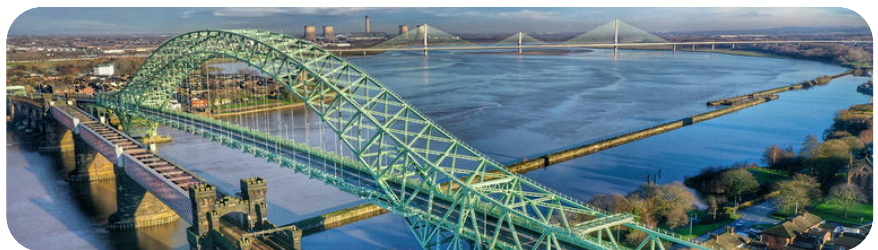
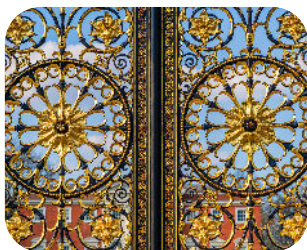
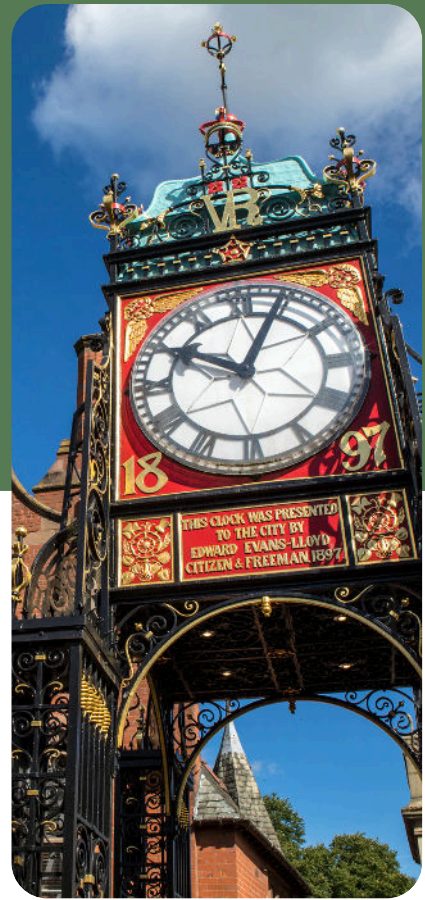


Out of Court Resolutions scrutiny panel

2024-25 summary report



**Cheshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner**



1: Background information

Purpose of the Out of Court Resolution (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: Use of OoCDs is considered to be:

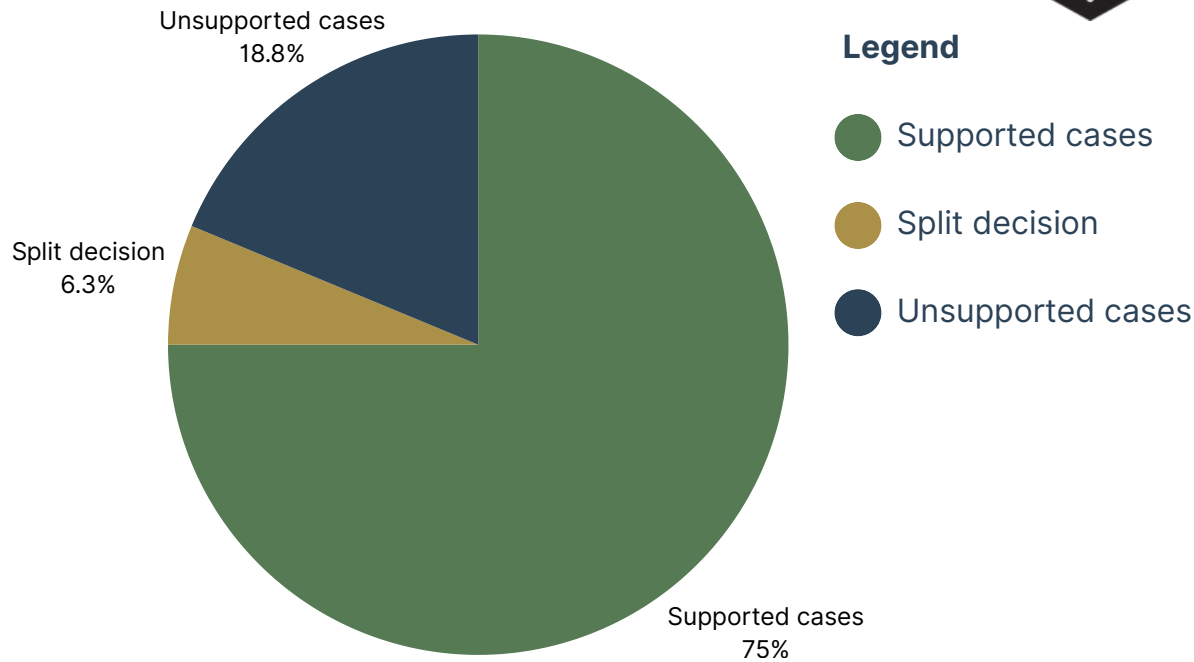
1. Appropriate and consistent with police policies/the CPS Code for Crown Prosecutors.
2. Appropriate with observations
3. Inappropriate and inconsistent with policy.

