

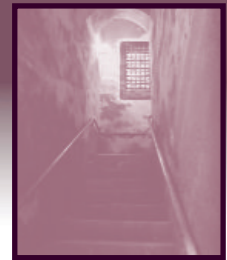


The Parole Board

# Annual Report 2003

An Bord Paruil  
Parole Board





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## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

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The Parole Board was established on an administrative basis in 2001 and held its first meeting to consider cases referred to it by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in December of that year. The Board's functions are dealt with in the body of this report.

The Board's primary function is to advise the Minister on the administration of sentences, including the granting of temporary release to prisoners, the seriousness of whose crimes are reflected by the fact that the Board has no authority to make any recommendation (save in a specific matter referred to it by the Minister), where a sentence of less than eight years is imposed.

Contrary to what appears to be a widely held public belief, the system of remission of sentences in this country cannot be described as being excessively liberal. In Ireland, a prisoner who is of good behaviour will become entitled to remission of the balance of his or her sentence after serving three quarters of it. This contrasts with England and Wales, where the system is much more liberal. In many cases, prisoners there are eligible for remission having served half, or in other cases, two thirds of their sentence.

This explains why, the impression is given to the public at large, that sentences imposed in the United Kingdom, for apparently similar offences, are longer than those imposed here. They are, in many cases, but their length is reflected by the fact that the remission system in the United Kingdom is more liberal or generous than it is here. Of course, persons may become eligible for review by the Parole Board well before their remission date.

Whilst the Board's role is an advisory one, I am pleased to note that, in the vast majority of cases, the Minister has accepted the recommendation of the Board.

The Board has been gravely concerned with a number of issues which have arisen in the short time of its existence. First of all the Board has, of course, to deal with murder cases and, this offence, the most serious under the Irish Criminal Law, has caused the Board considerable difficulties. It is impossible, obviously, to equate the gravity of one murder with another. They both involve the deliberate taking of human life. Nonetheless some murders are, of course, of such a heinous nature that the public interest would require a far more substantial period of imprisonment than might otherwise be the case.



Whilst each case coming before the Board should, must and will be considered on an individual basis, can the Board argue with the Minister's recently expressed view that persons convicted of murder shall, except in the most extraordinary circumstances, serve more than single digit sentences?

While the Board's attitude has been that a murder conviction should result in at least twelve years of the imposed life sentence being served before a recommendation leading to a plan for early release is made, should the recent spate of lawlessness and murders throughout the Republic cause it to reconsider its attitude? It is, sadly, all too clear that human life in this country is cheaper than it was five or ten years ago. It is equally clear that this should be of great concern to all of us and the Board, in its recommendations, must respond accordingly. Persons who commit murder must realise that a long period of imprisonment awaits them. The Board feels it must indicate that the sanctity of human life must be preserved and maintained and, if this means that persons committing murder can expect to serve longer sentences, so be it.

Whilst the staff of the Board have functioned in an absolutely exemplary way throughout the year, the Board is, nonetheless, conscious of some shortcomings and failings in the information which is given to it to assist it in formulating its recommendations to the Minister. The Board understands that all concerned are making every effort to improve the quality of this information. For example, the Board is very conscious of the effect that serious crime may have on a small community and thus of the effect which releasing the perpetrator back into that community might have.

The Board is very anxious that every assistance be given to support the victims of crime. Those victims against whom a crime of violence has been committed have, in fact, been let down by society and society owes them a duty to help them in their efforts towards recovery and to deal with the consequences of the serious crime committed upon them. Furthermore the Board is very conscious of the effects the release of a prisoner may have on the victim of a crime or on the victim's family and it, therefore thoroughly supports the concept of a Charter for Victims.

The Board continues to be concerned about difficulties regarding rehabilitation and resettlement plans for some prisoners. These may arise because of the unavailability of certain facilities in any given area or through simple issues of accommodation etc.

The work done by the individual members of the Board is to be enormously commended. The Board has, within its membership, a vast amount of experience, expert knowledge and practical common sense, all of which has been evident in its dealing with the cases and issues that come before it.



Each prisoner, whose case is being reviewed by the Board, is personally interviewed by two of its members. Of course this takes time and it is often difficult. The individual members of the Board are to be greatly praised for the compassionate, sympathetic but focussed way in which they carry out what can often be seen as a difficult task.

The work of the Board continues with, it hopes, as little publicity in individual cases as possible - but this, unfortunately, is not always a realistic hope.

My thanks, as Chairman, to both the members of the Board and to our efficient, courteous and considerate staff, who can feel extremely pleased with the results that have been achieved in such a short time. My thanks also to the various agencies and services who have provided the reports and other information without which the Board could not function. The effort involved for all concerned, particularly in coping with the substantial initial caseload, is recognised and appreciated.

**GORDON A. HOLMES**

June 2003



## INTRODUCTION

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The Parole Board was established by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform on an interim administrative basis to review the cases of prisoners with longer term sentences and to provide advice in relation to the administration of those sentences.

The Board was appointed by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform on 4 April, 2001. The first meeting of the Board was held on 2 July, 2001 and the first prisoners were interviewed by members of the Board, as part of the review process, in November 2001. In the intervening period Board members had the benefit of presentations related to a number of aspects of the review process including prisoner interview techniques and risk assessment. Members of the Board attended a presentation by Mr. Thomas D. Winn, Chairman, State of New Hampshire Adult Parole Board and a briefing from Mr. Edward F Reilly Jr., Chairman, US Parole Commission. All members had the opportunity to undertake a study visit to the Parole Board for England and Wales and to sit in on formal hearings of that Board which also provided one days training for all Board Members.

During 2002 the Board had a very informative and helpful discussion with Mr. Justice Paul Carney and Judge Yvonne Murphy at which the Board's work and attitude's were made clear to these eminent members of the Judiciary. It is considered to be very important that the Judiciary have an appreciation of the manner in which the Board formulates its recommendations in any case.

This is the first annual report of the Parole Board and it covers the period from July 2001 to December 2002. During this period the cases of some 180 prisoners were referred to the Board for review. Of these, 157 prisoners accepted an invitation to participate in the process and recommendations to the Minister were made in 79 cases.



## BACKGROUND

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In 1989 the Sentence Review Group was established to advise the Minister for Justice on the administration of long sentences. The Group, which was a non-statutory body, reviewed the cases of long-term prisoners (excluding those convicted of capital murder) after seven years of sentence had been served. The Sentence Review Group had an advisory role and made recommendations to the Minister.

In February 1997 the Report of the Expert Group, which was set up to work out the detailed arrangements for the establishment of an Independent Prison Agency submitted its Report, Towards an Independent Prison Agency, to Government. This Report contained a recommendation for the establishment of a Parole Board on a statutory basis to advise the Minister for Justice in relation to long-term prisoners.

*"As a corollary to the establishment of an independent Prisons Agency, we consider that it would now be logical to establish a Parole Board, which was referred to in the Programme for Government, on a statutory basis. It would advise the Minister on releases in relation to long-term prisoners and would operate on a similar - though statutory - basis to the existing Sentence Review Group. Its terms of reference should be widened to deal with prisoners who have served 5 years of their sentence. The final decision in relation to releases in these cases would rest with the Minister.*

*The legislation establishing a Prisons Agency should also provide for the establishment of a Parole Board. Membership of the Board should be along the following lines: Chairperson and persons drawn from some of the following categories viz. Department of Justice, Prisons Agency, Probation and Welfare Service, medical and psychology professions and persons representing the interests of the community generally."*

Towards an Independent Prison Agency (Section 7.3)

On 6 December, 2000 the Taoiseach informed Dáil Éireann of the Government's intention to bring forward legislation to establish a Parole Board and on 7 December, 2000 the Minister for Justice, Equality & Law Reform confirmed that it was intended to establish a Parole Board on an interim administrative basis in the New Year.

