



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 Adult cases

December 2024

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 & rearing themes	3
6.0 Consideration of Adult Cases.....	4
7.0 Panel’s assessments to date	6
8.0 Ethnicity and Gender	9
9.0 Future Panel focus.....	9
10.0 Actions	10

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 cases 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 adult cases. The report for the youth 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:

- The panel's findings and feedback from senior officers were given to multiple officers.

5.0 Areas for improvement & rearing themes

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

- Throughout the adult cases the panel identified that where a racially aggravated offence was identified the authorisation from an Inspector rank or higher was not present within the reports.
- 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.

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

6.0 Consideration of Adult Cases

From the seven adult cases all had been dealt with by an Adult Community Resolution (ACR).

Members' assessment	Number of cases
Appropriate	2
Appropriate with reservations	4
Inappropriate	1

Panel Members' observations are detailed below.

Case 1

The Panel concluded that whilst they agreed the OoCR was appropriate they had concerns regarding the contact between the officers and the victims. It was clarified that the 1st victim had received a timely response from the officers, but the Panel noted that improvements could had been made with the timeliness of contacting the 2nd victim.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 2

The Panel acknowledged that the victim was supportive of the ACR being issued and that a letter of apology was written. Throughout the case the panel identified areas that could have been improved, i.e. the rationale for issuing an ARC, evidence that the victim was spoken to and having the correct information recorded. The Panel also identified that there were some insensitive comments made by an officer within the report.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 3

The Panel noted that the victim was supportive of the ACR being issued, that a letter of an apology was issued. It was concluded that the Force acted reasonably once the suspect was identified. It is on this basis the Panel agreed that the OoCR issued was appropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 4

During the meeting the Panel acknowledged that the victim was not supportive of a police investigation, so an OoCR was an appropriate outcome. However, it was noted that improvements are required on the understanding of racially aggravated incidences and how to accurately record them.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 5

The Panel noted that there was a lack of victim engagement as all the corresponding was done through the victim's mother. The Panel could not identify whether the victim had been consulted prior to the OoCR being issued and whether the suspect had admitted to the offence. It is on this basis that the panel determined that the OoCR was inappropriately issued.

Action 2:

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

Panel’s Assessment: Inappropriate

Case 6

The Panel noted that the Sergeant had provided a detailed rationale within the log as to why a OoCR was issued and that the victim was supportive of the decision. However, concerns were raised regarding the inappropriate decision to drop the racially aggravated offence.

