



Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission
Te Komihana Rūwhenua a te Karauna

2 November 2011

Glen Hughes
 Southern Regional Manager
 Opus International Consultants Ltd

By email: glen.hughes@opus.co.nz

Dear Sir

Further to the writer's recent telephone conversation with you, I outline below a number of queries in relation to buildings the Royal Commission will be conducting hearings into in the week of 12 December 2011 and would appreciate you obtaining responses:

593 Colombo Street

On 14 February 2011 Mark Ryburn inspected this building and completed an Engineers Re-inspection of Damaged Buildings form (copy **enclosed** for your information).

This building was on the corner of Colombo Street and St Asaph Street and therefore had two frontages; 187 St Asaph Street and 593 Colombo Street with separate business premises located in each.

Could you please obtain an outline from Mr Ryburn of his involvement with this Building by **10 November 2011**, which outline should include the following:

1. Mr Ryburn's full name, qualifications, and years of experience.
2. Outline of Mr Ryburn's position at the time in relation to the Christchurch City Council and the nature of his instructions in relation to that inspection.
3. Whether the inspection on 14/2/11 related only to 187 St Asaph Street as it would appear.
4. Whether if that was the case, the comments relating to the damage and the caution not to enter related only to the St Asaph Street frontage.
5. Whether Mr Ryburn considered the structural integrity of the building as a whole and if so, details. If not, an explanation as to why that was not necessary.
6. When inspecting the building did Mr Ryburn give consideration to any of the following:

15 Barry Hogan Place, Addington, Christchurch
 PO Box 14053, Christchurch Mail Centre 8544

- i. The impact of the 4 September 2010 earthquake and any subsequent aftershocks on the structural integrity of the building and, in particular, whether the building's capacity to withstand future aftershocks was diminished as a result?
- ii. Any information from GNS or any other source about the likelihood, location and extent of further aftershocks? If so, please provide details of this information.
- iii. Information from the Christchurch City Council relating to building standards or the inspection of buildings following an earthquake? If so, please provide details of this information.
- iv. Any information from any other party relating to building standards or the inspection of buildings following an earthquake? If so, please provide details of this information.
- v. The building plans.
- vi. The Christchurch City Council's earthquake prone policy and whether the building complied with that.
- vii. Whether any previous structural strengthening had been carried out.

Hearings

As indicated, the Commission will be conducting hearings into the above buildings in the week of 12 December 2011:

- 593 and 595 Colombo St on Monday 12 December 2011 at 10am
- 601/601A Colombo St on Monday 12 December 2011 at 2.15pm
- 603; 605-613 Colombo St on Tuesday 13 December at 9.30am
- 382 Colombo St on Wednesday 14 December 2011 at 2.15pm.

It will be necessary for Messrs Campbell and Ryburn to give evidence in relation to their involvement with the particular buildings.

Please advise, as soon as possible, where summonses can be sent to for these people.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully



Mark Zarifeh
Counsel Assisting
Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission

16 November 2011



Mr Mark Zarifeh
Counsel Assisting
Canterbury Earthquake Royal Commission
P.O. Box 14053
CHRISTCHURCH 8544

Dear Sir

I refer to your letter of 2 November 2011 with a number of queries in relation to certain buildings:

- a) 187 St Asaph Street
- b) 601/601A Colombo Street
- c) 603 Colombo Street
- d) 605 Colombo Street and
- e) 382 Colombo Street.

We note receipt of your further letters dated 7 and 10 November 2011 requesting further information about 116 Lichfield Street and 382 Colombo Street. You have asked for a response to these requests by 18 November. We need more time to answer those requests and propose responding by 22 November and that our response will deal with both sets of questions relating to 382 Colombo Street (rather than provide two responses in relation to the same property). We trust that this will not inconvenience the Commission.

Our responses to your 2 November 2011 letter (other than in relation 382 Colombo Street) are set out below. Some of your questions have general application and our responses to these are set out first.

Responses of general application

Messrs Campbell and Ryburn

Paul Arthur Campbell, BSc, BE (Civil) (Hons), MIPENZ, CPEng, 14 years experience.

Mark John Ryburn, BE (Civil) (Hons), GIPENZ, 11 years experience.

Outline of Campbell's and Ryburn's position (question 2 on pages 1 and 2 of your letter)

Messrs Campbell and Ryburn were at the relevant times employed by Opus. They were seconded to the Christchurch City Council to work under the direction of its building recovery office (BRO).

