

Public Briefing

Operation Talla Investigations Update

The documentary record relating to aspects of Operation Talla continues to develop.

Importantly, elements of Operation Talla policing are now the subject of official investigation in both Scotland and England.

In Scotland, the Scottish Police Authority is examining evidence relating to the Speirs Directive, together with its origin, implementation and practical effects upon the handling of reports made by members of the public.

In England, the Metropolitan Police Service, having referred matters concerning Crime Reference Number 6029679/21 to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), has been directed by the IOPC to investigate the handling of that matter through its Directorate of Professional Standards.

These are not isolated issues.

The Speirs Directive and the handling of CRN 6029679/21 are intrinsically linked by a wider evidential picture concerning Operation Talla, including the subsequently disclosed national NPCC guidance advising forces "to not record" certain allegations from members of the public relating to potential COVID-19 State-related criminality.

The constitutional significance of those matters is self-evident.

Questions concerning national guidance, operational independence, crime recording, investigative decision-making and public accountability now fall to be examined through established oversight mechanisms.

The Scottish Police Authority is now in possession of a substantial volume of documentary evidence and complaints submitted by interested parties. Further material continues to emerge.

Our own independent investigation also remains ongoing.

As always, our approach is guided by primary source material, documentary analysis and the rule of law.

We shall continue to place evidence before the appropriate authorities and will keep the public informed of significant developments as the official investigations progress.

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator, Ethical Approach UK

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