On 4 April, 2001 the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform announced the membership of the Parole Board which he established on an interim administrative basis.





## FUNCTIONS

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The Parole Board's principal function is to advise the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform on:

- The administration of the sentences of persons whose cases have been referred to the Board by the Minister;
- Where temporary release is recommended, the conditions which should attach to any such release.

The Board reviews the cases of eligible prisoners sentenced to eight years or more, but less than fourteen years, at the half sentence stage and the cases of prisoners sentenced to fourteen years or more or to a life sentence after seven years of that sentence has been served.

As a general principle, prisoners serving sentences for,

- (a) Treason or attempted treason or murder or attempted murder to which section 3 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1990 applies (i.e. murder or attempted murder of a member of An Garda Síochána or the Irish Prison Service acting in the course of his or her duty);
- (b) Murder or attempted murder done in the course or furtherance of an offence under section 6 of the Offences Against the State Act, 1939, or in the course or furtherance of the activities of an unlawful organisation within the meaning of section 18 (other than paragraph (f) of that Act);
- (c) Murder or attempted murder, committed within the State for a political motive, of the head of a foreign state or of a member of the government or a diplomatic officer of a foreign State,

will not be eligible for review by the Board.

In addition, persons sentenced to a term of imprisonment for the possession of drugs under subsections 3A and 3B of section 27 of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977 as amended by section 5 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1999 will also not be eligible for review by the Board.

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform may, however, refer any individual case to the Board for review.



## MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

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Mr. Gordon Holmes	Chairperson
Mr. Seán Lowry	Probation and Welfare Service
Mr. Frank McCarthy	Governor, Cork Prison
Ms. Lillian McGovern	Community Representative
Ms. Anne O'Gorman	Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
Mr. Tim O'Donoghue	Community Representative
Ms. Daisy O'Reilly	Community Representative
Mr. Brian Purcell	Irish Prison Service
Dr. Charles Smith	Central Mental Hospital
Mr. Martin Tansey	Community Representative

## STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT

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Mr. Allan Grant	Assistant Principal Officer
Mr. Tony Delaney	Higher Executive Officer
Mr. Colm Murray*	Clerical Officer
Mr. Colin Donovan*	Clerical Officer

*\*Mr. Murray was transferred to other duties on promotion in September, 2002 and Mr. Donovan took up duty on 29 October, 2002.*



## THE REVIEW PROCESS

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The review process is designed to be open and inclusive. A significant difference between the Board's process and that of its predecessor is the general practice of providing copies of reports and other material to the prisoner whose case is being reviewed.

The Review process, which can take around six months, involves a number of stages and, as this is the Board's first Annual Report, it is described below.

### **STAGE 1: REFERRAL**

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform refers the case of an eligible prisoner to the Board. Every effort is made to ensure that cases are referred to the Board sufficiently in advance of the prisoner reaching the halfway or seven year point of his or her sentence, as appropriate, to allow the Board to make its recommendation to the Minister around that time.

### **STAGE 2: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE**

The Secretariat of the Board writes to each prisoner whose case has been referred to the Board and invites him/her to participate in the review process. A copy of the Board's 'Information Leaflet For Prisoners' (see Appendix A) is enclosed with each letter of invitation. The prisoner is asked to complete a form to indicate whether or not he/she wishes to participate in the review process.

### **STAGE 3: ASSEMBLING A REVIEW DOSSIER**

Where a prisoner opts to participate in the review process, the Secretariat assembles a set of papers, referred to as a Review Dossier, which, among other things, includes a number of reports from relevant agencies, e.g. The Probation & Welfare Service. The Secretariat seeks a report from the Governor of the institution in which the prisoner is accommodated, the Probation and Welfare Service, the Psychology Service, the local Prison Review Committee and An Garda Síochána. The Board may also seek a report from a psychiatrist, in particular where the prisoner is receiving or has received psychiatric treatment while under sentence, or from any other relevant source. The contents of the Review Dossier are considered by the Board as part of the review process.



#### **STAGE 4: DISCLOSURE OF REVIEW DOSSIER**

Once the initial reports (and any other material) have been obtained they are assembled into a Review Dossier and a copy is sent, under sealed cover, to the prisoner. The prisoner must sign a Disclosure Form to indicate that he/she has received the Review Dossier. He/she may also submit written comments on the content of the Review Dossier as well as provide any other information which he/she may feel that the Board should have.

#### **STAGE 5: INTERVIEW**

When the prisoner has acknowledged the disclosure of his/her Review Dossier arrangements are made for him/her to attend an informal interview with two members of the Board. Interviews take place in the institution in which the prisoner is accommodated and the Board Members are accompanied by a member of the staff of the Secretariat. Legal representation at the interview is not allowed but a written submission from the prisoner's legal representative will be accepted. Other representations (written only) from relevant organisations or persons will also be accepted.

The purpose of the interview is to give the prisoner an opportunity to make submissions in person to the Board, to allow the Board members to discuss the contents of the Review Dossier with the prisoner and to seek clarification and/or information which will improve the Board's ability to assess and deal appropriately with the prisoner's case.

Following the interview, a written report is prepared and a copy of this is given to the prisoner. The prisoner, again, must complete a form to acknowledge disclosure of the interview report and he/she may comment on the content or provide additional information, in writing. A copy of the interview report, together with any observations the prisoner may have on its content, is added to the Review Dossier.

Where a second or subsequent review is concerned an interview is not usually arranged. The Board will monitor the prisoner's progress and consider his/her case further on the basis of reports from the various services with which he/she has been engaging. These reports are disclosed to the prisoner in a new Review Dossier and full consideration is given to his/her case.



## **STAGE 6: BOARD MEETING**

The Parole Board meets regularly to discuss cases on an individual basis and, where appropriate, to formulate recommendations to the Minister. To assist the Board in its deliberations, each member will have a Review Dossier on each case for discussion. At this stage, the contents of each Review Dossier will have been disclosed to the prisoner concerned and that prisoner will have had the opportunity to comment on the contents and to provide additional information in writing. Notwithstanding this, the board is free to make such further enquiries as it deems appropriate in any individual case.

The main factors to be taken into account by the Board when considering cases are:

- The nature and gravity of the offence to which the sentence being served by the person relates;
- The sentence concerned and any recommendations of the Court that imposed the sentence;
- The period of the sentence served to date;
- Previous convictions;
- The potential threat to the safety and security of members of the public should the person be released;
- The risk of further offences being committed by the prisoner during any period of temporary release;
- The risk of the person failing to return to prison upon the expiration of any period of release;
- The risk of the person failing to comply with any conditions attaching to his/her temporary release;
- The conduct of the person while in custody;
- The conduct of the person while previously on temporary release, if applicable;
- The extent to which the person has engaged with the therapeutic services to address his/her offending behaviour;
- The likelihood that any period of temporary release might enhance the prospects of the person's safe re-integration into society or improve his/her chances of obtaining employment.



