

Under **THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1908**
In the matter of the **CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKES ROYAL COMMISSION
OF INQUIRY INTO THE COLLAPSE OF THE CTV
BUILDING**

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF DANIEL LEE MORRIS

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STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF DANIEL LEE MORRIS

1. My full name is Daniel Lee Morris. I reside in Christchurch. I am a company director and run a concrete grinding and polishing business.
2. I previously owned and operated a concrete cutting business which traded as "Knock Out Concrete Cutters" ("**Knock Out**"). I started the business in about 1991 and sold it in 2000.
3. For a period of around five years in the 1990s, Knock Out was involved in drilling a number of holes in concrete beams and floors in the CTV Building. Of course, in those days the building was not known as the CTV Building. Knock Out was contracted to carry out the drilling for the purposes of installing cabling, plumbing and other purposes. The work was done on a number of occasions for different tenancies and across a number of floors of the building. The holes will have ranged in size from 40mm to 100mm. We were not often contracted to drill holes smaller than this. Our equipment was needed for these larger holes which is why we were brought in.
4. At the CTV Building and many others, sometimes when we were drilling such holes, we would hit the reinforcing in the concrete beams. We would stop work and speak to the head contractor about shifting the hole so as to avoid the reinforcing. Sometimes it was possible to shift a marked out hole, but sometimes it was not practical and the head contractor would just tell us to cut right through the reinforcing, which we did. It would take us two to three hours to cut these holes through reinforcing. All of our work was done specifically as directed by head contractors on an "all care, no responsibility" basis. These contractors included plumbers and electricians.
5. We always spent a reasonable amount of time in the roof space because that is where the beams are. Therefore it was generally easy to see the beams and the holes cut in them by contractors including ourselves. The holes we drilled were not necessarily in a line, but placed depending on the requirements.
6. Many holes were cut in concrete beams. I could not say exactly how many, but the drilling was extensive in the CTV Building and they were all over the place. My best estimate is that we would have drilled about 200 holes in the CTV Building. About 50 of those would have been through beams. I do not know how many holes were drilled by other contractors before and after

our work there. I recall pricing a job at the CTV Building a short time before I sold the Knock Out business. We did not get the job on that occasion but whoever did would have drilled more holes.

7. Cutting holes in concrete beams in this manner was not unique to the CTV Building and still occurs around town today. Often it included cutting through reinforcing. Around one third of all holes would require some cutting of reinforcing. The reinforcing cut in such drilling included high tensile reinforcing. This would require longer time and involve greater damage to our tools and therefore cost to contractors we worked for. We used to charge a triple rate for excessive steel holes.

Collapse of the CTV Building

8. When I heard about the collapse of the CTV Building, I immediately thought about all the holes that had been drilled in the beams. I mentioned this to others which lead to someone from the Department of Building and Housing ("DBH") contacting me to discuss what had happened.
9. I spoke to a couple of people by telephone from or on behalf of the DBH in around May or June 2011. I do not recall their names. I told them about the size and number of holes that were drilled. I was not asked for an interview and I do not know what came of the information I passed on.

Dated this 29th day of June 2012



D L Morris