



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg yn ogystal â Saesneg.

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**Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys**

**Scrutiny Panel**

**Dip Sampling Exercise**

**Burglaries and Thefts**

**Panel Members' Findings & Feedback**

**February 2024**

# Contents

## **1. Overview**

**On the 7th of February 2024 Members attended the meeting of the Dyfed-Powys Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel. Members reviewed a selection of youth and adult cases of Burglaries and Thefts, which had been dealt with by way of an Out of Court Disposal (OCD). The Panel considered a total of 17 cases, 9 involving youth suspects and 8 involving adults. The panel had originally decided to focus on Rural Crime cases but cases were unable to be retrieved due to the implementation of the Force's new crime recording system, Niche. It was agreed that Rural Crime will be a focus at a future meeting once the Niche system has been fully implemented.**

**This meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.**

### **1. Background, purpose, and methodology**

**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.**

### **1. Approval by Panel Chair**

I \_\_\_\_\_ (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 7th of February 2024.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

## 1. Actions taken following previous panel meeting

As a result of the Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel's work, the following actions have been completed since the last meeting:

- An action was taken at the last meeting for Dyfed Powys Police officers to be reminded of their Youth Offending Team (YOT) contacts and of the importance to contact them with any enquiries. Chief Inspector (ChInsp) Matthew Price confirmed that all divisional single point of contacts have been informed and officers have been encouraged to engage with their YOT for advice.
- An action was taken at the last meeting for reports to be provided by all relevant YOTs. This action was marked as complete following receipt of reports from all YOTs.
- An action was taken at the last meeting for Powys YOT to be invited to the next O OCD panel meeting. This action was marked as complete as Police Officer Michelle Wilkinson attended the meeting.
- An action was taken at the last meeting for equal numbers of Powys and Dyfed cases to be provided at the next panel meeting. The OPCC highlighted this with the crime audit team during the case selection process and best attempts have been made to ensure an equal number of Powys and Dyfed cases have been ensured.

## 5.0 Areas for improvement

The following area for improvement was identified as a result of the Panel's work this quarter:

- Dyfed Powys Police officers to be reminded of the O OCD policy and when it is appropriate to issue an O OCD.

## 6.0 Consideration of adult cases of Burglaries and Thefts

Eight adult cases of Burglaries and Thefts were considered. All eight cases were issues with a community resolution.

<b>Members' assessment</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>
<b>Appropriate</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Appropriate with reservations</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Inappropriate</b>	<b>3</b>

**Panel Members' observations are detailed below.**

### **Case 1**

**The panel noted the quick resolution and the apology issued by the alleged offender. It was noted that the alleged offender had no previous convictions and that this was their first offence. The panel acknowledged that the alleged offender was experiencing financial difficulties and thus the panel determined that the community resolution issued was a proportionate outcome.**

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

### **Case 2**

**It was noted that the item in question was returned and the alleged offender was remorseful and issued an apology to the victim. The panel also noted that the victim was content with the recovery of the stolen item and that the matter had been quickly resolved. The alleged offender did not have any previous convictions; although the panel did note that the item had been stolen previously but, it was unknown as to whether it was the same alleged offender who was responsible. The panel agreed that the community resolution issues was appropriately used and consistent with the policy.**

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

### **Case 3**

**The panel acknowledged the low value of items stolen and that the alleged offender had no previous convictions. The panel highlighted that the offence took place in July 2023 when the alleged offender was 17, but the community resolution wasn't registered until November 2023 when the alleged offender had turned 18. The panel expressed their concern in regard to the delay and emphasised the importance of processing youth cases as soon as possible; especially cases where the alleged offender is due to turn 18. A discussion ensued regarding the possible cause to the delays but the panel were reassured that work is ongoing between the Youth**

**Offending Teams, Dyfed Powys Police and the Crown Prosecution Service to address and resolve these delays. Overall, the panel determined that the community resolution was appropriately issued.**

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

**Case 4**

**The panel noted the use of force used to enter the dwelling and the damaged caused within this case. The panel discussed the possible considerable impact this incident would have had on the victim and noted the victims desire to pursue with a conviction. The panel agreed that this was an inappropriate use of the OOC policy and requested that the officers in question are informed of the panel's findings and reminded of the OOC policy.**

**Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate**

**Case 5**

**The panel noted their concerns with the issuing of the community resolution as the alleged offender had previous convictions for shoplifting and the incident in question was the second time in six weeks that the alleged offender had been caught shoplifting. The panel also noted that the alleged offender had been in court for 2 previous offences and questioned why the alleged offender was not trialed for this incident as well. The panel agreed that this was an inappropriate use of the OOC and queried why the officers deemed the community resolution was appropriate.**

**Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate**

**Case 6**

**The panel discussed the high value surrounding this case and noted that the actions of the alleged offenders possibly indicated that they had pre-planned the theft. The panel acknowledged the possible effect on the victim and noted that taxi firms cannot claim on their insurance for compensation unless the matter is brought to court. The panel members also acknowledged that the alleged offenders were intoxicated but agreed that the community resolution was appropriate but had some reservations.**

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

## **Case 7**

The panel noted the low value of the offence and that the alleged offender issued an apology. The panel also identified that the alleged offender had previous convictions for the same offence but questioned whether they were suffering from mental health issues. The panel agreed that the community resolution issued was appropriate but held reservations due to the repeat offending history presented from the alleged offender.

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

## **Case 8**

The panel noted their concerns with the issued community resolution as the alleged offender had previous convictions for shoplifting and had previously stolen from the store in question. The panel also noted the high value of goods stolen and highlighted that the alleged offender had breached their community order. The panel emphasised that this was an inappropriate use of the OOC by the police and requested that their findings must be passed onto the Pembrokeshire division to ensure that officers are made aware.

**Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate**

## **7.0 Consideration of Youth cases of Burglaries and Thefts**

Panel members reviewed nine cases which were all issued a Youth Restorative Disposal (YRD).

Members' assessments were as follows:

Members' assessment	Number of cases
<b>Appropriate</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Inappropriate</b>	<b>1</b>

#### Case 1

The panel discussed the low value of the crime and acknowledged that the alleged offenders had issued an apology to the victim. The panel expressed their concerns with the vulnerability of the alleged offenders and agreed that the YRD was appropriately issued in the hope that it would support them.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

#### Case 2

The panel noted the low value of the crime and acknowledged that the alleged offender had provided an apology to the victim. The panel concluded that the YRD was appropriately used.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

#### Case 3

The panel noted the low value of the items taken and that the alleged offender had returned to pay for the items. The panel noted their concerns that the young alleged offender had been brought into the police station for questioning and queried whether the police could have attended the alleged offender's home in line with the aim to keep children out of police stations. Overall, the panel deemed that it was an appropriate use of the YRD.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

#### Case 4

The panel discussed the possible motive towards stealing the puppy and noted the difficulty in assessing a youth's thought process. The panel noted the possible high impact on the victims but noted that the puppy was returned unharmed and an apology was issued. The panel noted the possible additional offence of entering the property without permission but agreed that as it was the alleged offender's first offence and that the puppy was returned. Therefore, the panel agreed that the YRD was appropriately issued.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

Case 5

The panel acknowledged that 3 of the 4 items stolen were returned and the victim was reimbursed and received a letter of apology from the alleged offender. Although, the panel also assessed that the alleged offender had previous convictions for actual bodily harm and was in breach of their conditional discharge during this incident. Therefore, the panel concluded that the YRD was inappropriately issued and that the alleged offender should have been taken to court.

**Panel's Assessment: Inappropriate**

Case 6

It was noted by the panel that the items in question were of low value and that the alleged offender had no previous convictions. The panel agreed that the offence was unsophisticated and that the YRD issued was appropriate.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

Case 7

The panel acknowledged that this was the alleged offenders first offence and that their parents were engaged and an apology was issued to the victim. The panel also noted that the alleged offender had worked as part of a group to distract and steal the items but noted that the YRD was appropriate for a first offence. The panel discussed the increase in matters relating to vapes and noted their concerns for the young individuals involved.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

Case 8

The panel expressed their concerns in regard to the young age of the alleged offenders and their relationship with alcohol. The panel noted that the items in question were of a low value and that the items were recovered. The panel agreed that the YRD was appropriately issued.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

