

5. The Registry was the Section in the Department which received all incoming mail/cases referred by the Police. In my time at the DPPs office the cases were registered into files, numbered with unique numbers, divided into Divisions that were based on the Police forces of England and Wales and sent to the relevant Assistant DPP.
6. The Divisions were West (W); East (E); South (S); Police (P) which dealt with complaints against police officers. The Metropolitan Police was divided into two Divisions: Central (C) dealt with cases from New Scotland Yard and Met (M) which dealt with cases from the Met Divisions. Fraud (F) dealt with fraud cases from all the police forces. There was also Research (R).
7. All cases were put into buff coloured files except for police (blue) and murder (pink). The latter for historical reasons when the offence carried the death penalty. The reason being all staff (from messengers to lawyers) had to give priority to pink files.
8. All mail not attached to a case would be sent to the relevant Assistant Director in boxes having been date stamped by Registry. Lancashire Police would be in West Division.
9. When Sir Thomas became DPP Assistant Directors were known as Assistant Secretaries which was a civil service grade. Sir Thomas approached the Home Secretary, whose responsibility it was under the then legislation, to make them Assistant DPPs, which gave them the same powers as the DPP under the legislation.
10. I believe that having made those enquiries Frances contacted the journalist making the enquiry to confirm that the DPP did hold a file but saying that "this is going to take some time." I do not remember whether Frances referred in her telephone call to the file being in the Registry or that it was a closed file.
11. Frances told me about the call when I returned to the Department the following day. I then identified from the Registry record that there was a file and it had been archived. I spoke to Sir Thomas about bringing the file up from the archive. He said no. He did not say why he did not want me to retrieve the file.
12. Prior to becoming DPP Sir Thomas was Deputy Treasury Solicitor and had also worked at the Law Officers' Department where he would have served many Attorneys-General and Solicitors-General. Sir Thomas did not appear surprised or curious about the file. I therefore got the impression that he knew about the issues surrounding Cyril Smith. The issue was new to me.
13. As a result of this enquiry from the press, we began a policy of only commenting on ongoing cases. The standard line that we took was that we do not comment, except for ongoing live cases. As Frances would not have given this standard line to the press when she spoke to them, following my discussion with Sir Thomas at his request I made contact back to the journalist to give the new standard response i.e "We do not comment, except for ongoing live cases." I cannot remember what I told Sir Thomas about what Frances said to the press. I did not say that there was not a file. The junior