

19 April 2012

Our Ref No: 11129

Email: requests@fyi.org.nz

Attn: Joshua Grainger

Dear Sir

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN TONY MARRYATT AND MINISTERS – REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

I refer to your email dated 21 February 2012 and apologise for the delay in response.

Your request is being considered under the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (“the Act”).

Request 1

May I please request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act any and all correspondence between the Council CEO Tony Marryatt and any Members of Parliament, including Governmental Ministers, from September 2010 to present.

Attached are copies of correspondence received from Members of Parliament and Governmental Ministers for the period September 2010 to end February 2012. Please note that only one of the letters was responded to by the Council’s CEO as the letters were either for information only or were about operational matters and were responded to by staff. Please note that Council has blanked out small portions of some of these letters to protect the privacy of individuals. This information is withheld under section 7(2)(a) of the Act.

Request 2

Can I also please request the details of any times that Marryatt has had a meeting with Government Ministers in the same period: including the date, time, and the Minister(s) who Marryatt met with. If a description of what the purpose of the meeting was is readily available, can I please have that also?

Immediately after the earthquakes the CEO did not run his diary as normal. Because of this, the attached list of meetings he had with Government Ministers may not have captured all the meetings or the topics of those meetings. Information that is not provided is withheld under section 17(e) of the Act on the basis that the information requested can not be found.

Yours faithfully


Chris Gilbert
Solicitor
Legal Services Unit Manager

CG:ML
12/181588

Schedule of meetings held between Chief Executive of Christchurch City Council and
Members of Parliament

11/09/2010	Minister Brownlee	Local Mayors, CEOs discussion around moving from response to recovery
22/09/2010	Minister Brownlee	Land Use briefing
23/09/2010	Minister Brownlee	
13/10/2010	Minister Brownlee	Minister's briefing to local Mayors and CEOs
20/10/2010	Minister Brownlee	
18/02/2011	Minister Brownlee	Briefing prior to Earthquake Recovery Groups meeting of 19 February
19/02/2011	Christchurch MPs	Earthquake Recovery Groups meeting
4/03/2011	Meeting in Wellington	Meeting re Council interface with new recovery body
24/03/2011	Minister Brownlee	
8/06/2011	Minister Brownlee	
16/6/2011	Minister Brownlee	
23/06/2011	Minister Brownlee	
1/07/2011	Minister Brownlee	With CEO of CERA re consenting process
5/08/2011	Minister Brownlee	Briefing on Central City Plan
29/09/2011	Minister Brownlee	CCC/CERA Responsibilities
27/01/2012	Minister Brownlee	Earthquake Recovery

08 OCT 2010

6 October 2010

Mr Tony Marryatt
The Chief Executive
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Dear Tony

Re: **Infringement Notice**
Registration Number:

has recently approached me in relation to an infringement notice issued to her on the 1 September 2010.

On the day in question, was due to be discharged from hospital and had asked her daughter to pick her up. was under quarantine as she had been diagnosed with pneumonia and influenza (possibly swine flu). As she was extremely weak, unsteady on her feet and possibly contagious, her daughter tried to get as close as she could to the hospital door.

has indicated that her daughter left a note on the dash of her car advising that her parents had a mobility parking permit. She then entered the hospital to retrieve it from her mother and returned to the car within a very short period of time.

Upon her return she found that a Christchurch City Council parking officer had issued her with an infringement notice for \$150.00 for the period 3.38 p.m. to 3.41 p.m. – a total of 3 minutes. This appears to be an exorbitant amount of money for a 3 minute alleged parking infringement.

It is recognised that there are a number of drivers who will park illegally in these specified parking areas. However, in case, her disability and need can be clearly demonstrated. She does possess a mobility parking permit, and it is unfortunate that the said permit was in her handbag at the time her daughter parked to collect her. In all other circumstances, would have been able to produce her mobility parking permit immediately.

As have limited financial resources their daughter has paid the fine on their behalf, even though this has imposed financial hardship on her own family.



