

REQUEST

I would be grateful if you could provide the following data under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- Whether there is a scrutiny panel in existence in your area, and whether this is active

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

- Who attends the panel on a regular basis
- What the outcomes of the panel are, and how they are shared with the police and public.

RESPONSE

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 7 April to the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC). I confirm that your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and that MOPAC does hold information relating to your request. Please see answers below:

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

Yes. There are two types of structured Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panels operating in London, in the Metropolitan Policing District. One is adult focussed, and the other is young people focussed. Functionally, they are the same, varying only in panel composition and some outcomes that are specific to the age group being scrutinised.

2. Who attends the panel on a regular basis

There are a number of different partners that are invited to send a representative to take part as panel members:

- Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)
- Local Magistrates
- Legal Advisors - Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunal Service (HMCT)
- Local Authority
- London Community Rehabilitation Centre
- Victim Support Service (VSS)
- Citizen's Advice Bureau
- Youth Justice Board
- Mayor's Office for Policing (MOPAC)
- Independent Advisory Group (IAG)
- Senior Member - Police Leadership Team
- Senior Officer with knowledge of Adult cases being reviewed
- YOT police officer with knowledge of YOT/YOS cases being reviewed

3. What the outcomes of the panel are, and how they are shared with the police

The outcomes are a score of 1 to 4:

1. Appropriate and consistent with MPS Policies/Guidance or the CPS Code for Crown Prosecutors
2. Appropriate but with panel observations

3. Inappropriate or inconsistent with Policy/Guidance.
4. Panel fails to reach a conclusion.

The scrutiny panel observations are recorded and retained by the police teams responsible for the panels. Learning is shared with the relevant departments/units. Currently these results are not published. A project is under way with a projected completion at the end of June 2021 to set up a publication page on the MPS Intranet for the (appropriately sanitised) results of the panels both in respect of adults and young people. As part of this project there will be consideration given to if and how this information is to be shared more widely. In general terms in the constabularies outside the MPS the information released will be a summary of how many cases were heard, what each one was scored by the panel (this is based upon how many of the panel agreed with the outcome and how many disagreed), and any learning being taken forward if applicable. The current view is that the MPS will move to this model or one which resembles it.

If you are unhappy with the response to your Freedom of Information requests, please see the MOPAC website on what the next steps are at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/governance-and-decision-making/freedom-information>