

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael,

The Road Races (Ulster 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 7 August 2026 and Saturday 8 August 2026 between specified times on lengths of a number of roads within County Antrim to allow the Northern Ireland Motor Club Ltd., promoters of the Ulster 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 that it has no issues with the Traffic Management (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 Orders.

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 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 as soon as possible but no later than 10 June 2026.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation on 6 August 2026.

A draft of the proposed Statutory Rule along with the related maps, Traffic Management Plan (TMP) 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 read 'Joseph Heath', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Committee for Infrastructure Clerk
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
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Belfast
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Date: 30 April 2026

cc: Human Rights Commission
Equality Commission