

ICL INQUIRY STATEMENT

LYNDA MARY McCOLL

1. I am the widow of Stewart McColl and the mother of Sheena McColl.
2. I think it was 1966 when I met Stewart. At that time he was working as a pattern maker for Caledonian Foundry in Greenock. He worked there with his father.
3. Stewart and I separated 13 years ago. However, we would still go out socially, go for meals and go for weekends away. The only difference was that we didn't live together. We still got on.

Stewart McCall's commencement of employment at ICL Plastics Ltd

4. About November 1967 Stewart left his father's company because he wanted a change and went to work for ICL Plastics at Dobbies Loan, Glasgow. Stewart got that appointment through an advertisement in the newspaper. At that time ICL Plastics used to apply industrial coatings onto metals. An example being that they would apply plastic onto ball bearings in order for them to last longer. Stewart started there as a salesman, selling plastic sheetings to sign makers, glaziers etc. I think ICL Plastics company had been formed about 4 or 5 years before Stewart started.

5. I think it was in the winter of 1968 that they moved from Dobbies Loan to bigger premises at Grovepark Mills, Maryhill.

6. **Start of Employment**

7. I joined the company in the summer of 1969. My job was to do whatever was required. I would answer telephones, clean the offices do the wages and went to the bank. I did these jobs because it saved us employing someone to do it. Lorna Downie also did this.

8. At that time the Chairman was Campbell Downie who also employed in Grovepark Mills together with his wife, Lorna Downie, the engineer Ian MacDonald, Stewart and myself. A man was later employed; I cannot remember his name, as a sawyer. I presume that they may also have employed someone to do the plastic coating but I can't remember.

9. Originally Stewart and I lived in Ayrshire and in late 1969 we moved to Glasgow and I did more hours because it was less travelling.

10. In 1972 when Sheena was born, I started to do fewer hours. Sometimes I worked at home doing paperwork. When Sheena was about 6 years old and at a primary school, I worked school hours.

11. When Sheena was about 13 years old and was at secondary school, I became credit controller for the company. It was a job that just

happened. It basically involved collecting bad debt. I worked until about 3pm, five days a week.

12. Prior to the tragedy I was working 3 times a week.

13. My husband Stuart progressed throughout the years in the company until he became managing director of Stockline Plastics, ICL Tech, Northplast, Brisbay, and Easter Road Plastics in Edinburgh, but is actually only a director of the last three as there is an onsite MD for those three companies.

14. As far as I'm aware, Stuart was a shareholder in Stockline Plastics Limited and ICL Plastics Limited Group, but I don't know what his stake was in the company.

COMPANY STRUCTURE

I have not got a clue about the dates but ICL Plastics Limited became the parent company and took over other companies.

Stockline Plastics

15. Whilst in Grovepark Mills, we started the company Stockline Plastics to sell raw materials.

ICL Technical Plastics

16. ICL Technical Plastics was also formed. I am not sure if this happened at Dobbies Loan or Grovepark Mills. It may well have been at Dobbies Loan because I remember that when we moved to Grovepark Mills we took a lot of machinery and had to move this during the night because of the machinery on the roads.

17. ICL Technical Plastics was formed because we were becoming more involved than just industrial coatings and linings. We became more involved in the manufacturing of products such as riot shields, machine guards for industry, vacuum formed goods such as making overhead luggage cupboards for British Aerospace. ICL Plastics then became more of a figurehead.

18. I think it was the early or mid-80's that Frank Stott started at ICL Tech. He was employed as a boss there. I am not sure if he was a director but he possibly was. He was a friend of Campbell Downie's. When he started he came to stay in our house because his family were still in Ireland.

19. Frank retired, or semi-retired, a good few months, maybe 2004, before the tragedy.

Plastics W Graham

20. We bought part of Plastics W Graham, which is based in Dundee. That company is involved in the selling of products and engraving safety signs for companies such as Shell.

Norplast

21. We purchased Norplast in Newcastle. That company is involved in the selling of plastic sheeting.

Easter Road Plastics

22. We formed Easter Road Plastics in Edinburgh. We did that because we needed an outlet in the east coast. At the start of that company we started selling raw materials from there but we later expanded to also selling vinyl signs and lettering for removable signs.

