

24 January 2006

- As an **American expert** commented yesterday, “*It just gets crazier and crazier, doesn't it.*” He was of course commenting on the weekend revelations by **Liam McDougall** in the ‘**Sunday Herald**’ that following the release of a secret report commissioned by the Crown Office it has been discovered that the SCRO experts made a **third mistake** in their original identification work in the Marion Ross murder enquiry. Two senior **Danish experts** had flown to Scotland in 2000 and came to this conclusion after examining all the fingerprint evidence against David Asbury. The stark reality now staring us in the face is that not only did the SCRO experts get the ‘**Shirley McKie**’ and ‘**Marion Ross**’ ‘idents’ wrong but they had erred in identifying ‘**David Asbury’s**’ print on a banknote found in his home.
<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/SundayHerald22.1.06.pdf>
- This information came hot on the heels of a hearing in the **Court of Session** last week when the legal team for the Scottish Ministers appeared before **Lord Hodge** and argued for the exclusion of certain evidence during next months hearing. They wanted the hearing to be confined to enquiring into the actions of the **4 original experts** who had made the identifications in 1997 and objected to **two further supervising experts** being included. In addition they asked that evidence about the ‘**third mistake**’ be ruled as not relevant to the proceedings. After hearing from Shirley’s QC and deliberating overnight his lordship **rejected** these arguments.
- Iain has a meeting next week with a representative of the **Scottish Information Commissioner Kevin Dunion**. This follows the refusal of **1000+ documents** by the Scottish Executive, SCRO and the police. The main thrust of his appeal is that contrary to the authorities claims that release is ‘**not in the public interest**’ it is very much in the public interest to know exactly what went on during the Marion Ross murder enquiry and over the following 9 years. From the revelations to date about hidden reports it appears as if his argument is sound.
- We have now had **10 independent enquiries** into the actions of the SCRO experts, including a major police enquiry lasting several months. Each and every time the conclusions have been that they were wrong in some or all of their identifications.
- Is it too much to expect that those who have doubted ‘Shirley McKie’ for so many years might now admit to themselves that something is seriously wrong or will heads continue to be buried in the sand. We can but contrast the SCRO behaviour with that shown by the **FBI** in the ‘**Brandon Mayfield**’ case. A mistake was made, it was revealed and the experts put their hands up and admitted the error. A process that took a few weeks. That we are now **9 years** with no admissions is truly remarkable and must place a severe question mark over the motives of those involved.
<http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/special/s0601/final.pdf>
- 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?**
- Thanks as ever for the messages of support for Shirley. We end with one of the many from serving police officers:

“My attention has recently been drawn to your website.....I would like to pass on my simple message of support to Shirley and all those involved in trying to right this very sorry mess.

I am a serving officer from(Scotland) and at the beginning of Shirley's nightmare I could not believe their treatment of one of our officers. I am now a bit older and wiser and have seen and experienced how.....(the police) can behave and treat its members. Sadly, I am no longer proud to be a police officer with

.....I wish you all the best at the forthcoming hearing at the Court of Session. I will be watching for any news coverage. I hope that justice is done and that some day soon Shirley can rebuild her life. With very best wishes.”
- We look forward to hearing from you at : justiceforshirley@btinternet.com