

10/09/2020 Mark is sentenced to 16 years, including a 2-year 8-month (16%) penalty for not taking a guilty plea.

04/04/2014 Mark applied for Therapeutic Community but told they “do not accept appellants”

31/10/2014 Mark applied for ‘Thinking Skills Programme’ but told he did “not meet the need criteria”, because his risk was too low.

08/10/2015 Mark completes 45 hours of therapy and counselling over 12 months. The report concludes he has “no historic or current issues of concern”

01/12/2016 Mark moves from a ‘B’ category prison to a lower security ‘C’ category prison

11/09/2018 Offender Assessment System reports “no evidence of negative or pro-criminal attitudes”, and that the “circumstances that led to the offence are highly unlikely to be replicated”.

31/03/2020 Mark mum writes to Probation asking them to move Mark to an open prison

11/10/2021 Sentence Planning Review Meeting (SPRM) recommendation made: “I do not consider closed conditions to offer any further development opportunities, and as such, I recommend... that Mr Alexander be considered for open conditions”.

18/01/2022 Public Protection Casework Section (PPCS) grant Mark a 6-month advancement in his pre-tariff sift review on that basis that he meets the criteria and that there is a reasonable prospect that the Parole Board will recommend his transfer to open conditions.

05/03/2022 Dominic Raab MP publishes his ‘*Root and Branch Review of the Parole System*’

19/03/2022 SPRM repeats recommendation of transfer to open prison.

06/06/2022 Dominic Raab MP announces his new policy on transfer to open prisons.

08/06/2022 PPCS issue notice of the change in policy to all prisoners, placing all current applications for a transfer to open conditions on hold.

22/06/2022 Mark sends a letter to PPCS asking them to remove the hold.

16/07/2022 Stuart Andrew MP explains to the Prison Reform Trust that the policy has been made in response to recent absconds from open prisons, and will apply to “those prisoners being considered for their suitability” for an open prison – including applications already in progress.

19/07/2022 PPCS issue their decision in Mark’s case claiming:

- a) That because Mark maintains his innocence, ‘public confidence’ will be undermined if he is sent to an open prison; and
- b) That Mark’s ‘educational achievements’ – e.g. attaining a degree in closed conditions – show that Mark can ‘progress’ in closed conditions and therefore doesn’t need to move to an open prison.

01/09/2022 University Applications for the academic year 2023 due to open.

10/07/2025 Parole Review scheduled to commence to consider Mark for release, ahead of his tariff expiry date 10/02/2026.