

On January 19, 2026, at 17:50, Ethical Approach UK  
<ethics@ethicalapproach.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Sir or Madam

**Re: NPCC reframing and avoidance of constitutional  
issues and questions**

Thank you for your correspondence of today (19 January  
2026).

I note your decision to treat my earlier communication as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, notwithstanding that it was explicitly and deliberately framed as a non-FOI communication, raising matters of constitutional governance, lawful authority and statutory compliance, rather than seeking disclosure of documents or recorded information.

For the avoidance of doubt, the substance of my correspondence was not a request for information within the meaning of FOIA. It sought clarification of the lawful basis and governance framework by which national-level “do not record” assessments were undertaken during Operation Talla and how such practices were reconciled with the National Crime Recording Standard and statutory duties owed to victims.

Your response does not engage with those substantive issues. Instead, it confines itself to procedural commentary on FOI handling and the potential application of section 14.

It is difficult to see how constitutionally relevant questions, raised clearly and expressly in the public interest, can properly be characterised as “vexatious” in the absence of any identified abusive, disruptive, or improper purpose. No such purpose has been articulated or evidenced. The mere persistence of focused, serious inquiry into a matter of national policing governance cannot lawfully or constitutionally be equated with vexatiousness. To do so risks conflating legitimate public-interest scrutiny with procedural inconvenience and has the effect of insulating

questions of lawful authority from examination rather than addressing them.

I am grateful for the clarity you have provided as to the NPCC's procedural position. However, it must be formally recorded that the core constitutional questions remain unanswered and that the NPCC has clearly chosen not to engage with the substance of those questions outside of a framework which enables refusal.

Accordingly, your response will now be retained and relied upon as part of the conclusive record being developed in relation to Operation Talla, documenting institutional positions taken, including refusals to engage substantively across the UK's policing and governance landscape. It will be considered alongside responses, partial responses and continued silence from other relevant institutions.

This correspondence is sent in the public interest and will now be preserved as part of the evidential record.

Yours faithfully

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK

On January 19, 2026, at 14:48, NPCC FOI Request Mailbox

[ NOTE: The PDF response attachment referred to in the email below can be viewed via this link:

[https://ethicalapproach.co.uk/2725\\_2026\\_NPCC\\_Response\\_Letter\\_Op\\_Talla\\_Lawful\\_260123\\_222129.pdf](https://ethicalapproach.co.uk/2725_2026_NPCC_Response_Letter_Op_Talla_Lawful_260123_222129.pdf) ]

<npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk> wrote:

Good Afternoon

The NPCC noted your email dated 12/01/2025 which states that you did not intend your request to be treated as Freedom of

Information (FOI). However, in circumstances where the public authority is unable to provide a substantive answer outside of this framework, treating the correspondence as an FOI request ensures that the request is considered lawfully, consistently and transparently, and that you benefit from the rights and safeguards set out in the legislation.

Therefore, please find attached NPCC response to your Freedom of Information request.

With kindest regards.

**NPCC Freedom of Information Officers & Decision Makers**

National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)

**A** | NPFDU PO Bx 841, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS

**E** | [npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk](mailto:npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk)

**W** | [www.npcc.police.uk](http://www.npcc.police.uk)

On January 12, 2026, at 19:58, Ethical Approach UK  
<ethics@ethicalapproach.co.uk> wrote:

Dear NPCC FOI Team

The correspondence from me is not an FOI request, as you will plainly see.

It requires a response from the Chief Officer at NPCC, as addressed.

As it has been misdirected to you internally, then that is a matter for internal NPCC resolution. I shall therefore leave it with you to resolve appropriately on an internal basis with your appropriate colleagues.

Kind regards

Ian

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK.

On January 12, 2026, at 13:29, NPCC FOI Request Mailbox  
<npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

The below correspondence has been passed to the NPCC FOI mailbox.

Date Received: 18/12/2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER:  
2725/2026

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (highlighted yellow) was received by the NPCC on the date listed above.

NPCC Acknowledgement:

Your request will be considered in accordance with the legislation, and you will receive a response within the statutory timescale of 20 working days, subject to the provisions of the Act. In the unlikely event that NPCC is unable to meet the 20-working day deadline, you will be informed as soon as possible and given a revised timescale for response.

If your request requires full or partial transference to another public authority, you will be informed. Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write quoting the reference number above.

Kind regards

NPCC Freedom of Information Officers & Decision Makers  
National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)



A | NPFDU PO Bx 841, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS  
E | npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk  
W | www.npcc.police.uk

OFFICIAL

On December 22, 2025, NPCC <info@npcc.police.uk>  
wrote:

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

I have reached out to the relevant individuals who could best assist with your enquiry.

Whilst I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible, the response may be delayed due to limited availability over the Christmas and New Year period.

If there is anything else I may be of assistance with, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Kind regards,

Olivia

**Business Support Officer**  
**National Police Chief's Council**

W. [www.npcc.police.uk](http://www.npcc.police.uk)

**From:** Ethics Central Admin <ethics@ethicalapproach.co.uk>

**Sent:** 18 December 2025 11:03

**To:** Information <info@npcc.police.uk>

**Subject:** Open Question to the NPCC: Lawful Authority for National “Do Not Record” Assessments

To:

Chief Officer National Police Chiefs’ Council

(plus NPCC public contact address)

Dear Sir / Madam

**Re: Open Question to the NPCC: Lawful Authority for National  
“Do Not Record” Assessments**

I am writing openly and in the public interest to seek clarification from the National Police Chiefs’ Council on a matter of national policing governance, arising from official NPCC-related correspondence dated 14 February 2022 in which the recipient was Owen Weatherill.

That correspondence states, in terms, that:

- crime reports were not being formally recorded across forces,
- national “assessments” nevertheless existed as to whether the practice was occurring “across the country”, and
- that the “guidance to not record” was regarded as a success, with only one additional report identified nationally.

In light of this, I ask the following question, which I trust the NPCC will recognise as both legitimate and absolutely necessary:

If crime reports were not being formally recorded, yet national assessments existed confirming that “guidance to not record” was being followed across the country and evaluated as a success, by what lawful authority were such national assessments compiled, from what data sources were they derived and how does this practice comply with the National Crime Recording Standard and the statutory duties owed to victims?

This question does not seek to determine criminal liability, nor does it invite speculation. Rather, it seeks clarification of process, authority and compliance in relation to nationally coordinated policing practice.

Given the constitutional importance of accurate crime recording, public confidence in policing and the NPCC’s explicitly stated commitment to openness and accountability, I

consider it appropriate that this question is answered fully and transparently.

I therefore look forward to receiving your early response.

Yours faithfully

Ian Clayton

Lead Investigator

Ethical Approach UK