

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 18 March 2024

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 12 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 panel is mindful that the punishment part of the offender's sentence expired in 2016, and that anxious scrutiny is required in relation to their ongoing detention.
6. The offender committed a very serious and violent index offence. It is clear that, in the past, they have demonstrated the ability to cause serious harm. The offender has, however, shown remorse. The offender has undertaken appropriate programme work in custody to understand and manage their risks. The offender appeared to understand their risk factors and the need, in particular, to avoid a return to substance misuse.
7. The offender has spent a significant amount of time in custody with only limited community access. They will face a number of challenges on release, but they appear willing to accept the help and support that is being offered to them to face those challenges.
8. Taking all of the evidence available to it into account, the panel was satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender should be confined and it directs their release subject to licence conditions.