

## SUMMARY



**Date considered:** 09 November 2021

### **Sentence**

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 12 years.

### **Test for release**

2. Before it could direct release, the Board had to be satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender should be confined.

### **Decision**

3. The Board was satisfied on this matter, and directed release subject to licence conditions.

### **Reasons for decision**

4. In reaching its decision, the Board considered:
  - a) the circumstances of the index offence, and any offending history;
  - b) formal risk assessments prepared on the offender;
  - c) the offender's conduct since sentence, and intentions if released;
  - d) all relevant information in the dossier; and
  - e) the evidence heard at the hearing.
5. The offender was convicted of an extremely serious index offence. Their time in custody had not been without difficulties, they had been downgraded and received a further conviction.
6. The offender presented as candid and insightful into their previous behaviour, both at the time of the index offence and in their difficulties in custody. They had displayed a positive response to custody in recent years, with no further misconduct reports having been incurred. The offender had community access at national top end (NTE) and had recently progressed successfully to the Open Estate. They had undertaken a number of home leaves with no adverse circumstance reports. They were reported to engage well with prison staff and social work, and had previous positive reports from community work placements.
7. The Board accepted the evidence of both prison-based and community-based social work in support of release. The Board noted that the supervising officer (SO) had known the offender for a number of years and had seen a marked difference in them during that period. They were satisfied that the offender would comply with licence conditions, and a detailed risk management plan was in place for release. It appeared that there was a positive working relationship

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between the offender and their SO. The offender felt that they could be honest with them, and was aware of the consequences of non-compliance with licence conditions.

8. The Board noted the offender's main risk factors, and that they had sought support for issues in custody and were reported to be currently stable. There were no current concerns in relation to their main risk factors, and they had support in the community. Their accommodation had been approved as suitable. The views of both community-based and prison-based social work were that the offender's risk factors could be managed by appropriate licence conditions.
9. The offender indicated that they were willing to comply with licence conditions. They had a clear plan for the future including employment opportunities. They appeared to be pragmatic about their time in the community and indicated that they felt their progression had been gradual through community access.
10. Having regard to the above factors, the Board were satisfied that it was no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender should continue to be confined, and directed release subject to licence conditions.