



Shakespeare Business Centre
245a Coldharbour Lane
London SW9 8RR

info@roadpeace.org
www.roadpeace.org
Tel: 020 7733 1603

Coroner Rule 43 reports 1 Oct 2012-31 Mar 2013

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The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) has published their ninth and final six month summary of coroner Rule 43 reports, covering 1 October 2012 to 31 March 2013. Of the 235 Rule 32 reports issued during this period, 32 related to road deaths, including:

- 24 highway safety (75%)
- 5 driver and vehicle licensing (16%)
- 3 vehicle safety (9%)

As well as include a summary of each Rule 43 report issued during this period, the summary report also highlights reports thought to have wider implications. Despite accounting for the second leading cause of Rule 43 reports, with only hospital death related Rule 43 reports more numerous (79), no road death related Rule 43 report was identified as having wider implications. This pattern is well established with no road death related Rule 43 report ever being identified by the MOJ as having wider implications. RoadPeace believes that this is due to a lack of awareness of road traffic injury prevention, including with speed reduction measures and designing out blindspots.

The road death related Rule 43 reports in the ninth summary are shown in the table overleaf. These include one report which RoadPeace believe should have been identified as having wider implications. Andrew Walker, a North London coroner, wrote to the Department for Transport following a death of an elderly pedestrian where the driver involved sounded his horn but failed to make more of an effort to avoid the crash. Walker has requested that the Highway Code be amended to say that *“when a pedestrian is in the road, all vehicles should have to slow down or stop until the pedestrian has moved out of danger”*. The implications this recommendation could have for drivers sharing the road with pedestrians, as well as cyclists, who have the same vulnerability as pedestrians, is significant.

RoadPeace has sent Andrew Walker our most recent briefing on liability reform *Presumed liability*. This was produced in June for the fifth anniversary of the death of Marie Vesco, a 19 year old cyclist hit by one car driver exiting the A23 and run over by a second car driver who was unable to stop before also hitting Marie. No charges were brought against either driver with the police explaining to Marie’s family that there was no requirement in the Highway Code for drivers to reduce their speed around cyclists.

This report is the last summary the MOJ will publish of coroner Rule 43 reports. In the future, the Chief Coroner will be responsible for this role. RoadPeace will continue to monitor road death Rule 43 reports and will work to ensure the Chief Coroner appreciates the opportunity that inquests presents to prevent further road deaths, rather than approach road deaths as inevitable and unavoidable.

Road death related Coroner Rule 43 reports (1 October 2012 – 31 March 2013)

Coroner district	Organisation	Summary
Highways safety		
West Yorkshire: East	Leeds City Council	To consider improving pedestrian safety at the traffic light controlled junction of the A6120 Seacroft Ring Road and Coal Road, Leeds.
East Riding and Kingston upon Hull	Premier Foods Plc.	To consider introducing a fence and resurfacing the footpath next to the river at Drypool Bridge on the River Hull.
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	Lancashire County Council	To consider adding advanced warning signs or chevron boards at the junction of the B6243 and the access road for Spade Mill Reservoir, Longridge.
West Yorkshire: West	Bradford District Council	To consider introducing measures to prevent pedestrians crossing at Thong Street west of Knowles Lane, Bradford, or placing lights which indicate when it is safe to cross.
Kent: North East	Kent County Council	To consider making changes to the junction of the A254 Ramsgate Road and Old Ramsgate Road, Margate, to improve safety for drivers.
London: North	Myddelton House, Bulls Cross	To consider an additional sign showing the route pedestrians should take from the side of the canal to reach Ponders End Railway Station.
Norfolk	King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	To consider the review carried out by the Mart Task Group, and whether there is a need to implement its recommendations to improve safety on King Street, King's Lynn.
Manchester: South	Trafford Borough Council	To consider the addition of a pedestrian phase being built into the traffic lights at the junction of Manchester Road and Park Road, West Timperley.
Wiltshire and Swindon	Highways Agency	To consider widening the parameters of road inspections so that parts of the road which may become slippery when wet, and a danger to motorcyclists, are considered to constitute a defect.
London: Inner West	London Borough of Merton Council	To consider a review of the traffic calming measures in place and adapting speed bumps which may be of danger to motorcyclists on Stamford Road, Barking and Dagenham.
Kent: North East	Kent County Council	To consider a review into the safety of parking arrangements on College Road, Canterbury.

