

From: DCC Alan Speirs, Police Scotland

To: Ethical Approach UK

Date: 12 January 2026 at 12:43

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Mr Clayton

Thank you for your email of today's date.

Please be advised that you have our position and we do not intend to engage any further on this matter.

Regards

Alan Speirs KPM

Deputy Chief Constable

Professionalism & Enabling Services

**Gillian Stewart**

PS Gillian Stewart

Staff Officer to DCC Speirs KPM

DCC Professionalism and Enabling Services

Police Scotland Headquarters

Scottish Police College

Tulliallan Castle

Kincardine

FK10 4BE

From: Ethical Approach UK

To: DCC Alan Speirs, Police Scotland

12 January 2026 at 12:31

Dear DCC Speirs

Thank you for your email of today, 12 January 2026.

I note your clarification that the internal publication of 25 January 2022 does not, on its face, state that the approach taken by Police Scotland was issued on the advice of the National Police Chiefs' Council or UK Gold Command. I do not dispute that narrow point.

However, for the avoidance of doubt, the issue I have consistently raised is not one of wording within the intranet publication itself, but one of provenance, authority and consistency of account across official disclosures.

Police Scotland has previously made formal disclosures stating that the decision to issue the 25 January 2022 instruction was taken following advice and engagement at national level.

Separately, disclosures made by the NPCC and by other UK police forces describe contemporaneous national coordination, communications and agreed handling positions in relation to the same subject matter. Those disclosures are not confined to the text of the intranet publication, but address the upstream basis upon which local operational guidance was issued.

It is against that wider evidential background that the present difficulty arises.

Statements asserting that no national advice or blanket position existed sit uneasily alongside multiple official disclosures indicating that guidance, coordination and agreed approaches were in fact communicated nationally and acted upon by forces, including Police Scotland.

Accordingly, the point requiring clarification is a simple one, as follows:

Does Police Scotland maintain that the prior disclosures stating that the 25 January 2022 instruction was issued following national-level advice and engagement accurately reflect the position at the time?

This is not a request for further interpretation of the intranet publication, nor a challenge to your characterisation of its immediate purpose. It is a request for confirmation as to whether Police Scotland stands by the accuracy of its own earlier disclosures when viewed alongside disclosures made by national policing bodies and other UK forces.

I would be grateful to receive confirmation of Police Scotland's position on this point.

Yours sincerely

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK

From: DCC Alan Speirs, Police Scotland

To: Ethical Approach UK

Date: 12 January 2026 at 11:09

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Mr Clayton,

I refer to your further correspondence of 25 November. Whilst there is reference to the position of the NPCC in the intranet publication of 25 January 2022, nowhere is it

stated in that publication that the approach taken by Police Scotland was on the advice of the NPCC and the UK Gold Command. The Police Scotland position on the matter is as outlined in the publication of 25 January 2022 and my email correspondence of 18 November 2025 to you.

I trust that this clarifies the position.

Regards

Alan Speirs KPM

Deputy Chief Constable

Professionalism & Enabling Services

From: Ethical Approach UK

To: DCC Alan Speirs, Police Scotland

19 November 2025 at 12:55

Dear DCC Speirs

Thank you for your email of 18 November 2025, the content of which is noted in full.

It is, however, additionally noted that points I raised in my email of 20 September 2025, addressed to the Chief Constable, are not addressed within your response.

For completeness, I refer your attention to the content of the following video, which is relevant to the matters raised:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/1e90oAtJoz0?si=s4MDN1Ppvmrx6Xc3>

Please be advised that our independent investigations remain underway at this time.

Regards

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK

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From: DCC Alan Speirs, Police Scotland

To: Ethical Approach UK

Date: 18 November 2025 at 14:46

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Mr Clayton

*I refer to your email correspondence of 20<sup>th</sup> September relating to the publication of a statement on 25 January 2022 concerning anti-vaccine related activity by members of the public. This statement was published on the internal Police Scotland intranet which is accessible to all police officers and members of police staff.*

*The statement was published as a result of a number of incidents having taken place across the UK where members of the public had sought to intimidate and serve papers on staff and volunteers working in settings related to the COVID-19 vaccine. The purpose of the statement was to provide guidance to officers and staff in relation to the handling of such incidents. The statement advised that the Metropolitan Police Service had received a complaint relating to the UK's vaccine programme, however, had been clear that nothing had been found to suggest any offences or grounds for investigation. The statement further advised that the National Police Chiefs' Council had also said that it does not believe any of the papers which had been "served" had any legal standing. As such the advice to officers and staff was that should they be approached by any person requesting assistance in respect of such matters these should be rejected.*

*This did not preclude officers from dealing with credible criminal complaints and there is no evidence to suggest that legitimate criminal reports were filtered out as a result of this guidance. As this was a purely operational matter there was no consultation with the Scottish Police Authority.*