Following its consideration of a case, the Board formulates the recommendations it wishes to make to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform. The Board may make a variety of recommendations in the context of preparing a prisoner for release including:

A structured programme advising that the prisoner should participate in one or more of the following:-

- (a) Therapy - encourage the prisoner to work with particular therapeutic services, attend particular programmes, be referred for psychiatric report, etc.;
  - (b) Education - encourage the prisoner to participate in educational and training services;
  - (c) Work training - Release for work training;
  - (d) Resocialisation - Measures to reduce the effects of institutionalisation;
  - (e) Outings - Escorted/accompanied outings to aid familiarisation with the outside world, meet with family or relatives;
- A transfer to another prison, including a prison in a different location, or to an open institution;
  - A programme of short periods of temporary release leading to longer periods of temporary release.

Where the Board does not decide to recommend temporary release, it must review that prisoner's case again within three years but may elect to carry out a review within a shorter period.

The Board's recommendations are conveyed to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform in writing. The Minister then considers the recommendations made by the Board and arrives at a decision. The Board's role is advisory only and the Minister is not obliged to accept any recommendation made by it. The Minister's decision is conveyed to the prisoner, in writing, as soon as practicable after he receives the Board's recommendations.







# **APPENDICES**







**APPENDIX A**

**PAROLE BOARD SCHEME**

**INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR PRISONERS**

(This is not a legal document)



## APPENDIX A

The information contained in this leaflet is designed to explain the main features of the Parole Board Scheme and to help you to avail of the opportunity to have your sentence reviewed.

The Parole Board became fully operational in October 2001.

*Issued by*  
The Parole Board  
31/35 Bow Street, Dublin 7



## APPENDIX A

### WHAT IS THE PAROLE BOARD?

It is a Board consisting of ten members, established by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform to advise him in relation to the administration of longer term prison sentences.

Following review of a prisoner's sentence, the Board will, by way of recommendations, advise the Minister of the prisoner's progress to date, the degree to which that prisoner has engaged with the various therapeutic services available, and how best to proceed with the future administration of that prisoner's sentence.

### WHAT CAN THE PAROLE BOARD RECOMMEND TO THE MINISTER?

Following review, the Parole Board will - having given full consideration to all relevant factors - present its recommendations to the Minister. Recommendations may include any or all of the following:-

- 1) **A programme of possible short term release leading to full temporary release;**
- 2) **A transfer to another prison including a prison in a different location or to an open prison;**
- 3) **A structured programme advising that the prisoner should participate in one or more of the following:-**
  - (a) Therapy - Encourage the prisoner to work with particular therapeutic services, attend particular programmes, be referred for psychiatric reports etc.
  - (b) Education - Encourage the prisoner to participate in educational and training services.
  - (c) Work Training - Release for work training, for example, at Prisoners Aid through Community Effort (PACE) or other suitable bodies.
  - (d) Resocialisation - Measures to reduce the effects of institutionalisation.
  - (e) Outings - Escorted/Accompanied outings to aid familiarisation with the outside world, meet with family or relatives.



## APPENDIX A

### WHO IS ON THE PAROLE BOARD?

The Parole Board is chaired by an independent Chairperson (currently a senior partner in a firm of solicitors) and includes a representative from each of the following categories:-

- 1) **the medical/psychiatric profession;**
- 2) **the Probation and Welfare Service;**
- 3) **the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform;**
- 4) **the Irish Prison Service,**

as well as: -

- 5) **a Prison Governor and**
- 6) **Four representatives of the wider community**

You may write to the Parole Board at the following address: The Secretary, The Parole Board, 31-35 Bow Street, Dublin 7.

### WHO CAN HAVE THEIR CASES REVIEWED BY THE PAROLE BOARD?

The Board will review (i) cases of eligible prisoners sentenced to 8 years or more but less than 14 years once half of that sentence has been served and (ii) cases of prisoners sentenced to 14 years or more or to a life sentence after 7 years have been served.

As a general principle, prisoners serving sentences for:

- (a) treason or attempted treason or murder or attempted murder to which section 3 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1990 applies (i.e. murder or attempted murder of a member of An Garda Síochána or the Irish Prison Service acting in the course of his or her duty),
- (b) murder or attempted murder done in the course or furtherance of an offence under section 6 of the Offences against the State Act, 1939, or in the course or furtherance of the activities of an unlawful organisation within the meaning of section 18 (other than paragraph (f) of that Act),
- (c) murder or attempted murder, committed within the State for a political motive, of the head of a foreign state or of a member of the government or a diplomatic officer of a foreign State,

will not be eligible for review by the Board.

Persons sentenced to a term of imprisonment for the possession of drugs under subsections 3A and 3B of section 27 of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1977, as amended by Section 5 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1999 will also not be eligible for review by the Board.

However, in these excepted cases, the Minister may, in an individual case, make a specific reference to the Board.



## APPENDIX A

### DATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR REVIEW

The date of eligibility for review is calculated from the commencement date of the sentence (as stated on the Warrant or Order for Imprisonment) and, unless stated otherwise in the warrant or order, will not take time spent on remand into account. Prisoners who are serving a determinate sentence must have at least 12 months of their sentence left to serve at the time of the commencement of the review process.

### WHY SHOULD A PRISONER HAVE HIS/HER CASE REVIEWED BY THE PAROLE BOARD?

The review process provides prisoners with an opportunity to discuss their individual concerns, their offending behaviour, their ambitions for the future, and if deemed suitable, to prepare for their eventual release and reintegration into the community. The Board can offer practical advice and support to assist prisoners in coping with their sentences and their preparation for release. Prisoners are strongly encouraged to become actively involved in this process.

*It must be pointed out that the Minister makes all decisions regarding release.*

### CAN A PRISONER OPT OUT OF THIS REVIEW PROCEDURE?

Yes. The Parole Board will not consider the case of a prisoner who indicates at any stage that he/she does not want his/her case reviewed by the Board. Any prisoner who wishes to opt out of the review procedure may write to the Secretary of the Board accordingly. However, the Minister retains the right to consult the Board in any prisoner's case.

### WILL PRISONERS BE ABLE TO MAKE THEIR CASE TO THE PAROLE BOARD?

A member or members of the Parole Board will always meet with prisoners being reviewed for the first time but the Board will decide if an interview is necessary in the case of subsequent reviews. The interviews will take place in the prison in which the prisoner is imprisoned or in such other location as the Board may decide.

Prisoners will be advised as to when and how their case will be reviewed. If the prisoner is to meet with member(s) of the Parole Board, he/she will have the opportunity to discuss any issues relevant to their case. Such meetings will be conducted in a relaxed and informal manner. Legal representation is not allowed before the Board. However, written submissions from the legal representative of the prisoner are allowed.

The Board may decide to consider cases further and monitor individual prisoner's progress solely on the basis of reports from the various services with which the offender is engaged. Full consideration will still be given to the prisoner's case and the only difference will be that the prisoner will not meet with the Board in those circumstances.

In any event, a prisoner may write to the Secretary of the Parole Board setting out any points which he/she wishes the Board to take into account.



## APPENDIX A

### WHAT FACTORS WILL THE GROUP TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN REVIEWING CASES?

While each case is different and will be considered on its own individual and particular merits, the main factors to be taken into account by the Parole Board when considering cases are :

- (1) the nature and gravity of the offence to which the sentence relates;
- (2) the sentence concerned and any recommendations of the Court that imposed the sentence;
- (3) the period of the sentence served to date;
- (4) previous convictions;
- (5) the potential threat to the safety and security of members of the public should the person be released;
- (6) the risk of the commission of further offences during any period of temporary release;
- (7) the risk of the person failing to return to prison upon the expiration of any period of release;
- (8) the risk of the person failing to comply with any conditions attaching to his or her temporary release;
- (9) the conduct of the person while in custody or while previously on temporary release;
- (10) the likelihood that any period of temporary release might enhance the prospects of the person's safe reintegration into society or improve his or her chances of obtaining employment.

To enable the Board to assess some or all of the above factors, specific consideration may be given to such matters as:-

- (a) Has the prisoner engaged constructively with the relevant therapeutic services including the Probation and Welfare Service, the Psychological and Psychiatric services, Educational and Work Training services, Substance Abuse, Alcoholics Anonymous, and, if so, what progress has been made,
- (b) Has the prisoner done any work in relation to addressing the circumstances/nature of his/her offence, participated in any therapeutic or rehabilitative programmes and, if so, what progress has been made. Programmes might include, for example, the Sex Offenders Treatment programme, Aftercare programme, Cognitive Skills course, Pre-release programme etc. The value of the Programmes for Sex Offenders would be considered in terms of relevance to the individual's offending behaviour, for example, if the offence was of a sexual nature or if there was a sexual element to the offence.

In the case of a prisoner being reviewed for a second or subsequent time the success of the previous programme of recommendations will be examined.

The Board will also be free to make such further enquiries and recommendations as it deems appropriate in any individual case.



## APPENDIX A

### HOW OFTEN CAN CASES BE REVIEWED?

It is open to the Parole Board to decide if and when a further review is merited. However, no more than 3 years may be allowed to elapse in any case between one review and the next.

### HOW LONG WILL THE REVIEW TAKE?

Each case is reviewed on its own individual and particular merits and the time taken to complete the actual process can vary as a result. A prisoner will, in most cases, know the outcome of his/her review in 3-6 months.

### WHAT IS THE POSITION AS REGARDS RECOMMENDING TEMPORARY RELEASE?

The Board may, in some cases, make recommendations to the Minister for some form of temporary release to be granted. The Board will make its recommendations based on the factors mentioned above. This will, in general terms, involve answering the following questions -

- (1) Would release constitute a threat to the community?
- (2) Would it be reasonable to grant some form of release at that particular stage in view of the nature of the offence?
- (3) Would the prisoner merit some form of release having regard to behaviour while in prison?
- (4) Are there any compassionate grounds which merit special consideration?

**Note:** *Again, the Minister will make all decisions in this regard.*

### DECISIONS OF THE MINISTER

The Minister will consider the Parole Board's recommendations and submissions (if any) from the prisoner before coming to a decision. **The Parole Board has an advisory role and the Minister may or may not accept a recommendation made by the Board.** The decision of the Minister will be conveyed to the prisoner in writing as soon as practicable and will give general reasons based on the criteria set out above leading to the decision reached. A copy of the letter conveying the Minister's decision will also be forwarded to the Parole Board and the Prison Service.

**Note:** "Prisoner" means a person serving a sentence in any prison, or other place of detention established under the Prisons Acts, or St. Patrick's Institution and "prison" includes any such institution.





**APPENDIX A**

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**PAROLE BOARD**

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31/35 Bow Street, Dublin 7

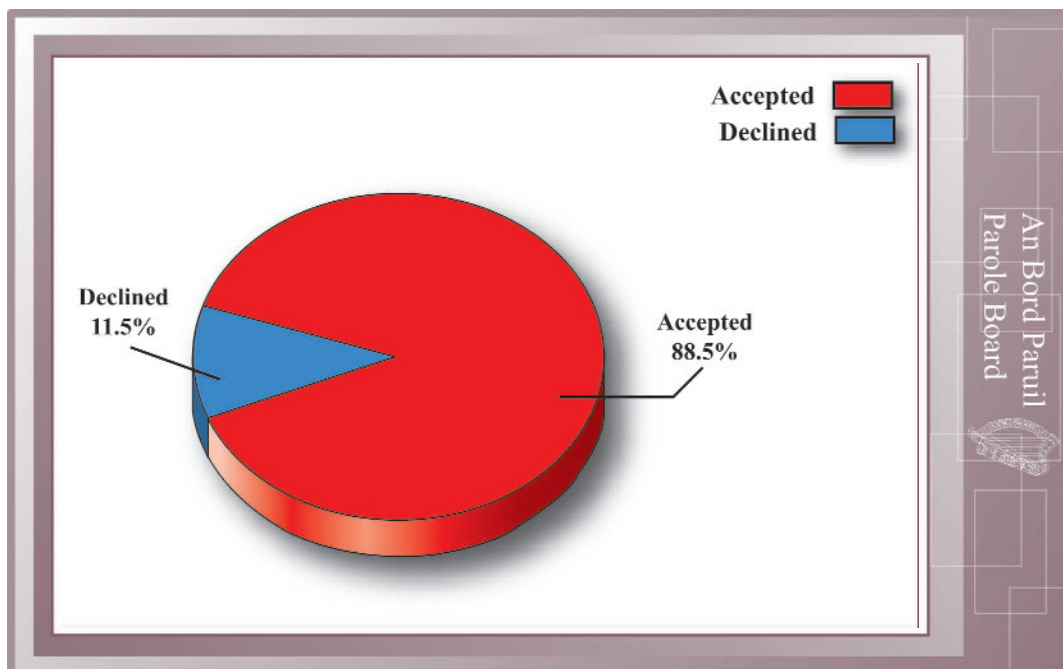


**APPENDIX B (I)**

<b>PAROLE BOARD - CASES REFERRED - 2001<sup>(1)</sup></b>		
	<b>NUMBER OF CASES</b>	<b>%</b>
Cases referred to the Board for review	113	100
Prisoners who accepted an invitation to participate in the review process	100	88.50
Prisoners who declined to participate in the review process	13	11.50

Notes: 1. Period from 01/07/2001 to 31/12/2001

**FIG. B (I) PAROLE BOARD - CASES REFERRED - 2001**

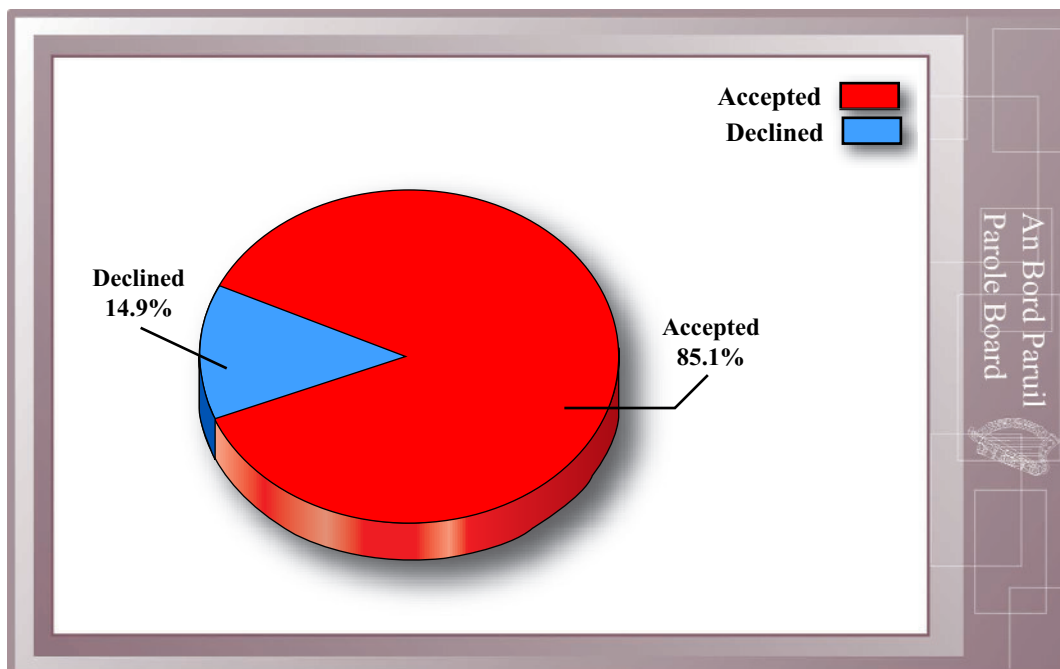




**APPENDIX B(ii)**

<b>PAROLE BOARD - CASES REFERRED - 2002</b>		
	<b>NUMBER OF CASES</b>	<b>%</b>
New cases referred to the Board for review	67	100
Prisoners who accepted an invitation to participate in the review process	57	85.07
Prisoners who declined to participate in the review process	10	14.93

