

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**

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF DAVID JOHN BAINBRIDGE
IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

DATE OF HEARING: COMMENCING 25 JUNE 2012

**STATEMENT OF DAVID JOHN BAINBRIDGE
IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

1. My full name is David John Bainbridge. I am a manager and have lived in Christchurch all my life.
2. I am an ex-builder with 14 years experience in the building trade. I have my carpentry qualifications and have a certificate from Master Builders. The building work I undertook ranged from commercial to residential buildings. I was involved in the construction of the University of Canterbury Commerce Building and my role at that site involved constructing the columns for this building over a 2 year period.
3. My current position involves dealing with construction companies and giving advice to help resolve issues customers may have on site.

CTV Building

4. I was attending sessions at Relationship Services with my wife, Leanne. Relationship Services was on the top floor, Level 6, of the CTV Building (Building) at 249 Madras Street, Christchurch. My last visit to the Building was 16 February 2012.
5. I have done a Floor Plan (Plan) showing a basic set out of where I had been on Level 6. This is annexed hereto and marked with the reference **WIT.BAINBRIDGE.0001.5**. The reception and waiting area was to the right of the lifts, along the north wall of the Building to the west of the North Core. The consulting room where I had my appointments was along with west wall approximately 5 to 7 metres from the waiting area. I did not go to any other part of Level 6.

Building Damage

6. On my second visit to the Building, I noticed some damage to the Building which, with my having building experience, really concerned me. I discuss my observations below.

Column Damage

7. When walking out of the lift onto Level 6 I noticed the internal column in the foyer had cracks in it. This column was along the north wall in the corner where the east side of the North Core met the wall. I have marked this column with the number "1" on the Plan.
8. Approximately three-quarters of the column circumference was visible, from the floor to the ceiling. The column had at least three large cracks around it of approximately 5 millimetres in thickness and other hairline cracks of about 2 to 3 millimetres in thickness. These ran all the way around the column at about 20 centimetre intervals. There were flakes of concrete, three of which were about the size of a 50 cent coin, at the base of the column. You could also see 'blowout' marks on the column.
9. From what I observed, it looked like the column had performed to its maximum capacity in the previous earthquakes, but would fail in any further events. It definitely did not look like it could withstand another large earthquake. I was more concerned because this column was on the perimeter of the Building.
10. I have been shown a photograph of a column by Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission. This photograph is annexed hereto and marked with the reference **WIT.BAINBRIDGE.0001.6**. I can confirm that this column is the column I am referring to in the foyer marked with the number "1" on the Plan.
11. I observed one other column while I was in the Building. This was on the corner of the consultation room on the west side of the Building. I have marked the location of this column with the number "2" on the Plan. This column had cracks in it also. However, I was with our counsellor, Ann Malcolm (Ann), when I walked past this column, so I never got the opportunity to examine it closely.

Water Damage

12. When I looked at the top of the column in the foyer, I could see around the bulkhead where the column attached to the ceiling. There was water damage on the plasterboard. This was a brownish discolouration on the ceiling panels that went about a metre inwards from the column.

13. This indicated to me that the Building may have been damaged, exposing it to the elements and causing water to enter the Building.

