

From: MRS M E HEDLEY-MILLER

28 April 1988

*Blind copy to*

*Walter Wilson /*

*Spice Today*

SECRET

*See note at end.*

**DPA**

HONOURS IN CONFIDENCE

**DPA**

SIR ROBIN BUTLER *37/4*

*11/5/88*

We spoke about

Cyril Smith,

proposed for Knight Bachelor for his political services.

2. I attach copies of the relevant pieces from the Rochdale Alternative Press and Private Eye.
3. The PHSC might have taken the view that the fact that the Press might stir up adverse comment on the announcement of a K for Mr Smith was enough to justify what I might call a "Warning of risk" letter from them to the Prime Minister.
4. I have now consulted the Committee. They feel that
  - if there is fire under this smoke, they would probably not wish to sign a certificate giving their go-ahead for a K.
  - if it is all rather baseless, then "let the press do its worst", but the Prime Minister need not be prevented from giving an honour where this is due.
5. They would accordingly wish:
  - (i) to see the Lancashire police report to the DPP
  - (ii) to know what lay behind the DPP advice that there was no reasonable prospect of conviction. Did they mean that

/Mr Smith was probably

- 1 -

HONOURS IN CONFIDENCE

CAB000008\_012

SECRET

HONOURS IN CONFIDENCE

Mr Smith was probably innocent? Or merely that he probably was not innocent but that the evidence was nevertheless not such as to stand up in court?

6. So they would like further information, which I ~~would~~ have to invite you, please, to help me to obtain.

I am very ignorant about the ways of the Director of Public Prosecution, but I hope that a letter on the lines of the attached draft would be appropriate.

*MHM*

MRS M E HEDLEY-MILLER

*Lt Robert Butler wrote to DPP  
9 May 1988 with DPP  
file, copy only.*

*No copy here. He held a meeting on  
1 was present. A record is in L R Butler*

*As Green found that the papers were missing, though enough record had been kept,  
including the DPP letter to the Home Office. There had been 8 boys who made  
allegation, 6 of whom were from the home. They made similar allegations: these could  
conceivably have been collusion. Mr Smith made a blanket denial in a written  
statement, and avoided all detailed questions on specific cases.  
These also went into the matter, as the DPP found the evidence 'stale' and  
unreliable. A more precise phrase (with date) that memory was 'faded'*

- 2 -

HONOURS IN CONFIDENCE