

TO: - Chief Constables

4th February 2026

Regional Paper – Mis/Dis & Mal-Information for March CCC

Dear Chief Constables,

As many of you will be aware, we established a new portfolio last year to address the growing challenges and threats posed by mis-, dis- and mal-information, with governance sitting under the Operations Coordination Committee. Our new lead, ACC Mathieson, has been working extremely hard over the past six months to shape an NPCC position and develop an initial concept of operations for this emerging area of business. The engagement from stakeholders has been immense and shows how important this portfolio is to wider policing challenges.

Our intention had originally been to present this work at the July Chief Constables' Council following a regional paper submission. However, considering the feedback received and recognising the heightened sensitivities some forces are managing in the run-up to local government elections in May, together with an increasingly polarised political environment, we considered it prudent to bring the paper forward for discussion at the March Council.

Unfortunately, in order to give all forces time to respond to consultation, the paper is not available for inclusion in the regional paper pack being published on 4 February. I apologise for this and want to reassure you that we expect the full paper to be circulated by the 13th of February, well ahead of the March Chief Constables' Council, where this will feature as a substantive item for discussion.

In the interim, I wanted to provide you with a summary of the proposed areas that will form the basis of the concept of operations. This is intended to support your regional discussions and enable you to begin forming your views in advance of the formal paper being submitted and discussions at Chiefs Council.

Firstly, the portfolio has defined the parameters which govern when the police respond or attempt to influence narratives being fuelled by mis, dis and mal information. To support this, the below problem statement has been drafted for consideration by Chiefs for inclusion in the Policing Problem Book:

“How can policing minimise the risk of crime, public disorder and harm arising from misinformation, disinformation, and mal-information, in a context where these risks are amplified by digital platforms, AI-enabled content, geopolitical interference, and societal vulnerabilities – while balancing legal, ethical, and operational principles?”

Secondly, as the spread of information disorder continues to pose a growing threat to public safety and undermining trust and confidence in policing, it is important for forces to collectively agree to monitor

and if appropriate include MDM as an organisational risk on their strategic register. At present, only five forces (12%) record MDM as a strategic risk so it is our recommendation that all forces should adopt the proposed Strategic Risk Guidance, so we can agree a consistent approach to enhance our planning assumptions and understanding of key risk indicators.

Finally, a detailed NPPC Operational guidance document and template is being developed to assist forces in implementing mechanisms for detecting, monitoring and assessing MDM. This will assist with creating clear lines of responsibility for those involved in coordinating and implementing the force's operational response. There is a particular emphasis on the need to assess *information* alongside intelligence, utilising existing tools and models to effectively respond to information disorder.

This document will be circulated on 13th February, and I hope you will be able to provide responses ahead of council so we can use any time to debate issues where there is no consensus.

I hope the update above offers a helpful overview of the current issues and the concept of operations being developed. We are very keen following the publication of the paper to hear your views to ensure the proposed approach reflects the needs and expectations of your forces.

Yours sincerely

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Chief Constable
National Operations Coordination Committee