

Economy & Highways • Cumbria House • 107-117 Botchergate
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27 October 2017

Miss Kally Cheema
H.M. Area Coroner
Cockermouth Register Office
Cockermouth
Cumbria
CA13 9PT

Your Ref: 31386/LH

Dear Miss Cheema

RE: Jeffrey Matthews (Deceased)

I refer to your letter dated 6th September containing a copy of the Regulation 28 Report.

As you state in your report a study into road traffic collisions over the 3 year period, October 2012 to September 2015, was carried out by Capita and the report was published in May 2016. As a consequence of this report funding was allocated to implement the recommendations in the current financial year, 2017/18. This is standard practice in allocating funds for safety improvements i.e. the study is carried out in one financial year and depending on priorities the recommendations are implemented in the following financial year.

The scheme to introduce the high friction surfacing, improved road marking and signage is currently out to consultation with the police, the Parish Council and the local County Councillor and subject to agreement, the measures will be introduced as soon as practicable. The vegetation has already been reduced by the local landowners, presumably as a result of the media coverage of the inquest.

Once all measures have been installed a further site visit will be held with the police to see if any amendments need to be made or if any further improvements are required.

A statement is made in your letter that the Capita recommendations were not installed due to a lack of resources but they were not installed as by May 2016 the funding had already been allocated for the 2016/17 financial and funding was allocated for the following year, as explained previously.

Following the fatal collision in March 2017, a site visit was carried out by staff from the highways department and they immediately actioned the improvement of the white lining. This is in agreement with the police that any defect should be rectified as soon as possible and should not be delayed awaiting the outcome of an investigation or inquest.

I hope this provides a satisfactory response to the Regulation 28 Report but if you require any more information or clarification do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Hall
Assistant Director – Highways, Transport & Fleet