



Department
for Transport

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Kate Robertson
Senior Coroner for North West Wales
Coroner's Office
Shirehall Street
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

11 December 2024

Dear Ms Robertson,

RESPONSE TO REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

Thank you for your report of 17 October 2024 made under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, following the inquest you conducted into the deaths of Hugo Oliver Morris, Jevon Alexander Hirst, Harvey Graham Owen and Wilfred John Fitchett. I am responding as the Minister for the Future of Roads.

I am deeply saddened by the circumstances of Hugo Morris, Jevon Hirst, Harvey Owen, and Wilfred Fitchett's deaths, and I would like to extend my condolences to their families.

I am determined that we learn from tragedies like this and that we take action to reduce those killed and injured on our roads.

I want to assure you that the Government treats road safety with the utmost seriousness. Whilst UK roads are among the safest in the world, there is no room for complacency and I have carefully considered your report and its recommendations relating to young and newly qualified drivers and young drivers carrying passengers of a similar age.

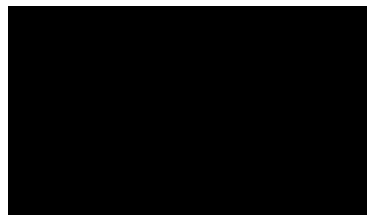
The latest statistics do show that the number of fatalities for car drivers aged 17-24 years-old on Britain's roads is falling. However, there is still work to be done, particularly because, in terms of population and the number of miles driven, 17-24-year-olds, particularly young men, remain one of the highest fatality risk groups both as car drivers and passengers.

In partnership with the Transport Research Laboratory, the Department commissioned the largest young driver research piece, the 'Driver 2020' project. The research included a telematics trial, and it provides an evaluation of non-legislative interventions, such as technical and educational measures, to improve the safety of young novice drivers.

This Government takes road safety seriously, and we are committed to reducing the numbers of those killed and injured on our roads. My Department is developing our road safety strategy and will set out more details in due course.

We absolutely recognise that young people are disproportionately victims of tragic incidents on our roads. As work progresses on the new Road Safety Strategy, findings from the Driver 2020 project will feed into considerations on further measures the Department can take to improve road safety for young drivers.

Best wishes,



MINISTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ROADS