

McKie link to Lockerbie?

By Euan Duguid



■ Iain McKie

THE FATHER of Shirley McKie says he is "desperately intrigued" to learn whether his daughter suffered a miscarriage of justice to avoid derailing the original Lockerbie prosecution.

Last night Iain McKie stressed he wants the imminent judicial inquiry into his daughter's case to probe any alleged link to the Lockerbie trial.

Mr McKie said, "The more I look at it, the more I'm convinced Shirley was a remote, innocent victim of Lockerbie and the rush to convict.

"Remember, her trial came about at the same time they were bringing al-Megrahi to trial.

"Crucially, there was a need to keep the Scottish forensic system whiter than white and, of course, Shirley was challenging that."

Ms McKie, a former policewoman wrongly accused of leaving her fingerprint at a murder scene in 1997, received £750,000 in compensation early last year after being cleared of perjury in 1999.

However, it was claimed in reports that David Grieve, a US fingerprint expert who helped clear her, was asked by the FBI to keep silent before the Lockerbie trial began.

Mr McKie added, "I want the judicial inquiry to ask, was there any Lockerbie link? I think if they don't investigate this issue, or if they're not

able to because of any ongoing legal process, this could be a failure for any inquiry."

Last night the Scottish Government declined to comment on any alleged link between the two cases but an insider close to the inquiry said, "There is absolutely no connection between the McKie fingerprint case and the Lockerbie bombing and a serious judicial inquiry will not look into conspiracies."

A Scottish Government spokesman said, "The Scottish Government is committed to establishing a public judicial inquiry. We intend to do so under powers conferred by the Inquiries Act 2005.

"As soon as the justice secretary is in a position to do so he will make a full statement to Parliament."