Coroner district	Organisation	Summary
Wiltshire and Swindon	Highways Agency	To consider improving the safety of the A36 at Upton Lovell, at the junction with Manor Road.
London: North	Department for Transport	To consider an addition to the Highway Code that states 'when a pedestrian is in the road all vehicles should slow down or stop until the pedestrian has moved out of danger'.
Norfolk	(1) East of England Ambulance Trust (2) Norfolk Constabulary	(1) To consider: a review of the policy for responding to road traffic collisions; how appropriate 'backup' can be made available to those attending the scene; and further training in when to seek additional support. (2) To consider what steps can be taken to enhance inter-agency cooperation between emergency services in Norfolk to ensure that responses are planned, coordinated and well managed under a well established and acknowledged line of command.
Liverpool	Liverpool City Council	To consider a review of pedestrian safety at the junction of Rathbone Road and Picton Road, Liverpool and the possibility of a pedestrian phase being built into the traffic lights.
South Yorkshire: West	North East Waterways	To consider the addition of warning signage and low perimeter fencing at Tinsley Canal which has an unusual depth of 2.5 metres with no escape ladders, grab chains or life-saving apparatus.
Leicester City and South Leicestershire	Leicestershire County Council	To consider carrying out work to make the warning signs more visible on Bath Lane, Bruntingthorpe.
Staffordshire: South	Staffordshire County Council	To consider reviewing the safety of the A458 Brignorth Road, Dudley, including the positioning of the chevron boards and the proximity of foliage.
Black Country	Wolverhampton City Council	To consider what steps can be taken to improve pedestrian safety on Blaydon Road, linking Droveaway and Oxley Moor Road, Pendeford.
Shropshire: Mid and North-West	Canal and River Trust	To consider whether the steps on the aqueduct bridge are fit for purpose at Berrisford Road, Market Drayton.
Wiltshire and Swindon	Anchor Trust	To consider how to improve the safety of pedestrians crossing outside Clift House on Langley Road, Chippenham.
Cumbria: North and West	Cumbria County Council	To consider removing the boulder which supports the 'keep left' sign and re-painting the white lines at the start of the dual carriageway of the A591 towards Thirlmere at Dunmail Raise.

Coroner district	Organisation	Summary
Staffordshire: South	(1) Staffordshire County Council (2) West Midlands Ambulance Service	(1) To consider how driver safety can be improved where the A51 Tamworth Road in Lichfield meets Cricket Lane. (2) To consider implementing the draft driving policy and training staff in the various emergency vehicles.
Avon	Canal and River Trust	To consider further fencing next to the weir at the Jolly Sailor Public House, Saltford.
Vehicle safety		
Staffordshire: South	Jungheinrich Ltd	To consider altering the forklift truck lighting system so that a red handbrake sign does not display when the footbrake is deployed.
Staffordshire: South	Department for Transport	To consider regulating that people who use mobility scooters should have a health check to include hearing and eyesight, that their vehicle should be suitable to their needs, that they undergo appropriate training and that they wear a high visibility jacket.
Staffordshire: South	Department for Transport	To consider legislating so that wheelchairs have compulsory crash test certificates that allow them to be used in the back of vehicles.
Driver and vehicle licensing		
Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire	Department for Transport	To consider introducing legislation to improve the safety of users of mobility vehicles, including the need for helmets or seat belts and what may or may not be carried on such a vehicle.
Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan	British Driving Society	To consider making the wearing of safety hats compulsory in horse and trap events.
Southend and South East Essex	Department for Transport	To consider statutory regulations on the training and testing of those who provide horse and carriage rides to the public.
Lincolnshire: South	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	To consider what actions could be taken to ensure that people with visual impairments which may affect their driving report the information to the DVLA.
North Yorkshire: East	Department for Transport	To consider regulating on the minimum level of eyesight required to operate a mobility scooter and the appropriate level of training.