Date considered: 16 January 2024

Sentence

1.   The offender is serving a life sentence.

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 is assessed as being a medium level of risk and needs.

6.   The Community Based Social Worker (CBSW) considers that the offender does not pose a risk of harm to the public.

7.   It was a matter of concern that the offender was described as being irritable and confrontational during a recent interview with the Prison Based Social Worker (PBSW). An explanation was offered and the panel accepted that the offender was in a state of shock at that time.

8.   The offender made a deliberate choice not to tell their supervising officer about a friendship whilst in the community. Although doubt had been raised in the dossier about the offender's ability to engage positively in the future with the PBSW and CBSW, the panel did not hold this impression after hearing from the CBSW who was supportive of the offender.

9.   The offender's index offence occurred in 1987. Whilst they had been convicted of other matters since this date, notably, they had not been involved in violent offending again. Whilst the circumstances of the offender's recall were concerning, the panel considered that it was no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender should be confined and therefore released the offender subject to licence conditions.