

OFFICIAL
June 2025

SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT



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Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

Scrutiny Panel

Dip Sampling Exercise

Criminal Damage & Public Order Cases

Panel Members' Findings & Feedback of Youth cases

June 2025

Contents

1.0 Overview	2
2.0 Background, purpose, and methodology	2
3.0 Approval by Panel Chair	3
4.0 Actions taken following previous panel meeting	3
5.0 Areas for improvement & rearing themes (youth cases)	3
6.0 Consideration of Youth cases	3
7.0 Panel's assessments to date	6
8.0 Ethnicity and Gender	8
9.0 Future Panel focus	8
10.0 Actions	8

1.0 Overview

On the 18th of June 2025, members from the Out of Court Resolutions (OoCR) scrutiny panel attended a meeting to review a selection of 8 adult and 7 youth cases involving a Criminal Damage or Public Order offence which had been dealt with by way of an OoCR. This report will focus on the panel's findings in relation to the youth cases.

This meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.

2.0 Background, purpose, and methodology

The purpose of the OoCR panel is to independently assess, scrutinise and quality control the use of OoCR by Dyfed-Powys Police. The panel can make recommendations, feedback on individual cases to officers, communicate findings, promote best practice, and identify potential policy development or training needs for consideration by the force or other agencies involved. The panel cannot change the original outcome of the case.

The panel membership consists of partners from within the Criminal Justice System which include, but not limited to, members from Dyfed-Powys Police, the OPCC, Probation Service, Crown Prosecution Service, Youth Justice Team and Magistrates bench.

The panel members collectively agree an area of focus for each meeting. They receive relevant case files two weeks prior to each meeting which have been randomly selected by the Panel Chair. The Panel then meets to discuss each case and where possible reach a conclusion as to the appropriateness of the disposal. In deciding this, the Panel considers the following criteria:

- The views and feedback from the victim and the offender.
- Compliance with force policy.
- Rationale for the decision and outcome.
- Potential community impact.
- Circumstances and seriousness of the offence.
- Potential alternative options that may have been available.

The Panel discuss each case and categorise them as one of the following:

- Appropriate use consistent with policy.
- Appropriate use with Panel Members' reservations.
- Inappropriate use or inconsistent with policy.
- Panel fails to reach a conclusion.

3.0 Approval by Panel Chair

I Carys Morgans (print name) can confirm that I have read the report, and that it fully represents the views expressed by the Panel during our dip sampling exercise dated 18th of June 2025.

Signed: 

Date: 29.09.2025

4.0 Actions taken following previous panel meeting

As a result of the OoCR scrutiny panel's work, the following actions have been completed since the last meeting:

- Feedback provided to officers
- Youth Offending Team (YoT) Bureau reports circulated to the panel

5.0 Areas for improvement & rearing themes (youth cases)

The following areas for improvement & rearing themes were identified during the review of the youth cases:

- Inconsistencies of OoCR's being issued accorss Dyfed Powys.
- Need for a Force Lead on Child Centered Policing.
- Youth Restorative Disposals (YRD's) being incorrectly issued.
- Call for a better method/system for officers to check whether an AO has previously recieved an YRD.
- Officers need to utilise and engage with the YoT officers more fequently.

6.0 Consideration of Youth cases

Panel members reviewed seven Youth cases. Of those three cases were issued with a diversionary, educational or intervention activity (outcome 22) and four through a youth community resolution (YCR).

Members' assessments were as follows:

Members' assessment	Number of cases
Appropriate	4

Appropriate with reservations	2
Inappropriate	1

Case 1

The Panel noted that the AO had no previous offences, and the victim was provided with compensation and an apology. It was therefore determined that this was an appropriate use of an YRD.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 2

It was noted that the AO was a vulnerable child, and whilst the damage caused may have been criminal it was appropriate to take a trauma informed approach and avoid criminalising a vulnerable child. The Panel therefore concluded that the YRD was appropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 3

The Panel noted the low-level offence and the further assault on the AO that occurred. The Panel did question whether an anti-social behaviour (ASB) letter may have been a more appropriate outcome, but it was noted that the officers may have had further information than what was provided within the documentation. It was therefore agreed that the YRD was appropriate, but the Panel had reservations regarding the detail provided within the log.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 4

It was acknowledged that the AO had received a previous YRD and therefore was not eligible for a second, thus the use of the OoCR was inappropriate. A discussion ensued regarding the process of checking whether an AO has previously been issued a YRD. It was noted that the current Niche system within Dyfed Powys Police does not provide this necessary information to officers, thus the Panel suggested a new system must be explored. The YoT representative emphasised

the importance of officers utilising and working alongside the YoT officers to prevent incidences of YRD's being inappropriately used. A further discussion was held regarding the inconsistent use of OoCR being issued across Dyfed Powys. The Panel called upon Dyfed Powys Police to identify a Force lead for Child centred Policing to help revolve the inconsistent and inappropriate use of OoCR.

Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate

Action 1:

Chair to raise the Panel's concerns of the inconsistent and inappropriate use of YRD's with the ACC, specifically the following:

- Systems failure in alerting officers when an AO has already been issued an YRD
- Lack of Force lead for Child Centred Policing

Case 5

The Panel commended the action undertaken by the School Beat officers and noted that it was positive that they had engaged with the YoT officers. The Panel noted that there was no criminal element with the incident and that the diversionary/prevention activity was appropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 6

The Panel compared this case with case 3 which was of a similar nature but issued with a YRD. The Panel again emphasised the need for consistency in issuing OoCR's and further supported the need for a Force lead. Within this case the Panel acknowledged that an ASB warning letter had been issued but this was not provided within the documentation. Thus, the Panel concluded that the outcome 22 was appropriate but had reservations regarding the clarity of the documentation provided.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

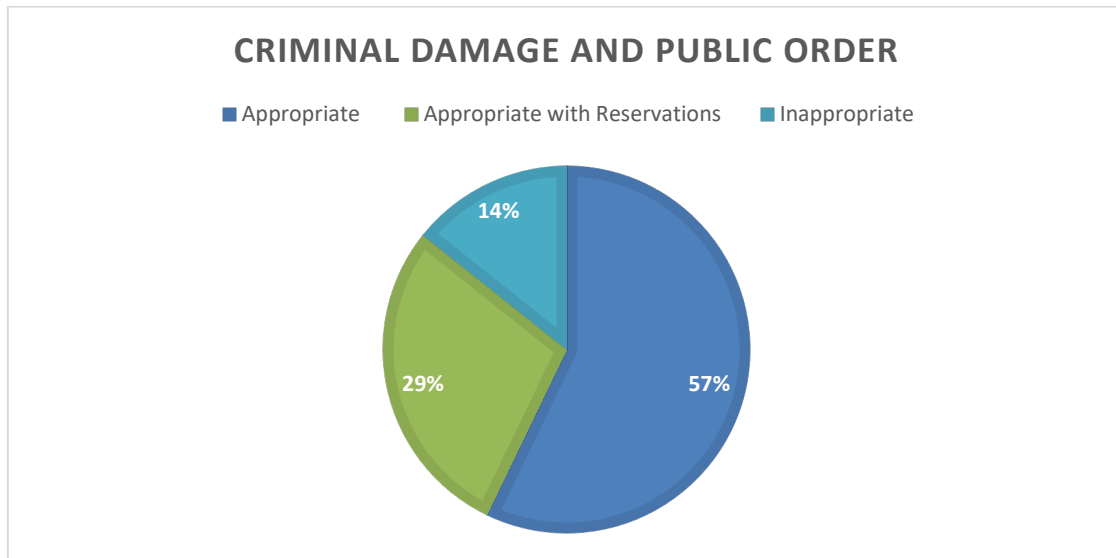
Case 7

It was noted that an admin error had occurred, and this case was not finalised as an outcome but as an outcome 16 (*victim doesn't support (or has withdrawn support for)* police action. The Panel therefore deemed that this was an appropriate outcome.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

