

**Statement of evidence of John William Mitchell**

I, **JOHN WILLIAM MITCHELL** of Auckland, Structural Engineer, state:

1. I hold a Bachelor of Engineering (civil). I am a member of the Institute of Professional Engineers of New Zealand (civil and structural). I am a Chartered Professional Engineer and have six years experience as a professional civil and structural engineer. I am employed by Opus International Consultants Limited as a civil and structural engineer.
2. In December 2010 I was seconded to the Building Recovery Office of the Christchurch City Council.
3. I was tasked with reading incoming engineering reports and requests from engineers external to the council and recommending a course of action for the Council.
4. In relation to the 200 Manchester Street building, I had a few telephone conversations with Chris Gordon and Simon Gifford of Lewis and Barrow in relation to their report and associated requests submitted to council.
5. I did not keep records of those conversations, but my recollection is that they related to the requirement for sign-off of reports and recommendations to be by a CPEng qualified engineer. I have seen a certificate provided by Chris Gordon dated 30 December 2010 **[BUI.MAN200.004.163]** together with an email of the same date setting out the works that had been carried out and requesting that the red sticker be removed. As Mr Gordon noted, he was not CPEng qualified. I believe that I advised him that a CPEng certificate would be required.
6. I believe that I then received a further certificate from a CPEng qualified structural engineer, Simon Gifford of Lewis and Barrow, dated 31 December 2010 **[BUI.MAN200.004.166]**.
7. On the basis of that certificate I recommended that the Building Act notice served on the owner and the red placard be removed, along with the cordoning. This is recorded in the "File Closure" form that I filled out **[BUI.MAN200.004.167]**.
8. My knowledge of the building and the works carried out following the September earthquake and aftershocks came from desktop study of existing records, reports submitted to the council and telephone conversations. I did not inspect the building.

9. I was most likely aware of the damage assessments undertaken on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of December. The reports submitted by Lewis and Barrow confirmed that works had been carried out addressing the damaged gable end wall mentioned in the damage assessment report.
10. The statement from Simon Gifford was the final piece of paperwork outstanding before the red notice could be removed in accordance with Council policy.

Dated 17 January 2012

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John Mitchell