

1979 No. 199

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

The Bus Lane (Queen's Square) Order (Northern Ireland) 1979

Made 12th June 1979

Coming into operation 23rd July 1979

The Department of the Environment in exercise of the powers conferred by section 20 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(a) and now vested in it(b) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and being satisfied that the lengths of road described in article 2 are unsuitable for unrestricted use by vehicles, hereby makes the following order:—

Citation and commencement

1. This order may be cited as the Bus Lane (Queen's Square) Order (Northern Ireland) 1979 and shall come into operation on 23rd July 1979.

Interpretation

2. In this order:—

“bus lane” means the following areas of carriageway in Queen's Square, Belfast:—

- (a) that length of Queen's Square extending from its junction with Victoria Street for a distance of 14 metres in an easterly direction, and which is bounded on the north by the northern kerbline of Queen's Square and on the south by the Albert Clock Memorial;
- (b) that length of Queen's Square extending from its junction with Donegall Quay for a distance of 97 metres in a westerly direction and which is bounded on the north by the northern kerbline of Queen's Square and, where that northern kerbline is broken by the junction with another road, by a line joining the said northern kerbline of either side of that junction, and on the south by the kerbed island sites broken only by the gap opposite the junction of Queen's Square on the northern side with another road.

“bus” means a vehicle constructed or adapted to carry twelve or more passengers, used in standing or plying for hire or used to carry passengers for hire.

“Department” means Department of the Environment.

“school bus” means a vehicle constructed or adapted to carry twelve or more passengers and being used to carry persons to or from school as defined by article 2(2) of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(c);

“works bus” means a vehicle constructed or adapted to carry twelve or more passengers which has been provided by an employer for the purpose of carrying persons employed by him or on his behalf to or from their place of employment and being used for such a purpose.

(a) 1970 c. 2 (N.I.)

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 504 art. 4 (II, p. 2992)

(c) S.I. 1972/1263 (N.I. 12)

Restriction on traffic

3. Save as provided in article 4 no person shall, except upon the direction or with the permission of a constable in uniform or of a traffic warden cause or permit any vehicle other than a bus, school bus or works bus, to enter, proceed or wait in the bus lane otherwise than for the purpose of crossing it.

Exemptions

4.—(1) Nothing in this order shall render it unlawful for any person to cause or permit any vehicle to enter or proceed in any direction in the bus lane so far as such entry or proceeding is reasonably necessary to enable the vehicle to be used for any of the purposes specified in paragraph 2 or to wait in the bus lane for so long as may be necessary for any of these purposes.

(2) The purposes referred to in paragraph (1) are:—

- (i) the removal of any obstruction to traffic in the bus lane;
- (ii) police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes.

(3) Nothing in this order shall render it unlawful for any person to cause or permit any vehicle to enter or proceed in an easterly direction in the bus lane so far as such entry or proceeding is reasonably necessary to enable the vehicle to be used for any of the purposes specified in paragraph 4 or to wait in the bus lane for so long as may be necessary for any of these purposes.

(4) The purposes referred to in paragraph (3) are:—

- (i) the service of a district council or the Department in pursuance of statutory powers or duties; or in connection with the supply of gas or electricity, or any telegraphic line as defined in the Telegraph Act 1878(d);
- (ii) the avoidance of an accident;
- (iii) the gaining of access to or egress from premises adjacent to or accessible only from the bus lane; and
- (iv) the loading or unloading of any goods or burden at premises adjacent to or accessible only from the bus lane. Provided that such loading or unloading can be reasonably carried out only from the bus lane and that it takes place only whilst no prohibition of loading and unloading in the bus lane by virtue of any other order is in force.

5. The provisions of this Order shall be in addition to and not in derogation of the provisions of any instrument made or having effect as if made under the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 or any other Act.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland on 12th June 1979.

(L.S.)

T. J. McCormick

Senior Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This Order provides for a with-flow bus lane on that part of Queen's Square from its junction with Victoria Street to its junction with Donegall Quay in the City of Belfast.

Traffic signs indicating the effect of the Order have been erected on the road.

Any person who acts in contravention of the Order is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £100.

1979 Nos. 200 and 201

As these Orders have been classified as local they are not printed at length in this volume. Summaries are given in the List of Statutory Rules of a Local Character under the heading ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES.