SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael,

The Wandsworth Road, Belfast (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 Statutory Rule is subject to the negative resolution procedure and is required to be laid before the Assembly.

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 road shall cease to be maintainable by the Department 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.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The Rule will abandon two areas of road contained within Wandsworth Road Car Park, Belfast comprising of:-

• 178.759 square metres previously known as Wandsworth Road extending in a south-easterly direction covering the width of the car park area (marked Plot 1 on map); and

• 212.478 square metres previously known as Hawthornden Road extending in a south-westerly direction covering the width of the car park area (marked Plot 2 on map).

The proposal has been initiated by the Department for Infrastructure in order to regularise the situation on the ground in respect of the transfer of the car park to Belfast City Council, which owns the bed and soil.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultation

The PSNI and Belfast City Council have both been informed of the proposal and have no objections.

Following completion of the required statutory consultation process which opened on 9th September 2026 and closed on 19th October 2026 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, no objections were received.

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 Assessment
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
Spend relates primarily to departmental staff costs as well as any physical infrastructure costs and will be funded from indicative allocations.

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.

Operational Date
It is proposed the Rule will come into operation within eight weeks of its consideration by the Committee.

The draft of the proposed Statutory Rule and Explanatory Memorandum are attached, and you will wish to bring this matter to the attention of the Committee for Infrastructure.

Yours sincerely,



DARREN MURRAY

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:5 November 2026

cc: Human Rights Commission
Equality Commission