

## CORONER'S OFFICE AREA OF HERTFORDSHIRE

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## **REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS**

#### THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

Mr Jim O'Sullivan Chief Executive Highways England Federated House London Road Dorking Surrey RH4 1SZ

#### 1 CORONER

I am Geoffrey Sullivan, Senior Coroner for Hertfordshire

#### 2 CORONER'S LEGAL POWERS

I make this report under paragraph 7, Schedule 5, of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 and regulations 28 and 29 of the Coroners (Investigations) Regulations 2013. <a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/25/schedule/5/paragraph/7">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1629/part/7/made</a>

# 3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 I commenced an investigation into the death of Vichai Tonpradit. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest on 11 October 2016.

The conclusion of the inquest was a Narrative Verdict: Road Traffic Collision contributed to by the road layout. The raised section of the tarmac presents a hazard to road users, and a solid white line left from the previous road layout running into the kerb is potentially confusing.

# 4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

On the 10th November 2015 at around 19:28hrs Vichai Tonpradit was riding his motorcycle northbound on the A1(M) in the nearside lane towards Junction 6 at Welwyn. When he attempted to cross the hatched area of the exit to rejoin the main carriageway he struck a raised section of tarmac separating the slip road from the main carriageway. He fell to the road surface and as he rose was struck by a heavy goods vehicle and then by a small hatchback travelling in the northbound carriageway. Vichai Tonpradit was confirmed deceased at the scene at 19:41hrs by a paramedic. Multiple Traumatic Injuries

## 5 CORONER'S CONCERNS

During the course of the inquest the evidence revealed matters giving rise to concern. In my opinion there is a risk that future deaths will occur unless action is taken. In the circumstances it is my statutory duty to report to you.

The MATTERS OF CONCERN are as follows. -

- (1) The raised section of the tarmac separating the slip road from the main carriageway on the A1(M) approaching Junction 6 northbound is potentially hazardous.
- (2) At the same location, the visual marking (solid white line) from the previous road layout is potentially confusing

#### 6 ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

In my opinion action should be taken to prevent future deaths and I believe you have the power to take such action.

# 7 YOUR RESPONSE

You are under a duty to respond to this report within 56 days of the date of this report, namely by 06 December 2016. I, the coroner, may extend the period.

Your response must contain details of action taken or proposed to be taken, setting out the timetable for action. Otherwise you must explain why no action is proposed.

#### 8 COPIES and PUBLICATION

I have sent a copy of my report to the Chief Coroner and to the following Interested Persons the deceased's niece; Mr John Wood, Chief Executive of Hertfordshire County Council.

I am also under a duty to send the Chief Coroner a copy of your response.

The Chief Coroner may publish either or both in a complete or redacted or summary form. He may send a copy of this report to any person who he believes may find it useful or of interest. You may make representations to me, the coroner, at the time of your response, about the release or the publication of your response by the Chief Coroner.

9 Dated 11 October 2016

Signature Senior Coroner for Hertfordshire