

DECISION SUMMARY



Date considered: 03 April 2023

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was 13 years.

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's index offence was extremely serious, being the murder of their victim, with whom they were in a relationship. The offence demonstrates that they are capable of causing serious and permanent harm.
6. The offender has progressed to the Open Estate. They have now undertaken a significant amount of access to the community, which has provided testing as to their compliance with licence conditions and engagement with professionals. The panel heard from the Community Based Social Worker (CBSW) that they had developed a positive relationship with the offender. The offender presented no issues when they were in the community. The CBSW supported the offender's release, subject to licence conditions.
7. The offender presented as remorseful about the index offence, and to have insight into the factors which led to it. They appeared motivated to comply with supervision and to prioritise their relationship with their supervising officer.
8. Having regard to all of the evidence, the panel accepted the CBSW's recommendation and were satisfied that it was no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the offender remained in prison and therefore directed release subject to licence conditions.