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Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission

Komihana a te Karauna hei Tiroiro i ngā Whare i Horo i ngā Rūwhenua o Waitaha

20 September 2011

Peter Mitchell
 General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services
 Christchurch City Council
 PO Box 73016
 CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Mr Mitchell

194 Hereford Street (Joe's Garage)

As you are aware the building that was situated at 194 Hereford Street known as Joe's Garage (the Building) is one of the Buildings the Commission is inquiring into. We have obtained a copy of the Council's file and would appreciate you providing the following information, by **30 September 2011**:

Inspections post 4 September 2010 earthquake

1. The Council file indicates that a level 1 assessment was carried out on the Building on 5 September 2010 with a resulting green placard. However there does not appear to be any documentation to support this on the file.
 - (a) Please provide copies of any documentation in relation to that assessment.
 - (b) Was a level 2 or subsequent inspection carried out? If so, please provide details. If not, please explain why not.
2. The Council's file summary shows a further inspection with a "safe" result but is unclear on the date of that inspection.
 - (a) What was the date of that inspection?
 - (b) What was the nature and result of the inspection?
 - (c) Was any inspection carried out after the Boxing Day earthquake? If so, please provide details. If not, please explain why not.
3. The Council file shows that the Building was inspected on 11 March 2011 and indicates that it was both red and green placarded.

15 Barry Hogan Place, Addington, Christchurch
 PO Box 14053, Christchurch Mail Centre 8544

- (a) Please explain this apparent anomaly.
4. We are aware that the Building owners had instructed their own engineer following the 4 September 2010 earthquake and we have written to them to seek information in relation to this.
- (a) Was the Council aware of the inspection/assessment following the September earthquake on behalf of the owners? If so, please provide details.
- (b) Did the Council take into account any such inspection/assessment in reaching any views in relation to the structural integrity of the building? If so, please provide details.

Structural Integrity of the Building prior to the 4 September 2010 earthquake

- (a) What was the status of the Building in terms of the Council's earthquake prone policy prior to the 4 September 2010 earthquake? Was it deemed an earthquake prone building? If so, please provide details. If not, please explain why not.
- (b) Please explain how the Council earthquake prone policy had been applied to this Building.
- (c) Please explain how the structural strengthening work carried out on the Building in 2005/2006 impacted on the structural integrity of the Building and its status in terms of the earthquake prone policy.

The above information is requested pursuant to the Royal Commission's powers of investigation under s 4C Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908.

Yours faithfully



Mark Zarifeh
Counsel Assisting
Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission