

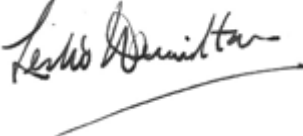


Regulation 28: REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

NOTE: This form is to be used **after** an inquest.

	<p>REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT DEATHS</p> <p>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</p> <p>1 Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP 2 [REDACTED]</p>
1	<p>CORONER</p> <p>I am JR Leslie HAMILTON, Assistant Coroner for the coroner area of County Durham and Darlington</p>
2	<p>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</p> <p>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.</p>
3	<p>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</p> <p>On 24 December 2021 I commenced an investigation into the death of Charles William WHEATLEY aged 58. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 25 July 2022. The conclusion of the inquest was that:</p> <p>Charles William Wheatley was a 58 year old man who died at the scene following a head-on collision with another car (his car crossed the double white lines while apparently turning into a farm entrance) on the A66 at Rokeby at approximately 22:00hrs on the 14th December 2021. The driver of the other car (Amy Purvis) died later in hospital. He did not have a valid driving licence and there was no evidence that he had ever held a driving licence. He had epilepsy and should not have been driving and indeed had told his GP that he was not driving. Toxicology showed that he was not taking his anti-epileptic medication regularly. Post mortem showed that he died from abdominal (liver laceration) and pelvic injuries. He was not wearing a seat belt. His blood alcohol level was 203 mg/100mls.</p>
4	<p>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</p> <p>Mr Wheatley was involved in a road traffic collision on the 14th December 2021 on the A66, Rokeby Grange, Barnard Castle.</p>
5	<p>CORONER'S CONCERNS</p> <p>During the course of the investigation my inquiries 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.</p> <p>The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows: (brief summary of matters of concern)</p> <p>The other driver killed in the Road Traffic Collision was a 36 year old woman (Amy Weston Purvis) who was driving home to her family. While it may not have prevented Amy's death, it seems illogical and indeed incomprehensible to me that the system allows a person to buy a car without having a licence to drive it. In this case there was no evidence that Mr Wheatley had ever held a driving licence.</p> <p>I recognise that currently, the DVLA are responsible for the statutory instrument 1999/2864 which covers matters around driving entitlements and that vehicle ownership/registered</p>



	keepers are catered for under an Act of Parliament (the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994) and therefore significant change in the law would be needed. However, I suspect that the public would find it difficult to understand how someone can buy and keep a car without having a licence to drive the vehicle.
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 September 23, 2022. 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 [REDACTED] I have also sent it to 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 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 by the Chief Coroner.
9	Dated: 29/07/2022  JR Leslie HAMILTON Assistant Coroner for County Durham and Darlington