

Right Honourable Lord Gill
Chairman ICL Inquiry

Inquiry Secretariat
The ICL Inquiry
3rd Floor
Lothian Chambers
59-63 George IV Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1RN

17 November 2008

Dear Lord Gill,

As members of the research team who authored the *'The ICL/Stockline Disaster – An Independent Report on Working Conditions Prior to the Explosion'* we are writing following the letter we emailed to the Inquiry Secretariat on 12 November 2008. In this letter we raised a number of issues regarding the ICL Inquiry, given that the second phase was about to close.

First, we expressed surprise that we had not been contacted by the offices of the Inquiry to illuminate some of the circumstances surrounding the ICL disaster which had been the subject of our study and which was one of the key elements in the Inquiry's remit. We repeated the offer made in our initial communication with the Inquiry Secretariat on 15 May for members of our team with expertise in particular areas germane to the Inquiry to attend in person and provide clarification. We are disappointed that we received no acknowledgement of our initial offer, nor did we receive acknowledgment of our communication of last week.

Second, as you recall we submitted six copies of our report to you in May 2008 although we received no acknowledgement from you of the receipt of our report. In our letter to you last week we requested that our report be posted on the ICL Inquiry as a document containing information of relevance to the Inquiry. We would be grateful if you could provide a response to this request.

Thirdly, we indicated in last week's letter to you perhaps our greatest concern, that Mr. Laurence Connelly (an ex-employee of ICL) had not been called to give testimony to the Inquiry. To repeat the principal issue; Mr. Connelly had raised with the Health and Safety Executive and his constituency MP profound concerns which he believed existed with health and safety policy and practice at Grovepark Mills *two years before* the disaster. Mr. Connelly had also submitted to the Inquiry written correspondence between himself, his M.P and the HSE, which was not posted on the website. It would be helpful for an explanation as to why the Inquiry believed that Mr. Connelly's testimony would not have contributed to the objectives of the Inquiry.

Kind regards,

Professor Christine Cooper, University of Strathclyde (Accounting)

Dr. Andrea Coulson, University of Strathclyde (Accounting)

Thomas Gorman, University of Stirling (Health and Safety and Welfare Rights)

Jim McCourt (Employment Rights and Health and Safety)

Professor Phil Taylor, University of Strathclyde (Employment Relations)

Professor Andrew Watterson, University of Stirling (Health and Safety)

Dr. David Whyte, University of Liverpool (Corporate Crime)

Contact: Professor Phil Taylor

Professor of Work and Employment Studies

Department of Human Resource Management

University of Strathclyde

Glasgow, G1 1XU

Tel – 0141-548-3555

Email - philip.taylor@strath.ac.uk