

Summary of Crown Observer Proposal

1. That the Government, on the invitation of the Council, appoint a Crown observer to assist the Christchurch City Council address its governance issues and help ensure it is functioning well so as to support Christchurch's earthquake recovery.
2. That the Crown observer:
 - (a). may attend any meeting of the Council or committee of the Council
 - (b). may meet with, and offer advice and assistance to, the elected Council or Council committees, the Mayor, and other elected members or groups of elected members
 - (c). may facilitate meetings of the Mayor, Councillors, and staff on improving the systems and processes of Council governance
 - (d). may assist the Council to develop its proposal for a charter to help define roles, responsibilities and expectations of relations between the Mayor, councillors and council officers
 - (e). may report to the Minister of Local Government on any matter raised or discussed that he or she attends as a Crown observer
 - (f). must at all times maintain confidentiality with respect to the council affairs except as regards to 2(e) above
 - (g). may not vote on any matter or exercise any of the powers or perform any of the functions or duties of the Council.
3. The costs of the Crown observer will be met by the Government on terms agreed between the Department of Internal Affairs and the observer consistent with State Services Commission guidelines. The Council will provide the Crown observer with the documentation and administrative support needed to fulfil the role.
4. The Crown observer will be appointed by the Minister of Local Government, subject to consultation with the Council, and be a person who:
 - (a). has wide and recent governance experience in the local government sector
 - (b). has recognised facilitating skills that would help build stronger relationships between the Mayor, Councillors and staff
 - (c). will have a knowledge of Christchurch but no direct recent or historical involvement in its different political groupings
 - (d). will not have any conflicts of interest that would compromise his or her capacity to work with all parties effectively.
5. The Crown observer role will continue until 1 July 2012, unless terminated earlier by agreement between the Council and the Government.