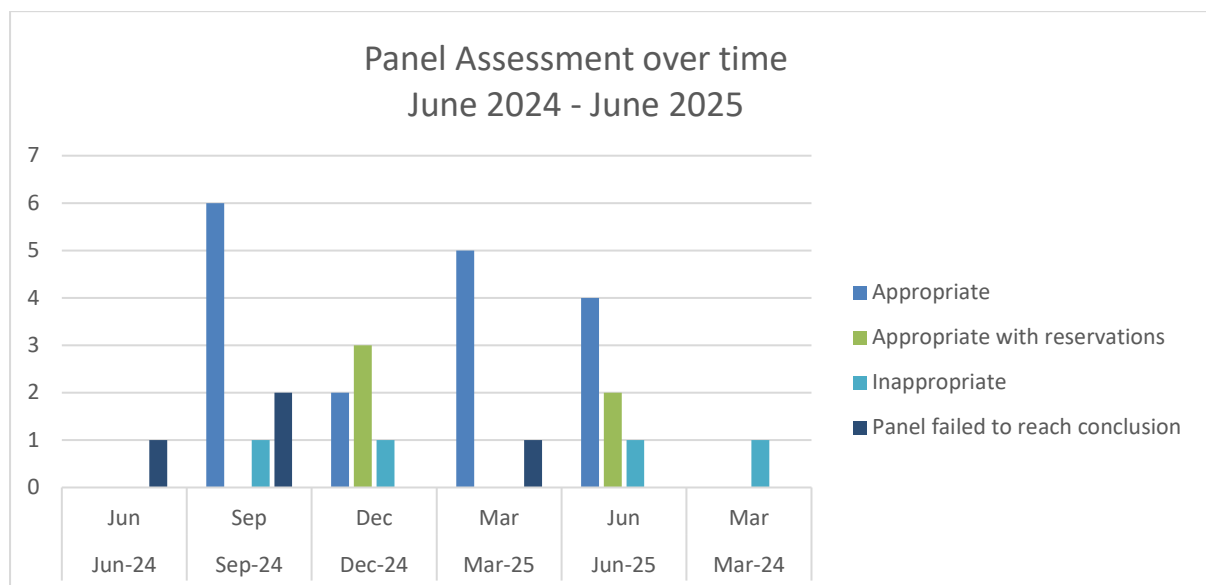
7.0 Panel's assessments to date

The chart below demonstrates the Panel's assessment of youth cases of Criminal Damage and Public order cases considered at the most recent meeting:

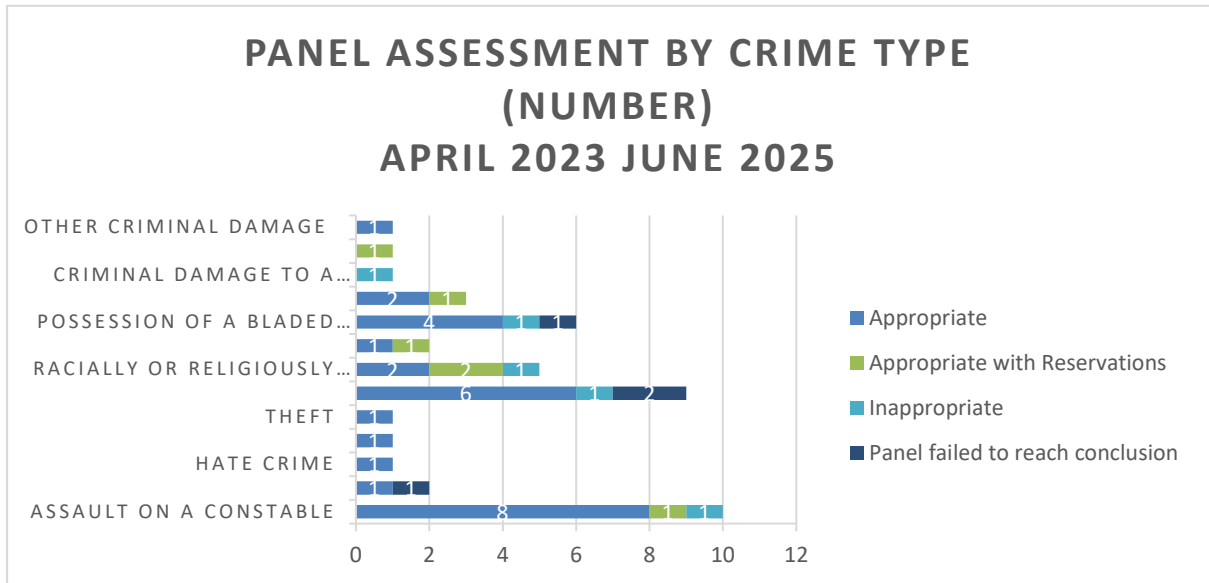


The Panel have considered a range of disposals. The disposals considered in June 2024 included 100% Youth Community Resolutions, whereas in June 2025 the panel considered 43% Diversionary activity and 57% YRD's.

