

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 Adult cases

June 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.....	3
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 18th of June 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 Criminal Damage and Public order 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 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 in relation to the panels assessment of an inappropriate use of OoCR.

5.0 Areas for improvement

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

- Two of the cases reviewed by the panel did not have the Adult community resolution (ACR) report attached to the occurrence log.
- Some of the reports that the panel were provided with were not clear and were missing important information.
- The panel determined that ACR's were being inappropriately issues to alleged offenders (AO) who had extensive previous offences, and questioned whether these has been taken into consideration by officers.

6.0 Consideration of Adult Cases

From the eight adult cases, five had been dealt with by an ACR and one by a Youth restorative disposal (YRD).

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

Panel Members' observations are detailed below.

Case 1

The Panel noted that no ACR report was attached to the occurrence log which meant some information was not available, making the outcome decision unclear. It was highlighted how critical it is that officers log and record all necessary information. In relation to the case the Panel noted that the incident was lengthy and highly aggressive in a public place. It was also noted that the AO had previous offences for public order of a similar nature. The Panel also questioned whether the statement from the witness was ever received and considered by officers before the outcome was applied. As from the information provided the Panel determined that the outcome was issued by officers before the witness statement was received. It was therefore deemed that the ACR issued was inconsistent with the OoCR policy.

Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate

Case 2

It was acknowledged that whilst the victim was supportive of the outcome it was also recorded that they were very frightened by the AO. The Panel highlighted that the AO had previous offences of public order and was on probation for a similar offence at the time of the incident. It was questioned whether the AO's probation had been breached and the Panel queried why the probation officers had dealt this incident through the police rather than through a breach of the probation behaviour contract. Due to the nature of the incident, and the AO's previous history it was determined that the use of the ACR was inappropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate

Case 3

The Panel recognised the AO's previous offences, which most were substance misuse related incidents. It was therefore discussed whether diversionary activity through the ACR was most suited to support the AO. It was not clearly stated which diversionary activity the ACR referred the AO to, and it was due to this lack of detail the Panel had reservations but agreed that the ACR was appropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 4

It was acknowledged that this offence was low level and that the AO had no trace of any previous convictions or offences. The Panel therefore concluded that this was an appropriate use of the ACR.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 5

The Panel commended the level of detail included within the documentation provided. It was acknowledged that the AO showed high level of remorse and that an apology and compensation was provided to the victim. Therefore, the Panel agreed that this was an appropriate use of the ACR.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 6

It was noted that significant damaged had been caused by the AO although it was not clear to what extent this was. The Panel noted that the offence could have impacted a community resource and that whilst it was agreed that compensation would be paid the invoice was outstanding. The Panel noted that officers had closed the ACR with the invoice outstanding therefore questioned whether this would be fulfilled. It was acknowledged that the victim in this incident was a large company, and the Panel shared their experience that larger companies prefer a faster resolution through and OoCR rather than going to court. It was determined the ACR was appropriate but the Panel noted the need for further information to be recorded including the victims wishes and conformation whether the compensation was provided.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 7

The Panel recognised that the AO had no previous offences and was a responsible dog owner who agreed to pay compensation to the victim. The Panel did question who the owner of the sheep was as it was not clear within the documentation provided. Thus, the Panel concluded that the ACR was appropriate but had reservations over the clarity of information recorded.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

