

OFFICIAL
March 2026

SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT



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Dyfed-Powys
Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

Scrutiny Panel

Dip Sampling Exercise

Shoplifting Cases

Panel Members' Findings & Feedback of Adult cases

March 2026

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1.0 Overview

On the 25th of March 2026, members from the Out of Court Resolutions (OoCR) scrutiny panel attended a meeting to review a selection of 8 adult cases and 8 youth cases involving Shoplifting offences which had been dealt with by way of an OoCR. This report will focus on the panel's findings in relation to the adult cases.

This meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.

2.0 Background, purpose, and methodology

The purpose of the OoCR panel is to independently assess, scrutinise and quality control the use of OoCR by Dyfed-Powys Police. The panel can make recommendations, feedback on individual cases to officers, communicate findings, promote best practice and identify potential policy development or training needs for consideration by the force or other agencies involved. The panel cannot change the original outcome of the case.

The panel membership consists of partners from within the Criminal Justice System which include, but not limited to, members from Dyfed-Powys Police, the OPCC, Probation Service, Crown Prosecution Service, Youth Justice Team and Magistrates bench.

The panel members collectively agree an area of focus for each meeting. They receive relevant case files two weeks prior to each meeting which have been randomly selected by the Panel Chair. The Panel then meets to discuss each case and where possible reach a conclusion as to the appropriateness of the disposal. In deciding this, the Panel considers the following criteria:

- The views and feedback from the victim and the offender.
- Compliance with force policy.
- Rationale for the decision and outcome.
- Potential community impact.
- Circumstances and seriousness of the offence.
- Potential alternative options that may have been available.

The Panel discuss each case and categorise them as one of the following:

- Appropriate use consistent with policy.
- Appropriate use with Panel Members' reservations.
- Inappropriate use or inconsistent with policy.
- Panel fails to reach a conclusion.

3.0 Approval by Panel Chair

I, Carys Morgans (print name) can confirm that I have read the report, and that it fully represents the views expressed by the Panel during our dip sampling exercise dated the 25th of March 2026.

Signed:



Date: 01/07/2026

4.0 Actions taken following previous panel meeting

As a result of the OoCR scrutiny panel's work, the following actions have been completed since the last meeting:

- Feedback provided to officers where the Panel determined an inappropriate use of an OoCR.

5.0 Areas for improvement

The following areas for improvement were identified during the review of the adult cases.

- It was noted that the timeliness of conducting the investigation and issuing an OoCR could be improved for most of the cases reviewed.
- Within one case it was acknowledged that the value of the items stolen was not obtained. As a result the panel questioned how the officer(s) could have made an informed decision.
- The Panel wished to see greater standardisation in the officers rational log, as they found inconsistencies with the amount of detail contained within the reports.

6.0 Consideration of Adult Cases

Out of the eight adult cases considered by the Panel one had been dealt with by an Adult Conditional Caution (ACC) with the other seven cases being dealt with through an Adult Community Resolution (ACR).

Members' assessment	Number of cases
Appropriate	5
Appropriate with reservations	2
Inappropriate	1

Panel Members' observations are detailed below.

Case 1

A discussion ensued regarding the high value of the items stolen and that the Alleged offender (AO) had a previous offence for shoplifting, although it was not within the 12-month period. Reservations were held regarding the timeliness for the officers to locate and arrest the AO. After considering the circumstances the Panel concluded that the use of the OoCR was appropriate, but reservations were held in relation to the handling of the case.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Case 2

The Panel noted that the AO had admitted to the offence and the value was repaid to the store. It was discussed that the AO has no previous convictions and the victim was supportive of the ACR. Therefore, the Panel deemed the outcome was appropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 3

It was acknowledged that the ACR conditions were agreed by the victim and that the AO provided a full admission to the offence. The Panel however did note timeliness issues with the case but noted that there were difficulties in locating the AO. It was deemed that the OoCR was appropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 4

The Panel noted the detailed Supervisor review but noted that the officers had not noted the total value of the items taken. Whilst it was acknowledged that the items were returned and a full admission was provided by the AO, the Panel questioned how the officers could make an informed decision without knowing the full value of the items taken. It was however agreed that the OoCR was appropriate, but reservations were held regarding the detail within the record.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations

Action 1: Officer(s) to be provided with the Panel's feedback on adult case 4.

