



**Rachel Redman**  
Her Majesty's Coroner  
Central and South East Kent

ECE TRANSPORT DIVISION N° 257	
Received on :	11 DEC 2009
Seen by :	
Passed to :	H. Paves
for: Action	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input type="checkbox"/>

UN Economic Commission for Europe  
Information Service  
Palais de Nations  
CH - 1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

4 December 2009

Dear Sir

**Re: Rowan Colton deceased**

At an Inquest touching the death of the above named held at Ashford Magistrates Court on 8 October 2009, I returned a verdict of Accidental Death. I announced at the hearing that I would write to you pursuant to Section 43 Coroner's Rules 1984, (as amended by the Coroners (Amendment) Rules 2008).

This Rule provides that where the evidence at an inquest gives rise to a concern that circumstances creating a risk of other deaths will occur or will continue to exist in the future, and in the coroner's opinion, action should be taken to prevent the occurrence or continuation of such circumstances, or to eliminate or reduce the risk of death created by such circumstances, the coroner may report the circumstances to a person who may have power to take such action.

In accordance with Rule 43, a copy of this report is being sent to the Lord Chancellor and all the other properly interested persons identified at the inquest. I have listed the copy recipients at the end of this letter and your response to this report will be shared with those listed.

The Lord Chancellor may send a copy of the report and response to any person who the Lord Chancellor believes may find it useful or of interest. In addition, the Lord Chancellor may publish a full copy or a summary of the report and response (unless I have decided otherwise in response to a written representation about the release and publication of your response).

Rule 43A requires that you give a written response within 56 days. If you are unable to respond by Friday 29 January 2010, you may apply to me for an extension. The response is to contain details of any action that has been taken or which it is proposed will be taken whether in response to this report or otherwise, or an explanation as to why no action is proposed.

If there are circumstances where you do not want your full response to be shared with the listed copy recipients, or for a copy of it to be published, you may make a written representation to me at the time of giving your response. Instead of releasing or publishing your full response it may be possible to share or publish a summary in accordance with rule 43A.

Rowan Colton, who was aged 8 months, was strapped into his car seat (a Nania First) in the rear of a Fiat Punto driven by his mother.

I understand that the car seat complied with United Nations ECE Regulation R44.03 and was therefore of an "approved type". This regulation requires the seat to be tested for impact from the front and rear but not from the side. I understand that there is a performance requirement for overturning in which test a dummy's head must not move more than 300 mm from its original position in a vertical direction. This test is carried out, however, at a rotational speed of between 2 and 5 degrees per second and does not monitor for head impact with the side of the seat.

The vehicle in which Rowan was being driven turned through 180 degrees in a very short period of time and he sustained a fatal head injury caused by lack of restraint by the car seat.

I believe that you have power to amend the regulations so that such a fatality should not recur.

I look forward to hearing from you by 29 January 2010.

Yours faithfully