

SUMMARY



Date considered: 18 October 2021

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 18 years.

Test for release

2. Before it could direct release, the Board 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 Board was satisfied on this matter, and directed release subject to licence conditions.

Reasons for decision

4. In reaching its decision, the Board 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 sentencing Judge described the index offence as a vicious, unprovoked and murderous attack of unimaginable brutality. It was apparent that the offender's actions have caused significant and permanent harm to the victim's family. The offender appeared to recognise this, and the Board accepted that they had reflected substantially both on their actions and on their impact.
6. The offender had received no reports of misconduct for a number of years. They had undertaken offence-related programme work, and their post-programme report was in positive terms. They had progressed to the Open Estate, where they had undertaken a community work placement and periods of home leave. These were all undertaken without incident. They have the offer of employment, and appeared motivated to lead a pro-social lifestyle. Having regard to the offender's circumstances, both prison-based and community-based social work supported release.
7. The Board was required to consider whether it was necessary for the protection of the public that the offender remain in prison. Having regard to all of the evidence, the Board was satisfied that it was not, and directed release on life licence. The offender appeared to understand that they will be subject to this

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licence for the rest of their life, and that any breach of its conditions may result in their return to prison.