

ICL INQUIRY STATEMENT

JAMES MOIR

1. I used to be employed as a self-employed printer for 24 years. I am therefore used to chemical smells.

Date of Tragedy

2. About five to twelve that day my wife, Christina, and I arrived at Gael's paints.
3. I did not notice any unusual smells when I parked the car. Had there been any unusual smells then I would have smelt it.
4. We were in the shop about 5 minutes. We had looked at the carpets and were going to look at the lamps. We were close to the door, facing the car park, when I heard a tremendous noise and Gael's shook. Bricks then smashed through the glass in Gael's windows and entered Gael's. Dust also came in. At that time there were about four or five customers, including Christina and I, and about four or five staff.
5. At first I thought it was tremendous thunder then I realised because of the dust that it was some sort of explosion.
6. The owner of Gael's, I think his name is Abid, suggested we go out the side entrance of Gael's. We went there and it was an enclosed square, which was about 20 foot square. In that square there was no means of escape.
7. We therefore went back into Gael's and looked out the front door. We realised we could get out through that door.
8. I noticed that the corner of the plastics building was lying at a dangerous angle, leaning over and about 30 or 40 feet away from

Gael's front door. I noticed that my car had been totally destroyed and that other cars were covered in rubble or had been bashed by falling masonry. Some of the bricks in the cars were about the size of a chair and were on the cars' roofs and bonnets.

9. I saw that the gable end of the building near Gael's had fallen out. I could see the floors inside the factory, the lights inside the factory and desks and storage racks.
10. The police told us to wait outside the front door until they could escort us out of the premises. We stood outside the front of Gael's while waiting on the police to find an escape route for us to go.
11. While waiting on the police to inform us of the escape route, I smelt a very strong smell of Calor or Propane gas. I was worried about the smell as a spark could cause another explosion. This smell was in the air. It was not coming from Gael's. It was coming from the debris of the plastics factory.
12. I have had Calor gas on my boat for about 30 years, which supplies the cooker. I have also smelt Propane before because my neighbour has central heating which is supplied by Propane and I have smelt it in the past when my neighbour's cylinder has been changed. I cannot tell the difference in smell between Calor or Propane gas. In my opinion they are similar smells.
13. In my opinion the gas smell smelt like unburnt gas. The reason why I say this is because that lit gas doesn't smell. An example being is that you would not be able to smell the gas burning in a gas fire.
14. I would estimate that the time between hearing the noise and smelling this gas was about 3 to 5 minutes. There was about 4 or 5 of us standing there. I smelt the gas for about 5 to 10 minutes. It had been

strong at first and then dispersed slowly but surely. We stood there for about 10 to 15 minutes.

I confirm that the contents of this statement are true.

Witness signature _____

Date _____