

## DECISION SUMMARY



**Date considered:** 18 March 2025

### **Sentence**

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 12 years and 6 months.

### **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 was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. The offender was released on licence. Their licence was revoked in September 2023..

The offender was charged with further offences and subsequently convicted. The circumstances which led to the offender's recall are of concern.

6. However the panel also noted that the offender was in the community on licence for period of over 6 years with significant periods of compliance. There had been no recent violence. The offender's conduct in custody had been good.
7. The panel accepted the written and oral evidence of the prison based social worker and the community based social worker. They supported the offender's release at this time. They acknowledged the concerns in relation to the circumstances leading up to the recall to custody and further conviction. However they considered that the risk presented by the offender can be safely managed in the community with a robust risk management plan and licence conditions.
8. The offender had engaged in further work in custody. The offender acknowledged that they required to engage fully and honestly with the

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Supervising Officer and abide by all licence conditions. The impact of concerns in relation to the offender's honesty and poor decision making was reflected in the licence conditions.

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