I believe _____ daughter acted in good faith and had no desire to break the law. She was acting in a compassionate manner in trying to assist her mother, who she knew was entitled to use the disabled parking space, and as a result has been penalised very harshly for her actions.

I would very much appreciate your further consideration of the extenuating circumstances of _____ parking infringement notice in anticipation that the decision can be rescinded and a refund provided to my constituent.

Yours sincerely



Jim Anderton
MP for Wigram
Leader of the Progressive Party

From: Marryatt, Tony [Tony.Marryatt@ccc.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 15 October 2010 9:58 am
To: Tim Hurdle (MIN)
Subject: RE: Briefing

Thanks Tim

We will be holding the briefing in the Mayors Lounge on the 6th floor.
If you go to reception on the ground floor when you arrive staff will come and get you.

Regards
Tony

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Hurdle (MIN) [mailto:Tim.Hurdle@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 15 October 2010 9:42 am
To: Marryatt, Tony
Subject: Briefing

Hi Tony,

Feel free to bring in your officers to the briefing.

Tim

This electronic email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

The views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Christchurch City Council.

If you are not the correct recipient of this email please advise the sender and delete.

Christchurch City Council

<http://www.ccc.govt.nz>

From: Marryatt, Tony [Tony.Marryatt@ccc.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 October 2010 9:19 am
To: Tim Hurdle (MIN)
Cc: Scott McHardy (MIN)
Subject: RE:

Hi Tim

I will ensure that Peter Mitchell, Councils General Manager of Regulatory and Democracy Services will attend the meeting.

Regards
Tony

From: Tim Hurdle (MIN) [mailto:Tim.Hurdle@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 26 October 2010 1:19 pm
To: Marryatt, Tony
Cc: Scott McHardy (MIN)
Subject:

Hi Tony,

I see there was a bit of discussion over the weekend about commercial building situation but this predates that.

We would like to facilitate a meeting between insurers, affected businesses and the property owners, to see if we can find some common ground. It would be very useful to have one of your key officers in the room to help understand the problems from the Council.

In particular, Mr Anderton is keen to focus on the problems that are keeping the barriers up in Sydenham. We think that it might be good to use this as a "pilot" which might have positive implications for the rest of the city.

I can get representatives of the major insurance companies, Mr Anderton has lined up a couple key business players. Could you please find someone suitable to help? We are wary of loading extra work on your team, but we think it might be a good neutral venue.

The meeting would be at 11am on Thursday at the MED Offices.

Cheers,

Tim

Tim Hurdle | Senior Adviser | Office of Hon Gerry Brownlee
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www.beehive.govt.nz

This electronic email and any files transmitted with it are intended

From: Marryatt, Tony
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2010 3:51 PM
To: Tim Hurdle (MIN)
Cc: Scott McHardy (MIN)
Subject: RE: , ~~Street~~
Hi Tim

I will look into it and get back to you.

Regards

Tony

From: Tim Hurdle (MIN) [mailto:Tim.Hurdle@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2010 2:02 pm
To: Marryatt, Tony
Cc: Scott McHardy (MIN)
Subject: ~~Street~~ Street

Hi Tony,

I would like to draw to your attention the ~~Street~~ , The building is unsafe and repairs are assessed at over \$750k. The insurance cover is only to a much lower level. It looks like the building will come down. There seems to be a hold up over a heritage assessment.

Until those issues are resolved, the state of the building has closed off large parts of the street and is impacting on other businesses.

It would be good to find out where the blockage is. If there is an issue with the insurers, I am happy to sort that out.

Would be good if we could tidy this one up.

Regards,

Tim

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www.beehive.govt.nz

From: Lianne Dalziel - Private [L.A.Dalziel@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 27 January 2011 6:43 PM
To: Marryatt, Tony
Cc: Williams, Chrissie; Livingstone, Glenn; Button, Ngaire; Aaron Keown (Private)
Subject: Variation 48
Attachments: Variation 48 Statement.doc

Dear Mr Marryatt

Please find attached a statement that I am sending to the media. I would have liked to have discussed this with you first but I only found out yesterday that Variation 48 is becoming operative on Monday. This has been raised by my constituents at all the post earthquake meetings in the affected areas that are aware of it - especially Bexley, Horseshoe Lake and Brooklands. All of the material says that there would be notice of its implementation. I am aware that the issues are not so much with Variation 48 (expect the neighbouring property effects as experienced in Brooklands already) but with Section 72 of the Building Act and the issues relating to insurance. I am not asking the Council to do anything other than delay the operative date until these questions are answered. Have copied in the relevant councillors.