*I trust this overview is helpful.*

*Regards*

***Alan Speirs KPM***

***Deputy Chief Constable***

***Professionalism & Enabling Services***

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From Ethical Approach UK

To: Chief Constable, Police Scotland

cc:

(1) Scottish Police Authority

(2) Criminal Justice Committee (Scottish Parliament)

(3) COPFS

Date: 20 September 2025 at 22:10

Dear Chief Constable

## **Open Email Re: Operation Talla/Speirs Directive: Public Interest Fact-Finding under Scottish Law**

### **Context and purpose**

This is an open email sent in the public interest. It seeks clarity, not via FOI procedure, but in fulfilment of Police Scotland's statutory commitments to transparency, accountability and public confidence under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

On 25 January 2022, an instruction (the "Speirs Directive") was issued within Police Scotland telling staff to reject public reports relating to COVID-19 vaccination as crimes and to record them as SID (Operation Norden) and CVI (Operation Talla) entries instead. In correspondence disclosed by Police Scotland, the directive is described as having been published "on the advice of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and UK Gold Command."

In September 2025, however, the NPCC has asserted that there was no blanket national instruction and suggested that forces retained local discretion.

Two mutually exclusive accounts now exist. Either Police Scotland acted on genuine NPCC/UK Gold advice (in which case the NPCC's present position is inaccurate), or Police Scotland staff were misdirected internally (in which case the Scottish public was denied proper access to criminal investigation. Either outcome is constitutionally serious.

## **Why Scottish law is engaged**

Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012: imposes duties on the Police Service of Scotland to improve the safety and wellbeing of persons, maintain order and secure public confidence; the Scottish Police Authority must hold the Chief Constable to account for the policing of Scotland.

Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (and common law): where allegations of crime are made, investigative

steps must be taken according to law; operational policies cannot fetter officers' discretion to consider the merits of reports on a case-by-case basis.

Human Rights Act 1998 / ECHR: Article 6 (effective access to justice) and, where allegations touch on risks to life, Article 2 procedural duties.

Administrative law (Scotland): blanket rules that pre-decide outcomes unlawfully fetter discretion.

A directive instructing officers to reject whole categories of public complaint on sight is prima facie incompatible with these duties. If the NPCC now says "no blanket policy existed," then Police Scotland officers may have been misled, with nationwide consequences for the people of Scotland.

**Public-interest questions (non-FOI; for immediate clarification)**

## **1. Provenance**

Did Police Scotland issue the 25 January 2022 instruction on the basis of authentic, written advice from NPCC/UK Gold Command?

If so, please identify the advice (date, author, document title/identifier) and confirm whether Police Scotland still holds it.

## **2. Legal basis**

What legal analysis under Scottish policing statute, ECHR and administrative law supported an instruction to reject vaccine-related reports as crimes rather than assess them on their merits?

Was the Scottish Police Authority consulted or informed?

### **3. Scope and dissemination**

To which divisions/units was the instruction promulgated? Was any exemption allowed where credible criminal complaints were presented?

Were officers informed that their discretion remained unfettered notwithstanding the directive?

### **4. Review and remedy**

Has Police Scotland conducted an internal review to ascertain whether legitimate criminal reports were filtered out by the instruction?

If so, what outcomes and remedial steps (e.g., re-assessment, victim re-contact, referral to COPFS) have followed?

If not, will you now commission a review (with SPA/HMICS oversight) and publish terms of reference?

## **5. Record keeping and preservation**

Have all relevant policy emails, command logs, briefings and intelligence submissions (SID/CVI/Op Talla) been preserved for oversight scrutiny and any future judicial proceedings?

## **6. Public communication**

Given the potential nationwide impact, will Police Scotland publish a public statement explaining (a) whether NPCC/UK Gold advice existed and (b) what corrective measures are being taken to restore public confidence and access to justice?

### **Why a reply matters**

If the NPCC's current position is accurate, Police Scotland officers were misdirected and the people of

Scotland suffered a wholesale denial of proper assessment of criminal complaints. If the NPCC's current position is inaccurate, then national leadership outside Scotland is rewriting history and undermining accountability.

Either way, public confidence in policing by consent is at stake. The SPA and HMICS have clear roles in safeguarding that confidence; COPFS must be aware of any systemic impediment that affected the flow of criminal reports and evidence.

I respectfully request your substantive response within 14 days, addressing the numbered questions above. This is not an FOI request; it is an exercise in public-interest oversight and a good-faith opportunity for Police Scotland to clarify the position, protect the public and uphold the law.

Yours faithfully

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK

cc:

(1) Scottish Police Authority

(2) Criminal Justice Committee (Scottish Parliament)

(3) COPFS