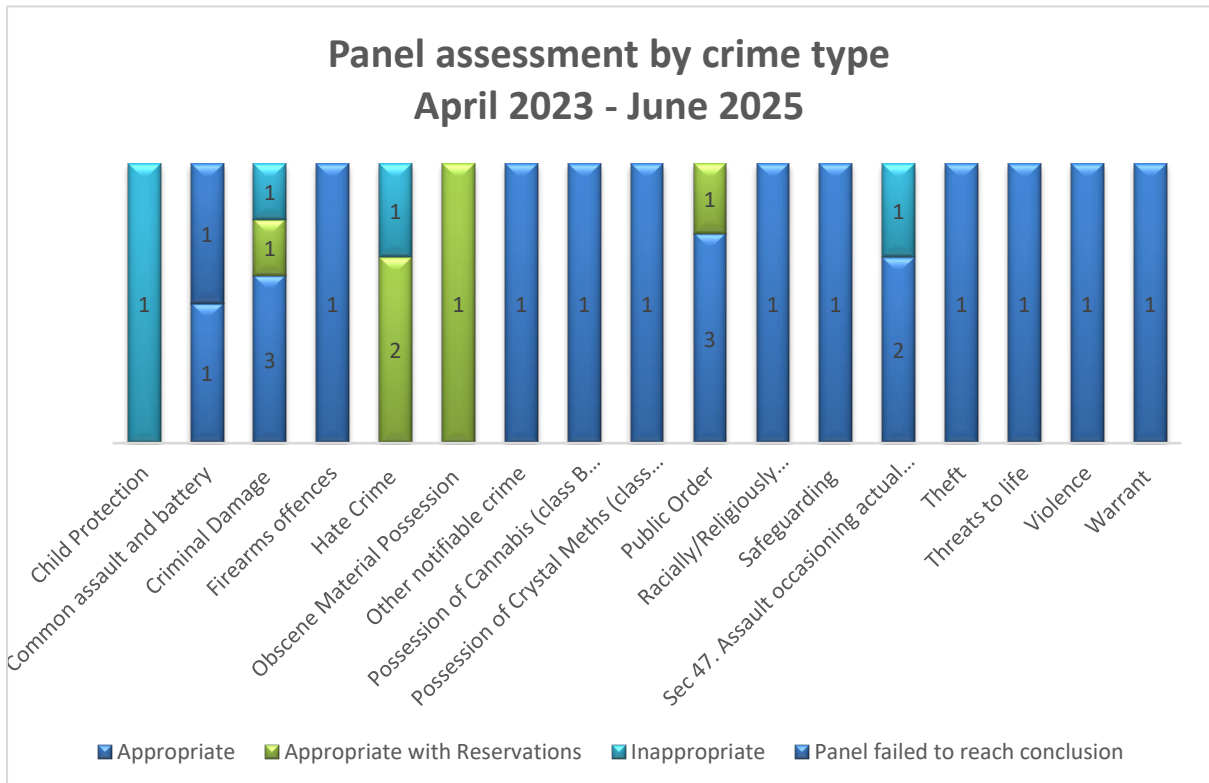
The change in the panel's conclusions reached over June 2024 – June 2025 can be seen in the graph below:



The graph below shows the breakdown by crime type as a percentage of cases considered between April 2023 and June 2025.

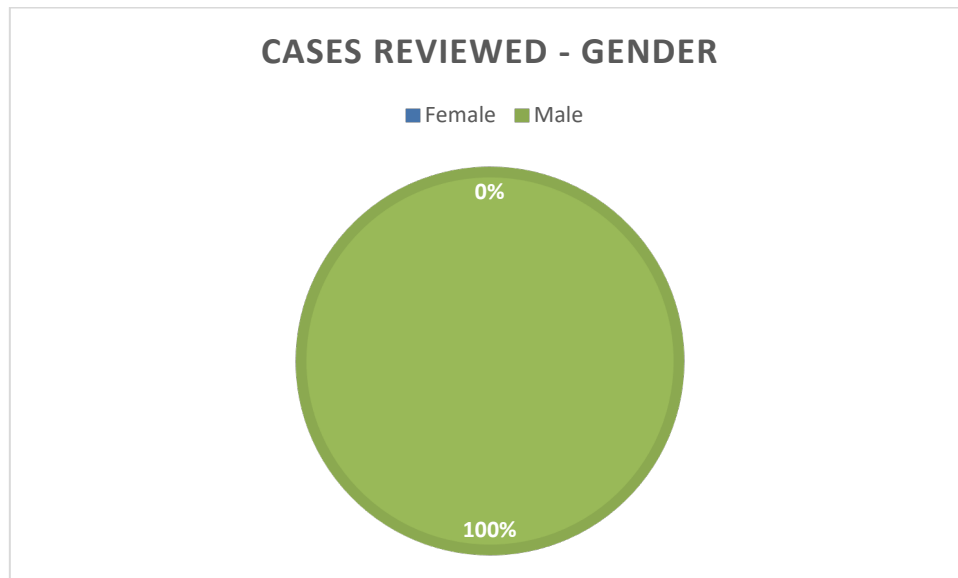


The following graph displays the actual number of cases assessed within each crime type and the resulting Panel opinions at their meetings between April 2023 and June 2025.



8.0 Ethnicity and Gender

The following chart shows the breakdown of cases reviewed within this meeting in terms of their gender:



The following table shows the breakdown of cases reviewed within this meeting in terms of ethnicity.

Ethnicity Noted	Suspect's Self - Assessment	Officer's Assessment
White British	4	0
White – North European	0	4
Unknown	3	3

There were no race or gender equality issues identified as part of the Panel's review.

9.0 Future Panel focus

Following a discussion, it was decided by the Panel that they would like to focus on Stalking and Harassment charges at the next meeting.

10.0 Actions

Meeting date	Action no	Summary	Person responsible
18.06.2025	OOCR – 158	Chair to raise the Panel's concerns of the inconsistent and inappropriate use of YRD's with the ACC, specifically the	OPCC

		<p>following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Systems failure in alerting officers when an AO has already been issued an YRD• Lack of Force lead for Child Centred Policing	
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