

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 10 July 2024

Sentence

1. The offender was serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 17 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

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.

1. The offender has undertaken full community access since November 2023 and since then, has completed a number of home leaves and days of community work placement all of which have passed without incident. The offender has adhered fully to their temporary licence conditions. They have engaged with their supervising officer who reports that they have never demonstrated any concerning or inappropriate behaviour during periods of temporary release.
2. The offender has progressed throughout the prison estate and attended various offence focused programmes, which has made progress in addressing their treatment needs. The prison based social worker advised the panel that the offender has insight into their risk factors and is able to identify coping strategies. The prison based social worker was very clear in their recommendation that they support the offenders release at this juncture. This view is supported by community based social work.
3. In evidence, the offender was reflective in relation to their previous offending. They demonstrated an insight into their earlier life, the factors which led to the commission of the index offence and had a clear path to avoid further offending.

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4. The offender demonstrated an awareness and understanding of their risks. It is clear from the reports within the dossier that the offender has, through their conduct in custody, evidenced that they now possess improved thinking and decision-making skills.
5. The panel entirely agrees with the recommendations of both the prison and community based social workers. For the reasons outlined in this Minute, the panel is unanimously in agreement that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender remains confined in custody.

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