

OFFICIAL  
March 2025

SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT



Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throsedd  
Dyfed-Powys  
Police and Crime Commissioner

## Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

### Scrutiny Panel

### Dip Sampling Exercise

### Knife Crime Cases

### Panel Members' Findings & Feedback of Adult cases

**March 2025**



## Contents

### 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 .....	3
6.0 Consideration of Adult Cases.....	4
7.0 Panel's assessments to date .....	6
8.0 Ethnicity and Gender .....	8
9.0 Future Panel focus .....	9

## 1.0 Overview

On the 19th of March 2025, members from the Out of Court Resolutions (OoCR) scrutiny panel attended a meeting to review a selection of 6 adult cases and 6 youth cases involving a knife crime offence 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 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

Signed: 

Date: 18.06.2025

### 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 in relation to the panels assessment of an inappropriate use of OoCR.
- Feedback provided to Dyfed Powys Police, through the new strategic meeting 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.
  - Consistent approach to issuing OoCR across Dyfed Powys
- A new meeting has been established in Dyfed-Powys Police to assess and react to the panel's findings for adult cases

### 5.0 Areas for improvement

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

- In case 3 the panel rased their concerns that the offensive weapon charge was dropped and combined with the drug possession charge when it should had been dealt with seprately.
- Some of the reports that the panel were provided with were not clear and were missing important information.

## 6.0 Consideration of Adult Cases

From the six adult cases, five had been dealt with by an Adult Community Resolution (ACR) and one by a diversionary, educational or intervention activity (outcome 22).

Members' assessment	Number of cases
Appropriate	2
Appropriate with reservations	1
Inappropriate	2
Failed to reach a conclusion	1

Panel Members' observations are detailed below.

### Case 1

The Panel noted that the alleged offender (AO) had rung the police themselves and that there were no threats made to anyone but themselves. It was also acknowledged that the AO had no previous offences or convictions but was clearly suffering with their mental health. It was therefore deemed that the use of the ACR was appropriate.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

### Case 2

Similar to case 1 the Panel noted that the AO called the police themselves and had made no threats. It was acknowledged that the AO provided a full admission to being in possession of a bladed article and suffered from a mental health crisis. The panel deemed the use of the ACR appropriate due to the AO's mental health and low severity of the incident.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

### Case 3

The Panel raised their concerns that the possession of a bladed article had been dropped as they deemed the incident as serious, with clear intent from the AO. It was understood that the police failed to arrange a voluntary interview with the AO and instead of taking longer to re-arrange, it was decided to drop the offence. The Panel also noted that the AO has an extensive list of previous offences and convictions and noted that there was no admission of guilt noted. Due to the severity of the incident and the AO's previous history the panel concluded that the use of the ACR was inappropriate.

**Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate**

#### **Case 4**

Extensive discussions were held in relation to this case where the Panel questioned whether the AO should have been dealt with as an adult or a youth. It was determined that the AO was a youth at the time of the incident and therefore the case was considered in relation to the other youth cases reviewed by the Panel.

**Panel's Assessment: Failed to reach a conclusion**

#### **Case 5**

The Panel raised their concerns with the severity of the incident which took place in a busy holiday park. The Panel discussed the possibility of expecting to see a case like this in court, although the difficulty of presenting threats to kill to court was acknowledged. It was also noted that the AO may be struggling with substance misuse as the incident in question was fuelled by alcohol in addition to previous offences, which included intoxication. It was therefore discussed whether a diversionary scheme could support the AO with this. The Panel concluded that whilst they deemed the ACR appropriate there remained some reservations.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations**

