

OFFICIAL  
March 2026

SCRUTINY PANEL REPORT



Comisiynydd Heddlu a Throseddu  
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 Youth cases

**March 2026**



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## 1.0 Overview

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

- A reminder was circulated to officers regarding the importance of ensuring that all child interviews conducted are in accordance with PACE. This is following the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 meeting where it was identified in many of the youth cases considered that children were being issued an OoCR without the presence of an appropriate adult.

### 5.0 Areas for improvement & rearing themes (youth cases)

The following areas for improvement & rearing themes were identified during the review of the youth cases:

- Timeliness in completing cases.

### 6.0 Consideration of Youth cases

Panel members reviewed eight Youth cases. Of those, one had been issued with a diversionary, educational or intervention activity (outcome 22), four through a Youth Restorative Disposal (YRD) and the remaining three through a Youth Community Resolution (YCR).

Members' assessments were as follows:

| Members' assessment | Number of cases |
|---------------------|-----------------|
|---------------------|-----------------|

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Appropriate                   | 7 |
| Appropriate with reservations | 1 |

**Case 1**

The Panel acknowledges the comprehensive report provided by the Powys Youth Officer Team (YoT) and the proactive work undertaken with the Alleged Offender (AO). It was also noted that the AO had previously received a YRD for a different offence and therefore the Panel determined that the diversionary activity was an appropriate outcome.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

**Case 2**

Concerns were raised regarding the AO's young age, but it was discussed that it is crucial that juveniles remain out of the criminal justice system as much as possible. Therefore, the Panel agreed that the OoCR was appropriate.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

**Case 3**

The Panel noted that for this incident there were 3 AO's. The Panel firstly considered the AO in question and determined that it was their first offence therefore the OoCR was appropriate. The Panel however noted that the RJ1 form for one of the other AO's was never submitted to the YoT and when it was finally completed 7 months had passed therefore it was deemed not within the public's interest to proceed. Thus, the Panel concluded that the OoCR issued to the AO was appropriate but held reservations about the wider case.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate with reservations**

**Action 1: Feedback to be provide to officer(s) in Youth case 3 on the importance of submitting RJ1 forms in a timely manner.**

**Case 4**

It was noted that the value of the items was low and that the AO admitted to the offence. The Panel noted the proactive safeguarding work undertaken by the officer and concluded that the use of the OoCR was appropriate.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

**Case 5**

The Panel noted the vulnerable AO involved and agreed that the OoCR was an appropriate outcome for this offence. No further concerns were raised.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

**Case 6**

It was acknowledged that this was the first offence for the AO and that the total value of the items stolen were low. It was therefore agreed that the OoCR was appropriate for this case.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

**Case 7**

The Panel discussed the low value of the items stolen and the admission provided by the AO. It was also noted that this was the first offence for the AO, thus the Panel deemed the OoCR to be appropriate.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

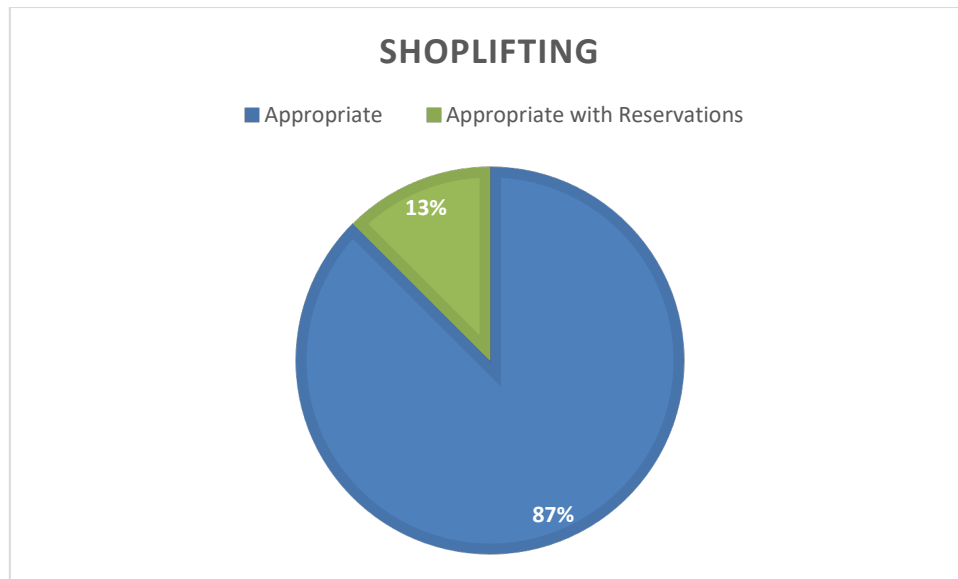
**Case 8**

The Panel noted the similarity of case 8 with case 7 as it was a low value offence with a first time AO. The Panel agreed that the OoCR issued was appropriate.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

