

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael

The Waiting Restrictions (Comber) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Department for Infrastructure proposes to make a Statutory Rule under powers conferred by Article 4 the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 which enables the Department, by Order, to facilitate the movement of traffic, including waiting restrictions to prohibit or restrict vehicles waiting on any public road. The Statutory Rule is not subject to any procedure before the Assembly.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The proposed Rule will prohibit vehicles waiting at any time (loading and unloading not permitted) on a length of Mill Street, Comber. The prohibition is being introduced to facilitate traffic progression and to enhance road safety at this location. Vehicles are excepted from the prohibition in certain circumstances.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultations

The PSNI has no objection to the proposal. Ards & North Down Borough Council has also been notified of the proposal but has not commented.

Following completion of the required statutory consultation process which opened on 18 December 2025 and closed on 9 January 2026 and included advertising of the Notice of Intention in the local press, 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 on 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 2025-26 and relates to departmental staff costs as well as 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 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 on 25 February 2026.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed that the Statutory Rule will come into operation on 20 March 2026.

A draft of the proposed Statutory Rule 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
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Date: 21 January 2026

**cc: Human Rights Commission
Equality Commission**