

## DECISION SUMMARY



**Date considered:** 20 December 2024

### **Sentence**

1. The offender is serving an extended sentence of 11 years 11 months and 25 days, comprised of a custodial term of 7 years 2 months 25 days and an extended period of supervision on licence of 4 years and 9 months.

### **Test for release**

2. Before it could direct release, the panel had to consider whether it remains necessary for the protection of the public from serious harm that the offender should be confined.

### **Decision**

3. The panel was not 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 has undertaken several home leaves to supported accommodation. They have also undertaken a significant number of unescorted day releases from HMP Castle Huntly. Aside from the incident in 2024 at their community work placement, after which they engaged in work on managing their relationships, their reports are good and there are no concerns.
6. The offender presented well in the hearing and showed insight into their previous negative lifestyle. Their solicitor submitted that after they were recalled to custody, they had reflected on this negative lifestyle and made positive steps towards change. The panel accepted this submission. The offender was able to articulate how to fill their time in the community and the necessity for them to avoid risk taking behaviours. They appear motivated to remain offence free. They have insight into what they have to do to achieve this. They have plans for employment. They engage well with the custodial regime and have a good relationship with their supervising officer. They completed an offence based programme.

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7. The offender has the support of external agencies and support services in the community.
8. The offender's social workers recommend release.
9. The panel considered that the offender has demonstrated that they no longer pose a sufficiently significant risk of serious harm to the public for them to require to remain confined and it directed their release.