

20 May 2008

Right Honourable Lord Gill
Chairman ICL Inquiry

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Dear Lord Gill

I am writing to you as the local constituency M.P. for the area in which the Grovepark explosion occurred and who has taken a close interest in this issue both prior to and following the incident. In particular I would wish to bring to the Tribunal's attention the issues of concern which I raised with the Health & Safety Executive on behalf of my constituents Laurence Connolly Senior and Junior prior to May 2004.

I understand Laurence Connolly Senior has already written to you this week and I would concur with the information he has provided on the "whistle blowing" calls prior to 2004. I share his concerns about the manner in which the calls were dealt with by HSE and the follow-up procedures after their visit to the factory. There are a number of issues arising from this which I believe it would be helpful for the Inquiry to examine.

- a. What contemporaneous records, if any, were taken of the calls by the Connollys to HSE? Why were such calls not recorded?
- b. Was a proper distinction made at all times by HSE that both men shared the same name and address?
- c. Why were the calls not followed up by immediate written confirmation to the Connollys and information on how the complaint would be dealt with?
- d. The failure at any point to obtain written authority from Mr Connolly senior that his identity could be revealed and the breach of his confidentiality by an inspector on a visit to the premises.
- e. The failure to provide advance notice to the Connollys about the visit(s) to the premises following their complaints
- f. What is the nature of the correspondence or record notes detailing the discussions with Mr Connolly junior about granting consent for his identity to be disclosed? What protections were offered to him and was he properly advised of the potential problems he may experience from his employer? Was

there any consideration given by HSE of the problem that he shared an identical name with his father who was also an employee?

- g. Did HSE advise Mr Connolly senior at any point that they intended to disclose the identity of his son knowing they shared the same name and were related?

I very much welcome this Inquiry and hope it will provide an opportunity to examine the wide range of issues following from the explosion. I am, of course, willing to provide oral evidence, if required.

Yours sincerely,

Ann McKeelin M.P.