

INTERVIEW RON GODKIN, 9 FEBRUARY 2012

The interview was held at Ron Godkin's house.

Godkin: I dropped the chocolate bar alongside that.

Hyland: It fell down. Obviously you're right-handed.

Godkin: I had it in my right hand like that and it knocked it out. It didn't hit my fingers at all.

Hyland: My name's Clark Hyland and this is -

Smith: Ashley Smith.

Godkin: Ron Godkin, and I was a tutor at Kings Education. I was tutoring in public health, preparing people to work within the retirement industry, and I was tutoring in three subjects within public health on the ACE programme and I was devising another series of things that we could do because we were going to become more social service orientated, concentrating on people who wanted to work within everything in social services, so I was working on that. I had worked with Brian Taylor, the manager, on the teacher aide and that was about ready to go and we had also worked – we had purchased and we were working under licence running a nannying course. In terms of computer records, for the nannying course I was the contact but it was thought that young women might get a bit self-conscious talking to a male about personal details so I had a computer name of Margaret's because it was very controversial and feminine type stuff.

Hyland: Okay, so it's 3.30, it's 9 February 2012 and we're talking about Ron's recollections of the collapse of the CTV building and we've drawn a picture of the floor layout and Ron is just showing that he was standing in front of the lifts looking north at the lifts at the time of the earthquake starting.

Godkin: When the earthquake – I dropped the chocolate bar, it got knocked out of my hands. I was a little bit unsteady so I put my hand out like that to steady myself, my right hand, up against the lift shaft, the struts at the side, and the lift façade, in my opinion, moved in by 45 degrees which it then –

Hyland: Towards you?

Godkin: Towards me, which I lost – I started to lose my balance.

Hyland: 45 degrees meaning millimetres or degrees?

Godkin: 45 – moved in like that.

Hyland: You felt like it really leaned over –

Godkin: It leaned over. So if that's - so if that's the lift façade –

- Hyland: Standing vertical, yeah.
- Godkin: *Standing vertical, I put my hand out to steady myself and at that stage this façade moved in by that much.*
- Hyland: Moved towards you, okay, so tilting – if we did a rough angle on your pen we'd be saying that's about –
- Godkin: 45?
- Hyland: Oh no, it would be – say if you get a six-inch pen, you've gone about out two inches, so you're on an angle of 2 to 6 I'd say, yeah.
- Godkin: *Okay. At which stage I was losing my balance so I could see where the chocolate bar was so I then moved forward to pick up the chocolate bar, and where I was standing – I was – this is where I was –*
- Hyland: Standing in front of the lift.
- Godkin: *Yes, and this part here was David – okay - so he had actually moved closer to push for the lift to come up.*
- Hyland: So he was on the left-hand side of you, facing north.
- Godkin: *On the left-hand side of me. I was there and when the lift shaft façade started to move towards me, I got a bit unsteady of my feet so I then started to crouch down. Because I was crouched down and moved forward to pick up my chocolate bar, at which stage I'd moved that way –*
- Hyland: Moved west a bit.
- Godkin: *Yes, at which stage a lump of concrete the size of an adult's body crashed down where I'd been standing. I was then able to see – I was getting onto all fours – I could see that there was a supporting beam across there, so I put the supporting beam that had fallen – I'm calling it a supporting beam, you might like to call it something else.*
- Hyland: The supporting beam running north/south from the – we'll call that the western wall of the lift.
- Godkin: *The western wall of the lift – it was right in front of the bookcase - so I moved closer towards that supporting beam because the supporting beam was about that thick. It was thick enough –*
- Hyland: You're sort of saying it's roughly about 600 deep.
- Godkin: *Well I was on – I realised I had to protect my back so I actually got down, if you don't mind me sort of demonstrating, my feet were pointing north. I was like this. I looked to my left and I could start seeing – I thought -. because I could see the rooms on the southern side drop. They just dropped - and as I was –*

- Hyland: Like your storage rooms?
- Godkin: *No, these were – the first one I noticed that had dropped – I could see right down into this one here.*
- Hyland: The tutor's room next to the South Wall.
- Godkin: *Yes, it was a tutor's room because there was a person in there and I could see that person – moved so fast, he put his hands, or she, put her hands up like that out of sheer fright because it just dropped.*
- Hyland: Their floor was dropping below them.
- Godkin: *The floor they were standing on had dropped.*
- Hyland: Oh okay, so the wall was still there, but the floor was dropping away.
- Godkin: *The drop was ... and I think what I was able to see past the tutor that was there or the person, was this outside fire escape.*
- Hyland: The fire escape wall.
- Godkin: Yes.
- Hyland: The South Wall they call that.
- Godkin: *Yes, the south wall that contained the fire escape, and I then realised I had to quickly move from here, and I moved off like that and put myself – had to lift the bushel with my hand above my head to protect myself. I was more like that so I had to protect my head.*
- Hyland: So your head facing eastwards.
- Godkin: *Head facing eastwards, by which time I knew that the southern wall had dropped and I was able to –*
- Hyland: When you say the southern wall, do you mean the southern floor?
- Godkin: *The southern part of the floor had dropped.*
- Hyland: The southern part of the floor, okay.
- Godkin: *And I saw – I saw –*
- Hyland: Where the tutor was.
- Godkin: *Where the tutor – tutor, student, whatever – and I watched them on all fours and I could see the filing cabinets bouncing up and down.*
- Hyland: Down this corridor here.
- Godkin: *Yes, I could see down here.*

Hyland: You could see down that corridor.

