

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Adam Street, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2022

S.R. 2022 No. 35

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) 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 818.786 square metres of road at Adam Street, Belfast from its junction with Duncairn Gardens to its junction with Upper Canning Street, Belfast.
- 2.2. On the coming into operation of the Rule, the area of road in question shall cease to be maintainable by the Department and the public right of way over it shall be extinguished.

3. Background

- 3.1. North City Business Centre has plans for the redevelopment of the site for additional enterprise accommodation. The Department for Communities and Invest Northern Ireland own separate parts of the bed and soil that comprise the area proposed to be abandoned. Following the abandonment the road will revert back into their respective ownership. Officials are of the view that the area of road is not necessary for road traffic and may be abandoned.
- 3.2. The owners of the bed and soil are the Department for Communities and Invest Northern Ireland, and following the abandonment the road will revert back into their ownership.
- 3.3. Officials are of the view that the area of road is not necessary and may be abandoned.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. The PSNI has been informed and has no objection to the abandonment. Belfast City Council has been advised and has no objection. Invest NI initially objected to the proposal but subsequently withdrew its objection.
- 4.2. In accordance with the statutory consultation process 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.
- 4.3. Following publication of the notice no objections were received.

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.