

SL1 – To Departmental Committee Clerk

Dear Michael,

The St Andrews Square West, Belfast (Stopping-Up) 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 stopping-up of any road. On the coming into operation of a stopping-up order 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 a Stopping-Up 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 stopped-up.

Purpose of the Statutory Rule

The Rule will stop-up a length of St Andrews Square West, Belfast to vehicular traffic at a line 32 metres south of St Andrews Square North for a distance of 10.35 metres in an easterly direction.

The stopping-up has been initiated internally within the Department for Infrastructure to facilitate redevelopment of the road network around Durham Street and Hope Street.

Previous Engagement with the Committee

None.

Consultation

The PSNI and Belfast City Council have been notified and no comments have been received.

Following completion of the required statutory consultation process which opened on 5th November 2025 and closed on 15th December 2025 and included advertising the Notice of Intention in respect of the proposed stopping-up 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.

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 as well as any physical infrastructure costs, 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 18th February 2026.

Proposed Operational Date

It is proposed the Rule will come into operation within 8 weeks of its consideration by the Committee.

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



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 3SW

Date: 8 January 2026

**cc: Human Rights Commission
Equality Commission**