Panel’s Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

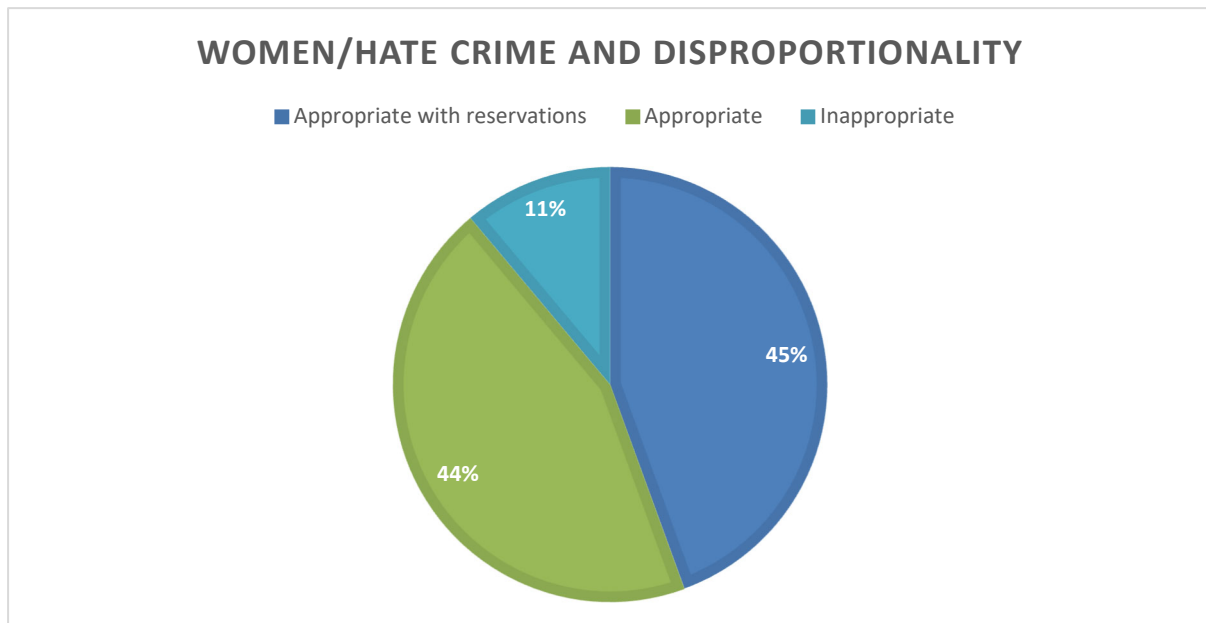
Case 7

It was acknowledged that positive action had been taken to protect the victim by providing safeguarding advice and a timely response. The Panel also identified that verbal and written apology was issued to the victim and thus determined that the OoCR issued was appropriate.

