

OUT OF COURT RESOLUTION (OoCR) SCRUTINY PANELS

2023-24 Q2 SUMMARY REPORT

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Purpose of the OoCR 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 resolution. 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:

1. Supported
2. Supported with observations
3. Unsupported.

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	17	0	3	20
NORTHERN	15	1	3	19
WESTERN	14	1	4	19
YOUTH	19	1	0	20
TOTAL	65	3	10	78

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

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 Resolution:

- The severity of the offence and level of offending (4 cases).
- Offending history of the Suspect: extensive, significant, recent (4 cases).
- Violent behaviour/ level of violence used (3 cases).
- Vulnerability of Aggrieved Person (2 cases).
- Insufficient intervention action (of a rehabilitative and/or educational nature) taken by the Officers (2 cases).
- Concerns round the safety of Aggrieved Person (1 case).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Better consideration of severity of the offence

Ensuring that aggravating factors such as: level of offending, previous offending history, level of violence used are taken into account when deciding whether case is suitable for the application of the OoCR.

Better consideration of vulnerability factors in relation to Aggrieved Person

Ensuring that safety and vulnerability of Aggrieved Person is being taken into account whilst deciding on the use of OoCR.

Greater utilisation of Restorative Justice

- Better understanding and awareness of the options available to Officers through restorative services.
- Aiming to utilise meaningful conditions that would address root cause of behaviour causing offending and be of restorative and/or educational nature.