

28 May 2009

The Fingerprint Inquiry announces start of oral evidence hearings

The public inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the Shirley McKie fingerprint case will begin hearing evidence next week at Maryhill Community Central Hall, Glasgow.

The Fingerprint Inquiry, chaired by Sir Anthony Campbell, was set up to look at the steps which were taken to identify and verify the fingerprints associated with the case of HM Advocate v McKie in 1999. The Inquiry will determine the consequences of steps taken, report on findings of fact and make recommendations.

The Inquiry Chairman will open the hearings at 10.30am on Tuesday 2 June.

In his opening remarks the Chairman will provide information about the likely programme of Inquiry hearings and the normal daily timetable. Senior Counsel to the Inquiry will then make an opening statement which will include a public presentation of the material that the Inquiry has collected. The statement is expected to continue into Wednesday 3 June.

There will then be an opportunity for opening statements from legal representatives of core participants and any core representative who is unrepresented, followed by any submissions.

It is anticipated that the Inquiry will sit from Tuesday 2 June - Thursday 4 June for these purposes.

The Chairman will begin hearing oral evidence on Tuesday 9 June at 10.15am.

The Inquiry website www.thefingerprintinquiryscotland.org.uk will be updated throughout the Inquiry with hearing transcripts, key documents and a timetable for witness hearings.

Notes to Editors

1. The hearings will start on Tuesday 2 June at 10:30am at Maryhill Community Central Hall, 304 Maryhill Road, Glasgow, G20 7YE.

2. Oral evidence hearings will also be held at Maryhill Community Central Hall. Timings for future hearings will be announced on the Inquiry website in due course.
3. Media wishing to attend the hearings will be required to register daily after 9am at the Inquiry office at 308 Maryhill Road. Further information about the Inquiry can be found in the media pack at: www.thefingerprintinquiryscotland.org.uk
4. Sir Anthony has agreed to permit broadcasting of his introduction at 10.30 on Tuesday 2 June. There will then be a short interval for broadcasters to remove their equipment before Inquiry Counsel begins his opening statement.
5. The Fingerprint Inquiry is a public inquiry set up under the Inquiries Act 2005. Its terms of reference are:
 - To inquire into the steps that were taken to identify and verify the fingerprints associated with, and leading up to, the case of *HM Advocate v. McKie* in 1999.
 - To determine, in relation to the fingerprint designated Y7, the consequences of the steps taken or not taken.
 - To report findings of fact and make recommendations as to what measures might now be introduced, beyond those that have already been introduced since 1999, to ensure that any shortcomings are avoided in the future.

For assistance with media enquiries, please contact:

Media contact

Elise Clayton

Account Manager

Barkers PR

Tel: 0141 248 0451

Mob: 07970 198511

Email: press@thefingerprintinquiry.com