**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

**The U7487 Vicarage Road Road, Portadown (Abandonment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2026**

**S.R. 2006 No. 104**

## 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 The purpose of the Rule is to abandon an area of 913 square metres of superseded road at U7487 Vicarage Road, Portadown.

## 3. Background

3.1. The abandonment has been requested by the Department for Infrastructure (the Department) as the road is no longer necessary for Roads Service purposes.

3.2. The proposal will regularise the situation on the ground and facilitate access beyond two pillars and gates which are located on the existing public road, which the Department is retaining.

3.3. The bed and soil of the area to be abandoned is owned by a private individual and following the abandonment the Department's maintenance liability for this stretch of road will be reduced.

## 4. Consultation

4.1. The PSNI has been informed and has not commented. Belfast City Council has also been advised of the proposal but has not commented.

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, neighbouring landowners and frontagers were consulted as part of the formal consultation process.

4.3. Following completion of the statutory 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. The costs relating to the provision of abandonment orders mainly consist of staff costs and advertising. There may also be some small capital costs for signage which are expected to be managed within the current year's budget allocation.

## 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.