



Department for Transport

Dr Jeane Rosa Mellani
HM Assistant Coroner for West London
25 Bagley's Lane
Fulham
London SW6 2QA

From the Parliamentary Under
Secretary of State

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: [REDACTED]
E-Mail: [REDACTED]

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

20 December 2024

Dear Dr Mellani,

RESPONSE TO REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

Thank you for your report of 05 November 2024 made under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, following the inquest you conducted into the death of Terence Gillard. I am responding as the Minister for the Future of Roads. I was very sorry to hear of Terence's death and my thoughts are with his loved ones.

I am writing regarding your concern about the pedestrian crossing on the A4 Great West Road, near the junction with Jersey Road, in Hounslow, West London. I note your concerns about the safety of this crossing.

The highway authority, in this case Transport for London (TfL), is responsible for how traffic is managed on its roads. This includes the design and maintenance of traffic light junctions and any associated pedestrian crossings. While the Department for Transport issues guidance to highway authorities, the Department does not oversee or consent to traffic schemes of this nature.

Transport for London has a duty under Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to exercise its functions under the Act so as to secure the expeditious, convenient, and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic, including pedestrians, so far as practicable having regard to various matters including the amenity of the area through which the road runs.

Traffic signals, including the signs and road markings required to create a junction and associated pedestrian facilities, are prescribed in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (TSRGD). Highway

authorities do not need Departmental consent to place the signs within this legislation on their roads. We provide good practice advice on the design of traffic signals, including pedestrian crossings and pedestrian facilities at junctions, in Chapter 6 of the Traffic Signs Manual, which is available free to download from our website.

The Regulation 28 report said that you had received evidence from TfL of existing plans to re-design this pedestrian crossing, and TfL had said this was subject to the consent of the Department for Transport, the London Borough of Hounslow, public consultation, as well as funding considerations.

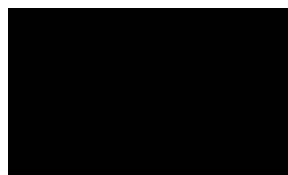
I am not aware of any consents required from the Department to enable TfL to make changes to this site. I understand my officials have been in contact with TfL and it has confirmed that the new crossing designs are in TfL and the Borough's gift to implement, subject to funding and public consultation, and no DfT involvement is required.

The Secretary of State has powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to specially authorise signs not within TSRGD. A local authority may apply to the Department for authorisation, if it feels there is a specific local need not met by TSRGD. However, we have not received any such applications from TfL in relation to this site.

On the issue of funding, the Government engages regularly with TfL to understand its investment plans and funding requirements. The Government announced £250 million capital funding in December 2023, and a further £485 million for the coming 2025/26 financial year at the Budget, for TfL's major capital projects. This is in addition to almost £2.2 billion of business rates for transport retained by TfL in 2024/25. The Mayor of London and TfL consider, prioritise and approve its investment decisions. The re-design of the pedestrian crossing would be funded by TfL from revenue sources outside the Department's funding.

I hope you will understand why I consider that the Department does not need to take any action regarding this incident. I hope this is helpful.

Best wishes,



MINISTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ROADS