



Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu
Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

Scrutiny Panel

Dip Sampling Exercise

Women/Hate Crime and Disproportionality

Panel Members' Findings & Feedback of Youth cases

December 2024

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1.0 Overview

On the 11th of December 2024, members from the Out of Court Resolutions (OoCR) scrutiny panel attended a meeting to review a selection of 7 adult and 6 youth cases involving an offence involving Women/Hate Crime and Disproportionality which had been dealt with by way of an OoCR. This report will focus on the panels findings in relation to the youth cases. The report for the adult cases can be found here.

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 11th of December 2024.



Signed:

Date: 19.03.2025

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:

- A marker was placed on Youth Case 6 from the 24th of April 2023 OoCR panel meeting to ensure that any future offences are brought to court.
- The panel's findings and feedback from senior officers were given to multiple officers.
- Improvements have been made in receiving Youth bureau reports.

5.0 Areas for improvement & rearing themes (youth cases)

The following areas for improvement were identified during the review of the adult cases as reoccurring concerns and areas that required action and improvement.

- The Panel raised concerns after noticing that racially aggravated charges were being dropped instead of being noted as no further action required. The Panel also noted that the charges were being dropped as a result of the suspect denying the allegation. The Panel agreed that this is an unacceptable reason to drop an offence. The Panel suggested that further training is required to educate officers of how to record a racially aggravated offence.
- A number of cases reviewed contained some inappropriate comments within the occurrence entry log. The Panel stressed the importance of ensuring all detail within any Force report is professional.

- The Panel identified the need to remind all staff of the importance to adhere to the OoCR policy and ensure all relevant detail is noted and captured within the reports.
- Concerns were raised with the inconsistent approach to issuing OoCR's across Dyfed Powys. The Panel raised their concerns that Youth Restorative Disposals (YRD's) were being issued for serious offences such as racially aggravated offences.

The Panel were in agreement that the above areas of concern were organisational learning rather than individual learning. As an outcome the below action was agreed.

Action 1:

Newsletter, appropriate training and feedback to be provided to Dyfed Powys Police on the below concerns:

- Inspector authorisation required for racially aggravated offences.
- Training on how to correctly record and de-record racially aggravated offences.
- OoCR Policy and checklist to be followed.
- Inappropriate comments being recorded within reports.
- Issuing YRD's
- Consistent approach to issuing OoCR across Dyfed Powys

6.0 Consideration of Youth cases

Panel members reviewed six Youth cases. Of those four cases were issued with a Youth Restorative Disposal (YRD), one with a Community Resolution (CR) and one by a Youth Community Resolution (YCR).

Members' assessments were as follows:

Members' assessment	Number of cases
Appropriate	2
Appropriate with reservations	3
Inappropriate	1

Case 1

The Panel questioned the outcome of this case as there was no paperwork provided for the YRD. The Panel also raised concerns that the hate crime element of this case had been overlooked and not recorded well within the occurrence log. The panel thus determined that the OoCR issued was not appropriate.

Action 3:

The Panel's findings to be provided as feedback to the officer.

Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate

Case 2

Overall, the Panel deemed that the OoCR was appropriate in the circumstances of this case as the suspect had no previous offences and that positive action was undertaken by the Youth Offending Team (YoT). However, the Panel did raise their concerns about the length of time the investigation had taken for this case and noticed significant delays in referring the suspect to the YoT's. It is on this basis that the Panel agreed that the investigation could have been improved.

Action 4:

Feedback of the Panel's findings regarding the timeliness of the investigation to be provided to the officers.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 3

During the review the Panel commended the positive work that is ongoing with the suspect with the support of the INTACT team. The Panel also identified that a full admission was provided by the suspect and an apology issued to the victim. The Panel however did raise some concerns about the child gravity matrix not being adhered to as it seemed that the hate crime element of the case had been overlooked. The Panel agreed that the OoCR was appropriate but had reservations regarding the use of the gravity matrix.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 4

The Panel noted the positive work being undertaken by the YoT to support the suspect. Overall, the Panel agreed that the OoCR issued was appropriate in the circumstances.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 5

The Panel identified that the victim was supportive of the outcome and that an apology was provided. The Panel had no reservations therefore agreed that the OoCR was appropriately used.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

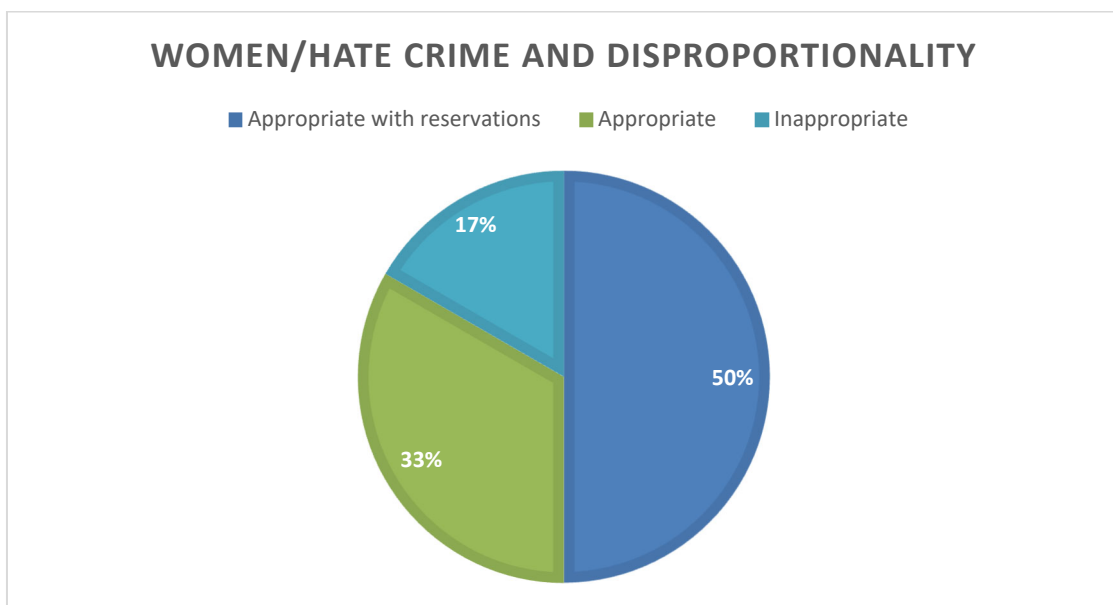
Case 6

The Panel discussed that an apology was provided to the victim, and they were not supportive of an investigation therefore an OoCR was an appropriate outcome. However, the Panel identified inconsistencies with the recording of the racially aggravated offence which has been highlighted in previous cases.

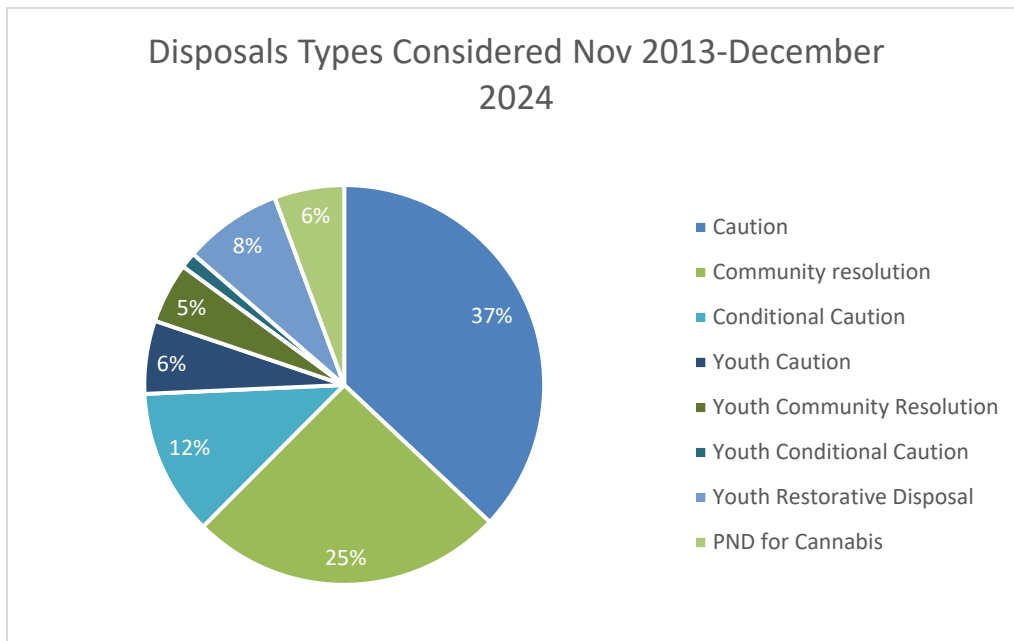
Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

7.0 Panel's assessments to date

The chart below demonstrates the Panel's assessment of youth cases of Women/Hate Crime and Disproportionality considered at the most recent meeting:

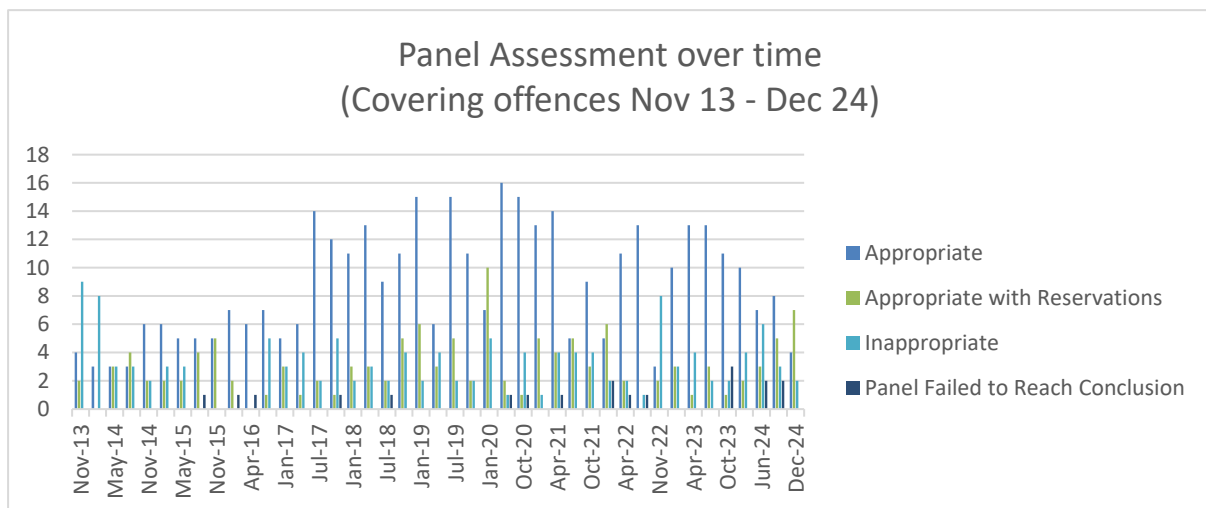


Since November 2013 the Panel has considered a range of disposals, as displayed in the graph below.

