

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael,

Waiting Restrictions (Bedford Street, Belfast) (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 which enables the Department, by Order, to facilitate the movement of traffic, including 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 make permanent the waiting restriction measures initially introduced as an experimental traffic control scheme (ETCS) in March 2025 on lengths of Bedford Street, Belfast. Vehicles are excepted from the prohibition in certain circumstances.

The ETCS was implemented to address pavement parking on these lengths of Bedford Street. Since the introduction of the ETCS, it has been established that the objective of making this area of Bedford Street safer and more pedestrian friendly has been met.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultations

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

Following completion of the required statutory consultation process and advertising of a Notice of Intention in the local press relating to the implementation of the scheme for in initial 6 months period, no objections were received. Two representations of support and two other representations were also received. The ETCS came into operation on 3 March 2025 for a period of 6 months and no objections were received during this period. The scheme was extended for a further 6 months on 3 September 2025 and an additional 6 months on 3 March 2026. A copy of the Notice of Intention is attached.

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 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

Spend will be incurred in 2026-27 and relates to departmental staff costs and advertising.

Compliance with Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

The Department has carried out a Human Rights 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 but no later than 24 June 2026.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation on 3 September 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 sincerely,



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

Committee for Infrastructure Clerk
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings

Date: 1 April 2026

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**cc: Human Rights Commission
Equality Commission**