### **ANNEX A**

## **REGULATION 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS (1)**

NOTE: This form is to be used after an inquest.

# **REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS** THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO: Acting C.O. Highways Infrastructure Development and Waste **Devon Highways** Luckham House County Hall **Topsham Road Exeter** CORONER I am John Geoffrey Tomalin, assistant coroner, for the coroner area of Exeter and Greater Devon. **CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS** 2 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. **INVESTIGATION and INQUEST** 3 On the 9th February 2017 I commenced an investigation into the death of Darren Richard Trewin, age 49 years. The investigation concluded at the end of the Inquest on the 25th April 2018, the conclusion of the Inquest was Mr Trewin died as a result of a Road Traffic Collision contributed to by water flowing across the A30 carriageway from a blocked drain on the central reservation. The Pathologist gave the medical cause of death as "1(a) Head Injuries with Airway Compromise". **CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH** On the 31st January 2017 Mr Trewin was driving a Mercedes SLK motor vehicle belonging to his partner, who was his passenger. He was driving along the A30 Southbound when approximately 1/4 mile west of Sourton Cross near Okehampton, Devon. The car ran into a stream of water running from right to left across the carriageway from a partially blocked drain on the central reservation. This initial loss of traction, together with driver input to control the car resulted in the car leaving the carriageway at a point when it collided with the concrete anchor at the start of a barrier on the nearside of lane one, resulting in the car turning over landing upside down in woodland where the branch of a tree entered the cabin causing fatal injuries to Mr Trewin. **CORONER'S CONCERNS** 5

circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.

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

## The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. -

- (1) The drain in the central reservation was partially blocked with detritus washed from the road. The drain therefore could not take all the water from the heavy rain showers resulting in the water cascading across the carriageway contributing to the collision. Highways engineers who attended the Inquest were of the view that the grating on the drain should be changed to capture more water and the drains inspected more frequently and an additional drain, located above the drain that blocked should be created to assist with the capture of excess water from heavy rain.
- (2) To consider extending the barrier on the nearside of the carriageway to a point before the point of impact would possibly have prevented Mr Trewin's car from leaving the carriageway and entering the woods. A longer barrier at this point, where the ground drops away to a much lower level below the carriageway, could improve safety for all drivers using the A30 at this point.

### 6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you or your organisation 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 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018. 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:

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 **[DATE]** 

8th May 2018

BY CORONER]