

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003
AND of an application by
CHRISTCHURCH
CASINOS LIMITED for
temporary change to game
mix

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

Members: P Chin (Chief Gambling Commissioner)
K M Ford
M M Lythe
P J Stanley
G L Reeves

Date of Application: 6 December 2005

Date of Decision: 10 February 2006

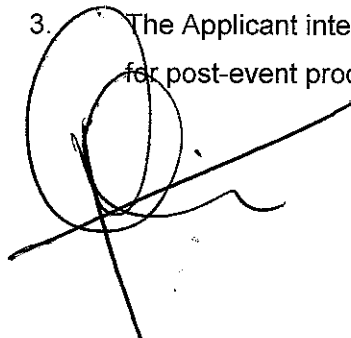
Date of Notification
of Decision: 10 February 2006

DECISION

**ON AN APPLICATION BY CHRISTCHURCH CASINOS LIMITED
FOR TEMPORARY CHANGE TO GAME MIX**

Application

1. Christchurch Casinos Limited (the "**Applicant**") applied to the Gambling Commission (the "**Commission**") for approval temporarily to swap two Roulette tables, two Black Jack tables and a Caribbean Stud Poker table for five Poker tables, to enable the casino to host the New Zealand Poker Championships.
2. The Championships are scheduled to run from 1 April to 8 April 2006 but approval for the temporary change is sought for the period 27 March 2006 to 12 April 2006 in order to provide sufficient time to manage the transition of tables and ensure appropriate camera coverage.
3. The Applicant intends to fit one Poker table with additional non-CCTV cameras to be used for post-event production of promotional material.

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Licence condition

4. Condition 1 of the Applicant's venue licence (as amended by the Commission by decision GC06/04) provides as follows:

Casino premises to be designed, developed, constructed, fitted out and commissioned for operation in accordance with application

The casino premises shall be designed, developed, constructed, fitted out and commissioned for operation generally in accordance with the application of the licence holder or with such changes as may from time to time be approved by the Commission, provided however that nothing in this condition shall apply in respect of any matter specified in the second schedule to the Casino Control Act 1990 (the "Act")

Statutory criteria

5. The application is for approval under an existing licence condition. Sections 139 and 140 of the Gambling Act 2003 (the "Act") do not apply. The Commission consulted with the Secretary in relation to the application, given his operational interest.

Submissions by the Applicant

6. The Applicant submitted in support of the application that:
- (a) the New Zealand Poker Championships is an annual event, which it has successfully staged since 1998;
 - (b) the changes will result in 41 fewer player spaces and would not increase opportunities for casino gambling;
 - (c) minor alterations to the CCTV coverage may be necessary. It will liaise with local Inspectorate staff to ensure adequate coverage and compliance.

Submissions by the Secretary

7. The Secretary did not object to the Applicant's proposal but reserved the right to assess whether any alterations to CCTV positioning are required, once the Poker tables are in place.
8. The Secretary submitted that the Applicant should liaise with local Inspectorate staff in relation to the final configuration of tables and non-CCTV cameras to ensure that the integrity of the games is not jeopardised.

Analysis

9. The Applicant has hosted this tournament since 1998. The Commission considered and approved a similar application in 2005 in decision GC04/05.

10. The Commission accepted that the temporary table game mix would decrease the number of player spaces available and would not increase opportunities for casino gambling.
11. The Commission noted the Secretary's comments in relation to the CCTV and non-CCTV cameras, and that the Secretary did not object to the application.

Decision of Commission

12. The Commission decided unanimously that the application was consistent with the Act and to approve the substitution of two Roulette tables, two Black Jack tables and one Caribbean Stud Poker table for five Poker tables for the period 27 March 2006 to 12 April 2006.
13. The Commission noted that the Applicant and local Inspectorate staff will work closely to ensure satisfactory surveillance coverage. The Commission also noted the Applicant will fit one Poker table with non-CCTV cameras.
14. The Commission required that the Applicant notify the local casino Inspectorate 24 hours prior to changing the tables.



Peter Chin
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

10 February 2006