**FIG. B (ii) PAROLE BOARD - CASES REFERRED - 2002**

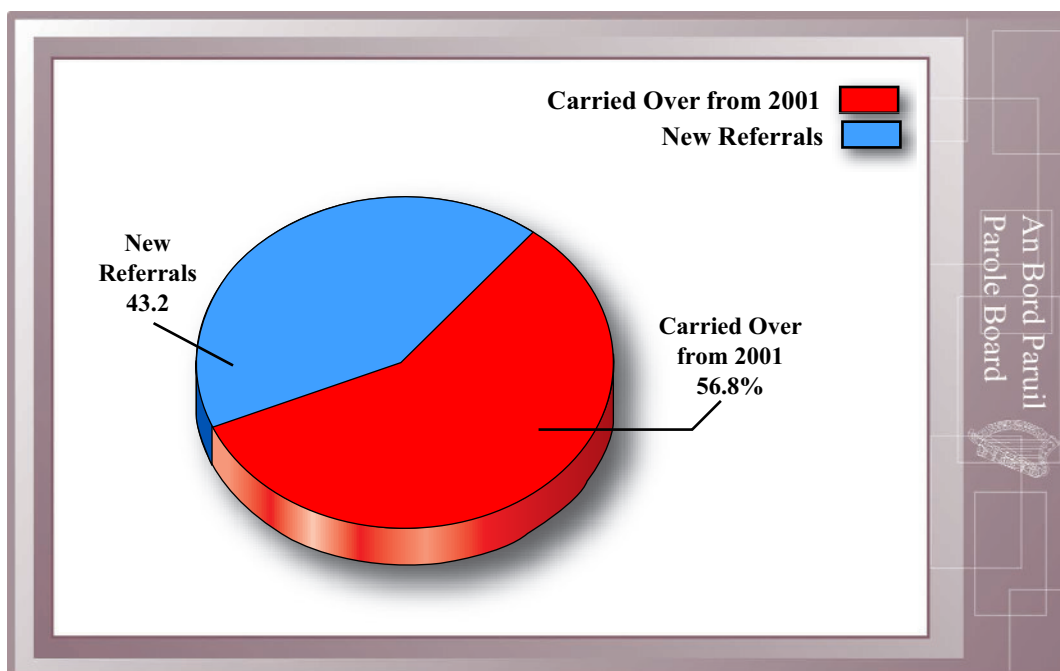




**APPENDIX C**

<b>PAROLE BOARD - CASELOAD - 2002</b>		
	<b>NUMBER OF CASES</b>	<b>%</b>
Total Caseload	155	100
Cases carries over from 2001	88	56.77
Cases referred, in 2002, for review	67	43.23

**FIG. C PAROLE BOARD - CASELOAD - 2002**



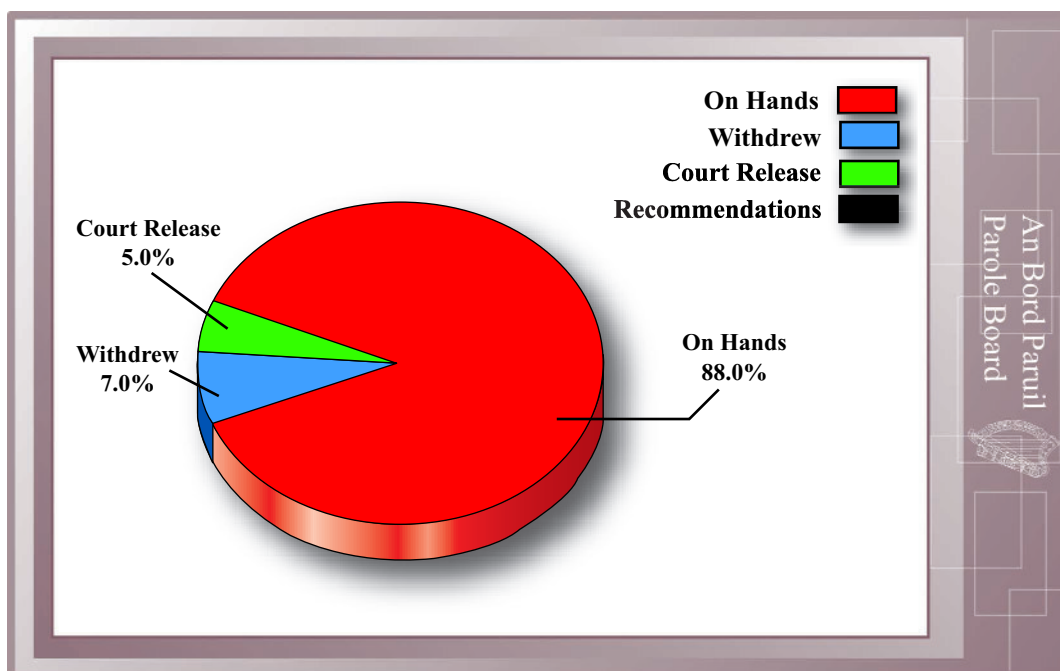


**APPENDIX D (i)**

<b>PAROLE BOARD - CASE REVIEW PROGRESS - 2001</b>		
	<b>NUMBER OF CASES</b>	<b>%</b>
Cases in which an invitation to participate was accepted	100	100
Cases in which a recommendation to the Minister was made	0	0
Cases where the prisoner was released by the Courts during review process	5	5
Cases where the prisoner withdrew from the review process	7	7
Cases to be carried over to 2002 <sup>(1)</sup>	88	88

Note: (1) Includes 11 cases discussed at a meeting of the Board in December 2001, on which a recommendation to the Minister was made in January 2002.

