



Department  
for Transport

From the Secretary of State  
**The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP**

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8 August 2023

Dear Dr Harrowing,

Thank you for your email of 23 May, enclosing your Regulation 28 Report dated 22 May to Prevent Future Deaths. This relates to the inquest into the death of Karl Mitchell on 25 September 2021, from injuries sustained when operating the lorry mounted stabiliser beam and swing up hydraulic stabilising legs.

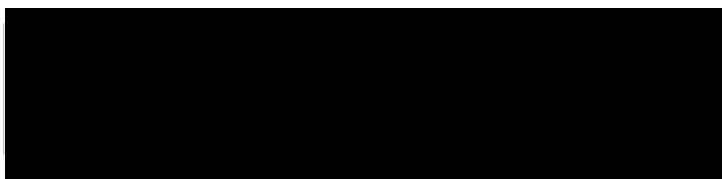
I am sorry to hear of the tragic death of Karl Mitchell, for which I offer my sincere condolences to his family and friends.

The Department sets the requirements that vehicles must meet to ensure they can be driven safely on the roads. However, the Department does not set requirements for machinery which is primarily intended for use when the vehicle is stationary, other than to ensure it doesn't interfere with the safe operation of the vehicle itself.

The Head of Traffic Commissioner Policy has been in contact with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), who has informed them that the underlying harmonised standard has been reviewed and is being updated. HSE intends to publish a safety notice relating to swing-up stabilisers on their website. Once informed of HSE's publication of the safety notice, the Office of the Traffic Commissioner will assist in providing this notice to lorry operators.

I trust that this action addresses the concern that you have raised and will go some way towards preventing such deaths in future.

Yours sincerely,



**The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**