

## DECISION SUMMARY



**Date considered:** 14 February 2025

### **Sentence**

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 10 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 panel took the opportunity to closely question the social workers on the reasons for their recommendations for release. The panel felt it was important to establish that the offender is sufficiently equipped to live a prosocial lifestyle. The panel was particularly keen to understand how the offender has changed on this occasion in custody, in particular what additional insight, skills and strategies they have developed since their last recall.
6. The panel considered that the social work evidence was persuasive and it accepted it. The offender has developed insight and takes more responsibility for their offending behaviour since their last recall. They have engaged with support which has provided them with insight into their triggers and motivations for offending. Their social workers provided evidence that they have been open and honest with them and has engaged well with professionals. In addition they have undertaken a significant number of home leaves and there have been no concerns.
7. Whilst the panel continues to have some concerns about the offender's ability to manage themselves and their emotions, on the balance of probabilities it was satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that they remain confined. The offender was able to articulate the early warning signs of escalating emotional distress and has strategies in place to manage themselves.

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8. In all the circumstances the panel agreed to accept the recommendations of the social workers and the reasons for them and directed then offender's release.

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