

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 04 December 2023

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an extended sentence of 11 years, comprised of a custodial term of 8 years and an extended period of supervision on licence of 3 years.

Test for release

2. Before it could direct release, the panel had to consider whether it remains necessary for the protection of the public from serious harm that the offender should be confined.

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3. The panel was not 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 a troubling history of violence and has a history of being involved in the supply of substances. However, the offender is now stable in that regard. They are engaging positively with supports on offer and now recognise the benefit of doing so. The offender was able to explain that it was the work they completed with support which had been the real turning point for them, and since then they have realised that they need to ask for help at an early stage when problems start to emerge. The offender presented well when giving their evidence to the panel. They presented as motivated to maintain the positive progress they have made thus far.
6. The situation for the offender is now very different to how it was when they were released at their Earliest Date of Liberation. At that time, they had not learned that they needed to ask for support, and they were released from closed conditions without the benefit of having built up access to the community. The offender has completed a number of home leaves, which have passed positively. They have engaged fully with the prison based and community based social workers, and have taken direction from social work without issue. They have started to work with support services in the community. They are described as

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showing a determination to alter their past adverse behaviours. This was reflected in their own evidence. They spoke candidly about the benefits of their gradual progression into the community.

7. Both social workers support the offender's release. The panel did not consider that at present there was evidence to suggest they currently pose a risk of serious harm and the panel agreed with social workers that, on the basis of the evidence before it, it was no longer necessary for the protection of the public from serious harm that they should continue to be confined.