



OUT OF COURT RESOLUTIONS (OoCR) SCRUTINY PANELS

2024-25 Q1 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.

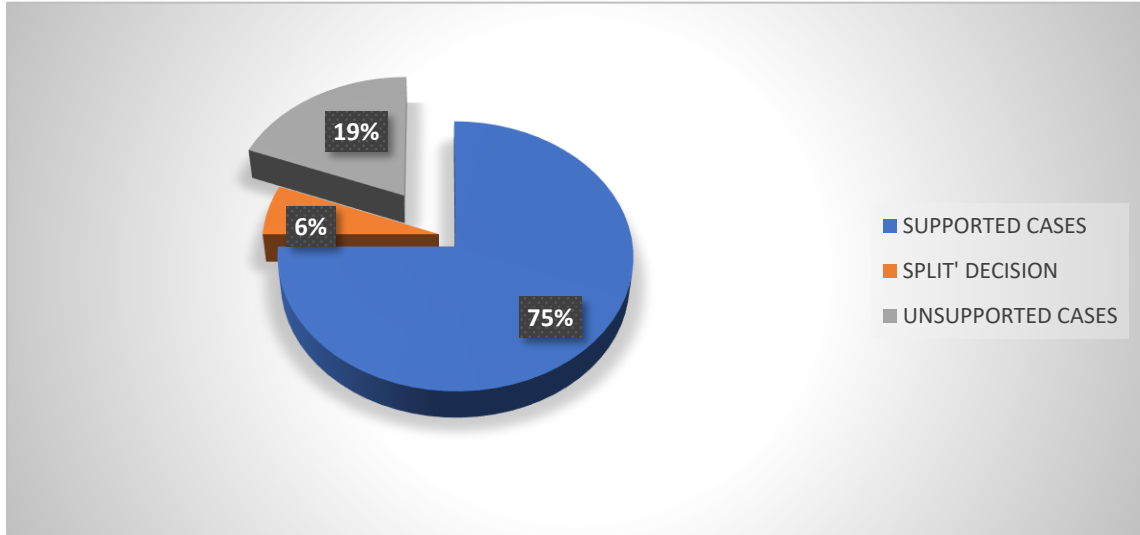
2. GENERAL SUMMARY

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

	SUPPORTED CASES*	'SPLIT' DECISION	UNSUPPORTED CASES	NUMBER OF CASES REVIEWED
EASTERN	14	1	5	20
NORTHERN	13	2	5	20
WESTERN	14	2	4	20
YOUTH	19	0	1	20
TOTAL	60	5	15	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:

- The severity of the offence (6 cases).
- Repetitive/persistent nature of offending behaviour (4 cases).
- Previous offending history of the Suspect (3 cases).
- Vulnerability of Aggrieved Person (3 cases).
- No positive change in suspect's behaviour despite corrective measures taken (3 cases).
- Pre-meditated nature of offending behaviour (2 cases).
- High value of items stolen (2 cases).
- Violent behaviour/level of violence used (2 cases).
- Concerns round the safety of the members of public/other individuals (2 cases).
- Breach of trust (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 and persistent nature of behaviour 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.

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.