EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Bradford Square, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

S. R. 2026 No. 132

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 49.331 square metres of Bradford Square, Belfast commencing at its junction with Tomb Street and extending for a distance of 7.52 metres in an easterly direction.

3. Background

3.1. The abandonment has been requested by Belfast Harbour Commissioners to remove the public rights of way as this portion of road no longer exists.

3.2. The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and Belfast Harbour Commissioners are both owners of the bed and soil of the area to be abandoned. The area has already been incorporated within a multi-storey car park and following the abandonment, the DfI land will be disposed of to Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI and Belfast City Council have both been informed and have no objections to the proposals.

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. 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 completion of the statutory consultation process, 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. The applicant has signed an undertaking to reimburse the Department and to pay any compensation due as a result of making the Order.

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.