EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Circular Road, Newtownards (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026

S. R. 2026 No. 168

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 516 square metres of road and footway located on the Circular Road, Newtownards adjacent to the Strangford Arms Hotel commencing at its junction with Church Street and extending for a distance of 58 metres in a southerly direction.

3. Background

3.1. The abandonment has been requested by Joseph F. McCollum Solicitors, on behalf of their client who are the owners of the adjacent Strangford Arms Hotel and wish to take control of the area, which only serves their property.

3.2. The applicant intends to landscape and visually improve the area to facilitate coach parking and provide ground floor outdoor space for dog owners, cyclists and walkers.

3.3. The area to be abandoned is unregistered and ownership of the bed and soil is unknown. The applicant has been made aware of this and has confirmed acceptance of the associated risks.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI and Ards and North Down Borough Council have been informed of the proposal and have no objections.

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 businesses, charities or the voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. There are no financial implications as 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.