

To:

- (1)National Police Chiefs' Council
- (2)Metropolitan Police Directorate of Legal Services
- (3)Judicial Office

Date:

7 May 2026 at 15:56

Dear Sir / Madam

**Re: Was His Honour Mr Justice Poole Told the Whole Truth? -
Evidential Notice and Public Interest Analysis**

Please find attached a recently published public-facing analysis document titled:

“Was His Honour Mr Justice Poole Told the Whole Truth?”

The document examines, by reference to primary-source documentary, a number of evidential and constitutional questions arising from the handling of Metropolitan Police Crime Reference Number 6029679/21 and the wider operational context in which associated policing activity occurred.

This particular analysis focuses upon:

- the role of the Metropolitan Police Service;
- the handling and escalation of CRN 6029679/21;
- Operation Talla command and coordination structures;
- national dissemination pathways;
- the apparent involvement of Metropolitan Police Directorate of Legal Services personnel;
- and the apparent tension between public/legal representations and contemporaneous documentary material.

The document does not allege judicial impropriety. Rather, it examines whether the factual picture presented publicly and/or within legal proceedings may have been materially incomplete when viewed alongside subsequently discovered primary evidence.

The publication forms part of a wider and continuing evidence-led forensic investigation into Operation Talla policing activity, associated command structures and related institutional handling processes across the United Kingdom.

The evidential body presently held includes, inter alia:

- official disclosures;
- contemporaneous policing records;

- witness material;
- Freedom of Information responses;
- operational communications;
- command-level meeting records;
- and associated policy and governance documentation.

Given the nature of the issues identified, recipients are requested to ensure that this correspondence and attached publication are brought to the attention of all relevant legal, disclosure, governance, professional standards, operational command and record-retention functions as considered appropriate.

Recipients are further requested to ensure the continuing preservation of all potentially relevant records, communications, operational documents, briefing materials, legal advice, decision logs, emails, disclosure material, meeting records and associated metadata relating to:

- Operation Talla;
- CRN 6029679/21;
- related national coordination activity;
- and any associated operational handling frameworks.

Further communication will follow in due course.

Yours faithfully

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK

Was His Honour Mr Justice Poole Told the Whole Truth?

An evidence-led analysis of primary evidence

Author: Ian Clayton

Date: 7 May 2026

Introduction

In 2023 and 2024, the courts were repeatedly told that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) did not conduct an investigation into Crime Reference Number 6029679/21.

That position became central to the legal narrative surrounding the handling of allegations submitted to the MPS in December 2021 concerning matters connected to the UK Covid-19 response and vaccine programme.

However, a growing body of disclosed material now raises an obvious and unavoidable question:

Was His Honour Mr Justice Poole provided with the full factual picture concerning the handling, assessment, coordination and national dissemination of the matter?

This paper examines that question by reference to primary-source material presently available in the public domain.

It focuses specifically upon:

- the Metropolitan Police Service;
- the handling of CRN 6029679/21;
- the involvement of senior policing structures;
- the dissemination of information nationally through Operation Talla structures;
- and the apparent contradiction between public/legal representations and contemporaneous documentary evidence.

This is not an allegation of judicial wrongdoing. Rather, it is an examination of whether the factual account placed before the court was materially incomplete.

The Official Position

The essential public-facing position advanced by policing bodies was straightforward:

- a crime reference number was generated;
- material was reviewed;
- no criminal investigation was undertaken;
- and the matter was closed.

This position became highly significant legally.

Why?

Because if no investigation existed, then many of the legal obligations and scrutiny mechanisms ordinarily associated with criminal investigation could potentially be avoided.

The distinction between:

- “a report being assessed”; and
- “an investigation”

therefore became absolutely central.

The documentary evidence now available paints a far more complex picture.

The Immediate Metropolitan Police Response

The chronology surrounding CRN 6029679/21 is important.

The report was submitted to the MPS in December 2021.

Almost immediately:

- a Crime Reference Number was generated;
- the matter was categorised internally;
- and internal handling processes commenced.

Critically, subsequent disclosures indicate that:

- the matter was rapidly elevated beyond ordinary local handling;

- senior national policing structures became aware of it;
- and discussions concerning it occurred at national level.

This alone substantially weakens the simplistic narrative of a trivial or casually dismissed complaint.

The 12 January 2022 NPCC Meeting

One of the most significant disclosed documents is the NPCC Chief Constables' Council material relating to 12 January 2022.

The meeting included senior policing leadership from across the United Kingdom.

Attendees included figures associated with:

- the NPCC;
- Operation Talla;
- national policing coordination;
- and the Metropolitan Police Service.

