



Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission

Komihana a te Karauna hei Tiro tiro i ngā Whare i Horo i ngā Rūwhenua o Waitaha

21 September 2011

Peter Mitchell
General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 73016
CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Mr Mitchell

738 Colombo Street (OK Gift Shop)

The Royal Commission is enquiring into the building that housed the OK Gift Shop at 738 Colombo Street (the Building). We have obtained a copy of the Council file and we would appreciate the following additional information, by **30 September 2011**:

Structural Integrity of the Building prior to 4 September 2010 earthquake

1. What was the status of the Building in terms of the Council's earthquake prone policy prior to the 4 September 2010 earthquake? Was it deemed an earthquake prone building? If so, please provide details. If not, please explain why not.
2. Please explain how the Council's earthquake prone policy had been applied to this Building.
3. Please explain how any structural strengthening work carried out on the Building prior to the 4 September 2010 earthquake impacted on the structural integrity of the Building and its status in terms of the earthquake prone policy.

Inspections post 4 September 2010 earthquake

4. The Council's "Events" record notes a Civil Defence emergency inspection on 5 September 2010 resulting in a green placard. There is an undated Christchurch Eq rapid assessment form – level 1 with inspectors initials "SR1" on the Council file.
 - (a) Is this the form that relates to that inspection referred to on the Events record?
 - (b) Was there any further inspection by the Council following the inspection on 5/9/10 (but before the inspection on 27/12/10)? If so, please provide details.

5. On 27/12/10 there appear to have been two inspections of the Building:
- One at 11.00am by USAR which noted side parapets and cracks in lower façade.
 - One at 4.00pm by someone from the Council with the initials "DB".
6. On the rapid assessment form in relation to the later inspection it was noted "Powell Fenwick have inspected and approved, report sighted 10.30. 26/12/10 included". Also on that form there is a notation "Where is engineer report??" It would appear that the Building was green stickered after that assessment but only on the basis of the inspection by Powell Fenwick the day before.
- (a) Who was the Council employee with the initials DB who carried out the assessment?
 - (b) Could you please make enquiries with that person to ascertain what was sighted by him in terms of a Powell Fenwick report and advise.
 - (c) There does not appear to be a copy of the Powell Fenwick report on the Council file. Has this been located? If so, please provide a copy of the same.
 - (d) Did DB conduct an assessment of the Building on 27/12/10 or did he solely rely on the Powell Fenwick report referred to?
 - (e) Did DB have available at the time of his inspection, the USAR report from that day and, if so, did he take into account the information on the USAR form?
 - (f) Was there any other inspection of the Building after 27/12/10 but before the earthquake on 22 February 2011? If so, please provide details.
 - (g) Did the Council initiate any structural assessment of the Building? If so, please provide details. If not, please explain why not.
 - (h) Did the Council obtain a structural report on the Building from anyone else at any stage?

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

Yours faithfully



Mark Zarifeh
Counsel Assisting
Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission