the USA from the FBI and **Bruce Grant** from the Metropolitan Police – was published. The **Mulhern Report** in addition to confirming the SCRO and its supporters had **misidentified** the 'Shirley McKie print' outlined **25 'action points'** aimed at facilitating the integration of the Scottish Fingerprint Service into the new **Scottish Forensic Service**.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/FinalisedActionPlan-20April2006.pdf>

- It is clear that for this Action Plan to have any hope of success the Enquiry must root out the reason for the mistakes, recommend appropriate action against those responsible and develop an appropriate **structure** and **culture** within which the Mulhern 'action points' can take effect.
- In **January** we reported, *'It was 9 years ago this month that Marion Ross was brutally murdered. As the evidence against **David Asbury** disappears like snow melting in the spring sunshine it is possible that her killer or killers are still on the loose? **Are we the only ones that find that possibility frightening?'*** Requests to **Strathclyde Police** to re-open the murder enquiry in the light of new evidence of a major suspect, subsequently convicted on another brutal murder of an elderly lady, have been met with total refusal. **Yet another reason why a Judicial Enquiry must be held.**

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/Sun28.2.06.pdf>

- It is now **16 months** since Iain submitted a **Freedom of Information** request to the Scottish Executive and SCRO and still no decision on the release of over 1000 documents. Although the matter is now with the **Information Commissioner Kevin Dunion** the Executive shows no sign of relenting and appears to be sticking to its mantra that release would be '**not be in the public interest**'. One thing is clear that release would not be in the Executive's interest which is very different from the 'public's'
- **Some important dates:** BBC Panorama '**Fingerprints in the dock**' – 22.15 hours **Sunday 21 May.**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/panorama/default.stm>

Parliamentary Enquiry – Shirley and Iain McKie give evidence – 14.00 hours **Tuesday 23 May.**

<http://www.holyrood.tv/committee.asp>

- Meanwhile thanks as ever for the continuing **messages of support**. In response to them a **major independent initiative** will be launched in the next few weeks to force a **judicial review** of the Executive's decision not to allow a Judicial Enquiry.