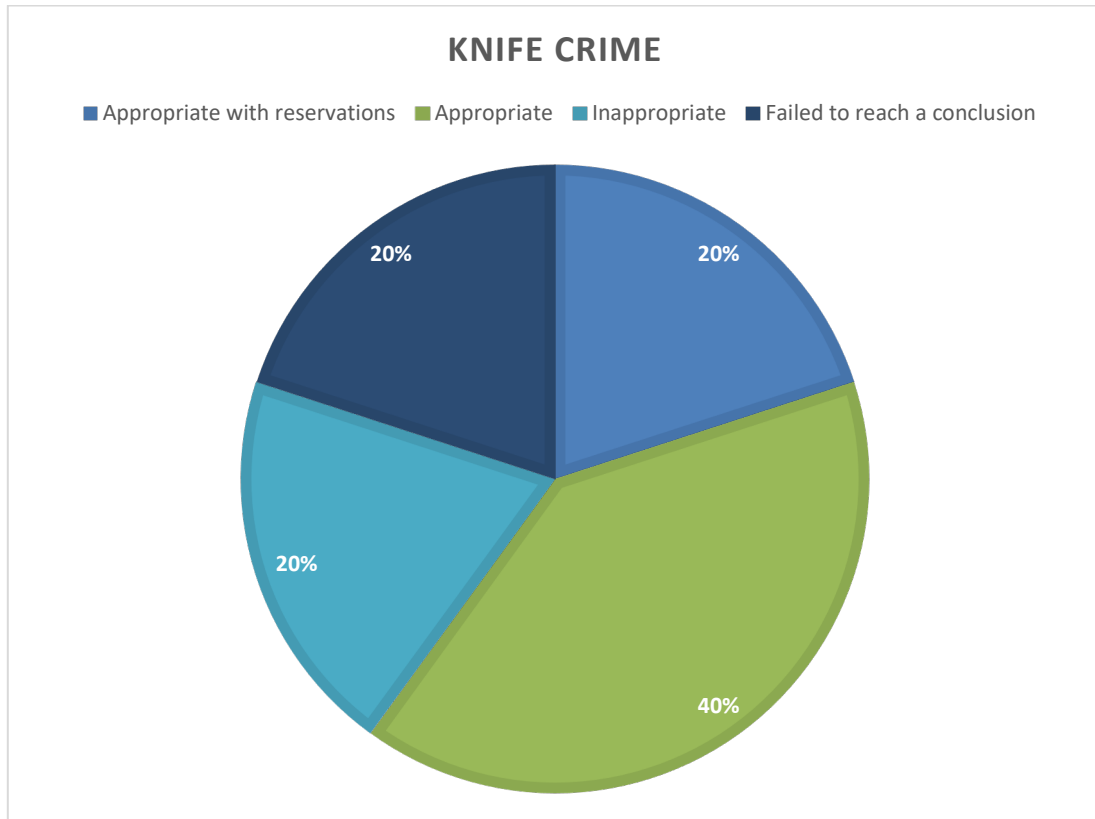
#### **Case 6**

The Panel noted the AO's extensive previous offences and convictions including an 18-month suspended sentence. A discussion ensued regarding the AO's violent history and it was therefore deemed that the ACR was not appropriate.

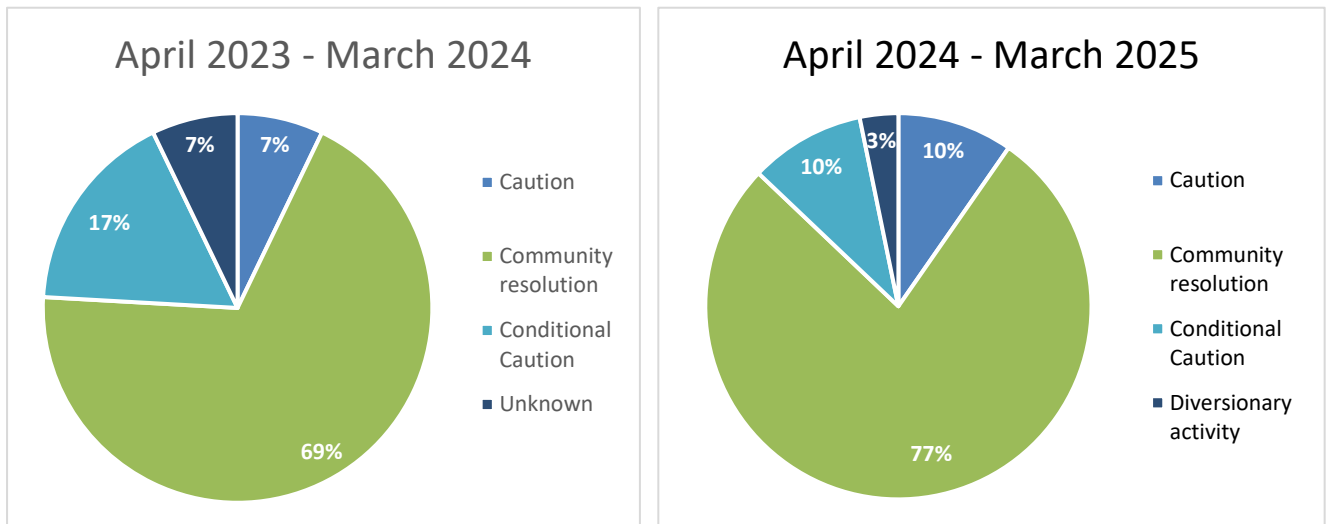
**Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate**