Godkin: *You could see that – that was all – that one’s not quite to scale because that’s actually there – I could see down here.*

Hyland: Down the corridor to the –

Godkin: *I could see filing cabinets here, filing cabinets here bouncing up and down –*

Hyland: Yes, past the receptionist desk.

Godkin: *Receptionist’s desk and when I got to there – and I had enough time to see these bouncing up and down and then get onto my back and protect myself, I was able to see when it got to the reception desk that on the table behind her was a great big stapler – for stapling, you know large -*

Hyland: Did you walk down there? No, no, you were just looking - your view was of it coming back -

Godkin: *I was like this on all fours.*

Hyland: Now looking east? Looking north/south? Looking south? Yes, down the corridor.

Godkin: *Looking down the corridor and I could hear the vibrations, I could hear the noise and the vibrations coming towards me.*

Hyland: So there’s a vertical vibration.

Godkin: *Up and down , yes. I could literally see – I was transfixed basically for a few moments because to see those filing cabinets, that were that high, bouncing up and down by at least that much –*

Hyland: Would they be four-drawer or five-drawer cabinets?

Godkin: *The biggest you can get - four, five.*

Hyland: By how much do you say bouncing up – so it’s showing about four inches, five or six inches?

Godkin: *About six inches, because they were bouncing up and down, and when it came to this part here and I saw the –*

Hyland: So when you’re saying that – that floor movement –

Godkin: *Floor movement going up and down.*

Hyland: That sort of wave, did you say like a wave coming to you?

Godkin: *There was a wave coming towards me.*

Hyland: So it’s coming from the South Wall, up that corridor, through to where the reception desk –

- Godkin: *It was like this type of action.*
- Hyland: So you've got a piece of paper and you're waving it up and down.
- Godkin: *Waving it up and down - because where I was standing – where I was on my all fours out in front of the lift was quite steady but this part towards – so it was like this, up and down like that, but I was able to see – before I went onto my side to protect my back and my head – that this great big stapler which would have been about that big –*
- Hyland: Yeah, it's one of those big extended staplers – maybe 16 inch.
- Godkin: *Yeah, something like that, for stapling 300 odd sheets together. It went from that table there – it went through the fancy window into the tutor's room and completely smashed it.*
- Hyland: So the tutor's room on the eastern side or the western side?
- Godkin: *This is the tutor's room on the western side.*
- Hyland: Oh okay, so it was sitting on a cabinet and it went straight through the window.
- Godkin: *It went straight through the window - at which stage the person who was on reception went into the tutor's room - for protection. So the people who lost their lives who were tutors were in the tutor's room. We had another person – this was a resource area where we had DVDs and other types of teaching equipment which was in there, and Nolly Titaki had gone from the tutor's room where he'd finished lunch into there to get something, to bring – yeah, get something for tutoring that afternoon.*
- Hyland: So that's the tutoring room there which is sort of in line with that South Wall. So in the middle of the building, you would call that between lines 2 and 3, the tutoring room, around about grid – what would that be? It would be about Grid D.
- Smith: D, D2.
- Hyland: D2, D3 area.
- Smith: Yes.
- Hyland: So the vertical wave – you could see the thing coming up to the – it was travelling up – it was flicking up and down and you could - see things basically flying -
- Godkin: *The stapler, at that stage –*
- Hyland: Went through the window into the tutor's room.
- Godkin: *At which stage while I could see this coming, I had to protect myself even more, so I –*

- Hyland: Seeing the vertical coming?
- Godkin: *The vertical coming, I had to protect myself, so I got up against this supporting beam which was in the foyer outside the reception area here.*
- Hyland: That had fallen down.
- Godkin: *That had fallen down, and I put my back up against it to protect my spine and had my hand over my head like this, and by the time I was moving around, another lump of concrete inside the room, human body, hit me on the back between my shoulder blades, and when I was up against this supporting beam there, another lump of concrete slid down my arm. Now I think that this –*
- Hyland: What happened after that? What happened after that?
- Godkin: *Well, I noticed that – I think that the admin and the ... the rooms on the eastern side were still there, but I think they dropped as the southern wall, and southern parts of the building dropped away.*
- Hyland: Southern parts of the floor dropped away.
- Godkin: *So by the time the earthquake had finished, the eastern parts of the building had all dropped.*
- Hyland: Yeah.
- Godkin: *But at the time that I saw this person in this room drop, the eastern rooms were still there.*
- Hyland: Yeah, okay, so that's – so when you're talking ... northern pointing at the north and eastern side.
- Godkin: *Yeah. When this particular part – yes, quite correct – when this part dropped away here, this part was still intact.*
- Hyland: Still intact so –
- Godkin: *And this part was still intact.*
- Hyland: Okay, so lines – are we talking lines 2 and 3, grid E, may have still been intact with floors coming away?
- Godkin: *And after the earthquake was over, all of this side here, I was able to see had actually dropped outwards.*
- Hyland: Out eastwards.
- Godkin: *Yes. I was there. I could see blue sky out here.*
- Hyland: By the lifts, you could see – so looking eastwards you could see –
- Godkin: *Blue sky. I looked up above and I could see blue sky.*

Hyland: Oh really?

Godkin: *Yeah. So that's why I was disputing what people were saying because if it had dropped away here first, I wouldn't be alive.*

Hyland: You wouldn't be alive, yeah.

Godkin: *But dropping here, by the time it got to there, I was able to protect myself more.*

Hyland: You're disputing that – you don't think it would have – didn't come away from the north core.

