

Ms Jillian Glass
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BY E-MAIL

Please quote this reference

PMG/ICL STOCKLINE/T07G0233

5 May 2009

Dear Ms Glass

ICL PUBLIC INQUIRY

I have been approached by several of the core participants for whom I act as Recognised Legal Representative in relation to the section of the ICL Inquiry website entitled “correspondence” concerning Lawrence Connelly’s involvement in the Inquiry.

As you know, through my secretary, Monica Devlin, I wrote to you on 19 June 2008 immediately following the consultation which had been held with my core participant clients specifically requesting that, among other things, the Inquiry Team approach Lawrence Connelly for a statement and involve him in the Inquiry. You will recollect that I indicated in my correspondence to you:

“... there was much discussion about the contribution that a Lawrence Connelly could make to the Inquiry. A large proportion of those who attended the consultation thought that he could make a significant contribution in terms of evidence.”

This request was not limited to stage 1 of the Inquiry but was drafted in general terms as I took the view that, given the funding issues and the clearly inquisitorial nature of the process I was not able to indicate whether his involvement should be at stage 1, 2 or both stages of the Inquiry. The issue of funding and the fact that I was precluded from carrying out my own investigations and obtaining statements was also canvassed in that correspondence.

The core participants who have approached me in relation to this issue are concerned that it may appear from the face of the correspondence on the website that there was some failing on the part of them to insist upon the involvement of Lawrence Connelly and perhaps even some suggestion that they could have involved him but either chose not to or failed to do so.

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The inquisitorial nature of the process is of course such that neither the core participants nor I as their Recognised Legal Representative could have called witnesses. The funding granted to the families additionally expressly excluded investigation work. The best that the families could do was to flag the issue up to the Inquiry Team and request that they carry out appropriate enquiries. This is exactly what the families did and they have asked me to write to you in order that their involvement in this matter may be put straight for the record on the face of the Inquiry website.

I trust in the circumstances you will be happy to publish this letter within the appropriate section of your site.

Yours sincerely

Patrick McGuire
THOMPSONS

MD