Importantly, Sir Stephen House, a former Chief Constable of Police Scotland and later Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police sat within this senior policing environment during the relevant period.

The disclosed material records discussion surrounding attempts by members of the public to submit criminal allegations connected to Covid-era issues.

The material also records discussion regarding the need for a “*clearer steer*”.

This is an extraordinarily important point.

Why?

Because it demonstrates that the matter was not being treated merely as an isolated local complaint. Instead, it had already become a subject of national operational concern.

The Operation Talla Structure

Subsequent evidence from Deputy Chief Constable Alan Speirs confirms the existence of a highly integrated national policing structure operating throughout the pandemic under Operation Talla.

Speirs confirms:

- Police Scotland participated fully within NPCC structures;
- there were UK Silver Covid meetings;
- Operation Talla Gold and Silver meetings existed;
- and those meetings were chaired by Martin Hewitt and Owen Weatherill respectively.

This is highly significant because Owen Weatherill later became directly associated with national

communications relating to the handling of reports connected to CRN 6029679/21.

The Weatherill Communication

On 18 January 2022, ACC Owen Weatherill circulated a national communication to Chief Constables and Force Duty Gold.

This occurred only days after the 12 January discussions.

The significance of this timing cannot be overstated.

By this point:

- the Metropolitan Police had already received the CRN;
- the matter had already entered senior policing discussions;
- and national operational communications were now being disseminated.

The idea that CRN 6029679/21 remained merely a local, inactive, non-investigative administrative event becomes increasingly difficult to reconcile with the emerging documentary trail.

The Speirs Directive

On 25 January 2022, Assistant Chief Constable Alan Speirs issued the now infamously well-known Police

Scotland directive concerning Covid/vaccination-related reports.

Subsequent Police Scotland FOI responses stated that this directive was issued:

“on the advice of the National Police Chiefs’ Council and UK Gold Command.”

That statement is profoundly important because it appears to connect:

- national policing coordination;
- Operation Talla structures;
- and the handling stance toward Covid-related criminal allegations.

The timeline matters:

- MPS receives CRN 6029679/21.
- Senior national discussions occur.
- National communications follow.
- A formal directive is issued within Police Scotland.
- Frontline officers later cite that directive when refusing to receive material from members of the public.

This sequence creates the appearance of coordinated operational positioning.

The Metropolitan Police Directorate of Legal Services (DLS)

One of the most significant aspects of the disclosed material concerns the apparent involvement of the Metropolitan Police Directorate of Legal Services (DLS).

Internal communications indicate that legal personnel within the MPS became involved in the drafting and approval processes associated with the eventual closure response.

This is critically important.

The more extensive the internal legal handling becomes:

- the less credible it becomes to characterise the matter as insignificant;
- and the harder it becomes to maintain that no meaningful investigative or evaluative process occurred.

At minimum, the evidence demonstrates:

- legal sensitivity;
- reputational sensitivity;
- and senior institutional awareness.

The Core Contradiction

The core contradiction can now be stated plainly.

The public and legal narrative broadly suggested there was no investigation.

Yet the evidence now demonstrates:

- generation of a CRN;
- internal categorisation;
- intake of evidence;
- national senior-policing discussion;
- Operation Talla coordination;
- dissemination of national communications;
- legal services involvement;
- and eventually, what was intended to be a structured closure reasoning.

The question therefore becomes unavoidable:

What exactly was taking place, if not some form of investigative or evaluative process?

This is especially important because courts rely heavily upon accurate factual characterisation when determining public law and procedural issues.

Why This Matters Constitutionally

This issue extends beyond any single CRN.

It goes to the constitutional integrity of policing accountability itself.

If:

- nationally coordinated operational positions existed;

- reports were filtered or discouraged;
- and courts were presented with materially incomplete descriptions of the underlying handling reality,

then serious public-interest questions arise.

Those questions include:

- whether the judiciary received the full factual matrix;
- whether national coordination structures were sufficiently disclosed;
- and whether distinctions between “assessment” and “investigation” were being used artificially to avoid legal consequences.

The Central Question

This paper does not assert that His Honour Mr Justice Poole acted improperly - Judges can only assess the material placed before them.

The documentary record which continues to emerge however, raises a legitimate and serious public-interest question:

Was the court shown the complete operational and institutional picture surrounding CRN 6029679/21?

Because if:

- senior national discussions occurred;
- national operational guidance followed;

- legal directorates became involved;
- and coordinated handling structures existed,

then the simplistic formulation of:

“there was no investigation”

may not represent the whole truth.

In matters touching constitutional accountability, policing integrity and public confidence, completeness of truth matters profoundly.