Yours sincerely
Lianne Dalziel
MP for Christchurch East
Mobile 0275480644

<<Variation 48 Statement.doc>>

From: Lianne Dalziel - Private [L.A.Dalziel@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 18 February 2011 2:16 pm
To: Parker, Bob (Mayor); Marryatt, Tony
Cc: Williams, Chrissie
Subject: FW: Guidance document
Attachments: SKMBT_C353011021812410.pdf

Dear Bob and Tony

Re Canterbury Earthquake (Building Act) Order 2010

Attached is a guidance document that DBH sent to all Councils last year to help them understand how they were to apply the above order. The relevant references are these:

Question 3 states that as the green, yellow and red placards were issued under civil defence legislation they are generally recognised under the Building Act. It then makes it clear that the intention of the Order is transitional only. They chose the method of deeming the placards to be Building Act notices, which would give them continuing status until fresh Building Act notices were issued when full assessments have been made if necessary.

It is even clearer in the summary where it says "There is likely to be a small lapse of time between the end of the state of emergency and the time at which the Council can issue the notices under the Building Act. This provision is to ensure that buildings which are or may be dangerous are still identified as dangerous to ensure safety."

I understand that these placards/notices expired 60 days after they were placed on the properties in any event, as they were never renewed.

As said I would be completely opposed to anything appearing on the LIM, due to the random nature of whose houses were "stickered" and whose were not, the fact that they were 10 minute checks and the fact that the colour was chosen in some instances by the occupant who didn't want to leave their property.

The placards were ideal for commercial premises, but did not translate well to the residential sector and the advice from DBH looks more directed to the commercial sector.

I hope this helps to resolve this issue. I am copying this to Cr Chrissie Williams as she and I discussed this issue as part of our joint response to the earthquake and as it was a Council matter, it was she who referred the question from this ward.

See you tomorrow.

Lianne

*Lianne Dalziel
MP for Christchurch East*

*Labour's Spokesperson on Commerce,
Small Business, Regulatory Reform
& Electoral Reform &
Associate Spokesperson on Justice*

Parliament Buildings
Wellington
Phone 04 817 8209
Fax 04 817 6437

28/04/2011

From: Marryatt, Tony
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2011 4:22 PM
To: 'Tim.Hurdle@parliament.govt.nz'
Subject: Re: Christchurch post quake zoning direction

Will do, see you tomorrow.
Tony

----- Original Message -----

From: Tim Hurdle (MIN) <Tim.Hurdle@parliament.govt.nz>
To: Marryatt, Tony
Sent: Wed Mar 23 16:05:58 2011
Subject: FW: Christchurch post quake zoning direction

Can you take a look at this?

How do we do better on the faciliation of business into temporary facilities?

Tim

From: Marryatt, Tony [Tony.Marryatt@ccc.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 25 March 2011 10:10 am
To: Tim Hurdle (MIN)
Subject: RE: Christchurch post quake zoning direction

Hi Tim

Staff are meeting with . on Monday to make this happen.

Regards

Tony

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Hurdle (MIN) [mailto:Tim.Hurdle@parliament.govt.nz]
Sent: Wednesday, 23 March 2011 4:06 pm
To: Marryatt, Tony
Subject: FW: Christchurch post quake zoning direction

Can you take a look at this?

How do we do better on the faciliation of business into temporary facilities?

Tim

From: Philippa Burns [philippa.burns@parliament.govt.nz]

Sent: Wednesday, 11 May 2011 12:56 pm

To: Anderson, Paul; Marryatt, Tony

Cc: Lianne Dalziel - Private; Williams, Chrissie

Subject: The Super Shed

Dear Paul and Tony,

Lianne Dalziel has received an email from a concerned constituent about the possible loss of the Super Shed to Christchurch East residents

It is important to respond to her with the facts, so I wonder if you might tell me –

Who owns the Super Shed?

Whose land is it on?

Why is it moving?

Who made the decision and on what basis?

We look forward to your response,

Regards

Philippa Burns

Issues Assistant

Electorate Office

Lianne Dalziel

**Member of Parliament
for Christchurch East**

tel; 03 382 0288

126 New Brighton Mall

New Brighton

Christchurch

06 May 2011

12 MAY 2011

Tony Marryatt
Chief Executive
Christchurch City Council
P.O. Box 237
Christchurch 8140

Dear Tony Marryatt

RE: Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987

The purpose of this Official Information request is so that I can obtain a clear understanding of the nature of the steps the Council has taken since the 4th September earthquake in response to concerns raised by EQC, their advisers and insurers about the impact of the City Plan's Variation 48 (operative since 31 January 2011) and s71/s72 Building Act 2004 (s71 s72) and what is now planned in light of the 22 February earthquake.

I have formulated my request as a series of questions.

1. When did EQC, its advisers and/or any insurers first raise questions with the Council about flood management issues including V48; what were the nature of those concerns & the Council's response to them?
2. On how many occasions did EQC, its advisers and/or any insurers ask to meet with the Council about flood management issues including V48 – specify dates – and when did these meetings (if any) take place?
3. On how many occasions did EQC, its advisers and/or any insurers seek the Council's 50 year floodplain data – specify dates - and when was that data provided to them?
4. If a building permit is required in a flood management area and the plan does not meet the finished floor levels (FFLs) required by V48, is it correct that the Council currently cannot issue a permit under s71? What criteria would the Council use to issue a building permit in such a case under s72?
5. What alternatives to the FFLs required by V48 does the Council regard as adequate provision to protect a property from inundation in flood management areas? If there are no alternatives, has the Council considered or will it be considering alternative mitigation & when? If so, when did the Council start working on these alternatives?
6. How many houses did the Council estimate would have to be demolished and rebuilt after the 4th September quake and what was this estimate based on; what is the estimate post 22 February and what is this estimate based on?

Hon Lianne Dalziel, Labour Member of Parliament for Christchurch East
Labour Spokesperson on Commerce, Small Business, Regulatory Reform, Electoral Reform, & Associate Justice
Parliament Buildings, Wellington
Phone 04-817 8209, Fax 04-817 6437
E-mail lianne.dalziel@parliament.govt.nz

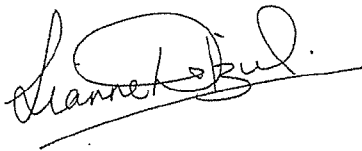
7. What are the answers to the questions I essentially raised in my letter of 4 February 2011 – I have updated them to these:
 - a. Has the Council estimated how many building permit applicants will apply to build up the land (up to a metre) so they can replace like with like rather than redesigning their house to lift the FFLs and how does the Council propose to deal with resource consent applications these will generate?
 - b. How has the Council planned to manage what may be clusters of rebuilds with occasional repairs (potential for gully effect & ponding to occur) and clusters of repairs with occasional rebuilds (potential for mound effect & risk of localised lateral spreading); and the effects these may have on recession plane rules?
 - c. Given that these issues (including who would be liable for any additional costs and the potential for making repair more economic than rebuild – which in turn could affect the cost of perimeter treatments) were raised with the Council by the EQC, their advisers and insurers, why were these issues not resolved before V48 became operative?
 - d. Why did the Council only notify the operative date of V48 in the Public Notices column of the Press when they had previously advised that *“the exact date [would] be advised via the Council’s Our Christchurch pages in The Press and local newspapers, and in the next ‘Heads up’ building and planning newsletter”*.
8. With respect to the attached email from Council staff:
 - a. What steps have been taken to complete whole area or at least sub-area stormwater/flooding assessments to enable efficient site by site processing of resource consent applications for rebuilds?
 - b. What are the insurance companies’ concerns about financial implications that are referred to and how did the Council respond to the insurers about those concerns?
 - c. What process has been established to ensure that the V48 provisions do not slow up consenting and how is it planned to address issues of displacement should that occur?
9. You have told me that you were working on V48 issues on the 22 February when the earthquake struck – what was the purpose of the meeting and who was at the meeting? Please provide any material that was prepared for the meeting.
10. What work has been undertaken by or on behalf of the Council to reassess flood risk issues (including V48) post the 22nd February earthquake? Who has the Council contracted to assist with this work and what specifications have they been given, along with reporting deadlines?
11. What steps are being taken to facilitate an early resolution of the situation in Brooklands and Spencerville so that rebuilding can commence there or is it the case that the Council is now reconsidering the suitability of the floodplain for residential development?