Godkin: *No.*

Hyland: Before you saw the south, the floor going.

Godkin: *I saw the south floor, the south part of the floor dropping –*

Hyland: Dropping away before –

Godkin: *And then it was just waving.*

Hyland: Waving, and then that was sort of like a wave coming through, and everything was going, coming towards you. A westward ... into this thing and the stapler went through and then –

Godkin: *When I was standing there at the start –*

Hyland: Sorry, so looking at that, so when you looked up –

Godkin: *When I was looking up after the first earthquake had hit, I could see out of here.*

Hyland: Looking east.

Godkin: *Looking east, I could see blue sky out of this part.*

Hyland: Would you be saying you'd be looking through there?

Godkin: *Yes.*

Hyland: Looking through that gap?

Godkin: *Looking through the gap which was, up until the earthquake, that was a glass window, and that glass window continued into Margaret Ayton's office.*

Hyland: Yes, on -

Godkin: *And after the earthquake was over, I could see blue sky through there.*

Hyland: Sorry, just for the tape, so you're looking at the window between the eastern-most wall of the North Core and column. We call that column C18. So you were able to look through here.

Godkin: *So I could see that there was nothing there. This part here had dropped.*

Hyland: This is the office just south of the north –

Godkin: *Yes, this is Margaret Ayton's room.*

Hyland: Margaret Ayton's room, yes.

Godkin: *And we crawled out of the window which was no more there, and all of this floor had dropped by at least the height of a floor, so it all collapsed into itself.*

Hyland: Yes, sort of held up a little bit on the –

Godkin: *Mmm, now I talked about –*

Hyland: Sorry, sorry to butt in –

Godkin: *That's alright.*

Hyland: So you're saying the level 4 floor you were on actually –

Godkin: *Third floor.*

Hyland: Yeah, in terms of – we try and just describe it in terms of the way it was shown on the drawings. So they're saying level – the 4th floor – the third floor is Level 4.

Godkin: *Okay. I mentioned before –*

Hyland: So that had dropped by a floor.

Godkin: *Mmm.*

Hyland: Yeah, okay.

Godkin: *I mentioned before also that there was a hump in the floor. The hump in the floor was in front of the reception desk.*

Hyland: The hump in the floor. After – you noticed it after September?

Godkin: *Yes, it was there after September. I just put down hump in floor.*

Smith: Would that have been on those column lines - that column line?

Godkin: *Could very well be, because this part was normal height and this part started to drop away, so that would account for being in front of those columns.*

- Hyland: Was there carpet on the floor?
- Godkin: *No, because in front of the reception desk there was vinyl and we had carpet down this way. This part could quite easily have coincided there.*
- Hyland: So just from our point, so it could have coincided with Line 3.
- Smith: Line 3, yeah.
- Hyland: Line 3, beam.
- (Discussion returned to recollections of the debris falling on and around Ron adjacent to the North Core)*
- Smith: I just want to go back to this beam – you’re calling that a beam.
- Godkin: *Yes.*
- Smith: I’m just wondering how that – whether that – could that have come detached at this side and swung down somehow? How would that – because the beam is –
- Godkin: *Well, I call it a beam because –*
- Hyland: The beam would run that way.
- Smith: Yeah, yeah.
- Godkin: *If it was a beam that had run back through here –*
- Hyland: East to west.
- Godkin: *Then it would have taken out possibly the two of us that were standing there, but this beam was going north/south, and it was thick enough – it was at least the thickness of my body going from here to here. It was concrete.*
- Smith: Solid concrete.
- Godkin: *Solid concrete.*
- Hyland: Could it have been coated ... about that thick?
- Godkin: *It was the thickness of my body going that way.*
- Hyland: ... framed up.
- Godkin: *That ... framed concrete, solid core.*
- Hyland: It’s a hard one actually, Ron, because we can’t – there’s sort of no concrete – see the drawings there of that area, there’s just a slab there. So I’m just trying to think what – I mean obviously something fell there – was it concrete?

- Godkin: If that would have been a supporting beam through here, how come it had swung around at such an angle to go right across there? If it had fallen from here, then it would have taken out David and myself.*
- Hyland: Something from Level 5 dropped down that felt like concrete, about 600 –
- Godkin: Where it was on the floor to the top of it was the thickness of going from my shoulder there to that shoulder there.*
- Hyland: So your body width.
- Godkin: The body width.*
- Hyland: Okay.
- (Discussion returns to the hump in the floor at Line 3)*
- Godkin: And this hump in the floor, looking at it in hindsight, because over in the audiovisual room we had a supporting part here, there was an upright – we'll call it a supporting post, and going from here, this point here to –*
- Smith: We'll call that Line 3. That's Line 2 running down there, that's Line 3. Just from a reference grid point of view.
- Godkin: And going from Line 3 there was a jagged – there was plasterboard and a great big crack had developed in the wall.*
- Hyland: Plasterboard wall in the corridor as you went from –
- Godkin: This was the tutor's room. They've got the tutor's room here. There was a great big crack in the wall.*
- Hyland: Plasterboard partition between the tutor's room and the AV room.
- Godkin: Yes, and if you went into the student café –*
- Hyland: The student café – we're calling that Line A.
- Godkin: There was a crack, there was a window there, and underneath the window there was a crack in the plasterboard which coincided with the crack there.*
- Hyland: Oh okay, in the tutor's room partition. Similar, similar to the crack in the plasterboard and what you saw on the outside wall. That's Level 4, so that's just above masonry wall, isn't it?
- Godkin: Yeah. So this hump here – this hump here meant that if you were sitting at reception desk, there's enough of a roll that an ordinary HB pencil would roll towards you.*
- Hyland: So the lump was more on the south side of that beam.
- Godkin: This is all a normal sort of level, but on the south side of this hump that developed from the floor, that's got progressively worse.*

