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### **Fingerprint staff backed by UNISON**

UNISON, Scotland's public service union, today threw its weight behind the result of the independent committee, who found that the six fingerprint staff suspended and restricted for 20 months pending investigation of the Shirley McKie trial case had no case to answer.

Kath Ryall, UNISON's Regional Officer for Strathclyde Police support staff, said, "We are pleased that our complete confidence in the competence and integrity of these six members has finally been vindicated. It is regrettable that they have been under this cloud for so long. We now think a line should be drawn under this affair, and our members should be allowed to return to the job they do so well, in the most appropriate way."

The Independent Committee who were set up to look specifically at this case to ensure the staff were treated fairly, found that the four members who were suspended and the two who were removed from operational duties had no issues of misconduct, or lack of capability, to answer.

Kath Ryall said "These members have had their work scrutinised by independent experts both before and after this case and in both inquiries they returned a 100% accuracy rating. We do not believe that the competence and integrity of these experts should continue to be called into question after yet another investigation has found that they have no case to answer."