

**IN THE SURREY CORONER'S COURT**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

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**The Inquest Touching the Death of JJ Wilson  
A Regulation 28 Report – Action to Prevent Future Deaths**

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	<p><b>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr Dave Rothery, Principal Inspector, Health &amp; Safety Executive – Field Operations Division, Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted, RH8 0BT</li></ul>
1	<p><b>CORONER</b> Ms Anna Loxton, HM Assistant Coroner for Surrey</p>
2	<p><b>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</b> I make this report under paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 5 to The Coroners and Justice Act 2009.</p>
3	<p><b>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</b> The inquest into the death of <b>JJ Wilson</b> was opened on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018. It was resumed on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 before a Jury and was concluded on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019.</p> <p>The Jury found the medical cause of death to be:</p> <p>1a. Blunt Head and Neck Trauma</p> <p>The Jury determined that JJ Wilson died as a result of an Accident.</p>
4	<p><b>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</b></p> <p>JJ Wilson ("JJ") worked as a Mechanic for Double R Racing. He trained as a mechanic at the National College for Motorsport and began working for Double R Racing in 2012. JJ left Double R Racing for 18 months before returning to the Company to work as a Senior Mechanic from February 2016 until his death.</p>

	<p>At the time of his death, JJ had completed building a Tatuus Formula 3 car (“the Tatuus”) with some limited assistance from another mechanic. He along with 3 other work colleagues took the Tatuus to Longcross Race Track on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 for what is called a shakedown test, and JJ was the driver for this. The Court heard evidence that the shakedown was meant to be completed at between 50 and 70 miles per hour, but that JJ had driven at speeds of up to 137 miles per hour.</p> <p>During the final laps of the shakedown, a bolt which was meant to hold the front nearside upper wishbone of the Tatuus came undone and the Court heard evidence this was because it had not been tightened to the correct torque when then Tatuus was constructed. This caused an irreparable loss of control of the Tatuus, which left the track and the front nearside wheel collided with a concrete block, became detached and caused the car to rotate and roll onto its offside before colliding with a tree. JJ suffered serious head and neck injuries as a result of this collision which caused his instantaneous death.</p>
5	<p><b>CORONER’S CONCERNS</b></p> <p>The Court heard evidence that whilst there are regulations regarding clothing to be worn during race events, set by the FIA, there are no regulations for clothing to be worn whilst testing a racing car on a test track.</p> <p>The Court heard evidence that JJ was wearing racing boots, gloves and a new Schubert race helmet, but was wearing ordinary combat trousers. The Court heard evidence that racing overalls were available had JJ wanted to wear these.</p> <p>Whilst [REDACTED] for the Surrey Police Collision Investigation Unit confirmed in her evidence that JJ’s clothing would not have made any difference to the sad outcome in this case, I am concerned that fire retardant overalls are not a requirement to be worn by all test track drivers.</p> <p>The <b>MATTERS OF CONCERN</b> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- It is not obligatory for fire retardant overalls to be worn by test track drivers which creates a potential risk of death or serious injury in the event of a crash in circumstances similar to that which caused the death of JJ Wilson;</li></ul> <p>Consideration should be given to whether any steps can be taken to address the above concerns.</p>

6	<p><b>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</b></p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe that the people listed in paragraph one above have the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p><b>YOUR RESPONSE</b></p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of its date; I may extend that period on request.</p> <p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for such action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p>
8	<p><b>COPIES</b></p> <p>I have sent a copy of this report to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See names in paragraph 1 above</li> <li>2. [REDACTED]</li> <li>3. Double R Racing Ltd</li> <li>4. Longcross Test Track and Proving Ground</li> <li>5. The Chief Coroner</li> </ol> <p>In addition to this report, I am 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 at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.</p>
	<p><b>Signed:</b></p> <p><b>ANNA LOXTON</b></p> <p><b>DATED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of July 2018</b></p>