



Department
for Transport

Mr R Travers
HM Coroner
HM Coroner's Court
Station Approach
Woking
GU22 7AP

From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

15 January 2026

Dear Mr Travers,

Thank you for your report of 20 November 2025 made under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, following the inquest you conducted into the death of Lisa Marie Bowen. I am responding as the Minister for Roads and Buses.

I was saddened to hear of Ms Bowen's death and offer my sincere condolences to her family and friends.

The Department is strongly committed to improving the safety of all road users, and this includes ensuring that new vehicles are approved, to demonstrate that they comply with a range of technical requirements before they can be sold. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is the principal body for vehicle regulations, and the UK is an active member of its technical committees. The relevant regulations in this case are United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Regulation No. 13H on the Approval of Passenger Cars with Regard to Braking ("R13H") and Regulation No. 58 on the Approval of Rear Underrun Protective Devices (RUPD) ("R58").

Having reviewed your report, and considered the current provisions in UNECE Regulations, I have instructed my officials to examine the possibility of introducing further amendments to these regulations to address the concerns raised.

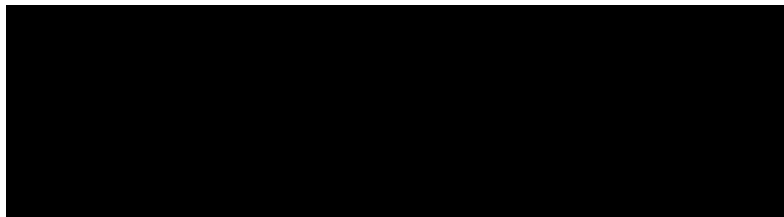
The Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) confirmed that the braking system of the car involved in the collision was approved to R13H. Recent amendments have been made to the provisions of R13H to allow approval authorities more scrutiny over the functioning of brake systems in non-fault conditions, but these are applied at the discretion of the issuing authority.

My officials will therefore highlight the particulars of this case at the relevant UNECE forum in May and collaborate with members of that forum on whether specific provisions are necessary for R13H.

VCA also confirmed that the RUPD fitted to the heavy goods vehicle was approved to the 02 series of R58. Since 1 September 2021, all new registered trailers under GB whole vehicle type approval must meet the 03 series. Amendments included an increase the test forces by up to 100%; lowered the ground clearance requirements; and increased section height of the cross-member. These changes were introduced to help reduce the severity of future rear collisions like this one.

The above measures will only resolve the risk in new vehicles. Since there is considerable uncertainty over the potential risk to existing vehicles on the road, I have asked my officials to gather what relevant information they can over the coming months to better understand the situation. From this my department will consider whether any retrospective action should be taken.

Yours sincerely,

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MINISTER FOR ROADS AND BUSES