

Report: From Complaint to Directive

CRN 6029679/21, the Police Chiefs' Meeting of 12 January 2022 and the Emergence of a "Reject / To Not Record/ Do Not Engage" Approach

1. Summary

This paper examines the temporal and structural relationship between:

- A complaint made to the Metropolitan Police Service on 20 December 2021 (CRN 6029679/21);
- A Police Chiefs' Council meeting on 12 January 2022, attended by senior policing figures from across the United Kingdom, Crown Dependencies, and Overseas Territories; and
- A directive issued on 25 January 2022 (commonly referred to as the "Speirs Directive"), which instructed that certain categories of public engagement and reporting should be rejected rather than examined.

The analysis identifies a clear and documented sequence:

Report - Senior-level discussion - Operational instruction

The significance of that sequence lies not in allegation, but in structure. The materials considered raise a point of principle:

Whether matters capable of evidential assessment were instead treated as categories to be administratively excluded.

2. Scope and Method

This paper is based on:

- Documented police records relating to CRN 6029679/21;
- Official minutes of the Chief Constables' Council meeting of 12 January 2022, including the attendee list;
- The text of the 25 January 2022 directive issued under Operation Talla structures; and
- Publicly available contextual materials concerning Operation Talla coordination.

The purpose is not to determine criminal liability, but to:

- Establish sequence;
- Identify points of institutional convergence; and
- Clarify the operational consequences which followed.

3. The Initial Complaint - 20 December 2021

On 20 December 2021, a complaint was made to the Metropolitan Police Service and assigned a Crime Reference Number.

Key features:

- The complaint was formally received and recorded;
- Supporting materials were provided;
- A crime reference number was issued.

At this stage, the matter sat within the ordinary framework of:

- Crime recording
- Assessment of evidential sufficiency
- Consideration of investigative steps

4. The Police Chiefs' Meeting - 12 January 2022

On 12 January 2022, a meeting of senior police leadership took place.

4.1 Attendee Composition

The attendee list (as recorded in official minutes) demonstrates:

- Representation from police forces across England and Wales;
- Attendance by Metropolitan Police Service senior officers;
- Participation by Police Scotland;
- Inclusion of representatives from:
 - States of Jersey Police
 - Guernsey Police
 - Isle of Man Constabulary

- Royal Gibraltar Police
- Presence of National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) personnel, including operational and strategic roles.

4.2 Significance of Composition

This is not a local or force-specific meeting. It is:

- National in scope
- Cross-jurisdictional in composition
- Structurally aligned with Operation Talla coordination

4.3 Subject Matter

The meeting took place in a context where:

- Public allegations relating to COVID-19 measures and associated matters had been reported to police;
- Police forces were receiving submissions, reports and attempts by members of the public to initiate criminal processes.

The relevance is not the content of those allegations, but, that they were known, received and present within the operational environment at the time of the meeting.

5. The Directive - 25 January 2022

On 25 January 2022, a directive was issued within Operation Talla structures.

5.1 Core Instruction

The directive states, in substance:

Requests or actions falling within defined categories

“should be rejected.”

5.2 Reference to the December Complaint

The directive expressly refers to:

- A complaint received by the Metropolitan Police Service on 20 December 2021;
- The position that no investigation was taking place in relation to it.

5.3 Functional Effect

The directive does not establish:

- A framework for investigating such matters;
- A mechanism for evidential testing.

Instead, it introduces a categorisation approach under which similar matters are to be declined at the point of engagement.

6. Structural Analysis: The Sequence

The materials, taken together, establish the following sequence:

Step 1 – Report

A complaint is made and recorded (20 December 2021).

Step 2 - Senior-Level Convergence

Senior police leadership meets (12 January 2022).

Attendees include national, regional, and cross-jurisdictional leadership.

Step 3 - Operational Instruction

A directive is issued (25 January 2022).

It references the subject matter of the earlier complaint.

It instructs rejection of comparable approaches.

7. Key Observations

7.1 The Role of the Complaint

The December 2021 complaint is:

- Not treated as an isolated matter;
- Not developed into a full and proper investigative pathway;
- Referenced within a directive that informs broader operational handling.

7.2 From Case to Category

The shift observed is from an individual complaint, to category of activity.

Once categorised, the response becomes:

- Standardised

- Pre-determined
- Administrative rather than investigative

7.3 Operational Consequence

The practical outcome is that:

- Similar reports are not assessed on their individual merits;
- Engagement is curtailed at the threshold stage;

The investigative pathway is effectively closed before evidential testing.

8. Constitutional and Procedural Context

The issues raised engage fundamental policing principles, including:

- The duty to record and assess reports of crime;
- The requirement to pursue reasonable lines of inquiry where appropriate;
- The separation between operational coordination and evidential decision-making.

The materials demonstrate a structural environment in which the passage from report to investigation may have been unlawfully interrupted.

9. The Central Question

On the evidence presently available, the point arising is:

Whether the transition from reported allegation to rejected category was consistent with the ordinary obligations of policing.

10. Conclusion

This paper identifies a documented sequence linking:

- A recorded complaint (20 December 2021);
- A national-level policing meeting (12 January 2022);
- A subsequent directive instructing rejection of comparable matters (25 January 2022).

Significance lies in the relationship between those events.

Where a reported allegation becomes referenced within operational guidance and is followed by a directive to reject similar approaches, the issue ceases to be one of isolated decision-making.

It becomes one of system design and operational doctrine.

That is the point at which necessary scrutiny properly arises.

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2 May 2026