



Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu
Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

Scrutiny Panel

Dip Sampling Exercise

Drugs Cases

Panel Members' Findings & Feedback of Adult cases

December 2025

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1.0 Overview

On the 16th of December 2025, members from the Out of Court Resolutions (OoCR) scrutiny panel attended a meeting to review a selection of 8 adult cases and 7 youth cases involving Drug offences which had been dealt with by way of an OoCR. This report will focus on the panel's findings in relation to the adult 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 the 16th of December 2025.

Signed:



Date: 25/03/2026

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 where the Panel determined an inappropriate use of OoCR.
- Feedback provided to officers where the Panel determined that the case was an example of best practice appropriate use of an OoCR.

5.0 Areas for improvement

The following areas for improvement were identified during the review of the adult cases.

- The Panel sought further clarity from the Drugs strategy that Dyfed Powys Police have implemented. Specifically, the Panel emphasised the need for Officers to consider whether the OoCR is suitable for the individuals rather than whether it is in line with policy.
- Throughout the cases the Panel determined that further information could be inputted by the Officers to detail their rationale.

6.0 Consideration of Adult Cases

Out of the eight adult cases considered by the Panel six had been dealt with through an Adult Community Resolution (ACR) and two by an Adult Conditional Caution (ACC).

Members' assessment	Number of cases
Appropriate	4
Appropriate with reservations	2
Inappropriate	2

Panel Members' observations are detailed below.

Case 1

The Panel noted that Officers had taken a positive approach with the alleged offender (AO) to try and resolve their substance misuse issues. It was also noted that the offence in question was minimal and therefore would not have been appropriate to be considered by the Courts. However a discussion ensued regarding the AO's previous offending history where the Panel noted that they were on a Community order at the time of the ACR being issued. The Panel concluded that although the ACR had been issued correctly and in line with Force Policy it is important that Officers also consider whether the OoCR is also appropriate for the individual in question.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 2

It was discussed that the quantity of drugs found in possession of the AO was not substantial and that an in-depth investigation was undertaken by the Officers. The Panel raised concerns that there was a significant delay for a Public Protection Notice to be issued, and that the AO later withdraws their admission noting that they were threatened by a third party to take responsibility. The Panel determined that there was no clear admission from the AO and acknowledged that whilst the Policy states that the AO does not need to admit but only accept the ACR, it was not appropriate in the circumstances to issue the ACR.

Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate

Case 3

During its review, the Panel considered that the AO in question was a vulnerable individual and noted that potentially they could had been a victim. The Panel noted

the positive health approach taken by officers as the drugs found were appropriately tested to prevent further harm. Whilst the Panel determined that the ACC had been appropriately issued, they raised reservations in regard to the level of detail within the report. Questions were raised regarding the potential evidence that the AO was also supplying drugs, and that no further detail was recorded. It was therefore concluded that the ACC was appropriate but with reservations held around the detail within the log.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 4

Following consideration, the Panel noted the proactive work undertaken by Officers as the drugs found were reviewed and a further search undertaken at the AO's address. A discussion ensued regarding the issuing of the ACC and the Panel noted that the report could have contained further detail and a clear rationale as to why it was issued. It was also highlighted that the only factor of the ACC was for the drugs to be destroyed and the Panel questioned whether there was a missed opportunity for intervention/diversionary activity. Overall, the Panel concluded that the ACC was appropriately issued although they held reservations for the lack of detail within the rationale and the missed intervention/diversionary opportunity.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 5

The Panel identified that the ACR issued was for three overall incidences which amounted to a large amount of cannabis imported into the Force area. The Panel deliberated that whilst the ACR was in line with Force Policy whether it was the correct outcome for this incident as potentially further action could have been taken. It was also recognised that the Supervision provided for the Officer was not supportive and an action was taken for the Inspector to provide feedback to the Supervisor in question. The Panel concluded that further action should have been taken and therefore deemed the ACR inappropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate

Action 1

Feedback to be provided to the Supervisor of Adult case 5 following the Panel's determination that the ACR was inappropriately issued.

