

ICL INQUIRY STATEMENT

ANDREW GALLOWAY

1. Some time around 1987 I answered an advert in the Glasgow Evening Times for someone to do some work in the premises of ICL Plastics in Hopehill Road in Maryhill. I went to the premises where I met Campbell Downie, Director. Initially the discussion we had was about 3 or 4 weeks work at the premises.
2. Rather than being the short-term job there was a flow of work. I took Kenny Murray on full-time as an employee about 15 years ago. The work continued and developed into Kenny and I having a permanent basis at the premises.
3. Constant renovation was required at the premises as it was an old building.
4. We were involved in joinery work, plumbing, roof repairs, pointing of brickwork, building stud walls, etc. We also did some concrete work in the yard adjacent to the coating shop of the premises.
5. When I first began to do work for the companies, it was Campbell Downie who would give instructions to carry out that work. The last 5 to 6 years, it would be Stewart McColl. Occasionally small jobs would come via Ian Mavers or Bill Masterton, who were the foremen for the fabrication shop and coating shop, respectively. Stewart McColl insisted that everything had to be okayed by him.
6. I would say that he wanted to control everything so that even small jobs had to go through him. He was a very hard man to negotiate with. In the past, if I had a view about a job that was to be carried out at the premises, Campbell Downie would listen to my point of view, although

he might ultimately decide he wanted the job done his way but Stewart McColl just wouldn't listen.

7. All the directors were hands-on in the companies. Campbell Downie, in recent times, worked less at the premises but was always working at home. He would be constantly back and forward on the phones, etc and he was still very active in the company right up until the day of the disaster.

The Building

8. At one point we did major work, a steel lintel, on the Stockline building. Also at the front of the building at Grovepark Mills we built walls, ramps and fences for car parks to the front. Painting was required constantly on the premises to maintain the appearance. Campbell Downie and Stewart McColl were very much for the appearance of the place and I think they maybe thought that they had lost work in the past because of the appearance and wished to keep it in better order.
9. The layout of the building is as described in meetings with HSE and the Procurator Fiscal, Elaine Taylor, at the HSE premises in Glasgow, and this was to the best of my knowledge.

The Basement of the Building

10. I am very familiar with this as I used the basement constantly and carried out work within the basement.
11. To gain access to the basement you entered the stairwell to the right of the ramp for the fork lifts as you looked straight at the building from the LPG tank. As you went in there was a door immediately on your left hand side. This door had only been there for about the last 10 years as Kenny and I put it in place. Those who had keys for the door were me, Kenny Murray, Jim McGoldrick and there were spares held in the

offices. It was a varnished wooden door. The door hinged to the right and there was a light switch to the left.

12. The switch operated a fluorescent tube light which was at the bottom of the flight of 4 or 5 stairs. The light was on the underside of what would be the platform of the floor above. You turned there then followed the ramp down to the basement. The light would flicker when it came on or you have passed it before it came on fully. There was also a wall mounted bulk head light at the bottom of the ramp but that never really worked.
13. At the bottom there was the entranceway into the basement which was a doorway but there was no door there. We used the basement as a store from more or less the beginning of working with the company. Building materials, paints etc belonging to ICL were held in the basement and these were items that I used and then Kenny and I also used it to store building materials, slates, tools, gas bottles, Calor burning torch for repairs, etc.
14. When you entered through the open doorway there was a light switch inside to your right. The basement was lit by fluorescent tube lighting. One switch operated all the lights in that area. As you looked across from the doorway to the middle of the floor there was a main support pillar and a row of support pillars ran along underneath the basement.
15. The basement ran along under the building as far back as roughly the wall which you can see under the words "Powder Bag Store" in the plan. **[The Inquiry have been unable to locate this plan]** In the first section of the basement there was a fireproof store which faced you as you came in through the opening. The fireproof store was built by Kenny and me around 8 to 10 years ago. If you went round the pillar and down the wall at the side of the fireproof store, you came to the lower part of the shotblaster.

