EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Dunbar Link and Great Patrick Street, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2021

S.R. 2021 No. 126

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 two areas of former footpath totalling 253.24 square metres at Dunbar Link, Belfast comprising of 147.843 square metres of former footpath at the junction of Dunbar Link and Great Patrick Street and 105.397 square metres of former footpath at the junction of Dunbar Link and Exchange Street, Belfast as it is no longer necessary.

2.2. The areas of road in question will be abandoned as the Department is of the opinion that they are no longer necessary for road traffic.

2.3. On the coming into operation of the Rule, the areas of road in question shall cease to be maintainable by the Department and the public right of way over them shall be extinguished.

3. Background

3.1. The abandonment has been requested by the Department of Finance who are the owner of the bed and soil to facilitate a disposal of land.

3.2. Officials are of the view that the areas of road are 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.

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.