

OUT OF COURT RESOLUTIONS (OoCD) SCRUTINY PANELS

2023-24 Q1 SUMMARY REPORT

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Purpose of the OoCD Scrutiny Panel

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel is to independently review a random selection of anonymised cases that have been resolved by use of an out of court disposal. Its aim is to determine whether the method of disposal is considered appropriate, based on a review of the information/evidence available to the decision maker at the time.

Categorisation of cases

In reviewing a case, the Panel will discuss and agree a categorisation against three options:
Use of OoCDs is considered to be:

1. Appropriate and consistent with police policies/the CPS Code for Crown Prosecutors.
2. Appropriate with observations
3. Inappropriate and inconsistent with policy.

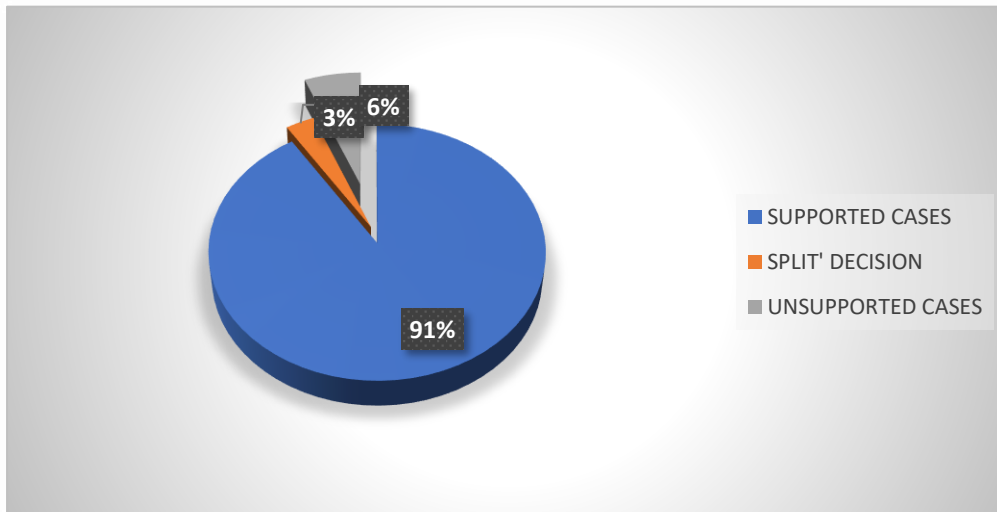
2. GENERAL SUMMARY

Table below presents summary of findings per category per scrutiny panel.

	SUPPORTED CASES*	'SPLIT' DECISION	UNSUPPORTED CASES	NUMBER OF CASES REVIEWED
EASTERN OoCD	18	0	2	20
NORTHERN OoCD	17	1	1	19
WESTERN OoCD	19	0	1	20
YOUTH OoCD	18	1	1	20
TOTAL	72	2	5	79

*Category 'Supported cases' includes cases fully supported by the panel, but also cases supported with observations.

General summary



3. FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO CASES BEING CATEGORISED AS UNSUPPORTED

Following factors have been identified as contributing to panels decision of not supporting application of the Out of Court Disposal:

- The severity of the offence and level of offending
- Insufficient intervention action (of a rehabilitative and/or educational nature) taken by the Officers
- The impact of the suspect's behaviour and actions on the wider community
- Unlikelihood of ability to fulfil conditions applied.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Better consideration of severity of the offence

Ensuring that aggravating factors are taken into account when deciding whether case is suitable for the application of the OoCD.

Greater utilisation of Restorative Justice

- Better understanding and awareness of the options available to Officers through restorative services.
- More effective use of 'Remedi' as part of disposal option.
- Maximising referrals to perpetrator/victim intervention programmes.

More effective & efficient application of disposal type

Ensuring that disposal types are: a) applied adequately in consideration of severity of offence and level of offending; b) aim to utilise meaningful conditions that would address root cause of behaviour causing offending and be of restorative and/or educational nature.