

To: Legal Services, Cheshire Constabulary

Cc: Professional Standards, Cheshire Constabulary

Date: 27 May 2026 at 19:43

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Evidence Preservation and Retention Notice -
Operation Talla Related Communications**

I write in the public interest and for the purpose of placing Cheshire Constabulary formally on notice regarding the preservation and retention of material relating to Operation Talla.

I am sighted of official evidential material which confirms the existence of substantial internal communications held by Cheshire Constabulary relating to Operation Talla during the relevant Covid-19 operational period.

In light of:

- the increasing constitutional and public-interest significance of these matters;
- ongoing scrutiny relating to Operation Talla;
- the possibility of future legal, regulatory, parliamentary or public-interest examination;
- and the clear evidential importance of contemporaneous operational communications,

this correspondence now constitutes formal notice requesting the preservation and retention of all potentially relevant material.

Accordingly, Cheshire Constabulary is requested to preserve and retain all communications and associated records relating to:

- Operation Talla;
- Operation Talla Gold Command;
- Operation Talla Silver Command;
- crime-recording guidance;
- and any operational, strategic, or dissemination activity arising from national Covid policing coordination.

This request extends to, but is not limited to:

- emails;
- attachments;
- memoranda;
- briefing notes;
- meeting minutes;
- command briefings;
- Teams messages;
- internal messaging platform communications;
- audit logs;
- dissemination records;
- metadata;
- deletion records;
- retention-policy records;
- archived material;
- backup systems;
- and locally held electronic or hard-copy material.

For the avoidance of doubt, this notice is not an allegation that Cheshire Constabulary has destroyed or improperly handled evidence. Rather, it reflects the increasing and obvious evidential significance of the material now known to exist within Cheshire Constabulary systems.

It is therefore requested that no potentially relevant material be:

- deleted;
- altered;
- overwritten;
- purged;
- migrated without preservation safeguards;
- or otherwise rendered unavailable,

pending the conclusion of ongoing private investigation external to policing and any related future processes.

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this notice.

Yours faithfully

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK