

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 25 April 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 offender was released on life licence on 23 July 2020 and remained in the community until October 2023 when they were recalled to custody. They are reported to have engaged positively with supervision for a period of 3 years and appeared to be fully compliant with licence conditions. To their credit, despite being released while significant COVID-19 restrictions were in place, the offender managed their community reintegration in a positive manner.
6. In evidence, the offender demonstrated a good insight into the reasons which culminated in their recall to custody. It was clear that they have reflected significantly on where things went wrong for them in the community and they demonstrated a strong desire to succeed going forward. Both the prison and community based social workers were confident in their recommendations supporting the offender's release at this juncture. There is a robust risk management plan in place and both social workers are of the opinion that they will comply with all that is required of them in the community.
7. The panel unanimously agrees with the recommendations of social work and as such directs the offender's release subject to the licence conditions previously intimated.