

**738 Colombo Street**  
**Hearing: Thursday 1 March 2012 at 9.30am**

**Summary**

The building that was situated at 738 Colombo Street was a two storey structure with brick infill walls to Colombo St and concrete beams and columns. The building adjacent to it at 736 Colombo St was a 4 level concrete-framed building with brick infill walls including a basement. At the 1<sup>st</sup> floor level the two buildings were opened to each other in order to allow a larger space to be utilised. 736 Colombo St was built in the early 1900's and 738 Colombo St in 1937.

Although some earthquake strengthening appears to have been carried out in the past, because this was pre 31 March 2005, the building was still considered earthquake prone.

Following the September 2010 earthquake there was a Level 1 Rapid Assessment of the building on 5 September 2010 which noted minor damage. The building was green placarded.

This was consistent with a walk through inspection of the building by Powell Fenwick on the morning of 4 September 2010.

A Level 1 Rapid Assessment on 27 December 2010, following the Boxing Day aftershock resulted in the building being green placarded. On that form is a reference to a Powell Fenwick report but unfortunately there is no record of that inspection.

In the February earthquake the building was subsequently damaged, including collapse of the façade onto the street.

The Christchurch Police have confirmed that Desley Thomson, who was a pedestrian on Colombo St at the time of the earthquake, was found under collapsed building material outside 738 Colombo Street.

Detective Sergeant M. Reid confirmed this location as being on the footpath/road way outside the premises known as “OK Gift Shop, situated at 738 Colombo Street, just north of the NZ Post Shop and Kiwi Bank branch.

**Proposed Witnesses:**

1. Peter Smith, Spencer Holmes Ltd, structural engineer
2. Stephen McCarthy, Christchurch City Council
3. M. Freeman, Powell Fenwick Consultants Ltd, structural engineer
4. Jonathan Liu, the building owner,
5. Luke Rees – Thomas, Knight Frank, property managers

**Likely Issues:**

1. Application of the Council’s earthquake prone policy to the building.
2. Assessment of the building following the September earthquake and Boxing Day aftershock.