

The Law Society

Correspondence was started with the Law Society in May of 2003 drawing attention to the deficiencies identified at SCRO by the various enquiries that followed Shirley's acquittal in May 1999.

I concluded my first letter of 16 May :

'The reality is that while this position remains and no matter what happens in the current civil actions being brought by Ms McKie and David Asbury, all fingerprint evidence is totally discredited, is clearly unreliable, unsafe and should not be admissible in the Scottish Courts.

I would appreciate your undertaking that you will bring this position to the notice of your members and issue a memorandum giving guidance on action to be taken when fingerprint evidence is offered by the prosecution or defence in Scottish Courts. I would also request that you contact the relevant authorities to highlight your concern and that of your members that the continued refusal of SCRO to resolve this position in line with world opinion only serves to threaten those seeking justice in our courts and deny society of a valuable forensic identification tool.'

I received a reply from the Law Society to my third letter on **5 December 2003**:

'Thank you for your letter of 5 November. I can confirm that I will place this before the Criminal Law Committee when it next meets and revert to you thereafter.'

To date – nearly one year later- I have not received a reply.

It seems to me that attempting to engage the Law Society in considering important issues is a time consuming and ultimately frustrating experience.

I have reproduced all the correspondence below so that readers can judge for themselves.