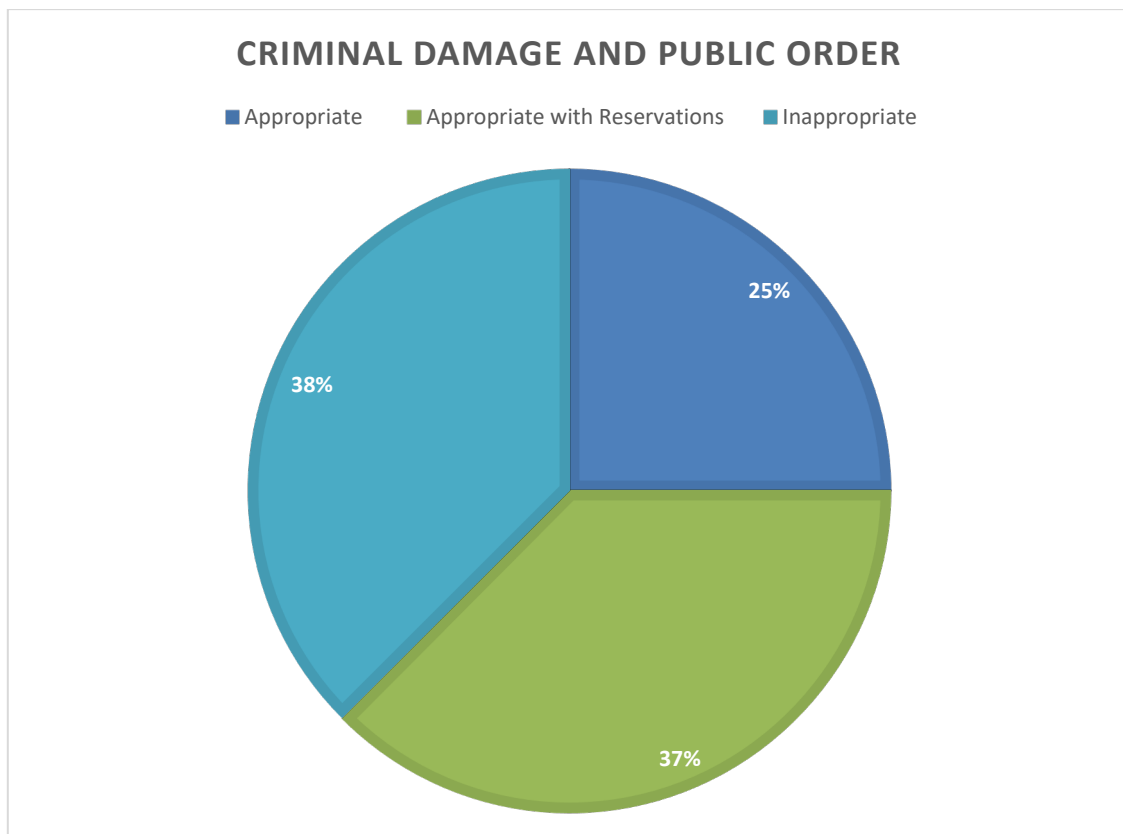
Case 8

The Panel acknowledged that positive action was undertaken by the Sargent but the actions by the Neighbourhood Policing Team was poor. It was also noted that the documentation was lacking information and not clear to understand, therefore the Panel were unsure whether compensation was provided to the victim. The Panel raised their concerns that the AO had been issued with a YRD which is for youth's only. Therefore, this was an inappropriate use of the OoCR.

Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate

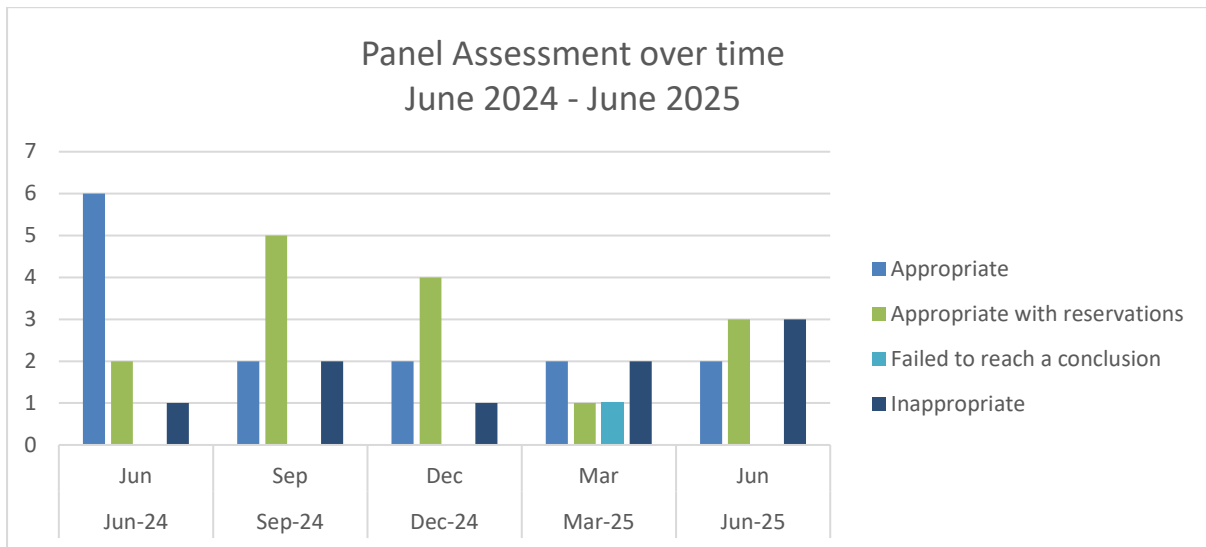
7.0 Panel's assessments to date

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

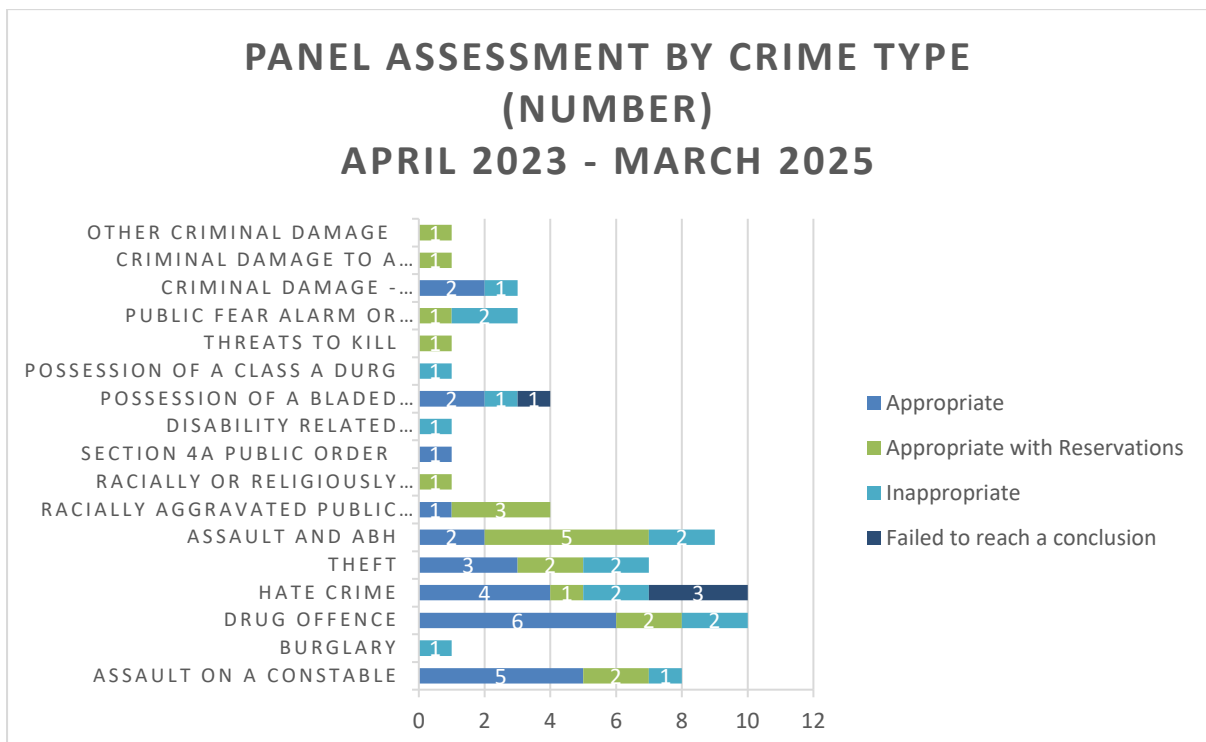


The Panel have considered a range of disposals. For June 2024 100% of the disposals considered were ACR's and in June 2025 88% were ACR's and 12% were YRD's.

