


Our ref:
Your ref:

Mr Richard Travers
HM Senior Coroner for Surrey
HM Coroner's Court
Station Approach
Woking
SURREY
GU22 7AP


Head of M25
Bridge House
1 Walnut Tree Close
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24 February 2023

Dear Mr Travers,

Inquest into the Death of Jordan Pry on 2 April 2018 Regulation 28 Report

Thank you for providing National Highways (NH) with the Regulation 28 Report on 30 December 2022 following the recent inquest into the tragic death of Jordan Pry in a road traffic collision on the M25 on 2 April 2018.

In your report you raised concerns about the risk of further deaths at this location pending the implementation of an informed and comprehensive plan for managing the risk of surface water remaining on the carriageway in periods of heavy rain. In your finding you identified the blocked drain in the central reservation and the profile of the road surface as probable causes of Mr Pry's death and absence of any warning sign and the absence of vehicle restraint system in the verge as possible contributory causes.

Since the collision leading to Mr Pry's death, a vehicle restraint system has been installed in the verge at this location.

During the course of the inquest a document "Clacket Lane Surface Water – Safety Risk Assessment" produced by Atkins was presented in evidence. The recommendations in this document form the basis of the actions National Highways is taking jointly with Connect Plus (M25) Limited (CP) and Connect Plus Services (CPS) to reduce the risk of future collisions in wet weather at this location. Against the four key areas for action highlighted in the Risk Assessment I set out below the actions NH has taken and plans to take to progress these actions.

Drainage Maintenance and Inspection Regime

Actions Taken

CP have commissioned a review from WSP, an independent engineering consultant, of CPS drainage maintenance arrangements for all the roads for which they are responsible.

Pending the outcome of this review CPS have implemented an enhanced maintenance and inspection regime for the drainage near Clacket Lane. This includes biannual cleansing of the slot drain, catchpit and cross-drain.

Actions Planned and Timescales

The finding of the independent review, together with the actions CP and CPS intend to take will be reported to me by 16 June 2023.

Should this review lead to a change in CPS's approach to drainage maintenance then NH will require the changes to be included in a revision to their Services Plan which would be submitted for formal review to NH.

After any revised maintenance arrangements have been in place for six-months NH will undertake an audit of CPS's activities to ensure they are complying with the submitted plan.

Warning Messages for Drivers

Actions Taken

With CP, NH have commissioned CPS to review the effectiveness of the existing fixed warning sign to identify whether any measures are possible, within the legislative provisions that govern signage, to enhance the visibility of the sign.

Until the review above is complete, additional temporary surface water warning signs have been installed in the verge of the M25 at Marker Posts 36/7 and 36/4.

NH has implemented a specific protocol to monitor the Clacket Lane area in times of wet weather and set warning messages of the form "Surface Water – Slow" on the variable message signs in the location when appropriate.

Actions Planned and Timescales

The findings from CPS's review of the existing fixed warning sign at Clacket Lane will be reported to me by 28 April 2023

Improvement to the Drainage System

Actions Taken

With CP, NH has commissioned WSP to undertake an independent review of the drainage system in the vicinity of Clacket Lane to identify whether any improvement could be made which would be likely to reduce the risk of flooding on the carriageway.

Actions Planned and Timescales

The finding of the independent review, together with any recommended actions, will be reported to me by 16 June 2023.

Profile of the Carriageway

Actions Taken

With CP, NH has commissioned CPS, with support from a contractor, Milestone Infrastructure, to consider the viability of reprofiling the carriageway to shorten the drainage flow paths across the carriageway. This will include the outline design of possible options and a review of the feasibility and cost of constructing these options.

Actions Planned and Timescales

CP will be reporting their findings from these investigations, together with their recommendation by 1 September 2023.

Following conclusions of the various investigations set out above I will write to you again by 29 September 2023 setting out the further actions NH has taken and intends to take. If any recommendations are not to be pursued, I will set out the reasons for that decision.

I am meeting with CP and CPS monthly to monitor progress on these actions and ensure they remain on track to achieve the timescales indicated above.

Yours sincerely,



Head of M25