EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Motor Vehicle Testing (Electronic Communications) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011

S.R. 2011 No. 18

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of the Environment to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under section 1(1) of the Electronic Communications Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of the Statutory Rule is to amend the Motor Vehicle Testing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 ("the principal Regulations") to make provision for the Driver and Vehicle Agency ("DVA") to issue appointment notifications by electronic communications.

3. Background

3.1. Currently when a vehicle test appointment is made at a DVA Test Centre, Call Centre or online, a letter confirming the appointment is generated and dispatched to the customer.

3.2. This Order substitutes regulation 9 of the principal Regulations to make provision for DVA to offer those customers who book appointments online or by telephone the option of receiving their appointment notification by email, as an alternative to the current appointment letter.

4. Consultation

4.1. As this service is being provided as part of DVA's commitment to continuous improvement and is in direct response to customer feedback, there is no requirement to consult on the proposal.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. An Equality screening exercise has been carried out; the results indicate that a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the proposed change will have no significant implications for equality of opportunity.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment is not necessary as the new service is viewed as an enhancement to existing services and will be offered at no additional cost to DVA customers or industry.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. The cost of modifying DVA's existing booking system to facilitate the new service may be offset by financial savings and efficiency gains as a result

of reducing the number of appointment letters being produced and dispatched. Vehicle test fees will not be affected by these changes.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. The Department has considered the matter of Convention rights and Community law and is satisfied that there are no matters of concern.

9. EU Implications

9.1. Not applicable

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Not applicable

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable