

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 15 November 2024

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 14 years 1 month and 16 days.

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.
 - f) The panel acknowledges that in fairness, anxious scrutiny was particularly critical in the decision-making process given the offender had been in custody for a considerable length of time.
 - g) The panel notes that neither the PBSW (Prison Based Social Worker) or CBSW (Community Based Social Worker) teams' supported the offenders release at this stage preferred that they were tested and reintegrated slowly back into the community through progression to less secure conditions. The panel understand the reasoning behind their recommendations and consider that in certain cases manageability of risk is a factor in the overall consideration of the protection of the public test. However, the panel notes that neither the PBSW nor the CBSW took issue with oral evidence given.
 - h) The panel notes that all professionals associated with the offender's case do not assess them to be an imminent risk of serious harm. The panel attached weight to the fact that the offender had not been involved in violence for a significant period of time. The offender will be closely monitored through the supervision process.

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- i) The panel acknowledge that given the significant period of time that the offender had been in custody returning to the community with limited testing will be a challenging proposition for them.
- j) The panel encourage the offender to develop their relationship with the CBSW, which appeared to be on a good footing at this stage, and to use all supports and services made available to them in the community to help them successfully transition away from the custodial environment.

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