

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 04 September 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 noted the community based social worker's evidence. Whilst it understood their concerns, there was a lack of evidence that the offender currently poses a substantial risk of serious harm to the public which requires them to remain confined. In the panel's view, there was substantial evidence that the offender has skills in place to manage themselves sufficiently safely for the risk of them causing serious harm to be absent, or extremely limited.
6. The offender has undertaken special escorted leaves and coped with any problems they encountered on their first unescorted day release. They have not been violent in custody. The offender has done well in education and on offence focused programmes. The panel considered that they have good insight into the motivations and triggers for their index offence. They have a good relationship with their supervising officer. The panel considered that there would be early warning signs of the offender starting to struggle in the community and that this would be apparent to their community based social worker who would be able to take appropriate action.
7. The panel considered in all circumstances that the test for release was met. It therefore directed the offender's release on licence conditions which are lawful, necessary and proportionate to manage the risk which they pose in the community.

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