

Application for a Public Hearing in the case of Toni Burke.

The Chair of the Parole Board has not granted the application for Toni Burke's parole hearing to be made public.

It is our usual practice to attach the Chair's decision which gives more information about the reasons for this decision.

However, in this exceptional case the Chair has decided that she will not publish the full decision. This is due to sensitivities relating to medical evidence which was considered in detail by the Chair.

We can confirm that:

- The Chair granted an extension of time for the application to be made.
- The Chair considered submissions from the applicant, the Secretary of State, the prisoner, the victims, and took the views of the panel chair.
- The Chair took into account:
 - The views of the applicant, the victims, and the parties.
 - The potential effect on the prisoner and their ability to give evidence at a public hearing.
 - The potential impact in the victims and other ways in which they could be informed about the parole proceedings.
 - The potential impact on the fairness of the parole proceedings.
 - The extent and content of medical evidence.
 - The extent to which the panel may be able to probe the evidence and assess risk to the public.
 - The principles of open justice and the benefits of transparency to victims and to the general public.



- The legal and practical measures that would be required to hold the hearing in public.
- The Chair balanced all of these together and reached the conclusion that, in this case, the balance was in favour of not holding a hearing in public.
- The Chair expressed her deepest sympathy for the victims.
- The matter will only revert to the Chair if there is any fresh information showing a significant change of circumstances.

For more detail on applying for a parole hearing to be made public, please read more here: [Applying for a Parole review to be public - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/applying-for-a-parole-review-to-be-public)

The Parole Board for England and Wales

7 May 2024