

# **Ethical Approach UK - Forensic Report**

## **Operation Talla and the National Framing of Vaccine-Related Criminal Complaints**

**A forensic analysis of the undated NPCC / NPoCC communication authored by Assistant Chief Constable Owen Weatherill**

***(Annexed at the end of this report)***

Date: 13 December 2025

## **Executive Summary**

This forensic report examines a nationally circulated operational communication authored by ACC Owen Weatherill, acting in his capacity as Operation Talla Silver and National Mobilisation Coordinator at the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC).

The document, addressed “*FAO Chief Constables and Force Duty Gold Officers*”, provides critical insight into how vaccine-related criminal complaints were framed, managed and communicated across police forces in early 2022.

When analysed alongside subsequent Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) correspondence, NPCC disclosures and internal communications released under the Freedom of Information Act, the Weatherill communication emerges as a pivotal upstream document. It establishes that the later handling of CRN 6029679/21 and similar complaints was not the product of isolated local decisions, but flowed from a nationally coordinated operational and communications approach under Operation Talla.

The report demonstrates that:

Vaccine-related criminal complaints were anticipated nationally and explicitly framed as attempts to “engage the police in investigations”.

A centrally authorised narrative that “No investigation has been initiated” was embedded and disseminated to all forces.

Crime Reference Numbers (CRNs) were deliberately reframed as administrative acknowledgements devoid of investigative significance.

Contradictory evidence, including a recorded MPS call confirming an investigation, was retrospectively neutralised.

Criminal complaints were conflated with public-order risk, providing justification for non-recording and proactive policing rather than investigation.

This report confines itself strictly to what is established by documentary evidence. It makes no allegation of motive or intent, but highlights serious issues of process, governance, accuracy and accountability.

## **1. Document Provenance and Authority**

The document under examination bears the following characteristics:

Author: ACC Owen Weatherill

Role: Operation Talla Silver & National Mobilisation  
Coordinator, NPoCC

Audience: Chief Constables and Force Duty Gold Officers  
(national distribution)

Classification: OFFICIAL

Issuing Body: National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) /  
NPCC

These features establish the communication as a national command circular, carrying operational and strategic authority across all police forces.

## **2. Dating the Undated Weatherill Communication**

Although no explicit date appears on the face of the document, its timeframe can be established with confidence through internal temporal references:

References to activity “this week” and to Thursday 20th / Friday 21st January (2022).

Alignment with known events and disclosures dated 18 January 2022, including the recorded MPS call.

Consistency with January 2022 Operation Talla mobilisation language and subsequent February 2022 NPCC emails.

Forensic dating by context places this communication firmly in mid-January 2022.

## **3. Acknowledgement of Criminal Complaints**

The document explicitly states:

*“There have also been attempts to report ‘criminal’ offence complaints with Forces to engage the police in investigations relating to the vaccination programme.”*

This sentence establishes as fact that:

Members of the public were making criminal complaints, not merely protests or expressions of opinion.

These complaints were understood internally as attempts to trigger police investigations.

This directly contradicts any later suggestion that such reports were fictitious, trivial, or purely disruptive in nature.

#### **4. Embedding the “No Investigation” Narrative**

The Weatherill communication states unequivocally:

*“I can confirm that currently NO investigation has been initiated.”*

It further instructs forces that:

*“A crime reference number was created... This is not an indication that an investigation is under way or that a crime has been committed; it merely acknowledges that an allegation has been received and recorded.”*

This language is not descriptive but directive. It embeds a nationally agreed narrative to be adopted by all forces, irrespective of local handling or evidence.

## **5. Neutralisation of Contradictory Evidence**

The document addresses a publicly circulating recording:

*“We are aware of a recording posted online in which a Met Police call handler answers yes to a question asking her to confirm the existence of an ongoing investigation. The call handler misspoke. No criminal investigation has been launched.”*

This passage demonstrates that:

NPCC/NPoCC were aware of evidence contradicting the official narrative.

Rather than reconciling the discrepancy, the contradiction was dismissed as error.

