EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The U1364 Charlestown Road, Portadown (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019

S.R. 2019 No. 127

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 1364 square metres of the former Charlestown Road, Portadown starting at a point 67 metres north-east of its junction with Seagoe Road and extending for 123 metres in a north-easterly direction.

2.2. The Department is of the opinion that the area of road is no longer necessary for road traffic.

2.3. On the coming into operation of the abandonment the area of road in question shall cease to be maintainable by the Department and the public right of way over it shall be extinguished.

3. Background

3.1. The abandonment has been requested by the Almac Group in order to secure the company's expanded site in line with industry regulations.

3.2. The bed and soil of the area to be abandoned is partly owned the Department and partly by the Almac Group Limited. Following abandonment the land owned by the Department will be declared surplus and disposed of in accordance with the statutory guidelines laid down for the disposal of government owned land. That part in private ownership will revert to the Almac Group Limited as the registered landowners.

4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been informed. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council has also been advised but no acknowledgement was received.

4.2. 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. 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.