## 7.0 Panel's assessments to date

The chart below demonstrates the Panel's assessment of adult cases of knife crime considered at the most recent meeting:



The Panel have considered a range of disposals. Displayed in the graph below is a comparison of the disposals considered from April 2023 – March 24 to April 2024 – March 25.

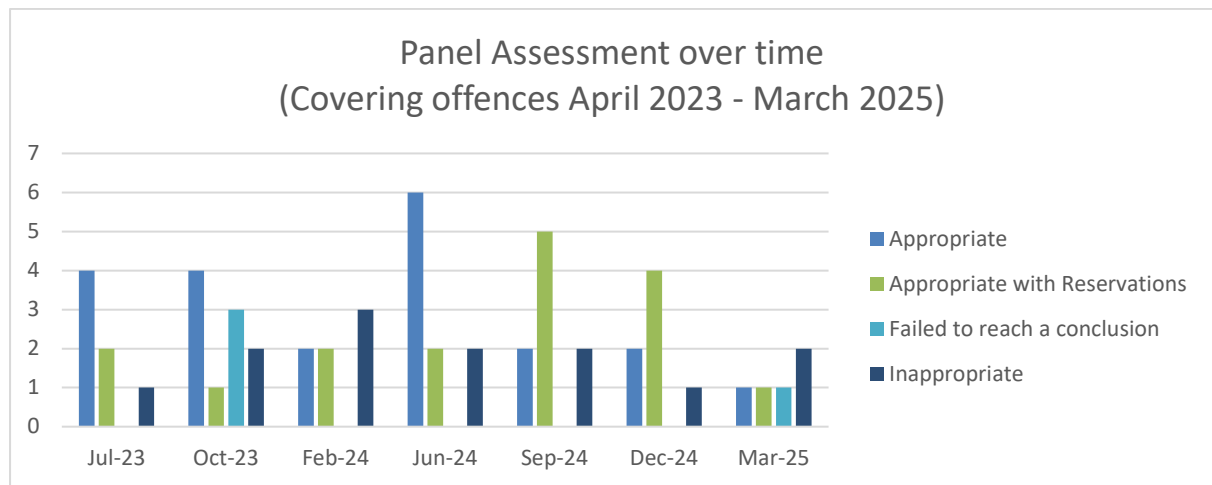




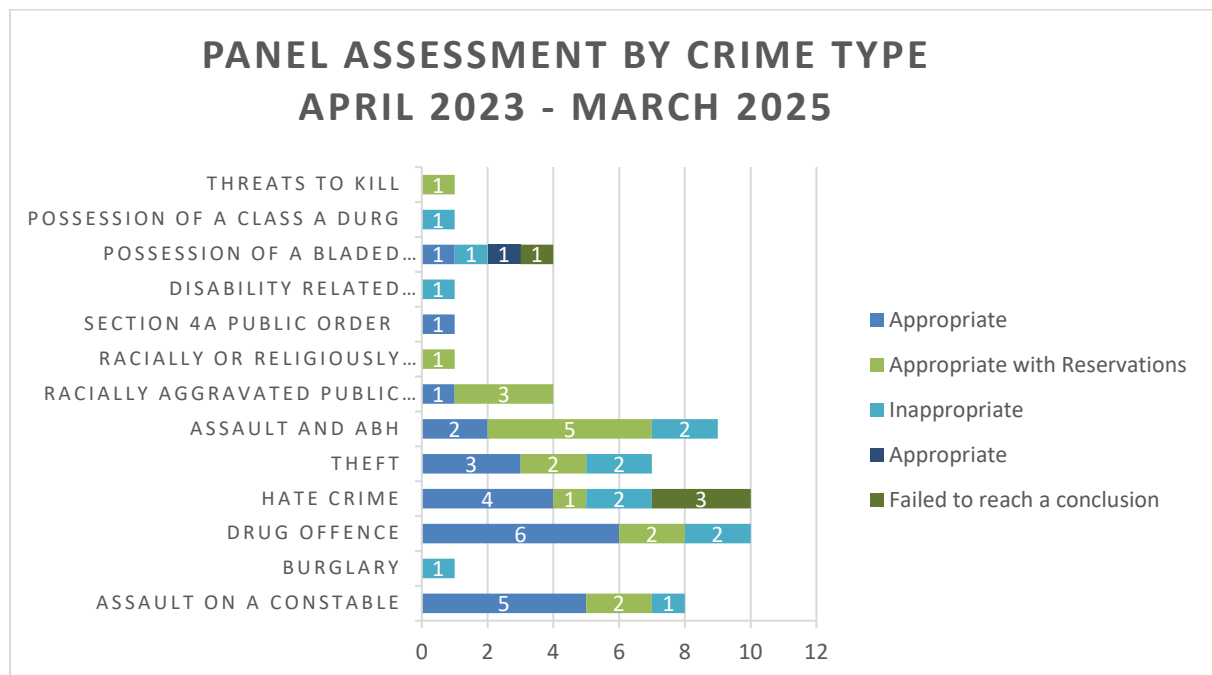
