



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 NGĀ
WHARE I HORO I NGĀ RŪWHENUA O WAITAHA**

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF PETER GEORGE VAN DER ZEE IN RELATION TO
THE CTV BUILDING**

HEARING BEGINNING: 25 JUNE 2012

1. My name is Peter George Van der Zee. I am a Building Consent Officer for the Christchurch City Council. I have worked for the Council since 2007. Between 2006 and 2007 I worked as a Building Estimator for G J Gardiner Homes and prior to this I worked for Placemakers for 8 years as a Building Estimator/Truss Detailer.
2. I have approximately 28 years experience in the construction industry as a building estimator, roof truss detailer and recently as a Building Consent Officer. I am rated to the National BCA Competency level - Commercial 1. I have had tertiary education at the Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (CPIT), initially towards the qualification of NZ Certificate in Architectural Draughting and then part-time study towards the New Zealand Certificate in Quantity Surveying.
3. I was involved in carrying out rapid assessments of buildings as part of the Christchurch City Council's earthquake response to the 4 September 2010 and 22 February 2011 earthquakes. It is a requirement of my employment as a Council Building Consent Officer that I provide assistance to Civil Defence as required.
4. I was asked to come in to the Emergency Operations Centre on the morning of 5 September 2010, along with a number of other Council employees. I attended a morning briefing given by John Buchan and Dave Brunsdon, where they explained the rapid inspection and placarding process. John Buchan at that time was the Council's Engineering Services Manager and I understand Dave Brunsdon was a Civil Defence engineering consultant. I was already generally aware of the placard system from information published by the Department of Building and Housing prior to the 4 September 2010 earthquake, but I did not previously have a detailed understanding of what the rapid assessment process involved.
5. It was explained that the level 1 rapid inspections were external assessments only and we were to focus on identifying obvious damage and any immediate hazards to the public.

6. The rapid assessment team I was assigned to on 5 September 2010 included Richard Sullivan, who was an engineer, and two other people. I cannot remember the names of the two other people. Before leaving the Emergency Operations Centre we were given a clipboard and pens, copies of blank Level 1 rapid assessment forms, copies of green, yellow and red placards and a map of the central business district showing inspection zones. I do recall that Mr Sullivan also had a camera with him.
7. The central business district had been divided into separate blocks and each rapid assessment team was assigned to a particular block. I cannot recall the specific blocks that the assessment team I was in, was assigned to on the day, but I remember looking at buildings on Hereford Street, Madras Street, Woolsack Lane and Cashel Street.
8. I have only a vague recollection of visiting the CTV building on 5 September 2010. I have been involved in a large number of building assessments since 4 September 2010 and I do not have a detailed recollection of all buildings that I have visited.
9. I have reviewed a copy of the Level 1 rapid assessment form completed on 5 September 2010 for the CTV building (**BUI.MAD249.0136**). All of the writing on the form is mine except the Prupi number, the abbreviation "PVD54" on the bottom of the form, and "W4" and "2" on the top of the page. I believe this information would have been added to the form by administration staff after the form was returned to the Emergency Operations Centre.
10. As this was a Level 1 rapid assessment, we only looked at the exterior of the building. We did not go inside the building. I believe I filled out the level 1 form in the carpark, once we had walked around the building and looked for any obvious damage. There is a line through all of the minor/none boxes in the "Overall Hazards/Damage" summary. I believe I would have drawn this line through the boxes when we were in the carpark. This indicates that we had not seen any obvious damage or hazards to the exterior of the building, which is my recollection.

11. The Level 1 form states that the building was assessed as "Inspected Green". This decision would have been made after a discussion between me, Mr Sullivan and the other members of the assessment team. I believe a green placard would then have been filled out and attached to the building, then we would have moved on to the next building to be assessed.

12. When we had finished assessing all of the buildings in the block we had been assigned to, we returned to the Emergency Operations Centre at the Art Gallery. I handed in all of the rapid assessment forms to be processed by staff working in the Building Evaluation Team. I did not have any further involvement with the CTV building after 5 September 2010.

Dated:

11/6/12

Signed by:



Name: Peter George Van der Zee