



**Office of the Commissioner for Offshore Financial Services
Government of the Cook Islands**

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Internet gaming via the Cook Islands offshore regime

Thank you for your interest in the Cook Islands as a potential jurisdiction for the set up of an Internet gaming entity. As you may be aware, promotion and use of Internet gaming via the Cook Islands offshore jurisdiction is diligently managed to preserve the blue-chip image for this e commerce product.

In order for any Internet gaming operation to be established via the offshore regime, an application is required to form an international company under the International Companies Act 1981-82 ("the Act"). The Cook Islands international company must obtain a Ministerial exemption from application of the provisions of Section 7 of the Act to enable that company to undertake Internet gaming outside the Cook Islands.

It is our preference to deal with a trustee company or firm of solicitors in respect of a Ministerial exemption. The Minister of Finance considers applications on the recommendation of the Commissioner. Lists of solicitors firms and trustee companies are attached for your information.

The due diligence requirements that the Company would need to satisfy in order to apply for a Ministerial exemption are attached. These are **minimum requirements** and **Government may require further due diligence** in respect of any particular application. Please also be advised that the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2000 places reporting obligations on financial institutions in respect of the Cook Islands anti-money laundering regime.

Should you wish to establish an operation of your Internet gaming entity in the Cook Islands, the prior approval of the company by the Cook Islands Development Investment Board ("DIB") as a "**foreign enterprise**" would also be required. You may obtain the procedural and due diligence requirements with respect to approval as a foreign enterprise from Mr.Rohan Ellis, CEO of DIB, whose contact details are as follows:

M. Rohan Ellis
Cook Islands Development Investment Board
Facsimile 00 682 24 298
Telephone 00 682 24296
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Yours sincerely,

Mathilda C.R. Uhrle

COMMISSIONER FOR OFFSHORE FINANCIAL SERVICES