- Hyland: Did anyone lift the lino to have a look underneath?
- Godkin: *I don't know. I was asked that before. I don't know. The vinyl was done in square type stuff and as far as I'm aware it was not lifted but I was told that in any building like this, as the concrete floor dries out, a hump develops anyway.*
- Smith: Can do. You can get shrinkage movement so the thing – yeah, you can get it.
- Godkin: *The hump got progressively worse, and the hump there was what staff and myself went to Brian about.*
- Hyland: You were concerned about it.
- Godkin: *We were concerned about it.*
- Hyland: And did the engineer that came in after September have a look at that hump?
- Godkin: *It was hardly noticeable.*
- Hyland: Could hardly see it, yeah.
- Godkin: *Yeah, it was hardly noticeable, but as we got more and more shakes, earthquakes, this hump got more and more noticeable.*
- Hyland: So just trying to clarify it again, so was the hump – you could see it in the surface of the vinyl?
- Godkin: *Yes.*
- Hyland: By vinyl squares, are you saying like tiles, 300 x 300 tiles?
- Godkin: *No, I don't think it was even that. I think it was just straight vinyl, big sheets of vinyl which –*
- Hyland: Oh okay, yeah, okay. Because they're stuck down on the concrete –
- Godkin: *They're stuck down so he said that that was all – that everything that was supposed to have done was –*
- Hyland: The engineer? The engineer's view of it at the time?
- Godkin: *Yes.*
- Hyland: Because we can follow up with that. No-one's mentioned that one before.
- Smith: Oh, it was mentioned that there was some variation of the floor.
- Godkin: *Three days before 22 February, we had to section off this part of the corridor because we noticed –*

- Hyland: Just for the tape, this is the western part of the corridor by the north room.
- Godkin: *Yes, but of course this water had developed, it was seeping out of the wall there.*
- Hyland: Seeping out of the toilet?
- Godkin: *No, it was further down towards the west, towards my room, and I'd noticed that the floor was not – had a small hollow in there because the water had puddled and the puddle depth was about that much, but this is not the first time this had happened. It had seeped out of the wall before, and going back to the receptionist at the CTV, I was able to find out that they were working on the heat pump in the floor above - and previously they had been working on the heat pump but there was more water coming out –*
- Hyland: Coming, finding a way through the –
- Godkin: *It was coming out of the wall itself, out of the skirting.*
- Hyland: Out of the skirting on the outer wall.
- Godkin: *This wall here was where it had come out of the wall here and we had to section off this particular part because it was quite wet. It was coming out quite badly.*
- Hyland: So just to describe that, that's like a return wall, partition wall, coming out parallel with – I'll call that line – that's Line C there, with Line C of the – would that wall be on the line with the edge of the toilets?
- Godkin: *Yes.*
- Hyland: There's like a partition coming out, running into the main part of the building. You say you were getting water coming out of the skirting.
- Godkin: *There was water coming out of the skirting.*
- Hyland: Out of that partition.
- Godkin: *Yes, and I looked at the skirting and there was a gap of about that much in the skirting and it was just coming out.*
- Hyland: Sorry, sorry. You are saying there was some maintenance being done on –
- Godkin: *On the floor above.*
- Hyland: On the heat exchanger on the floor above.
- Godkin: *Yes.*
- Hyland: And they explained – did they say that that was what was causing it?
- Godkin: *Yes, yes they did, and this was the second time it had happened.*

- Hyland: Oh okay, before or after the earthquake?
- Godkin: *After the September earthquake, this was the second time.*
- Hyland: Second time after the September earthquake.
- Godkin: *Because they were preparing the floor above for new tenants.*
- Hyland: Ah right, and that's why – because that was empty, wasn't it?
- Godkin: *Mmm.*
- Smith: No the clinic -
- Godkin: *The clinic had just moved in about a month before.*
- Smith: It was a half -
- Godkin: *It was half empty, and the travel school had moved out at Christmas time.*
- Hyland: So what you're saying is the western side of Level 5 – the clinic was on the eastern side. The clinic was on this side.
- Godkin: *Yes.*
- Smith: And then this part was empty, and they were preparing –
- Godkin: *They were preparing this –*
- Smith: The western side, yes.
- Godkin: *But this building had shaken for year - because I got to my last year, 2011 – a real estate agent who years before had worked for a bank that had been in that particular –*
- Hyland: Yes.
- Godkin: *And he was saying “oh, what did you think –” when he found out where I was, he said “what did you think about the building?”. I said “what do you mean?” and he said “well” – when he'd worked out of there eight years before, the building used to shake with heavy vehicles going down Madras Street.*
- Hyland: Heavy vehicles going down Madras Street, this was back in 2003ish.
- Godkin: *No, you can ... find how long ago he was there, I'll just – because he was the guy who brokeraged our house ...*
- Hyland: That's quite interesting to hear that actually, Ron, you know in terms of the building being lively in 2003ish with vehicles. It wasn't necessarily just because of the earthquake. It was lively –
- Godkin: *It was lively for a long time.*

Hyland: A lively building.

Godkin: *Yeah, now they moved out of the building, and his reason for moving out of the building was that they didn't like the shakiness of the building.*

Smith: Right, gosh, is that right?