16. The shotblaster was a piece of machinery in the coating shop and there was an opening between the ground floor into the basement through the steel floor, through which the bottom part of the shotblaster went into the basement area.
17. In relation to the fireproof store, Kenny and I had built this for the company for the purpose of storing papers. In the area of the fireproof store there was reinforcement of the steel ceiling (floor of the ground floor) in order to make it more secure in the event of fire. Between the steel beams which supported the steel ceiling/floor there were concrete lintels about 3' x 6" x 4". These were cemented onto the beams under the steel floor. The company wanted to keep papers within the fireproof store but the dampness meant that this simply didn't work.
18. In relation to the shotblaster, I know that people had to clean it out but I never saw anybody actually do that in the basement. When you entered the basement and looked along to your right there was a wall which divided the front of the basement from the rear of the basement. The wall ran along the edge of where the steel ceiling was and there was a door which divided two parts of the basement which Kenny and I had put in place.
19. Support pillars ran right down the middle of the basement from the fireproof store end down to the rear. These were brick built pillars – when you went through the door into the back of the basement there were steel beams between the pillars which Kenny and I had put in place for extra support. There had been some there but we put more in at the request of Campbell Downie to provide support for the area immediately above where the forklift trucks ran.
20. There was scaffolding under the concrete floor at that end of the basement. The scaffolding under there, which was for support, was holding railway sleepers which had been used to support the concrete floor. It wouldn't have been my choice to support a floor in that way but

there was no sign at all that I could see in the coating shop that there was anything actually wrong with the floor.

21. At that end of the basement there was a raised concrete plinth at the very far end – I don't know what this had been originally for but it was divided off from the basement by a steel sliding door. There was a problem with water coming in the basement and seeping down towards the wall which divided the front end of the basement where the fireproof door was and the rear end. Because of this, Kenny and I put concrete behind the section where the concrete plinth was to try and stop water coming in.

22. Under the steel floor there were beams which criss-crossed under the entire floor. There were steel pillars supporting those and Kenny and I built up a brick pillar around each of those. When we reinforced the steel floor, we let Campbell Downie know what we required to carry out the job and he organised the beams. They came from a scrap yard at Balmore Road and we collected them. We were asked to by Campbell Downie. I think his thinking behind it was that if there was ever a fire and intense heat, the fact that the brickwork was round the steel pillars would deflect some of the heat.

23. There was a light in the part of the basement, which had the concrete plinth as well as the lighting, in the first section that you came to when you came in off the ramp. An LPG pipe came in through the wall on the basement behind the pillar which was built round the steel pillar immediately beside the wall which divided the two sections of the basement. I know there was a valve on that pipe. I am not sure if I ever saw him doing it, but I knew it was Jim McGoldrick's practice to turn the valve on and off. I think it stopped because either there was a valve upstairs or at the tank.

24. The pipe came in about 3 feet from the floor of the cellar from the outside of the building. I think, that at one time, the end of the

basement would not have been covered up by the yard because at the external stairwell you could see at the outside of the building that there had been an arch as if there was an entrance and I think at one stage the stairs that we went down to go into the basement were in fact stairs you went up when you entered into the external staircase, from the original entrance.

25. The LPG pipe went directly up from the place I've described, coming up on the left hand side of the main roller shutter door as you looked from the front of the building and it ran along, almost at ceiling level, within the coating shop. I am not exactly sure of the route once it got to the oven area of the coating shop.

26. The door to the basement was varnished, I think. In the basement the walls were painted cream and the brick pillars were cream also.

27. Myself and Kenny were the only people who really used the basement as nobody else would have any real reason to be in the basement. Jim McGoldrick had two sets of keys when he used to go down to the basement to turn on and off the LPG supply every morning. This practice stopped about five years ago when a new LPG tank was fitted and it could be turned on and off via a valve fitted up on the ground floor. I knew that the shotblaster deposits waste material into the bottom of the machine, which is situated in the basement area. I know that the blaster is occasionally emptied but to be honest I don't really know who done this, but it wisnae me or Kenny.

28. The basement at the ICL/Stockline factory was used for storage i.e. tools, material etc and paper work in a special built safe room.

Ovens

29. At one time we repaired the ducting on Gordon Bell's LPG oven and Jimmy McGoldrick's electric oven. The ducting was to vent heat away

from the ovens out of the building. Another time we renewed the door on Gordon's oven but we never touched anything to do with the technical aspects of the ovens. For that the company brought in J MacNichols.