2: General summary

The table below presents summary findings per category per scrutiny panel.

	Cases reviewed	Supported cases*	Split decision	Unsupported cases
Eastern Panel	20	14	1	5
Northern Panel	20	13	2	5
Western Panel	20	14	2	4
Youth Panel	20	19	0	1
Total	80	60	5	15

* Category 'support 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 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.



1: Background information

Purpose of the Out of Court Resolution (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:

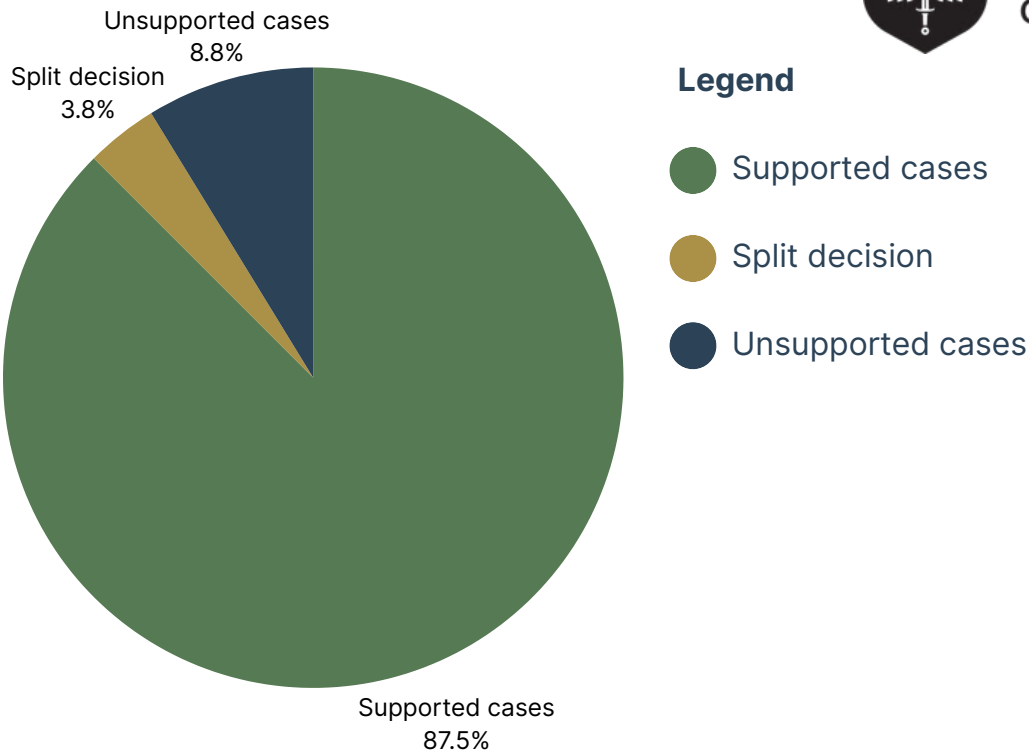
1. Supported
2. Supported with observations
3. Unsupported

2: General summary

The table below presents summary findings per category per scrutiny panel.

	Cases reviewed	Supported cases*	Split decision	Unsupported cases
Eastern Panel	20	18	0	2
Northern Panel	20	16	1	3
Western Panel	20	16	2	2
Youth Panel	20	20	0	0
Total	80	70	3	7

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

- The severity of the offence (3 cases).
- Repetitive/persistent nature of offending behaviour (3 cases).
- Concerns round safety of the members of public/other individuals present (including children) (2 cases).
- Pre-meditated nature of offending behaviour (1 case).
- Multiple victims affected by suspect's actions. (1 case)
- Violent behaviour/level of violence used (1 case).
- Fear caused to the Aggrieved Person. (1 case)
- Possession of weapon (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 the potential negative impacts of suspect's behaviour

Ensuring that safety and wellbeing of Aggrieved Person but also other members of the public/individuals present 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.



