



Freedom of Information Response

Our reference: FOI 25-0673

Responded to: 20 March 2025

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

It is understood that a directive to Police Scotland staff was issued (apparently in January 2022, according to one of your police officers), by Assistant Chief Constable Alan Speirs. It is understood that this directive advised your staff that they were not to accept communications, reports and the like, from the public, which related to Covid 19 injections (which were and are sometimes referred to as Covid 19 vaccines).

In the circumstances, please provide:

(1) A copy or other relevant record of the communication/directive issued to Police Scotland staff by Assistant Chief Constable Speirs to which I have referred above.

A copy of the directive is attached separately.

(2) Details of the basis for the issue of the directive referred to and also details of the party or parties responsible for directing Assistant Chief Constable Speirs to issue the directive to which I have referred.

This was published on the advice of the National Police Chiefs' Council and the UK Gold Command Structure in place to support Covid 19, PSOS engaged with the forum and advice stemmed from NPCC. The decision to issue the directive came via the Gold Command.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](#) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

OFFICIAL

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](#), by [email](#) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.

COVID-19 anti-vaccine related activity by members of the public

Published 25/01/2022: Statement from ACC Alan Speirs about the intimidation of staff and volunteers working in settings related to the COVID-19 vaccine:

A number of incidents have taken place across the UK in recent days where members of the public 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 at police stations or calling police to either report what they believe to be criminal offences relating to the vaccine or to request police support in their attempts to “serve” papers on staff and volunteers or to shut down facilities.

In some cases, these individuals have claimed that a police investigation is taking place into criminal allegations relating to the UK’s vaccine programme.

The Metropolitan Police Service received a complaint and a number of documents on 20 December 2021. The MPS provided the complainers with a crime reference number and is reviewing the content of the documents.

However, the MPS has been clear that nothing has been found to suggest any offences or grounds for an investigation, and that no such investigation is taking place.

The National Police Chiefs’ Council has also said that it does not believe any of the papers which have been “served” to date have any legal standing.

Should any officer or member of staff be approached or contacted by people requesting assistance in line with any of the above, then these requests should be rejected.

A SID entry should be submitted and marked for the attention of Operation Norden, and Operation Talla should be informed via a CVI entry.

While we continue to uphold individuals’ rights to freedom of expression and to protest, this must be balanced with the rights of others, keeping the public safe, preventing crime and disorder, and seeking to minimise disruption.

None of the type of behaviour outlined above should be considered as protest activity and could in fact constitute criminal activity.

Any efforts to intimidate, harass, or commit assault against emergency service workers, staff and volunteers will not be tolerated.

ACC Alan Speirs
Operation Talla Silver Commander