

Written Ministerial Statement

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Regional Development

Transport Northern Ireland

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Mr Kennedy (The Minister for Regional Development): In recent years my Department has been considering the best model for the future delivery of both roads and public transport authority functions. As a result I have agreed that in line with a number of other jurisdictions, there should be a single organisation within my Department responsible for the delivery of roads functions and securing public transport services. This new organisation will be called Transport NI and it will come into effect from 1st April 2013.

Transport NI will be a combination of two existing business units within my Department: Roads Service and Public Transport Finance and Governance; and as a result there will be no impact on staff numbers or other resources within my Department.

Transport NI will be responsible for the following functions:

- All functions currently delivered by Roads Service including:
 - The design of major and minor road improvement schemes including schemes to improve road safety;
 - The maintenance of the road network including roads, footways, bridges, street lights, etc;
 - The management of the road network including the provision of a winter service, as well as managing motorway communications and signalised junctions;

- Securing the delivery of public transport services; and in the future
- The development of local public transport plans.

The new arrangements will better coordinate the management of the road network and the delivery of public transport services in the future.