30. The natural gas ('Clenny') oven in the coating shop was built by engineers in the factory. Ian MacDonald was responsible for the Clenny oven and it was built about 8 to 10 years ago. Kenny and I lined the oven with brick.

31. I have been asked if I know what route the natural gas pipe followed in the coating shop. I think it may have stopped at the Clenny area but I am not at all sure about that. There were gas heaters in fabrication but I am not sure how they were fuelled.

32. I never required to learn anything about the processes in the coating shop. I knew who did which jobs, for example, Jimmy McGoldrick worked an electric oven, Gordon Bell, an LPG etc. They had set jobs. People worked between jobs.

33. Kenny and I worked in the fabrication side of the building as well and on the day of the accident Kenny was working on a partition wall there and we also had to replace a glass panel in a door up in the office on the second floor of the main building.

34. Kenny and I were responsible for building a smoking shelter in the yard. It was built right outside the building to the side of the roller shutter door. The company were bringing in a complete "No Smoking" policy but some people were allowed to smoke in some of the offices (I think this was because some senior people smoked). I think the company were wanting to ban it altogether.

35. Kenny was a smoker but I can't recall ever seeing him with a cigarette in the basement. I also can't say that he never went into the basement

with a cigarette. I just don't know. From what I have been told he wouldn't have been in a position to smoke on the day of the disaster because I've been told that he had asked Jimmy McGoldrick for money to go and get tobacco because he had no cigarettes with him. Kenny normally rolled his own cigarettes. I also understand that Jimmy didn't give him any money to get tobacco. Kenny had been given warnings about smoking in the factory, although it never resulted in anything formal.

36. The ducting was not fan-assisted that I know of but I'm just not sure about that. I know that the natural gas oven had a fan-assisted flue.

37. I have been asked if I have any knowledge of LPG cylinders being in the basement.

38. I know that there were 2 cylinders lying over in the far corner of the storeroom which Kenny and I used (behind the sliding door which we put a lock on).

39. They could have been there as long as I worked there but may have been put there after I started. In any case it was a long, long time ago. We made the storeroom secure maybe 10 years ago and the cylinders were there at that time.

40. You can normally tell if there is anything in them from the way they feel and their weight and I am sure both of these cylinders were empty.

LPG Tank and Yard

41. At one time there were two tanks in the yard. I am certain about this as Kenny and I extended the concrete platform to take the two tanks. We also put in place a steel barrier. This consisted of steel posts and a hand rail about 3ft high. The barrier ran parallel with the tank and the purpose of it was basically to protect the tank from any fork lift traffic as

it was busy in that area. The fence was situated about 2ft from the tank. Kenny and I also worked on a drainage channel which was along the yard boundary wall. We had to work on it because it was collapsing. It had simply broken up over the years and we dug it up and then renewed it. I am not sure exactly when that was.

42. A lot of water would gather in Gael's car park which was just beside our premises. The water would gather in manholes/drain covers and would flood.

43. Another piece of work which Kenny and I did was to build a clean room in the fabrication area. We assembled it but John McNicols did the electrical work on it.

44. In the course of our work we would go to the basement whenever we needed to. On occasions it would be three or four times a day and at other times there would be days between visits to the basement. There was a damp smell in the basement but it wasn't too bad. There were no other unusual smells. In the coating shop itself there would be smells of gas from the gas ovens when they were being lit or fumes about them but that would be it.

Health and Safety

45. Over the past few years the company had been getting stricter and stricter on health and safety. I would say that about 75% of work that Kenny and I did was health and safety related. If the insurance company was in visiting, Stewart McColl would come to us and ask us to do five or six jobs.

46. At one point the fire service was in and we went and had to get signs and put them up after their visit. If Health and Safety were in, things would follow through from that also.

