Department for Transport

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
[redacted]

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[redacted]

Timothy William Brennand
Senior Coroner
HM Coroner's Court and Office for Manchester West
Paderborn House
Howell Croft North
Bolton
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[redacted]

9 November 2026

Dear Mr Brennand,

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 September 2026 enclosing your Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths report, dated 14 September 2026, made under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013, following the inquest you conducted into the death of Mr Kieran Walsh.

I was deeply saddened to hear about the circumstances of Mr Walsh's death and I would like to extend my sincere condolences to his family and friends. The cross-government Suicide Prevention Strategy for England (2023-2028) sets out over 100 actions for both Government and a range of cross-sector delivery partners, to reduce the number of lives lost to suicide. The Strategy is published on the Government's website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-strategy-for-england-2023-to-2028

As Roads Minister I recognise the devastating impact suicide taking place on our roads has on individuals, families and communities. Improving safety on the Strategic Road Network is a key priority for the Government and this commitment is central to our Third Road Investment Strategy (RIS3), published in March 2026 and available at the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/road-investment-strategy-3-ris3-2026-to-2031

Through RIS3, we have set the strategic objectives and performance requirements for National Highways to deliver over the next five-year road period, from April 2026 to March 2031, with funding provided to maintain and

enhance the Strategic Road Network. As part of the RIS3 investment, National Highways will undertake targeted interventions on the Strategic Road Network to improve safety on high-risk roads, which includes suicide prevention measures.

National Highways is responsible for operating, maintaining and improving the Strategic Road Network on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, and the specific matters of concern raised in your report are operational matters which sit within National Highways' remit. I understand National Highways has provided its response to the Regulation 28 report setting out its position including details of action to be taken.

More broadly, suicide prevention is an important part of National Highways' zero harm ambition and the Department continues to work with and support National Highways in the effort to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on the Strategic Road Network. This is set out in National Highways' Road to Zero Harm Roadmap, published in September 2026 and available at the following link: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/about-us/what-we-do/road-to-zero-harm/

Finally, I would like to reiterate the importance with which the Government treats road safety, including suicide prevention, and that both the Department and National Highways are committed to improving safety on the Strategic Road Network.

Yours sincerely,





MINISTER FOR ROADS