

DAVID W. G. RIDLEY Senior Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon

	REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS
	THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:
	1. Home Farm, Heddington, Calne, Wiltshire SN11 8RE
	2. Poulshot Lodge Farm, Poulshot, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1RQ
1	CORONER
	I am DAVID W. G. RIDLEY, Senior Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon
2	CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS
	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. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made
3	INVESTIGATION and INQUEST
	On 14/03/2014 I commenced an investigation into the death of Tracy Michelle ROOKE aged 43. The investigation concluded at the end of the Inquest on 06 October 2014. The conclusion of the Inquest was that Tracy sustained multiple traumatic injuries as a result of a road traffic collision that occurred on 13 March 2014 on the A3102 at Mile Elm, Wiltshire.
4	CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH The circumstances of her death were that Tracey was travelling south along the A3102 at Mile Elm having just negotiated a left hand bend when she lost control of her vehicle which then crossed the centre of the highway before colliding with a van travelling in the opposite direction. I found that the weather conditions and in particular thick fog and her unfamiliarity with the road more likely than not contributed to the incident and her death.
5	CORONER'S CONCERNS
	During the course of the Inquest I had cause to hear evidence from Management and Road Safety Assessment Officer with Wiltshire Police. I also had the opportunity to look at his report dated 26 June 2014. The reason for writing to each of you is that I am informed that the farmyard and land to the rear of Quobbs Farm are let to you and therefore each of you have access onto the A3102 from Quobbs Farm. I have enclosed with this letter page 9 of report which shows photographs of the entrance to Quobbs Farm that were taken at the time the police were in attendance in relation to Ms Rooke's death. I wish to stress now that the mud on the road at this particular location played no part whatsoever in the death of Ms Rooke.
	The above having been said if evidence is presented to a Coroner as part of an Inquest process irrespective of it being unconnected with the circumstances of that person's death, a Coroner can make a Regulation 28 report if he or she has concerns with a view to prevention of future deaths. I am concerned in relation to the quantity of mud visible in the photographs and also as regards the quality of signage located in such close proximity to the start of the muddied section of highway. I have dealt with deaths on Wiltshire roads that have involved farm mud on the highway and I am aware of the hazard it creates. I fully accept farmers have a livelihood to make however I would ask that you review and inform me of your practice and procedures to

deal with mud on the highway and as to whether or not in the light of the photographs your practices could be improved and if so how. You may also like to consider seeking advice from either the National Farmers Union or Wiltshire Council as Highways Authority. **ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN** 6 In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action. 7 YOUR RESPONSE You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 04 December 2014. I, the coroner, may extend the period. 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. 8 **COPIES and PUBLICATION** I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons:-Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response. 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. 9 Dated 09 October 2014 Signature Senior Coroner for Wiltshire and Swindon

Other Issues

To the south of the collision scene is an entrance to Quobbs Farm. Photographs 9 and 10 were taken at this entrance on the day of the collision and show a basic sign stating 'Caution Mud' on road', with the degree of mud on the road surface.

Photograph 9



Photograph 10

