

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 04 March 2024

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 committed very serious sexual offences against vulnerable, elderly victims. They committed murder. The panel took into account that social workers were not presently recommending release. The community based social worker considered that a further period of testing was beneficial.
6. The panel was not satisfied that a further, short, period of time at the open estate was necessary.
7. The offender demonstrated good behaviour in custody. They participated in group work to better understand their offending. They have shown that they are capable of building a relationship of openness and honesty with social workers. They were insightful in giving evidence and had given clear thought to their release. The offender had considered strategies for coping with situations that they might face on release. Taking all of the available information into account, the panel was satisfied that it was no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender should be confined and it directs their release.
8. The panel considered that the licence conditions set are necessary and proportionate to manage the offender's risk.