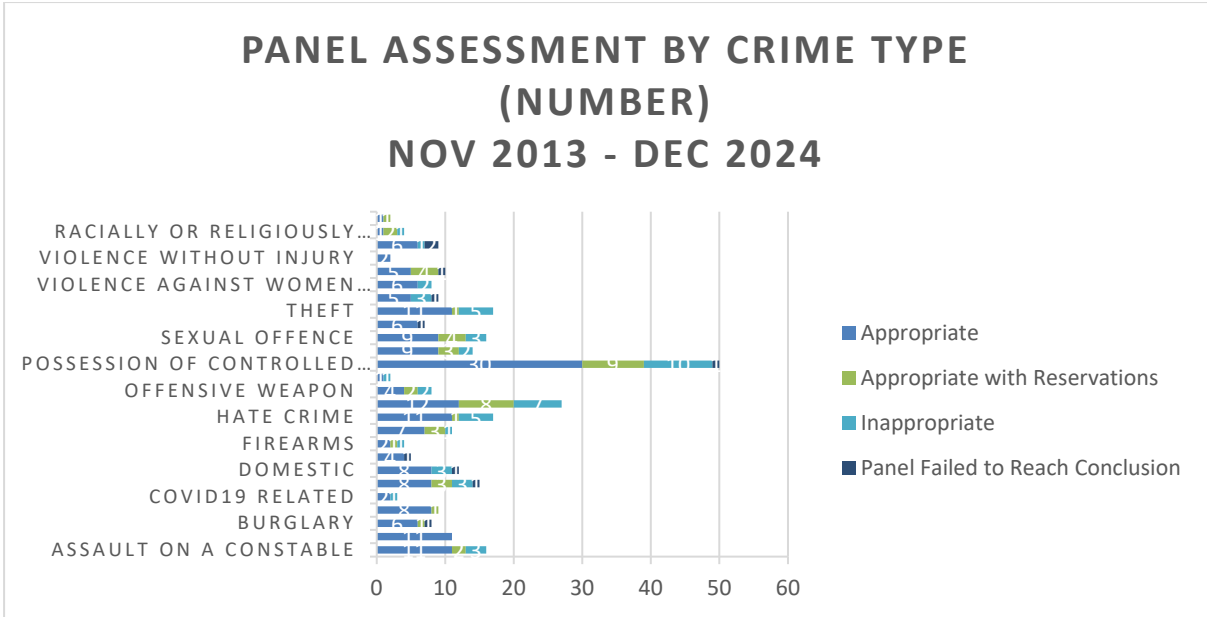


Of the 296 cases examined between November 2013 and December 2024, 63% were assessed as appropriate, 18% as inappropriate, 15% as appropriate with reservations and the Panel failed to reach a conclusion in 3% of cases.

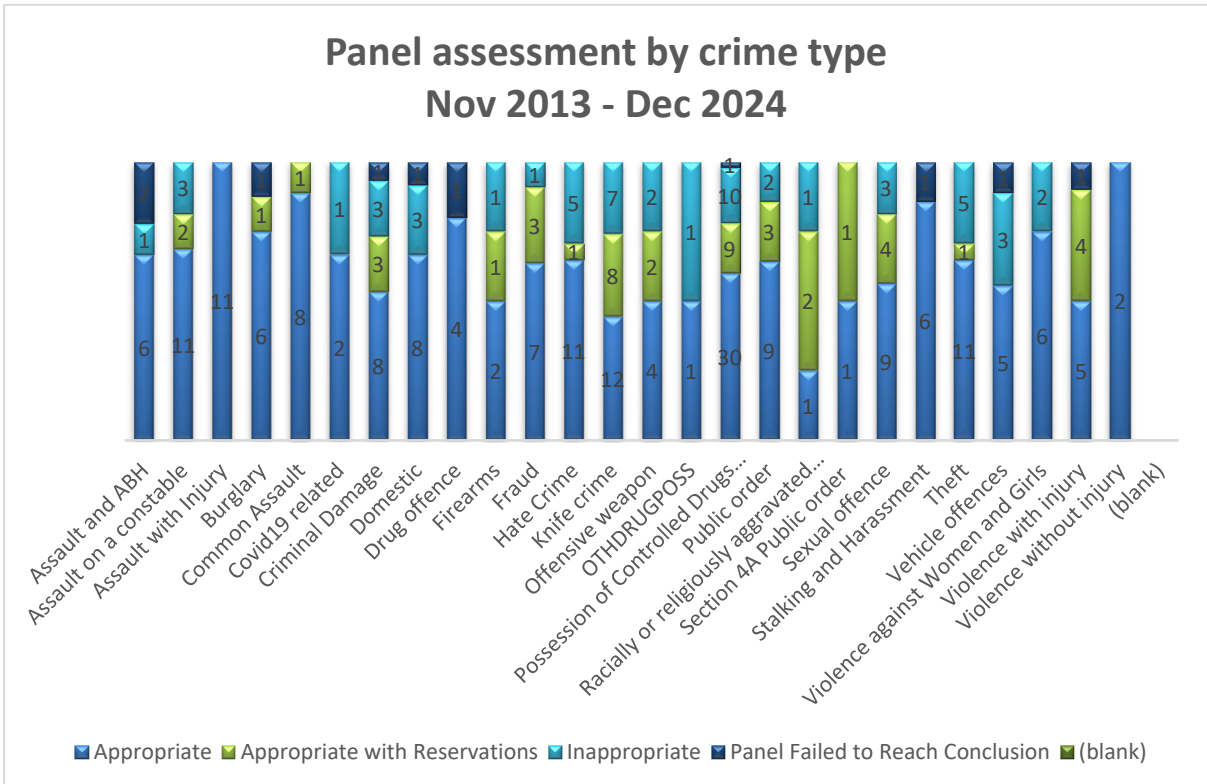
The change in conclusions reached over time can be seen in the graph below:



