

OUT OF COURT RESOLUTIONS (OoCR) SCRUTINY PANELS

2023-24 Q3 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.

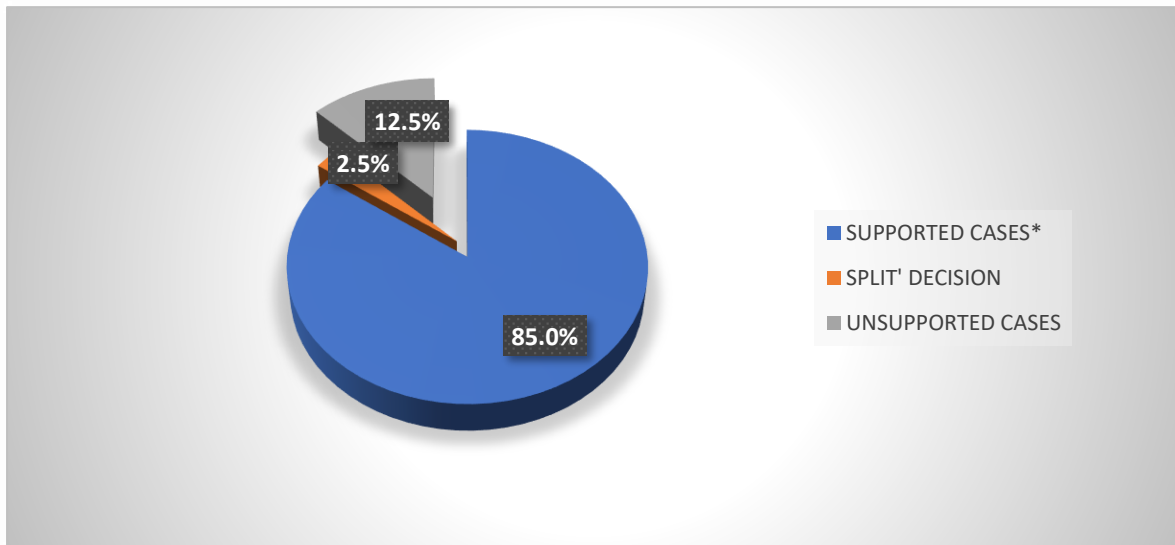
2. GENERAL SUMMARY

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

	SUPPORTED CASES*	'SPLIT' DECISION	UNSUPPORTED CASES	NUMBER OF CASES REVIEWED
EASTERN	16	1	3	20
NORTHERN	16	0	4	20
WESTERN	16	1	3	20
YOUTH	20	0	0	20
TOTAL	68	2	10	80

*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 panel's decision of not supporting application of the Out of Court Resolution:

- Offending history of the suspect: extensive, significant, recent (4 cases).
- Violent behaviour/level of violence used (4 cases).
- Pre-meditated nature of offending behaviour (3 cases).
- High value of items stolen (2 cases).
- Breach of trust (1 case).
- Concerns round the safety of Aggrieved Person and other individuals affected by suspect's behaviour and actions (1 case).
- Levels of abusive & offending behaviour and its coercive nature (1 case).
- Possession of the weapon (1 case).
- Multiple victims affected by suspect's actions (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, pre-planned actions are taken into account when deciding whether case is suitable for the application of the OoCR.

Better consideration of the potential negative impacts of suspect's behaviour

Ensuring that safety and wellbeing of Aggrieved Person and other individuals/members of public is being considered and consideration is given to how the suspect's behaviour and actions affect others whilst deciding on the use of OoCR.