

FOI Response
Information provided under the Freedom of Information Act

Title of Request: Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panels

FOI Reference: FOI/OPCC/21-012

Date of Request: 07/04/2021

Date of Response/Release: 21/04/2021

Information Requested:

- 1. Question:** Whether there is a scrutiny panel in existence in your area, and whether this is active.

OPCC Response:

Cambridgeshire Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel is an active Panel who meet quarterly.

And if there is an active scrutiny panel in your area:

- 2. Question:** Who attends the panel on a regular basis.

OPCC Response:

The Panel is chaired by an independent representative from Anglia Ruskin University.

The Panel is made up of representatives from the following organisations:

- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Local Authorities – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- Members of the judiciary
- HM Courts & Tribunals Service
- Crown Prosecution Service
- Youth Offending Service
- Representative of the Police and Crime Commissioner

3. **Question:** What the outcomes of the panel are, and how they are shared with the police and public.

OPCC Response:

The overarching aim of the Panel is to provide transparency and accountability and an increase in public understanding, confidence and trust in how Cambridgeshire Constabulary use out of court disposals, with particular focus on the delivery of appropriate and proportionate justice and ensuring redress for victims of crime as well as addressing the root causes of offending behaviour.

The Panel scrutinise a selection of out of court disposal cases every quarter to give an open and independent assessment of the appropriateness of the decision making.

Each case is categorised by the Panel as follows:

- Appropriate on the basis of information provided
- Appropriate with observations
- Inappropriate and inconsistent with policy
- Panel fails to reach agreement

The Panel cannot change the outcome of any case, but can provide feedback to the Constabulary about the decision making.

The Panel produces an Annual Report, which is shared with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

The Panel will be reviewing what information is shared with the public at the forthcoming meeting.