



Joel David  
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17 November 2015

Ref: DOIA 1516-0568

Dear Mr David

Thank you for your email of 19 October 2015 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 the following information:

*I write this OIA request for details related to any studies run by the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment or the now defunct Ministry for Science, Research and Technology related to the temperature or atmospheric conditions that would cause steel to melt or fail to be load bearing, specifically related to forms of uncontrolled fire, so as to answer the following question:*

*Can jet fuel melt steel beams?*

MBIE does not have any record of funding research into the performance of steel structures in fires, nor does the previous Ministry for Science and Innovation.

There was however some research on the performance of steel structures in fires carried out by the Fire Engineering Programme at the Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering of the University of Canterbury. Prior to 2000, financial support for this research was provided, in part, by the Public Good Science Fund. This fund was run by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology on behalf of the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology. One relevant research project is:

“Design of loadbearing light steel frame walls for fire resistance”

J T (Han) Gerlich

Fire Engineering Research Report 95/3

<http://www.civil.canterbury.ac.nz/fire/pdfreports/Gerlich.PDF>

For further queries on this request please contact us via email at [oi@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:oi@mbie.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely

Dr Stephen Lorimer  
National Manager Manufacturing and Resources  
Science Investments

