



Mr P Bates  
Head of Licensing  
Southampton City Council  
Licensing Services  
Civic Centre  
Southampton  
SO14 7LY

16 March 2022

Dear Mr Bates,

We refer to the Council's decision on 25 October 2019 to extend for three years our provisional statement for a large casino at the Royal Pier until 24 March 2022.

As the Council remains aware, we have unfortunately been unable to progress our large casino due to circumstances entirely beyond our control. Specifically, the construction of our large casino is wholly dependent upon the reclamation from the sea of the land upon which it will be built and that work still has not yet commenced.

Our frustration at this lack of progress remains vexing particularly after the substantial cost and resource invested in the original bid process, not least by the Council and ourselves.

We respectfully request that these efforts be given every opportunity to be successful and write pursuant to schedule 9 paragraph 4 of the Gambling Act 2005 to request a further extension to our provisional statement. As in 2019, we understand entirely that the Council will wish to retain some control over the pace and timing of delivery and that the Council has a wide discretion when determining the length of any such extension. We would again propose that a period of a further three years would be appropriate, given that through no fault of our own, we remain in a broadly similar position to when the provisional statement was granted to us.

As agreed with you, we are following the same process as in 2019, and this is our formal request for the extension. At the Council's request, it is proposed that the process will commence after 5 May 2022, with the consultation period due to start on 13 May 2022 and end on 10 June 2022. We will of course provide any further information or attend any meeting which the Council would find helpful before making a decision.

We wish to assure the Council that we remain as committed as ever to this ambitious venture and remain hopeful that we will still have the opportunity of delivering this large casino to Southampton and helping drive forward the Royal Pier scheme as a whole.

Yours sincerely

Derek Playford  
Director  
Aspers Universal Limited