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Your ref: 01009-2017
Our ref: OC 1587



By email

hmcoroner@durham.gov.uk

Mr James E Thompson
H M Assistant Coroner for
County Durham and Darlington
H M Coroners Office
P O Box 282
Bishop Auckland
County Durham
DL14 4FY

24th November 2020

Dear Mr Thompson

Regulation 28 – Frazer Golden (Inquest 18th April 2017)

Thank you for your correspondence dated 5th October 2020 which [REDACTED] Chief Executive, has asked me to respond to.

Site Investigation Following Fatal Accident Report

The Council has an Accident Investigation and Prevention Team and one of its roles is to investigate every fatal road traffic accident, on the council's highway network, in conjunction with Durham Constabulary's Traffic Management Unit. Please find attached a copy of the Accident Report (M/T505/17). These reports are undertaken to identify any defects or improvements to the highway street furniture and infrastructure.

The report made the following observation / recommendation

Although not considered contributory factors of this accident, it is suggested that Durham County Council Technical Services highway maintenance personnel address the following observations through the recommendations provided:

Neighbourhoods and Climate Change

Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UF
Main Telephone 03000 26 0000

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A missing gully cover was identified within the north westbound channel, at a point approximately 70 metres northwest of the access road to Whit's Hill dwelling. The relevant highway maintenance personnel should assess the issue and take appropriate action.

The above item has been actioned and remedial measures implemented.

Regulation 28 Report

In your report of the 5th October 2020 you refer to three specific items for the council, as the highway authority for the A689, to address namely;

1. Why SLOW road markings were displayed on the carriageway when immediately leaving these 2 villages and the 30mph limit and entering a 60mph limit;
2. There are no warning signs;
3. Double white hazard warning lines approaching the bend in either direction.

After receiving your letter a road safety and traffic management engineer from the council visited the site on the morning of Thursday 22nd October 2020 and has carried out a review of the personal injury accident record for the A689 between Ireshopeburn and St. John's Chapel. There has been one other accident in the past 10years, occurring 260metres northwest of Whit's Hill, which involved a bird colliding with a motorcyclist who impacted against a lamp column and suffered fatal injuries.

The Council's Response and Proposed Course of Action.

The council's response and proposed course of action are:

- **The two SLOW road markings:** there is no valid road safety / traffic management reason for these road markings. . As such, I will arrange to have the two road markings removed;
- **Bend warning signs:** a bend warning sign will be erected on both approaches to the bend;
- **Double White Lines:** the installation of a system of double white lines at this location is not considered appropriate as the road's layout does not meet the criteria for this type of intervention as set out in the Traffic Signs Manual Chapter 5 Road Markings 2018. As stated in the Manual "It is important to note that the marking is not to be used where appropriate criteria are not satisfied otherwise it will be brought into disrepute". It is also noted that the accident did not involve an overtaking manoeuvre

It is the intention of the council to implement the above-mentioned measures by 31st March 2021. This timescale reflects the backlog in the council's highway works caused by the Covid 19 Lockdown measures.

Once again I wish to offer my condolences to Frazer Golden's family and friends on their loss. I trust the above provides a considered response to your correspondence.

Should you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED], Street Works Permit Scheme Project Manager, on telephone number 03000 [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]@durham.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



[REDACTED]
Corporate Director – Neighbourhoods and Climate Change

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Fatal Accident Report (M/T/S05/17)

Copies to

[REDACTED], PA to [REDACTED], Chief Executive
[REDACTED], Head of Transport & Contract Services (Interim)
[REDACTED], Strategic Highways Manager
[REDACTED], Traffic Asset and Streetworks Manager
[REDACTED] Street Works Permit Scheme Project Manager
[REDACTED] Legal Manager Litigation
[REDACTED], Service Support Officer