Exterior Spandrels

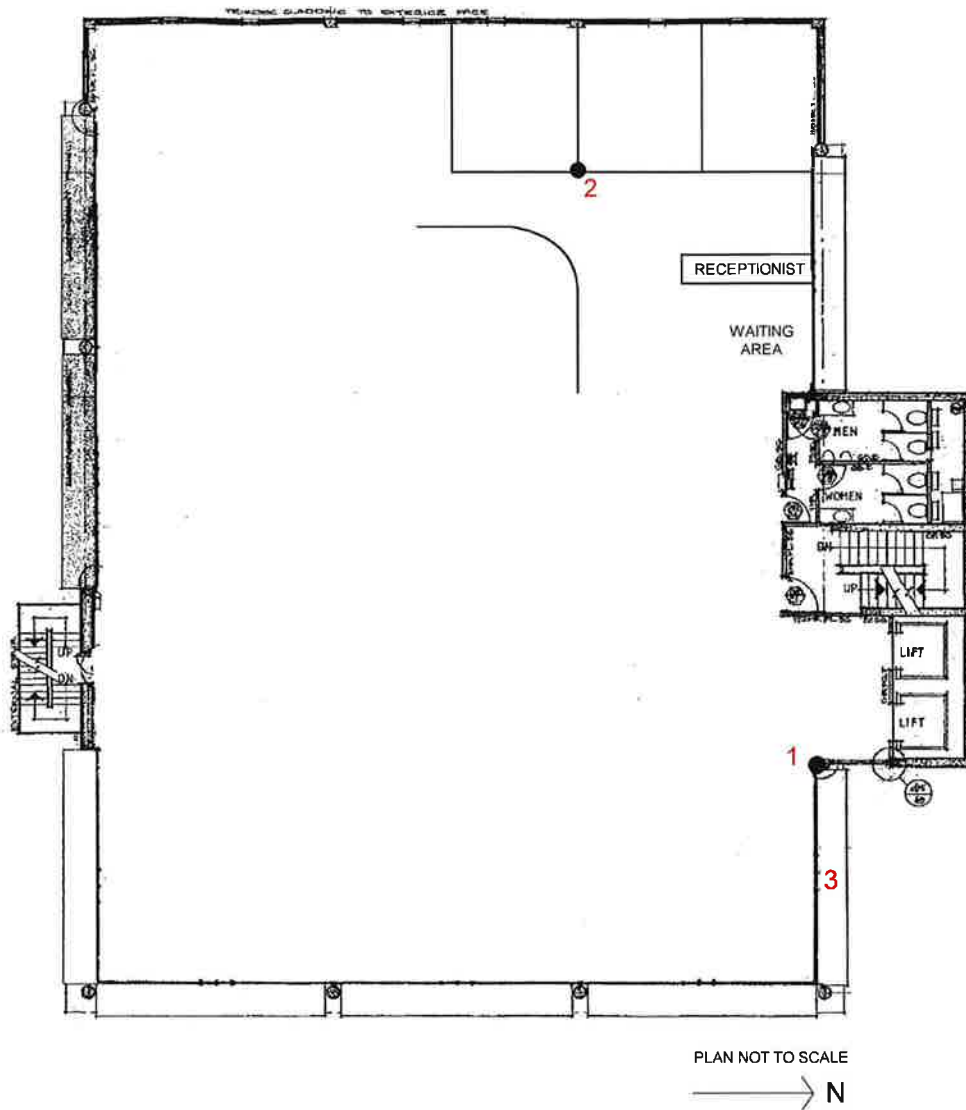
14. As I was waiting for the lift to leave, I looked out the window in the foyer on the east side of Level 6. I saw one of the spandrels on the exterior of the Building. This Panel was between Levels 5 and 6. I have marked its location on the Plan with the number "3". The spandrel was exposed aggregate, which was a feature of the Building design. I could see the interior and exterior sides of the end of the spandrel that was closest to the North Core.
15. I observed that this spandrel was uneven and not in line with the Building by about 100 millimetres. It was damaged and chipped at the end. From what I observed I believe it had experienced significant movement prior and had at some stage been compressed against the North Core.

Building Safety

16. As what I observed really concerned me I asked Ann about what I had seen in the Building. Ann told me they had been told that the Building was safe and that it had been signed off.
17. I wanted to take some photographs of what I observed and I took my phone out to do this. However, the lift arrived so I did not take any. I also felt so uneasy about being in the Building I could not wait to get out.
18. I told Leanne of my concerns while we were in the foyer. Leanne said to me "*You're quite concerned about this, aren't you?*" and I told her I was and that I did not know how the Building could have been signed off.

Signed: 
David Bainbridge

Date: 18 May 2012



249 MADRAS STREET - LEVEL 6

KEY

- 1. Location of pillar in foyer
- 2. Location of pillar in consultation room
- 3. Exterior north wall spandrel

