

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael

The Comber Road, Dundonald (Abandonment and Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Department for Infrastructure proposes to make a Statutory Rule under powers conferred by Article 68 of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993. The Statutory Rule is subject to negative resolution procedure before the Assembly.

Article 68 of the 1993 Order enables the Department, by Order, to provide for the abandonment and stopping-up of any road. On the coming into operation of an abandonment and stopping-up Order, the Department is no longer responsible for maintenance of the road and any public right of way over the road shall be extinguished. The 1993 Order further provides that the Department should not make an abandonment and stopping-up order unless (a) it is of the opinion that the road is not necessary for road traffic or that another road is available which provides, or is capable, if improved, of providing alternative facilities for road traffic; or (b) the Order provides for the carrying out by the Department or any other person of such works as the Department considers necessary for the provision of alternative facilities for road traffic before the road is abandoned and stopped-up.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The Rule will abandon an area of 608 square metres of former road at Comber Road, Dundonald comprising of two plots—

- 46 square metres adjacent to No. 1 Peartree Hill (Plot 1); and
- 562 square metres adjacent to No. 327 Comber Road, extending in a south-easterly direction towards the junction with Peartree Hill (Plot 2).

It will also stop-up to motor vehicles, four lengths of former road at Comber Road, Dundonald comprising—

- 26.8 metres outside No. 1 Peartree Hill;
- 6.8 metres extending in a south-westerly direction;
- 6.6 metres outside No. 327 Comber Road; and
- 46.5 metres extending in a south-easterly direction.

The abandonment and stopping-up has been requested to remove part of the existing Comber Road from the roads network upon completion of realignment works associated with an adjacent development. The developer will provide an alternative route for vehicular traffic.

The bed and soil of the areas to be abandoned and stopped-up is owned by several private landowners and following the abandonment and stopping-up the land will revert to the control of the registered landowners.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultation

The PSNI and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council have both been informed and have no objections to the proposal.

Following completion of the required statutory consultation process which opened on 21st January 2026 and closed on 2nd March 2026 and included advertising of the Notice of Intention in respect of the proposed abandonment and stopping-up in the local press for two consecutive weeks; a notice being posted on site and statutory undertakers being notified of the proposal, no objections were received.

Equality Impact

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

Regulatory Impact

A regulatory impact assessment was not considered necessary as the proposal does 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

Not applicable.

Any Other Information

None.

Financial Implications

The costs relating to the provision of abandonment and stopping-up Orders mainly consist of staff 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 within 8 weeks of its consideration by the Committee.

A draft of the proposed Statutory Rule and Explanatory Memorandum along with the related map 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

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Date: 12 March 2026

cc: Human Rights Commission
Equality Commission