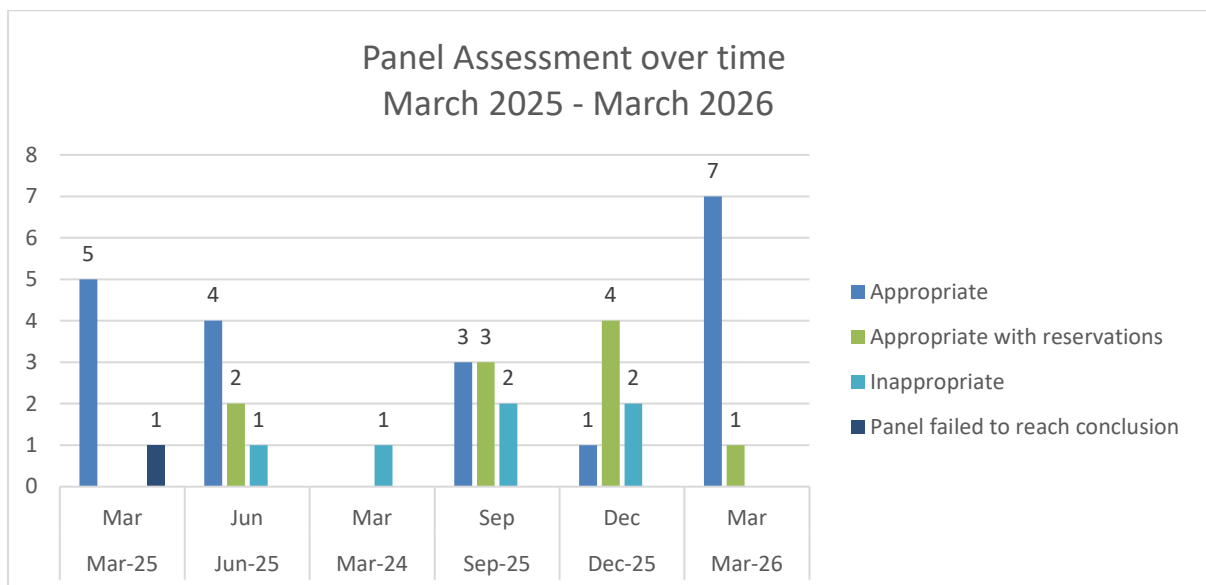
**7.0 Panel's assessments to date**

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



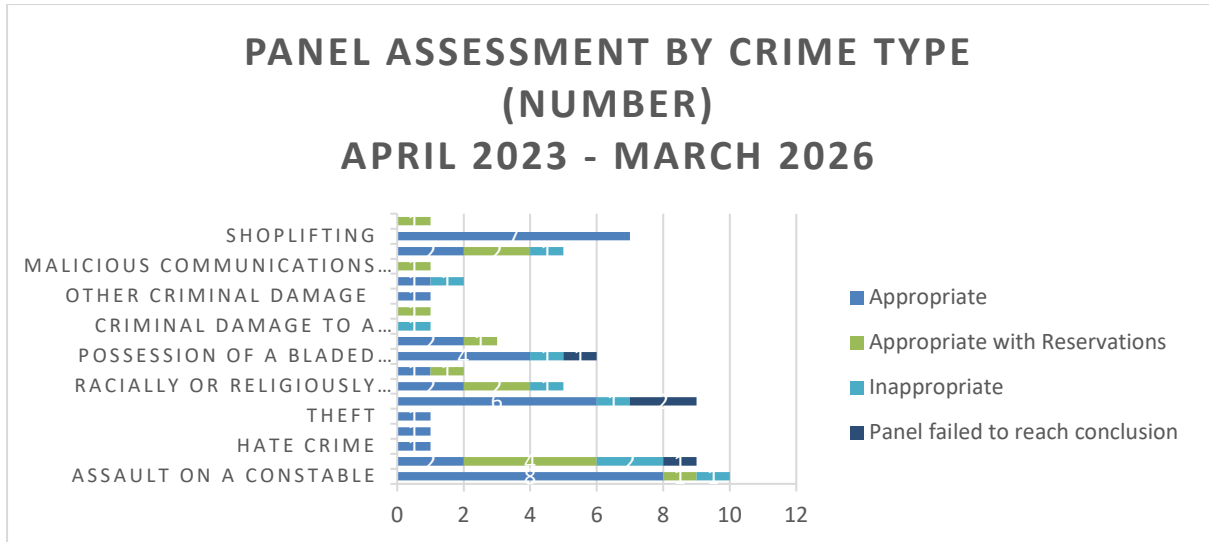
The Panel have considered a range of disposals. The disposals considered in March 2025 included 99% diversionary, educational or intervention activity (outcome 22) and 1% YCR. In March 2026 the Panel considered 12% diversionary activity, 50% YRD's and 38% YCR.

