

Ref: 6/1411

31 October 2011

Sara Jamieson
Legal Analyst
15 Barry Hogan Place
PO Box 14053
Christchurch Mail Centre 8544

Dear Sara Jamieson

Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission Submission

The following information is provided in response to your request under section 4C of the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908.

I have numbered the responses to reference the questions posed in the letter dated 27 October 2011.

1(b) Manawatu District Council's earthquake prone buildings (EQB) policy has been reviewed and was officially adopted in June 2011.

The key changes included:

- Improved 'plain English' information and clearer guidelines for building owners and the general public.
- Reduced timeframes for strengthening or demolishing earthquake prone buildings. The timeframes are now 5 years for importance level 4 buildings and 10 years for all other importance levels.
- Increased level of strengthening from 34% to 67% of new building standard.

2(a) Manawatu District Council have engaged an engineer to carry out IEP assessments on the district's 'at risk' buildings. This work is due to be completed this month and we will meet with each owner of an EQP building to discuss the options and process as specified in the policy.

(b&c) Communication to tenants and the community has been via media release in the local paper and through the special consultative procedure set out in section 83 of the Local Government act 2002.

We have also held meetings with local community groups with a special interest in this matter.

- 3 Manawatu District Council has not received any official communication from insurers. However, we have become aware of building owners experiencing renewal premiums at double the cost of the previous year. There is also genuine concern from owners that when they are formally notified of an EQP building, they will not be able to purchase insurance.

I trust that this response answers your questions adequately.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Boakes', written in a cursive style.

Karel Boakes
Regulatory Supervisor