



2 August 2023

Ref: DOIA 2324-0028

Geraldine Murphy
Inner City Wellington
Email: geraldine.murphy@xtra.co.nz

Tēnā koe Geraldine

Thank you for your email of 4 July 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

In the attached OIA response [DOIA 2223-0786], the reply to Q5 stated that MBIE were planning to consult on potential changes to the design standards for new buildings in mid-2023. Can you update on the proposed timeframes please?

The response to our request to be involved in stakeholder forums (p1, landscape page) said MBIE will be undertaking consultation on various matters over the course of 2023-2024. Has there been any consultation to date in 2023? Is there a plan for future consultation that is available?

Please find the answers to your questions below.

Consultation on potential changes to design standards for new buildings

Standards New Zealand (Standards NZ) is currently managing the development of a draft Technical Specification, SNZ TS 1170.5:202X Structural Design Actions – Part 5: Earthquake Actions, to update the loading standards used for designing new buildings.

Standards New Zealand plan to release the draft Technical Specification for public comment, and we understand that will take place later this year. We do not have a confirmed timeframe for this to occur.

Note that the draft Technical Specification will not have any regulatory standing, and will not change existing design standards for new buildings. Once the Technical Specification is finalised, following public comment, MBIE would need to consider and take separate decisions about whether to include it in the building regulatory system. Any proposal to include the final Technical Specification in the building regulatory system would require public consultation.

Other matters on which MBIE is undertaking public consultation

The only matter in relation to our seismic work programme that MBIE has undertaken consultation on in 2023 was the draft *Regulating the seismic risk of existing buildings: A framework for how new information will be incorporated into the earthquake-prone building system*. InnerCity Wellington was one of the stakeholders that participated in the consultation.

MBIE does not currently have a firm plan for further consultation. There are likely to be matters on which we will undertake consultation in 2023 and 2024, however we do not have firm dates for this consultation to occur at this point in time. For example, if a final Technical Specification is agreed and there is a proposal to include it in the building regulatory system, we will undertake consultation. However there are no timeframes for the release of the final Technical Specification, and until the final

Technical Specification is release we cannot consider whether to develop such a proposal or determine when consultation might occur on any proposal.

We will advise you as and when matters arise on which we plan to undertake consultation.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of MBIE's response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AM', with a small dot at the end.

Amy Moorhead

Manager Building Policy

Building System Performance