

REGULATION 28 REPORT TO PREVENT FUTURE DEATHS

THIS REPORT IS BEING SENT TO:

- (1) Department for Transport
- (2) Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
- (3) Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency

1 CORONER

I am Emma Brown Area Coroner for Birmingham and Solihull

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.

3 INVESTIGATION and INQUEST

On 20/08/2015 I commenced an investigation into the death of Ricky Craig HUDSON. The investigation concluded at the end of the inquest 26th November 2015. The conclusion of the inquest was that Mr. Hudson passed away at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham on the 13th August 2015 as a result of injuries sustained when he fell from his quad bike on the 11th August 2015 having lost control of it. It was a new and powerful bike that the deceased had not ridden much and he was not wearing a crash helmet. It is likely that the injuries sustained by the deceased would not have been fatal if he had been wearing a crash helmet. The Coroner's short form conclusion was road traffic collision and the medical cause of death recorded was 1(a) TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY, 2 DIABETES

4 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH

Mr Hudson was an experienced driver and motorcycle rider. He had been driving quad bikes for a number of years. The Yamaha quad bike he was riding at the time of his death was new and powerful and he had not ridden it much at the time of the accident on the 11th August 2015. There was evidence that if the law had required him to wear a helmet Mr Hudson would have done so and that if he had been wearing a helmet his death would have probably been prevented. Mr Hudson was not speeding or driving the quad bike dangerously at the time of the accident and there were no hazards or third party actions that contributed, the road conditions and weather were normal. The mechanism of injury was that the front wheels of the quad bike rose up, possibly upon hitting a speed bump, and Mr Hudson fell sideways onto the road.

P. C. Robbins, an experienced Road Traffic Officer and Collision Investigator, gave evidence that he has dealt with several cases of serious or fatal injury to quad bike riders who may have avoided serious injury if they had been wearing crash helmets.

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) That quad bike riders are not required to wear crash helmets when driving on public roads.
- (2) That there are no additional driving qualifications required to drive a quad bike.

| 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 2 nd February 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: Mr. Hudson's wife and the West Midlands Police Regional Collision Investigation Unit. |
| | 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 | 01/12/2015 |
| | Signature Signature Emma Brown Area Coroner Birmingham and Solihuli |
| | Emma Brown Area Coroner Birmingnam and Solinuli |