

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The M2 Motorway at Whitla Street, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2012

S. R. 2012 No. 235

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Regional Development to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Article 68(1) and (5) of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of the Rule is to abandon an area of 48.11 square metres of road adjacent to the west side of the M2 Motorway located at the subway between Whitla Street and Nelson Street, Belfast.

3. Background

- 3.1. The abandonment has been requested by Translink/Northern Ireland Transport Holding Co. to allow for the extension of Yorkgate railway station and the construction of extended platforms. The Department is the owner of the bed and soil and following the abandonment it proposes to dispose of the land in accordance with statutory procedures for the disposal of government owned land.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. Belfast City Council has been advised of the proposed abandonment. A Notice in respect of the proposed abandonment was published in the local press for 2 successive weeks and statutory undertakers were notified of the proposal. The NIE and Cable and Wireless initially objected to the scheme, but subsequently withdrew their objections in writing.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. Consideration has been given to compliance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. No equality issues have been identified by the Department and no issues were raised following the publication of the notice in the press.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment was not considered necessary as the proposal does not result in any costs or savings to business, charities or the voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. None

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. Consideration has been given to compliance with Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. No human rights issues have been identified by the Department and no issues were raised following the publication of the notice in the press.

9. EU Implications

- 9.1. Not applicable.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

- 10.1. Not applicable.

11. Additional Information

- 11.1. Not applicable.