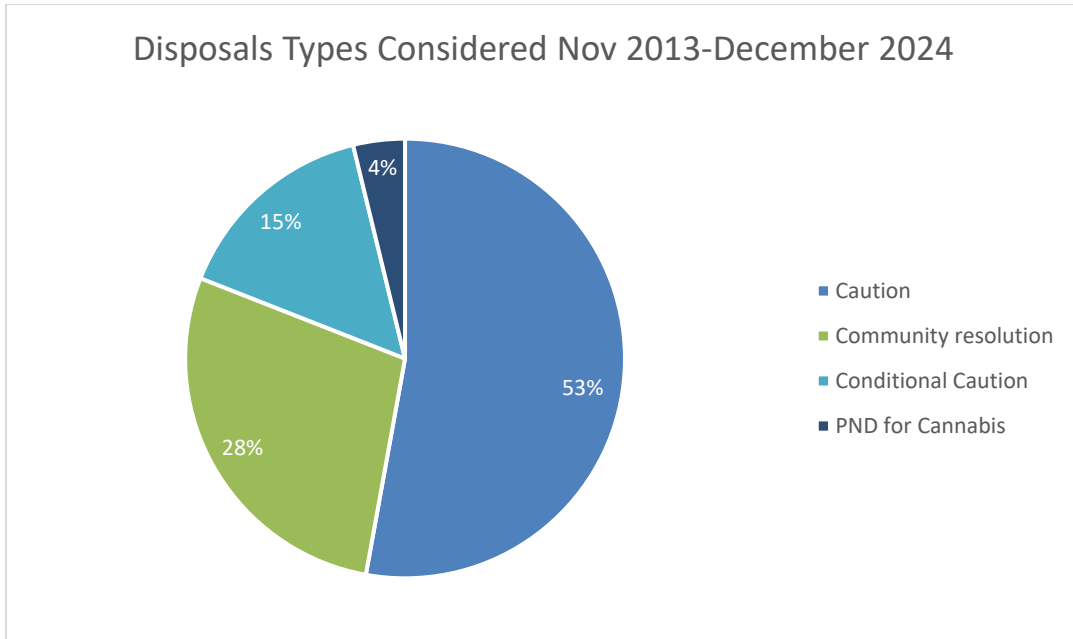
Panel’s Assessment: Appropriate

7.0 Panel’s assessments to date

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

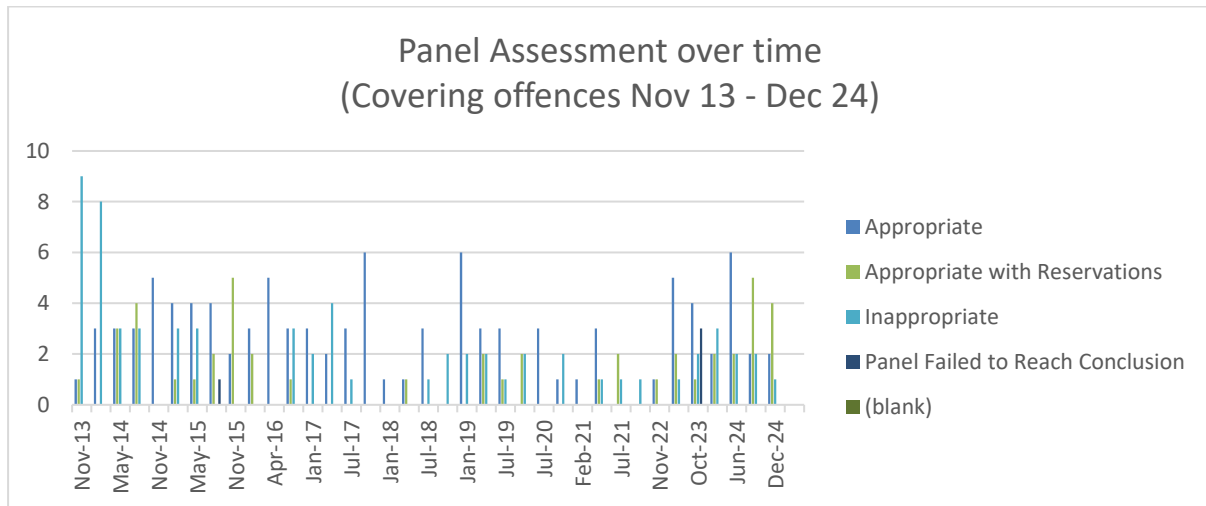


Since November 2013 the Panel has considered a range of disposals, as displayed in the graph below.

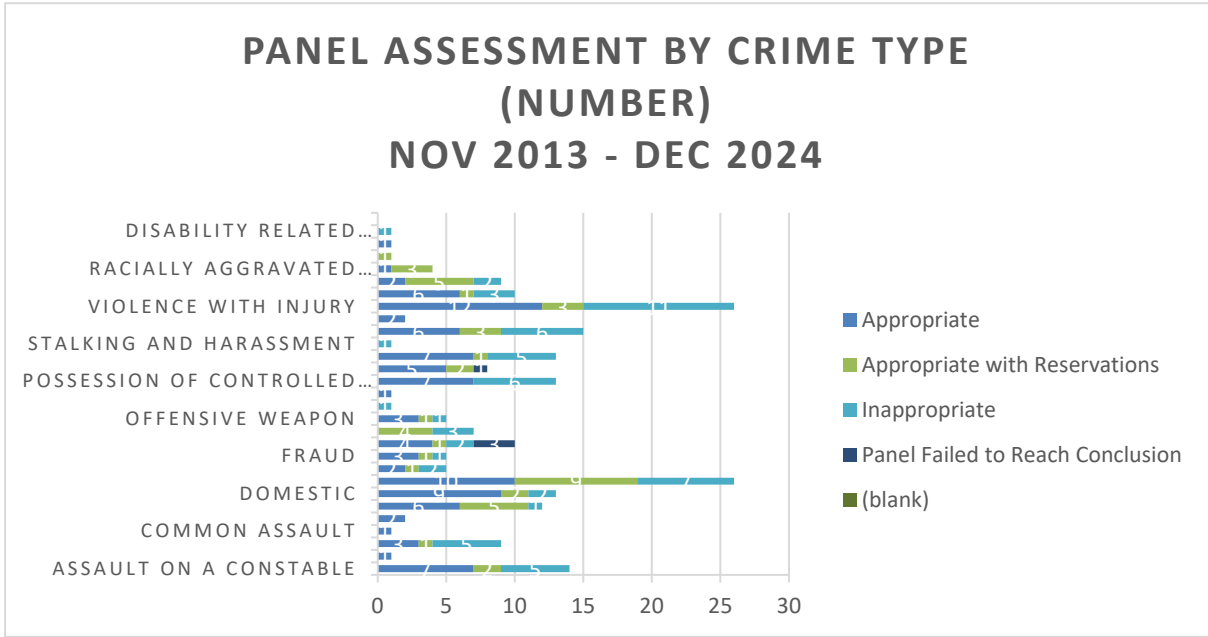


Of the 216 adult cases examined between November 2013 and December 2024, 47% were assessed as appropriate, 30% as inappropriate, 21% as appropriate with reservations and the Panel failed to reach a conclusion in 2% of cases.

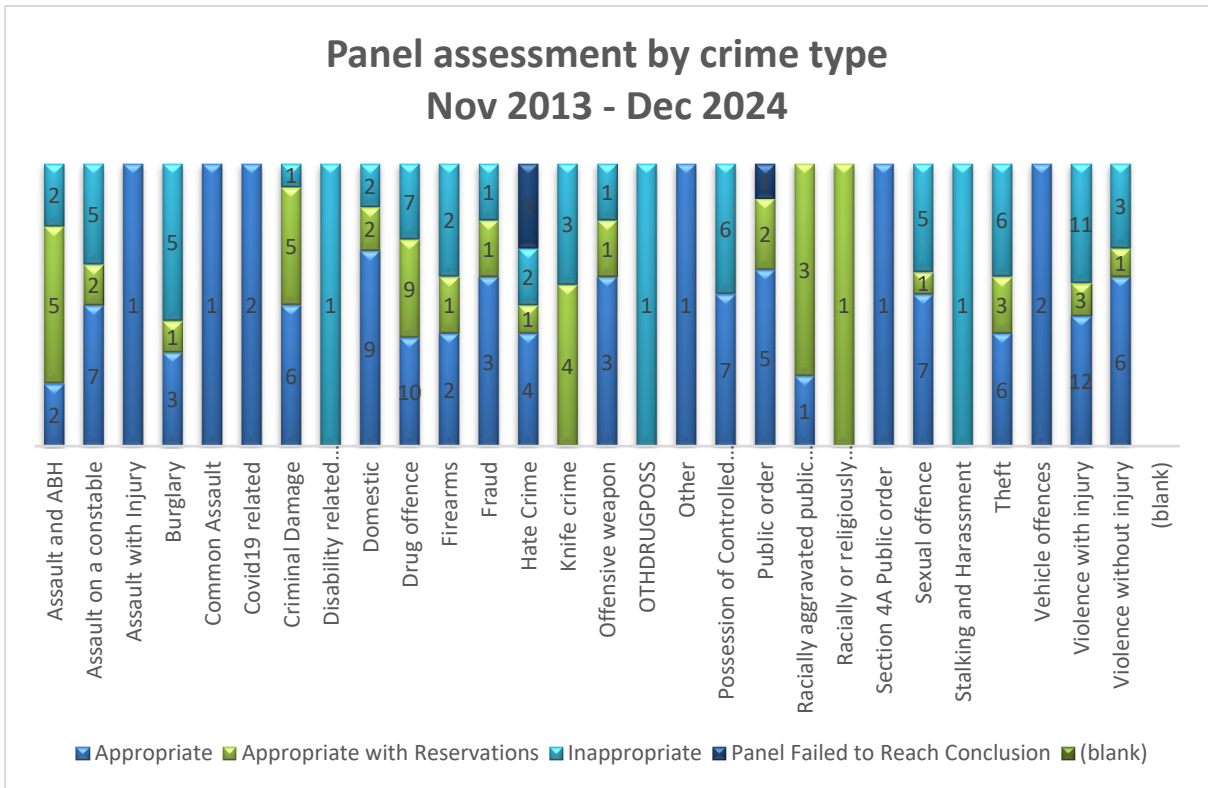
The change in conclusions reached over time can be seen in the graph below:



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

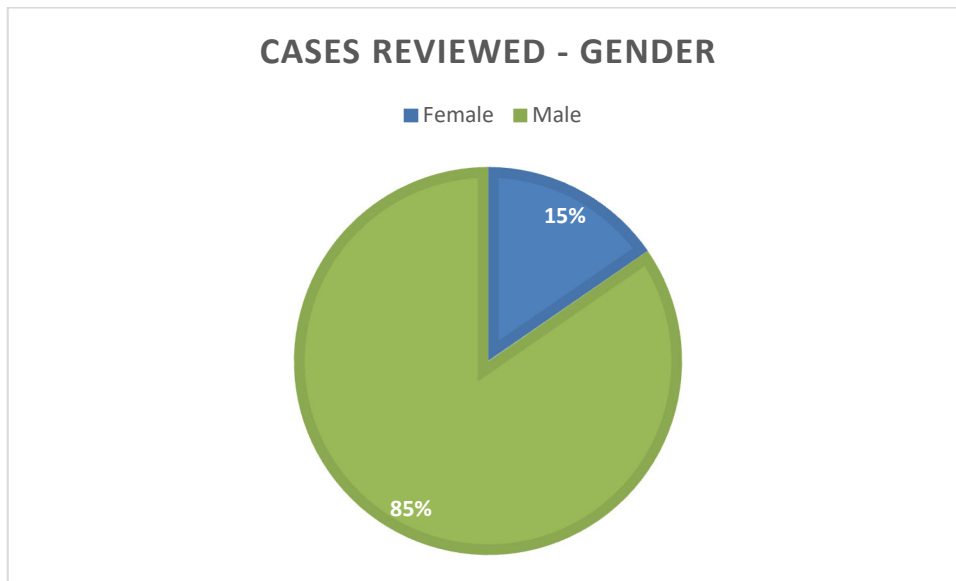


The following graph displays the actual number of cases assessed within each crime type and the resulting Panel opinions at their meetings between November 2013 and December 2024.



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

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 **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 - 154	The Panel's findings for adult case 5 to be provided as feedback to the officer(s)	ChInsp Matthew Price