This is consistent with later communications strategy and evidences retrospective narrative control.

## **6. Conflation of Criminal Complaints and Public-Order Threat**



Throughout the document, vaccine-related criminal complaints are repeatedly juxtaposed with:

- intimidation,
- harassment,
- disruption of vaccination centres,
- and public-order offences.

This conflation reframes complainants as a risk category, rather than as potential victims or witnesses and provides a policy rationale for:

- non-recording of complaints,
- proactive policing,
- and reputational containment.

## **7. Coordination of National Communications**

The document confirms that:

*“MPS have agreed comms lines in relation to this matter... forces may also draw on and use the lines below.”*

This establishes that communications were:

- centrally coordinated,
- nationally standardised,
- and prioritised over independent local assessment.

## **8. Relationship to Subsequent NPCC Disclosures**

When read alongside the February 2022 NPCC email stating that:

*“...the guidance to not record has been a success...”*

the Weatherill communication is revealed as the policy precursor which explains how such an outcome could later be described internally as successful.

The documents form a coherent chain:

national framing,

to operational handling,

to non-recording,

to communications management.

## **9. Governance and Accountability Implications**

The Weatherill communication demonstrates that the handling of vaccine-related criminal complaints was shaped by:

- national operational direction under Operation Talla,
- coordinated legal department and communications oversight,
- and an explicit strategy to prevent complaints from triggering investigations.

This raises serious questions about compliance with crime-recording standards, investigative independence and public accountability.

## **Conclusion**

The undated Weatherill communication is a key forensic document.

It establishes that the handling of vaccine-related criminal complaints, including CRN 6029679/21, was not an isolated local decision but part of a nationally coordinated framework under Operation Talla.

The documentary record demonstrates a clear sequence:

- anticipated complaints,
- embedded narrative denial of investigation,
- neutralisation of contradictory evidence,

- and subsequent confirmation that non-recording guidance had been effective.

These findings are matters of evidence, not opinion.

They warrant careful scrutiny by oversight bodies, Parliament the public and if necessary, the court.

**End of Report**

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<b>Author:</b>	ACC Owen Weatherill
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## FAO – Chief Constables, Force Duty Gold Officers

### Potential for imminent organised targeted criminal activity at vaccination centres and schools this week

Colleagues,

Over recent weeks there has been a noticeable change in some of the Anti-Vax protest activity both in terms of online rhetoric as well as physical tactics. Several groupings are emerging online advocating aggravated tactics, confrontations, threatening staff, criminal damage, threats to 'common law arrest' vaccination centre staff and police officers. There have also been attempts to report 'criminal' offence complaints with Forces to engage the police in investigations relating to the vaccination programme. Whilst much of this rhetoric is occurring online there have been some examples of criminal activity – a recent 'storming of a COVID Test centre in Milton Keynes being an example.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] S31 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Of course, in the online space it is hard to assess with accuracy the actual level of support and the real-world capability of such groups, however there has been a notable uptick in activity and talk of this nature, and we do not believe it can be readily dismissed.

NPoCC have consulted with NPCC POPS and Protest leads and all are quite clear that the actions being advocated if carried out are **NOT** lawful protest, but unlawful criminal activity, likely to include public order offences, OAP, criminal damage, harassment, and intimidation etc. and should be proactively policed to ensure the safety of those providing vaccine services, to maintain the programme and ensure public safety and confidence.

A copy of the NPoCC SIB intel briefing note including background. In particular, I would draw your attention to the legal advice within this briefing note related to the concept of "Common Law Constables" and alleged

associated powers. You may find this useful to assist with briefing your staff for any encounters they have with activists asserting that they have such powers.