**FIG. D (i) PAROLE BOARD - STATUS OF CASES 31/12/2001**



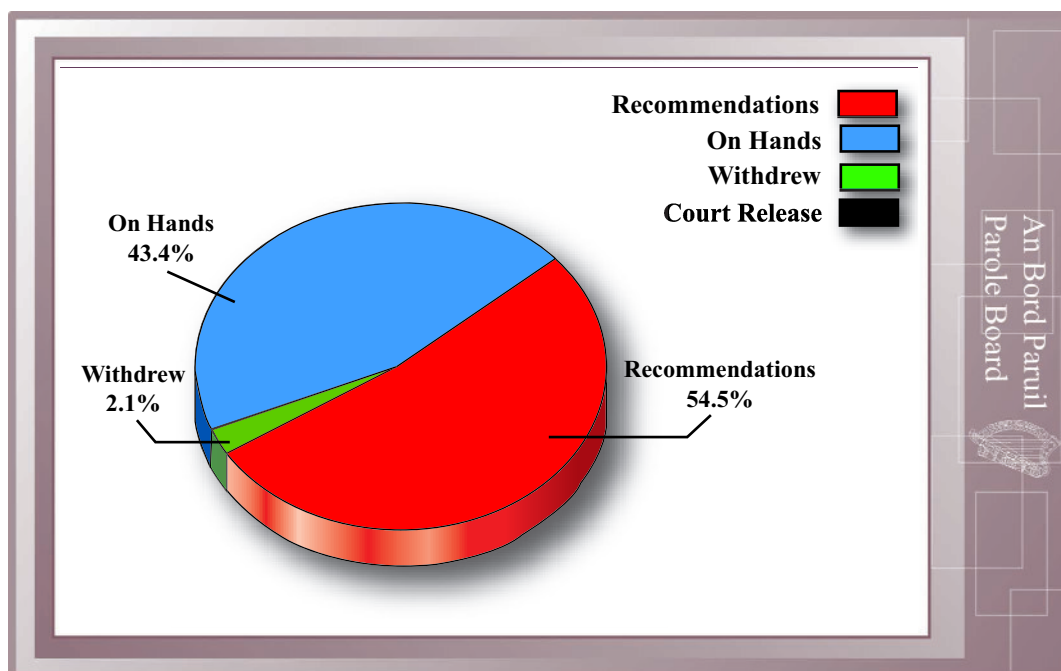


**APPENDIX D (ii)**

<b>PAROLE BOARD - CASE REVIEW PROGRESS - 2002</b>		
	<b>NUMBER OF CASES</b>	<b>%</b>
Cases on hand at beginning of year	88	100
Cases in which an invitation to participate was accepted in 2002	57	
Cases in which a recommendation to the Minister was made	79	54.48
Cases where the prisoner was released by the Courts during review process	0	0
Cases where the prisoner withdrew from the review process	3	2.07
Cases on hand - i.e. at various stages of the review process and to be carried over to 2003 <sup>(1)</sup>	63	43.45

Note: (1) Includes 7 cases discussed at a meeting of the Board in December 2002, on which a recommendation to the Minister was made in January 2003.

**FIG. D (ii) PAROLE BOARD - STATUS OF CASES 31/12/2002**

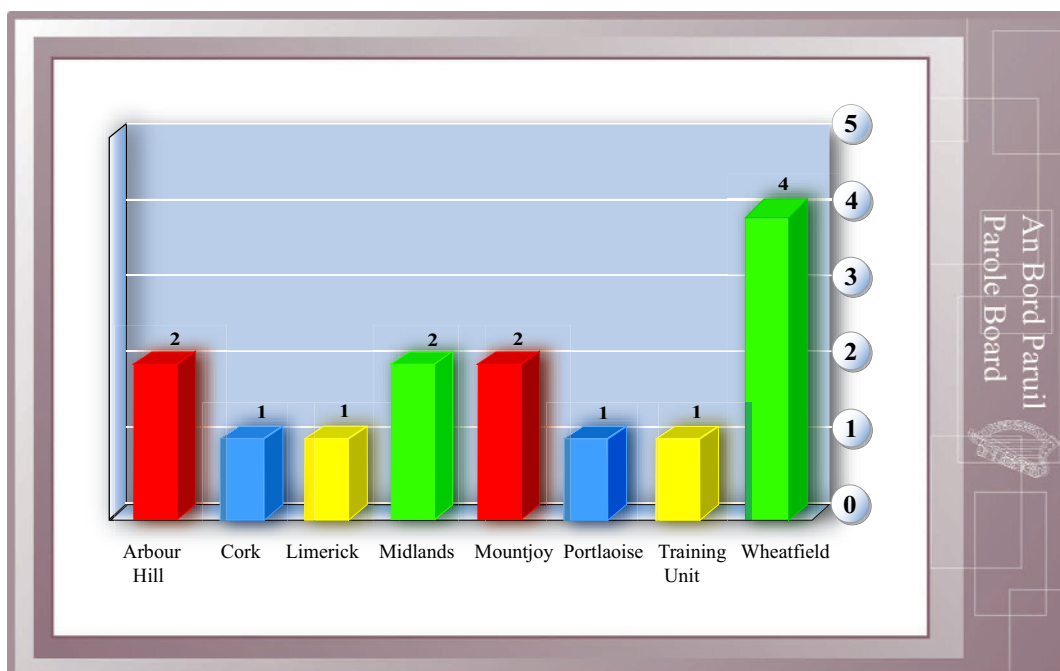




**APPENDIX E (I)**

<b>PAROLE BOARD - PRISONER INTERVIEWS 2001</b>		
<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>NO. OF PRISONERS</b>	<b>%</b>
Arbour Hill Prison	2	14.29
Cork Prison	1	7.14
Limerick Prison	1	7.14
Midlands Prison	2	14.29
Mountjoy Prison	2	14.29
Portlaoise Prison	1	7.14
The Training Unit	1	7.14
Wheatfield Prison	4	28.57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100</b>

**FIG. E (I) PAROLE BOARD - PRISONER INTERVIEWS 2001**



An Bord Paruil  
Parole Board

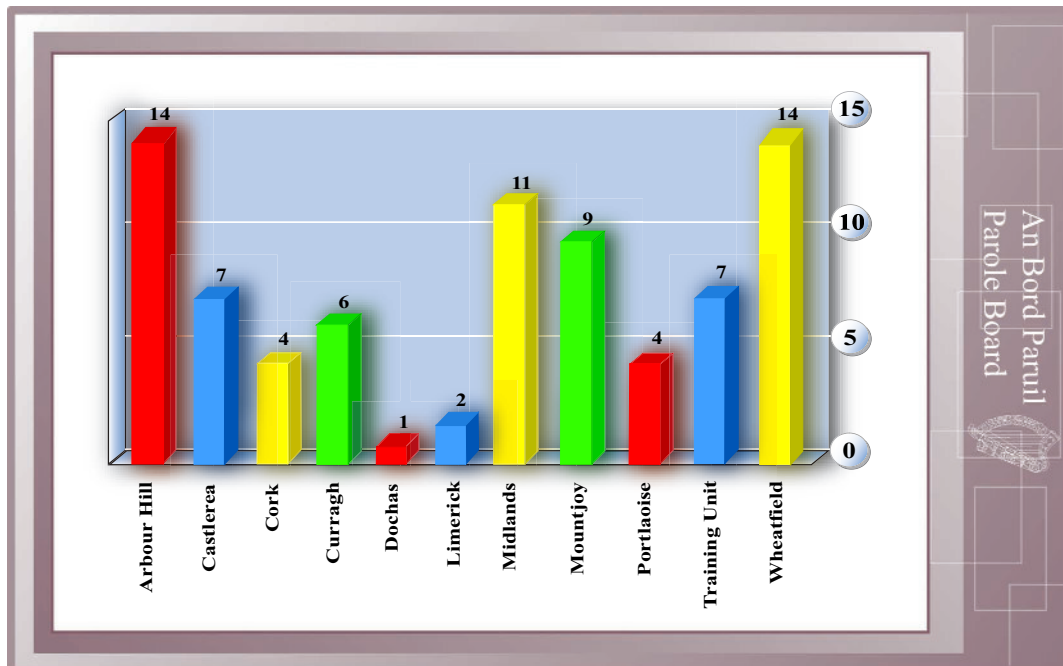




**APPENDIX E (ii)**

<b>PAROLE BOARD - PRISONER INTERVIEWS 2002</b>		
<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>NO. OF PRISONERS</b>	<b>%</b>
Arbour Hill Prison	14	17.72
Castlerea Prison	7	8.86
Cork Prison	4	5.06
Curragh Place of Detention	6	7.59
Dochas Centre	1	1.27
Limerick Prison	2	2.53
Midlands Prison	11	13.92
Mountjoy Prison	9	11.39
Portlaoise Prison	4	5.06
The Training Unit	7	8.86
Wheatfield Prison	14	17.72
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>100</b>

