

Regulation 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT DEATHS

THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

1. Mr [REDACTED], Chief Executive, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham

1 CORONER

I am James E THOMPSON, Assistant Coroner for the area of County Durham and Darlington

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 Eighteenth April 2017 I commenced an investigation into the death of Frazer GOLDEN aged 30. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 2nd October 2020. The conclusion of the inquest was: Road Traffic Collision and the medical cause of death was:

I a Head, Neck and Chest Injuries

4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

Frazer Golden died on 9th April 2017 on the A689 road near Whit's Hill, St John's Chapel, County Durham after his motorcycle & another motorcycle collided, the resultant injuries sustained by him caused his death.

5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

The MATTERS OF CONCERNS are as follows: (brief summary of matters of concern)

I heard evidence from 2 police collision experts who could not explain in their examination of the A689 road between Ireshopeburn & St Johns Chapel why SLOW road markings were displayed on the carriageway when immediately leaving these 2 villages and the 30mph limit and entering a 60mph limit.

The evidence heard was that it would appear to be confusing that a warning to SLOW was displayed when the immediately adjacent signs were confirming a change in speed limit from 30 to 60 mph.

Evidence was also heard that at the collision location near Whit's Hill on the A689 road between the 2 villages there is a bend where forward visibility is reduced. This is accepted in a Durham County Council Highways report read as evidence at the inquest. There are no warning signs or double white hazard warning lines approaching the bend or at the bend in either direction.

The police experts further opined that a speed travelled by one of the motorcyclists into the bend of 51mph was not supported when considering the reduced view created by the bend. The speed limit in this area of the A689 is 60 mph.

6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe 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 30 November 2020. 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

Chief Constable, Durham Constabulary, Akley Heads, Durham

Mr [REDACTED]

Miss [REDACTED]

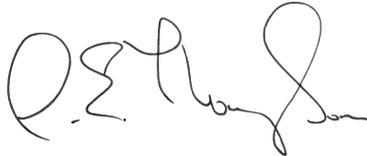
Mr [REDACTED], c/o Mr [REDACTED], Solicitor, Alderson Law

who may find it useful or of interest.

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.

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James E THOMPSON
Assistant Coroner for
County Durham and Darlington
Dated: 05 October 2020