

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019**

**S.R. 2019 No. 74**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Infrastructure to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred by Section 14(1), (7) and (10) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. The Regulations amend the Disabled Persons (Badges for Motor Vehicles) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 ("the 1993 Regulations") by prescribing a new form of the Blue Badge.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. Regulation 3 and the Schedule of the 1993 Regulations are being amended to prescribe the new form of the Badge with effect from from 30th March 2019.
- 3.2. These amendments are being made to mirror changes to the form of the Blue Badge in England, Scotland and Wales.
- 3.3. The regulations will also include transitional provisions to allow "Blue Badges" issued prior to the 30th March 2019 to continue in effect until their individual expiry date

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. As the only changes are to the appearance of the badge consultation is not considered necessary.

#### **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 Consultation.

#### **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. The "21 Day Rule" has been breached by these Regulations.
- 11.2. Unfortunately the Department was unable to make the Regulations before 29th March 2019 as it awaited confirmation of the date that the new form of the badge was to commence elsewhere in the United Kingdom.
- 11.3. The badges are supplied through a common contract.
- 11.4. The Department received final confirmation of this on 27th March 2019 and the 29th March was earliest date when it was possible to make these Regulations in order to ensure that the supply of badges to members of the public would not be disrupted as the supply of the the existing form of the badge will cease and supply of the new form of the badge will commence on 30th March 2019.