Hyland: So the bank didn't like it because it was too unnerving.

Godkin: *Yes, now his name is Geoff Cropper. His number is 03 –*

Hyland: I'll read it off here. That's great.

Godkin: *And it's got his cell number below it.*

Hyland: Excellent, thank you.

Godkin: *So they didn't like it when they were there. I'm not quite sure which bank it was – it was either BNZ or ANZ, one of those two. I think it was probably BNZ, and he was in the investment section of the bank.*

Smith: I saw a fit out for ANZ on the ground floor.

Godkin: *It was either ANZ or BNZ, I'm not quite sure which one it was.*

Smith: -

Hyland: Yeah, I think they may have had a couple of levels. Might have had their investment section upstairs.

Godkin: *Geoff is located out of the Harcourts office in Merrin Street, 49 Merrin Street. Because you'd go past – could virtually go past that when you're going past Avonhead Mall to get to Merrin Street.*

Hyland: You said that was one of their reasons for moving out.

Godkin: *Mmm.*

Hyland: They said it was just –

Godkin: *They didn't like it, he didn't like it. I think it was ...*

Hyland: It's very interesting to hear that.

Godkin: *Because you'd be able to find out how many years ago that he was there.*

Hyland: So it's probably – it's around about eight years approximately?

Godkin: *In excess of eight years, I would say. When I first came to work in Christchurch, I was located in an office in Madras Street, just over from Latimer Square, and I think it was when I was working out of that office that I went and walked down Madras Street, went into his office.*

- Hyland: So just going back to this, is there anything else you want to say about your experience?
- Godkin: *They were talking about walls, brick works, which had separated and it was quite – going in – this was going into the building in this way. This is the foyer coming in here.*
- Smith: You mean down at ground level?
- Godkin: *Ground level. If you continued past the disability toilet, you could go into a carpark area, and this particular part here, down at the ground level, there were concrete blocks. At the top of the concrete blocks, from the top of the concrete blocks to the floor, that had separated by that much.*
- Hyland: Yes, about 20 mm or so, there was a gap there.
- Godkin: *There was a gap there.*
- Hyland: But there was a gap there, which is actually what we sort of think, well actually it's correct.
- Godkin: *And at the end of the carpark area, there was another concrete block area, and after the 22nd – no, maybe the day before – that whole wall had come down. Yes, it was the day before because I was out there talking to one of our colleagues and this wall had come down.*
- Smith: Which one? In between those two columns?
- Godkin: *No.*
- Hyland: On the outside of the building.
- Godkin: *Outside the building.*
- Smith: Oh, the neighbouring wall.
- Godkin: *There was a wall out here, concrete block, to extend it, so this part here became an area that smokers would go to.*
- Hyland: They had extended the Line A wall.
- Godkin: *I went out to this particular part because I wanted to check up with one of – talk to one of the staff that lost her life and this concrete block wall here which was – there was nothing above it but it was just extending this wall here to make it more of a comfortable area for smokers.*
- Hyland: Making a bit of an alcove.
- Godkin: *Yeah.*
- Hyland: At the northern end of Line A.

- Godkin:* And you might hear people saying that the walls came down. That wall had come down days before.
- Hyland:* Days before the earthquake on the 22nd, it had come down?
- Godkin:* Well it actually had collapsed in that way.
- Hyland:* Oh, because of demolition work going on? Or it just –
- Godkin:* Could have been demolition work. What it's saying – staff were saying that the demolition ball had hit a hole, made a hole in the wall, and the wall they had hit by mistake was this wall here.
- Hyland:* Oh okay, this extension wall. And do you know if it was – when did they build that wall, do you know?
- Godkin:* I think it was built with the rest of the building.
- Hyland:* Oh okay, so the whole –
- Godkin:* Concrete block wall all the way along here.
- Hyland:* Do you remember looking at those concrete block walls from the inside?
- Godkin:* They looked alright to me - the only thing that looked suspect - I remember looking at that and thinking "if they have another big earthquake that's going to fall down" and sure enough –
- Hyland:* That was this one outside.
- Godkin:* That was the one outside, and it was hit by a ball.
- Hyland:* That would have annoyed a few smokers.
- Godkin:* Yeah. Staff had told me that they had to go down and check because they'd put a hole in the wall, and I looked at this part and that wall had come down but these concrete block walls on this wall here were still intact.
- Hyland:* They looked okay.
- Godkin:* Mmm, because I was the – because no-one else wanted it – I was the health and safety officer for our floor. I'd organised three visits from Cranford Glass to repair windows along here.
- Hyland:* On the south wall.
- Godkin:* And there was a level of damage on this southern part of this room as well.
- Hyland:* Interesting. So you were saying – you said in the meeting that there was more damage on the south wall glass than down on the eastern wall.
- Godkin:* Yes.

Hyland: But there was some here on this corner.

Godkin: *After the September earthquake, there was a little bit of damage on this wall which ... fixed up.*

Hyland: So that's the northeast – there was a crack along there.

Godkin: *There was a crack, but these suffered more damage, and at one stage I was looking at them every day and then it got back to once a week.*

Hyland: When you say more damage, more cracking?

Godkin: *There was more cracking.*

Hyland: Or -

Godkin: *Cracks. Some of them were reinforced glass.*

Hyland: Oh okay, so they couldn't cope with –

Godkin: *The movement, and we'd actually had those windows along there replaced upwards of three times. Cranford Glass could verify that.*

Hyland: All the windows?

