

**DECISION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY ON AN APPLICATION
BY CHRISTCHURCH CASINOS LIMITED FOR APPROVAL OF
CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN CHANGES TO THE CHRISTCHURCH CASINO**

Date of Decision: 2 February 2021

1. On 20 January 2021, Christchurch Casinos Limited Limited (“CCL”) applied, pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of its venue licence, for approval to install temporary screens to level 2 at the casino. The purpose of the screen is to create distinct areas at the Christchurch casino should New Zealand return to Alert Level 2.

2. Conditions 6 and 7 of CCL’s venue licence provide as follows:

6. Subject to the provisions of condition 7, the Licence Holder must obtain the approval of the Commission prior to:

- (a) any construction or design changes whatsoever in the Gambling Area (Schedule 1) and Additional Gambling Areas (Schedules 2, 3 or 4) and for any construction or design changes elsewhere in the Casino Venue which may impact on the matters set out in condition 7;
- (b) the construction or relocation outside the Gambling Area and Additional Gambling Areas and within the Casino Venue of bank facilities available to the public excluding ATMs, EFTPOS and like devices; and
- (c) the addition or alteration of signage relating to the casino business on the exterior of the Casino Venue or on or around the building within which it is located.

The process by which the Licence Holder may obtain approval for construction or design changes to Levels 3 and 4 and the rooftop area of the Casino Venue, (paragraph (a) above) is set out in condition 7. The Commission will determine any application for approval under 6(b). The Executive Director may approve the addition or alteration of signage relating to the casino business on the exterior of the Casino Venue or on or around the building within which it is located (paragraph (c) above) if he/she is satisfied the proposed changes will have no potentially adverse effects. If he/she is not so satisfied, the proposed changes must be referred to the Commission for a decision on approval.

7. The Licence Holder must notify the Executive Director of any proposed changes to the construction or design for which approval is required under condition 6. Notification must be accompanied by relevant drawings and an assessment of any impacts the alterations may have on:

- (a) the integrity and fairness of games;
- (b) the effectiveness of security and surveillance;
- (c) harm prevention, harm minimisation and responsible gambling;
- (d) potential access to the Gambling Area by persons under 20 years of age; and
- (e) compliance by any person with the Act, including section 11 of the Act.

The Executive Director may approve the proposed changes to the construction or design if he or she is satisfied that there are no adverse impacts in relation to the matters specified in (a)-(e) above. If the Executive Director is not satisfied, he or she will refer the proposal to the Commission for determination.

Submissions

3. CCL submitted as follows:
- (a) The Director-General of Health recently commented in the media that with the more contagious strain of COVID-19 being more present at the border, he has concerns that it may slip through the controls and lead to an increase in the national Alert Level.
 - (b) For this reason, it has been planning for a return to an Alert level that would require internal screening to segment the Casino into discreet areas holding 100 persons or less.
 - (c) If approved, the new screening would be in much the same locations as previously approved and used on Level 1.
 - (d) Having the new screening approved in advance of an Alert level change would eliminate the urgency for such plans to be approved on the day, and they could stay in the background, unused unless necessary.
 - (e) The number of operational EGMs would also be likely to reduce to allow for social distancing.

Decision

4. The Executive Director was satisfied that CCL's proposal to erect temporary screens would not adversely impact upon any of the matters set out in condition 7. The construction and design changes proposed are approved by the Executive Director under delegated authority pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of CCL's venue licence. The construction and design changes are to be generally in accordance with the application.
5. The Commission's approval is limited to the construction and design changes only, and does not extend to matters over which it has no jurisdiction, such as compliance with the Government's guidelines on COVID-19.

Blair Cairncross

Blair Cairncross
Executive Director
Gambling Commission

2 February 2021

