

Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission
Te Komihana Rūwhenua a te Karauna

17 November 2011

Simon Wall
Structural Engineer
Alan Reay Consultants Ltd
PO Box 3911
CHRISTCHURCH

Attention: Simon Wall

By Email: swall@arcl.co.nz

Dear Mr Wall

187 St Asaph Street/593 Colombo Street

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into building failure caused by the Canterbury earthquakes is currently examining the failure of a number of buildings, including the building that was situated at the above address. This building was on the north-west corner of St Asaph and Colombo Streets.

You will see from the **attached** Level 1 Rapid Assessment forms that you conducted inspections of the building (and others to the north on Colombo St) on 5 September 2010.

Could you please provide the following information to the commission by 25 November 2011:

1. Presumably, the reason you placarded the same building differently for the two street addresses – 187 St Asaph St / 593 Colombo St – was because they appeared to be separate tenancies and had sustained separate levels of damage? Could you please confirm the position.
2. I presume that the Level 1 Rapid Assessment inspections were exterior only and would not have involved much time? Please confirm.
3. I note in relation to the Colombo Street buildings that you assessed 593-599A together. What was the reason for this?
4. In making your assessments did you take into account the possibility of further aftershocks and the effect that they might have on these buildings? If so, please provide details.

The above information is requested pursuant to the Royal Commission's powers of investigation under s 4C Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any queries please contact the writer
(phone: 741-3014, email: mark.zarifeh@royalcommission.govt.nz)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Zarifeh', written over the printed name.

Mark Zarifeh
Counsel Assisting
Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission

A9 18

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AG

Christchurch Eq. RAPID Assessment Form - LEVEL 1

Inspector Initials
Territorial AuthoritySWW
Christchurch CityDate of Inspection
Time5/9/10
12:50pmExterior Only
Exterior and Interior☒

Building Name

Short Name

Address

GPS Co-ordinates

Contact Name

Contact Phone

Storeys at and above
ground levelTotal gross floor area
(m²)

No of residential Units

Photo Taken

Yes

No

Type of Construction

☐ Timber frame☐ Steel frame☐ Tilt-up concrete☐ Concrete frame☐ RC frame with masonry infill

Primary Occupancy

☒ Dwelling☐ Other residential☐ Public assembly☐ School☐ Religious☐ Concrete shear wall☒ Unreinforced masonry☐ Reinforced masonry☐ Confined masonry☐ Other:☒ Commercial/ Offices☐ Industrial☐ Government☐ Heritage Listed☐ Other

Investigate the building for the conditions listed below:

Overall Hazards / Damage

Minor/Neg

Moderate

Severe

Comments

Collapse, partial collapse, off foundation

☒☐☐

Building or storey leaning

☒☐☐

Wall or other structural damage

☐☒☐

Overhead falling hazard

☐☒☐

Ground movement, settlement, slips

☒☐☐

Neighbouring building hazard

☒☐☐

Other

☐☐☐Parapet badly cracked.
Risk of further collapse

Choose a posting based on the evaluation and team judgement. Severe conditions affecting the whole building are grounds for an UNSAFE posting. Localised Severe and overall Moderate conditions may require a RESTRICTED USE. Place INSPECTED placard at main entrance. Post all other placards at every significant entrance.

INSPECTED

GREEN

☐

RESTRICTED USE

YELLOW

☒

UNSAFE

RED

☐

Record any restriction on use or entry:

Further Action Recommended:

Tick the boxes below only if further actions are recommended

☐ Barricades are needed (state location):☒ Level 2 or detailed engineering evaluation recommended☒ Structural☐ Geotechnical☐ Other:☐ Other recommendations:

Estimated Overall Building Damage (Exclude Contents)

None

☐

0-1 %

☐

31-60 %

☐

2-10 %

☒

61-99 %

☐

11-30 %

☐

100 %

☐

Inspection ID _____ (Office Use Only)