1: Background information

Purpose of the Out of Court Resolution (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:

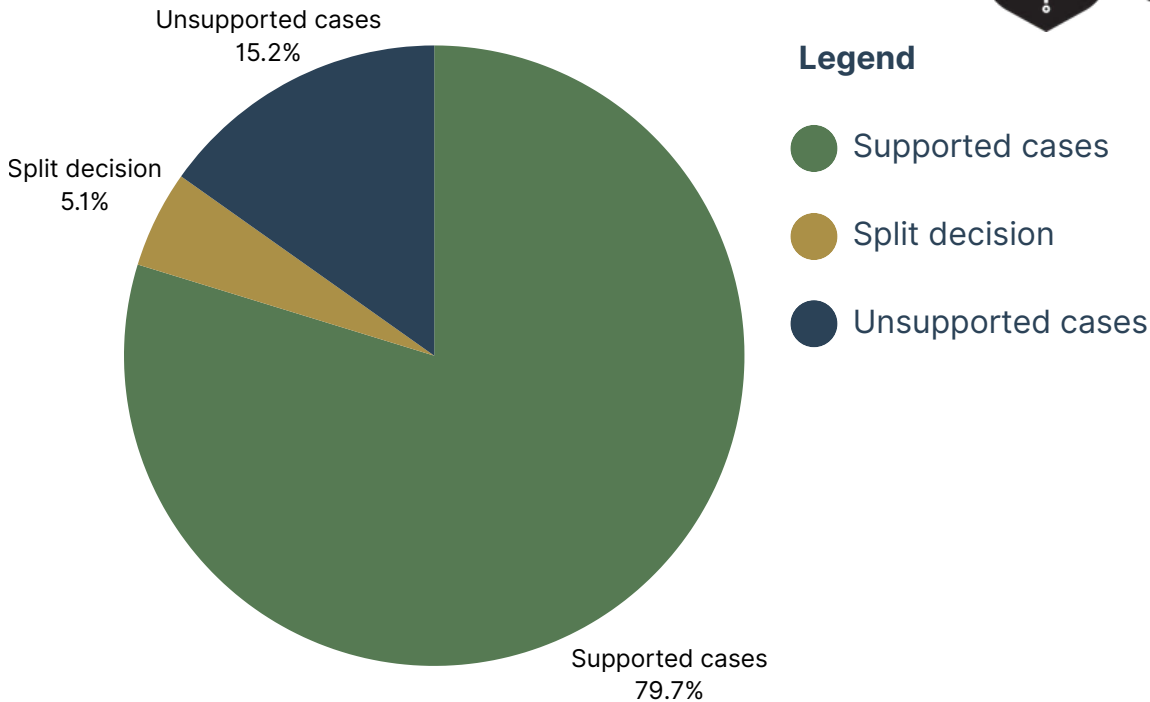
1. Supported
2. Supported with observations
3. Unsupported

2: General summary

The table below presents summary findings per category per scrutiny panel.

	Cases reviewed	Supported cases*	Split decision	Unsupported cases
Eastern Panel	19	14	2	3
Northern Panel	20	15	1	4
Western Panel	20	16	1	3
Youth Panel	20	18	0	2
Total	79	63	4	12

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

- The severity of the offence. (3 cases)
- Vulnerability of Aggrieved Person (due to age). (3 cases)
- Concerns round the safety of Aggrieved Person. (2 cases)
- Fear caused to the Aggrieved Person. (2 cases)
- Offending history of the Suspect: significant/recent. (2 cases)
- Possession/use of weapon. (2 cases)
- Repetitive/persistent/obsessive nature of offending behaviour. (1 case)
- Pre-meditated nature of offending behaviour. (1 case)
- Multiple victims affected by suspect's actions. (1 case)
- Violent behaviour/level of violence used. (1 case)
- Inappropriate use of disposals on offenders with a previous offending history. (1 case)
- As an attempt robbery case should have been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service. (1 case)



4: Recommendations

Better consideration of severity of the offence

Ensuring that aggravating factors such as: severity of offending, 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.



1: Background information

Purpose of the Out of Court Resolution (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:

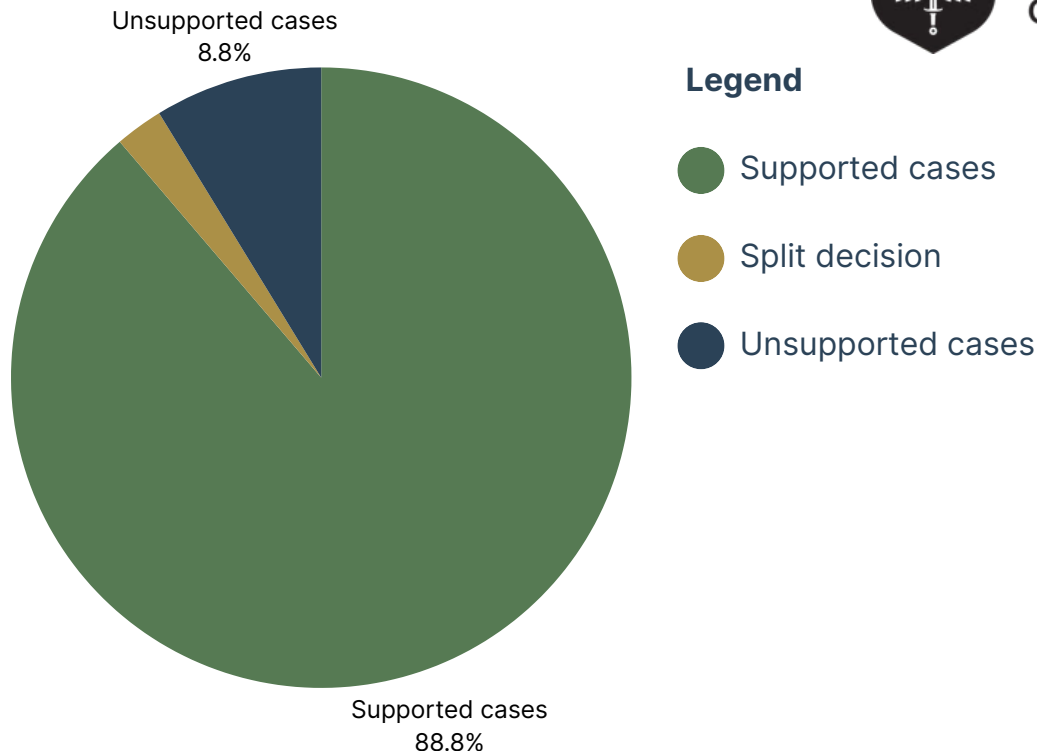
1. Supported
2. Supported with observations
3. Unsupported

2: General summary

The table below presents summary findings per category per scrutiny panel.

	Cases reviewed	Supported cases*	Split decision	Unsupported cases
Eastern Panel	20	17	0	3
Northern Panel	20	19	0	1
Western Panel	20	16	1	3
Youth Panel	20	19	1	0
Total	80	71	2	7

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

- The severity of the offence. (5 cases)
- Pre-meditated/intentional nature of offending behaviour. (3 cases)
- Violent behaviour/level of violence used. (2 cases)
- Vulnerability of Aggrieved Person. (1 case)
- Offending history of the Suspect: significant/recent. (1 case)
- Repetitive/persistent/obsessive nature of offending behaviour. (1 case)
- The impact of the suspect's behaviour and actions on the wider community. (1 case)
- Very concerning and malicious nature of communications sent. (1 case)

4: Observations

The randomly selected cases presented some very complex incidents, requiring officers to make decisions that were not straightforward. In many cases they were having to balance mental health, substance misuse and other vulnerabilities as well as protecting victims but still delivering justice. Aside from the cases that were supported with observations the panel were pleased to see that behaviour change and restorative approaches are being appropriately used which not only addresses future offending but allow for a more immediate solution than pursuing a judicial route.



The work that is being done with young people to change behaviour and prevent future offending was often of a very high standard and reflected the awareness of the vulnerability of many of the young people and not criminalising them unnecessarily.

5: Recommendations

Better consideration of severity of the offence

Ensuring that aggravating factors such as: severity of offending, 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.

Greater utilisation of Restorative Justice

More effective use of 'Remedi' and Youth Justice Service as part of disposal option. Ensuring that disposal types aim to utilise meaningful conditions that would address root cause of behaviour causing offending and be of restorative and/or educational nature