

Regulation 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT DEATHS

THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

**Chief Executive Officer, Norfolk County Council
County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH**

1. CORONER

I am Yvonne BLAKE, Area Coroner for the area of Norfolk

2. CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS

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.

3. INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On 18/09/2020 I commenced an investigation into the death of Oscar Anthony SEAMAN aged 17. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 19/07/2021. The medical cause of death was:

- 1a) Multiple Traumatic Injuries
- 1b) Road Traffic Collision
- 1c)
- 2

The conclusion of the inquest was: Road Traffic Collision.

4. CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

Oscar Seaman was returning home on his bicycle. It was after 8:30pm. He approached the main A134 carriageway from a crossroads junction at Northwold. According to witness evidence he went onto the main carriageway without pause and was struck by a 4x4 vehicle causing his death. There is no definite evidence of the driver's speed. Oliver was declared dead at the scene.

5. CORONER'S CONCERNS

During the course of the inquest, the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths could occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances, it is my statutory duty to report to you.

The matters of concern are as follows:

I am informed that the road where Oscar was killed is the scene of at least 126 road traffic collisions. The speed limit was reduced from 60mph to 50mph, but this has not deterred people using the road from ignoring the limits. The crossroads where Oscar, who was just 17 years old, emerged onto the main road has give way signs but not stop signs painted on it. The view from one direction appears to be reasonable in daylight but at night, and if the weather is inclement, visibility is reduced. The person who lives on the corner of that junction has had to buttress his garden fence against collisions.

The parish council has reported many concerns about people speeding on the road especially HGV lorries as well as cars.

It is apparent that people regularly break the law on this stretch of road and that a speed camera or average speed cameras would address the problem and slow motorists down. A mirror would be able to be placed at the junction, an inexpensive but important item which is likely to reduce death and accident when people venture onto the main highway.

6. ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you (and/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 15 September 2021. 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:

██████████ (Oscar's mother and father)

I have also sent it to:
Northwold Parish Council
Department of Transport, London
Child Death Overview Panel, Norfolk County Council
██████████, Coroner's Society

who may find it useful or of interest.

I am also under a duty to send a copy of your response to the Chief Coroner and all interested persons who in my opinion should receive it.

I may also send a copy of your response to any other person who I believe may find it useful or of interest.

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.

9. Dated: 21 July 2021



Yvonne BLAKE
Area Coroner for Norfolk
Norfolk Coroner Service
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich NR1 2DH