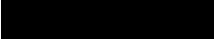


Robert Cohen
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9 April 2026

Dear Sirs

INQUEST TOUCHING THE DEATHS OF RITA MARGARET THOMAS and CHRISTINE DALE

Further to the publication of your Regulation 28 Report on the Chief Coroner's website, National Highways is able to provide the following response to your concerns regarding the prevention of future deaths at the junction of the M6 motorway with the A684 (junction 37). National Highways Regional Director for trunk roads and motorways in the North West, , would normally write to you. As  is currently away on annual leave, I am responding on her behalf.

National Highways is the Highway Authority in respect of the M6 motorway, including the entry and exit slip roads at junction 37, and Westmorland and Furness Council are the Highway Authority for the A684 at this location.

To clarify, any changes to the current National Speed Limit along this section of the A684 would be the responsibility of Westmorland and Furness Council and not National Highways.

Notwithstanding that, the junction has historically been the scene of several serious collisions resulting from vehicles exiting the motorway and failing to give way at the interface with the A684 and continuing into the path of vehicles being driven along the local road. National Highways has undertaken a number of site assessments and evaluations, in conjunction with partners and stakeholders, including Cumbria Police, Westmorland and Furness Council and local politicians. These have failed to identify any specific reason as to why some drivers fail to react to the warning signs and carriageway markings.

As a direct result, the already substantial, approach signing has been upgraded and improved, 'STOP' signing and approach lane delineation markings have been installed

and more recently, transverse yellow markings have been laid along the direct approach from the M6 exit slip roads to the A684. These measures greatly increase the visibility of the junctions and their approaches.

We will continue to monitor the junction within our area of responsibility to monitor the performance of the improvements we have installed and react accordingly should that be necessary.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Head of Planning & Development

Email: [Redacted email address]