Case 6

The Panel acknowledged the low quantity of drugs found and determined that the ACR issued was appropriate with no concerns raised.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 7

Consideration was given to the small amount of drugs found and the AO's behaviour. The Panel concluded that the ACR was an appropriate outcome in the circumstances and raised no further concerns.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

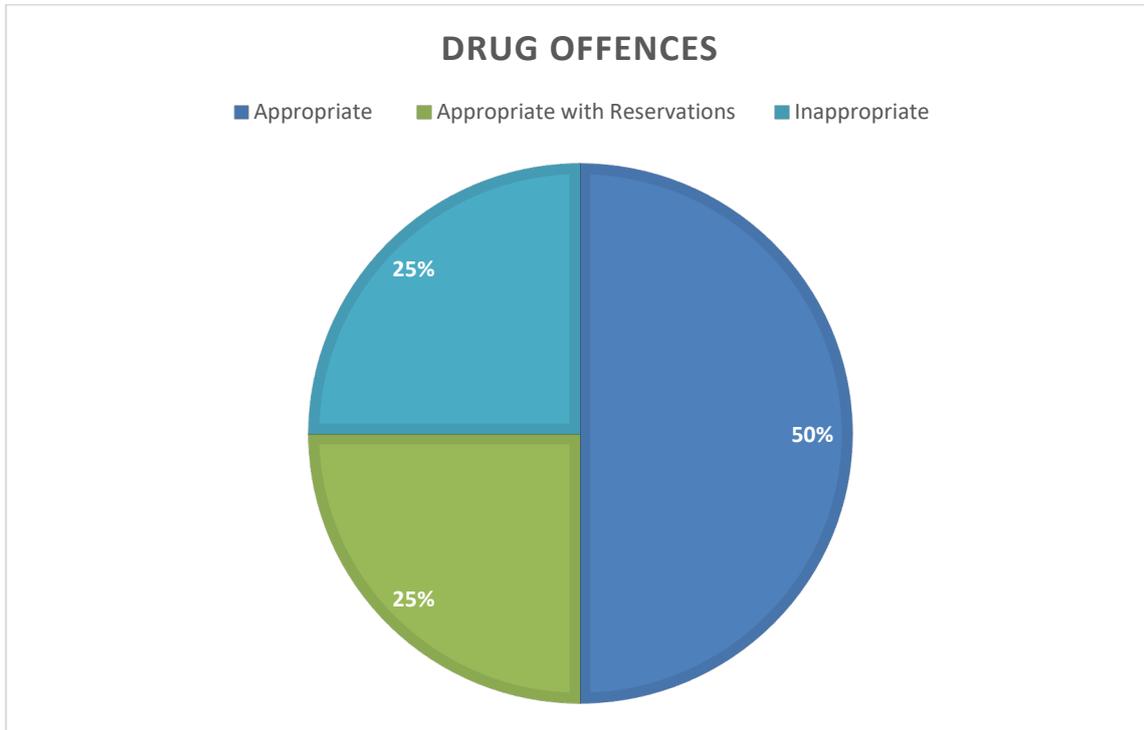
Case 8

The Panel deliberated that whilst the ACR issued was appropriate in the circumstances of this offence, the AO was already on bail for a further offence and therefore questioned the purpose providing the diversionary activity. The Panel concluded that the ACR was appropriate in the circumstances of this incident.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

