

## DECISION SUMMARY



**Date considered:** 27 March 2024

### **Sentence**

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 5 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 a serious and violent index offence. They have a history of previous convictions for violence and has demonstrated that they are capable of causing serious harm. The offender maintains a stance of innocence in respect of the index offence.
6. Whilst the panel had some concerns that the offender still lacks insight into their offending and the nature of their risks, it placed weight on the views of the social workers that they have recently demonstrated that they are capable of compliance in the community. The offender appears motivated to being released into the community and leading a pro-social life. Accordingly, the Board directed release on licence conditions which it deemed lawful, necessary and proportionate to manage the offender's level of risk in the community.
7. If the offender is to succeed and avoid a return to custody again, it will be essential that they maintain an open and honest relationship with social workers. The panel encourages the offender to continue building a good relationship with social workers, to engage with all supports offered to them, and encourages them to follow the directions given.