

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003
AND on an application by **DUNEDIN CASINOS MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval of a digital video recording system

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

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

Date of Application: 18 November 2008

Date of Decision: 13 February 2009

Date of Notification
of Decision: 17 February 2009

**DECISION ON AN APPLICATION BY DUNEDIN CASINOS MANAGEMENT LIMITED
FOR APPROVAL OF A DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDING SYSTEM**

Introduction

1. Dunedin Casinos Management Limited ("DCML") applied to the Commission, under condition 21 of its operator's licence, for approval of a new digital video recording system ("DVR").

Licence condition

2. Condition 21 of DCML's operator's licence provides as follows:

The Licence Holder shall obtain the approval of the Commission prior to the introduction into the Casino of new surveillance technology of a type not currently in operation in the casino. Camera upgrades that comply with the requirements of the Surveillance Standard do not require prior approval. When applying for approval, the Licence Holder shall supply sufficient information to enable the Commission properly to assess the application under the Surveillance Standard. Information will include details relating to equipment type and operation, and the proposed location of equipment. The Licence Holder shall allow the Commission or staff of the Commission Secretariat, or any other person authorised by the Commission, to test any technology or equipment.

Submissions by DCML

- 4.1 DCML stated that it wants to replace its existing, obsolete, VCR technology with a new DVR system. It submitted that the proposed DVR system:

- (a) will enhance its surveillance recording capabilities, and would be an upgrade on its current system;
- (b) is compatible with its existing systems;
- (c) will be installed by Security Specialists (NZ), an organisation with experience in casino security and surveillance;
- (d) records a 'watermark' meaning that footage cannot be edited or manipulated without knowledge of this having occurred;
- (e) has 'mirrored' recording meaning that a second hard-drive is installed in every unit. This records exactly the same footage as the master hard-drive, so if there is failure with either hard drive, there is always a recording and no loss of footage;
- (f) will be accessible by the DIA via a monitoring room at the casino and it will work with the local Inspectorate to ensure the new system meets the Surveillance Standard;
- (g) will be installed once Commission approval has been granted.

The Secretary's submissions

3. The Secretary submitted, in summary, that:

- (a) the specifications of the proposed system are suitable and meet the requirements set out in the Surveillance Standard;
- (b) Security Specialists (NZ) is of the view that the system is preferable to other systems used in New Zealand casinos, and has built-in future-proofing;
- (c) the proposed system is used extensively in Australia, Asia and the USA.

Analysis

4. The change proposed by DCML, from its current analogue recorders to a DVR system, represents a significant upgrade in facilities and technology and will enhance DCML's recording capabilities. The Commission has no regulatory concerns with the proposed system, which appears to be superior to those in place at other casinos in New Zealand.

Decision

5. The Commission approved the application, under condition 21 of DCML's operator's licence. The Commission notes that the system will, on installation, be required to meet the standards specified in the Surveillance Standard.



GAMBLING
COMMISSION

Peter Chin
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

17 February 2009