

21 May 2006

- **BBC Panorama ‘Fingerprints in the dock’ – 22.15 hours Sunday 21 May.**

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

- As the next phase of hearings at the Parliamentary Enquiry approached the Justice 1 Committee posted all the submitted evidence on the parliamentary website this week.

These submissions were published under parliamentary privilege and contained unsupported defamatory material aimed at Shirley and Iain and various fingerprint experts, government ministers and organisations.

In the calling notice issued by the committee for evidence to be submitted to the enquiry the following statement was made,

‘Typically, the Parliament will not publish defamatory statements or material. If we think your submission contains defamatory material, we will typically return it to you with an invitation to resubmit it without the defamatory material. If the evidence is returned to us and it still contains defamatory material, it cannot be considered by the committee and we will have to destroy it.’

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/justice1/inquiries/scro/j1-scro-call.htm>

(5th para. from end)

Iain has written to Pauline McNeill convener of the Justice 1 Committee and the parliament’s Presiding Officer expressing his concern at this action but making it clear that no objection is taken to the actual statements of fingerprint experts no matter what side they are on.

In particular he has drawn attention to the unsubstantiated lies of a named witness, who will not be a witness at the enquiry, who referred to gossip that Shirley had been allowed into the house by a police officer ‘who fancied her. These ‘rumours’ were initially circulated by senior police officers in 1997 before the Asbury trial to discredit Shirley and were shown to be untrue at Shirley’s trial.

While the enquiry has shown remarkable constraint and balance to date it is a matter of concern if lies, gossip and innuendo that has no relation to the enquiry remit is to be allowed publication without review and challenge.

Iain has written to the Justice 1 Committee requesting that all witnesses are put on oath throughout the enquiry.

http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/enquiry submissions link_000.pdf

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/letters.cfm?id=742642006>

- On a lighter note **Michael Marra’s song ‘I am Shirley McKie’** has been broadcast a number of times and is receiving good reviews.

Michael is donating the income from sales to the ‘**fighting fund**’ for a Judicial Enquiry that will be launched shortly.

<http://www.shirleymckie.com/documents/NewCDsingledownload.pdf>

Some important dates:

- **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.