Godkin: *Just the major ones. The major ones that were damaged were this one here.*

Hyland: Just to be pedantic, that's between E and F.

Godkin: *Yes. The windows in this part, by the fire escape, were pretty good.*

Hyland: Oh, within the fire escape?

Godkin: *Yeah, looking out to the fire escape were pretty good because they were reinforced glass with wire in, but we were happy to have those ones done –*

Hyland: So that's – let's see, that's between B and C, lines B and C.

Godkin: *So those ones got done quite often, and these ones got done.*

Hyland: Line 1, E and F. They were the ones. But these ones less often? These ones not so -

Godkin: *These ones less often. That one's okay.*

Hyland: So C and D not too bad.

Godkin: *That was okay. This one had one window crack because it was a mixture of reinforced glass and ordinary glass. These ones –*

Hyland: Cracks here, cracks here –

- Godkin: *And the crack was more up to here, and the glass here, because we had partitions for the tutors' rooms with – they were not load-bearing, they were just – so the reinforced glass in the previous life would have been right up to here. My room was over here.*
- Hyland: So you're on the north wall.
- Godkin: *And it had a big window, and the glass –*
- Hyland: So Line 4.
- Godkin: *The glass wall was about that thick.*
- Hyland: Oh okay.
- Godkin: *It was about normal thickness.*
- Hyland: Quarter of an inch , about 6 mm.
- Godkin: *And I would have thought that – I was forever coming in and checking my room after I'd heard of an aftershock because I was expecting that this glass in the window here, which was not reinforced, would have smashed, but at no time did it smash.*
- Hyland: That's very interesting. I mean that is an interesting observation. It's quite consistent.
- Godkin: *I would have thought that if it dropped away here first, if the structural integrity on this side was bad, then the window in my room would have smashed and we would have had to replace it. The window was held in by rubber and there was a little bit of movement, a little bit of a movement, had moved a bit. I could see there was a gap of about that much down in the bottom right-hand corner when you were looking out to the north, but it hadn't moved very much at all.*
- Hyland: So on the south, on Line 1, and what about down along Line F? Basically they were all reinforced or was it just –
- Godkin: *No, no. These were okay. It was strange. Like you were saying it dropped away from the north or from these, but it was –*
- Hyland: No, no, I think you might have misinterpreted what we said there. I mean, this part here, we're saying – if you looked at those things it was actually twisting around like that. We were expecting the movement to be much bigger along here and down here, and the movement along here to be less.
- Godkin: *Okay that would be in keeping - there was little movement in the window there.*
- Hyland: See, a stiff thing there.

- Godkin:* A little bit of movement in the windows there, very little movement in the windows there, but more movement in these ones.
- Hyland:* Right. Now, are you able to – can you remember if any of the other tenants, like on the floors above, had similar problems with the windows?
- Godkin:* Now the other thing I'll just mention as well, there was a great big glass wall – there was an entrance way into the student café there and another one there.
- Hyland:* This is on the western side of the AV room corridor.
- Godkin:* Yeah, and a big crack had developed about the middle. It had gone from the top to the bottom, and I got black tape to tape it because if there was going to be aftershocks we didn't want the glass to break out and cut any of the students. That crack in the glass would have coincided with the crack in the plasterboard there, the crack in the plasterboard in the tutor's room and so on.
- Smith:* Is this the one you were talking about 50 millimetres?
- Godkin:* Yes, that's it.
- Smith:* Oh okay, so then this – there was also a crack which ran from ceiling to floor in an internal partition wall.
- Godkin:* Yes.
- Smith:* Glass.
- Godkin:* In the glass –
- Smith:* The glass partition wall.
- Godkin:* It was the glass partition wall in the student café.
- Smith:* Oh, is that item 7 in the statement? (*The statement by Ron to the Royal Commission*).
- Godkin:* Yes. That was all in line right through there.
- Hyland:* Okay. Just going back to this – when you were standing, when you were at the lift, you wouldn't be able to see through the storage area?
- Godkin:* No, you couldn't see through the storage where we were.
- Hyland:* So your field of view would have been down that corridor.
- Godkin:* Straight down that corridor.
- Hyland:* You could see into the tutor's room in front of the south wall because they had a glass partition.

- Godkin: Yes, yes.
- Hyland: What about into these ones? Was there glass? Could you see through them into the –
- Godkin: *There was no one there when I was there. It was right at lunchtime and the student café was full, and my students were in. I had at the time – I had two tables like this. My desk was in front. Had a light board there, and I had – having their lunch, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, so they were all having their lunch in there, and most of them had their – and they wanted to chat, and I said “no, I’ve got someone waiting”. Now at this end I had freestanding shelves here with the new stuff that I was promoting - tutoring in. I had a filing cabinet there. I had some more shelving there.*
- Hyland: So you’re drawing a picture of your office. Is that what you’re saying here?
- Godkin: Yes.
- Hyland: So there were students actually – so you are locating students in your office having lunch at two tables.
- Godkin: *... my tutor’s room, yes. I had, down this wall here, there was glass windows from the ceiling to about halfway down so I could see out and let more light in. I had, in this corner here, I had a bookcase, and on this wall here there was another filing cabinet.*
- Hyland: On the north wall, in front of the window there.
- Godkin: *Mmm, this is the north part here.*
- Hyland: Oh okay, okay.
- Godkin: *Sorry, no this is the north here.*
- Hyland: Where are we here?
- Godkin: *This is north.*
- Hyland: Oh okay, so you’ve got the windows running down here. This is south. The corridor going through here.
- Godkin: *Yes. I had a filing cabinet there, had a small table there, and there was another something there, another filing cabinet. Shelving there to block people off from going through into the students’ café through the doorway which was there.*
- Hyland: Okay. Just coming back to here though, could you from here look through these offices to see the outside wall of –
- Godkin: *After the earthquake was all over –*

