

UNDER

THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1908

IN THE MATTER OF

**ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO
BUILDING FAILURE CAUSED BY CANTERBURY
EARTHQUAKES
KOMIHANA A TE KARAUNA HEI TIROTIRO I
NGA WHARE I HORO I NGA RUWHENUA O
WAITAHA**

**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF MARYANNE JACKSON
IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

DATE OF HEARING: COMMENCING 25 JUNE 2012

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IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

1. My full name is Maryanne Jackson. I live in Christchurch.
2. I have lived in Christchurch all my life. I am a Receptionist at CTV and have worked in this position since 1991, with a 4-year break around 1997.

CTV

3. Until 22 February 2011, CTV was located on Levels 1 and 2 of the CTV Building at 249 Madras Street (the Building). The entrance to CTV was situated on the southeast corner on the ground floor, Level 1, and was separate to the rest of the Building.
4. The reception area was about 6 metres from the CTV entrance door on the ground floor, Level 1, against the south wall and looking east out onto Madras Street.

Before 22 February 2011

5. After the September 2010 earthquake I never felt safe in the Building. I only liked to be on Level 1. I felt uncomfortable when I was on Level 2.
6. The CTV internal staircase to Level 2 was on my immediate right when sitting at reception. In an aftershock it would shake badly, moving in and out. The windows would move in and out also. I ran out of the Building each time there was a big aftershock, I just did not feel safe.
7. A lot of other CTV staff did not feel safe in the Building and would get out after a big aftershock. Jo Giles, after the September 2010 earthquake, left the door to the fire escape in her office open, even on a cold day. The sales girls who worked on Level 2 did not feel safe and they regularly complained about the Building. People had also mentioned that, when the Building was checked after September 2010, their offices had not been checked.
8. The Building always shook when trucks went past. However, this was a lot more noticeable after the September/Boxing Day earthquakes in 2010, especially on Level 2. You could feel the floor moving when people walked down the corridor on Level 2.

9. After the September/Boxing Day 2010 earthquakes there was cracking on the studio walls and in the Sales Office. There were also cracks on the west wall in the Sales Office, about 5mm in size and you could see daylight through them. I also understood there was similar cracking in the Archives Room.
10. There were 3 big windows broken in the Building after Boxing Day 2010. They were in Sheri Ward and Shawn Lucas's offices along the east side of the Building and in Donna Manning's office on the south wall. As far as I am aware, no CTV staff were aware of any inspection after Boxing Day. CTV was closed over this time and no-one was seen when we returned in the New Year.
11. About one week before the 22 February 2011 earthquake, John Drew, the Property Manager for the Building, was waiting in the CTV reception area to see Murray Wood. I asked John how safe the Building was and said that some of the staff did not feel safe. John replied, using hand movements to point, "*We've got to drill in and put some concrete in here and a bit there*". He was very blasé and said nothing specific. I got the impression it was to do with the western wall of the Building.

Building Demolition

12. The demolition work being carried out by Frews Contracting on the neighbouring site made the Building shake. A wrecking ball was used and the Building shook badly when the ball was dropped. When they were throwing the pieces of broken concrete into trucks the Building would shake also. Even though the Studio was sound-proofed, you could still hear the noise in there.
13. Other staff were worried about the demolition and thought it was making the Building unstable. On Monday 21 February 2011, Nick Smith, the Chairperson of CTV, went outside to tell people drilling into the west wall of the Building to stop because of the way it was shaking the Building. Footage had been taken of this for our news programme that night.

22 February 2011

14. I was standing beside the reception desk when the earthquake struck on 22 February 2011. I was the only person on Level 1. Everyone else at CTV was on the next storey, Level 2. I tried to hold on to the top of the hutch over the reception desk. The windows were moving in and out and the CTV internal stairway up to Level 2 was moving in and out. The sound was horrific, like a jet plane landing on the roof. I sensed the Building was breaking up.
15. After about 7 to 8 seconds of shaking, I knew I had to get out of there and I ran to the front door. Before I ran I looked at my handbag but knew I had no time to get that. All the windows started coming in as I was running and I thought the Building was going to come down on top of me as I ran out. I hit my head on the side of the door or something hit me as I went through.
16. I ran straight across Madras Street. About three-quarters of the way across the road I looked over my shoulder slightly. I could see the Building collapsing behind me. It felt like the Building was chasing me as I ran. I stopped running when I reached the other side of Madras Street outside Blackwells Motors. I would have been across the road in seconds. When I turned around, the Building was completely down. It had pancaked, with all 6 levels down to just rubble.
17. While I was standing over at Blackwells Motors there was a big aftershock and the wall of St Paul's Trinity Pacific Presbyterian Church on the southeast corner of Madras and Cashel Streets collapsed onto Madras Street.
18. After this I saw Tom Hawker and Penelope Spencer standing in the Building car park. I ran across to them. Tom and Penelope were looking at cars to try and work out who from CTV was in the Building. Jo Giles's car, Tom Hawker's car and my car were parked against the south wall of the Building. There was little damage to them, just some glass and rubble on them. Jo Didham's car was under rubble and we could not see it.
19. I am the only person from CTV who was inside the Building at the time of the earthquake who survived. I knew the other staff members who were upstairs on Level 2 did not have a chance. I had hoped all staff would be rescued from the rubble later but it did not happen.

Signed: 
Maryanne Jackson

Date: 15 May 2012