

## DECISION SUMMARY



**Date considered:** 15 January 2025

### **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's index offence involved extreme violence against a young female victim they had been in a relationship with involving the use of a knife, resulting in the victim's death. They have previous convictions but the index offence represented a significant escalation in the seriousness of their offending. Since coming into custody in 2008 there has been no further offending. There have also been no concerns with regard to substance or alcohol use during their sentence. They have completed all offence focused work identified for them in custody and progressed to the Open Estate where they have undertaken a sustained successful period of testing through extensive Unescorted Day Releases, home leaves and a community work placement. All of their community access has passed without incident.
6. The offender's prison based social worker (PBSW) team leader gave evidence at both the September 2024 and January 2025 hearings. The PBSW supported the offender's release at both hearings, referring to their extensive community access without incident, positive engagement with social work and the fact that none of their risk factors currently appear to be present. The panel found the PBSW evidence to be clear, well-reasoned and persuasive and was content to follow their recommendations, concluding that the offender's extensive

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community access without incident provides evidence of their ability to manage their risk factors.

7. The community based social worker (CBSW) provided evidence at the hearings, in which they recommended the offender's release on the basis of their positive engagement with them to date, the lack of incidents arising on their community access, the offender's well-developed plans for release and the robust community risk management plan in place. The panel found the CBSW's evidence to be detailed and well-considered. The panel noted that the CBSW was confident in their ability to manage the offender on licence and in supervision.
8. The offender's evidence showed that they have insight into the triggers for their index offence and that they have undertaken work to address their issues and learn strategies to manage this in future. The panel noted that the offender appears to have been able to manage their emotions well in custody and on community access. The panel was persuaded, on taking extensive evidence from the offender and the professionals tasked with working with them, that they have genuine remorse for the index offence. Given the lack of structure in the offender's life at the time of the index offence the panel concluded that the proactive steps they have taken to put plans in place for their release boded well for their resettlement into the community. The panel was also encouraged to hear about their willingness to do further offence focused work on release. Taking all of the evidence in the dossier and heard at the hearings into account, together with the extensive evidence accrued on community access, the panel was satisfied that the offender's continued confinement was no longer necessary for the protection of the public.

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