

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Sliabh Dubh Glen and Sliabh Dubh View, Belfast (Footpath) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015**

**S.R. 2015 No. 221**

#### **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 95.151 square metres of footpath adjacent to No. 10 Sliabh Dubh Glen and No. 96 Sliabh Dubh View, Belfast.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. The abandonment has been requested by FOLD Housing Association, who are the owners of the bed and soil, to facilitate the removal of anti-social behaviour in the area.
- 3.2. The Department is of the opinion that the area of footpath in question is no longer necessary.
- 3.3. Following the abandonment the footpath will revert to the housing association who propose to incorporate it into the adjacent gardens.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. The PSNI has advised that it has no objection to the proposal. Belfast City Council was notified but no acknowledgement was received.
- 4.2. A notice in respect of the proposed abandonment was published in the local press for two successive weeks, a notice was posted on site and the statutory undertakers were notified of the proposal. One objection was received from Northern Ireland Electricity Ltd but it has subsequently been withdrawn.

#### **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.