

10 October 2023

Gambling Commission New Zealand  
PO Box 137295  
AUCKLAND

Attention: Blair Cairncross, Executive Director

By email to: [blair.cairncross@gamblingcom.govt.nz](mailto:blair.cairncross@gamblingcom.govt.nz)

Dear Blair

**DUNEDIN CASINOS LIMITED – STUART JAMES MCLAUGHLAN**

1. We refer to your letter of 2 October 2023 and the Commission’s investigation into Dunedin Casinos Limited (‘DCL’) and its director Stuart James McLaughlan as part of DCL’s application for a casino licence.
2. We note the Serious Fraud Office’s (SFO) statutory obligation under section 125 of the Gambling Act 2003, if requested, to “inquire into, and report to” the Commission on any persons of significant influence connected with a licence application, in this instance Stuart McLaughlan.
3. The Commission has asked the SFO to consider and advise whether it has any basis for concern about the suitability of Mr Laughlan to be a person of significant influence at Dunedin Casino.
4. As indicated in your letter, Mr McLaughlan was a director of South Canterbury Finance Limited when it went into receivership in 2010. Following the filing and withdrawing of some charges, the SFO prosecuted 3 individuals in relation to alleged related party lending by the failed finance company and transactions associated with the (then) Crown Retail Deposit Guarantee Scheme.
5. Mr McLaughlan was not charged in relation to any matter associated with the management of South Canterbury Finance and the SFO has no concerns to raise or any further comment to make.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kylie Cooper', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kylie Cooper  
Deputy Chief Executive Legal and Corporate