

Operation Talla: What Was Discovered - A Simple Public Timeline

1. The Starting Point: The Speirs Directive

The investigation began when a policing document known as the Speirs Directive came to light.

This directive showed that police forces had been instructed not to accept or record certain Covid-related complaints, particularly those involving vaccine harm or state decision-making.

This raised an obvious public question:

If complaints are not recorded, how can they ever be investigated by an independent court?

That question led to a deeper examination of Operation Talla, the national policing response to Covid-19.

2. What Operation Talla Actually Was

According to official CPS testimony to the Covid-19 Inquiry, Operation Talla was:

The national policing response to Covid-19

A multi-agency coordination system, not just operational policing

A structure involving:

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC)

The National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC)

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), including senior legal leadership

The College of Policing

The Metropolitan Police Director of Legal Services

This matters because it shows that legal decision-making was built into Operation Talla from the outset, not added later or kept separate.

3. Law, Policy, and Policing Were Merged

The CPS told the Inquiry that during Operation Talla:

Legal advice, policing guidance, and enforcement practice were developed together.

Draft laws and guidance were circulated rapidly, often by email.

Feedback windows were sometimes only hours.

Many key discussions happened without formal minutes or records.

In simple terms:

Operation Talla functioned as a rapid national law-making and law-interpreting system, operating outside normal parliamentary and judicial scrutiny.

4. National Consistency Was the Top Priority

The CPS evidence makes clear that a central aim of Operation Talla was to:

Prevent different police forces taking different approaches.

Ensure one national legal position.

Require all forces to align with that position.

For everyday enforcement (such as issuing fines), this may appear practical.

However, a serious issue arises when the same system is applied to allegations against the state itself.

5. What the System Was Not Designed to Do

Crucially, the CPS testimony does not describe any clear mechanism for:

Handling allegations of criminal wrongdoing by public authorities.

Ensuring such allegations reach independent investigators.

Guaranteeing judicial oversight when the state is accused.

This reveals a structural gap:

Operation Talla was designed to enforce rules - not to hold the system itself to account.

6. “Reviews” Quietly Replaced Investigations

The CPS evidence shows that, in practice:

Allegations were often received.

Then subjected to internal legal “review”.

Assessed within the system.

And effectively settled administratively.

In law, however:

Deciding whether evidence discloses a criminal offence is investigative activity, regardless of the label used.

Calling it a “review” does not remove legal duties, disclosure obligations, or the need for courts to decide legality.

7. Courts Were Structurally Bypassed

The combined effect of Operation Talla’s design was that:

Legal questions were resolved internally.

National positions were fixed.

Guidance was issued to police forces.

And cases were filtered out before courts were ever asked to rule.

This is the central constitutional concern.

Courts exist to decide whether actions are lawful.

If systems are designed so courts are never engaged, the rule of law is not only weakened, but may very well be overlooked or bypassed altogether.

8. What the CPS Evidence Ultimately Reveals

Based on the CPS's own sworn evidence to the Inquiry, we now know that:

Operation Talla embedded senior legal leadership into national policing decisions.

Legal positions could be settled rapidly and informally.

National consistency was prioritised over local discretion.

No safeguard is described for allegations against the state.

Courts were not placed at the centre of resolving such allegations.

These are not allegations - they are direct consequences of the CPS's own account.

9. Why This Still Matters Today

This is not about hindsight or emergency pressure.

It is about precedent.

If the state can internally decide that allegations against itself will never reach a court, then:

Accountability becomes optional.

Judicial oversight becomes conditional.

Public confidence in the rule of law is undermined.

That is why these findings continue to matter now.

10. Where Matters Now Stand

Since the disclosure of the Speirs Directive and the examination of CPS evidence:

Serious constitutional questions have been raised.

The official record now shows how Operation Talla actually functioned.

The focus has shifted from enforcement outcomes to systemic accountability.

The central issue remains unresolved:

Who ensures legal accountability when the state designs a system which decides its own legality?

In Summary

Operation Talla was far more than policing.

Law, policy and enforcement were merged.

Courts were not central to resolving allegations against the state.

These conclusions come from official CPS evidence - not speculation

That is what has been discovered to date.

Ian Clayton

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