



Department  
for Transport

From the Parliamentary  
Under Secretary of State  
**Simon Lightwood MP**

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Daniel Howe  
HM Area Coroner  
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent  
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Stoke-on-Trent  
ST4 4SY

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Dear Daniel,

Thank you for your letter of 3 February enclosing a Regulation 28 Report following the conclusion of your inquest into the death of Nathan Thomas Cyster. I was very sorry to hear of his death.

I am writing regarding your concern about the current road layout, signage, road markings, and legal ambiguities potentially creating a hazardous environment for road users at the Moss Farm Shop exit.

The Department's role is to set the overarching legal and policy framework, and to provide guidance to local highway authorities on how to provide various traffic management measures. National Highways is a government-owned company, established under the Infrastructure Act 2015, and operates at arm's length from ministers. It is responsible for the day-to-day operation, maintenance and improvement of the strategic road network.

It is for National Highways to consider what road markings and signing are appropriate at this specific site as this road forms is part of their network. I note you have also sent a copy of the report to them.

With regard to the absence of left-turn only signage, this is a matter for National Highways to consider, taking into account the context of the site and what this could mean in terms of diversions for traffic prohibited from turning right. The Department provides advice on the use of hatch markings and double white line systems in Chapter 5 of the Traffic Signs Manual, available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/traffic-signs-manual](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/traffic-signs-manual).

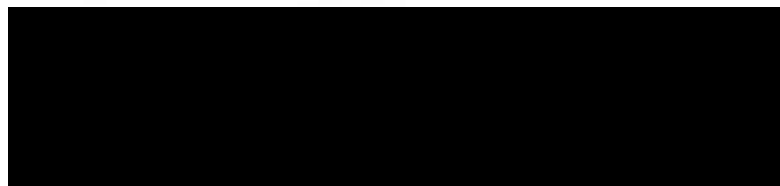
In relation to your comments on the double white line markings' effectiveness to prevent overtaking in practice, the road marking has been prescribed in the

Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions, 2016 (TSRGD) and included in the Highway Code (Rule 129) for many decades.

The Department believes that the meaning of this marking is well understood by drivers. Regarding the evidence provided, this does not necessarily translate to a lack of understanding of the road marking. There could be a specific site factor that causes the prohibition not to cross the white line marking to be disregarded.

Thank you for flagging your concerns about an apparent ambiguity and contradiction between guidance in the Highway Code and information on a government webpage. The Department's position is that there is no contradiction. The Department acknowledges that 'Know Your traffic Signs' (KYTS) refers to turning movements into or out of a side road, while the Highway Code refers only to the entry into a side road. This difference arises because the statutory marking requirements captured in the Highway Code apply only to traffic on the road on which the marking is placed, while the KYTS webpage provides broader explanatory guidance covering both the main road and the side road. We will consider the coroners' concerns about this ambiguity at a future reprint of Know Your Traffic Signs.

Yours sincerely,



**SIMON LIGHTWOOD MP**

**MINISTER FOR ROADS AND BUSES**