



BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE B

TUESDAY 7 JULY 2020

MERKUR SLOTS, 220 HIGH STREET, ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM, B23 6SJ

That the application by Cashino Gaming Limited for a Premises Licence (Bingo) in respect of Merkur Slots, 220 High Street, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 6SJ be granted, with a condition that the premises shall close at 00.00hrs each day.

Those matters detailed in the operating schedule and the relevant mandatory conditions under the Gambling Act 2005, and the Gambling Act 2005 (Mandatory and Default Conditions) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007, will also form part of the licence issued, together with those conditions volunteered in advance by the applicant, namely:

1. The premises shall install and maintain a comprehensive CCTV system. All entry and exit points must be covered enabling frontal identification of every person entering in a light condition including customer facing areas. The CCTV system shall continually record whilst the premises are open. All recordings shall be stored for a minimum period of 31 days with date and time stamping. Viewing of recordings shall be made available immediately upon the request of Police or authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.
2. A staff member from the premises who is conversant with the operation of the CCTV system shall be in the premises at all times when the premises is open. This staff member must be able to provide a Police or authorised council officer copies of recent CCTV images or data with the absolute minimum of delay when requested and within a maximum of 24 hours of the initial request.
3. Subject to Data Protection guidance and legislation, the management of the premises will ensure that key staff are fully trained in the operation of the CCTV, and will be able to download selected footage onto a disk/USB Stick for the Police or authorised officers of the Local Authority or UK Border Agency without difficulty, delay or charge.
4. Notices shall be prominently displayed within the premises stating that CCTV is in operation.

5. An incident log shall be kept at the premises and made available on request to an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or the Police. Details to include:
 - i. all crimes reported to the venue
 - ii. all ejections of patrons
 - iii. any complaints received concerning crime and disorder
 - iv. any incidents of disorder
 - v. all seizures of drugs or offensive weapons
 - vi. any visit by a relevant authority or emergency service.
 - vii. any attempts by children and young persons to gain access to the premises to gamble
 - viii. Any Challenge 25 Refusals.

6. A think 25 proof of age scheme shall be operated at the premises where Any person who appears to be under 25 years of age, and who has not previously provided satisfactory proof to the contrary, is challenged at the point of entry. Acceptable forms of identification are recognised photographic identification cards, such as a driving licence, passport or proof of age card with the PASS Hologram.

7. Signage advertising the aforementioned proof of age scheme shall be prominently displayed throughout the premises.

8. There shall be no pre-planned single staffing at the premises from 20:00 until closing. Should the premises be single staffed after this time, the magnetic door locking system must be in constant use.

9. Individuals who are deemed to be under the influence of excessive alcohol shall not be allowed to enter the premises.

10. The licensee shall participate in local Betwatch or similar scheme to promote knowledge sharing within the local industry, with particular regard to local risk but also to promote best practice.

11. The licensee shall take reasonable steps to prevent nuisance directly outside the Premises.

12. Gaming machines may be provided until 24:00

The Sub Committee deliberated the operating schedule put forward by the applicant and the likely impact of the application, including the volunteered conditions, and concluded that by granting this application, the three licensing objectives contained in the Gambling Act will be properly promoted.

The applicant's representative explained that the company was a highly experienced operator which currently held some 160 licences up and down the country, including six in Birmingham. Whilst the 'Merkur Slots' brand was a new aspect of the business, the company was confident that its considerable experience meant that it could promote the objectives properly, and the Report included a large amount of the company's own management material, detailing their practices and systems.

Bingo sessions were to be the primary activity. The demographic of bingo premise patrons was generally not one that included those likely to create crime, disorder or antisocial behaviour. The proposed operation would not serve alcohol, would not admit those under 18, and would close at 00.00hrs. There would be no single staffing of the premises after 20.00hrs. The Sub-Committee found all of this to be satisfactory.

No objections had been submitted by any of the responsible authorities, or any of the local ward councillors. Members carefully considered the representations made by other persons who attended the meeting to object to the application, but were not convinced that there was an evidential and causal link between the issues raised and the effect on the three objectives. Even considering the backdrop of the Erdington area, there was no reason to suppose that a highly experienced and responsible operator like Cashino Gaming Ltd would be unable to promote the objectives properly.

In reaching this decision, the Sub-Committee has given due consideration to the City Council's Statement of Principles Gambling Act 2005, the Guidance issued to Local Authorities by the Gambling Commission, the application for a Gambling Act Premises Licence, the written representations received and the submissions made at the hearing by the applicant, its legal adviser and by those making representations.

All parties are reminded that under the provisions contained within Schedule 10 to the Gambling Act 2005, there is the right of appeal against the decision of the Licensing Authority to the Magistrates' Court, such an appeal to be made within twenty-one days of the date of notification of the decision.