

## ***Frequently-asked questions***

### **Why was this building inspected?**

Following a desktop assessment it was indicated that further inspection was necessary. A desktop assessment involves engineers looking at plans and other information available about a building. This includes when it was built, construction methods, materials and performance of similar buildings in a quake. Based on the information and evidence in front of them they then estimate the likely performance of a building in a quake.

The further inspection is called a detailed engineering evaluation, or DEE. This involves a visual and 'intrusive' inspection of the buildings in order to provide a seismic evaluation, as to how the building could be expected to perform in a quake. A reinforcing bar scanner was used on the walls, and intrusive inspections (where sections of the wall are removed) revealed that the infill of the wall was not reinforced.

The Laundry and Boiler House building is considered earthquake-prone and high risk as it meets between 9 and 10 percent of the New Building Standard (NBS).

There are a number of critical structural weaknesses including the chimney and foundations, which has a risk of 'overturning failure' or collapse in a quake as the foundations and piles have been assessed as meeting 18% NBS.

### **When was this building inspected?**

Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 March 2012

### **When did you receive the final engineer's DEE report?**

Thursday 24 May 2012

### **Why does the laundry have to be closed, while the Boiler House can remain open – with limited access?**

There is higher risk in the laundry building, and the boiler house will only be accessed three times a day for short time periods.

### **Why do hospitals have boiler houses?**

Boiler houses provide a means to produce steam which is the lifeblood of any hospital. It's used for heating, cooking and sterilising. It's essential infrastructure.

### **What's the cost of repairs, strengthening or replacing the affected buildings?**

At this stage we don't know. We're talking to builders, engineers, electricians at the moment to get a clearer picture of how much this might be.