

ICL PUBLIC INQUIRY

BEFORE

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD GILL

**CLOSING SUBMISSIONS ON BEHALF OF ICL PLASTICS LTD &
ICL TECH LTD**

My Lord on behalf of ICL Tech Ltd and ICL Plastics Ltd I have very brief submissions to make.

At the outset I would wish to thank counsel to the inquiry and the inquiry team for the thorough and impressive performance in the evidence they have led in this inquiry. Furthermore it cannot pass without mention that those who have been injured or have lost loved ones have behaved with a quiet dignity during the course of these proceedings.

Everyone involved in both ICL companies feel profound sadness and regret that what happened on the 11th of May 2004 has blighted so many lives. Detailed written submissions on behalf of ICL have been lodged in respect of phase one and I do not attempt to rehearse these again but suffice it to say that both ICL companies accept that in respect of the events leading up to May 2004 that they fell short of the standards required by the provisions of the Health and safety at Work Act. While others may have played their part in the mistakes that led to the underground pipe being essentially ignored both companies and the individuals responsible for overseeing the health and safety of the employees do not seek to escape responsibility for their own shortcomings.

It has been said before and should be said again that both companies apologise and express deep remorse for those who have been affected by the tragedy.

Although neither company is involved with LPG now they would wish to place on record that the revised twenty one recommendations of Rod Sylvester-Evans have the full support of both companies and should the inquiry choose to adopt them in its final report then both ICL companies are

of the view that they would go some significant way in clarifying the role and responsibilities of the agencies working with LPG to make the workplace in the United Kingdom safer for those involved.

Mr Rod Sylvester-Evans should be commended for the work that he has undertaken in this respect. As a result of everything that has taken place in this inquiry agencies, companies and individuals have had an opportunity to reflect on their role and the errors that were made and while the report will deal with all of these matters in due course lessons have already been learned.

PAUL G MCBRIDE QC

FOR ICL TECH AND ICL PLASTICS LTD