

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael,

The Road Races (Craigantlet Hill Climb) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Department for Infrastructure proposes to make a Statutory Rule under powers conferred by Article 3 of the Road Races (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 which enables the Department to make Orders closing public roads for motor races and regulate their use under specified conditions. The Statutory Rule is not subject to any procedure before the Assembly.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The Statutory Rule will permit the suspension of the right of way of traffic on Saturday 2nd May 2026 between 7.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. on lengths of roads in the Craigantlet area (on the outskirts of Belfast) to allow the Ulster Automobile Club Ltd., promoters of the Craigantlet Hill Climb 2026, to run the event.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultations

The PSNI has been informed of the proposed Rule and has been provided with supporting documentation (Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and Safety Plan) for consideration. Officials will liaise with the PSNI to ensure its input is received and considered and acted upon by the event promoters before the proposed Rule is made.

There is no requirement under the Road Races (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 for the Department to inform local councils of events taking place or to carry out a statutory consultation prior to making Road Race Statutory Rules.

The Rule places certain requirements on the promoter, including:

- agreeing a TMP with the PSNI and the Department. The agreed TMP must be in place prior to running of the event to comply with one of the conditions of the Rule;
- cordon off the relevant roads to prevent unauthorised access for the duration of the event;
- provision of sufficient marshals to ensure appropriate conduct at the event e.g. mainly for spectator and driver safety purposes;
- obtaining appropriate insurance cover;
- advertising the road closures in newspapers circulating in the locality of the course and through the deployment of appropriate road signage; and
- consultation with, and, when appropriate, engagement with local residents, emergency services and businesses, including Translink, likely to be impacted by the road closures; and addressing any concerns raised in a timely and appropriate manner with the aim of achieving mutually agreed outcomes with the relevant parties.

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 but no later than 18 March 2026.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation on 1 May 2026.

A draft of the proposed Statutory Rule along with the related map and race Schedules are 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
Ballymiscaw
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Belfast
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Date: 4 February 2026

cc: **Human Rights Commission**
Equality Commission