The graph below shows the breakdown by crime type as a percentage of cases considered between November 2013 and December 2024.

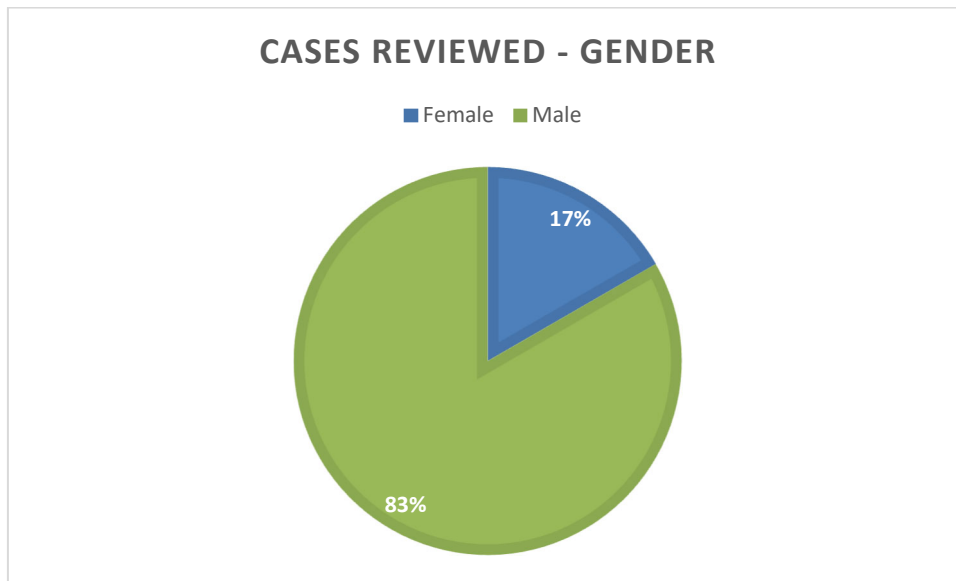


The following graph displays the actual number of cases assessed within each crime type and the resulting Panel opinions at their meetings between November 2013 and December 2024.



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	5	6
White – North European	0	0
White-Irish	0	0
White-Gypsy or Irish Traveller	1	0
Unknown	0	0

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 **XXX** charges at the next meeting.

10.0 Actions

Meeting date	Action no	Summary	Person responsible
11/12/2023	OOCR-153	Newsletter, appropriate training and feedback to be provided to Dyfed Powys Police on the below concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector authorisation required for racially aggravated offences. • Training on how to correctly record and de-record racially aggravated offences. • OoCR Policy and checklist to be followed. • Inappropriate comments being recorded within reports. • Issuing YRD's • Consistent approach to issuing OoCR across Dyfed Powys 	ChInsp Jenna Jones / Judith Jenkins & Tanya Davies
11/12/2024	OOCR - 155	The Panel's findings for youth case 1 to be provided as feedback to the officer	ChInsp Michael Llewellyn
11/12/2024	OOCR - 156	Feedback of the Panel's findings for youth case 2 regarding the timeliness of the investigation to be provided to the officers.	ChInsp Matthew Price