**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

**The U232 Aghafad Road (Rubble Road), Newtownstewart (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014**

**S. R. 2014 No. 145**

## 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 a length of 2418 metres of the U232 Aghafad Road, a remote rubble road on the hillside at Aghafad Wood and Cashty Wood, Newtownstewart.

## 3. Background

3.1. The abandonment has been requested by a wind turbine company to facilitate the erection of more wind turbines in the area. The ownership of the bed and soil of the length of the road to be abandoned is unregistered and following the abandonment, it is expected that it will revert to adjacent landowners.

## 4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been consulted and has no objection. Strabane District Council has also been advised of the proposed abandonment and confirmed that members of the council raised no objections.

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.