



## Canterbury Earthquakes Royal Commission

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

29 September 2011

Andy Bell  
Simes Ltd  
PO Box 13341  
Armagh  
CHRISTCHURCH 8141

By email: [andy.bell@simes.co.nz](mailto:andy.bell@simes.co.nz)

Dear Sir

### **753, 755, 757 and 759 Colombo Street, Christchurch**

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Building Failure Caused by the Canterbury Earthquakes is currently examining the failure of a number of buildings in the Christchurch CBD, including the building that was situated at the above addresses (the Building).

I have obtained the Christchurch City Council file and note that you were the manager of the property on behalf of the owners. Would you therefore please provide the following information, as soon as possible, but no later than **7 October 2011**:

1. Was any structural strengthening of the Building carried out prior to the 4 September 2010 earthquake? If so, please provide any documentation/drawings/engineering reports/photographs which relate to that work.
2. Are you aware whether or not the Building was deemed an earthquake prone building under the Christchurch City Council's earthquake prone policy? Was any work done on the Building in relation to its status in terms of that policy? If so, please provide details.
3. Please provide details of any structural assessment of the Building following the 4 September 2010 earthquake, including copies of any engineering reports, drawings or photographs.
4. I note that from the Council file I already have the following:
  - Email from Hamish MacKinven of Lewis Bradford, Consulting Engineers dated 9 September 2010, 3.57pm;

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

- Letter from Hamish MacKinven to Church Property Trustees dated 8 October 2010 together with 4 photographs attached;
  - The site reports from Hamish MacKinven dated 18 October 2010 and 21 October 2010.
5. Apart from the documents referred to in the paragraph above, were any other inspections/assessments carried out on the structural integrity of the Building? If so, please provide details.
6. Was any structural assessment carried out following the Boxing Day earthquake? If so, please provide details and copies of all documentation, drawings and photographs. If not, please explain why this was not done.

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