

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 19 February 2025

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 20 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.

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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 committed a very serious violent index offence. The offender committed this offence whilst on licence in respect of an earlier sentence. The offender had some serious previous convictions but the index offence marked a significant escalation in their offending behaviour. Since coming into custody the offender had made progress, completing all identified offence focused work, progressing to the National Top End for an extended period of testing and lengthy period on community work placement for which they received positive reports and progressing on to the Open Estate for further testing. The offender had undertaken numerous periods of home leaves, with all community access having passed without incident. The panel considered reports from staff and professionals and the offender had incurred no misconduct or adverse circumstance reports.
6. The Prison Based Social Worker and the Community Based Social Worker provided evidence at the hearing in which they both recommended the offender's release on the basis of the sustained successful period of testing they have undertaken. The evidence of both social workers was clear and well-reasoned and given the extensive evidence accrued by the offender of their ability to manage their own risks and comply with licence conditions, the panel was

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content to follow their recommendations. In reaching this conclusion, the panel considered positive factors within the community, the realistic plans for release and the services the offender had already engaged with.

7. The offender's evidence at the hearing showed that they have some insight into their risks and that they are able to reflect on their previous lifestyle and offending. The offender appeared to have considered the challenges they may face in the community and to have strategies to deal with these, including a strong support network including the CBSW, who they appeared to have a good working relationship with. The panel also considered the offender's release plans. The panel concluded that the lack of issues arising on the offender's extensive community access provided good evidence of the offender's ability to manage their own risks and comply with licence conditions and supervision.
8. Accordingly, the Board directed release on licence conditions which it deemed lawful, necessary and proportionate to manage the offender's level of risk in the community.

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