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**From:** Neville Higgs [mailto:Neville.Higgs@cera.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 30 November 2011 9:27 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Zarifeh  
**Cc:** 'Daines, Nadine'  
**Subject:** RE: 382 Colombo St

Mark

My inspection of 382 Colombo Street and buildings further north on 10 November 2011 involved the use of a cherry-picker to lift me up so as I could inspect the top of the front facias of the buildings and the connection of the front facias to the return party walls. The purpose of this was to assess the risk to the road and footpath from the buildings with the aim of removing the protective fencing at the front of the buildings to improve the traffic flow in Colombo Street.

There was no apparent significant earthquake damage to the 382 Colombo Street building. There was damage to the buildings further north in the block with very noticeable front facade separation occurring to the buildings from about 398 Colombo Street north. My opinion at the time was that the 382 Colombo Street building looked to be in a similar structural condition to what it was before the September earthquake. I recommended that before the protective fencing in front of the building was removed that the veranda be propped essentially as a reasonable means of covering any unobserved structural damage that may have occurred.

This recommendation was made in the light of the acceptable level for re-occupation of buildings being set at them having a structural strength similar or greater to what they were before the earthquake. This level had been established in conjunction with advice from the DBH and to some extent was based on the premise that knowingly or unknowingly the public had accepted this strength level before the earthquake and even though there was some indication of the likelihood of higher seismic activity such a strength level was reasonable.

**Neville Higgs**

Engineering Support Coordinator  
Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA)

T: 03 354 2708  
M:021 061 5154

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**From:** Mark Zarifeh [mailto:Mark.Zarifeh@royalcommission.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 29 November 2011 12:33 p.m.  
**To:** Neville Higgs  
**Subject:** 382 Colombo St

Dear Neville,  
Further to our telephone discussion could you please confirm details of your inspection of this building on 10 November 2010 and the views you came to.  
Thank you for your assistance.  
Regards,

Mark Zarifeh,  
Counsel Assisting,  
Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission

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