EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Clifton Street/Carrick Hill, Belfast (Footway) (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015

S. R. 2015 No. 390

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Regional Development 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) 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 76.7 square metres of road comprising footway fronting No. 18 Clifton Street, Belfast. On the coming into operation of the rule, the area of footway in question shall cease to be maintainable by the Department and the public right of way over it shall be extinguished. The Department is of the opinion that the footway is no longer necessary for road traffic.

3. Background

3.1. The Department is the owner of the bed and soil of the area of footway to be abandoned. The abandonment has been requested by a developer who wishes to purchase the land in question in order to use it for access to a proposed new student housing development.

3.2. Following the abandonment, the land will be disposed of in accordance with the statutory procedures laid down for the disposal of government owned land.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been consulted. Belfast City Council has also been advised of the proposed abandonment but made no comment.

4.2. 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. 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.