

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 05 August 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 convicted of murder, and sentenced to life imprisonment. They have been released on life licence and recalled to custody on several occasions.
6. The panel accepted the oral and written evidence from both Prison Based Social Workers (PBSW) and both Community Based Social Workers (CBSW), all of whom supported the offender's release at this time. At this time there are no current indications that a future act of serious harm is likely. There has been significant progress in how the offender manages their own internal decision making and how they conduct themselves. There has been positive engagement and no adverse reports throughout their time in less secure conditions and during community access despite potential stressors within both environments. There is evidence of their compliance with licence conditions through release on temporary licence to the community, including home leaves.
7. In reaching its decision, the panel placed weight on the proposed Risk Management Plan and licence conditions. Full engagement with social work services is a protective factor. The offender has built positive relationships with their CBSW and demonstrated good engagement. They also have an ability to work well with different supervising officers. Offence focused work has had a positive impact on the offender's understanding of their own risk factors and

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implementation of strategies. They have demonstrated a significant shift in decision making, consideration of their behaviour and response.

8. The offender took responsibility for their actions in relation to their recalls and indicated their motivation for the future related to remaining in the community.
9. Having regard to the above factors, the panel was satisfied that it was no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender remains confined and directed their release subject to licence conditions.