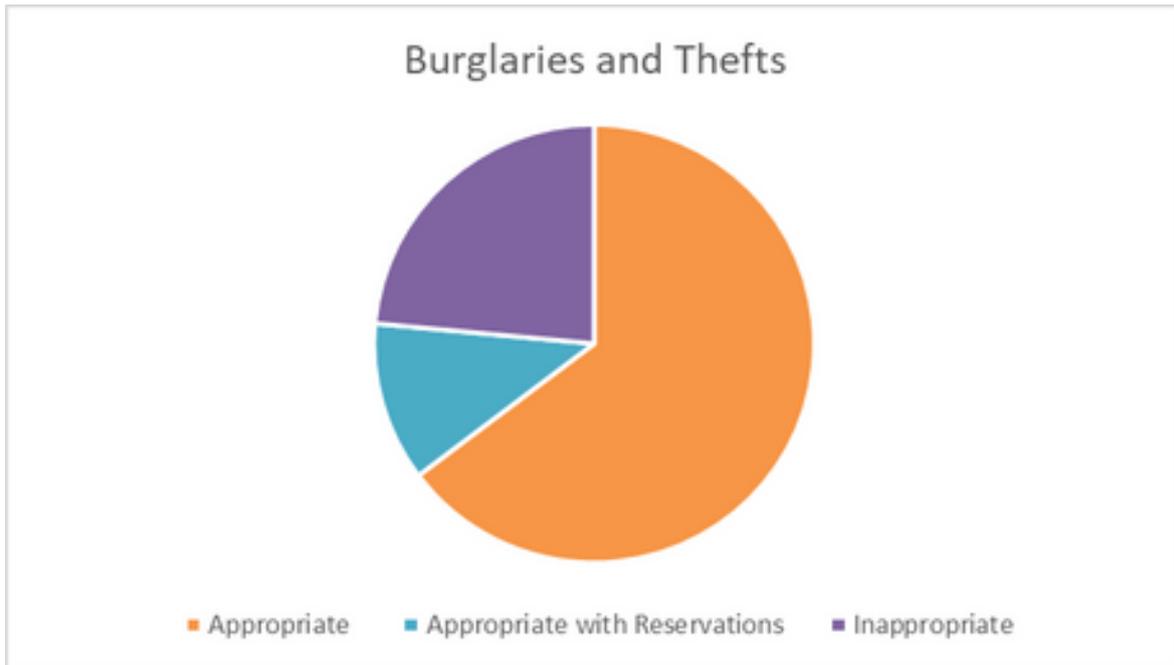
Case 9

The panel discussed the low value of the items stolen and noted that the offence was unsophisticated. The panel agreed that the YRD was issued appropriately.

