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**From:** Wes ten Hove [mailto:west@mstn.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 October 2011 3:20 p.m.  
**To:** Sara Jamieson  
**Cc:** Trevor Burkett  
**Subject:** RE: Royal Commission Information Request

Hi Sara

## **Canterbury Earthquake Royal Commission - Masterton District Council Response**

Thank you for your email of 27 October.

1. MDC is in the process of reviewing its earthquake prone buildings policy and is assessing the required strengthening level (currently 50% of current code). The Council is also researching avenues to mandate the requirement for building owners who have not completed IEP's have their buildings assessed. This is likely to be the basis of a more proactive policy requiring assessments to be made, and requiring details to be supplied Council so that any strengthening program can be developed. Council's have yet to consider such a policy change.

An informal workshop has been held with presenters passing on specific Canterbury earthquake experiences, the presenters comprising earthquake engineers, historic places Trust and Insurance industry, including a copy of an EQC presentation, all tailoring the advice on their Canterbury experience. The workshop participants included elected members of three territorial authorities in the Wairarapa region, builders, developers, and selected building owners (ie those with CBD type ownership or historic places ownership).

This workshop has set the ground work in place for the review of the current policy and has led officials to thinking the policy should be more proactive and assertive as to compliance. The desire is to complete the policy review as a shared policy initiative among the three Wairarapa Councils.

The draft of the new policy has yet to be completed and early advice resulting from the CERC recommendations, DBH and the like will influence the next steps.

The Council would be reluctant to duplicate the building compliance changes if higher compliance standards are to be made mandatory.

2. MDC initially will consult with a selection of property owners and earthquake engineers in preparation of the draft, before it is submitted to the Councils for consideration. It is anticipated the approved draft will be subject to full public consultation, as it is likely the public good elements and funding implications will need to be discussed with the whole community before the elected members confirm any policy change.

- 3. MDC has not been approached by insurers directly since the Canterbury earthquakes. There has been some reaction to the LIM information that might be obtainable as to the EQP status of properties, it being apparent that insurers (and perhaps valuers and tenants have underestimated such risks). MDC experience is that its own corporate insurance interests have been difficult to cover and increased premiums have resulted.

I would be pleased to supply further information as necessary

Wes ten Hove

CEO

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**From:** Sara Jamieson [mailto:Sara.Jamieson@royalcommission.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 October 2011 9:10 a.m.  
**To:** Wes ten Hove  
**Subject:** Royal Commission Information Request

Please find **attached** an information request from the Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission.

Regards

Sara Jamieson  
Legal Analyst

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