

Name of Witness	RICHARDSON, Lance William
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Address and contact details	[REDACTED]
Occupation	Publican Grantham Hotel
Officer taking statement	Mark Reid Detective Senior Sergeant
Date taken	16 March 2011

Addendum to statement dated 30/1/2011

Lance William RICHARDSON states:

- I would like to provide further information to the original statement that I provided to police on 30/1/2011 about the floods on 10 January 2011 at Grantham.

Flood Preparations

- In the weeks leading up to the flood we had been receiving constant rain in the ranges around the valley. We have the Tenthill, Ma Ma and Flagstone Creeks to the South, and Murphy's Creek, Lockyer Creek and Sandy Creek to the North East of Grantham.

*TOO HIGH* We received about 200mm in a storm that resulted in the flood on 10 January 2011.

- The flooding in our area happened on a number of occasions in the lead up to the main flood. They were Boxing Day 27/12/10 (minor flooding – flooding on ground level of buildings), Thursday 6 January 2011 (minor flooding), Sunday 9 January 2011 (minor flooding), Monday 10 January 2011 (100mm) resulting in major flooding, and Tuesday 11 January 2011 which resulted in the flooding of Forest Hill.
- We do not have a local disaster plan in for local disasters in our area. The closest we have to a local disaster coordinator is Danny Maguire of the Rural Fire Brigade.

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Warning

5. On the day of the flood on 10 January 2011, I received a phone call from Kiwi re water flowing over the Helidon Bridge. We were already getting some local flooding prior to the event. We did not receive any government related warnings. After receiving the warning from my friend, I found I hard to believe that the water could be that high. I decided to go home to the hotel. Within 10 minutes the place was under flood. I was later to find out that the warning was accurate.
6. For future warning systems, I think the use of mobile telephone SMS would be best way of notifying people of possible disaster.

Preparation

7. Preparations within the area had been pretty good. Everyone that had lived in the area for a period knew the bench mark for the flooding of the town. No amount of planning could have prepared us for what happened on 10 January 2011.
8. Most of the town knew that if a flood was coming we would clear low lying areas of property. We would shift our cars to higher ground around the railway station in Railway Street or Dores Road, as these areas had never flooded before. We had not received any planning or preparation from the local or state governments.

Response

9. The response by the local Emergency Services was that they did what they could. I think they did a good job. The local government were also helpful after about a week. For the first five days they had nothing to offer. I think this sort of response is a bit slow.
10. The resources that were provided initially were at the Grantham School. We had bedding and food, which was all provided by volunteers. Everyone from the area


Witness Signature: [Redacted] Signature of officer: [Redacted]


were bringing frozen food from their freezers and using to feed people at the school. The recovery centre was set up after a couple of weeks in its current position next to the school. Once people could get in and out of the town, we had no problems with food or water, and nobody went without food or a shower.

- 11. One measure that upset the town was the sealing off of the town for 7 days. This action caused a massive amount of frustration with the local people. Police did not use the local knowledge that they had available to them in those initial days, and that they should have shown a little more faith in the local community. These measures were not effective due to a lack of communication with the community.
- 12. The coordination of the original response was initially done by all of the volunteers, but it seemed like Christy MINNS and her husband helped everyone at the school for the first week. Everyone helped out. The resources were sufficient in the response as everyone got rescued, and everyone got fed.
- 13. Communications during the flood were still working. I had mobile telephone coverage during the event and was able to telephone 000. From an information point of view we were receiving information about roads and the flood, but we were not receiving information from the police about what was happening in the town.

Recovery

- 14. The recovery process in our area was good. The ADF was brilliant in the cleanup, water and power came on quite quickly considering the damage. We think the governments did a good job. The basics were supplied and everything else takes time. When we asked for things with Emergency Services they would supply them. If I had a problem with something, I would come to the recovery centre tent and let someone know. All of the issues I had were addressed when I brought them up.

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- 15. In regard to the cleanup, advice should have been supplied on the status. This could have been done better. During this stage, most of the people had mobile telephones, that would have allowed SMS messages to be sent to registered persons with updates.

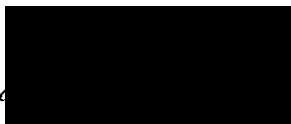
Insurance

- 16. I was insured for flood with Elders Insurance. My mother and I lost all of our possessions in the flood including the hotel. We are yet to find out what is happening. We have not been advised of a payout figure for the buildings, just that they will cover us (water course that broke its banks and inundated building). We were notified by our insurers on Tuesday 11 January 2011 that it was not a flood but a storm surge. The whole process has been slow, but our contact point at Elders has been good. The independent assessors they use are slow as we are still awaiting advice 9 weeks after the event.

Other Issues

- 17. Consideration must be given to shifting the town of Grantham to the vacant land at the rear of the current school area, which is higher than the flood plain.

L W RICHARDSON



Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 16/3/11 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to ..... is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.

.....Signature

Signed at TCUMBRA this 16 day of MAR, 2011

Witness Signature



Signature of officer

