REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

- 1. Billington Farm, Billington Bank, Stafford ST18 9DQ
- 2. & Collision Investigation Unit, Staffordshire Police
- 3. Highways Department, Staffordshire County Council
- 4. The Chief Coroner

1 CORONER

I am Mrs Margaret Joy Jones Assistant coroner for the coroner area of Staffordshire South

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.

3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On 13 March 2014 I commenced an investigation into the death of **OLEGS SULAIMONOVS**, **34 years**. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 14 August 2014. The conclusion of the inquest was as a result of an accident having sustained a fracture of first cervical vertebra.

4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

The deceased was a Latvian National who had travelled to the UK on 6th March 2014 to work on a Fruit farm situated on the A518 and known as Dearsden Farm, Billington Bank, Stafford. During the season this and other neighbouring farms house an estimated 2000 migrant workers accommodated in caravans. The farms are situated some miles outside of Stafford Town Centre on a very dark unlit single carriageway A road which is subject to a 60mph speed limit. For the majority there is no footpath and public transport is very limited at night. Police have received a number of complaints about pedestrians walking in the road which is particular hazardous during the hours of darkness.

At around 01.10hrs on the 9 March 2014 the deceased was walking in the carriageway towards Stafford. He was wearing dark clothing and was struck from behind by a vehicle travelling in the same direction. The deceased had consumed a considerable amount of alcohol.

The Police evidence was that this is a dangerous stretch of road. They had previously produced road safety leaflets to be distributed to migrant workers which had been printed in various languages but the circulation was limited and that the migrant workers would benefit from advice as to the dangerous nature of that road and encouragement to wear reflective clothing. It was probably unrealistic to expect the local authority to provide a footpath and lighting but they should be made aware of the problem.

5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.

The **MATTERS OF CONCERN** are as follows. –

- 1. The lack of information given to the migrant population temporally resident in the area with regard to the nature of the road.
- 2. The lack of supply/encouragement to wear reflective clothing.
- 3. The absence of a footpath and suitable lighting.
- 4. The lack of speed restrictions in an apparently highly populated area.

6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

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 **2nd October 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 Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire County Council Highways Department.

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.

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Margaret J Jones HM Assistant Coroner Staffordshire (South) 14 August 2014