

10 July 2020

[REDACTED]

By email only: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act #20.009 - Cavan Forde

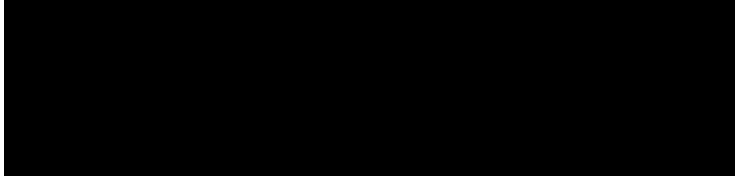
1. We refer to your request received on 9 July 2020 for information about whether your property at [REDACTED] appears on a list of properties impacted by the Commerce Commission (Commission) Cavan Forde concrete panel case.¹ You believe the list may have been published but cannot locate it.
2. You advised the purpose of your request is to substantiate that your property was built with Hebel concrete, and not the concrete panels from China which were misrepresented as Hebel.
3. You asked that the Commission treat your request with urgency because [REDACTED]
4. We have treated this as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Our response

5. We have decided to grant your request.
6. During the course of the Commission's investigation, we compiled a list of properties which may have been constructed from autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC) sourced from China, suspected as having been misrepresented as Hebel brand. The list was not published.
7. A subset of those properties were tested to confirm the AAC as being supplied from Chinese factories. The testing involved drilling into the panel to expose and then examine the protective coating applied to the steel reinforcing bars inside the AAC. This was the only way to confirm the true origin of the material.

¹ <https://comcom.govt.nz/case-register/case-register-entries/cavan-forde>

8. The Commission cannot warrant that your property was constructed out of genuine Hebel, however, we have run a search over the Cavan Forde file (including the list) for your name and property address, and this returned no results. That is to say, the Commission does not hold any information in relation to you or your property.
9. The Principal Investigator for the Cavan Forde investigation has offered to provide you with photographs showing the different types of coatings applied to reinforcing steel which was used to confirm the origin of the AAC. Please contact him using the details below if you would like copies:



10. Please note the Commission will be publishing this response to your request in the Official Information Act register on our website.² Your personal details will be removed from the published response (including your property details).
11. Please do not hesitate to contact us at uia@comcom.govt.nz if you have any questions about this request.

Yours sincerely

Mary Sheppard
OIA Coordinator

² <http0s://comcom.govt.nz/about-us/requesting-official-information/oia-register>