**FIG. E (ii) PAROLE BOARD - PRISONER INTERVIEWS 2002**





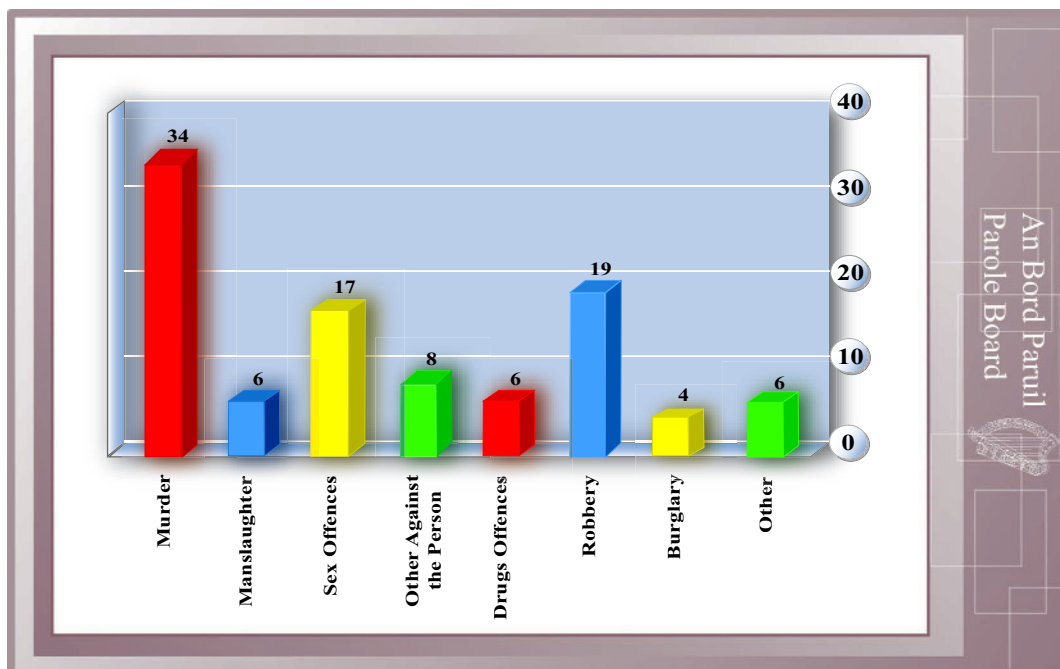


**APPENDIX F (I)**

<b>PAROLE BOARD Offence Analysis of Cases in which an Invitation to Participate was Accepted in 2001</b>		
<b>OFFENCE<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>NO. OF PRISONERS</b>	<b>%</b>
Murder	34	34
Manslaughter	6	6
Sex Offences	17	17
Other Offences Against the Person	8	8
Drug Offences	6	6
Robbery	19	19
Burglary / Aggravated Burglary	4	4
Other Offences	6	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: (1) Where the prisoner was convicted of more than one offence, the offence indicated is that for which the longest sentence was imposed.

**FIG. F (I) PAROLE BOARD - OFFENCE ANALYSIS 2001**



An Bord Paruil  
Parole Board

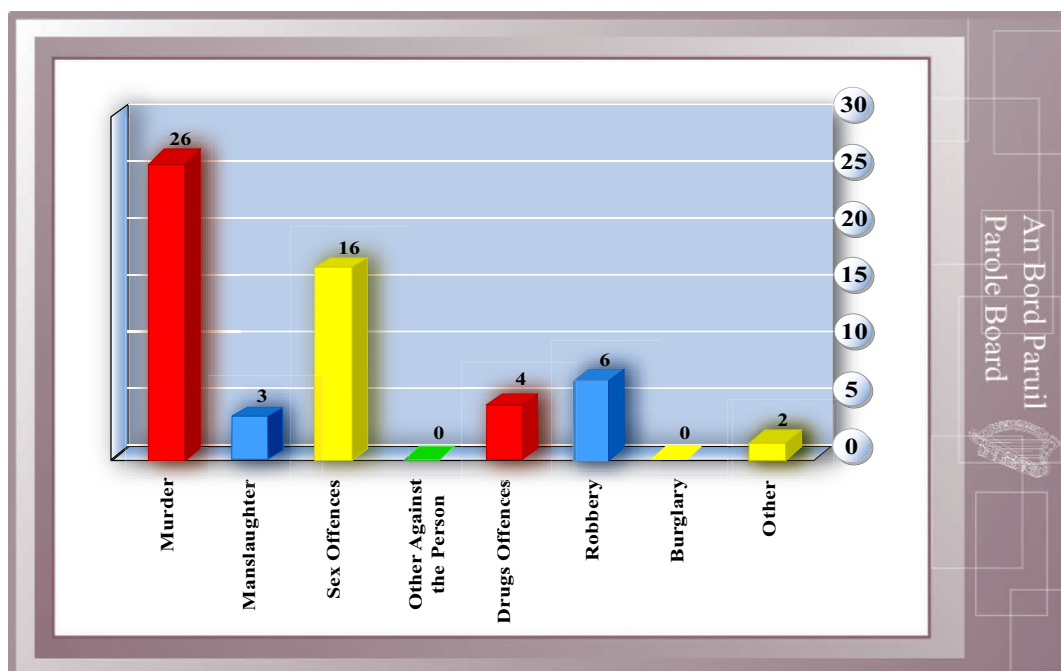


**APPENDIX F (ii)**

<b>PAROLE BOARD Offence Analysis of Cases in which an Invitation to Participate was Accepted in 2002</b>		
<b>OFFENCE<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>NO. OF PRISONERS</b>	<b>%</b>
Murder	26	45.61
Manslaughter	3	5.26
Sex Offences	16	28.07
Other Offences Against the Person	0	0
Drug Offences	4	7.02
Robbery	6	10.53
Burglary / Aggravated Burglary	0	0
Other Offences	2	3.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: (1) Where the prisoner was convicted of more than one offence, the offence indicated is that for which the longest sentence was imposed.

