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21 December 2011

Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission
By email
Attention: Mary-Ann Hutton
Email: mary-ann.hutton@royalcommission.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: 605 Colombo Street, Christchurch

I am in receipt of your letter dated 10 October 2011 requesting I provide you with information to assist with the Royal Commission Enquiry into the failure of the above premises of which I am the owner, and to this end I respond to your questions using your numbering system:

1. I have owned this building for some 15 – 20 years, I cannot be precise in this regard.
2. Yes, arranged to install props to hold up the verandahs. Bushnell Builders attended to this.
3. Yes, Matthew Bushnell Builder obtained a report for me from Buchanan & Fletcher dated 14 September 2010.
4. I visited the building around 16th October with Peter MacLeod and there were no barricades in place, just props.
5. Yes, I forwarded on the this Building Act notice to the Insurance Broker, John Steele who said it would be difficult to source an Engineer at that time of year would be difficult and said that I should try to organise one myself, I then rang the Council but they were unable to help also.
6. Yes. Mike Fletcher, Peter MacLeod and myself met there on 17 January 2011 to assess the building. There may have been some ribbon surrounding the premises but I cannot be certain.
7. Yes, I received an email informing me there was no inspector available.
8. No.
9. (a) I may have and if I have it will be in the email correspondence I have forwarded to Peter MacLeod.
(b) Peter MacLeod instructed the Engineers, he has these details.
10. Apart from scaffolding that was erected after September earthquake, the building was in the same condition.

I apologise for not having responded earlier to your requests for information and I hope the above assists you in some way. I am aware I need to attend the postponed hearing in early February in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully

Robin Cheng