

## SUMMARY



**Date considered:** 03 March 2022

### **Sentence**

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 14 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 committed a very serious index offence and many further offences after their life sentence was imposed. However, the last of these was over a decade ago. They expressed shame at their offending and had several decades in custody to reflect.
6. The offender presented well in the hearing. They had experienced great benefit at the open estate (OE) despite negative expectations. Even within the last year, they appeared to have made changes to their thinking styles. Their experience at the OE had taught them they needed to listen to professionals. They had demonstrated that they could do this on home leaves. They had taken the advice of their supervising officer on how to address specific issues on their return to the community. This demonstrated insight and a willingness on the part of the offender to accept professional advice with their management. They had engaged well with professionals when undertaking a number of home leaves. They had met challenges in the community successfully. The Board was satisfied that release accommodation was suitable and protective. The offender's family were supportive and they would spend time with them in the community. There would be challenges ahead, but the offender was prepared for them. They were willing to seek and accept advice when needed.

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7. Both prison-based and community-based social work recommended release.
8. The Board considered that it was no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender remain confined, and directed release on licence conditions which it considered lawful, necessary and proportionate to manage the offender's risk.
9. The Board is aware of issues with the reliability of the LS/CMI risk assessment tool in some cases. However, the Board was satisfied that it could reach a decision based on the other evidence in this case, and that it was not necessary to adjourn for further information about the LS/CMI risk assessment.