**Panel's Assessment: Appropriate**

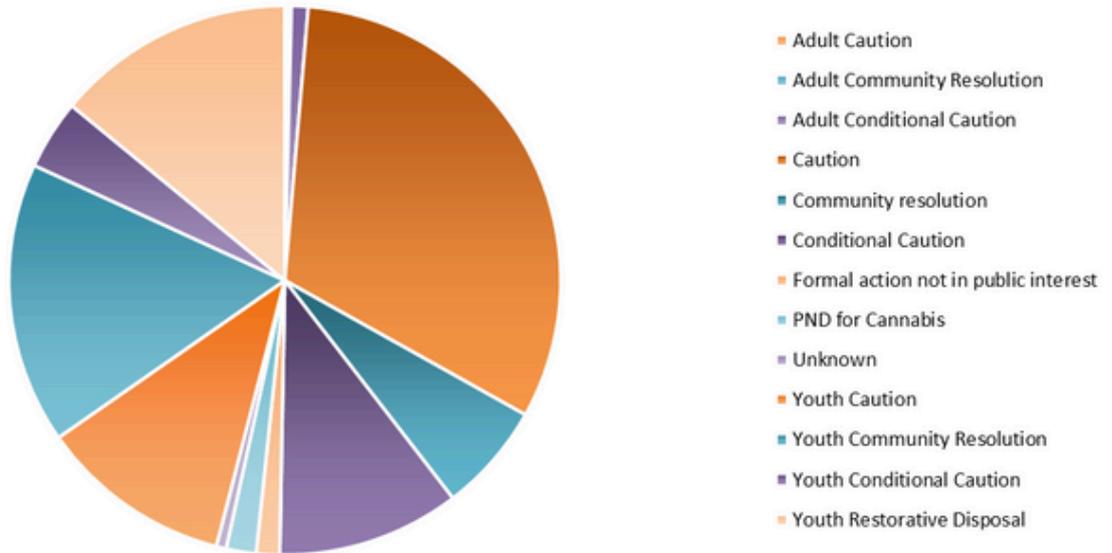
## 8.0 Panel's assessments to date

The chart below demonstrates the Panel's assessment of Burglaries and Thefts cases considered at the most recent meeting:



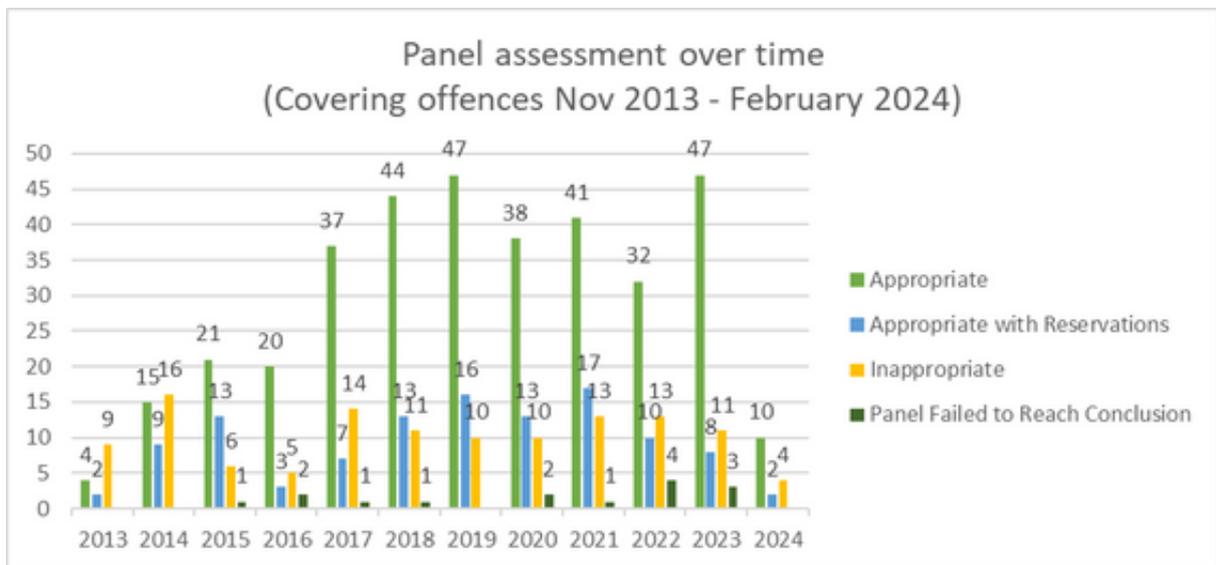
Since November 2013 the Panel has considered a range of disposals, as displayed in the graph below.