SWW 18

185 5/2/2010
PROP
837051
for 1 DP 6296

Sign here on completion

Date & Time
ID7:00pm 5/9/10
SWW

A 9 9 3

Christchurch Eq. RAPID Assessment Form - LEVEL 1

 Inspector Initials
 Territorial Authority

 SJW
 Christchurch City

 Date of Inspection
 Time

 5/9/10
 1:00 pm

 Exterior Only
 Exterior and Interior

☒

Building Name

Various buildings

Short Name

Address

593-599A Colombo

GPS Co-ordinates

S° E°

Contact Name

Contact Phone

Storeys at and above
ground level2 Below ground
level 0Total gross floor area
(m²)2000 Year
built

No of residential Units

8

Type of Construction

☐ Timber frame☐ Steel frame☐ Tilt-up concrete☐ Concrete frame☐ RC frame with masonry infill☐ Concrete shear wall☒ Unreinforced masonry☐ Reinforced masonry☐ Confined masonry☐ Other:

Primary Occupancy

☒ Dwelling☒ Commercial/ Offices☐ Other residential☐ Industrial☐ Public assembly☐ Government☐ School☐ Heritage Listed☐ Religious☐ Other

Photo Taken

☒ Yes ☐ No

Investigate the building for the conditions listed below:

Overall Hazards / Damage

Minor/None

Moderate

Severe

Comments

Collapse, partial collapse, off foundation

☒☐☐

Building or storey leaning

☒☐☐

Wall or other structural damage

☒☐☐

Overhead falling hazard

☒☐☐

Ground movement, settlement, slips

☒☐☐

Neighbouring building hazard

☒☐☐

Other

☐☐☐

Minor cracking of masonry
 smashed window @ 595 Colombo
 soffit of verandah buckled
 minor interior cracking in one
 upstairs unit inspected

Choose a posting based on the evaluation and team judgement. Severe conditions affecting the whole building are grounds for an UNSAFE posting. Localised Severe and overall Moderate conditions may require a RESTRICTED USE. Place INSPECTED placard at main entrance. Post all other placards at every significant entrance.

INSPECTED

GREEN

☒

RESTRICTED USE

YELLOW

☐

UNSAFE

RED

☐

Record any restriction on use or entry:

Further Action Recommended:

Tick the boxes below only if further actions are recommended☐ Barricades are needed (state location):☐ Level 2 or detailed engineering evaluation recommended☐ Structural☐ Geotechnical☐ Other:☐ Other recommendations:

Estimated Overall Building Damage (Exclude Contents)

None

☐

0-1 %

☒

31-60 %

☐

2-10 %

☐

61-99 %

☐

11-30 %

☐

100 %

☐

Prupri
 811798
 204 3 DP6296

Sign here on completion

SJW

Date & Time
ID1:20pm 5/9/10
SJWInspection ID SSNS9 (Office Use Only)

77 Spencer Street
Addington
Christchurch

25 November 2011

Mark Zarifeh
Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission
PO Box 14053
Christchurch Mail Centre
Christchurch 8544

Email: mark.zarifeh@royalcommission.govt.nz

Dear Mr Zarifeh

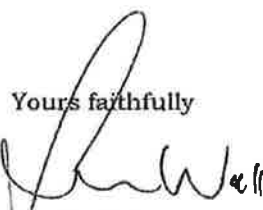
187 St Asaph Street – 593 Colombo Street

I refer to your letter dated 17 November 2011.

As you may be aware, I carried out the assessments you have asked about as a volunteer in my personal capacity to assist Civil Defence in the immediate aftermath of the September earthquake. In respect of the matters you refer to neither Alan Reay Consultants Ltd nor I through that company were engaged to provide engineering services or advice.

In that context, I respond to your questions, adopting your numbering:

1. Your assumption is correct.
2. Generally the Level 1 Rapid Assessments were exterior only but in some cases, where access was available and appropriate, the interior may also have been inspected. Your second assumption is correct.
3. Each of the buildings at 593-599A were separately assessed. Each was issued with its own placard of the same status. The results of the separate inspections were recorded together in one Assessment Form for ease of documentation.
4. The Level 1 Rapid Assessments were an exercise to observe and record visible damage to buildings. The information gathered was then to be used by Civil Defence and other authorities to direct and prioritise further action.

Yours faithfully

Simon Wall

