To:

(1)Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner
(2)Avon and Somerset Police Professional Standards Department

Date: 24 November 2026 at 19:40

Dear Ms Fox and Avon and Somerset Police Professional Standards colleagues

Re: Published public-interest analysis - Katherine MacBean's complaint, PCC Review and Operation Talla - HC/CO/2691/26

I attach my paper, *"Institutional Evasion of Covid-19 Related Policing Responsibilities"*, published today, 24 November 2026, in the public interest.

The paper examines Katherine MacBean's complaint, her application for review and the review outcome issued by Sally Fox under reference 2564544.

It also considers the relevance of the separate explanation provided to me by Martin Smith, Solicitor to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry, on 23 October 2026.

Its central concern is precise: Katherine asked whether Operation Talla guidance influenced Avon and Somerset Police's refusal to accept, record or progress allegations she attempted to report in 2022. The review outcome expressly recognises that question, but neither answers it nor demonstrates how the alternative process relied upon would do so.

The paper addresses the distinction between examining the merits of the original allegations and accounting for the police decision to refuse them.

It examines the identified lines of enquiry, the treatment of the review grounds and the absence of a demonstrated handover to another body accepting responsibility for answering the complaint.

It also identifies the misattribution to regulation 6 of the Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2020 of the six circumstances listed in the review letter.

I am copying this communication to Mr Smith because the paper considers his explanation of the Inquiry's functions alongside the reliance placed upon the Inquiry in the handling of Katherine's complaint.

The paper distinguishes those institutional positions and does not suggest that Mr Smith determined her complaint.

The public interest concerns the practical operation of police accountability: whether a person seeking an explanation of a policing decision receives a substantive answer, or is directed elsewhere without an established route to one.

No response to this email is requested. It places the published analysis directly before the institutions and individuals whose correspondence it examines.

Should any recipient consider that the paper requires a factual correction or material qualification, they are welcome to contact me, identifying the relevant passage, the proposed correction and the evidence supporting it.

Any such material will be considered carefully and any correction shown to be necessary will be made to the published record.

Yours sincerely

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK

Email: ethics@ethicalapproach.co.uk

cc:

(1) Katherine MacBean, Complainant

(2) Martin Smith, Solicitor to the UK Covid-19 Inquiry

(3) UK Covid-19 Inquiry

Attachment:

Institutional Evasion of Covid-19 Related Policing Responsibilities