

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael,

The Parking Places (Disabled Persons' Vehicles) (Amendment No. 3) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Department for Infrastructure proposes to make a Statutory Rule under powers conferred by Articles 10 and 13 of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (“the 1997 Order”). This Rule is not subject to any Assembly procedure and does not require to be laid.

Article 10 of the 1997 Order enables the Department, by Order, to provide parking places and Article 13 enables it to make provision as to how a parking place is used, the persons or vehicles who may use it and the conditions under which it may be used.

The majority of parking places for disabled persons' vehicles provided by the Department are requested by, or on behalf of, Blue Badge holders and are usually located outside or close to their homes or their places of work. Certain criteria have to be met before an application is approved, for example, the Department establishes that a parking problem exists and that applicants do not have off-street parking available. Other parking places for disabled persons' vehicles tend to be located in commercial or other public areas.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The Rule will authorise parking places with unlimited waiting for disabled persons' vehicles by adding parking places with unlimited waiting in Antrim (1 bay), Ardglass (1 bay), Ballynahinch (1 bay), Carnlough (1 bay), Castlewellan (1 bay), Derry/Londonderry (1 bay), Doagh (1 bay), Downpatrick (2 bays), Islandmagee (2 bays), Larne (3 bays); Magherafelt (1 bay) and Newtownabbey (6 bays); removing parking places with unlimited waiting in Derry/Londonderry (2 bays) and substituting a new description for lengths of road in Magherafelt to create the parking place in Magherafelt. Vehicles are exempted from the prohibitions in certain circumstances.

The proposed parking places are being introduced to enable drivers or passengers, who hold a Blue Badge and whose application has been assessed by departmental officials as meeting the requirements for the provision of a disabled parking bay, to park closer to their desired destination.

Details of the specific locations and changes being made are as follows:-

Creating Parking Places with Unlimited Waiting

Abbeyfield Park, Antrim (north side in a parking area in front of No. 14) – from a point 44 metres east of its junction with Newpark Road North for a distance of 5.5 metres in a south-easterly direction.

Kildares Court, Ardglass (west side in a parking area in front of No. 3) – from a point 28 metres north-west of its junction with Crew Hill Court for a distance of 5.5 metres in an
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easterly direction.
Quoile Terrace, Ballynahinch (north-east side) – from a point 25 metres north-west of its junction with Langley Road for a distance of 5.5 metres in a north-westerly direction.
Croft Road, Carnlough (south-west side) – from a point 65 metres north-west of its junction with Largy Road for a distance of 5.5 metres in a north-westerly direction.
St. Malachy’s Avenue, Castlewellan (east side) – from a point 55 metres north-east of its junction with St. Malachy’s Drive for a distance of 5.5 metres in a north-easterly direction.
Mount Street, Derry/Londonderry (south-west side) – from a point 60 metres north-west of its junction with Rosemount Avenue for a distance of 5 metres in a north-westerly direction.
Anderson Park, Doagh (north-west side in a lay-by adjacent to No. 61) – from a point 126 metres south-east of its junction with Ballyclare Road for a distance of 5.5 metres in a north-easterly direction.
Meadowlands, Downpatrick (south-east side in front of No. 5) – from a point 105 metres south-west of its junction with Drumcloon Walk for a distance of 5.5 metres in a south-westerly direction.
Saul Street, Downpatrick (north-west side) – from a point 66 metres south-west of its junction with Drumlea View for a distance of 5.5 metres in a south-westerly direction.
Ashvale Park, Islandmagee (south-east-side in a lay-by opposite No. 11) – from a point 75 metres south-east of its junction with Mullaghboy Road for a distance of 5.5 metres in a south-easterly direction.
Ballystrudder Gardens, Islandmagee (east side in a lay-by opposite No. 68) – from a point 127 metres north-east of its junction with Reids Road for a distance of 5.5 metres in an easterly direction.
Ferris Avenue, Larne (east side) – from a point 144 metres north-east of its junction with Moyle Parade for a distance of 5.5 metres in an easterly direction.
Newington Avenue, Larne (south side) – from a point 45 metres south-east of its junction with Lower Waterloo Road for a distance of 5.5 metres in a south-easterly direction.
The Roddens, Larne (west side) – from a point 74 metres north of its junction with Pound Street for a distance of 5.5 metres in a northerly direction.
Church Street, Magherafelt (south side) – from a point 30 metres east of its junction with King Street for a distance of 6.5 metres in an easterly direction.
Abbots Garden, Newtownabbey (east-side in a parking area in front of No. 17) – from a point 42 metres east of its junction with Abbots Cross for a distance of 5.5 metres in an easterly direction.
Ardgart Place, Newtownabbey (north-west side in a parking area in front of Nos. 40-42) – from a point 176 metres north-west of its junction with Rathcoole Drive for a distance of 5.5 metres in a north-westerly direction.
Ballyearl Drive, Newtownabbey (east side in a parking area to the side of No. 5 Carntall Court) – from a point 155 metres east of its junction with Ballyearl Way for a distance of 5.5 metres in an easterly direction.
Bawnmore Park, Newtownabbey (south-side) – from a point 165.7 metres south of its junction with Bawnmore Place for a distance of 5.5 metres in a southerly direction.
Fernagh Avenue, Newtownabbey (west side) – from a point 132 metres north of its junction with Station Road for a distance of 5.5 metres in a northerly direction.
Knockenagh Lane, Newtownabbey (east-side in a parking area in front of Nos. 22-40) – from a point 76 metres north of its junction with Knockenagh Avenue for a distance of 5.5 metres in an easterly direction.

