

**Roddy Dunlop QC's reply to the first complaint made via email.**

Dear Mr Muirhead

Thank you for your letter of complaint. I reject this in its entirety, as lacking in any reason or sensible basis.

Addressing your "complaints" in turn:

***"We believe that no one in Scotland has ever had a fair trial. The primary reason for this is that Scotland's judges lack independence and impartiality."***

This is, with respect, nonsense. "No one in Scotland has ever had a fair trial" is an allegation that need only be stated to be seen to be entirely baseless.

***"The complaint is that you have failed in a) your duty to your clients to inform them of this; and b) your duty to the court and the public to raise this issue."***

I am not sure how you claim to know what I have told my clients, but it would certainly be correct for you to deduce that I have never told a client of mine that "No one in Scotland has ever had a fair trial". The reason I have never told a client that is that it is not true, and I do not lie to clients. By the same token, I have never raised with the court, or the public, something that is to my certain knowledge and belief specious and untrue.

***"The Fair Trial Project contends that your failure to disclose a) the lack of open justice created by the exclusion of the public from the courts during the coronavirus pandemic; and b) the lack of independent and impartial tribunals is criminal and civil fraud."***

The courts have done what they can to keep operating during the pandemic. The judiciary has been at pains to allow access to the courts. If you have a specific example of being denied access to a virtual hearing you should raise a complaint with SCTS. I have no power in that regard.

I do not believe that there is a lack of independent and impartial tribunals. I am aware of no evidence whatsoever to that effect. That being so, I have nothing to "disclose", to anyone.

*"One example, where you failed in your duty to disclose relevant matters to your client, and raise these matters with the court, is the recent contempt trial of Mr Craig Murray. At this trial you failed in your duty to disclose your links to Lady Dorrian. This is fraud.*

*You know that Lady Dorrian is a non-practising member of the Faculty of Advocates and that you are the Dean of Faculty."*

I am not sure to whom you claim I failed to "disclose" my "links" to Lady Dorrian. All three Members of the Bench are non-practising members of the Faculty of Advocates. They are all aware that I am Dean. I cannot conceive what it is that you think I should have declared, but I reject as utter nonsense the suggestion that this amounts to "fraud". I note your concerns about the state of Scotland's prisons. Plainly, I cannot help there. I am not responsible for whoever may be sent to prison, or why they may be sent there, or what may happen when they are there.

I have been made aware of the website of the "Fair Trial project". I note that this appears to be a registered charity. I will consider whether or not the one thing I should be disclosing is the ridiculous content of your letter to OSCR for its consideration. In the meantime, the various allegations contained therein are, again, complete nonsense, and rejected in their entirety.

Please treat this email as a complete and firm rejection of your complaint, in its entirety. You are now free to take this to the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission (SLCC) and indeed, as you threaten, the police. Lest you do not have the details of the SLCC, you will find information as to how to make a complaint at <https://www.scottishlegalcomplaints.org.uk/your-complaint/start-your-complaint/>

Regards

Roddy Dunlop QC

Dean of Faculty