

## **SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk**

Dear Michael,

### **The Control of Traffic (Durham Street, Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

The Department for Infrastructure proposes to make a Statutory Rule under powers conferred by Article 4 of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, enables the Department, by Order, to provide control of traffic measures, including provision of cycle lanes and cycle tracks and waiting restrictions to prohibit or restrict vehicles waiting on any public road. The Statutory Rule is not subject to any procedure before the Assembly.

#### **Purpose of the Statutory Rule**

The Statutory Rule will

- provide a two-way cycle lane on a length of College Square North and Durham Street, Belfast;
- provide a shared footway/cycle track on a length of College Square North and lengths of Albert Street and Durham Street, Belfast;
- prohibit vehicles waiting at any time (loading and unloading not permitted) on lengths of College Square North and Durham Street, Belfast; and
- revoke certain existing provisions for cycle lanes and cycle tracks and no waiting at any time prohibitions on College Square North and Durham Street, Belfast.

Vehicles are excepted from the prohibitions and conditions in certain circumstances.

#### **Previous Engagement with the Committee**

None.

#### **Consultations**

The PSNI has been informed of the proposed Rule and has no objection. Belfast City Council has also been notified of the proposal but has not commented.

The consultation for this proposed legislation opened on 23rd July 2025 and closed on 14th August 2025. Following completion of the required statutory consultation process and advertising of a Notice of Intention in the local press, one objection was received.

The objection, which was from Royal Belfast Academical Institution (RBAI) school, related to aspects of the design of the scheme, concerns about the impact on bus parking capacity and alignment of proposed dropped footpaths at the rear entrance of the school. Officials met with representatives of RBAI and agreed to make some revisions to the scheme design. RBAI school subsequently formally withdrew its objection on 28th November 2025, noting that it will be Translink's responsibility to ensure buses are parked within the rolling bus-stop.

#### **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 control of traffic measures are mainly staff costs. There will also be minor capital costs for signage/lining, which will be funded from the 2025-26 budget allocations.

**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 as soon as possible but no later than 13th May 2026.

**Proposed Operational Date**

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation on 4th June 2026.

A draft of the proposed Statutory Rule along with the related map are attached and you will wish to bring this matter to the attention of the Committee for Infrastructure.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer**  
**Signed for the Department for Infrastructure**

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

**Date:** 23 March 2026

**cc:**

**Human Rights Commission  
Equality Commission**