**FIG. F (ii) PAROLE BOARD - OFFENCE ANALYSIS 2002**



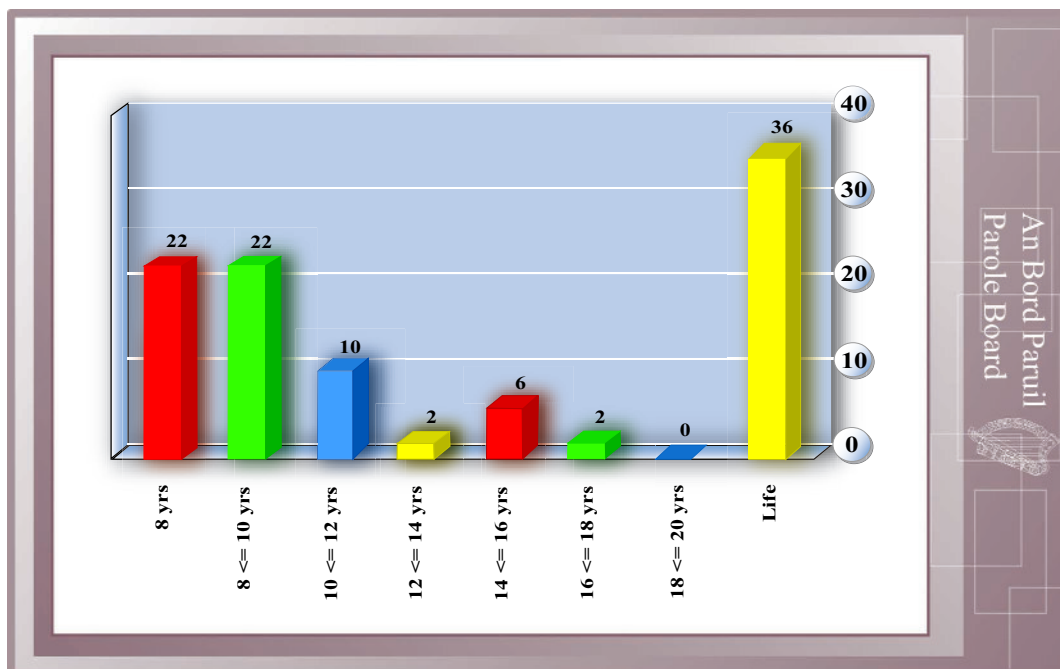


**APPENDIX G (I)**

<b>PAROLE BOARD</b> <b>Sentence Length Analysis of Cases</b> <b>in which an Invitation to Participate was Accepted in 2001</b>		
<b>OFFENCE<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>NO. OF PRISONERS</b>	<b>%</b>
8 years	22	22
8 <= 10 years	22	22
10 <= 12 years	10	10
12 <= 14 years	2	2
14 <= 16 years	6	6
16 <= 18 years	2	2
18 <= 20 years	0	0
Life	36	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: (1) Where the prisoner received more than one sentence, the sentence indicated is the longest sentence imposed, or where applicable, the aggregate of (consecutive) sentences.

**FIG. G (I) PAROLE BOARD - 2001 SENTENCE LENGTH**



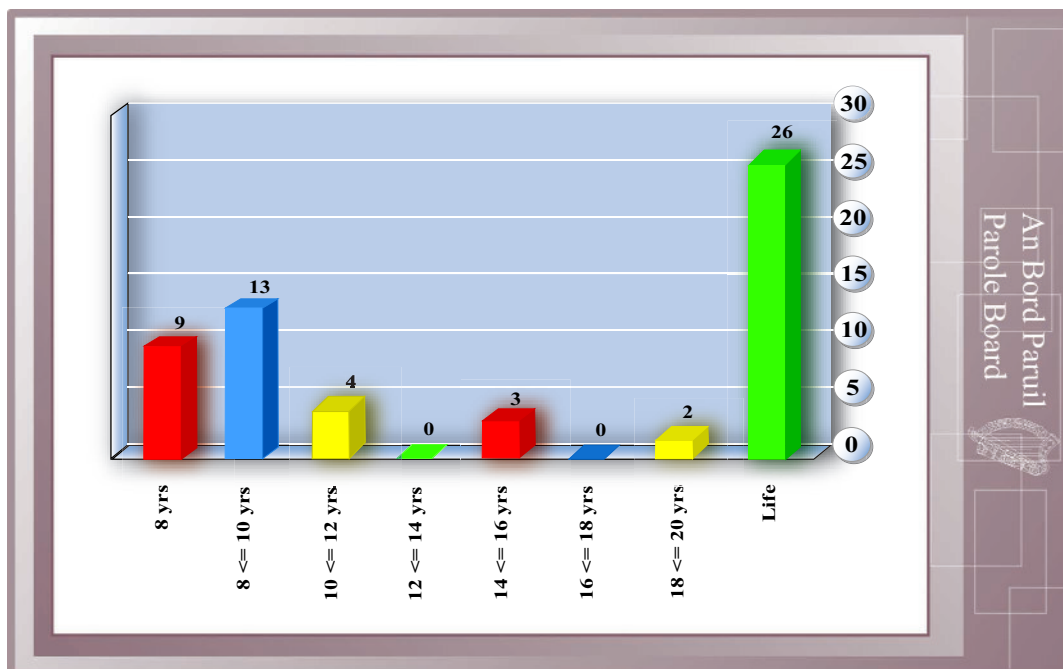


**APPENDIX G (II)**

<b>PAROLE BOARD Sentence Length Analysis of Cases in which an Invitation to Participate was Accepted in 2002</b>		
<b>OFFENCE<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>NO. OF PRISONERS</b>	<b>%</b>
8 years	9	15.79
8 <= 10 years	13	22.81
10 <= 12 years	4	7.02
12 <= 14 years	0	0
14 <= 16 years	3	5.26
16 <= 18 years	0	0
18 <= 20 years	2	3.51
Life	26	45.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: (1) Where the prisoner received more than one sentence, the sentence indicated is the longest sentence imposed, or where applicable, the aggregate of (consecutive) sentences.

**FIG. G (II) PAROLE BOARD - 2002 SENTENCE LENGTH**

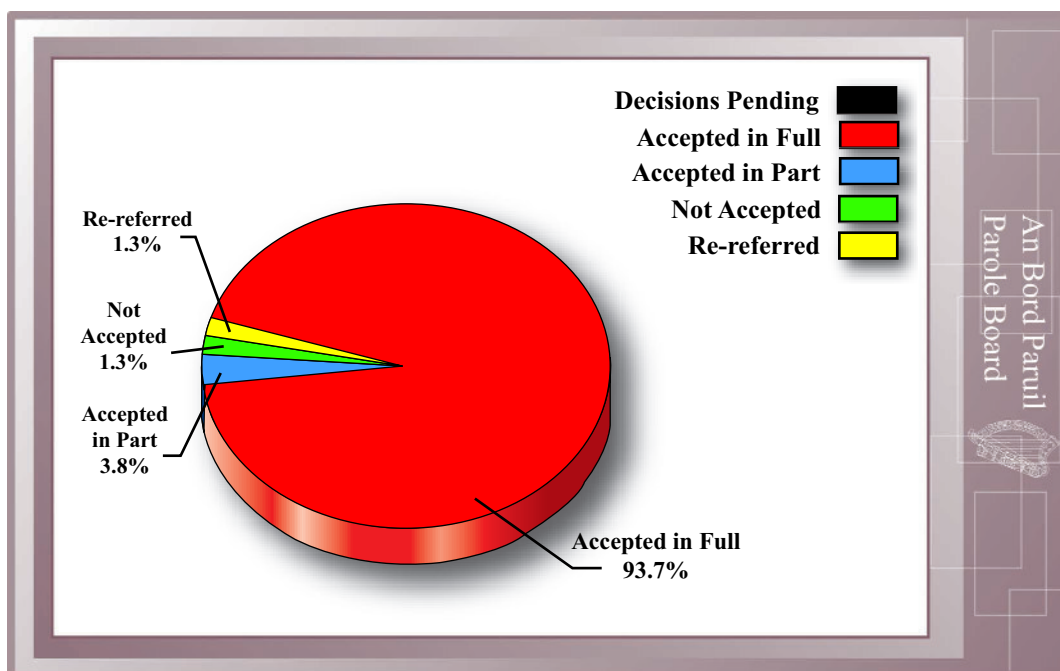




**APPENDIX H**

<b>PAROLE BOARD</b> <b>Recommendations made to the</b> <b>Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform</b> <b>2002</b>		
	<b>NUMBER</b>	<b>%</b>
Recommendations made	79	100
Recommendations accepted in full	74	93.67
Recommendations accepted in part	3	3.8
Recommendations not accepted	1	1.27
Cases referred back to the Board for further consideration	1	1.27
Ministerial decisions pending	0	0

**FIG. H PAROLE BOARD - RECOMMENDATIONS MADE - 2002**





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