

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael

The Schools (Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Department for Infrastructure proposes to make a Statutory Rule under powers conferred by Article 38 of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (“the 1997 Order”). The Statutory Rule is not subject to any Assembly procedure and does not require to be laid before the Assembly.

Article 38 of the 1997 Order enables the Department, by Order, to apply speed limits to roads that are not restricted roads.

A speed limit defines the maximum legal speed that vehicles are permitted to travel on a road. Speed limits are generally introduced for road safety reasons but can also be introduced for traffic progression purposes, or for environmental and accessibility reasons.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The proposed Rule will apply a 20 miles per hour speed limit to a length of:

- Drumhillery Park and Drumhillery Road, Middletown, Armagh adjacent to Drumhillery Primary School;
- Tullyherron Road, Mountnorris, Armagh adjacent to St. Teresa’s Primary School;
- Ballymacnab Road and Foley Road, Tassagh, Armagh adjacent to Foley Primary School;
- Granemore Road, Tassagh, Armagh adjacent to St. Mary’s Primary School;
- Main Road and Victoria Road, Ballyhalbert adjacent to Glastry College;
- Dolly’s Brae, Castlewellan adjacent to St. Matthew’s Primary School;
- St. Patrick’s Road, Saul, Downpatrick adjacent to St. Patrick’s Primary School;
- Carrickrovaddy Road and Roxborough Road, Cullyhanna, Newry adjacent to St. Oliver’s Primary School;
- Windmill Hill, Portaferry adjacent to St. Mary’s Primary School; and
- Killowen Old Road, Rostrevor adjacent to Killowen Primary School.

The effect of the Order is that the current speed limit applicable on these lengths of road shall be reduced to 20 miles per hour when a 20 miles per hour speed limit is indicated by means of a variable message traffic sign, the operation and timing of which will coincide primarily with the opening and closing times of each school.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultation

The PSNI has been consulted but has not responded to date due to resourcing issues, however the PPTO has approved the introduction of the changes to the speed limits. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Council were also notified of the proposals but have not commented.

Following completion of the required statutory consultation process, which opened on 17 December 2025 and closed on 9 January 2026 and included advertising of the Notice of Intention in the Belfast Telegraph, Irish News and News Letter, no objections or other representations were received during the objection period.

Equality Impact

There are no known Section 75 implications. Following publication of the Notice of Intention in the local press, no Section 75 issues were raised.

Regulatory Impact

A regulatory impact assessment was not considered necessary as the proposals do not result in any costs or savings on businesses, charities, or voluntary bodies.

Rural Needs Impact

A rural needs impact assessment was not considered necessary.

Data Protection Impact

A data protection impact assessment was not considered necessary.

Child Rights Impact

A separate child rights impact assessment was not considered necessary as impacts on children and young people have been captured in the appropriate section of the Section 75 screening form.

Position in Great Britain

Not applicable.

Any Other Information

None.

Financial Implications

Spend will be incurred in 2025-26 and relates to departmental staff costs as well as any physical infrastructure costs, for which there is sufficient budget.

Compliance with Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

The Department has carried out a Human Rights Act Screening Analysis and no human rights issues have been identified.

Consideration by the Executive

Not required.

Proposed Timing of Consideration of the SL1

This SL1 has been submitted in accordance with the minimum four-week timeframe and it is proposed the Committee considers the SL1 as soon as possible.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed the Rule will come into operation approximately one month following its consideration by the Committee.

The draft of the proposed Statutory Rule is attached, and you will wish to bring this matter to the attention of the Committee for Infrastructure.

Yours sincerely,



JOSEPH HEATH
Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer
Signed for the Department for Infrastructure

Committee for Infrastructure Clerk
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
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Belfast
BT4 3XX

Date: 26 January 2026

cc: **Human Rights Commission**
Equality Commission