Anti-Vaccination  
Briefing note OFFIC

### **Actions for consideration/implementation**

In light of the increased sentiment and likelihood of more aggressive tactics, all forces are now requested to consider the following:

1. Through your existing LRF structures for engaging with vaccine roll out partners please arrange **an urgent meeting** to brief partners re the potential for this activity this week. The briefing note above may be shared with partners to assist with this process.
2. Review your incident response plans/arrangements for vaccination centres in your Force area, including availability of additional resources to respond to calls for service and proactive visibility of police at vaccine centres.
3. Consider putting in place a GSB Command structure and Op to ensure consistent Force wide approach. Operational responses should focus on proactive policing not facilitation of actions which are NOT protests. Of course, activity that is lawful peaceful protest should be policed proportionately in line with our HRA obligations.
4. Ensure Vaccine Centre service providers have reviewed their own site security arrangements in light of this potential activity (a separate is also briefing is being circulated by DHSC to vaccination sites)
5. Gather and review local intelligence, including local SM activity to identify any local threats/online chatter. Attached is the RFI from NPoCC SIB. **This relates specifically to this imminent activity, and we would ask that it is completed and returned with any intel ASAP.**



Any activity on Thursday 20th / Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January along the lines threatened should be immediately reported to NPoCC SIB to allow situational awareness and briefing to HMG partners who are aware of these threats.

6. Prepare local comms lines/plan with partners which clearly distinguishes this as criminal activity not lawful or proportionate protest. The lines below have been agreed by NPCC for reference.

### **A National Police Chiefs' Council Spokesperson said:**

*"We are aware of incidents where individuals have sought to intimidate and serve papers on staff and volunteers working in settings related to the Covid-19 vaccine. We are also aware of individuals attending police stations to report what they believe to be criminal offences relating to the Covid-19 vaccine.*

*"Police have a long history of upholding the right to freedom of expression. This must be balanced with the rights of others, keeping the public safe, preventing crime and disorder, and seeking to minimise disruption.*

*"Any efforts to intimidate, harass, or commit assault against emergency service workers, staff and volunteers will not be tolerated and will be treated and investigated as a criminal matter by police forces."*

**Notes:**

- *The Metropolitan Police Service have to date found nothing to indicate that a crime has been committed in relation to the Covid-19 vaccine. No criminal investigation has been launched as has been claimed by some activists online. We do not believe that papers served to date have any legal standing.*
- *Our guiding principles are maximising the safety of everyone involved, preventing criminal behaviour or disorder and deescalating tensions.*

**Anti Vax 'criminal complaints'**

Forces maybe aware of or have received themselves 'complaints' from Anti-Vax activists and in some cases referencing a 'crime number' from the Metropolitan Police.

The 'complaint' received by the MPS on 20<sup>th</sup> December is actively being inaccurately reported on social media channels by Anti-Vax activists – I can confirm that currently **NO** investigation has been initiated. Following receipt of several 1000 pages of generic documentation a 'review process' of the content is having to be conducted. To date the MPS report that **nothing has been found in the documentation to suggest any offences or grounds for a police investigation.**

MPS have agreed comms lines in relation to this matter as follows on an "if asked basis". It has also been agreed that should other forces receive media enquiries related to the MPS report, that forces may also draw on and use the lines below –

***On 20 December, a number of documents were submitted at a west London police station in support of allegations of criminality in relation to the UK's vaccine programme.***

***A crime reference number was created and provided to the complainants. This is not an indication that an investigation is under way or that a crime has been committed, it merely acknowledges that an allegation has been received and recorded.***

***Officer's have been tasked with reviewing the documents. This process is time consuming and has been prolonged by the submission of further documents by people encouraged to do so online.***

***While the assessment continues, to date there is nothing to indicate that a crime has been committed and no criminal investigation has been launched.***

***We are aware of a recording posted online in which a Met Police call handler answers yes to a question asking her to confirm the existence of an ongoing investigation. The call handler misspoke. No criminal investigation has been launched.***

NPoCC continue to work closely on policing's behalf with the NHS and DHSC teams responsible for vaccine programme security and whilst we are conscious that briefing the potential for this activity could lead to increased concern and fear within vaccine partners, we are in agreement that there is a realistic threat of this activity occurring and need to raise awareness and be in a position to respond effectively.

For information and necessary action.

Kind Regards



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**ACC Owen Weatherill**

Operation Talla Silver and National Mobilisation Coordinator