### Disposal Types Considered Nov 2013 - Feb 2024

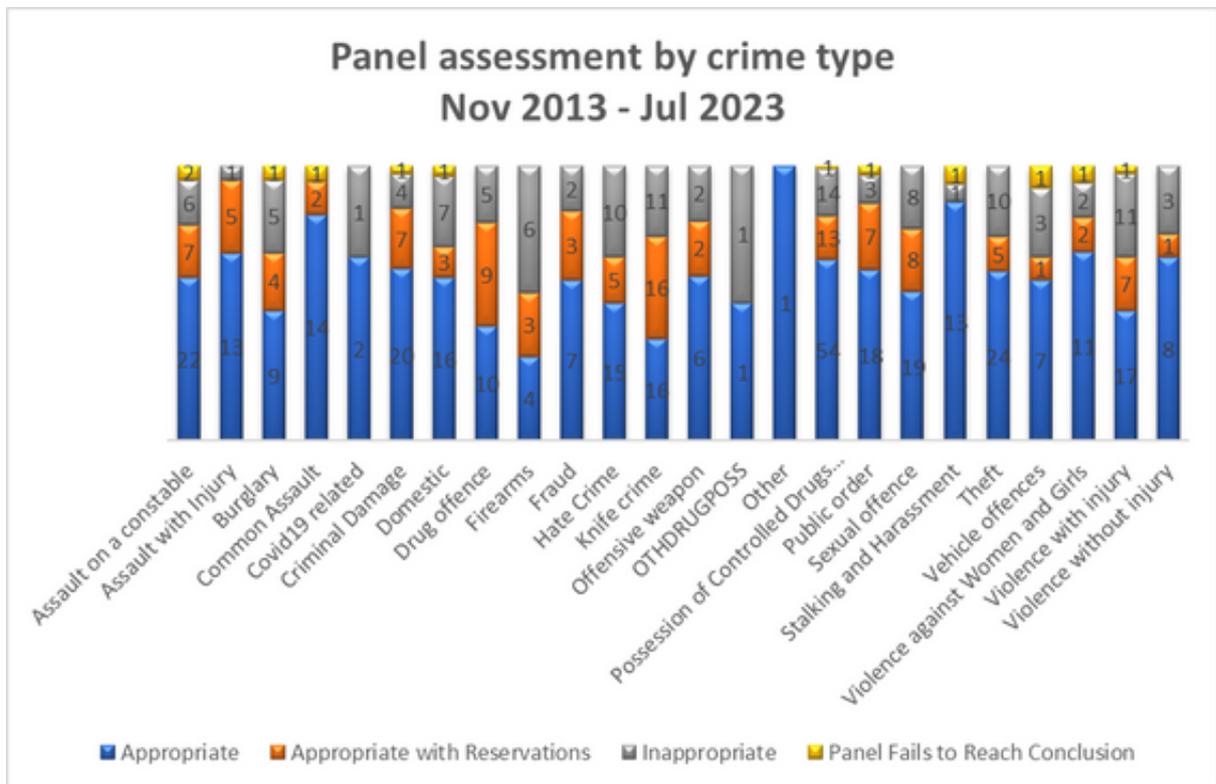


**Of the 606 cases examined between November 2013 and February 2024, 64.94% were assessed as appropriate, 20.8% as inappropriate, 19.18% as appropriate with reservations and the panel failed to reach a conclusion in 2.5% of cases.**

**The change in conclusions reached over time can be seen in the graph below:**



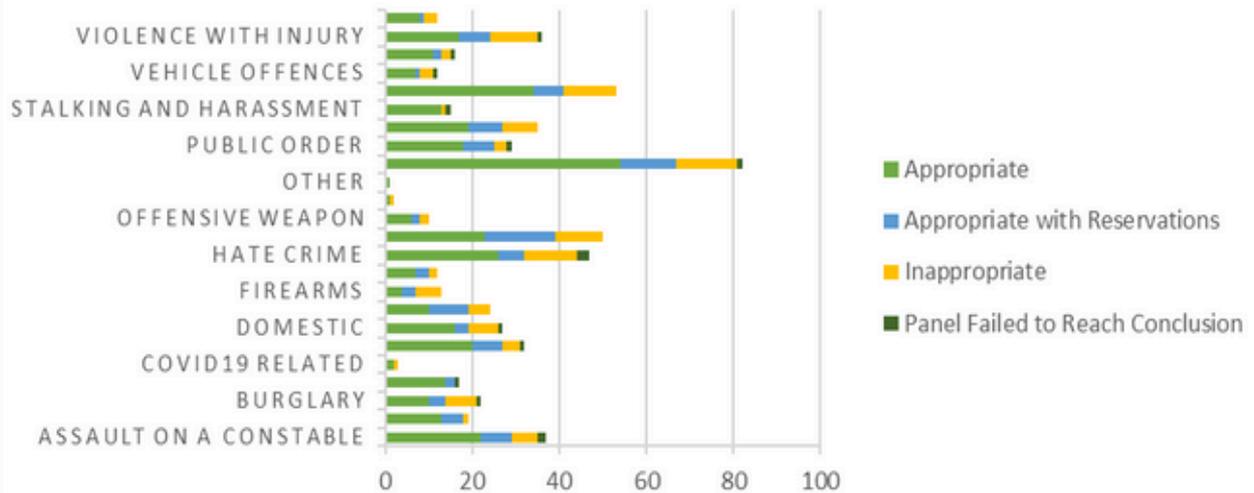
The graph below shows the breakdown by crime type as a percentage of cases considered between November 2013 and February 2024.



