

SUMMARY



Date considered: 15 December 2021

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an extended sentence of 12 years, comprised of a custodial term of ten years and an extended period of supervision on licence of two years.

Test for release

2. Before it could direct release, the Board had to consider whether it remains necessary for the protection of the public from serious harm that the offender should be confined.

Decision

3. The Board was not 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 Board had some concerns about the offender's insight into the challenges which await them in the community, which appeared to be lacking. The offender had also not been returned to the Open Estate, so although they had undertaken a large number of home leaves beforehand, ultimately they did not complete this part of their sentence successfully, which was also a concern.
6. However, the Board noted the very short period on licence available to the offender. It also noted the view of community based social work that if there were robust licence conditions, the likelihood of the offender causing serious harm to the public was reduced. The Board noted that the offender would see social work professionals on multiple occasions during their brief time on licence, which should provide sufficient opportunity for them to be monitored and any significant changes to be observed. This would allow social work to support the offender before they destabilised to the point where they would reoffend. Community based social work suggested that the offender's risk of causing serious harm could be managed if they engaged with available support. On consideration of the dossier in full and the inclusion of licence conditions specific to identified

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needs and risks, the Board considered that it was not necessary for the offender to remain confined. The Board therefore directed release on licence conditions which it considered lawful, necessary and proportionate to manage their risk.