

## STATEMENT

Tuesday

8 November 2011.

Bower Avenue

Christchurch.

**Russell Lindsay OFFICER states:**

That is my full name and I am currently employed by Fletchers as a contract supervisor. My cell phone number is 027 507 6118, and I reside locally in Christchurch.

My building qualifications included:

National Certificate In Carpentry Level 4.

National Certificate, Level 4, Leading Hand In Construction.

LBP number 100079, Site one, and Carpenter.

Member of Professional Organisations:

BOINZ member 20085121.

Ex member CBANZ. 3 years membership until May 2011.

I have approximately 13 years experience in the construction industry, and have owned my own company and have employed staff for over 5 years. I have worked on:



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**Russell Lindsay OFFICER further states:**

- (a) New residential dwellings, including architecturally designed.
- (b) Additions and alterations to dwellings.
- (c) Additions and alterations to historically protected dwellings.
- (d) Alterations and additions to commercial buildings.

I was employed as a building inspector by The Christchurch City Council from 4 April 2008, until 14 October 2011. During this time I successfully completed numerous building related courses, including, Getting Started As A Building Official, The Building Act 2004, Weather tightness (N.Z.B.C.E2), Fire Safety Systems (N.Z.B.C. C/AS1).

At 11.45 a.m. on Saturday 4 September 2010, I was based at The Christchurch Art Gallery in response to the Christchurch Civil Emergency. At this time, I was a member of the Rapid Response Team. Teams were provided with an emergency vehicle, and my detailed area was CBD and outer lying CBD area.

The Response Team included one CPE engineer, (Vaughen McMillen), one building inspector, one search and rescue expert, and one safety officer. The assessment was intended to be completed as soon as possible to determine whether the buildings were safe to enter, and did not put other buildings, or members of the public at risk. (Level 1). If the buildings were deemed safe, then a further and more rigorous assessment could be undertaken at a later date.



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**Russell Lindsay OFFICER further states:**

During the time of the civil emergency, I spent considerable amount of time in the CBD area, and had become aware of the risks and destruction caused by masonry parapet failure. This experience had taught me to perhaps err on the side of caution.

As the result of a call to The Emergency Response Centre, at 10.15 a.m. Saturday, 11 September, I went to the building situated at 7 Riccarton Rd, Christchurch, with other members of The Response Team. I did not record the name of the company concerned, but I do recall it was a book shop. Due to the condition of the building, I parked my vehicle on the opposite side of Riccarton Rd. This was approximately 17 to 18 metres from the building concerned.

The building was unreinforced masonry and comprised a ground and first floor. There were large windows on the ground floor and a masonry parapet on the north end facing Riccarton Rd.

I have been shown photographs of the building that I have been told were taken on 7 September 2010. These photographs reflect the general condition of the building as I saw it on 11 September 2010 and the cracks I saw in the façade.

There were large cracks above each window on the first floor, that continued up to the top of the parapet. However my main concern was the large cracks at each end of the parapet on the east and west ends of the building. The cracks started from the front facade of the building approximately 1.5m down



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**Russell Lindsay OFFICER further states:**

from the top of the parapet and continued at a 45 degree angle to the top of the parapet, approximately 1.0m away from the front facade.

I came to the conclusion the bracing of the parapet and structural integrity was compromised, and posed a serious risk to both occupants of the building, and members of the public, using the footpath at the northern end of this building. My recommendation to The Rapid Response Team was to issue a red Building Act Section 126 notice, therefore deeming the building unsafe and not to be occupied.

This matter was discussed at length, however, I was instructed to give limited access to the building, for the undertaking of a complete assessment only. (Level 2). I completed the Rapid Assessment Form Level 1, and a yellow Building Act Section 126 notice was affixed on the said building.

I was not completely satisfied with the assessment, and felt that a red notice should have been issued deeming the building unsafe.

At 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 23 February 2011, as the result of the National Emergency, I was a member of The Rapid Response Team based at The Christchurch Art Gallery. At this time I was advised of the death of Mr Ross Bush, and the tragic circumstances upon which he died in his vehicle, parked outside 7 Riccarton Rd. I had previously worked with Mr Bush on a building project, and was aware of his respect and high standing in the construction industry.



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**Russell Lindsay OFFICER further states:**

On Wednesday 2 March 2011 at 4.10 p.m. my Rapid Response Team was instructed to go to 7 Riccarton Rd, and assist with the recovery of Mr Bush's tools and personal items. On arrival I met Leana, Mr Bush's daughter and gave assistance where required. Mr Bush's body had been removed from the vehicle before my arrival.

I have read this statement and it is true and correct.

  
Signed.....

Russell Officer

10/11/11

Bower Avenue

Christchurch.

