

www.shirleymckie.com: 'That was the week that was.'

7 August 2006

- This is one of an occasional series over the summer to keep readers up to date.
- The next major event will be the resumption of the **Parliamentary Enquiry** in September. It is believed that witnesses like **David Mulhern**, whose Action Plan for the future of the Fingerprint Service is being developed, and **James MacKay** author of the damning '**MacKay Report**' will be recalled to give evidence.

An excellent **SCRO Enquiry home page** has been created and can be found on the Scottish Parliament website. It shows clearly how the enquiry has developed to date.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/justice1/ScottishCriminalRecordOfficeInquiryHomepage.htm>

- Last month after continuous pressure from the media and from the enquiry members for the release of the 'MacKay' report the **Lord Advocate** was forced to act. In a statement the Crown Office revealed that "*The Lord Advocate made an offer to the Justice 1 committee that he would provide them with a synopsis of the report.*" What such a synopsis will contain remains to be seen but of course with the full summary report readily available on the BBC website members will be able to fill in the blanks.

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=1017342006>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4967160.stm>

- Political pressure is growing for a **judicial enquiry** and already there are commitments for such an enquiry after next year's election. Most commentators believe that the current enquiry report will pose more questions than reveal answers.
- Recent research at Southampton University by **Itiel Dror** and fingerprint expert **David Charlton** has been receiving ever increasing publicity and is generally seen as shedding new light on the factors affecting experts (from all forensic disciplines) in their work. Surprisingly the greatest **opposition** to their work has come from within the fingerprint profession from some high profile supporters of SCRO who see the research as somehow supportive of Shirley and against the SCRO. While I believe the research has underplayed the effect of **culture** on experts (a major player within SCRO) it can easily be developed in this respect. Anything that sheds light on mistakes and helps retain fingerprinting as a **major crime prevention and detection tool** must be a positive thing. The dinosaurs in the profession have had their day and must either move on or be left far behind.

<http://www.clpex.com/> 'Why experts make errors' and other debates

<http://www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/~id/Times%2031%20July%2006.pdf>

- This weekend saw further proof of MSP **Ken MacIntosh's** myopic view of the world. Instead of lifting his voice in support of a judicial enquiry he continues to bury his head in the sand and deny reality.

<http://www.sundayherald.com/57105>

- Thanks as ever for the continuing **messages of support**.