

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael

The Prohibition of U-Turns (Belfast) (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 the prohibition of U-turns on any public road. The Statutory Rule is not subject to any procedure before the Assembly.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The Statutory Rule will prohibit vehicles proceeding in a northerly direction along College Avenue, Belfast from making a U-turn at its junction with Castle Street.

The proposed prohibition has been requested by members of the public who have expressed concerns about traffic movements and the consequential risk to pedestrians crossing the road at this location. Prohibiting vehicles from making U-turns at this location should improve road safety for pedestrians crossing the road at the mouth of College Avenue.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultations

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

Following completion of the required statutory consultation process which opened on 5th November 2025 and closed on 27th November 2025 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 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 2025-26 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

There are no known human rights implications.

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 11th February 2026.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed that the Rule will come into operation on 12th 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



JOESPH HEATH

Departmental Assembly Liaison Officer

Signed for the Department for Infrastructure

The Committee Clerk
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Date: 8 January 2026

**cc: Human Rights Commission)
Equality Commission**