47. People would complain about fumes and dust. If I was aware of anything that I thought required attention I would report it to Stewart McColl. Stewart encouraged people to let him know about things but I think there was a feeling that he would use it as a tool for his own reasons.
48. The day before the disaster Kenny and I were working on the fabrication roof and we were repairing windows, due to leaks at the astragals. We were using silicon sealant which did not have a particularly strong smell. We were cleaning out moss at the bottom of the windows by hand, brushing and scrapping them out.
49. I have been told that the company had a risk assessment but never saw this. I think Bill Masterton carried out a risk assessment for the coating shop.
50. I would carry out my own assessments if I was asked to carry out jobs. In relation to insurance which I held, there was employer's liability, public liability and I had some insurance for myself.
51. I was not really aware of any specific health and safety problems; in fact a lot of the work that I carried out was in an effort to improve the general health and safety of the factory. Stewart McColl had a folder with risk assessment. One example was the control of hot work such as electric welding. Kenny Murray had to get a permit to work for Stuart McColl or Colin Foard. I have employee's liability compulsory insurance through Provident Insurance.
52. As far as the keys to the basement were concerned, they were held by Kenny, myself, Jim McGoldrick and, I think, the shotblaster people. Margaret Brownlie would also go down to the basement. I saw her there a couple of times and she had access to spare keys. Liz from accounts was also seen by me once or twice. Margaret and Liz would be going to the papers in the strong room.

53. Stewart McColl was well aware that people were going down there. Before the door went on at the top of the staircase to the basement, there would be more or less free access to go down.
54. Kenny and I had done some work on pipework for natural gas and a firm who came in did final checks. The company did testing and commissioning. The name of the company was Kramers and they would check the gas fittings over the last few years, I think.
55. If you went into the building at the main entrance, which I think was Grovepark Place, you would go into the door. You are the bottom of the stairwell. The entrance to the basement is a door to the left of the entrance door. This door was always locked. It was a fire door which was brown in colour. The walls in the cellar had been painted cream and the concrete screed. It wasn't painted. The metal beams which were put in to support the mezzanine floor which was the metal floor on the ground floor were all bricked so if you looked at the pillars you would think they were black but in fact it was just a brick façade around it.
56. There was never a toilet in the basement.
57. The height at the entrance to the basement was about 7 to 8 feet. On the ground floor there was a central ramp going down the coating shop for forklifts. This went from just before the powder store wall after you came in through the roller shutter and turned right and it went down in a ramp for about 4ft past the wall and then would even out again. I would say the dip of the ramp was about 8" to 12". On the ground floor there were blue painted areas at the oven end in order to give grip beside the oven. Kenny and I had painted these areas and the blue paint was non-slip safety paint. It was put down about 4 years ago. In the last year the beginning of the forklift route when you came in the ramp at despatch was also painted with the same blue paint. This was to avoid

the forklifts and people slipping due to water being brought in from outside onto the ramp creating a slippery surface. I was shown pieces of masonry with blue paint on them. I can identify it as the same as the blue paint I have mentioned.

Date of the Tragedy

58. On the Monday, the day before the disaster, I remember that it was dry all day. I am so sure about this because the work that we were doing on the fabrication roof, you couldn't have done if it was wet. On the Tuesday morning I got in about 7.30/ 7.45 am with Kenny who always travelled to work with me. After I had my morning cup of tea I went to see Stewart McColl as Kenny and I were due to work on the fabrication room wall. I wanted to check in case anything else required to be done that day. There was a glass panel in a door up in the offices broken and both Kenny and I would be required to do that job. We started working about 8.15am and were on and off that job all morning. We took the broken glass out of the panel and went to the glaziers to order the replacement glass. I went back and collected it at 10.30 am. When I got back, Kenny was working on the fabrication room wall. I joined him for a while to finish the job. The tools for that job were to go back up the stairs to the storeroom.
59. Kenny and I then went on to the job of repairing the glass door panel. Kenny was getting on with the prep work for fixing that and I went upstairs to the storeroom to get some sealant which we were going to use and also to do some paperwork. I remember seeing Tammy and Stacey from the office whilst we were working at the door.
60. I remember leaving the storeroom and I think I must have crossed up to the staircase but I have no recollection of what happened to me.