Deleting Parking Places with Unlimited Waiting

Maureen Avenue, Derry/Londonderry (south-east side) – from a point 51 metres north-

east of its junction with Ferguson Street for a distance of 6 metres in a north-easterly direction.

Nicholson Terrace, Derry/Londonderry (south-east side) – from a point 15 metres south-west of its junction with Academy Road for a distance of 6 metres in a south-westerly direction.
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Substituting New Descriptions for Parking Places

Church Street (south side) – from a point 15 metres east of its junction with King Street for a distance of 15 metres in an easterly direction.

Church Street (south side) – from a point 36.5 metres east of its junction with King Street for a distance of 33.5 metres in an easterly direction.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultations

The PSNI in the relevant areas have been consulted about the proposed parking places and has confirmed they have no objections to the proposals. In cases where the PSNI has not yet responded due to resourcing issues, the PPTO in the relevant Division has provided approval for the parking places. The relevant local Councils were also notified of the proposals, but none commented during the public consultation.

Following completion of the required statutory process, which includes neighbourhood notification and advertising of a Notice of Intention in the local press, colleagues in TRAM Northern Division advised that three objections to a proposed parking place in Galgorm were received and subsequently requested the removal of this parking place from the draft Order to allow officials to consider the objections. No objections were received to the remaining parking places.

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. The rule positively favours persons with a disability who are holders of a Blue Badge, entitling them to use the parking places. It is considered this action is justifiable on the basis it enables persons, who hold a Blue Badge, to park closer to their desired destination.

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

Not applicable.

Any Other Information

None.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications outside of the Department's planned budget/expenditure.

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

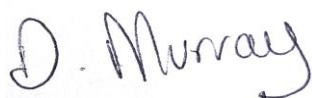
This SL1 has been submitted in accordance with the minimum four-week timeframe and it is proposed the Committee considers the SL1 as soon as possible.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation on approximately one month after its consideration by the Committee.

A draft of the proposed Statutory Rule is attached, and you will wish to bring this matter to the attention of the Committee for Infrastructure.

Yours sincerely,



**Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer
Signed for the Department for Infrastructure**

Committee for Infrastructure Clerk
Northern Ireland Assembly
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Ballymiscaw
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Date: 22 June 2026

cc: Human Rights Commission (All SL1s)
Equality Commission (All SL1s)