- Hyland: No, before the earthquake. If you were just sort of wandering down from here – you come out of the lift and you were looking down at reception, could you look through all of those offices?
- Godkin: *Yes, you could because there was a doorway here and there was a window. So you could look through here, look through there, and there were glass windows along here, glass walls. So you could look in here, you could look into this room as well.*
- Hyland: So there was sort of – they had like glazing from sort of –
- Godkin: *It was not glazing because glazing – it was clear glass and you could look in.*
- Hyland: Clear glass. So you could look through – you could see everyone. If everyone was sitting at their desks, you could see everyone right through, and you could see through to – it was like an open plan but with glass partitions just to add a bit of privacy.
- Godkin: *Yes, that's right.*
- Hyland: Oh okay, yeah good.
- Smith: You still didn't say how you got out. How did you get out?
- Godkin: *David, he was with me, he said "we've got to move, it's not safe" and I said "yes I know". As I had rubble up to here on my chest, so I got the rubble, small bits of rubble about that big, and I got it all down to my legs and then I discovered that there was big lump of concrete across – imagine that was my foot, I had a lump of concrete on the side, and another lump of concrete across the top, and so David actually drew on his adrenalin strength to pull this lump of concrete off. He pulled it off that way, but I was still wedged quite strongly with this other block of concrete there, and I was up against this whatever it was that had fallen down. So I actually, in pulling myself out, managed to squash my foot more to pull it out. I knew I'd broken my foot, but I didn't know how badly it was until I got to the clinic and took my shoe off. Turned the shoe upside down and blood poured out.*
- Hyland: Is it okay?
- Godkin: *I have got about 80% use of my foot. But getting out of here - this is Madras Street. I'll just draw in Madras Street for you. Of course we were climbing down – by which time we were getting out, we were climbing down over this rubble over here.*
- Hyland: Oh okay, so you sort of came up on top.
- Godkin: *We came out through the hole here and the reinforced windows – the reinforced window. David helped me crawling across the rubble on the floor and we looked out here and there were people coming down Madras Street covered in dust and makeshift bandages and out from the dust came two well dressed policemen and he called out to them that we needed a hand*

and they stopped and one policeman said “you’re going to have to crawl over, turn over towards your backside, sir, and slide down”. I was a bit slow and David said, “we can’t work very fast because he’s broken his foot”. At which stage they’d climbed up to the top of the rubble and one guy – the other cop said “you have to move over onto your arse, sir, and slide down” and when a cop talks like that to you, you don’t argue back. But what they were unable to see was that right in front of me was this reinforced window that had dropped out, so I had to make my way down, over the rubble, and bypass this sheet of glass, otherwise if I had have slid down I would have got myself cut.

Hyland: So you didn’t have another slab on top of you?

Godkin: *No. I was here and we could look up and we could see sky.*

Hyland: It was actually clear.

Godkin: *I could see patches of sky. I could look out here and see patches of sky. I could look out from here and see patches of sky where I thought – because normally there’s ceiling there.*

Hyland: So it’s pulled away. The slab’s pulled away above you. Level 5 slab had pulled out.

Godkin: *And this part had actually dropped down, and when we were climbing down –*

Hyland: Level 5 was - oh he might have – Level 5 was racked over, wasn’t it?

Godkin: *It was racked over because alongside, alongside the main entrance, a little bit back from the main entrance there was a station wagon and it had completely dropped in on top of the station wagon, so the station wagon was like that - like that there, but after it had dropped in, it had caved in like that.*

Hyland: The Level 5 slab there - Level 5 slab which would have been just above you, clear.

Godkin: *Mmm, so this part had dropped away here and you could see the car here so we came down this way.*

Hyland: Through here. Slid. Tried to.

Godkin: *Mmm, tried to, but this particular one was completely smashed in.*

Hyland: So you were here, but Margaret was sort of inside here.

Godkin: *She came out through the entrance. She had enough time to get out through the entrance.*

Hyland: The slab above her had come down. There was another guy with her.

- Godkin: There was, not a guy, another woman and she was our immigration consultant.*
- Hyland: Oh okay.*
- Godkin: Nerrillie.*
- Hyland: Nerillie, right, okay. So that thing came down, it came down – it must have been just about on top of you. You were lucky it didn't hit you.*
- Godkin: Yeah.*
- Hyland: Just looking at Figure 77 in the report. (Referring to the piece of slab hanging from Level 5).*
- Godkin: So the foot got crushed, I got two breaks in my big toe, one break in my next toe, and two breaks across there.*
- Hyland: Right across it.*
- Godkin: Yeah, so after I had the plaster taken off – I can still get – if my foot gets cold – if I'm standing in the shower, my foot goes from normal colour to red to maroon and for months afterwards the maroon would go from maroon to black and the blackness would go up my leg to my knee, and if I said – I said to the district nurses who were coming in to treat my foot because the wound was not healing – that if I was a diabetic, the colour of the foot, I'd be worried that I would have it amputated, because there was nerve damage. Any district nurse that came in, I had to say to her "I'm not diabetic but you will see a change in colour of my foot" because when they took the fibreglass plaster off to treat it – I had a plaster cast on to start off with but they had to treat it on a regular basis because I had a compound fracture. If that doesn't show you how, if you don't mind. Push on?*
- Hyland: Oh yeah, yeah, sure. I'm just wondering if you have anything that – not at this stage. It's been very helpful.*
- Godkin: After I had the plaster off, I couldn't tie shoelaces in my shoe because I had that much – left the shoelaces in my track shoes and I couldn't tie them up, so my foot was really quite swollen, and that's what the foot looks like now.*
- Hyland: Had a bit of work on it.*
- Godkin: Had a bit of work done on it. It was cut right down in between my toes and the cut was right over to here. This part healed up quite well, this part in here healed up quite well, but because this part here was almost through to the tendons, I had to have a special type of bandage put on. A vacuum bandage to suck the fluid off so that it would start to heal from the bottom up. And the vacuum bandage would sound just like – well it was like a - it was noisy – it would go phut, phut, phut, phut, and it was like going to bed with an alarm clock. Because not only would you hear the phut, phut which sounded like a very loud ticking noise, if it stopped ticking it would let out a*

