

Public Notice - Transparency Statement

In the course of an ongoing independent investigation into UK-wide COVID-era policing arrangements, I wrote on 9 January 2026 to a member of staff within the Metropolitan Police Service Directorate of Legal Services (DLS).

The correspondence concerned whether a specific Crime Reference Number, which was the subject of judicial review proceedings, had been closed pursuant to a centrally coordinated policy framework (Operation Talla / Gold Command), rather than following a case-specific evidential assessment and whether that basis had been disclosed to the Court.

A clear request was made for clarification on that point, limited solely to issues of disclosure and the duty of candour owed in public law proceedings.

The Metropolitan Police Service has declined to provide a substantive explanation and has indicated that it will not engage further on the matter.

In the interests of constitutional transparency, I place this fact on the public record.

No further correspondence with the MPS Directorate of Legal Services is anticipated in relation to this issue.

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK

9 January 2026