

NEWPORT CITY COUNCIL FINED £2 MILLION AFTER DEATH OF ROAD WORKER

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A council has been ordered £2 million after a man died while repairing a road.

Stephen Bell was barrowing tarmac from the back of Newport City Council's tipper lorry to make resurfacing repairs on a section which runs beneath the M4 motorway in July 2019.

The 57-year-old was struck by a farm vehicle passing the road works.

Investigators from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the council did not take all reasonably practicable steps to organise a safe working environment.

HSE inspector Philip Nicolle said 'the council's failures have had a devastating impact' on Stephen's family.

He added:

'This tragic incident could so easily have been avoided if the council had simply carried out correct control measures and safe working practices.'

As well as the £2 million fine, Cardiff Crown Court ordered the council to pay £9,780 in prosecution costs.

Appendix 3 – Institute of Safety & Health (IOSH) Magazine article – Newport Council Prosecution

Beverly Owen, chief executive of Newport City Council, said it was 'extremely sorry' for Stephen's death, who was a 'respected and valued colleague'.

'We again offer our sincere condolences to his family for their loss,' she added.

'Policies, procedures and training were in place at the time of the incident however, thorough and in-depth reviews have also been carried out since the incident.

'Health and safety resources have been increased, procedures have been strengthened, and additional training introduced. The council has learned from this tragic incident and has taken every step to try and ensure this is not able to happen again.'

Earlier this year, a waste collection giant appeared in court after a man was killed when the lorry in which he was a passenger crashed into litter picking vans blocking a lane of a dual carriageway in Norfolk. [Serco was fined £240,000.](#)