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

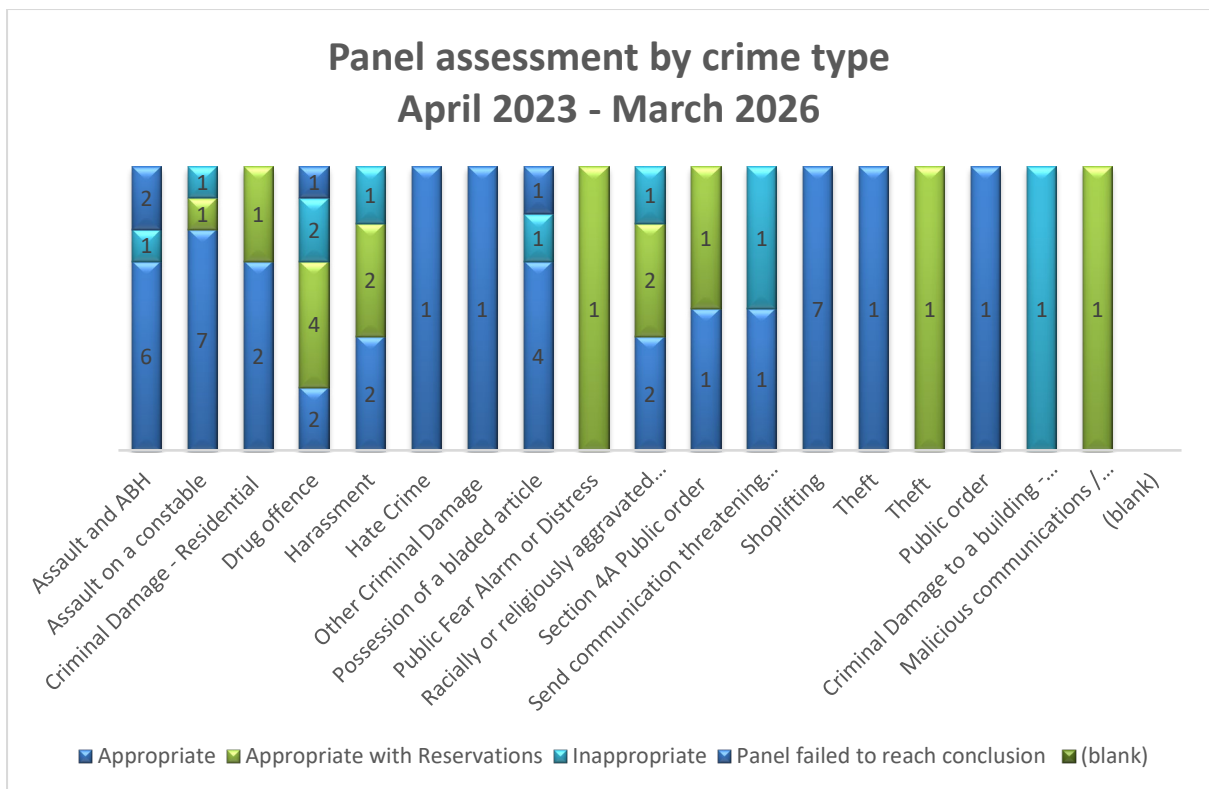


The graph below shows the breakdown by crime type as a percentage of cases considered between April 2023 and March 2026.



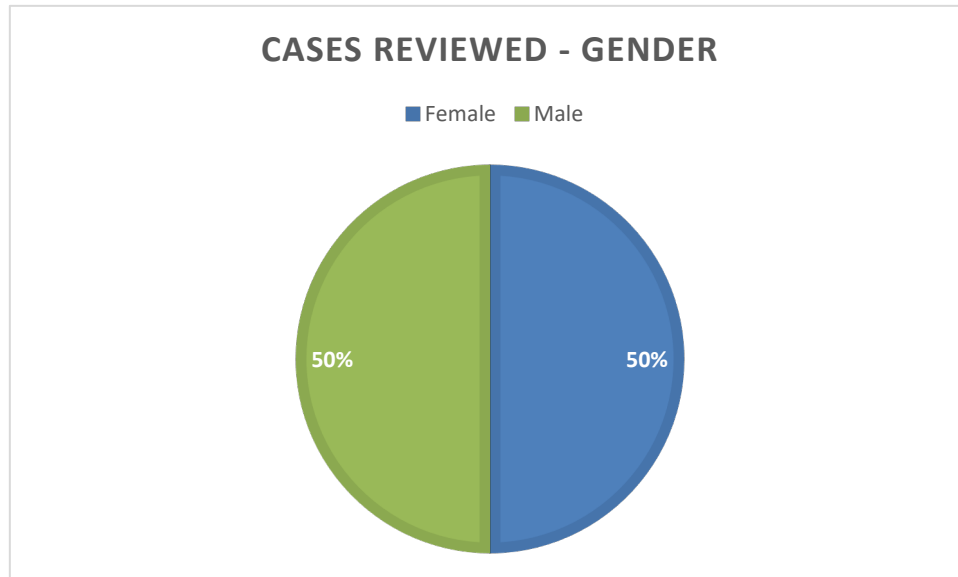


The following graph displays the actual number of cases assessed within each crime type and the resulting Panel opinions at their meetings between April 2023 and March 2026.



## 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 Shoplifting cases.

## 10.0 Actions

| Action number | Summary | To be progressed by |
|---------------|---------|---------------------|
|---------------|---------|---------------------|

|               |                                                                                                                    |       |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| OOCR -<br>168 | Feedback to be provide to officer(s) in Youth case 3 on the importance of submitting RJ1 forms in a timely manner. | Force |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|