

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael

The Road Races (Circuit of Ireland Rally) 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 Friday 3rd April 2026 and Saturday 4th April 2026 between specified times on lengths of a number of roads within Counties Armagh and Tyrone to allow the Ulster Automobile Club Ltd, promoters of the Circuit of Ireland Rally 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 for consideration and the Department will continue to liaise with the PSNI to ensure its input is received and considered before the proposed Order 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 Orders.

The Rule places certain requirements on the promoter, including:

- agreeing a Traffic Management Plan with the PSNI and the Department. The agreed Traffic Management Plan must be in place prior to running of the event to comply with one of the conditions of the Rule;
- cordoning 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.

One of the requirements of a Road Races Order is that the promoter shall place placard notices, specifying the course and the date and times of the race, in prominent positions in

the neighbourhood at least seven days before the race. The promoter is also required to publish, during each of the two weeks preceding the date of the race, advertisements in two newspapers circulating in the area.

Should the Department be made aware of any issues, officials will bring them to the attention of both the promoter and the governing body. In doing so, the intention is to have any matters resolved to the mutual satisfaction of all parties involved. Following an event, the Department will receive a post-race report from both the promoter and PSNI and should any issues arise will address them with both the promoter and race governing bodies.

Equality Impact

There are no known Section 75 implications.

Regulatory Impact

A regulatory impact assessment was not considered necessary as the proposals do not result in any costs or savings for 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 (if appropriate).

Not applicable.

Any other information

None.

Financial Implications

The costs relating to the provision of Road Race Orders primarily relate to staff time.

Compliance with Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

There are no known human rights implications.

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 on 11th February 2026.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation on 2nd April 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 faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Heath', with a stylized, wavy line extending from the end.

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

Committee for Infrastructure Clerk
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Date: 8 January 2026

cc:
Human Rights Commission
Equality Commission