

UNDER THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1908

**IN THE MATTER OF ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO BUILDING
FAILURE CAUSED BY CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKES**

**KOMIHANA A TE KARAUNA HEI TIROTIRO I NGĀ
WHARE I HORO I NGĀ RŪWHENUA O WAITAHA**

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF STEPHEN JAMES MCCARTHY IN RELATION TO 43
LICHFIELD STREET**

DATE OF HEARING: 27 FEBRUARY 2012

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Stephen James McCarthy. I am the Environmental Policy and Approvals Manager of the Christchurch City Council. I have worked for the Council since 1 May 2006. During the State of Emergency following the earthquake of 4 September 2010, I was one of the Building Evaluation Managers in the Christchurch City Emergency Operations Centre.
2. I have 36 years of experience working for local government, including 16 years in building control. I have a Degree in Applied Science and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from Massey University and a Royal Society Diploma in Environmental Health from Wellington Polytechnic.
3. I have been asked to provide evidence to the Royal Commission relating to specific aspects of the Council's involvement with 43 Lichfield Street before and after the earthquake of 4 September 2010 and the Boxing Day aftershock.

DOCUMENTS PROVIDED TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION

4. The documents relating to this building that have been provided to the Royal Commission are:
 - (a) the Building Permit/Building Consent file for 43 Lichfield Street; and
 - (b) post earthquake files.

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

5. My evidence will address the following matters:
 - (a) The Civil Defence Emergency Management Response in relation to the building after the 4 September 2010 earthquake.
 - (b) Council involvement with the building subsequent to the lifting of the state of emergency on 16 September 2010.

- (c) Whether 43 Lichfield Street was assessed as 'earthquake-prone' for the purposes of section 122 of the Building Act 2004.
- (d) The effect of any strengthening undertaken.
- (e) The application of the Council's earthquake prone policies of 2006 and 2010 to the building.

EVENTS BETWEEN 4 SEPTEMBER 2010 EARTHQUAKE AND 22 FEBRUARY 2011 EARTHQUAKE

- 6. On 5 September 2010, a Level 1 rapid assessment was carried out and the building received a green placard (**BUI.LIC43.0023.20**). Following the Boxing Day earthquake, on 26 December 2010 a Level 1 rapid assessment was carried out and the building received a green placard (**BUI.LIC43.0024.1**).

APPLICATION OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND THE COUNCIL'S EARTHQUAKE PRONE POLICY

- 7. The building was built in 2002 and was not considered likely to be earthquake prone.

DATED *13th Day of* January 2012



Stephen James McCarthy