



# Northumberland County Council

Mr Andrew Hetherington  
HM Senior Coroner for Northumberland  
County Hall  
Morpeth  
Northumberland  
NE61 2EF

Your ref:



Date: 15 May 2026

Dear Mr Hetherington

## RESPONSE TO THE REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

This is Northumberland County Council's ("the Council") response to your report made under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013 and dated the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 following the sad and tragic deaths of Elizabeth Anne Lang and Katie Alice Lang.

May we take the opportunity to offer our sincere condolences to the family of Elizabeth and Katie Lang.

The Council has carefully considered the Report to Prevent Future Deaths issued following the conclusion of the Inquest on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The Council will naturally seek to address the matters of concern identified, in particular those relating to driver awareness of the upcoming bend on the A1068 Sheepwash Road and the absence of advance warning signage.

### The Councils' response to the MATTERS OF CONCERN:

- **Site Risk Status**


The location on the A1068 Sheepwash Road has been identified and recorded by the Council's Highways service as a **high-risk site** for the purposes of traffic safety assessment.

- **Local Transport Plan inclusion**

The site has already been subject to resurfacing and road marking works during 2025/26 and has also been included within the 2026–2027 Local Transport Plan programme for traffic safety improvements. This ensures the location is subject to formal review and



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prioritisation within the Council's approved governance and funding framework for road safety improvements.

- **Assessment of mitigation options**

As part of the above programme in 2026/27, the Council has now commenced a review of the site to consider options to improve the visibility and awareness of the bend for road users, including the potential use of advance warning measures.

- **Standards and compliance**

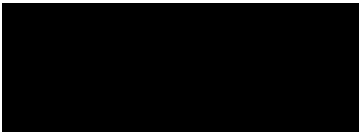
Any proposed measures will be assessed, designed and implemented (where appropriate) in accordance with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (TSRGD) and relevant national guidance. This is to ensure that any intervention is lawful, proportionate, and consistent with national standards.

- **Timescales**

The review and consideration of options for road safety improvements that are appropriate for this location will be progressed through the 2026–2027 Local Transport Plan delivery process, with the identified safety improvements then being prioritised for implementation within Quarter 2 of the 2026-27 financial year.

The Council would like to thank the Coroner for highlighting the matters of concern and allowing us the opportunity to respond. As the Highways Authority, road safety is something we take seriously and can confirm that the Coroner's concerns have been formally recorded and will be addressed through the actions outlined above.

Yours sincerely



Director of Environment and Transport