

## DECISION SUMMARY



**Date considered:** 09 January 2025

### **Sentence**

1. The offender is serving an extended sentence of 11 years and 2 months, comprised of a custodial term of 6 years and 2 months and an extended period of supervision on licence of 5 years.

### **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's index offences involved significant violence, and were set against a background of other violent offending. When last released on licence, the offender committed three further offences of violence.
6. However, in recent years the offender has made significant progress. They have been at the Open Estate and have completed several periods of home leaves, and a substantial period on Community Work Placement. The panel considered reports regarding the offender's community access and there have been no concerns about any of the offender's risks emerging or escalating.
7. The offender's offending history is linked to risk taking behaviours. However, at present there are no indications that they are engaging in any such behaviours. The offender presented as remorseful of their past and the harm that they had caused, and seemed determined not to be drawn back into that lifestyle once more.

## DECISION SUMMARY

8. The offender was able to identify their risk factors, and appeared to have an understanding of situations which could prove risky for them. The offender was realistic about the challenges they would face on release, appeared to have thought about these, and had some strategies as to how they would deal with them. The offender gave some good examples of how they had put into practice some of the learning from the work they had done with an offence focused programme. The offender appeared to have realistic goals, and had thought about where they might seek support on release, and how they might spend their time.
9. During their time on community access, the offender had complied with temporary licence conditions. The offender had a good relationship with their Community Based Social Worker (CBSW), which is important in terms of their risk being manageable.
10. Both the Prison Based Social Worker (PBSW) and CBSW are supportive of the offender's release. To keep the offender in custody, the panel would need to be satisfied that their continued confinement was necessary for the protection of the public from serious harm. The panel concluded that it was not. The panel considered that any escalation in the offender's risk, or warning signs or triggers, would be picked up by the risk management plan. The panel concluded that the offender was likely to engage with that plan and maintain transparency with the CBSW, which would allow that plan to be effective.

## DECISION SUMMARY