



## Home Office

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Mr Adrian Searle  
[request-46559-80f920df@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-46559-80f920df@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our Ref 16060  
Date 07-10-2010

Dear Mr Searle,

Thank you for your request to the Home Office in which you asked for access to the file HO 45/25408 which contains information on Dorothy Pamela O'Grady; which is listed on the National Archives' website as 'misplaced while on loan to government department'.

I am sorry to inform you that despite a very thorough search, we have been unable to locate the file.

Our records indicate that the Home Office requested loan of this file from the National Archives (TNA) for review purposes and was received on 28 February 2006. It is likely that it was needed to help us decide on whether other files should be preserved at TNA, and if so, whether they should be opened to the public from the time of transfer. Our records also indicate that it was returned to the National Archives on 08 June 2006. However it was later apparent that the file never reached its destination and following a thorough search on both sides, TNA have listed the file as being 'misplaced while on loan to government department'. This is an unfortunate and rare event.

As is sometimes the case items can become get misplaced during transfers. Our experience shows that files can become placed accidentally inside another file. When this happens it is only the outside file cover that has its movements recorded and any misplaced file can be sitting within one of several files that get transferred on a daily basis. Misplaced files recovered as 'host' files are eventually retrieved and the misplaced file then comes to light. I realise that this will be of little compensation to you but do apologise for being unable to respond positively to your request.

Our procedures for the recall and return of TNA files have been reviewed to reduce the risk of such a situation arising in future as much as possible. File searches do continue, however, and should this misplaced file come to light, as I hope, then we will notify you and assess whether it can be released.

I fully understand that you will be disappointed with this response. I am very disappointed myself that this file has been misplaced. It is clearly regrettable that information deemed to be of sufficient importance to warrant permanent preservation has been misplaced, and that it has not been seen since 2006.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Gomes', with a stylized, cursive script.

John Gomes  
Information Rights Team