12. You were due to report to the Council meeting on flood risk issues including V48 on Monday 7th March - what recommendations were staff making; are these recommendations being reformulated and when will they be referred to the full Council for consideration and deliberation?
13. Has the Council been asked to contribute to the land report that is being prepared for government/CERA so that decisions can be made about the future of affected suburbs, and if so what is the Council expected to report on and what deadline has been given?

I appreciate that this may look like a substantial list of questions, however given that we were due to meet to discuss these issues on Friday 25th February, I am sure that your staff had already briefed you on most of these issues. With respect to the relevance the subsequent issues have to the land report I am sure that all the material is readily available.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lianne Dalziel', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lianne Dalziel
MP for Christchurch East



Office of Hon Steven Joyce

Minister of Transport
Minister for Communications
and Information Technology
Minister for Tertiary Education

Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Infrastructure

12 JUL 2011

Tony Marryatt
Chief Executive
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Dear Tony

Changes to the Land Transport Management Act 2003

The government's priorities for transport include increasing economic growth and improving value for money in the public sector.

A review of the Land Transport Management Act 2003 (LTMA), the legislation setting out the planning and funding framework for land transport, has found that the current legislation results in confusing and convoluted decision-making, ambiguity between planning documents, and laborious consultation processes.

I am pleased to advise you that Cabinet has now approved changes to the LTMA that will make land transport planning and funding simpler, more streamlined and less prescriptive.

The proposed changes will offer a clearer alignment between central and local government roles in the transport sector. Local government will have more flexibility around its transport planning and fewer processes and procedures to manage.

Proposed changes to the LTMA include:

- creating a clear statutory purpose and reducing the number of assessment criteria in the LTMA
- improvements to national and regional planning, including reducing the number of planning documents
- reducing prescriptive consultation requirements
- reducing the size of regional transport committees and creating scope for regions to combine and reduce the number of committees

- creating more flexibility in the LTMA to use borrowing to support land transport investment when prudent
- removing barriers to the use of the tolling and public private partnership provisions in the LTMA
- revocation of the provision for regional fuel taxes that would be ineffective and costly to collect

I expect that amending legislation be introduced to Parliament in the next 6 to 9 months. You will have an opportunity to help shape the Bill during the select committee stage.

If you have questions, please contact Ingrid Sage at the Ministry of Transport on i.sage@transport.govt.nz or 04 439 9265. Questions and answers about the proposed changes to the legislation are also available at www.transport.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Steven Joyce
Minister of Transport



28 SEP 2011

Amy Adams

Member of Parliament for Selwyn

23 September 2011

Mr Tony Marryatt
CEO
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8140

Dear Tony

Re Temporary Speed Restriction – Halswell Junction Road: Wigram Road to Sparks Road

I was at a recently held public meeting in Halswell where a number of residents raised their concerns about the continued shaking and vibration of their homes due to trucks travelling down the road at the posted speed limit.

These residents are extremely upset and stressed by the continued vibration of their homes, many are living with the uncertainty of an orange zone property, others still not knowing whether their house will need to be demolished. These are difficult times, and if a change to the speed limit is something that can be achieved easily, this would greatly benefit these residents.

I am aware that a number of streets around Christchurch City, particularly the eastern suburbs, have the benefit of a speed reduction to 30kph until repairs to the road substructure caused by earthquake can be completed.

