

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 27 February 2024

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 13 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 has reservations about aspects of the offender's presentation and evidence. The offender was clearly frustrated by the fact that they were recalled. There seems to be no signs at present that they have been misusing substances.
6. Notwithstanding the evidence of the community based social worker, who gave their evidence in a considered and careful manner, the panel has come to the view that, on balance, the test for release is met. The offender has demonstrated that they have been suitable for release in the past. They also spent a period of time on release. There has not been any recurrence of violence or threat of violence in recent times. The panel considers that the risk is of a kind and degree that it can be supervised successfully in the community.