

**To: Durham Constabulary**

**Date: 10 August 2026 at 03:42**

Dear DS Wells

**Re: Formal Complaint - Durham Constabulary - Submitted 10 August 2026**

Further to your email of 7 August 2026, I write to confirm that I have now submitted my formal complaint concerning Durham Constabulary through the normal submission channels.

For completeness, I attach to this email a copy of the complaint and evidential submission as lodged.

The document addresses, amongst other matters, Durham Constabulary's handling of my December 2023 report, its subsequent referral to the Metropolitan Police Service and the significance of documentary evidence which has since emerged concerning Operation Talla, national policing coordination and related matters.

I have copied this correspondence to PC Amanda Cousins of the Metropolitan Police, given the evident areas of potential relevance to matters presently being considered by the Metropolitan Police.

I have also copied the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee and the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee, as I consider it appropriate that both Committees are sighted on the submission, given the wider policing, public-administration and institutional issues raised by the documentary evidence.

I consider the Parliamentary notification particularly important given Parliament's previous examination of police crime-recording practices, including the evidence presented by former Metropolitan Police officer James Patrick in 2013.

The present complaint raises materially relevant questions concerning the recording and non-recording of alleged crime, albeit in a different factual and operational context. Against that background, I consider it appropriate that Parliament should be sighted upon evidence which may bear upon an issue it has previously considered to be of significant public and institutional importance.

Separately, I intend to contact the investigating officer at the Information Commissioner's Office in order to establish whether

she requires sight of the complaint. I do not propose simply to assume that she does; however, the subject matter of the ICO investigation presently concerning Durham Constabulary is directly relevant to issues addressed within my complaint, including the existence, preservation and availability of records relating to the matters in question.

I appreciate that the complaint is necessarily substantial. It has been prepared in that form because a considerable documentary record has now accumulated and I have sought, so far as reasonably possible, to distinguish carefully between established fact, evidential inference and matters which I submit require investigation.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge safe receipt of this email and its attachment.

I shall, of course, cooperate fully with the complaints process and provide any further material or clarification which may reasonably be required.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kind regards

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK

cc:

(1) PC Amanda Cousins (MPS)

(2) HoC Home Affairs Committee

(3) HoC PACAC