

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael,

The Green Road, Conlig (Abandonment) 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 1993 Order”).

Article 68 of the 1993 Order enables the Department, by Order, to provide for the abandonment of any road. On the coming into operation of an Order for abandonment 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 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.

The Statutory Rule is subject to negative resolution procedure before the Assembly.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The Rule will abandon an area of 1,358 square metres of superseded road, which includes an old stone bridge, at Green Road, Conlig extending from a point 974.5 metres west of its junction with Newtownards Road for a distance of 134 metres in an easterly direction.

The proposal has been requested by a developer to facilitate the construction of a new housing development. The area of land to be abandoned is partly owned by the developer and partly unregistered.

Title to the unregistered portion of land is held by the Department. Following the abandonment, the area of land in question will revert to the registered/unregistered owners.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

The SL1 was initially considered by the Committee at its meeting on 13 March 2024 after which the Committee wrote to Ards and North Down Borough Council (ANDBC). ANDBC asked the Committee to delay progressing the Order until it had carried out a feasibility study. ANDBC recently advised the Committee and Department that it had no objections to the proposed Order.

Consultations

The PSNI has been consulted and has no objection to the proposal. Ards and North Down Borough Council had also been advised of the proposal but did not comment during the statutory consultation.

Following completion of the required statutory consultation process, which opened on 6th January 2022 and closed on 16th February 2022 and included advertising the Notice of Intention in respect of the proposed abandonment in the local press for two consecutive

weeks; a notice being posted on site and statutory undertakers being notified of the proposal, nine objections were received during the objection period. A copy of the Notice of Intention is attached.

The objections were similar in nature, in the main, focusing on the historic nature of the bridge, local interest, wildlife, risk of demolition and the All-Ireland Rail Review. Some of the objectors also referenced Greenway promotion.

Officials reviewed these objections and recommended that the abandonment proposal should proceed without recourse to a public inquiry. This recommendation was approved in August 2022, and objectors were informed of the decision. To date, no objections have been withdrawn.

The proposed Order was advertised as ‘The Green Road, Conlig (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) Order 2022’ but if you approve its making, it will be known as ‘The Green Road, Conlig (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) Order 2026’.

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 applicant has signed an undertaking to reimburse the Department’s costs and expenses and to pay any compensation due as a result of making the Rule.

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 that 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
Signed for the Department for Infrastructure**

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

Date: 7 May 2026

**cc: Human Rights Commission
Equality Commission**