



Driver & Vehicle  
Standards  
Agency

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Linda Lee  
Acting Area Coroner for Warwickshire Coroner Service  
by email: richardtoms@warwickshire.gov.uk

our ref: 2603-104622

8 April 2026

Dear Ms Lee

Thank you for your letter of 23 March about the inquest into the death of Richard Gary Hopkins, which was concluded on 12 March 2026, and the resulting regulation 28 report to prevent future deaths. We should like to offer our condolences to Mr Hopkins' family and friends.

I can confirm that we at Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) were engaged fully with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and attended hearings to determine whether there was anything we could or should do. We also engaged with the vehicle manufacturer in the same way we would where there is the suggestion of a potential vehicle safety defect. Following this work, it was confirmed this was an isolated incident affecting that single component, and no safety recall action was appropriate.

On the broader point of safety in the workplace, this is predominantly a matter for other agencies such as the HSE. As usual, we will continue to collaborate with HSE to find opportunities to discuss mitigations that employers can implement to address this kind of problem, for example, in any trade communications or guidance.

We have not identified any necessary actions given the unique nature of this particular incident. But we continue to support industry efforts (generally through trade associations) to improve safety in commercial vehicle workshops and have supported a number of areas of good practice guidance (such as on wheel chocking and vehicle loading) and will flag this as an area that could be considered.

I am happy for a copy of this response to be sent to all the interested parties.

Yours sincerely

  
Chief Executive