Case 5

The Panel raised concerns that the AO was given the OoCR for the shoplifting whilst in custody for another offence and questioned whether both offences could have been dealt with together. It was also noted that the AO had not been engaging with Integrated Offender Management team for a previous offence and had been on a community order at the time of the shoplifting offence. The Panel therefore determined that the OoCR was inappropriate.

Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate

Action 1: Officer(s) to be provided with the Panel's findings on adult case 5 being an inappropriate use of the OoCR policy.

Case 6

The Panel discussed that the items taken were of low value and that the AO provided a full admission. It was also noted that the victim was supportive of the outcome. It was concluded that the OoCR was appropriate in the circumstances.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

Case 7

It was noted that the victim was supportive of the outcome and that the AO admitted to the offence. The Panel considered the value of the items stolen and agreed that they were of low value therefore it would have not been within the public's interest to bring this matter to court.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

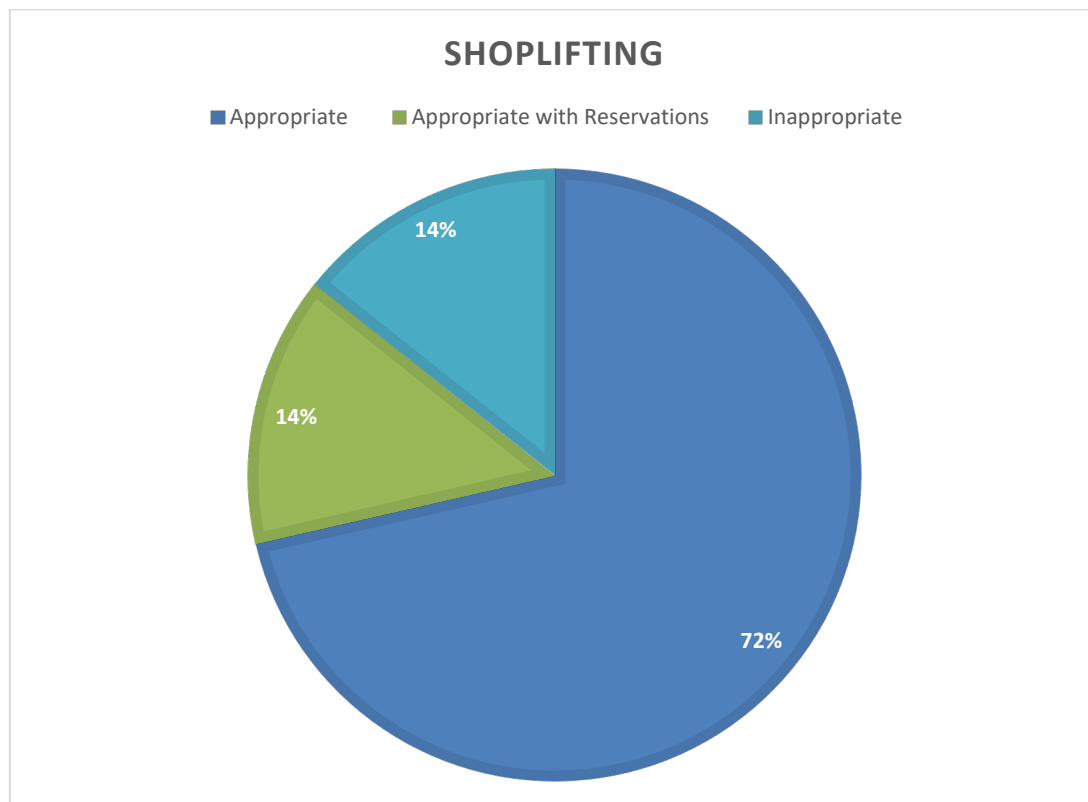
Case 8

The Panel noted that the items stolen were retrieved and an admission was provided by the AO. Although the AO had previous history for shoplifting the last offence noted occurred in 2013. Therefore, the Panel agreed that the outcome was appropriate and in line with the OoCR policy.

