

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Central Reservations on the A1 Dromore By-Pass, Dromore and the A1 Dromore Road, Hillsborough (Stopping-Up) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019**

**S.R. 2019 No.166**

#### **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 Article 68(1), (3) 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 stop-up the central reservations of the A1 Dromore By-Pass, Dromore and the A1 Dromore Road, Hillsborough to prevent vehicles from crossing from one side of the dual carriageway to the other at two locations.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. These stopping-ups form part of the overall A1 Junctions Phase 2 Road Improvement Scheme.
- 3.2. The Road Improvement Scheme involves the construction of four grade separated junctions to facilitate the closing up of all openings in the central median and installation of a continuous central safety barrier between Hillsborough Roundabout and Loughbrickland therefore improving road safety for all road users of the A1.
- 3.3. The gaps are to be stopped up by extending the central safety barrier across the gaps and grassing over the central reservation at these locations.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. The PSNI has been consulted and no objection has been received. Lisburn & Castlereagh Council and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council have also been advised of the proposed stopping-ups, however no acknowledgements have been received.
- 4.2. In accordance with the statutory consultation process a notice in respect of the proposed stopping-up was published in the local press for two successive weeks. In addition, a notice was posted on site and the statutory undertakers, neighbouring landowners and frontagers were consulted as part of the formal consultation process.
- 4.3. Following the publication of the Notice of Intention for this Order in the local press, an objection was received to the proposed stopping-up on the A1 Dromore Road, Hillsborough. The objector was concerned that as a result of the closure of the gap on the A1 Dromore Road, Hillsborough they would have to travel further to get to and from lands on either side of

the road and this would have a negative impact on their business. The objector suggested several alternatives including building a bridge or reducing the speed limit on this length of the A1. Various options were considered to address his concerns including the potential provision of an over-bridge across the A1.

- 4.4. Despite engagement with officials the objector was unwilling to remove the objection.
- 4.5. The Department having considered the objection decided that the proposed abandonment order should proceed as the Department considered that the need to enhance safety on the A1 outweighs the objectors concerns.

## **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.