This is a matter that requires action and I would be grateful if you would consider the request and come back to me as soon as possible.

I have assured these residents that I would write to you directly, bringing the situation to your attention, and asking for consideration to be given to applying the temporary speed reduction to this area.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely


Amy Adams
MP for Selwyn

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20 OCT 2011

Amy Adams

Member of Parliament for Selwyn

14 October 2011

Mr Tony Marryatt
CEO
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237
Christchurch 8140

Dear Tony

Thank you for your email response via Jane Parfitt to my request for a temporary speed limit on Haiswell Junction Road.

It is my understanding from that response that under current criteria, a temporary speed limit can only be applied where road damage is causing major road safety concerns.

I am further writing to you to ask whether you could have another look at this situation. I would be interested to know whether Council can vary the criteria under currently policy, or whether there is an opportunity to review it at this time.

I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely


Amy Adams
MP for Selwyn

Authorised by Amy Adams MP for Selwyn 829 Main South Road Templeton

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**Hon Lianne
DALZIEL**
MP for Christchurch East

12 JAN 2012



18 December 2011

Tony Marryat
Chief Executive
Christchurch City Council
P.O. Box 237
Christchurch 8140

Dear Tony Maryatt

Re Earthquake Recovery

I wrote to you on 4 February 2011, exactly five months after the Canterbury Earthquake, because I had become increasingly concerned about the apparent communication breakdown between the CCC, the EQC and insurers, as well as the council's failure to take a leadership role in the recovery effort. I don't blame you for not responding to the letter given the events of February 22. However the issues I raised then remain are still relevant 10 months later. I have attached the letter to remind you of the issues I raised and have written two separate letters, this one dealing with the rates remission policy. The second one, dealing with Variation 48, is not yet complete, and I will send it as soon as I can.

Rates Remission for Uninhabitable Homes

In my February letter I made the point that I personally didn't agree with the 40% remission decision (nor did my constituents who contacted me at the time and who have made contact again since the recent policy announcement about the houses impacted by potential rockfall). As I said at the time, it is all very well to say that rates pay for other services, but that is catered for in the rent that they will be paying for alternative accommodation. I accepted however that the council had a budget for that financial year, which would have been affected by a decision to remit all the rates for the remainder of the year, which is why I submitted that the council should revisit the issue for that year and out-years once actual numbers of affected residents were known.

The council's decision to remit all of the rates for the homeowners, who have been issued with s124 notices that require them not to live in their homes while rockfall risk is being assessed, is a good one. But it has raised the ire of those people who have been out of their homes for anything up to a year. I have tried to understand the principle underlying the two decisions that allows for this difference in treatment, but I cannot.

The decision has been announced as follows: "The earthquake-related rates remission policy adopted by the Council for 2011/12 provides 40 per cent rates remission for residential properties that are unable to be occupied. The Council considered that because residents are not entitled to occupy properties where section 124 notices have been issued and that Council is obliged to enforce these notices, that full remission on rates was appropriate."



The underlying principle appears to be the Council's obligation to enforce section 124 notices, and yet there are many people in the eastern suburbs whose homes were red placarded after both earthquakes and who are therefore technically covered by a section 124 notice, due to the deeming provisions under the relevant Order in Council.

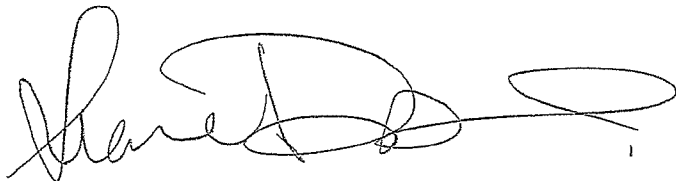
The truth is that the decision to remit rates can only be about the habitability of the property, whether that arises from safety concerns about the structural damage to the property or the risk of rockfall in a subsequent event. By saying that the latter is covered but not the former, makes nonsense of the earlier statement that the 40% remission was because non-residential related services are still provided to those people. Some of these people have left the city and, as I said in February, those that remain in Christchurch are paying for those services when they or their insurer pays the rent for alternative accommodation. If you cannot live in your house, you shouldn't have to pay rates – it really is as simple as that.

