

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 30 January 2024

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 10 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 was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment with a punishment part of 10 years. They have been recalled to custody twice and on the last occasion they incurred further convictions.
6. The panel considered that the offender presented as open and honest. They took responsibility for their own actions in relation to the index offence and their recalls to custody. The panel considered that they demonstrated insight into what had gone wrong previously in the community and they had clearly considered what they required to do if re-released. There has been no further recent violence demonstrated by the offender.
7. Both Prison Based Social Worker (PBSW) and Community Based Social Worker (CBSW) supported the offender's release at this time. The panel accepted their evidence.. The CBSW has known the offender for several years and was their supervising officer during their last time in the community. They have a clear understanding of the offending behaviour and risk factors. The CBSW indicated that they have now seen a marked change in the offender's attitude and presentation. They considered that the offender has demonstrated a good insight into how they are perceived by people and also has insight into their offending behaviour and what will be required of them in the community. The

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CBSW was of the view that the offender had gained a level of maturity and insight. They considered that they knew the offender very well and they had a positive working relationship. This was a view shared by the offender. Since their recall they had engaged in offence focused work. The CBSW considered that the offender had taken on board the learning they had gained through this work; that the offender is aware of their triggers and had the ability to self-manage in the community.

8. There would also be further work undertaken with which the offender is willing to engage. There is a detailed risk management plan and robust licence conditions. There are differences to the offender's previous release from custody in terms of support and a well-established relationship with their CBSW.
9. Having regard to the above factors, the panel was satisfied that it was no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender should continue to be confined and directed his release subject to licence conditions.

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