



NEW ZEALAND
PAROLE BOARD

Parole hearing

Under section 21(1) of the Parole Act 2002

Stephen Gerard VERSALKO

Hearing: 5 February 2014
at (withheld)

Members of the Board: Judge R L Watson (Panel Convenor)
Ms G Hughes
Mr A Shaw

Support People: (withheld)

DECISION OF THE BOARD

1. Stephen Gerard Versalko appears before the Board today for consideration as to parole. Mr Versalko is presently serving a sentence of six years' imprisonment in relation to charges of obtaining by deception. The criteria for release on parole is set out in section 28 of the Parole Act 2002. That is the Board must be satisfied on reasonable grounds "that the offender, if released on parole, will not pose an undue risk to the safety of the community, or any person or classes of persons within the term of the sentence," that is this Board must ask itself if released on parole would Mr Versalko pose an undue risk to the safety of the community or any person between his release date and his sentence end date, in this case a period of two years.
2. In determining the level of risk the Board looks at the factors of (a) the support and supervision available to the offender following release; and (b) the public interest in reintegrating the offender into society as a law abiding citizen.
3. The parole assessment report received for the purposes of this Parole Board hearing advises that Mr Versalko has a very low RoC*RoI of 0.02594. He has a minimum security classification. He is well regarded as an inmate having a positive and helpful attitude towards staff and other inmates.

4. Because of his low RoC*RoI he has not been identified to participate in any rehabilitative programme to address his offending needs.
5. There is no question that Mr Versalko is deeply remorseful and ashamed about his offending. He is very conscious of the impact that this offending has had on his victims, employer, family and friends. He does not attempt to excuse or minimise his behaviour, he takes full responsibility for it and blames no one other than himself.
6. Mr Versalko has been able to present to the Board a very extensive relapse prevention plan for when he is back in the community. It is clear to the Board from this plan that Mr Versalko has good support from (withheld) who is also able to offer him accommodation.
7. Mr Versalko is also aware of his risk areas and tells the Board that he will never again work in the financial sector or hold a position of financial responsibility.
8. Mr Versalko has a large number of supportive people in the community who are willing to help and assist his reintegration back into the community. Those people were involved in an ongoing monitoring of his activities.
9. Mr Versalko has employment prospects on release which are quite unrelated to his previous employment in the financial sector.
10. The Board is accordingly satisfied that Mr Versalko will have strong support together with effective monitored supervision following his release.
11. Mr Versalko will now be released on parole on 25 February 2014 on the usual standard and following special conditions.
12. These conditions remain in place until his sentence end date.
13. The Standard Conditions as set out in section 14 of the Parole Act 2002 are imposed until 2 February 2016.
14. The following Special Conditions are imposed until 2 February 2016.
 - (1) To reside at (withheld) and not to move from that address without the prior written approval of a Probation Officer.
 - (2) To notify your Probation Officer prior to starting, terminating or changing your position or place of employment.

- (3) Not to undertake employment either in a paid or unpaid capacity that involves the handling of finances, directly or indirectly, without the prior written approval of your Probation Officer.
- (4) You are not to have contact or otherwise associate with the victim(s) of your offending, the ASB Bank, directly or indirectly, unless you have the prior written consent of your Probation Officer.

Judge R L Watson
Panel Convenor

Review

- You may apply for a review of the Board's decision under section 67(1). The only grounds under which you may make an application for review are that the Board, in making its decision:
 - a) Failed to comply with procedures in the Parole Act 2002; or
 - b) Made an error of law; or
 - c) Failed to comply with Board policy resulting in unfairness to the offender; or
 - d) Based its decision on erroneous or irrelevant information that was material to the decision reached; or
 - e) Acted without jurisdiction.
- To apply for a review you must write to the Board within 28 days of its decision stating which of the above ground(s) you consider to be relevant in your case and giving reasons why you believe that ground(s) applies.
- Reviews are considered on the papers only. There is no hearing in respect of your Review Application.