This announcement has led to an outburst of anger from this side of a city that is already divided in terms of damage suffered. There is potential for resentment to grow when people are under a lot of stress and when such a difference in treatment is not understood. People who have the benefit of the 100% remission are starting to express some resentment that people in the eastern suburbs are criticising the actual decision that has been made. They are not criticising the decision – they are criticising their exclusion from the decision. I don't think Council understands the psychological impact that this decision is having both ways. We do not need more division in a city that already thinks that people in the red zones have received a great deal from the government that they are going to miss out on. It would be good for councillors to understand who the losers are in an offer that produces 'winners and losers', as that may assist the recovery process.

The rationale for the different treatment of people who cannot live in their homes simply doesn't stack up and it is urgent that the Council extend the 100% remission policy to all people whose houses are uninhabitable, so that they do not have to pay rates on those properties until they are habitable.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lianne Dalziel', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lianne Dalziel
MP for Christchurch East

cc Mayor & Councillors by email

Office of the Chief Executive

31 January 2012

Hon. Lianne Dalziel
PO Box 18898
Christchurch

Dear Lianne

EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY

Thank you for your letter dated 18 December 2011 regarding rates remissions for uninhabitable homes. As you point out, the Council is facing unprecedented financial constraints, with in excess of a billion dollars of new costs, a shrinking rating base, and Government and insurers who face fiscal constraints of their own. Maintaining the balance between funding the rebuild of our city and ensuring fairness and equity for our residents and ratepayers will be a complex and evolving issue for many years to come.

The Council has considered the question of the appropriate level of rates relief for the owners of earthquake affected property a number of times now (November 2010, April 2011, June 2011, and December 2011). Each time it has made a decision on the subject the Council has determined that a remission of 40 percent of rates for the owners of residences that are unable to be occupied is appropriate. This 40 percent equates to the approximate cost of Council services that are delivered to a property.

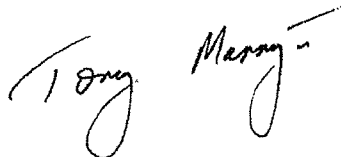
When it considered the question of rates remissions for owners of properties that had been issued notices prohibiting entry under section 124(1)(b) of the Building Act 2004 (s.124 notice) because of the significant risk of rock-fall or landslip the Council determined that the situation is different and required a different response to the remissions given to properties with structural damage.

Specifically the Council considered these properties were different because they have received an order direct from the Council that they can not access their property and the Council intends to enforce these orders. While most other home owners are able to access their property, and those outside the Red Zone are able to access their property for repair or rebuild, the section 124 notice property owners are being prevented by the Council from accessing their property for any reason.

The Council did take into account the issue of fairness and equity for other ratepayers who are unable to occupy their properties. On balance the Council determined that Council's role in issuing the section 124 notices and enforcing the zero access to properties, its ongoing work in rock-fall mitigation clearly distinguishes the two categories of ratepayers and makes the 100 percent remission appropriate.

As I am sure you are aware, many of our Councillors are sympathetic to requests for extensions to the current rates remissions policy. The subject will be considered again by the Council as part of the 2012/13 Annual Plan process. Residents, ratepayers, and other interested parties will have the opportunity to make submissions as part of Council's consultation on the Draft Annual Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Marryatt'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Tony Marryatt
Chief Executive

cc: Mayor and Councillors



31 JAN 2012

26 January 2012

Chief Executive Officer
Christchurch City Council
PO Box 237,
Christchurch 8140

Dear Sir / Madam

Under section 10 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act I request the following information:

- the total amount of land the council currently has available for housing development;
- any plans the council has for land to be opened up for future housing development and how much land is being considered.

If you require any clarification of the intent of my request please do not hesitate to contact me on (04) 817 9103.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Annette King'.

Hon Annette King
MP for Rongotai including the Chatham Islands
Opposition Spokesperson for Housing and Local Government

Ack
31/1/12