Of the 25 adult cases examined between April 2023 and March 2024, 44% were assessed as appropriate, 24% as inappropriate, 16% as appropriate with reservations and the Panel failed to reach a conclusion in 16% of cases.

Of the 32 adult cases examined between April 2024 and March 2025, 38% were assessed as appropriate, 22% as inappropriate, 38% as appropriate with reservations and the Panel failed to reach a conclusion in 2% of cases.

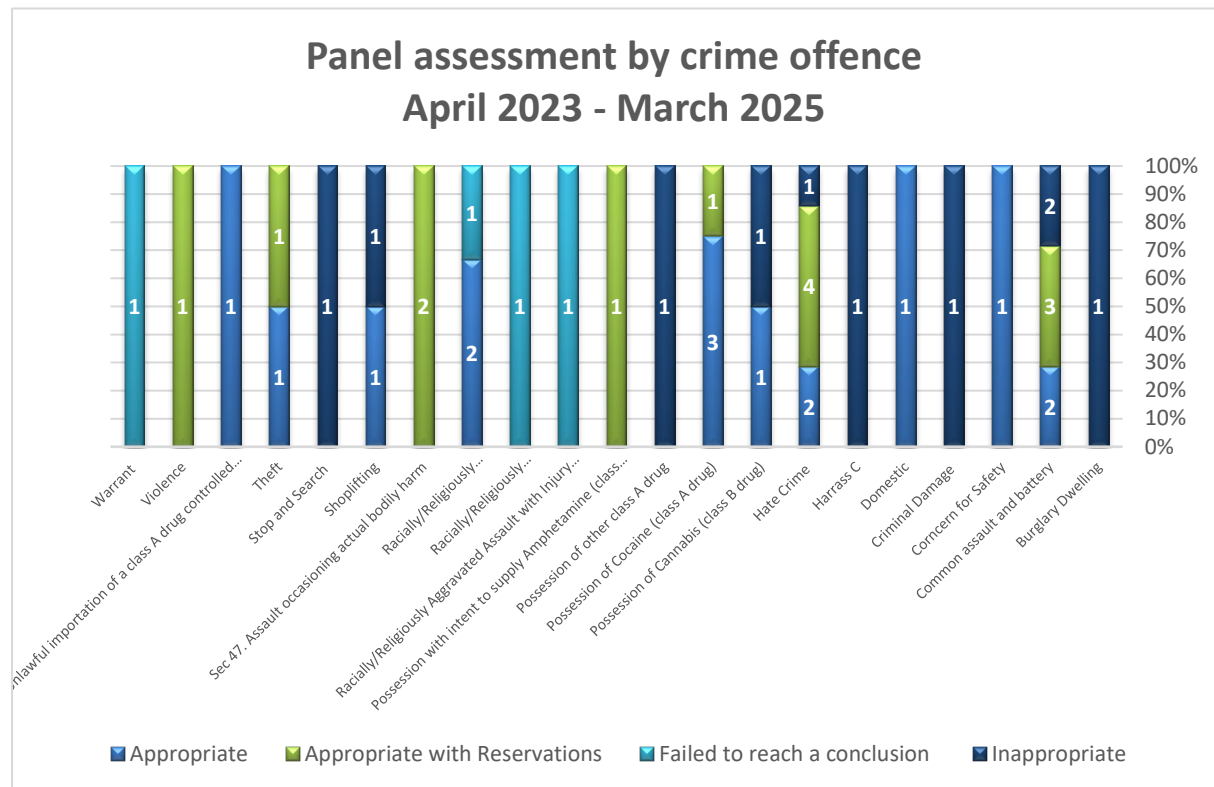
The change in conclusions reached over both periods can be seen in the graph below:



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

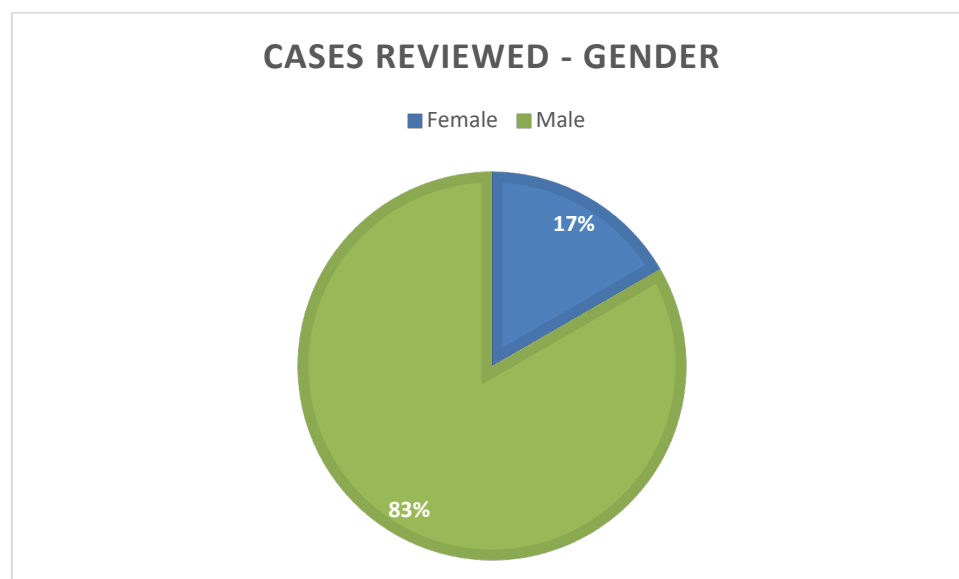


The following graph displays the actual number of cases assessed within each crime type and the resulting Panel opinions at their meetings between April 2023 and March 2025.



## 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.

<b>Ethnicity Noted</b>	<b>Suspect's Self - Assessment</b>	<b>Officer's Assessment</b>
White British	3	0
White – North European	0	4
White-Irish	0	0
White-Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0
Unknown	3	2

In one 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 criminal damage and public order charges at the next meeting.

### **10.0 Actions**

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Action no</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>
19.03.2025	OOCR – 157	YoT Bureau reports for Adult case 4 to be circulated to the panel.	OPCC