

UNDER

THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1908

IN THE MATTER OF

**ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO
BUILDING FAILURE CAUSED BY
CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKES**

**KOMIHANA A TE KARAUNA HEI TIROTIRO I
NGA WHARE I HORO I NGA RUWHENUA O
WAITAHA**

AND IN THE MATTER OF

THE CTV BUILDING COLLAPSE

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF MALCOLM WILLIAM HARRIS
IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

DATE OF HEARING: COMMENCING 25 JUNE 2012



**STATEMENT OF MALCOLM WILLIAM HARRIS
IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

1. My full name is Malcolm William Harris and I live in Christchurch. I am currently employed as a Sales Manager at CTV. I have worked at CTV since May 2010.
2. At the time of the 22 February 2011 earthquake I was employed as Sales Manager. My role included managing a sales team of 6.
3. CTV occupied Levels 1 and 2 of the CTV Building (the Building). I had left the Building and was driving along Wainoni Rd when the earthquake hit.

Before 4 September 2010

4. I felt the Building was a normal building for its age. There was no noticeable movement before September and the interior walls were sound proof.

After 4 September 2010

5. A number of areas of damage had appeared on Level 2 after the earthquake on 4 September 2010. Attached is a floor plan of the Building I have prepared (marked "A"). The positions of the rooms and internal walls have not been drawn to scale and their placement is approximate only. The issues that I refer to in my evidence are marked on this plan.
6. I sat along the western wall of Level 2. I have marked this position as "1" on the plan. I could see approximately 15-20 cracks in the wall from my desk. I have marked these as "2" on the plan. They were very noticeable and ran basically from floor to ceiling. You could see daylight through some.
7. I remember a number of cracks had appeared in the office of Joanne (Jo) Giles, a CTV host. Her office was along the southern wall. I have marked this area of cracks as "3" on the plan. These were also numerous and ran from floor to ceiling. Jo would mark the cracks with a felt pen and add to the number as new ones appeared.



8. It was noticeably noisier when trucks or buses went by and the floor moved when people walked down the corridor. Once the demolition of the building next door started it shook constantly with the movement of the diggers and the use of the demolition ball was as severe as a large quake.
9. There was a noticeable change in movement in the Building whenever a bus or truck went by as well as with the demolition. The building shook noticeably after the 4 September earthquake and severely after the Boxing Day earthquake.
10. I remember John Drew led a group of about three or four people around the Building. It looked like they were doing a visual inspection but I am not sure if this was after the September or Boxing Day earthquakes. It seemed to me to be just a quick walk through and I didn't see them do any testing, just a quick visual. CTV's lease was about to expire so they may have been potential tenants.

Demolition

11. Just before Christmas they began to demolish the building next to the CTV Building. It was mostly vacant but I think there were physiotherapy studios on one floor. I think it was about 3-4 stories tall. I understood they were bringing it down because it had sustained damage in the 4 September earthquake. I thought the frontage was going to be braced and retained but it ended up getting demolished as well. They did brace one section of the building by Les Mills where the Physio was located but once demolition began it became obvious that this section was not going to be saved so it also came down.
12. They would use a wrecking ball and every time it hit the building the CTV building shook as well. In some ways the shakes from the demolition were worse than the aftershocks, especially once the demolition got to the foundation level. Even the trucks and the grader moving around the demolition site would make the Building shake. At times the crew in the studio would have to stop filming because of the shaking.
13. An aftershock would last a few seconds whereas the demolition was continuous. If it wasn't the wrecking ball it was the digger moving or the articulated trucks coming onto the site to remove the material. In all cases our building shuddered and cracks opened up.

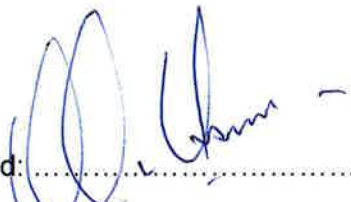


14. The cracks along the western wall (marked "1") appeared to get bigger and wider once the demolition of the building next door started. New cracks appeared in the toilets, above where Rob Cope-Williams, Mandy Uriao and I sat, along the western wall. Nothing was done about the cracks as far as I'm aware.
15. The cracks in Jo Giles' room got bigger as a result of the demolition too. She would note the date and increase the line as the cracks became longer. We used to joke about it. Jo was a vocal person and everyone knew about the cracks in her office. Nothing was done about them as far as I'm aware.
16. All of the sales staff had to clean plaster and dust off their desks daily from the movement of the walls. We expressed concern to Murray Wood, but I'm not sure what was done. I tried to convince the sales staff that it was safe and the movement was only natural with the demolition going on. I didn't know this for sure though.
17. They began drilling into the side of the Building about two weeks before the February quake and up until the morning of the quake. This seemed to be happening right by my office. I think the wall was only made of gib board as the vibration and noise was unbearable. The noise was constant. You couldn't hear yourself on the phone. This was not part of the demolition but I think it flowed on from it. I understand that Murray Wood had complained to John Drew about it, but I'm not sure what was done. On 21 February the Chairman of CTV had stormed outside and barrelled the tradesman about the noise.
18. The demolition continued up until the 22 February earthquake.