Panel's Assessment: Appropriate

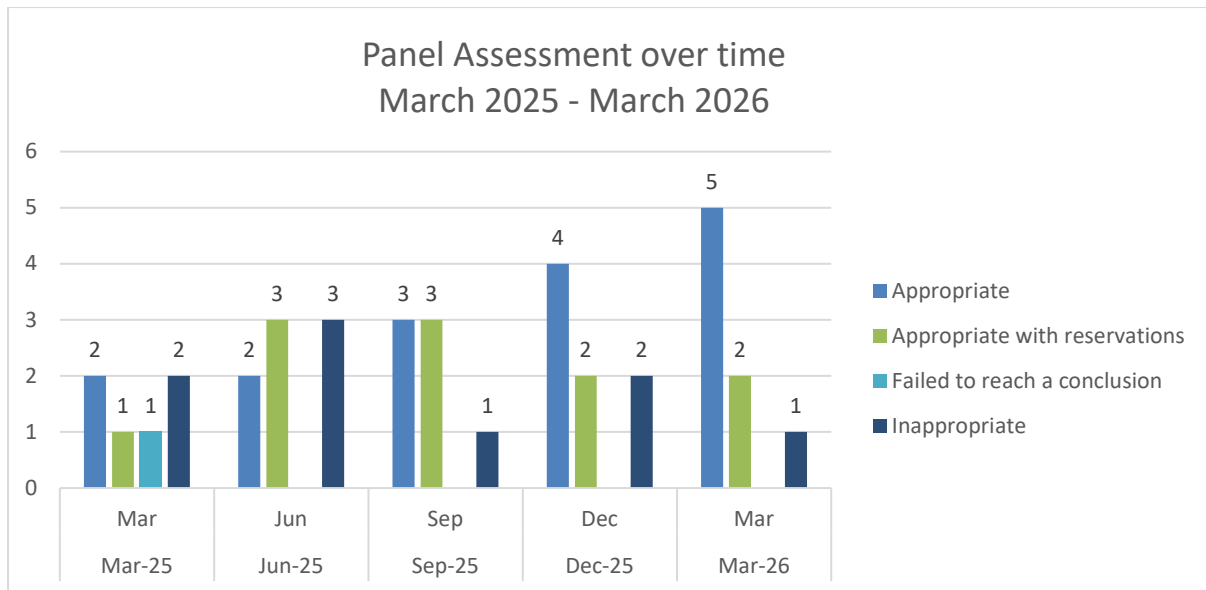
7.0 Panel's assessments to date

The chart below demonstrates the Panel's assessment of adult cases of shoplifting considered at the most recent meeting:

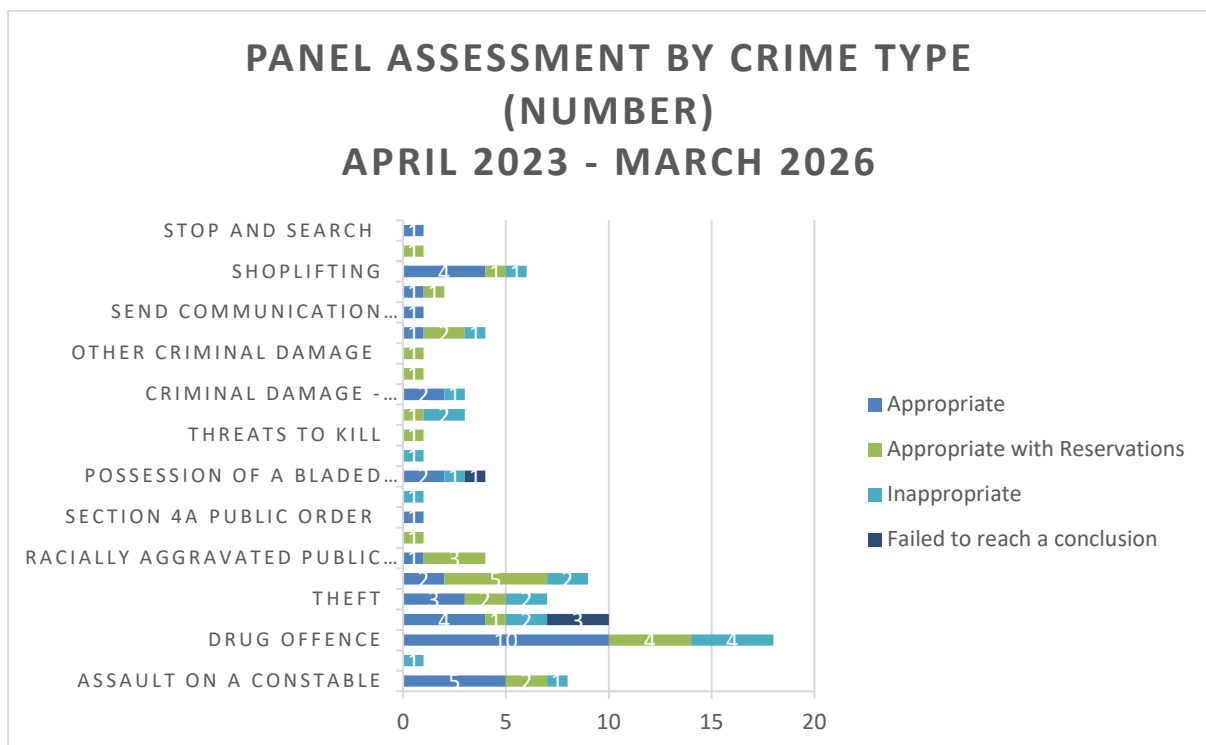


The Panel have considered a range of disposals. For March 2025 99% of the disposals considered were ACR's with 1% being diversionary activity (outcome 22). In March 2026 99% of the cases considered were dealt with via an ACR and 1% via an ACC.

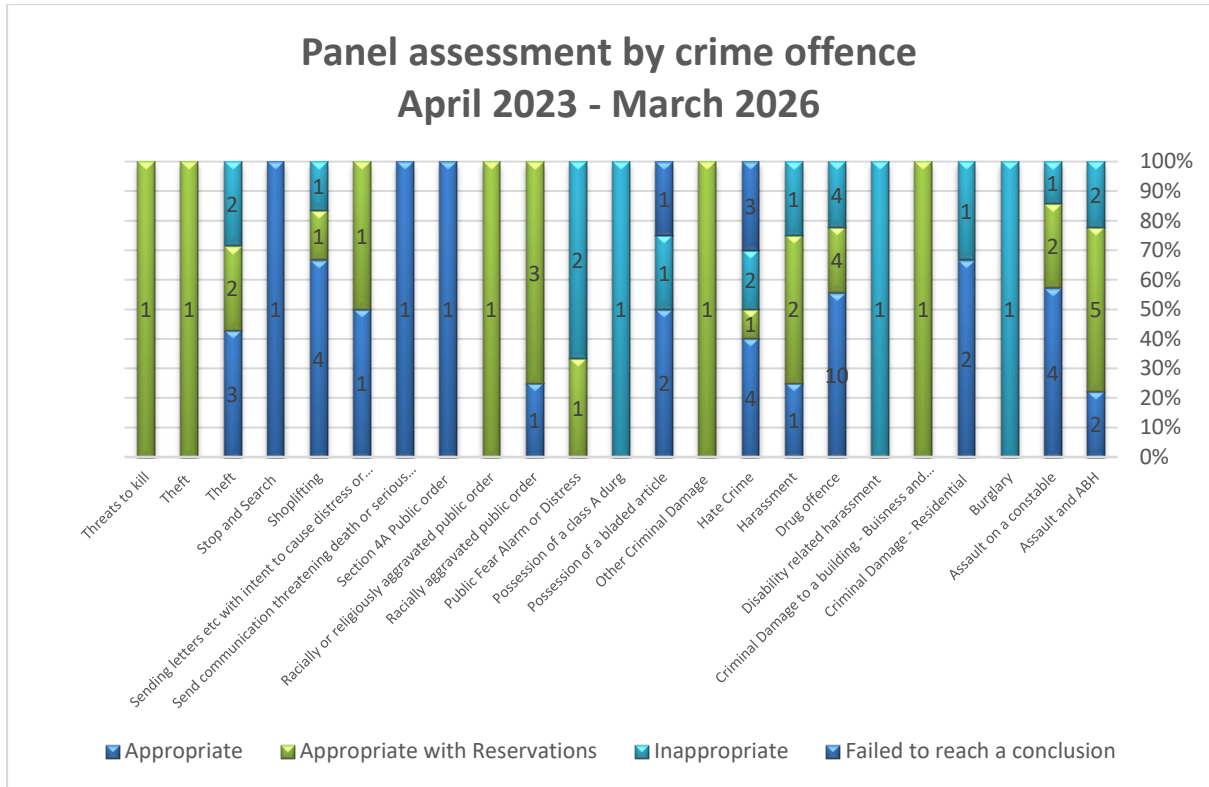
The change in the panel's conclusions reached over March 2025–March 2026 can be seen in the graph below:



The graph below shows the breakdown by crime type as a percentage of cases considered between April 2023 and March 2026.

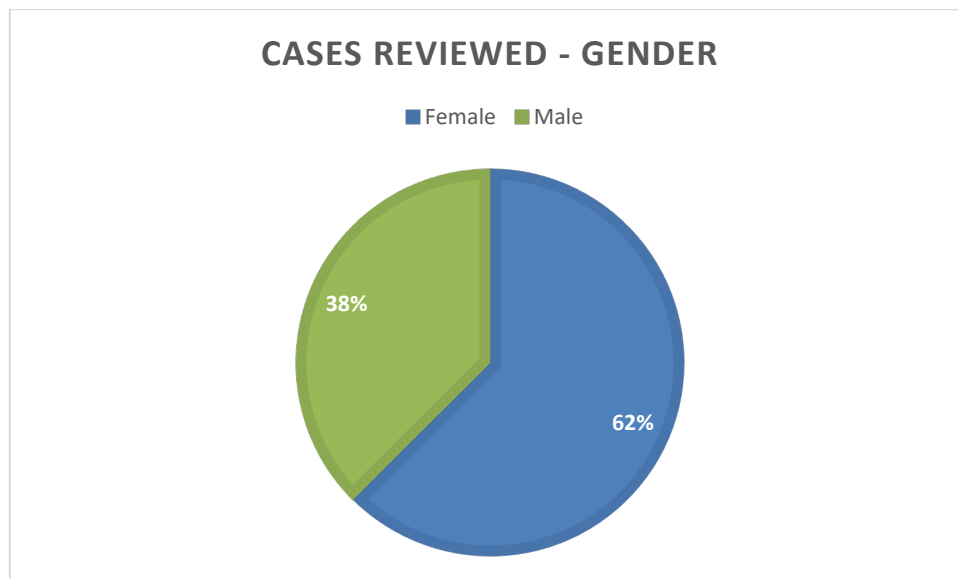


The following graph displays the actual number of cases assessed within each crime type and the resulting Panel opinions at their meetings between April 2023 and March 2026.



8.0 Ethnicity and Gender

The following chart shows the breakdown of cases reviewed within this meeting in terms of their gender:



The following table shows the breakdown of cases reviewed within this meeting in terms of ethnicity.

Ethnicity Noted	Suspect's Self - Assessment	Officer's Assessment
White British	8	8
White – North European	0	0
Unknown	0	0

There were no race or gender equality issues identified as part of the Panel's review.

9.0 Future Panel focus

Following a discussion, it was decided by the Panel that they would like to focus on a review of cases involving Assaults on Emergency workers at the next meeting.

10.0 Actions

Action number	Summary	To be progressed by
OOCR – 166	Officer(s) to be provided with the Panels feedback on adult case 4.	Force
OOCR - 167	Officer(s) to be provided with the Panel's findings on adult case 5 being an inappropriate use of the OoCR policy	Force