

29 June 2022

C152535

Jack Hulls

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Tēnā koe Jack

Thank you for your email of 25 May 2022 to the Department of Corrections – Ara Poutama Aotearoa, requesting information about the earthquake assessment of Corrections' National Office. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested:

Today it was announced that ministry of education's building is not up to earthquake standards.

Can you please provide information about the earthquake assessment of head office on The Terrace.

Of interest is when was it last assessed and what was the result.

Any information about when another assessment will be done.

Earthquake assessments are undertaken for a variety of reasons, including building upgrades, re-evaluations and insurance reviews. The National Building Standard (NBS) is the percentage of a new building standard score for a particular building. In practice, an earthquake-prone building is often referred to as one that meets less than 34 percent of the NBS.

In 2012, Holmes Consulting Group undertook an earthquake assessment of Corrections' National Office on the Terrace, on behalf of the Landlord (AMP NZ Office Ltd) at the time. An engineer then assessed the building at 80 percent NBS.

In February 2020, Holmes Consulting Group reaffirmed the seismic rating again at 80 percent NBS.

Corrections does not currently have any further seismic assessments planned for Mayfair House. There is no legal timeframe to undertake earthquake assessments, however, an assessment may be undertaken following a large earthquake. This would be dependent on a variety of factors however, including the type of earthquake, depth and the seismic zone. Alternatively, the Government Property Group (part of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment) may request Government agencies undertake an assessment.

The Wellington City Council oversees the NBS and earthquake prone buildings. Further information about assessing and managing earthquake prone buildings is available on their website, [here](#). Further information on how earthquake assessments are carried out are available on the building website, [here](#).

Please note that this response may be published on Corrections' website. Typically, responses are published quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with Corrections. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi



Brydie Raethel
Manager Ministerial Services
People and Capability