

SUMMARY



Date considered: 08 November 2021

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 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 offender evidenced an understanding of their risks and was candid in their responses to the Board's questions. They expressed a determination to progress positively in the community and refrain from further offending. They expressed remorse for the index offence, and stated that they have no intention of ever again committing an act of violence in the future.
6. Whilst prison-based and community-based social work did not support release at this juncture, both were in agreement that the offender was making good progress and evidencing positive compliance within the prison regime. In that regard, positive reports were received from those responsible for managing the offender within custody.
7. Both prison-based and community-based social work opined that they would like to see evidence that the offender would not put themselves or others at risk in the community, and evidence of how they would cope if challenged by others. They agreed that they would prefer testing by way of home leaves prior to release.

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8. The Board noted that the offender's last significant incident involving violence had been a substantial number of years ago. There was no evidence of non-compliance or disengagement, nor was there any evidence that they were likely to destabilise. There was no evidence of any ongoing issues with anyone in the community and nothing in the offender's recent behaviour to suggest that they were likely to commit violence to another.
9. The Board noted that a robust risk management plan was available in the community. The offender would be closely monitored by those tasked with their supervision. They had a good relationship with their supervising officer, a supportive family network and a determination to adhere to all aspects of supervision.
10. In all of the circumstances, the Board concluded that the offender should be released on life licence.