

MARIA NEKRASOVA DECEASED

REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

	<p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Secretary of State for Transport2. Transport for London3. The City of Westminster4. The London Borough of Lambeth
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am Paul Matthews, assistant coroner for the coroner area of Inner South London.</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 12 May 2014 an investigation was commenced into the death of Maria Nekrasova, aged 18 years. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest held by me on 19 February 2015. The medical cause of death was: 1a Severe traumatic head injury. The conclusion of the inquest was: Accident.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>At about 1.50 am on 4 May 2014, the deceased, who had been drinking, was whilst standing in the hatched area in the middle of the carriageway of Westminster Bridge, London SW1, hit by the front offside of a licensed taxi cab being driven by an experienced night-time driver across the bridge from the Lambeth end towards the Westminster end, so that she was thrown up onto the bonnet and her head hit the windscreen, sustaining the severe traumatic head injury from which she died.</p>
5	<p><u>CORONER'S CONCERNS</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) There is nothing to prevent pedestrians crossing the carriageway of the bridge (such as a central fence) and neither is there any protection for pedestrians who have reached the middle of the carriageway (such as a central reservation);(2) At night the level of street lighting is low, the lamp standards producing pools of light which have the effect of leaving contrasting areas of the carriageway in relative darkness;(3) The glare of the headlights of oncoming vehicles makes it impossible for drivers of vehicles crossing the bridge to see pedestrians standing in the carriageway until it is too late to avoid hitting them.
6	<p>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</p>

	In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe that one or more of you has or have the power to take such action.
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 10 April 2015. 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 following Interested Persons, namely the parents of Maria Nekrasova.</p> <p>I am 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>Dated: 20 February 2015</p> 