The following graph displays the actual number of cases assessed within each crime type and the resulting Panel opinions at their meetings between November 2013 and February 2024.

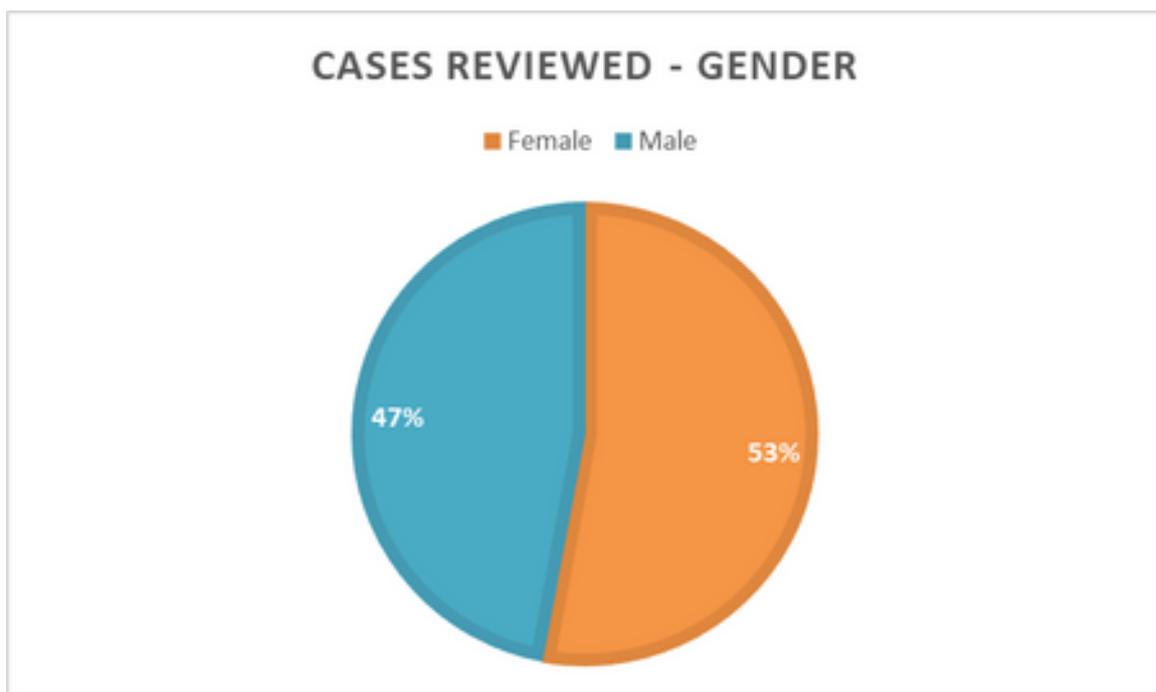
## PANEL ASSESSMENT BY CRIME TYPE (NUMBER)

NOV 2013 - FEB 2024



### 9.0 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	16	0
White - North European	0	16
White - South European	0	1
Asian	1	0
Asian - Indian including Asian British	0	1

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

### 10.0 Future Panel focus

Following a discussion, it was decided by the Panel that they would like to receive an overview of all the topics focused on to determine what to focus on next.

**Action 1:** Officers involved in the adult 4 case to be informed of the panel's findings and be reminded of the OOCDC policy.

**Action 2:** Officers involved in the adult 5 case to be informed of the panel's findings and be reminded of the OOCDC policy.

**Action 3:** ChInsp Steve Thomas to pass on panels findings on adult case 6 to Ceredigion Operations.

**Action 4:** ChInsp Steve Thomas to pass on panels findings on adult case 8 to Pembrokeshire Operations.