22 February 2011

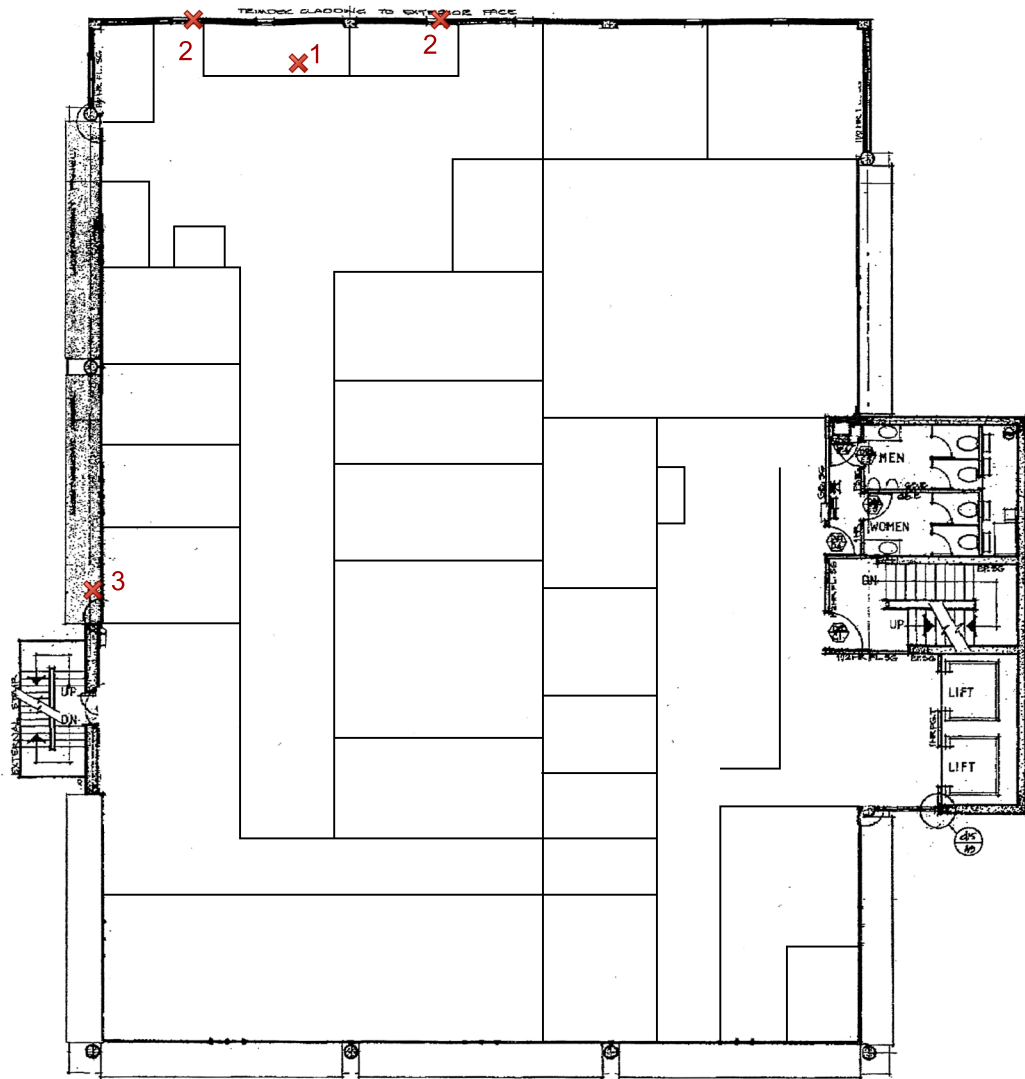
19. I was fortunate that my wife, who worked at QE11, called to ask if I could bring her some dry clothes because she had to jump in the pool to save a member of the public who was in trouble. I left the building at 12.40pm to do this and was expected back at 1.30 pm.



Signed: 

MALCOLM WILLIAM HARRIS

Date: 8.5.2012



PLAN NOT TO SCALE



249 MADRAS ST - LEVEL 6

KEY

1. Location of Malcolm Harris
2. Cracks along western wall
3. Cracks along the southern wall