

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

Date of Decision: 17 May 2022

1. On 11 May 2022, Christchurch Casinos Limited Limited (“**CCL**”) applied, pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of its venue licence, for approval of construction and design changes to at the Christchurch casino. It wants to construct an improved door exit from its VIP cage.

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)-€ above. If the Executive Director is not satisfied, he or she will refer the proposal to the Commission for determination.

3. CCL submitted:

- Currently, its VIP Cage consists of two doors – an internal door from the back-of-house (“BOH”) area which has electronic swipe (security) card access, and an emergency exit half-door within four separate panels or sections. Initially this was constructed due to safety issues following the 2011 earthquake, where bottles and other items falling on the floor made access from the VIP Cage to the BOH area difficult to navigate. Therefore, a smaller emergency exit half-door provided an alternative means of exiting.
- It wants to substitute these panels with one full single door, enclosing the rest of the door area with a wall, and providing electronic swipe (security) card access from the main gaming area (public) side of the VIP room. The remaining area will be enclosed by a wall which will be visible from the main gaming area in the VIP room. This is a health and safety initiative which would provide two different escape routes for the Cashier in the event of an earthquake.
- The public side would be the main access entry point and would not be accessible to the public without the appropriate security access. There will be no electronic access from the BOH side through the bar area, but in an emergency, access could be facilitated using a snip-lock.
- In addition to the works proposed, it wants to close the current VIP area from 23 May to 3 June 2022 to refresh, paint and renovate the area.
- There will be no effect on the integrity and fairness of games, or the way they are carried out.
- There will be no impact on security and surveillance, as the VIP Cage area itself will still have the same level of security and surveillance available for monitoring.

4. 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.



Blair Cairncross
Executive Director
Gambling Commission

17 May 2022

