

Briefing Note: Police Handling of COVID-19 Vaccine-Related Reports

Introduction

This briefing outlines the evidence suggesting that UK police forces, under guidance from the NPCC and Operation Talla, were directed to avoid recording, investigating, or responding substantively to public complaints regarding alleged harm caused by the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

1. Directives Discouraging Crime Recording

Internal NPCC communications confirm that efforts were made to prevent police forces from formally recording vaccine-related complaints. One email from 14 February 2022 stated: 'Guidance to not record has been a success,' referencing a deliberate strategy to suppress case creation across police systems.

2. Strategy of Reclassification and Dismissal

Reports from members of the public were routinely reclassified as 'anti-vax conspiracy' communications. Pre-approved public statements were prepared to dismiss such reports as misinformation, regardless of the content or source. These actions effectively blocked due process and dismissed concerns without investigation.

3. Operation Talla's National Coordination Role

Operation Talla provided centralised command over COVID-19 policing policy. Its role extended to pre-emptively categorising complaints against the vaccine programme as unlawful, associating dissent with extremism and public disorder. Complaints were redirected to public order units rather than CID or safeguarding officers.

4. Senior Officer Commentary

Senior officers, including DAC Jane Connors and ACC Owen Weatherill, made statements explicitly rejecting the validity of vaccine harm complaints. Connors stated there was 'no evidence' of wrongdoing, while Weatherill described these actions as 'not lawful protest' and framed them as threats requiring policing intervention.

5. Use of 'No Crime' Designations

One of the most concerning elements is the rapid issuance of 'no crime' letters, even when complainants submitted extensive evidence, including medical documentation. This was coupled with templated media lines downplaying any need for inquiry. Such conduct sidesteps the duty to assess criminal allegations impartially.

Conclusion

The effect of NPCC strategy, internal guidance, and coordinated messaging ensured that no substantive investigations were undertaken. This briefing concludes that these actions undermined lawful reporting processes and were contrary to the public interest.

Ethical Approach UK

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