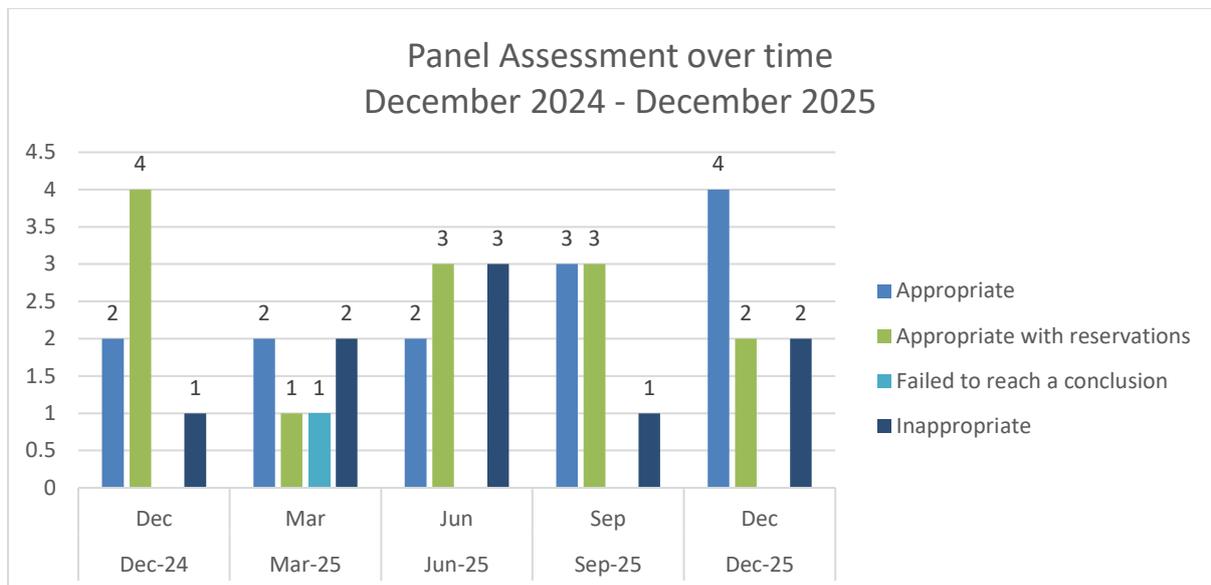
7.0 Panel’s assessments to date

The chart below demonstrates the Panel’s assessment of adult cases of drug cases considered at the most recent meeting:

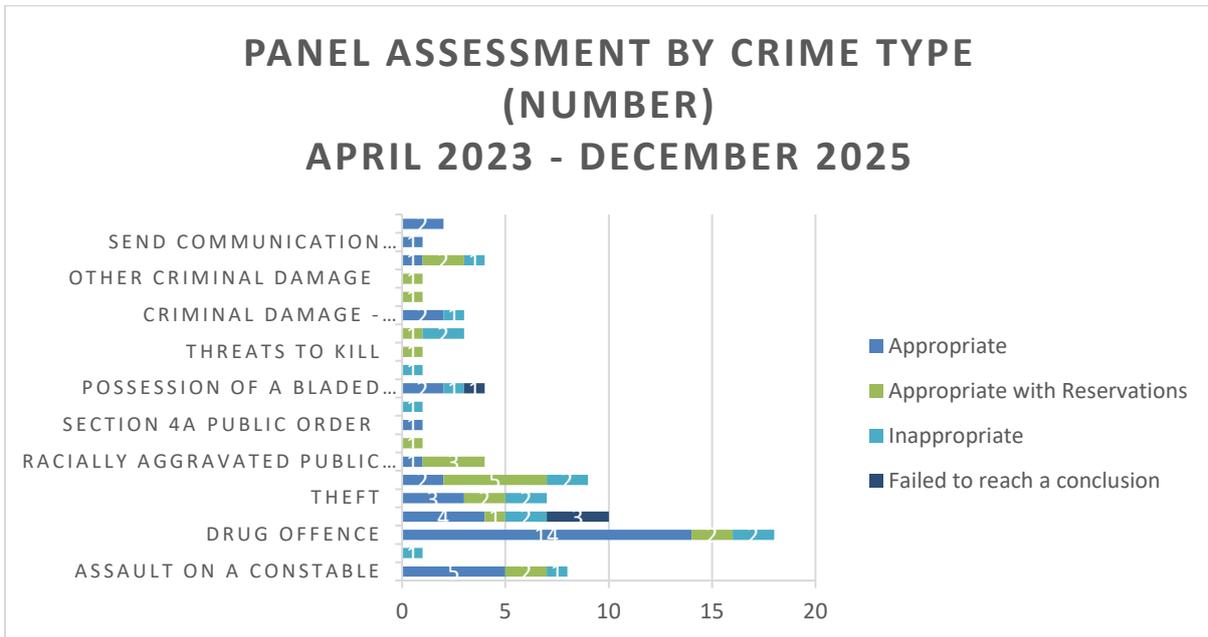


The Panel have considered a range of disposals. For December 2024 100% of the disposals considered were ACR’s. In December 2025 75% of the cases considered were dealt with via an ACR and 25% via an ACC.

