



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

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Corporate Director (Law & Governance)
& Monitoring Officer

FAO Hassan Shah, Assistant Coroner for Northamptonshire
The Guildhall, St. Giles' Square, Northampton, NN1 5AA

Tuesday, 8th September, 2026

Dear Assistant Coroner,

Prevention of Future Deaths Report – Cody Lee Keith STOCK
Regulation 28, Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013

We are instructed to respond on behalf of West Northamptonshire Council ("the Council") to the Regulation 28 Report dated 15th July, 2026 concerning Cody Lee Keith STOCK. We note that the Report has been addressed to two local highway authorities (the Council and North Northamptonshire Council) and to the Strategic Highways Company, National Highways.

The Council has carefully considered the concerns raised within the Report. The Council notes, however, that it has no highway authority functions in relation to the location of the incident, which falls within the responsibility of National Highways and lies outside the administrative area of West Northamptonshire Council.

Notwithstanding the above, the Council recognises the importance of managing flooding risks on the highway network pursuant to *Burnside -v- Emerson* [1968] 1 WLR 1490, and acknowledges the risks that standing water and flooding can present to road users, particularly during periods of adverse weather.

In relation to roads for which it is the Highway Authority, the Council investigates instances of highway flooding and also undertakes proactive monitoring using a risk-based approach in accordance with national guidance. The Council would also investigate any incident on its highway network where flooding or standing water was reported by the police as a possible contributing factor, together with significant flood events affecting one of the Council's highways.

While the Council has no highway authority functions in relation to the location concerned, it trusts that this response provides assurance that flooding risks on roads for which it is responsible are actively monitored and managed.

We hope this response assists.

Yours sincerely,

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Senior Lawyer (Highways & Transport)
For the Corporate Director (Law & Governance)