

SUMMARY



Date considered: 24 May 2021

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 12 years.
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 prisoner;
 - c) the prisoner'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 acknowledged that social work did not support release, and instead preferred further testing in less secure conditions than at present. The Board noted that the offender had had substantial community access in the past, but that this was some time ago.
6. The Board noted that the offender had been released and recalled on two occasions. While it acknowledged the serious nature of the index offence, the Board attached significant weight to the fact that the offender had not been involved in violence for a substantial number of years, either in custody or in the community. The Board further acknowledged that in the lengthy period since their recall to custody, the offender had made significant progress within the custodial environment in addressing the issues which had led to previous failings in the community.
7. The Board considered that an appropriate degree of reflection and insight had been demonstrated, and that if released the offender would deal with any issues in the community appropriately and refrain from repeating the behaviours which led to previous recalls. While the Board acknowledged the position of social work, it did not agree with their recommendations and ultimately the Board did not consider it necessary for the protection of the public that the offender should remain confined.