loud belch like a fart, and if it didn't do that it would let out the alarm which meant that you had to go on and fix it.

Hyland: You had to de-vacuumise it again?

Godkin: *You had to ensure that the vacuum was back up, because the liquid had to be drawn off because this happened on the 22nd of February and the district nurse's last visit – was the Monday of Queens Birthday weekend. I was getting two visits a week from the district nurse, then it went down to one. I had to treat my foot to make sure it was healing. They put a vacuum bandage on for the first time. When the district nurse came back, they had to take the vacuum bandage off, treat the wound, and then apply it again. When they came in to apply it, it took 2½ hours for the district nurse to put it on. She couldn't get it to suck so she had to call in a repairman to come through. He fixed it alright but then called back at the end of her day, on the Monday, just to make sure it was still okay.*

Hyland: Mmm, but hey, what a result though, eh? I mean ultimately- I guess if it had been 50 years ago they would have chopped it off.

Godkin: *That's right. Luckily enough I still have toes. They hadn't heard of vacuum bandages.*

Hyland: No, I mean I haven't heard of them.

Godkin: *And they said it was the most difficult one to apply. They'd never applied such a difficult bandage before.*

Hyland: Because of all the toes.

Godkin: *Yeah. I couldn't flex my toes. If I'd flexed my toes it would have left the – the suction would have exposed air into it. Every time it sucked we'd hear the phut, phut, and you could see the liquid going up the tube through the bandage part. I had to carry around the vacuum bag which was about that big. Imagine going to bed and trying to get some sleep. It was on, it was outside the bed, we covered it up with pillows, we covered it up with blankets and you could still hear the phut, phut, phut, phut, phut ... going all night. Then it would stop. Then you'd hope it would start up again. If it did, fine. If it didn't – I was told that regardless of the time of the day or night if it would stop and we couldn't fix it, we had to get the duty nurse and she would come out and fix it. Had it for 10 days. In the end when I went back to the orthopaedic ward, they wanted me to have it for another period because it was healing well, but I said "no, it's like going to bed with an alarm clock, and the noise was just like a replay of the earthquake".*

Hyland: You went through an incredible amount, an experience of a lifetime.

Smith: I think the confusing part to me is the fact that the lift doors came over 45 – you said 45 degrees.

Godkin: *They came in by about that much.*

Hyland: You said 45 but that's quite a lot less. I think we're saying that's more of a one in three.

Godkin: *It came in. I was there.*

Hyland: You felt it "woa!". Your perception too -

Godkin: *If you put your arm up like that, that stayed, that moved in by about that much. Enough to make me unsteady on my feet and I thought "no, this is not good".*

Hyland: We've heard other people saying the building came over – the guy on the corner, he actually said it came over here, so it's hard to gauge exactly but it's enough for you to go "wow, that's shocking, I've got to move, I've got to move".

Godkin: *Because it was unsteady because it moved. It moved enough for the things on the raffia cabinet to – the model – it was mainly the model dragons had blown out and I thought – I collect dragons and I thought "shall I stand there and collect them?", and I thought "no, this is not a good thing, get on with it", and at that stage I saw that there was my chocolate bar on the floor so I moved forward to pick it up.*

Hyland: Got to get to the chocolate bar. Forget about the dragon but get that chocolate bar.

Godkin: *The chocolate bar was more important, so I moved forward to pick it up and then there was a crash behind me and more of the ceiling dropped.*

Hyland: -

Godkin: *If it wasn't for the chocolate bar and me moving forward, again I would have been crushed with another section of the level above coming down where I was standing because as I was moving over to get up against that whatever it was along here, I got another blow from something on my shoulders and when I moved over to protect my back, put my hand up like that, there was another lump of concrete which had come down went down my arm, cut there, cut there, and instead of being on my right side after that final shake-up, I was actually lying on my back on top of it as well.*

Hyland: Yeah, and - you found that you had dropped a floor?

Godkin: *No.*

Hyland: When you went out.

Godkin: *No, because where we were on, it didn't seem to have dropped at all.*

Hyland: Oh okay, so you think you were – okay Level 4. You felt you were still at Level 4.

Godkin: *Yeah.*

Hyland: You walked down on top of the rubble.

Godkin: *And if you look at the lift shaft, it had not moved.*

Hyland: Level 5 dropped down. The rubble level was actually at Level 4. Right.
You must have just missed that – just as well you were on the floor I think.

[Recording stops here, but the interview continued. Timer was exactly one hour.]