

To: Crown Prosecution Service

Date: 26 December 2025

Dear Sir or Madam

**Re: Constitutional clarity request - CPS involvement in
Operation Talla**

I write further to my correspondence with the Crown Prosecution Service in August 2025 and to evidence which has subsequently come to my attention, which was placed into the public domain through the CPS's witness statement to the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry.

Please note: A PDF file relating to the August 2025 correspondence with you is attached, for your convenience of reference.

As you will be aware, that statement confirms that during the Covid period the CPS, including senior legal leadership, was embedded within Operation Talla as part of a multi-agency framework involving the Home Office, the NPCC, the NPoCC, the College of Policing and Metropolitan Police legal services.

It further confirms that CPS representatives participated in informal networks reviewing draft regulations and contributing to the development of nationally consistent operational guidance.

This disclosure provides important constitutional context which was not available at the time of my August correspondence with you.

In August 2025, the CPS explained that it was unable to consider material provided directly to it and that its role was confined to considering evidence supplied by investigators if and when the police decided to investigate. That position was presented as reflecting the proper constitutional boundaries of prosecutorial independence.

In light of the CPS's own subsequent evidence to the Inquiry, I now respectfully seek constitutional clarification on the following matters, in the public interest and in support of maintaining public confidence in the justice system:

- How the CPS reconciles its embedded role within Operation Talla - including participation in multi-agency legal and policy coordination, with its position that it cannot even consider material raising concerns about police handling of evidence unless the police themselves choose to supply it.

- What safeguards the CPS considers necessary to preserve prosecutorial independence where allegations concern potential statutory breaches by police forces operating within a national framework to which the CPS itself contributed.
- How the CPS ensures that CPIA-related risks, including alleged suppression or non-recording of material at source, can be identified and addressed where the ordinary police-to-prosecutor referral pathway may itself be implicated.

These questions are not posed adversarially. They arise from a genuine concern for constitutional integrity, the appearance as well as the reality of prosecutorial independence and the need for public confidence that allegations of serious wrongdoing are capable of reaching independent judicial scrutiny.

Given the importance of these issues, I would be grateful for a substantive response addressing the constitutional position, rather than a purely procedural restatement.

This correspondence is sent in the public interest and will be retained as part of the ongoing record concerning Operation Talla and its wider implications for the criminal justice system.

Yours faithfully

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK

Attachment: *Email correspondence - August 2025 (PDF)*