

**DECISION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY ON AN APPLICATION  
BY CHRISTCHURCH CASINOS LIMITED FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW FLOOR PLAN  
FOR THE CHRISTCHURCH CASINO**

**Date of Decision: 21 November 2025**

1. On 24 October 2025, Christchurch Casinos Limited (“**CCL**”) applied, pursuant to condition 12 of its operator’s licence, for approval of a new floor plan “Level 2 Premium Lounge (VIP) – December 2025”.
2. Condition 12 of CCL’s operator’s licence provides as follows:
  12. The Licence Holder shall obtain the approval of the Commission for new floor plans prior to relocating or installing tables or machines in positions not specified in approved floor layouts. When applying the Licence Holder must submit fresh plans showing the floor layout for the Gambling Area and details of the proposed CCTV layout for the consideration of the Commission. Any change must comply with the Surveillance Standard. The Executive Director and a single Gambling Commissioner may approve the new floor plans if they are satisfied that the floor layout has no potentially adverse effects. If they are not so satisfied, the proposed floor plan must be referred to the Commission for a decision on approval.

*Submissions*

3. CCL submitted, in summary, as follows:
  - The Premium Lounge is currently restricted to Premium Lounge members. The Lounge includes a smoking balcony that is regularly used by the Lounge members.
  - It wants to place 3 EGMs on the smoking balcony. This will allow patrons to smoke and gamble. The Commission has permitted patrons to smoke and gamble at other casinos across the country, including recently at the Auckland casino.
  - The remainder of the Premium Lounge will continue to operate as a dedicated gaming space for Premium Lounge members, but with an enhanced offering to those who wish to access gaming facilities in an outdoor environment.
  - Gambling Commission decision in 06/25 is instructive in that the Commission found no persuasive evidence to establish a causative link between allowing smoking while gambling and a disproportionate increase in gambling harm. The Commission noted that, although smoking may make gambling more enjoyable for some patrons, potentially leading to longer gambling sessions, the available research did not demonstrate that permitting smoking in gambling areas would result in a significant or disproportionate rise in problem gambling.
  - The proposal will not increase the overall number of gaming machines permitted under the Licence, only their location.

- No gambling activities will be visible from outside, consistent with condition 8(a) of CCL's Casino Venue Licence
- The ratio of gaming machines to table games will remain unchanged.

*Decision*

4. The proposed new floor plan raises no issues of regulatory concern for the Commission. Accordingly, plan "Level 2 Premium Lounge (VIP) – December 2025" (**attached**) is approved by the Chief Gambling Commissioner and the Executive Director under delegated authority pursuant to condition 12 of CCL's operator's licence.
5. Once CCL is reliant on plan "Level 2 Premium Lounge(VIP) – December 2025", plan "Level 2 – Premium Lounge (VIP) - August 2025" will cease to be valid.



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**Susan Hughes**  
Chief Gambling Commissioner  
Gambling Commission



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**Blair Cairncross**  
Executive Director  
Gambling Commission

21 November 2025



**Plan “Level 2 Premium Lounge(VIP) – December 2025”**

