

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

Date of Decision: 18 July 2025

1. On 10 July 2025, Christchurch Casinos Limited (“**CCL**”) applied, pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of its venue licence, for approval of construction and design changes; and pursuant to condition 12 of its operator’s licence, for approval of a new floor plan, “Level 2 – Premium Lounge (VIP) – August 2025”.

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 (Schedules 1 and 2) and Additional Gambling Area (Schedule 3) 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 Level 1, Level 2 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.

3. 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

4. CCL submitted, in summary, as follows:

Construction and design changes – Premium Lounge Level 2

- (a) It wants to rebrand Club Aspinall as the Premium Lounge, and make the following changes:
- install new carpet;
 - install 4 new televisions and remove one existing television;
 - replace the current timber entrance doors with an access-controlled sliding glass door. The new door will be linked to its fire system, have its own battery that will open the door in evacuation situations, and will meet its obligations for fire compliance.
- (b) It seeks approval of new floor plan "Level 2 – Premium Lounge (VIP) – August 2025". The proposed new floor plan follows the remedial work previously communicated to the Commission.
- (c) The proposed changes to the Premium Lounge will provide improved customer respite from gambling with natural light from exterior windows.
- (d) Additional seating for dining and breaks will remain around the gaming tables area and along the wall overlooking the MGF.
- (e) The proposed new Premium Lounge will deploy five gaming tables rather than six, and 31 EGMs rather than 26.
- (f) Harm minimisation requirements will remain in place and the Premium Lounge will always have trained employees present.
- (g) The scheduled date for the reopening of the Premium Lounge is 8 August 2025.

Decision

5. The Commission was satisfied that the proposed construction and design changes would not adversely impact any of the matters set out in condition 7. The construction and design changes are approved by the Executive Director under delegated authority pursuant to conditions 6 and 7 of CCL's venue licence. The changes are to be generally in accordance with the application.
6. The proposed floor plan raised no issues of regulatory concern for the Commission. Accordingly, plan "Level 2 – Premium Lounge (VIP) – August 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. Plan "Level 2 VIP – April 2025" will cease to be valid once CCL operates in reliance upon plan "Level 2 – Premium Lounge (VIP) – August 2025".



Susan Hughes KC
Chief Gambling Commissioner
Gambling Commission



Blair Cairncross
Executive Director
Gambling Commission

18 July 2025



