



# The Road Haulage Association

Mr Squibbs  
Gloucester Coroners Court  
Corinium Avenue  
Gloucester  
GL4 3DG

13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Mr Squibbs

I write further to your recent correspondence enclosing the Regulation 28 letter seeking to prevent future deaths regarding the circumstances surrounding the death of Mr Christopher George Barnes.

We at the RHA are a trade association who have strong links with the industry and do represent a significant proportion of the industry, however, as a trade association we do not have a specific mandate with which we can draft or distribute policy documents regarding a members Health and Safety at Work Act obligations.

We are however very keen to be of assistance in any way that we feel we can and would be more than happy to listen to ways in which the Coroner may propose that we could assist.

Furthermore, we suggest that the most appropriate organisation to whom the Coroner could write with such a request is the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). The HSE have a team who we understand deal specifically with transport and large vehicle fleet operators and as such we believe that they would be interested in and, in order for it to be effective, should be involved with the drafting of any health and safety policies, advice or guidance going forward.

The RHA is itself currently engaged with the HSE in drafting guidance with regard to the use of tail-lifts on behalf of the RHA, its members and other trade associations. This is however a costly and very time-consuming exercise (we are currently 3 years into this project) and further work is not something that we can do lightly or easily which may use a disproportionate amount of our members funds.

In those circumstances we suggest that the Coroner contact the HSE and ask them to respond to such a request and once that response has been received it may well be that the HSE can engage with the RHA to assist in the drafting of the guidance. It is much harder for us to lead on such a project on our own as we do not have the internal health and safety expertise to carry out such a process.

Perhaps a more straightforward activity that we can do is make our members aware of this particular tragic case and of the circumstances surrounding it and by that way remind them of their obligations to ensure the health and safety of their workforce. In order to achieve this objective however we would need far more detail with regard to the circumstances of the case than are contained within the Regulation 28 request.

If we have that information, we can communicate to our 7,000 members via our weekly email as well as our news app and monthly magazine. We also have a website which we would use in this case. Additionally, we could also send a press-release to the industry trade magazines reinforcing the safety message, although we do not have control of those publications and the editors may choose to include or not include the information we provide.

We look forward to hearing from you with any suggestions of how we can help or further information should you wish for us to help publicise the circumstances of this particular tragedy.

Yours sincerely

Richard Burnett  
**Chief Executive**