

Reporting Crime After Operation Talla

A Practical Guide for Members of the Public

The national policing approach adopted during parts of the COVID-19 period is now the subject of official examination.

If you previously attempted to report suspected criminality and were prevented from doing so, you are entitled to return and ask the police to consider your report afresh.

- Remain polite.
- Remain calm.
- Remain factual.

The purpose is not confrontation.

The purpose is to ensure your report is properly received and appropriately considered.

Suggested Script

"I wish to report suspected criminal offences."

If asked why you have returned, simply say:

"My previous attempt to report these matters occurred during the period in which national Operation Talla guidance was in force. Since then, information has emerged concerning aspects of that guidance, which are now subject to official examination. I therefore request that my report now be considered properly and on its own merits."

If Told The Matter Has Already Been Considered

You may politely ask:

"Has today's decision been reached independently of the previous Operation Talla position?"

"Has today's decision been made after considering the current position rather than the position adopted during 2022?"

If The Officer Declines To Record Your Report

Remain courteous.

You may say:

"I respectfully request that my attempt to report suspected criminal offences is itself recorded, together with the reasons why my report is not being accepted."

Then ask:

"May I please have the incident number, reference number, or any other record created today?"

If You Are Told It Is "Not A Police Matter"

You may simply ask:

"Could you please explain which organisation you consider has responsibility for investigating the criminal allegations I am reporting?"

If no organisation is identified, you may politely ask for that response to be recorded.

If You Are Asked To Leave

Do not argue.

Simply state:

"Thank you for your time. I respectfully request that today's attendance, my request to report suspected criminal offences and the decision communicated to me today are all formally recorded."

Leave peacefully.

Afterwards

As soon as possible:

- write down the date and time;
- record the police station attended;
- note the names or shoulder numbers of officers, if known;
- retain any incident or reference numbers;
- keep copies of everything submitted, or which you have attempted to submit.

If no reference number is provided, record that fact.

A Final Observation

Operation Talla formed part of a nationally coordinated policing response during the COVID-19 period.

Elements of that response are now subject to official examination.

That fact alone does not determine the outcome of any individual report. Nor should it.

Every allegation should now be considered upon its own facts, its own evidence and the law as it stands today.

The purpose of reporting crime is not to obtain an immediate conclusion. It is to ensure that allegations are properly received, fairly assessed and transparently recorded where appropriate.

Note:

Further information is available in the Annex below.

Ethical Approach UK

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Annex

The police have statutory duties and obligations to accept reports of crime from the public.

The Home office crime recording rules 2026/2027 clearly state on page 6 that;

The Standard directs a victim focused approach to crime recording.

The intention is that victims are believed and benefit from statutory entitlements under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (CPVC).

This seeks to ensure that those reporting crimes will be treated with empathy and their allegations will be taken seriously.

Any investigation which follows is then taken forward with an open mind to establish the truth.