



Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission

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

3 October 2011

Tim Fahy
Arrow International Ltd
PO Box 42
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

By Email: tim.fahy@arrowinternational.co.nz

Dear Sir

Durham Street Methodist Church, 309 Durham Street North

As you will be aware the Royal Commission is currently examining the failure of a number of buildings in the CBD, including the Durham Street Methodist Church which was situated at 309 Durham Street North (the Building).

I have obtained the Christchurch City Council file and have also obtained from you/the Methodist Church some of the engineer reports from RD Sullivan and Structex Metro Ltd in relation to the Building.

Would you please provide the following information, by **7 October 2011**:

Removal of the organ from the Building

1. As you will be aware, three men were killed in the 22 February 2011 earthquake while they were involved in an undertaking to remove the organ from the Building.

I understand that, as the Building had been red placarded on 5 September 2011 following the 4 September 2011 earthquake, approval had to be obtained to enter the Building for the purpose of removal of the organ.

- (a) Please outline the process you adopted to enable access to the Building for the purpose of removal of the organ.
- (b) What application was made to the Council and to whom? Please provide copies of any documentation/correspondence/emails relevant to that issue.
- (c) What inspections/assessments were received from structural engineers in relation to what was required to ensure the safety of the removal of the organ? Please provide copies of any documentation received (Note: if any of these documents have already been provided to the Royal Commission please note the dates and reference to them).

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

- (d) Please provide details of any approval given by the Christchurch City Council to the entry of the Building, including copies of any documentation received by the Council in that regard.

Structural integrity of the Building prior to the 4 September 2010 earthquake

2. What was the status of the Building in terms of the Christchurch City Council's earthquake prone policy prior to the 4 September 2010 earthquake? Do you know if it was deemed to be an earthquake prone building? If so, please provide details.
3. Are you aware how the Christchurch City Council's earthquake prone policy had been applied to the Building? If so, please explain.
4. Please outline any structural strengthening work that had been carried out on the Building. From your knowledge how did this work impact on the structural integrity of the Building and its status in terms of the Council's earthquake prone policy? Please provide any correspondence/reports you have received in relation to any of this work or any assessment of the Building in terms of its structural integrity prior to 4 September 2010. (I have also written to R.D. Sullivan about this issue).

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