General inspection considerations (question 6 page 1/question 5 page 2)

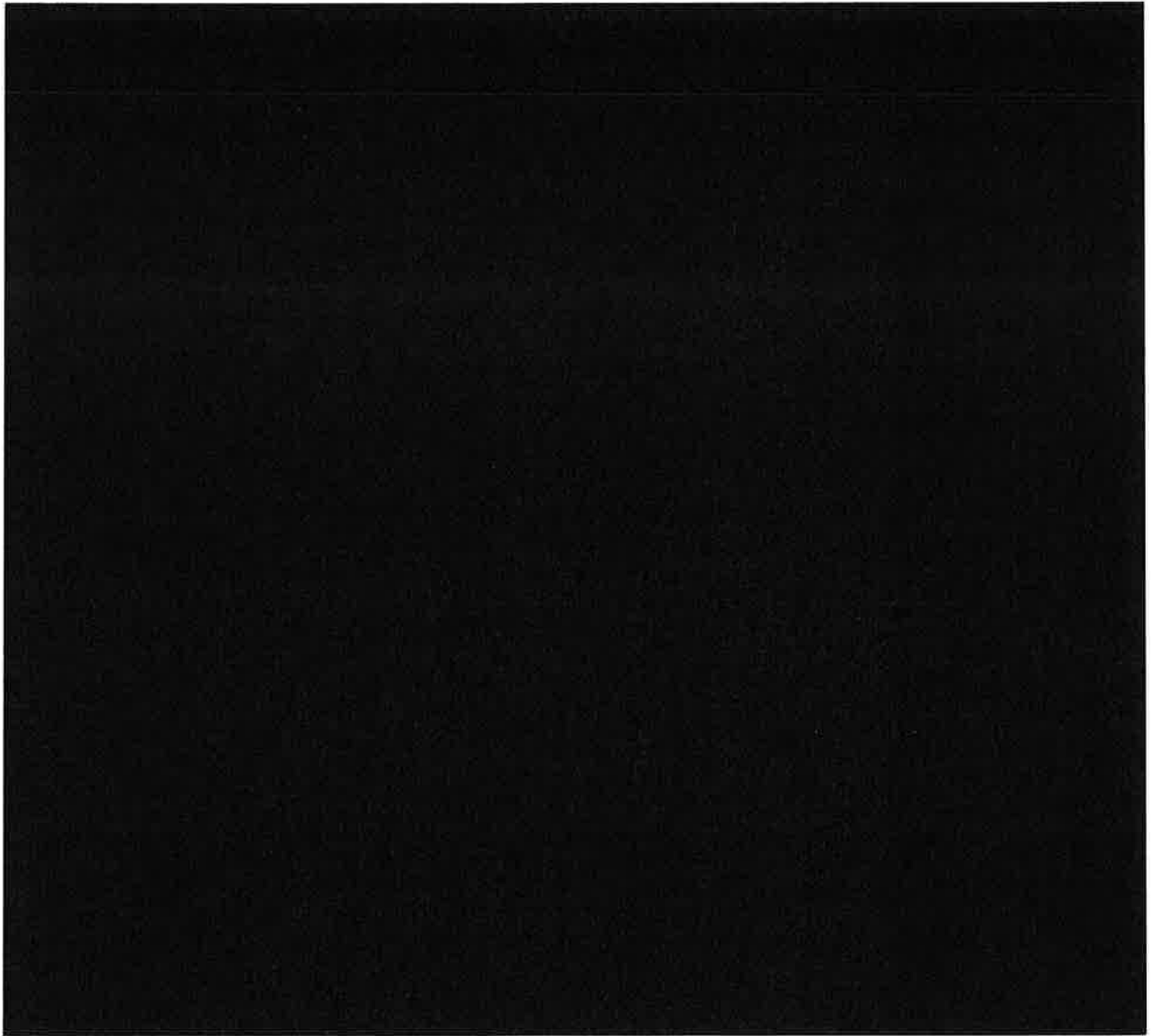
The following answers apply generally to each site to which your questions relate.

1. Yes, subject to the qualification that the re-inspections carried out by Messrs Campbell and Ryburn were limited, they generally involved exterior observations only, and they were not detailed structural engineering evaluations.
2. No.
3. They received instructions from the Council directing them to inspect particular sites. They were provided with copies of the form entitled "Engineers Re Inspection of Damaged Buildings" completed by the Council as to the addresses to be inspected. They were not provided with prescriptive information about building standards or the inspection of buildings following an earthquake. Your general reference to "information" is otherwise difficult to respond to. Please let us know if there is anything more specific you would like to know.
4. They were generally aware of the existence of information of this nature, but they were not provided with specific information by other parties for the purpose of carrying out re-inspections. Again, you may wish to refine the scope of your question.
5. No.
6. They were aware of the Council's Earthquake Prone Building policy but the re-inspection process was not for the purpose of quantifying building strength in terms of the policy.

187 St Asaph Street

1. Answered above.
2. Answered above.
3. The report does not refer to specific inspection of the Colombo Street frontage. However, in addition to references to number 187, his report refers to cracking between numbers 187 and 189 St Asaph Street and it records a recommendation to fence the driveway between numbers 185 and 187. Mr Ryburn has no detailed recollection of which other parts of the building were inspected.
4. See previous answer.
5. The re-inspection was visual only, and as noted above Mr Ryburn does not specifically recall which parts of the building he inspected other than those referred to in his report.





Yours faithfully
OPUS INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS LTD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glen Hughes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glen Hughes
SOUTHERN REGIONAL MANAGER