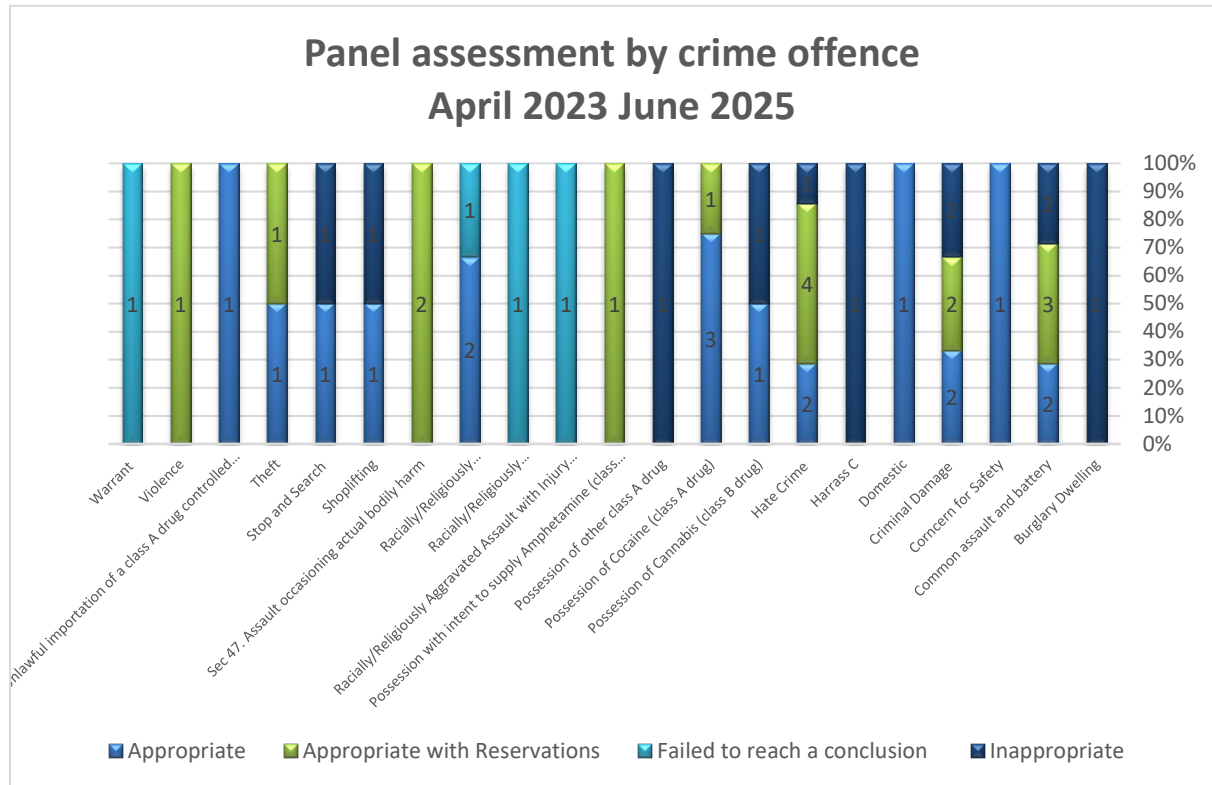
The change in the panel's conclusions reached over June 2024 – June 2025 can be seen in the graph below:



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

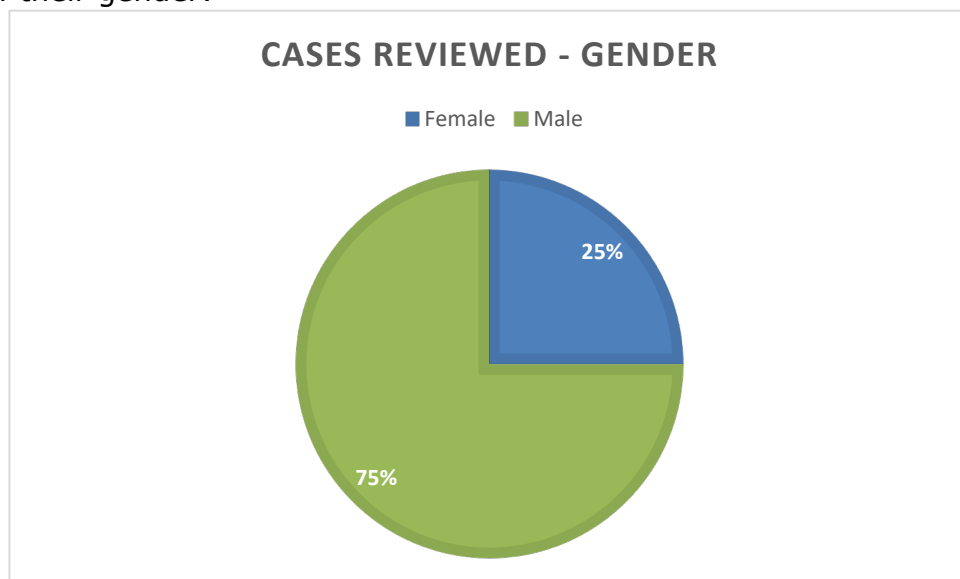


The following graph displays the actual number of cases assessed within each crime type and the resulting Panel opinions at their meetings between April 2023 and June 2025.



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	6	0
White – North European	0	6
Unknown	2	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 Stalking and Harassment cases at the next meeting.