

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 17 July 2024

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 14 years and 6 months.

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 very serious violent index offence, resulting in the death of the young victim. Although they do not have an extensive list of previous convictions, they have a conviction for carrying an offensive weapon. They have completed all identified offence focused work in custody. They were previously downgraded from National Top End (NTE) following an Adverse Circumstances Report (ACR). However, they appear to have learned from their mistakes and have now completed a successful period of testing at the Open Estate (OE), where they have been for several months and had extensive community access without incident.
6. The panel heard extensive evidence from the offender's Prison Based Social Worker (PBSW), and Community Based Social Worker (CBSW), both of whom were supportive of his release. Both witnesses provided clear and well-reasoned evidence, which the panel found to be persuasive. In particular, the panel noted the PBSW's evidence that the offender does not pose an imminent risk of serious harm and that they have managed their risk factors well at the OE. The panel was also encouraged by the CBSW's evidence of their working relationship with the offender and their ability to be open and honest with them about any issues arising. Both witnesses spoke of the offender's approach to

DECISION SUMMARY

planning for their release, including building a network of supports in the community, and plans for future work.

7. The panel also considered the offender's evidence, in which they displayed insight into their risk factors and how they will manage these in future. The panel noted that they had given a lot of thought to their plans for release and that they have a stable release address. Overall, the panel was persuaded that the offender had accrued sufficient evidence through their completion of programme work, progression through NTE and the OE and extensive periods of community access, to allow them to be satisfied that the test for release was met.
8. The panel fixed licence conditions for the offender's release which it considered were lawful, necessary and proportionate.

DECISION SUMMARY