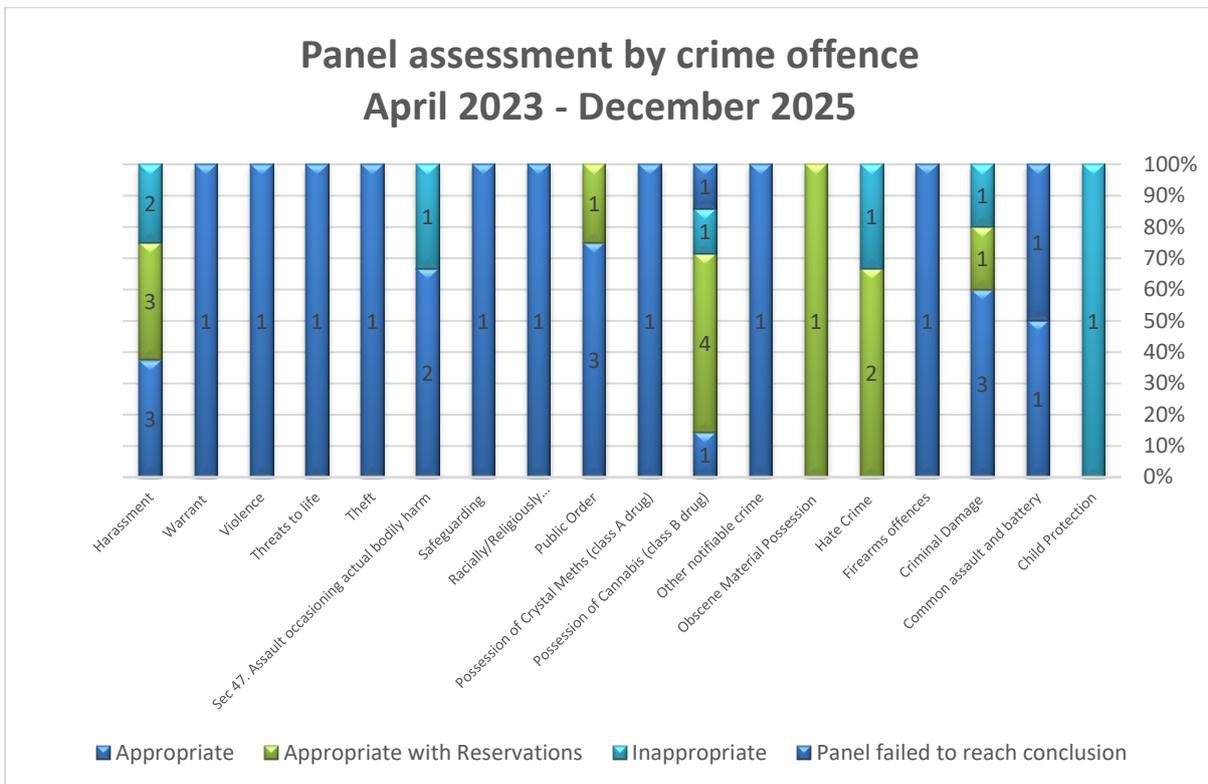
The change in the panel’s conclusions reached over December 2024 – December 2025 can be seen in the graph below:



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

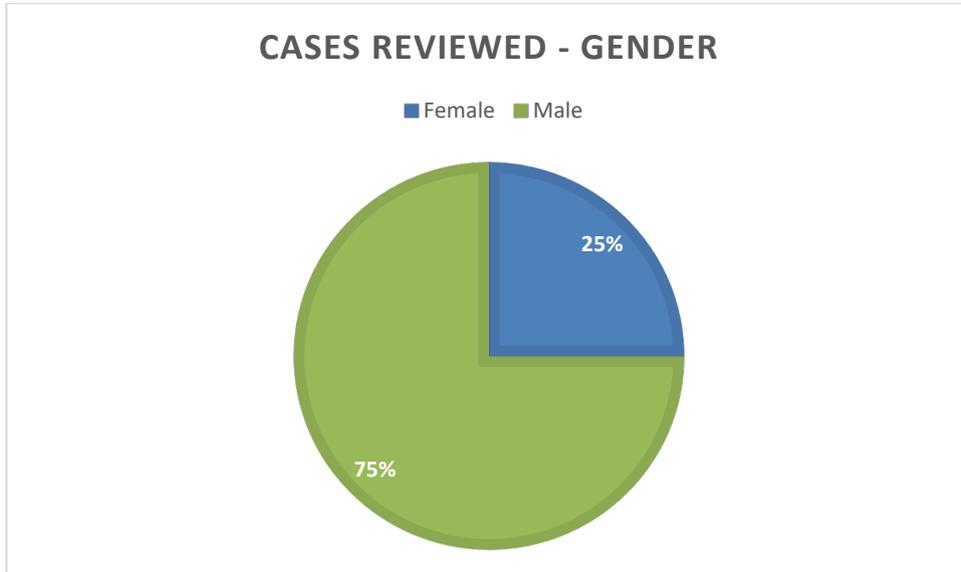


The following graph displays the actual number of cases assessed within each crime type and the resulting Panel opinions at their meetings between April 2023 and December 2025.



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	6	0
White – North European	0	6
Unknown	2	2

In two of the cases reviewed, ethnicity was not recorded. 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 a review of Shoplifting cases at the next meeting.

10.0 Actions

Action number	Summary	To be progressed by
OOCR - 164	Feedback to be provided to the Supervisor of Adult case 5 following the Panel's determination that the ACR was inappropriately issued.	Insp Coppock