

SUMMARY



Date considered: 09 July 2021

Sentence

1. The offender is serving an indeterminate sentence, of which the minimum term in custody was ten 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 prisoner;
 - c) the prisoner'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 prison-based social worker considered that the offender would benefit from testing at the Open Estate prior to release on licence. The Tribunal considered that there was already adequate evidence that the offender no longer required to be confined. They presented a low risk / needs profile, had overcome addiction issues and been free of illicit drugs for several years. They presented well in the hearing and showed good insight into several matters. They expressed remorse for the index offence and insight into the effect it had on the victim's family, as well as their own. The view of the Tribunal was that the offender had matured and was no longer the same individual they were when they committed the index offence. They had demonstrated both insight into the role alcohol played in the index offence, and plans to abstain from consuming it in the community.
6. The offender had been of good behaviour in custody for several years. They had undertaken a number of Special Escorted Leaves (SELs) and had done well at their community work placement. The Tribunal was confident that the offender would not meet their previous negative peer group, and that contact with certain family members would only be possible if first approved by their supervising officer. The offender displayed a realistic outlook. Both prison- and community-based social workers considered that the offender engaged well and was likely

SUMMARY

to comply with licence conditions. In all the circumstances, the Tribunal directed the offender's release on licence conditions which were considered lawful, proportionate and necessary in order to manage their risk.