

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 19 May 2023

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 14 years.

Test for release

2. Before it could direct release, the panel 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 panel was satisfied on this matter, and directed release subject to licence conditions.

Reasons for decision

4. In reaching its decision, the panel 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 has been in custody for almost 40 years. They were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1986 for an extremely violent sexual offence. There have now been a number of hearings in consideration of the offender's release.
6. The prison-based and community based social workers are supportive of the offender's release.
7. The offender has undertaken a significant number of home leaves to a housing support service during his time at the Open Estate, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken with them in custody, no concerns have arisen and he has been compliant in disclosing matters to their supervising officer. The community based social worker (CBSW) finds them to be open and honest. There is a very robust risk management plan in place for the offender in the community which is pivotal to the social work recommendations for their release.
8. In evidence, the offender was clear that they will abide by all licence conditions. The offender expressed a willingness to continue to undertake activities which will enable them to report all relevant and important information regarding their supervision requirements to the CBSW when they are requested to do so.

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9. In all of the circumstances, the panel is unanimously satisfied having heard extensive evidence in this case, that the offender's release should be directed subject to the licence conditions previously intimated.

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