Brisbay

23. We also bought Brisbay in Newcastle. They manufacture industrial plastic products such as safety guards for machinery.

Stewart McCall's Position in Companies

24. I remember that just before Stewart was 30 years of age, he was made a Director of Stockline Plastics.

25. Stewart later became a director of Plastics W Graham, Easter Road Plastics, Norplast and Brisbay. I think about 3 or 4 years ago he became a director of ICL Tech.

26. I know that he was a shareholder of ICL Plastics but I am not sure if he was a director of ICL Plastics. I am not sure of the number of shares he held.

Control by ICL Plastics Limited

27. I am not sure when ICL Plastics became the holding company.

28. In my opinion each company was run on a day to day basis on its own but overall control was done by ICL Plastics.

29. It controlled the reins of the subsidiary companies. ICL Plastics Limited authorised the wage rises for the other companies, or the purchasing of major expenditure or a car. It kept a very tight rein of the other companies' finances. My understanding is that the Chairman, Campbell Downie, ultimately made all the decisions.

30. Laterally, Campbell Downie worked from home. I am not sure when he started working from home (certainly more recently than 10 years ago). He still came in. I would only occasionally see him because I used to finish work about 3.00 pm. Campbell used to come in later in the day to speak to the directors of the other companies. I would only really know that he was in because I would see his car in the car park. There would be no real reason for me to go and see him.

31. I read in the newspapers immediately after the tragedy that Campbell Downie had semi-retired. That was a real surprise to me and the first I had heard of it and I had known him for about 31 years. He wasn't semi-retired. The only difference was that he worked from home. I knew that because Stewart used to tell me that he was going up to see Campbell to discuss something and that they would sometimes discuss it over a meal or go to the pub.

32. Lorna Downie's role was that of Company Secretary. She dealt with personnel such as the hiring and firing of staff. I don't think ICL Plastics dealt with the firing of staff, I think it was down to each individual company.

Date of Tragedy

33. I did not smell any unusual smells on the Monday. I am very observant with smells and I certainly didn't smell anything untoward. I was not at work on Tuesday.

Health and Safety

34. I am not sure who was responsible for the health and safety for each company. As far as I know there was someone in each company who was responsible. In Stockline it was either Stewart or Colin Foard. At ICL Tech I think it was Frank Stott when he was there and then Stewart took over health and safety when he took over Frank's role. I don't

think ICL Plastics was involved in the health and safety because their staff were only in the office floor.

35. Health and safety was paramount. You wouldn't dare leave anything lying about. If you left a handbag on the floor then Stewart would say "Get that bloody bag off the floor". You would then have to put it in a drawer. If stationery was delivered and left in the corridor beside a fire exit then Stewart would insist that it was moved immediately and if someone said they were going for a tea break he would insist it was done straight away. If you were not using a kettle then Stewart would insist that you unplugged it.

36. I don't know much about the health and safety in the factory because I only went down there occasionally to speak to a member of staff who I had been unable to get by telephone.

37. I do not know if Campbell Downie was involved in health and safety.

38. I did not attend any meetings such as health and safety meetings. I had no reason to attend as my job only involved chasing up unpaid bills.

39. I don't know anything about Risk Assessments.

Basement

40. I was last in the basement about 30 years ago because at that time the sawyer had a saw down there and I was going down to speak to him.

Changes to Building

41. In my opinion the car park was never raised. The only change in the car park was that we cleared up an area next to the existing car park and made a secondary car park.

42. From my recollection I don't remember any outside contractor coming in and relaying the carpark, or putting tarmac down, if any maintenance was required it would simply be hired. About 4 or 5 years ago, a person came in to ask if we needed the car park relayed and it was just a cold call.

LPG Tank

43. I know that the LPG tank was not there when we took over Grovepark Mills. I know that because it was very basic when we arrived and I cannot think that the previous company, who were a paper mill factory, would have wanted an LPG tank.

44. I do remember the LPG tank. It was inside the front gate. I remember that it had a notice on it like "Don't Smoke". I also remember that it had a barrier around it. I did not have anything to do with the LPG tank.

45. I have no knowledge of any proposals to dig up the pipe work for the
LPG tank.

46. I have no knowledge of any flooding.

I confirm that the contents of this statement are true.

Witness signature _____

Date _____