

Julie Davies
Coroner's Officer
Hampshire, Portsmouth & Southampton
Coroner's Service
Portsmouth Office
The Coroner's Court
1 Guildhall Square
Portsmouth PO1 2GJ

[REDACTED]
ADEPT President / Director of Thriving Places
Westmorland & Furness Council
South Lakeland House
Lowther Street
Kendal LA9 4DQ

By email

2nd September 2025

Dear Julie

Thank you for your letter and Regulation 28 "Report to Prevent Future Deaths" dated 10th July 2025, concerning the death of Mr Paul David Ransom. In advance of responding to the concerns raised in your report, ADEPT would like to express our deep condolences to Paul's family and loved ones.

We note that your report has also been addressed to [REDACTED] Minister for the Future of Roads, Department for Transport (DfT) and The Road Surface Treatments Association (RSTA). It is appropriate that these organisations address the matters of concern, namely around the issues relating to any research and the safety of road users, following application of thin surface treatments.

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) is a voluntary membership organisation representing place directors in local authorities, focusing on services like highways, waste and recycling, and planning.

We collaborate with our members, including our corporate partners drawn from the private sector, through various channels to help drive innovation, develop and influence policies and work closely with government departments, including the Department for Transport. We facilitate the sharing of best practice and technical research with our members through technical working groups, regional boards and specific work programmes.

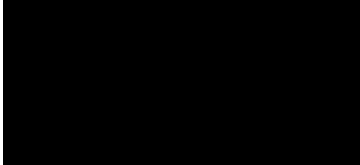
Whilst the association does not have a direct role in the design, specification, safety testing or the execution of road surface treatments, we regularly collaborate with the RSTA and provide technical commentary on their work. We do not engage with or comment on individual councils' highways maintenance contractual requirements / specifications nor do we act as an enforcement body in any way.

Whilst we are not aware of the research you referenced in the report, as a member organisation we will commit to working with the Department for Transport and industry experts such as the RSTA. We will share with our members any relevant research, learning, best practice and technical guidance relating to the application of thin surface treatments and safety of road users. ADEPT is

concerned with the safety of all road users, with a focus on the more vulnerable road users like pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Yours sincerely



ADEPT President