

## Report in relation to Operation Cleopatra

Operation Goldfinch was commenced by South Wales Police on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1997 and concerned the physical and sexual abuse within institutional establishments within the force area.

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 1997 and 15<sup>th</sup> December 1997 media coverage invited ex-residents of the homes to contact a helpline to detail their allegations.

As a result, [RO-A1] (DOB: [DPA]) contacted the helpline and made an allegation of abuse at Cambridge House Children's Home, Rochdale. That abuse taking place between 1965 and 1968.

In March 1998 a request to further investigate these claims was received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) from their counterparts in South Wales. This investigation came under the umbrella of Operation Cleopatra which appears to have been a concurrent investigation conducted by GMP. (See below)

In summary [RO-A1] stated that he was given a "medical examination" by Sir Cyril Smith following his placement at Cambridge House, Rochdale. (Cambridge House was a children's home in the 1960's.) "Upon reflection", he thinks that the circumstances were "abusive" due to the fact that Mr Smith touched his bottom and testicles. He was resident between 1965 and 1968 and says that this was an isolated incident. He adds that in 1969 he was approached by the local Rochdale police following a press article into the Children's Home. (See below)

It is apparent from the papers submitted that in February 1970 an earlier investigation was carried out by the Lancashire Constabulary into allegations of indecent assault committed by Sir Cyril Smith. (Operation Cleopatra) That related to allegation of abuse which took place between 1961 and 1966. The complainants in that matter were 6 young men resident at Cambridge House, Rochdale with each detailing incidents of "medical examination" undertaken by Mr Smith which they believed were inappropriate and involved sexual touching. In addition, two further males, [RO-A51] and [RO-A67] who were unconnected with Cambridge House, described being inappropriately touched by Mr Smith.

By way of perspective, it is noted that at that time that Mr Smith was "*widely recognised as the most powerful single individual in the town of Rochdale*" and it is against that background that the police investigation was undertaken.

That investigation was submitted to the DPP, who in March 1970 advised that there was no realistic prospect of securing a conviction; therefore, no prosecution took place. It would appear that Mr Smith was verbally informed of this decision by the police.