61. When I was in hospital for the first two weeks I couldn't remember where I was working or anything. Tammy and Stacey told me I had been working at the door and they thought Kenny was there when the incident happened. I know now that Kenny was found in the basement and I can't think of any reason why he had to go to the cellar for anything. Maybe he realised he didn't have a tool but I don't know of anything. I think now that I was just coming down the stair from the top floor when the disaster happened and the reason I think that that was exactly where I was because I was unconscious and when I came round there was a piece of light plywood boarding on top of me. I know that the only place in the building which had that sort of plywood, felted over, was just at the top of the staircase. It was light and flapping about and I was able to push it up when I regained consciousness. When I came to I heard the helicopters. I vaguely remember seeing one. The board was flapping and I thought I could get myself out but my foot was trapped and I couldn't push myself out. I could hear the voices of the services but I couldn't hear anyone in the building or see anyone at that time. I looked around and I shouted and managed to wave. Someone told me to lie back down and wait and told me that they could see me.

62. I think I must have lost consciousness again as the next thing I remember was the debris that was around me being pulled out.

Health and Safety

63. I was asked about the overloading of floors in the premises. I was shown a plan drawn up by HSE and would say that the first floor is shown fairly accurately. There is a doorway into the storage area and there are heavy pallets and plastic sheeting in that area. There is racking along the riot store equipment and the store beside it. There is also heavy tooling stored on the racking and machinery in the area marked "DRO Store".

64. Nothing on that floor gave me any concern. Where there is a stool store marked I would describe it as a cage used for parts. There was racking there holding tools.
65. The fire service would be in the premises at least once a year. I would be aware they had been in only because Stewart McColl would come to us with a list of things to do, which we were told the fire service had requested.
66. We had been asked to do things like put up new exit and fire signs. We had to put up signs highlighting and numbering where fire extinguishers were. We had to then give a list to Stewart McColl so that he knew exactly which point each fire extinguisher was at.
67. I also saw Margaret Brownlie with people. I can't say who they were but I know she went round with the fire service.
68. At most I would spend 15 to 30 minutes a day in the basement but on some days I would not be there at all. Every now and again Kenny and I would spend a half day clearing it out.
69. I have been shown worksheets which cover a number of jobs which I did. The urethane building referred to is the red building shown in the picture of the premises which is between the fabrication shop and the Stockline building. Stockline used to use the upper part of the building as offices and the bottom was used by ICL Tech. This is where the fact forming and geist room are situated.
70. I have been asked if I've done any structural work on the floor above the rotary oven. The work, I assume this is referring to, is the windows which were above this area. We took out the timber window and bricked the window up and tidied up some old brickwork.

71. I've been asked if we ever done any digging in the yard. We put some concrete around the perimeter fence this year just to tidy up the wall. That didn't involve digging the ground up. I have never dug up any pipes near LPG tanks and I don't know which way the pipes run from the tanks underground into the building. The present LPG storage tank in the yard sits on a concrete base. There was an original concrete base there. When there was a smaller concrete base, we extended this base again that didn't involve any digging.
72. I have been asked if I know what LPG smells like. I have smelled it when they were filling the tanks but I wouldn't really know how to describe it but I think it is possibly similar to Calor gas. I wasn't really aware of this smell in the factory. Only perhaps when the ovens were being lit perhaps.
73. Two cylinders appeared not long after the single vessel for LPG. This was about five years. I do not know who connected the cylinders to the vessel. I have never done any work on LPG pipelines. I did some work on the natural gas pipes. It would have been Stewart McColl who gave me instructions. I did some natural gas pipework in the Stockline building. I would have invoices for this work. There were two plumbing companies. One Kramers and I cannot remember the other. These two companies did the final connection, testing and commissioning.
74. I am certain about six months ago a company of industrial plumbers and engineers tested all the gas systems. I have in my mind this was done for the insurer.
75. I have been asked if I was ever present whilst the Fire Brigade conducted an inspection for the purpose of getting a certificate. I never was the person who dealt with this, this was Margaret Brownlie. Margaret had keys and access to the basement. Margaret used to take the Fire Brigade and insurance inspectors around when they came. I couldn't say for sure if they actually visited the basement area.

