

REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)

	<p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>West Berkshire Highways Authority</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am Peter James Bedford, senior coroner, for the coroner area of Berkshire</p>
2	<p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</p> <p>I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013.</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 24th December 2012 I commenced an investigation into the death of Kenneth Gerald Aldridge then aged sixty eight years. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 29th January 2014. The conclusion of the inquest was road traffic collision, the medical cause of death being blunt head injury.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>Mr Aldridge was the driver of a motor car involved in a collision with a second vehicle on the A4 near Woolhampton in West Berkshire.</p> <p>The A4 at the scene is a dual carriageway and the vehicles appeared to have come together side by side and, despite a relatively slight impact, Mr Aldridge's vehicle left the road and crashed into a tree.</p> <p>At the time of the contact between the two vehicles, the other vehicle was preparing to turn into a service road separated from the A4 by a paved area and wooden fencing. There are gaps in this divide to allow vehicular access and egress to and from the service road.</p>
5	<p><u>CORONER'S CONCERNS</u></p> <p>During the course of the Investigation the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths could occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.</p> <p>The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. –</p> <p>(1) For a vehicle to turn in to the service road running parallel to the A4 it would be necessary to slow considerably and then effect the manoeuvre. It is not possible to make a complete manoeuvre round to the left without then forming a u-turn which is not possible without either reversing and going forward again or encroaching onto the outside lane of the A4 to make a sweeping manoeuvre into the access.</p> <p>(2) In the course of the evidence, the Collision Investigator who investigated the crash</p>

	<p>on behalf of Thames Valley Police suggested that the ability to make such a manoeuvre on a fast dual carriageway is potentially dangerous. While the Officer expressed concerns about turning in, he was also concerned about vehicles pulling out of the service road on to the dual carriageway.</p> <p>(3) The evidence therefore gave rise to concern at the appropriateness of having an access to the service road at such a location, particularly given a speed limit of 70 miles per hour at that point.</p>
6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p> <p>In my opinion urgent action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe your organisation has the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p>YOUR RESPONSE</p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 25th April 2014. I, the coroner, may extend the period.</p> <p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p>
8	<p>COPIES and PUBLICATION</p> <p>I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the family of Mr Aldridge.</p> <p>You are also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.</p> <p>The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.</p>
9	<p>24th February 2014</p> <p>Peter J. Bedford Senior Coroner for Berkshire</p>