

601/601A COLOMBO STREET
Hearing: Tuesday 14 February 2012, 9.30am

Summary

601/601A Colombo St was a two-storied un-reinforced masonry (URM) row building situated at the end of a block of buildings, on the south-west corner of Colombo and Mollett Sts.

Following the September earthquake the building was red placarded due to the Mollett St façade partially collapsing and cordons were placed blocking off Mollett St and the Colombo St corner of the building.

An inspection by a structural engineer, on behalf of the owner, on 15 September 2010 concluded that the building was unsafe to occupy.

A Building Act Notice was served on the owners but no make-safe work was carried out on the building prior to the February earthquake.

Norman Lee was a pedestrian on Colombo St. His body was found in rubble adjacent to 601/601A Colombo St (opposite 608 Colombo St).

Proposed Witnesses

1. Peter Smith, Spencer Holmes Ltd, structural engineer
2. Christchurch City Council
3. Paul Campbell, Opus Consultants Ltd, structural engineer
4. Marton Sinclair, Elliot Sinclair, structural engineer
5. John Dallison, Solicitor for owners.
6. Police information showing location of Mr Lee's body

Likely Issues

1. Application of the Council's earthquake-prone policy to the building.
2. Assessment of the structural integrity of the building after the September earthquake, in particular the Colombo St façade.
3. The adequacy of the cordons in front of the building.
4. Failure to carry out make-safe work to the building prior to 22 February 2011