

## Statement of evidence of Rajendra Fakir Unka

I, **RAJENDRA FAKIR UNKA**, Project Manager of Auckland, state:

### Introduction

1. I am a project manager employed by Opus International Consultants Limited.
2. I graduated Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) in 1979, I am a Member of IPENZ, and am a Chartered Professional Engineer. My first registration as a CPEng was in 1984.
3. I have been employed by Opus for the last 10 years. I have 15 years experience as a structural engineer.
4. I am normally based in Auckland. In October 2010 I started working in Christchurch for the purpose of assisting Opus with earthquake related work. In the same month I was seconded to the Christchurch City Council to assist it with building inspections.

### Inspections

5. I received an early briefing from Council staff on health and safety issues such as procedures for entering buildings. I received a separate Council briefing on the Rapid Level 2 Assessment and the completion of reports for those assessments.
6. The Council's general requirement was to carry out visual inspections of buildings as directed by the Council coordinators. Inspections should be internal if safe to do so, otherwise external only. Inspections were primarily visual. If I saw an accessible crack, for example, I might measure it, but primarily inspections were only visual.
7. The purpose of inspections was to identify damage caused to buildings by either the September 2010 or Boxing Day events and to determine whether buildings were safe according to the yellow, green and red placarding procedure.
8. Inspections were also for the purpose of changing notices served on building owners under the expired Civil Defence Emergency Management procedures to be notices under the Building Act.
9. Reinspection forms were given to us at the Council building in Hereford Street at morning briefings. Council staff prepared manila folders for each building. There was usually a discussion about the inspections for that day. The manila folder usually contained a reinspection form which the Council had typed in the building address and the inspector's name, an aerial photograph and/or a map and any previous Level 1 or 2 Rapid Assessments.
10. Specific instructions might be provided for a particular building sometimes in an email or by a direct approach from Council staff by phone call or during the briefings.

11. In inspecting buildings I took into account likely further aftershocks and I worked on the assumption that after shocks would continue. I assumed that aftershocks would be less than September and Boxing Day.

**194 Gloucester Street**

12. My inspection of 194 Gloucester Street on 3 February 2011 was a reinspection to renew the notice issued in respect of the building and to make the observations set out in the reinspection form **[BUJ.GLO194.0012.52]**.
13. I do not recall what I meant by the reference to a "previous assessment". This could have been the earlier Level 2 Rapid Assessment. I remember that construction workers and scaffolding were present when I inspected the building. It was apparent that securing works had not been completed and I therefore recommended that the cordon should remain.
14. Having regard to the potential for fall of loose materials, in my judgment the cordon was adequate. A subsequent assessment was carried out by Beca and the cordoning was removed, although I was not involved in that process.

Dated 17 January 2012

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R K Unkar