

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

Dear Michael,

### **The Road Races (Down 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 Saturday 22nd August 2026 at certain times on certain roads in County Down to allow Rathfriland Motor Club Ltd., promoters of the Down Rally, to run the 2026 event.

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

None.

#### **Consultations**

The PSNI has been consulted, has no objections to the making of the Rule and has also confirmed it has no issues with the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the event.

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;
- 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;
- notifying the public through, for example, neighbourhood notification, deployment of placard notices and the provision of appropriate road signage prior to and during the event, use of social media channels etc.; 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.

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 Statutory Rules 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 as soon as possible but not later than 3rd June 2026.

**Proposed Operational Date**

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation on 21 August 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joseph Heath', written over a horizontal line.

**JOSEPH HEATH**  
**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:** 30 April 2026

**cc: Human Rights Commission**  
**Equality Commission**