

**IN THE SURREY CORONER'S COURT**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

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**The Inquests Touching the Death of John Watt  
A Regulation 28 Report – Action to Prevent Future Deaths**

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	<p><b>THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• [REDACTED] – Surrey Local Highways Services Group Manager</li></ul>
1	<p><b>CORONER</b> Mr Simon Wickens, HM Area Coroner for Surrey</p>
2	<p><b>CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS</b> I make this report under paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 5 to The Coroners and Justice Act 2009.</p>
3	<p><b>INVESTIGATION and INQUEST</b> The inquest into the death of Mr Watt was opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and was resumed and concluded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016. The cause of death was: 1a – Multiple Injuries. The conclusion was 'Road Traffic Collision'.</p>
4	<p><b>CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH</b> At shortly after 11am on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Mr John Watt a 91 year old gentlemen, was attempting to cross the A25 Guilford Road at Abinger Hammer, Surrey in order to reach the shops which were located on the opposite side of the road. He was hit by a car doing approximately 30 mph and died of the resulting injuries. The weather at the time was bright and sunny however the Court heard how this caused patches of extreme light and extreme shade from overhanging trees which made it very difficult for the drivers of passing vehicles to see pedestrians who were crossing the road. The evidence suggests that, as it was a busy main road Mr Watt may have began to cross when the opportunity arose after a car had passed him and it was clear on his side of the road. However, it was likely that that vehicle may also have</p>

	<p>caused visibility problems for both Mr Watt, as a pedestrian, and the driver of the vehicle that collided with him.</p>
5	<p><b>CORONER'S CONCERNS</b></p> <p>During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed that Abinger Hammer is a small village frequented by locals and visitors alike. As there is a stream in close proximity it is also popular with families and children. The main A25 Guildford road runs through the village. Although there is a 30 mph speed limit within the village, it is still perceived to be a fast road.</p> <p>The <b>MATTER OF CONCERN</b> is:</p> <p><u>A Means of Crossing the A25 Guildford Road at Abinger Hammer</u></p> <p>Evidence at inquest indicated that there is no safe or controlled means for a pedestrian to cross the road in the village.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to providing a safe system of allowing pedestrians to cross the A25 at Abinger Hammer.</p>
6	<p><b>ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN</b></p> <p>In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe that the person listed in paragraph one above has the power to take such action.</p>
7	<p><b>YOUR RESPONSE</b></p> <p>You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of its date; I may extend that period on request.</p> <p>Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for such action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.</p>
8	<p><b>COPIES</b></p> <p>I have sent a copy of this report to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. [REDACTED] (son)</li> <li>2. [REDACTED] (daughter)</li> <li>3. The Chief Coroner</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Signed:</b></p>

*Simon Wickens*

**DATED this 31st March 2016**