**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

**The Footway between Peters Hill and Clifton Street, Belfast (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024**

**SR 2024 No. 145**

## 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 and 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 on the western side of the Westlink, Belfast comprising 726.805 square metres of footway extending north for 270 metres from Peters Hill and 79.053 square metres of footway extending 30 metres from Regent Street to Clifton Street.

2.2. The areas of footway will be abandoned as they are no longer necessary.

## 3. Background

3.1. The abandonment has been requested by the Department for Communities to facilitate an Environmental Impovement Scheme which will include a new pathway and general landscaping of the area.

3.2. The bed and soil of the areas to be abandoned is owned by the Department for Infrastructure and following the abandonment the land will be disposed of to Belfast City Council.

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

## 4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been consulted and has no objection to the abandonment. Belfast City Council has also been advised of the proposed abandonment and no objection has been received.

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 were notified of the proposal. Following the advertisement of the notice in the local press, 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.