

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael

The Glencairn 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 negative resolution procedure 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 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.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The Rule will abandon an area of 16,948 square metres of road at Glencairn Road, Belfast extending from its junction with Wolfhill Road for a distance of 950 metres in a westerly and then northerly direction.

The proposal has been requested by the National Trust, which owns the bed and soil of the area to be abandoned, to facilitate a project to improve access to the Belfast Hills. Following the abandonment, responsibility for the area will revert to the National Trust.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultations

The PSNI has been consulted and has no objection to the proposal. Belfast City Council has also been advised of the proposal but has not commented.

Following completion of the required statutory consultation process, which opened on 12th November 2025 and closed on 19th December 2025 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 during the objection period. 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 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

Spend will be incurred in 2025-26 and relates to departmental staff costs, for which there is sufficient budget. 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 on 18th February 2026.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation on 25th March 2026.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive script.

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: 8 January 2026

**cc: Human Rights Commission
 Equality Commission**