

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael,

The Roads (Speed Limit) (No. 2) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Department for Infrastructure proposes to make a Statutory Rule under powers conferred by Articles 37 and 38 of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (“the 1997 Order”). The Statutory Rule is not subject to any procedure before the Assembly.

Article 37 of the 1997 Order makes a road a restricted road subject to a 30 miles per hour speed limit if a system of street lighting is provided on the road and enables the Department, by Order, to make a road a restricted road. It also enables the Department, by Order, to remove a 30 miles per hour speed limit from a road, even if a system of street lighting is provided on the road.

Article 38 of the 1997 Order enables the Department, by Order, to apply speed limits to roads that are not restricted roads.

A speed limit defines the maximum legal speed that vehicles are permitted to travel on a road. Speed limits are generally introduced for road safety reasons but can also be introduced for traffic progression purposes, or for environmental and accessibility reasons.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The proposed Rule will-

- apply a 30 miles per hour speed limit to a length of Glenlevan Road, Derrygonnelly and a 30 miles per hour speed limit and a 40 miles per hour speed limit to lengths of Tonnagh Road, Derrygonnelly. Following consideration of a request from a local councillor, introduction of these measures aims to reduce vehicular speed on the approaches to Derrygonnelly village. Glenlevan Road is narrow with no footway and is used regularly by pedestrians from the school and village to access a football playing field.
- apply a 40 miles per hour speed limit to a length of Ballymaconaghy Road and Comber Road, Castlereagh to reflect the increased volume of new development accessed from these lengths of road.
- revoke existing speed limits relating to Ballymaconaghy Road and Tonnagh Road so that the speed limits specified above can take effect.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultations

The PSNI has been informed and has no objection to any of the proposals. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council have also been notified of the proposals but have not commented.

Following completion of the required statutory consultation process which opened on 1 April 2026 and closed on 23 April 2026 and included advertising of the Notice of

Intention in the Belfast Telegraph, News Letter and Irish News for one week, no objections or other representations were received. 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 as well and any minor infrastructure costs e.g. additional signage for which there is sufficient budget.

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 10 June 2026.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation on 9 July 2026.

A draft of the proposed Statutory Rule along with the related maps 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
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Date: 7 May 2026

cc: Human Rights Commission
Equality Commission