

SUMMARY



Date considered: 17 November 2021

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 13 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 Board considered that the offender had demonstrated a positive response to custody since their last review, progressing back to the Open Estate (OE) and taking a number of periods of home leave without incident. Despite having previously been downgraded, they had subsequently completed offence-focussed work and appeared to have managed themselves well since their return to the OE. They appeared to have learned from this and accepted responsibility.
6. The offender had not been involved in violence or aggression for a significant number of years. They had extensive community access, including a lengthy community work placement. They had engaged appropriately with supports and had a plan for release, including employment opportunities. The Board noted the offender's positive engagement with community-based social work (CBSW) on home leaves and during an earlier period. Both CBSW and prison-based social work recommended release and the Board concurred with this view, concluding that the offender's positive engagement with supports and response to custody since their downgrade provided good evidence of their ability to comply with licence conditions and supervision in the community.

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7. The Board fixed licence conditions for release, which it considered to be proportionate and necessary given the offender's main risk factors, including negative peer associations and the potential for community reprisals.