

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003
AND of an application by
QUEENSTOWN CASINOS LIMITED for approval to
install digital video
recorders

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

Members: K M Ford
M M Lythe
P J Stanley
G L Reeves

Date of Application: 11 July 2007

Date of Decision: 17 August 2007

Date of Notification *29th* August 2007
of Decision:

DECISION

**ON AN APPLICATION BY QUEENSTOWN CASINOS LIMITED
FOR APPROVAL TO INSTALL DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDERS**

Application

1. Queenstown Casinos Limited ("QCL") applied to the Gambling Commission (the "Commission"), under condition 1.1 of its venue licence, for approval to install digital video recorders ("DVRs") for all fixed cameras used in the casino's Gambling Area

Licence condition

2. Condition 1.1 of QCL's venue licence (as amended by the Commission) provides as follows:

1.1 Casino to be constructed, fitted out and operated in accordance with application

Subject to the conditions of this licence, the licence holder shall ensure that the casino is designed, developed, constructed, fitted out, commissioned for operation and operated generally in accordance with the licence holder's application as submitted to the Authority, subject to such changes the Authority may have approved or required, and subject further to such changes which the Gambling Commission may from time to time approve or require in writing.



Submissions by QCL

3. QCL stated that it wants to install seven "VST-600" DVRs for all fixed cameras used in the casino's Gambling Area to replace its existing analogue recorders. It submitted that:
- (a) The installation of the DVRs will enhance its surveillance recording capabilities and upgrades on the system it presently has in place;
 - (b) The DVRs will allow enhanced surveillance capability due to an improvement in recorded image quality;
 - (c) The recording and play back facilities on the DVRs will eliminate the need for recording to be on standby during a review of recorded footage;
 - (d) The recorded images are highly secure;
 - (e) Any changes to the minimum operating standards for surveillance, to recognise the use of DVRs, will be submitted to the Department of Internal Affairs (the "DIA") for consideration prior to conversion from the existing system;
 - (f) Installation of the DVRs will take place in August 2007.

Submissions by the Secretary

4. The Secretary stated that he had no objection to the DVRs proposed by QCL, but could not state ahead of installation whether they would meet the standards required by the Surveillance Policy.
5. The Secretary submitted that QCL's proposal was capable of complying with the Surveillance Policy in all respects except for the requirement for QCL to provide an independent monitoring room for the local DIA Inspectorate. It was the Secretary's understanding that QCL wanted to house the DVRs in the Inspectorate's room when they move their offices off-site from the casino.
6. The Secretary also had a concern in relation to the timing of the DVR's installation as the Applicant proposed that this occur in August 2007, when his Inspectorate will not be moving offsite until November 2007.
7. In reply, QCL submitted that it is exploring options to satisfy the Secretary's concerns, and asked that the Commission approve the application, subject to the Secretary being satisfied in relation to his concerns about the monitoring room and the timing of installation. The Secretary had no objection to approval being granted on this basis.



Analysis

8. The application involves QCL changing from analogue recorders to digital recorders. The Commission is satisfied that this represents an upgrade on the existing system and will enhance QCL's recording capabilities.
9. The Commission noted the Secretary's concerns in relation to the independent monitoring room and the timing of the installation, and considered the approach agreed by the parties (that approval be granted subject to the Secretary being satisfied in relation to his concerns) was appropriate

Decision of Commission

10. The Commission approved the application, under condition 1.1 of QCL's venue licence. Installation of the DVRs will not occur until the Secretary confirms to the Commission and QCL that:
 - (a) the local Inspectorate will continue to have an independent monitoring room at the casino which complies with the Surveillance Policy;
 - (b) he is satisfied with the timing of the DVRs installation.
11. The DVRs will, on installation, be required to meet all standards specified in the Surveillance Policy.



Graeme Reeves
Acting Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

29th August 2007

