

Media Release

PM unveils design of Christchurch Justice Precinct

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Prime Minister John Key unveiled how the Justice and Emergency Services Precinct to be constructed in central Christchurch will look.

It will encompass over 40,000 square metres over five floors in the city block bordered by Colombo, Tuam, Durham and Lichfield Streets. This location, to the south of the CBD, was chosen for its direct access to the city's main arterial roads and its close proximity to hospitals for the emergency services.

The precinct will be home to the Ministry of Justice, New Zealand Police, Department of Corrections, New Zealand Fire Service, St John and the civil defence and emergency management functions of the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, the Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury. It will house 19 courtrooms for hearings of the High Court, District Court, Māori Land Court, Employment Court, Environment Court and Youth Court.

The precinct will cost in the region of \$300 million and be the first major public building to be built in Christchurch since the earthquakes in 2010 and 2011. It forms part of the Government's blueprint for the central city rebuild.

Earthworks are expected to begin by February 2014 and construction of the main building is planned to begin five months later. At the height of construction, 400 people will be employed on the site. The precinct will be completed and open to the public by mid-2017. When fully operational it will have around 1100 people working full-time from the precinct and around 900 visitors every day.

Ministry of Justice staff and the judiciary will start working from the precinct in December 2016. The precinct will be fully operational in mid-2017 when the emergency services building will be completed.