

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 17 June 2024

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 15 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 convicted of a murder described as a "*particularly savage, not to say barbaric attack with a substantial lethal weapon on a defenceless individual*". The offender's punishment part of that sentence expired in February 2020. They have progressed well in prison in recent years which culminated in their transfer to the open estate in September 2023. They commenced full community access have now undertaken numerous periods of home leave, all of which have passed without incident.
6. The offender has apparently been open and honest with their community based social worker, who supports their release on licence alongside the prison based social worker. The panel agrees with their recommendation.
7. With focus on the conduct of the offender in prison, particularly in recent years; the tested evidence of the offender's ability to comply with temporary licence conditions on periods of home leave; the availability of a robust risk management plan; and the oral evidence given by the offender at the oral hearing which demonstrated to the panel some insight of their offending behaviour and risk; the panel is satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender should be confined. The panel accordingly directed their release on licence conditions.