



# OUT OF COURT RESOLUTION (OoCR) SCRUTINY PANELS

## 2023-24 Q4 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 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:

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

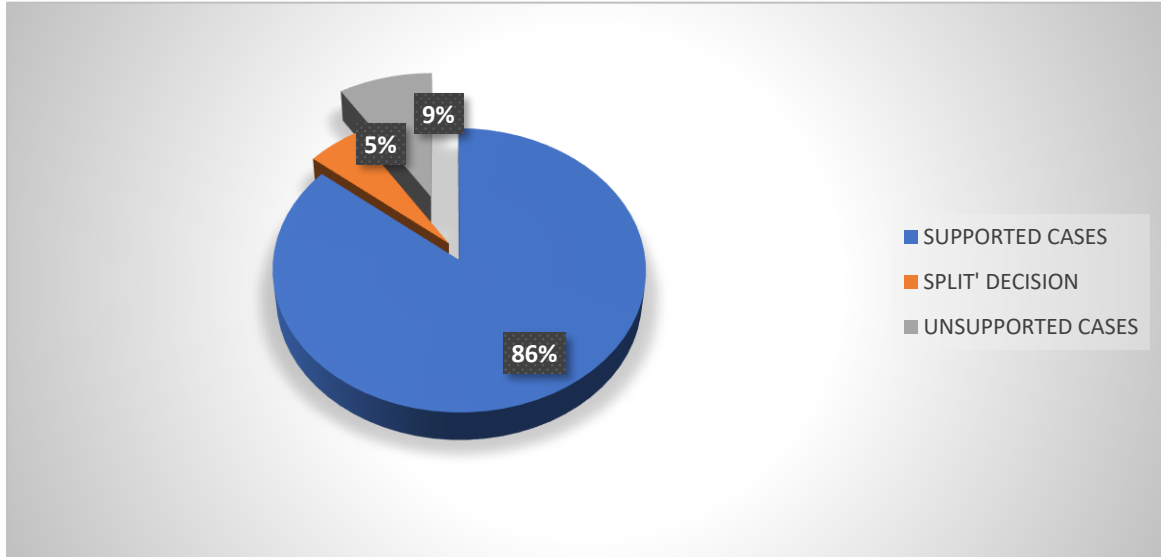
### 2. GENERAL SUMMARY

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

|          | SUPPORTED<br>CASES* | 'SPLIT'<br>DECISION | UNSUPPORTED<br>CASES | NUMBER<br>OF CASES<br>REVIEWED |
|----------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| EASTERN  | 15                  | 1                   | 3                    | 19                             |
| NORTHERN | 17                  | 1                   | 2                    | 20                             |
| WESTERN  | 16                  | 2                   | 2                    | 20                             |
| YOUTH    | 20                  | 0                   | 0                    | 20                             |
| TOTAL    | 68                  | 4                   | 7                    | 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 panel's decision of not supporting application of the Out of Court Resolution:

- The severity of the offence (3 cases).
- Recent offending history of the suspect (2 cases).
- Pre-meditated nature of offending behaviour (2 cases).
- High value of items stolen (2 cases).
- Concerns round the safety of Aggrieved Person/s (2 cases).
- Violent behaviour/level of violence used (1 cases).
- Breach of trust (1 case).
- Not a full admission of guilt by the Suspect (1 case).

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Better consideration of severity of the offence**

Ensuring that aggravating factors such as: severity 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 is being taken into account and consideration is given to how the suspect's behaviour and actions affect others whilst deciding on the use of OoCR.