

[Redacted]

SIP 2745

Correspondence to this address must be under double cover. The outer envelope should be addressed to The Secretary PO Box 500 [Redacted] and not to any individual



*Spence M. Y  
See at  
17/88*

PO Box 500

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

*will dictate*

15 April 1988

CABINET OFFICE  
A 4070  
18 APR 1988  
FILING INSTRUCTIONS  
FILE No. ....

*Dear Robin,*

[Redacted]

2. There is no security information in our possession which suggests that Cyril SMITH is an unsuitable person to receive an honour. You should however be aware that in 1970 he was the subject of an investigation by the Lancashire Constabulary in connection with allegations of indecent assault against teenage boys. The allegations related to the period 1961 - 1966 when Mr SMITH was on the Rochdale Town Council and acted as Secretary to a committee administering a hostel for boys. Mr SMITH denied the allegations and the DPP, to whom the Lancashire Constabulary sent their papers, advised against prosecution on the grounds that there was no reasonable prospect of conviction.

3. The details of the allegations eventually surfaced in the press: first in the Rochdale Alternative Press in 1979 and then in Private Eye on 11 May 1979. In 1982 following a break-in at the offices of the Sun, police enquiries revealed that the Editor had a copy of the police report of 1970 to the DPP. It would be reasonable to assume that other newspapers also possess the report though of course it is difficult to judge whether any of them would be prepared to publish reports of the allegations if Mr SMITH received an honour.

*Yours truly*

**DPA**

P J Walker

Sir Robin Butler KCB CVO  
Cabinet Office

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