76. There were plenty of hazard and fire escape signs about the building. I know this because I had to put them up. I don't think that there were any of these signs in the basement area. The whereabouts of these signs was discussed and agreed with Stewart McColl.
77. I have been asked if I was ever employed by ICL Tech but I never was. All the time I was there I was always self-employed and I always invoiced the company for work I'd done. The same applies for Kenny Murray as well, he was always employed by me.
78. I have been asked to clarify the floor levels. What is now known as the basement area was at one time I think used as the main store for the factory. The only reason I know this is because I have heard Jim McGoldrick and Campbell Downie speak about this because ever since I worked there the mosaic floor was in place and the basement was as it is now.
79. Some time in 1999 there was a fire in the adjoining premises of John Russell, which was a joiners business. The fire completely gutted Russell's premises and caught onto the Stockline building, which adjoined Russell's and caused substantial damage, mostly external although there was some internal damage, where the timbers had been damaged. These were cut and replaced. There was also some roof sheeting, windows, roof windows and some brick work damage.
80. As a result of this fire, the gas supply to the building had to be closed off. This probably lasted for the best part of a month. This I think was natural gas. Once the initial repairs were carried out to the premises of Stockline, Campbell Downie was keen to get the gas supply back up and running, in order that the ovens could get working again. Due to this Campbell Downie asked both myself and Kenny to check all the pipework for the gas supply.

81. When I say that we checked the pipe, we physically checked the pipes for leaks using cans of soapy water. We did this along with a heating engineer company, I don't remember the name of the heating company. I think they must have pressurised the pipes for us to do the check to check for leaks because we couldn't have done that on our own but to be honest I can't really remember exactly what we done.

82. Following this we painted the pipes a yellow type of colour, this we were told by Campbell Downie was the colour that gas pipes were to be painted.

83. The gas pipes that I am referring to came out of the building at the Stockline building and came along the outside of the building as about 10 foot high and passed along the wall facing onto the premises of Gaels. I think this pipe was also painted yellow.

84. I knew all of those who lost their lives in the disaster.

I confirm that the contents of this statement are true.

Witness signature _____

Date _____

Andrew Galloway

1. **Paragraph 27** – When you mention the "ground floor", exactly what floor do you mean? In line 6 of that paragraph, which valve are you referring to?

This would be the coating shop/oven floor. The valve was at the left hand side of the door inside behind the partition wall off dispatch office

2. **Paragraph 29** - Reference is made in your statement to J MacNicols. Could you confirm who this is, and whether it is a person or a firm?

They were electrical contractors whom did maintenance work on ovens etc. It was the firm John McNicol, 123 Eliot Street, Glasgow (0141 221 0725)

3. **Paragraph 48** - Can you provide more detail as to the smell of silicon sealant? For example, although you mention that it "did not have a particularly strong smell"; could it have been noticeable to others? Did anyone enquire as to what the smell was while you were working?

It varies, dependant on type of sealant. Some could smell like glue, like evostick, others like smelling salts. I suppose like the kind used to revive people whom had fainted.

4. **Paragraph 73** – You mention two LPG cylinders appearing. Do you know why were they needed? Can you remember how often were they used?

The two LPG cylinders which were situated in the front yard supplied gas to the ovens and replaced a single cylinder. Later this was reverted back to a single cylinder again to supply gas to ovens in coating shop.

5. **Paragraph 69** - Can you remember anything else about the company of industrial plumbers? Do you know what was tested and how?

They renewed at least twice a water boiler on top floor. This was a gas fired boiler and was situated above at the Gents toilet. Toilets on office floor. I do not know how they would have tested the new boilers.

6. **Paragraph 69** - Can you clarify when you understood these tests to be done? Do you know which pipes were tested? Did the tests involve both natural gas and LPG pipes? Where does your knowledge about these tests come from?

I do not know when these tests would have been done. Although I think there was a yearly check but I do not know what time of year this would have been. From what I remember, it was only on domestic appliances such as supply pipes to and on radiator boilers, water supply boilers on the top floor flat and the gas fire in the training room which was on the office floor adjacent to the cleaners store and office sink area at the rear entrance to the office floor. These were all supplied by natural gas. There may have been some tests on LPG but I am not sure as I can't remember.